
Global network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet)
Established with support of UNIDO and UNEP
CHARTER

We, representatives of Cleaner Production Centres, Programmes and Initiatives in developing and transition countries, having met on the 20th October 2009 during the Network Meeting of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Lucerne, Switzerland, have:

1. Considered and reaffirmed:
 - A. The need to improve resource productivity and environmental performance of businesses and other organizations to achieve sustainable industrial development and Sustainable Consumption and Production;
 - B. The potential for the application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services, further referred to as “*Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)*”, to advance the three sustainability dimensions of:
 - i. Production Efficiency through optimization of the productive use of natural resources (materials, energy and water);
 - ii. Environmental Management through the minimization of impacts on environment and nature; and
 - iii. Safe and Responsible Production through the minimization of risks to people and communities; and
 - C. The achievements of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in building national capacities in developing and transition countries for delivering information, training, assessment and advisory services for the implementation of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies, in particular through their joint support for the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centres and Programmes (NCPCs/NCPPs);
2. Resolved to establish a global network for the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (*RECPnet*); and
3. Determined that:
 - A. The *RECPnet* operates as a global networking initiative that brings together organizations that are professionally involved in and committed to the promotion and implementation of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in developing and transition countries;
 - B. The Membership of *RECPnet* comprises officially recognized organizations or initiatives which deliver, as one of their core activities, information, training, advocacy, assessment, advisory and/or any other services to businesses, governments, public and private sector institutions and associations, academia and civil society in developing and/or transition country(ies) on RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and/or technologies (“RECP Service Providers”); and

- C. The *RECPnet* is to be facilitated and supported by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) within the framework of the “*UNIDO – UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in developing and transition countries*”.

Article 1. NAME

The global network established through this Charter is called the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, in short “*RECPnet*”.

Article 2. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Article 2.1: Objectives

1. The overall objectives of the *RECPnet* are:
 - A. To enable and contribute to the effective and efficient development, application, adaptation and replication of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies in developing and transition countries; and
 - B. To facilitate effective North-South and South-South collaboration and the transfer of RECP-relevant knowledge, experiences and technologies.
2. In particular, the *RECPnet* ensures that:
 - A. Best practice information and knowledge on RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies is effectively captured, disseminated and utilized;
 - B. The knowledge and skills bases of its member RECP Service Providers are strengthened, improved and updated; and
 - C. There is greater awareness and recognition of the relevance, needs and benefits of RECP for businesses and other organizations.

Article 2.2: Key Functions

1. The *RECPnet* accomplishes its objectives by undertaking the following key functions:
 - A. Innovation and Knowledge Management and Dissemination: capture, review, disseminate and promote the use of best practice RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies;
 - B. Capacity Building: foster professional and institutional excellence and leadership of member RECP service providers;
 - C. Advocacy: raising awareness for and promotion of economic, environmental, social and other benefits of RECP among governments, business sectors and civil society; and
 - D. Quality Assurance and Branding: ensure the highest quality in RECP services and develop and promote a global brand for RECP.
2. The Executive Committee determines and reviews on a regular basis the key activities required for fulfilment of these functions of the *RECPnet*.

Article 3. PARTICIPATING ENTITIES AND MEMBERSHIP

The *RECPnet* is constituted of Members, Patron Agencies and Participants.

Article 3.1: Members

1. Members of the *RECPnet* are organizations or initiatives that deliver as a core activity RECP services for public good and private interest in developing and/or transition economies and commit to cooperate beyond an exclusive profit motive in the spirit of international collaboration, knowledge management and professional excellence.
2. The *RECPnet* has three types of Members:
 - A. Regular Members: not-for-profit organizations or initiatives with a proven track record in RECP service provision in developing and/or transition country (ies);
 - B. Associate Members: any organization or initiative with a proven track record in RECP service provision in developing and/or transition country (ies) that is unable to become a Regular Member; and
 - C. Observer Members: not-for-profit organizations or initiatives with an emerging track record in RECP service provision in developing and/or transition country (ies).
3. The specific rights and obligations of the Members of the *RECPnet* are defined in the Membership By-Law under this Charter, which can be amended by a majority vote of the Members' Assembly upon proposal and recommendation by the Executive Committee of *RECPnet*. Admission and termination of membership of the *RECPnet* is administered by the Executive Committee of *RECPnet* on the basis of this Membership By-Law.
4. Regular and Associate Members of the *RECPnet* are entitled to one vote each in the Members' Assembly of *RECPnet* and are required to pay membership fees as specified in the Membership By-Law. Observer Members have no vote in the Members' Assembly and pay no membership fees.
5. The *RECPnet* makes a specific effort to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing at the regional and possibly sectoral levels, through the establishment and operation of Chapters that bring together *RECPnet* Members within their respective regions or sectors for focused knowledge sharing, collaboration and branding. Existing regional networks with comparable mandates to the *RECPnet* can be invited by the Executive Committee to amalgamate with the *RECPnet* and in doing so maintain their existing regional identity, provided its respective Members each individually qualify for membership of the *RECPnet*.
6. The conduct of all Members of the *RECPnet* is governed by a Code of Conduct, established as By-Law under this Charter. This Code of Conduct can be amended by a majority vote of the Members' Assembly upon proposal and recommendation of the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet*. Conformance with the Code of Conduct is monitored by the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet*.

