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| **Terms** | **Identified existing definitions** | **Comments / Proposed definitions** |
| **ISO standards / Basel Convention** | **EU** | **United States** | **Australia** | **China** | **Switzerland**  | **Canada** | **Brazil** |
| **Circular Economy** | Economic system that uses a systemic approach to maintain a circular flow of resources (both stocks and flows), while keeping the inflow of virgin resources as low as possible and keeping the circular flow of resources as closed as possible to minimize waste, losses and releases from the economic value) by recovering, retaining or adding to their value, while contributing to sustainable development (para. 3.1.1, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf*Economy that is restorative and regenerative by design and which aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles (para. 3.1.8, [ISO 14009:2020(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:14009:ed-1:v1:en) (Environmental management systems))*Cf*Economic system that systemically maintains a circular flow of resources, by regenerating, retaining or adding to their value while contributing to sustainable development (para. 3.3.1, [ISO 5020:2022(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:5020:ed-1:v1:en) (Waste reduction and treatment of fishing vessels))*Cf*Maintaining the value of materials in the economy for as long as possible whilst ensuring a positive outcome to society, and preservingnatural capital (natural resources, environmental quality) and human health ([UNECE/OECD Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy (2024)](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/ECECESSTAT20235_WEB.pdf)) | An economic system whereby the value of products, materials and other resources in the economy is maintained for as long as possible, enhancing their efficient use in production and consumption, thereby reducing the environmental impact of their use, minimising waste and the release of hazardous substances at all stages of their life cycle, including through the application of the waste hierarchy (Art. 2(9) [EU Taxonomy Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852))*Cf*A system which maintains the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, and minimises the generation of waste ([EU Glossary](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:circular_economy) | An economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that—(A) are restorative or regenerative by design;(B) enable resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest values for as long as possible; and(C) aim for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models). (Sec. 2, [US Save Our Seas Act 2.0](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text)) | An economic model that promotes sustainable and efficient use of resources as a way to supportenvironmental, economic and social outcomes. It shifts away from the current linear ‘take, make,dispose’ consumption approach to one that maintains a circular flow of materials by recovering,retaining, or adding to their value ([Australia’s Circular](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf)[Economy Framework 2024](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf), p. 35)*Cf*An economic model for achieving sustainableand productive use of resources. In practice it requires reducing the useof new materials, making materials durable, repairable and safe, and collecting,reusing and recycling materials.([Australia’s Environmentally Sustainable Procurement, 2024](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/environmentally-sustainable-procurement-policy.pdf)) | A generic term for the reducing, reusing and recycling activities conducted in the process of production, circulation and consumption (Art. 2 [Circular Economy Promotion Law of the People's Republic of China](https://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?id=7025&lib=law)) | An integrated approach which considers the cycle as a whole, from raw material extraction through design, production, distribution and a maximised use phase, to recycling (not a legal definition; [Swiss Federal Office for the Environment](https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/economy-consumption/info-specialists/circular-economy.html)) |  | The economic system of production that maintains the circular flow of resources and associates economic activity with the circular management of resources, through the addition, retention or recovery of their value, and which is based on the principles of non-generation of waste, circulation of products and materials and regeneration. (Art. 2, [Decree Nr. 12.082/2024 Establishing National Strategy on Circular Economy](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2023-2026/2024/decreto/D12082.htm) (in PT)) | ***General comment:*** The definitions are overall aligned and follow the same rationale.***Proposed Ecoterm definition*:** An economic system that maintains a circular flow of resources, from raw material extraction to recycling, for as long as possible through addition, retention and recovery of their value, while contributing to sustainable development. ***Comment from WG leadership:*** What is defined as recycling or recovery should reduce the need of virgin extraction (there are many ways to “recycle” that is only disposal of waste - but it the recycling reduces the need of virgin production/mining it is for real). ***Response*:** Thank you for your comment. It appears that the phrase “for as long as possible through addition, retention and recovery of their value” in the proposed definition already addresses your concern.***WG comment:*** This element is contained in several ISO definitions. However, for this purpose, it takes on, for me, a political and somewhat vague dimension. A more micro approach would be more natural in this context, if at the end of the day, the terms are to be applied on the activities of contractual parties in commercial relationships. ***Response*:** We could not find any contractual document where this term would be used. More generally, ISO standards are often drafted by technical experts and definitions used therein are not always suitable for the contractual terms and conditions. |