7. A Member of the *RECPnet* is not permitted to use the name, emblem or abbreviation of the name of a Patron Agency unless such Member has been specifically authorised to do so, in writing, by or on behalf of the executive head of the Patron Agency concerned.
8. The *RECPnet* establishes and operates a scheme for the recognition of technical and institutional excellence and leadership among its Regular Members, and supports its Regular Members in achieving and maintaining such excellence over time.

Article 3.2: Patron Agencies

1. Patron Agencies of the *RECPnet* are international intergovernmental organizations that are recognized for their commitment to and achievement in RECP promotion and application in developing and transition countries and have a current commitment to support and facilitate the activities and operations of the *RECPnet*.
2. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are recognized as the Founding Patron Agencies of the *RECPnet*.
3. The Members' Assembly of the *RECPnet* decides upon the acceptance and termination of new Patron Agencies additional to the Founding Patron Agencies, by means of a simple majority vote, upon presentation and recommendation by the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet*.

Article 3.3: Participants

1. Participants are organizations, initiatives or professionals with an interest in or capacity for promotion and/or implementation of RECP concepts, methods, policies, practices and technologies in developing and/or transition countries, that by means of participation in activities or training of the *RECPnet* or accessing its information resources, benefit from the knowledge and other resources available through and in the *RECPnet*, without acquiring the rights nor assuming the obligations associated with any of the categories of membership of the *RECPnet*.
2. A Participant in the *RECPnet* is not permitted to use the name, emblem or abbreviation of the name of a Patron Agency unless such Participant has been specifically authorised to do so, in writing, by or on behalf of the executive head of the Patron Agency concerned.

Article 4. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The *RECPnet* has a governance structure consisting of the Members' Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

Article 4.1: Members' Assembly

1. The Members' Assembly is the highest decision-making organ of the *RECPnet* and decides on key organizational issues and strategic directions of the *RECPnet* based on submissions by the Executive Committee.
2. All Regular and Associate Members have one vote each in the Members' Assembly. Observer Members can attend and contribute to the Members' Assembly but do not have a voting right in the Members' Assembly.
3. The Members' Assembly meets at least once every two years at such time and place as the Executive Committee determines with a minimum notice of 90 days.
4. The signed-up and paid-up Regular and Associate Members constitute the Members' Assembly.
5. Extraordinary meetings of the Members' Assembly can be convened at any time by a decision of the Executive Committee or at the request of one fifth of the signed-up and paid-up Regular and Associate Members of the *RECPnet*.
6. The Members' Assembly elects the President and other Members of the Executive Committee and approves the work plan, activity report and financial report from the Executive Committee.
7. Except in the specific cases provided for explicitly in this Charter decisions are carried by a simple majority vote of the signed-up and paid-up Regular and Associate Members present at the respective meeting of the Members' Assembly, and are notified to all Members. Unless unanimously resolved otherwise, decisions can only be taken on matters appearing on the agenda.
8. Decisions of the Members' Assembly are entered in a minute book signed by the President and held at the Secretariat at the disposal of all Members.

Article 4.2: Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is elected on a regional basis by the Members' Assembly. Regular and Associate Members present at the Members' Assembly from each of the following five regions each elect among their Regular Members one member for the Executive Committee: (1) Africa; (2) Arab Region; (3) South, East and Southeast Asia and Pacific; (4) Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and (5) Latin America and Caribbean.
2. The President of the Executive Committee is elected by the Members' Assembly from among the Members of the Executive Committee.
3. Regular Members can nominate themselves or be nominated by other Regular or Associate Members as a candidate Member of the Executive Committee for the region in which the respective Regular Member is based.

4. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term. After two terms of service, a period of a minimum of two years must elapse before their re-election to the Executive Committee.
5. The Founding Patron Agencies each appoint a representative to the Executive Committee. These representatives of Patron Agencies are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee with no voting right.
6. The Executive Committee:
 - A. Guides and administers the *RECPnet* under the authority of the Members' Assembly with the support of the Secretariat taking full consideration of the Charter of the *RECPnet* and in conformity with the mandates and procedures of the Patron Agencies and of those Organizations providing the Secretariat support to the *RECPnet*;
 - B. Constitutes Technical Committees and regional and/or sectoral Chapters for selected topics, regions and/or sectors within the membership of the *RECPnet* and specifies the functioning and organization of such Technical Committees and Chapters;
 - C. Meets at least once a year with interim meetings convened at least six-monthly through tele- and/or videoconferencing to be organized by the Secretariat;
 - D. Develops and implements the programme of the *RECPnet* for technical and institutional excellence and leadership, that recognizes Members of the *RECPnet* on the basis of their respective service delivery capacity;
 - E. Resolves on By-Laws concerning the convocation and the organization and representation of voting Members in the Members' Assembly; and
 - F. Resolves on By-Laws and/or other procedures regulating the business of the Executive Committee.
7. The President of the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet* provides the leadership to the Executive Committee, including:
 - A. Official representation of the *RECPnet* in public forums and communications; and
 - B. Chairing the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Members' Assembly of the *RECPnet*.
8. The Executive Committee elects among its Members a Secretary, who:
 - A. Performs the duties of the President, in the absence of the President; and
 - B. Prepares the agenda and minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and Members' Assembly of the *RECPnet*.
9. The Executive Committee elects among its Members a Treasurer who oversees the financial management of the *RECPnet* ensuring that proper financial management procedures are in place, supervising the preparation of annual budget and arranging for financial controls.
10. Positions on the Executive Committee do not carry any remuneration.