| **Circularity** | Degree of alignment with the fundamental basis for decision-making or behaviour for a circular economy (para. 3.1.15, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)) |  |  | Property of products that all materials used in a product can be recycled several timesand kept in almost closed loops.In economics, circularity means a product, service, or resource is renewed or regenerated, rather than wasted. Circularity uses creativity and systems-thinking to eliminate waste and extend the life of important natural resources. ([Australia’s Circular](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf)[Economy Framework 2024](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf), p. 35)*Cf*The use of existing resources for as long as possible,through refurbishment, reuse, repair, recycling, and alternative methodssuch as leasing/renting. It reflects the principles of a circular economy. ([Australia’s Environmentally Sustainable Procurement, 2024](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/environmentally-sustainable-procurement-policy.pdf)) |  |  |  |  | ***Comment*:** We will not include this term in the first set of Ecoterms, as it is derived from the term circular economy. |

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| **Circular packaging** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***Comment received: [[1]](#footnote-2)***,***Response****:*We suggest considering the inclusion of this term for the next version of the ICC Ecoterms on Circular Economy. |
| **Eco-design / environmentally conscious design (ECD) / design for environment (DfE) / green design, environmentally sustainable design** | Design and development based on a life cycle perspective aimed at supporting sustainable development (para. 3.5.11, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf*System approach that considers environmental aspects in design and development with the aim to reduce adverse environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of a product (para. 3.2.3, [ISO 5020:2022(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:5020:ed-1:v1:en)) | The integration of environmental sustainability considerations into the characteristics of a product and the processes taking place throughout the product’s value chain (Art. 2(6) [EU Ecodesign Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj/eng))*Cf*The integration of environmental aspects into product design with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout its whole life cycle (Art. 2(23) [EU Energy Products Ecodesign Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0125-20121204) |  |  |  | An approach that systematically incorporates environmental considerations into product planning, development and design right from the start using life cycle assessments (not a legal definition; [Swiss Federal Office for the Environment](https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/economy-consumption/info-specialists/circular-economy.html)) |  |  | *Comment*: The definitions are largely aligned.*Proposed Ecoterm definition*:**The integration of environmental aspects into product design and development with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout its life cycle.*****Comment from the WG leadership:*** And beyond life cycle. (When the life cycle has ended it should preferably possible to reciculate the resources in the product). ***Response:***It is possible to adjust the proposed definition as follows: “The integration of environmental aspects into product design and development with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout ***and beyond*** its life cycle.” But strictly speaking, it does not seem to be necessary, because it would seem that when the secondary raw material is produced through recycling of the initial product, then the life cycle of that secondary raw material starts. Recycling itself in our opinion is covered by the concept of recycling. |
| **Ecology-oriented development (EOD)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***WG Comment:***Proposal to Add the Term Ecology-Oriented Development (EOD) [[2]](#footnote-3)***Response:***We suggest considering the inclusion of this term for the next version of the ICC Ecoterms on Circular Economy. |
| **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** | Environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycleNote 1 to entry: An EPR policy is characterised by the following:a) The shifting of responsibility (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream toward the producer and away from government/municipalities; andb) The provision of incentives to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products. (para. 3.1.1.2, [ISO/DIS 24161(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:24161:dis:ed-1:v1:en) Waste collection and transportation management) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ***WG Comment:***Given that the draft addresses various aspects of the circular economy, it might be useful to include also specific considerations related to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). As you know, EPR is notably regulated across various jurisdictions and supported by guidelines and frameworks provided by international bodies, including the OECD, UNEP, ISO, and the EU.We suggest that reviewing the following standards and directives could provide valuable insights and further strengthen the glossary:EU Directives: Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC), Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, and Battery Directive (2006/66/EC).ISO Standards: ISO 14050 and ISO 24161, providing formal definitions for lifecycle stages, recycling, waste management, and EPR.UNEP/Basel Convention: Glossary of Terms and EPR guidelines (Basel Convention COP14, 2019) and UNEP resolutions on plastics emphasizing EPR definitions.OECD Publications: "Extended Producer Responsibility: A Guidance Manual for Governments" (2001) and the "Updated Guidance for Efficient Waste Management" (2016), which define EPR and related concepts.Although the explicit use of Ecoterms is not yet clear for us, however, if the aim is to address the entire product lifecycle, this suggestion should be relevant in this context.***Response:***Thank you for raising this important question. The use of this term in international contracts needs to be investigated and reflected on further. We suggest considering the inclusion of this term for the next version of the ICC Ecoterms on Circular Economy. |
| **Compostable** | Composting refers to aerobic biological process usually carried out under controlled conditions, which coverts organic material into a normally nutrient-rich, humus-like, material (para. 3.3.18, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)) | ‘Compostable packaging’ means packaging that biodegrades in industrially controlled conditions or that is capable of undergoing biological decomposition in such conditions, including through anaerobic digestion, but not necessarily in a home-composting environment, combined, if necessary, with physical treatment, resulting ultimately in the conversion of the packaging into carbon dioxide or, in the absence of oxygen, methane, and mineral salts, biomass and water, and that does not hinder or jeopardise the separate collection and the composting and anaerobic digestion process (Art. 3(1)(50) EU [PPWR](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500040)) |  |  |  | *Composting facility*means a waste disposal facility in which biogenic waste (waste of vegetable, animal or microbial origin) decomposes while exposed to the air (Art. 3(i) [Swiss Waste Ordinance](https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/891/en)) |  |  | ***Comment:***The EU definition for compostable packaging is broader and appears to encompass decomposition through processes other than anaerobic digestion. To consider whether the proposed definition should be limited only to decomposition through anaerobic digestion or to be broader.*Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **Organic material that biodegrades in industrially controlled conditions or that is capable of undergoing biological decomposition through anaerobic digestion.**  |
| **Reuse** | Use a produce or its component parts after their initial use, for the same purpose for which they were originally designed. Utilization intended by the original design can involve either single-use or multiple-uses by the initial user or customer over time. Minor treatment (e.g. cleaning of the product can be needed by the user to allow for reuse) (para. 3.5.17, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf* Use an object or material again, either for its original or similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material (para. 3.1.1.8, [ISO/DIS 24161(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:24161:dis:ed-1:v1:en) Waste collection and transportation management) | Any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived (Art. 3 (13) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218))*Cf*Any operation by which reusable packaging is used again multiple times for the same purpose for which it was conceived (Art. 3(1)(27) [PPWR](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500040))*Cf*Any operation by which a product or its components, having reached the end of their first use, are used for the same purpose for which they were conceived, including the continued use of a product which is returned to a collection point, distributor, recycler or manufacturer, as well as reuse of a product following refurbishment (Art. 2(14) [EU Energy Products Ecodesign Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0125-20121204)) | As regards packaging, provisions on reuse are available at [49 CFR 173.28](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-173/subpart-B/section-173.28) (definition can be inferred for packaging).