Article 4.3: The Secretariat

1. The organizations that support the day-to-day activities of the *RECPnet* in accordance with this Charter and facilitate the work of the Executive Committee of the *RECPnet* will be acknowledged by the Members' Assembly, as the Secretariat of the *RECPnet*.
2. Until further decision by the Members' Assembly, as prepared and presented by the Executive Committee, and subject to ongoing implementation of the "UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in developing and transition countries", UNIDO and UNEP jointly provide the Secretariat support for the *RECPnet* under the mandate of and with the resources available from this Programme and in conformity with UN rules and regulations.
3. The organization(s) providing the Secretariat support for the *RECPnet*, each individually and collectively determine in consultation with the Executive Committee what specific activities they can perform in their role as Secretariat of the *RECPnet*, to be reflected in an annual work plan, taking into consideration their respective mandates and resources available.
4. English is the working language of the *RECPnet* with the possibility of using other official languages of the United Nations for the Regional Chapters and activities in the regions as and when necessary and subject to the availability of resources.

Article 5. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. Possible sources of financing for the activities of the *RECPnet* are: membership fees; donations; sponsorship of events; grants and special contributions; revenues from workshops, conferences, seminars, etc; sales of publications; project financing and any other appropriate sources.
2. The Executive Committee prepares a guideline on modes of payment and management of membership fees and their utilization, taking full consideration of applicable financial rules, regulations and procedures of the organization(s) supporting the Secretariat of the *RECPnet*.
3. The Executive Committee prepares a guideline on rules, procedures and ethical consideration on accepting donations, grants and special contributions to the *RECPnet* and utilization of the funds available to the *RECPnet*, taking full consideration of applicable financial rules, regulations and procedures of the organization(s) supporting the Secretariat of the *RECPnet*.
4. The accounts are closed on the 31st December of each year. Accounts are audited in accordance with procedures and practices applicable to the organization(s) supporting the Secretariat of the *RECPnet* and financial reports are submitted to successive meetings of the Members' Assembly.

Article 6. FINAL CLAUSES

Article 6.1: Effective Date

The *RECPnet* comes into effect upon endorsement of this Charter by a minimum of two applicants for Regular Membership from each of the five *RECPnet* recognized regions, namely (1) Africa; (2) Arab Region; (3) South, East and Southeast Asia and Pacific; (4) Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and (5) Latin America and Caribbean.

Article 6.2: Amendments

1. This Charter can be amended by a simple majority vote of the signed-up and paid-up Regular and Associate Members attending a given Members' Assembly of the *RECPnet* with a minimum of 90 days prior notice and circulation of the proposed changes to all Members of the *RECPnet*.
2. Amendments enter into force based on a timetable established by the Executive Committee. In case no timetable is established the amendments enter into force 90 days after voting in the Members' Assembly.

Article 6.3: Termination

1. The *RECPnet* can be terminated by the decision of the two-third vote of the signed-up and paid-up Regular and Associate Members attending any given Members' Assembly upon submission of a proposal carried unanimously by the Executive Committee.
2. Notwithstanding termination of *RECPnet*, the founding Patron Agencies administering the contributions of *RECPnet* shall continue to hold unutilized payments until all commitments and liabilities incurred under this network up to the date of termination have been satisfied. Any net assets of the *RECPnet* that remain unexpended after such commitments and liabilities have been satisfied may be transferred to an institution or initiative of similar nature to be determined by the Members' Assembly or Executive Committee.

Article 6.4: Resolution of Disputes

1. The Members of the *RECPnet* and the Founding Patron Agencies shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Charter, the by-laws or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Should attempts at amicable negotiation fail, any such dispute shall, upon request by either party, be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL arbitration rules. Should there be a dispute between the Founding Patron Agencies, it shall be resolved through the Executive Heads of the Organizations.

Article 6.5: Privileges and Immunities of the Patron Agencies

1. Nothing in or relating to this Charter or its By-Laws shall be deemed to be a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges or immunities of a Patron Agency, nor shall they be

deemed to confer any privilege or immunity that is not otherwise conferred in accordance with international law.