*Cf* The use of a product or material again for the same purpose. in its original form or with little enhancement or change. (EPA, [Solid Waste in New England](https://archive.epa.gov/region1/assistance/web/html/def.html) – archived page) |  | Using wastes as products directly, using wastes after repair, renewal or reproduction or using part or all wastes as components of other products. (Art. 2 [Circular Economy Promotion Law of the People's Republic of China](https://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?id=7025&lib=law)) |  | Reuse by another consumer of discarded product which is still in good condition and fulfills its original function. ([Environment and Climate Change Canada](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/circular-economy/north-america-paper/WCEF-Circular-North-America_Report_2021_EN.pdf), p. 14, referring to Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication) | Process of using solid waste without their biological, physical or physical-chemical transformation, in compliance with the conditions and standards established by SISNAMA competent bodies, and also SNVS and SUASA if applicable. (Art. 3 (XVIII), [Law No. 12305 – Brazilian National Policy on Solid Waste](https://braziliannr.com/brazilian-environmental-legislation/law-no-12305-brazilian-national-policy-solid-waste/)) | *Comment*: Some definitions refer to use after an initial use, while others refer to the use of waste. This can be explained by national approaches to the definition of waste in the national system. In some instances, eg in China, the term “reuse” appears to encompass also refurbishment and remanufacturing.*Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **Using a product or its component parts after their initial use, without their biological, physical or physical-chemical transformation, except for minor treatment (e.g. cleaning) for the same purpose for which they were originally designed.**  |
| **Refill** |  | An operation by which a container that fulfils the packaging function, and that is either owned by the end user or purchased by the end user at the point of sale of the final distributor is filled by the end user or by the final distributor with one or several products purchased by the end user from the final distributor (Art. 3(1)(33) EU [PPWR](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500040)) |  |  |  |  |  |  | *Comment*: The term does not appear to be widely defined in national legislation. To be considered whether this term should be included in the initial set of Ecoterms.*Comment from the WG leadership:* Agree - I do not see this as a relevant to keep.***WG Comment:***Proposal to Delete the Term "Refill": From the perspective of application scope, "refill" primarily focuses on the specific operation of container filling products, and its application scenarios are limited to packaging and related retail links. Compared with the extensive economic activities and resource utilization processes covered by the circular economy, its relevance is relatively weak. In the legal systems of various countries, this term has not been widely defined and regulated, indicating its low importance at the legal level and its minimal impact on the construction and regulation of the circular economy's legal framework. In industry practice, the activities involved in "refill" are usually included in broader concepts such as "reuse" or "packaging management," and there is no need for it to exist as an independent core term. Additionally, the working group leader has expressed that the term does not hold significant value for retention. Considering these factors, deleting the "refill" term can make the circular economy terminology system more concise and clear, highlighting core concepts, avoiding confusion in the use and understanding of terms, and enhancing the practicality and operability of the circular economy terminology system.***Response*:** We will delete this term from the first set of ICC Ecoterms on Circular Economy. |
| **Remanufacturing** | Industrial process by which an item is returned to a like-new condition (same as or better than when new condition) from both a quality and performance perspective (para. 3.5.21, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)).  | Actions through which a new product is produced from objects that are waste, products or components and through which at least one change is made that substantially affects the safety, performance, purpose or type of the product (Art. 2(16) [EU Ecodesign Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj/eng))*Cf*Any technical operation on a used battery that includes the disassembly and evaluation of all its battery cells and modules and the use of a certain number of battery cells and modules that are new, used or recovered from waste, or other battery components, to restore the battery capacity to at least 90 % of the original rated capacity, and where the state of health of all individual battery cells does not differ more than 3 % between cells, and results in the battery being used for the same purpose or application as the one for which the battery was originally designed (Art. 3(1)(32) [EU Batteries Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023R1542-20240718)) | A remanufactured good is entirely or partially composed of recovered materials; and: (a) has a similar life expectancy and performs the same as or similar to such a good when new and (b) has a factory warranty similar to that applicable to such a good. ([Remanufactured Good](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2020-Jun/%2311_Remanufactured%20Goods_USMCA%20Informational%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf), US Customs and Border Protection)*Cf*As regards packaging, provisions on remanufacturing are available at [49 CFR 173.28](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-173/subpart-B/section-173.28) (definition can be inferred for packaging).*Cf* *Remanufacturing:*The process of restoring used durable products to "new" condition, to be used in their original function, by replacing worn or damaged parts.*Refurbishing:*A process of making "cosmetic" changes to update the appearance of a product, such as cleaning, changing fabric, painting or refinishing. This term is often associated with used office furniture and differs from remanufacturing in that none of the structural parts of the product are replaced.(EPA, [Solid Waste in New England](https://archive.epa.gov/region1/assistance/web/html/def.html) – archived page) |  |  |  | Use of parts of discarded product in a new product with the same function. ([Environment and Climate Change Canada](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/circular-economy/north-america-paper/WCEF-Circular-North-America_Report_2021_EN.pdf), p. 14, referring to Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication).A standardized industrial process that aims to restore the product to a condition equal to or better than its original condition (i.e. “as-new”). It provides a full new service life to the product. (not a legal definition, [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy/remanufacturing.html))*Cf*Refurbishment instead aims to restore the functionality of the product in order to partially extend its life beyond the expected service life. A refurbished product can also undergo a functional, technological or aesthetic update. (not a legal definition, [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy/remanufacturing.html)) |  | *Comment*: the identified definitions largely align.To consider whether the definition should encompass refurbishment or whether a separate ecoterm for refurbishment to be included.*Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **An industrial process by which a product is returned to a condition equal to or better than its original condition (“as-new”) from quality and performance perspective.** |
| **Repurposing** | Process by which a product or its component parts are adapted to use in a different function than it was originally intended for without making major modifications to its physical or chemical structure (para. 3.5.23, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)) | Any operation that results in a battery, that is not a waste battery, or parts thereof being used for a purpose or application other than that for which the battery was originally designed (Art. 3(1)(31) [EU Batteries Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023R1542-20240718)) |  |  |  |  | Use of discarded product or its parts in a new product with a different function. |  | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **Use of a discarded product or its parts for a purpose or application other than they were originally indented for without making major modifications to physical or chemical properties.** |
| **Recycling** | Activities to obtain recovered resources for use in a process or a product, excluding energy recovery. Recycling does not include reuse (para. 3.5.24, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)) | Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations (Art. 3 (17) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218))*Cf*The reprocessing in a production process of waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes but excluding energy recovery (Art. 2(15) [EU Energy Products Ecodesign Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0125-20121204)) | The process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products (not a legal definition, [US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics-and-benefits))*Cf*The process by which recovered materials are transformed into new products ([40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101))*Cf*A process of collecting a product or material, separating and processing it and then returning it to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials; or remelting into a new finished good. (EPA, [Solid Waste in New England](https://archive.epa.gov/region1/assistance/web/html/def.html) – archived page) |  | Using wastes as raw materials directly or after regeneration (Art. 2 [Circular Economy Promotion Law of the People's Republic of China](https://www.lawinfochina.com/display.aspx?id=7025&lib=law)) | *Recycling* of beverage containers means the production of new containers or other products from used containers (Art. 2(3), [Beverage Container Ordinance](https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2000/299/en)) | Processing of materials to obtain the same (high grade) or lower (low grade) quality. ([Environment and Climate Change Canada](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/circular-economy/north-america-paper/WCEF-Circular-North-America_Report_2021_EN.pdf), p. 14, referring to Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication) | Transformation of solid waste, involving the alteration of physical, physical-chemical or biological properties into supplies or new products, in compliance with conditions and standards established by the SISNAMA competent bodies, and also SNVS and SUASA if applicable. (Art. 3 (XIV), [Law No. 12305 – Brazilian National Policy on Solid Waste](https://braziliannr.com/brazilian-environmental-legislation/law-no-12305-brazilian-national-policy-solid-waste/)) | *Proposed Ecoterms definition*: **Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes, except reuse and energy recovery.*****WG Comment:***The recycling process should not serve as a tool for intentionally decreasing the carbon footprint of goods. This risk arises when manufacturers deliberately recycle materials with a significantly high carbon footprint in order to export and/or deliver them to the customers as low-carbon products. It might be implemented, in particularly, to circumvent the regulations, such as CBAM.This principle was previously incorporated in [ICC Proposals for effective carbon pricing: Leakage and linkages considerations](https://iccwbo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/12/2023-ICC-proposals-for-effective-carbon-pricing-leakage-and-linkage-considerations.pdf) and [ICC Global Principles for Effective Boarder Adjustments](https://iccwbo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/2024_ICC-Global-Principles-for-An-Effective-Border-Carbon-Adjustments.pdf).***Response:*** We suggest that it would be more suitable to address the specific aspect related to potential CBAM circumvention in the CBAM Regulation (carbon content of recycled products). |
| **Recyclable batteries** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | *Comment:* No specific definition has been identified.*Proposed Ecoterms definition*: **Batteries of any type that can undergo recycling, with a few to obtain/recover products, materials or substances for original or other purposes.*****WG Comment:***Proposal to Delete the Term "Recyclable Batteries" and Merge Its Concept into the Term "Waste Batteries":In the field of battery management and the circular economy, the terms "recyclable batteries" and "waste batteries" suffer from unclear definitions and industry application confusion, necessitating revision. The existing issues are as follows: on one hand, "recyclable batteries" do not specify whether they are already discarded, and "waste batteries" do not clarify whether they have lost their recycling value, resulting in overlapping definitions. On the other hand, the EU's "Battery Regulation," China's "Technical Policy for Pollution Prevention and Control of Waste Batteries," and ISO 14040 standards use and define these terms differently, leading to a lack of unified industry standards and controversies in battery classification, treatment, and management. The following revision is proposed:4.1 Delete the term "recyclable batteries" and merge its concept into "waste batteries." In practice, all waste batteries may have recycling value, and most global regulations do not use the term "recyclable batteries" separately. Integrating the terms can avoid redundancy and align with mainstream regulations.4.2 Revise the definition of "waste batteries." Waste batteries refer to batteries that the holder discards, intends to discard, or is legally required to discard. They are further classified into recyclable waste batteries and non-recyclable waste batteries. For example, lithium-ion batteries and lead-acid batteries are recyclable waste batteries, as their metals or chemical substances can be extracted and reused through recycling processes. Some non-recyclable waste batteries, such as certain disposable alkaline batteries, cannot be effectively recycled due to technical or economic reasons and must be safely disposed of according to environmental regulations. Clear classification facilitates refined management of battery recycling and treatment, improves the resource utilization rate of recyclable batteries, and ensures the safe disposal of non-recyclable batteries. At the same time, it aligns with international and domestic regulations and standards, enhancing regulatory adaptability, promoting the standardized development of the global battery recycling management industry, and driving the sustainable development of the battery industry.***Response*:** We suggest keeping this definition, as it refers to the characteristic of a battery as such, i.e. whether it can be recycled. It does not speak to the time when such recycling should take place. There could be for instance a contractual requirement that the batteries are to be designed in a way that they are recyclable. |
| **Waste** | Resource that is no longer considered to be an asset as it, at the time, provides insufficient value to the holder. Value can be assigned to waste as a result of a need from another interested party, at which point the resource is no longer considered waste (para. 3.3.6, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf* Substances or objects which are discarded or are intended to be discarded or are required to be discarded in accordance with national laws.Note 1 to entry: A potential resource or commodity that could be turn into a useful product, or recycled/recovered.[SOURCE:Basel Convention On The Control Of Transboundary Movements Of Hazardous Wastes And Their Disposal, modified] (para. 3.1.2.1, [ISO/DIS 24161(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:24161:dis:ed-1:v1:en) Waste collection and transportation management)*Cf* Substance or object which is disposed of, is intended to be disposed of or is required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law (para. 3.1.1, [ISO 5020:2022(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:5020:ed-1:v1:en) (Waste reduction and treatment of fishing vessels))*Cf*Substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposedof or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law ([Basel Convention Glossary](http://www.basel.int/portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-PUB-GUID-GlossaryTerms.English.pdf)) | Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard (Art. 3(1) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218)) | The US legislation contains definitions for specific categories of waste: agricultural solid waste, classified waste, commercial solid waste, construction and demolition waste, food waste, industrial solid waste, infectious waste, institutional solid waste, mining wastes, residential solid waste, solid waste. ([40 CFR 243.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-243/subpart-A/section-243.101); [40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101)) | In relation to a product, means waste associated with the product over the life cycle of the product (Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, [Section 10](https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/rawra2020287/s10.html))***Waste material***means any thing (including a substance or mixture of substances) that is: (a)   discarded, rejected or left over from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or (b)   surplus to or a by - product of an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or (c)   prescribed by the rules. (2)   ***Waste material***can be a gas, liquid, solid or energy, or a combination of any of them. (3)   A thing can be ***waste material***whether or not: (a)   it is of value; or (b)   it is or may be processed, recycled, re - used or recovered. (Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, [Section 15](https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/rawra2020287/s15.html)) | Solid waste refers to any solid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous substance or material resulting from production, daily life and other activities, which lose its original utilization value, or which does not lose utilization value but is discarded, and substance or material regulated as solid waste by laws and regulations. ([Basel Convention Country Factsheet - China](https://d.docs.live.net/444b384d3eabdd72/%D0%94%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%8B/Basel%20Convention%202002%20%20Country%20Fact%20Sheet))*Cf*"Solid wastes" means materials or substances generated in the course of production, people’s daily life or other activities, which have lost their original use value, or are discarded or abandoned although they have not lost use value, and which are solid or semi-solid in form, or in the gaseous state but are kept in containers, and materials and substances that are subject to solid waste management according to laws and administrative regulations. They do not include the wastes that comply with mandatory national product quality standards after treatment to render them harmless, which do not jeopardize public health and ecological safety, or the wastes determined not to be solid wastes according to the solid waste identification standards and procedures (Art. 124(1), [Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes](http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2020-04/29/c_845992.htm)) | Any moveable material disposed of by its holder or the disposal of which is required in the public interest (Art. 7(6), [Swiss Environmental Protection Law](https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1984/1122_1122_1122/de#fn-d7e358))Waste means all substances or items that the owner disposes of, wants to dispose of, or must dispose of. Used goods are not considered waste. ([Federal Office for Customs and Border Security](https://www.bazg.admin.ch/bazg/en/home/informationen-firmen/verbote-beschraenkungen-und-auflagen/umwelt/abfaelle.html)) |  | Solid residues that, after all available and economically-feasible treatment and recover attempts, present no possibility other than final environmentally-adequate disposal. (Art. 3 (XV), [Law No. 12305 – Brazilian National Policy on Solid Waste](https://braziliannr.com/brazilian-environmental-legislation/law-no-12305-brazilian-national-policy-solid-waste/)) | *Proposed Ecoterms definition*: **Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard, unless that substance or object is assigned value based on the need from another interested party (e.g. used goods).***Comment from the WG leadership*: Waste is a mixture of resources that not has been “sorted” yet (comment as regards the reference to “used goods”).*Response*: The reference to used goods is made to distinguish between waste and other things that are assigned value by an interested party. We cannot use the reference to a mixture of resources that has not been sorted yet, because it is too broad from a legal perspective. ***WG Comment:***It could be specified that waste is also something that cannot be further transformed to be used within the circular economy.***Response*:**Our understanding is that, to the extent waste can be recycled, it would be still within the circular economy. We thus suggest to keep the definition as it currently stands. |
| **Waste batteries** |  | Any battery which is waste as defined in Article 3, point (1), of Directive 2008/98/EC, i.e. which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard (Art. 3(1)(50) [EU Batteries Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023R1542-20240718)) |  |  |  |  |  |  | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **A battery which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard, and which has not been assigned value based on the need from another interested party (e.g. used batteries). *Waste batteries can be recyclable and non-recyclable.*** |
| **By-product (as contrasted with waste)** | A co-product (any of one or more *products* (ISO 14050:2009, 3.2) from the same *unit process*(3.4.1), but which is not the object of the assessment) from a process (ISO 14040:2006, 3.11) that is incidental or not intentionally produced and which cannot be avoidedWastes are not by-products. (para. 3.4.7, [ISO 21930:2017(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/es/#iso:std:iso:21930:ed-2:v1:en),Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services) | A substance or object, resulting from a production process, the primary aim of which is not the production of that item. It is subject to the following conditions:(a) further use of the substance or object is certain;(b) the substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice;(c) the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and(d) further use is lawful, i.e. the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts. (Art. 5(1) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218)) |  |  |  |  |  |  | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **A substance or object, which is incidentally or not intentionally produced ~~and which cannot be avoided~~, resulting from a production process of another product.*****WG Comment:***Noting that this is part of the ISO standard, I wonder what technological horizon this envisages. What is the purpose of a criterion of the by-product not being avoidable? How to categorise/treat by-products that by contrast can be avoided? How do you determine whether the by-product "cannot be avoided"? Is that with current technological means or production processes, reasonable or cost-effective production processes (i.e., if you produced the main product in say a more expensive way or a more/less environmentally friendly way or in a slower way, the by-product would not be produced)? ***Response*:** We agree with your suggestion and will delete the part of the definition referring to “and which cannot be avoided“. |
| **Construction and demolition waste** | Waste which arises from construction, renovation or demolition activities (para. 3.1.2.1.4, [ISO/DIS 24161(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:24161:dis:ed-1:v1:en) Waste collection and transportation management). | Waste generated by construction and demolition activities (Art. 3(2c) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218)) | The waste building materials, packaging, and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition operations on pavements, houses, commercial buildings, and other structures. ([40 CFR 243.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-243/subpart-A/section-243.101); [40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101)) |  | Construction wastes means spoil, waste materials and other solid wastes generated when construction entities build, renovate, expand or demolish various buildings, structures or pipeline networks, or when residents decorate their houses (Art. 124(4), [Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes](http://en.npc.gov.cn.cdurl.cn/2020-04/29/c_845992.htm)) | *Construction waste* means waste produced in the construction, conversion or dismantling of fixed installations (Art. 3(e) [Swiss Waste Ordinance](https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/891/en)) |  |  | *Comment:* To consider whether this term should be included in the first set of Ecoterms.*Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **Waste generated by construction, *renovation* and demolition activities.** |
| **Waste recovery** |  | Any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy, including use principally as a fuel or other means to generate energy, solvent reclamation/regeneration, recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation processes), recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds, and recovery of components used for pollution abatement and oil re-refining or other reuses of oil (Art. 3 (15) [EU Waste Framework Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20240218))*Cf*Any activity carried out for the purposes of reclaiming, recycling or reusing the waste (Glossary, [Guidelines for the waste audits before demolition and renovation works of buildings](https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/31521/)) | Recovery means the process of obtaining materials or energy resources from solid waste. ([40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101)) |  |  |  |  |  | *Comment*: We suggest considering the inclusion of this term for the next version of the ICC Ecoterms on Circular Economy. |
| **Secondary raw material / secondary resource / recovered resource** | Recovered (secondary) resources is a resource that is obtained from one that has already been processed or used (para. 3.3.5, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf****Secondary material***is a *material*(ISO 5659 2:2012, 3.6) recovered from previous use or recovered from *waste*(3.3.11) derived from another *product system* (ISO 14040:2006, 3.28) and used as an *input* (ISO 14040:2006, 3.21) in another product system (para. 3.6.4, [ISO 21930:2017(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/es/#iso:std:iso:21930:ed-2:v1:en),Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services)) | Materials that have undergone all necessary checking and sorting and been obtained through recycling processes and can substitute primary raw materials (Art. 3(1)(47) EU [PPWR](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500040)) | *Recycled material* means a material that is used in place of a primary, raw or virgin material in manufacturing process. ([40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101))*Recoverable resources* means materials that still have useful physical, chemical or biological properties after serving their original purpose and can, therefore, be reused or recycled for the same or other purposes. ([40 CFR 246.101](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-246/subpart-A/section-246.101)) |  |  |  |  |  | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **Materials and resources that have been obtained through recycling processes, have undergone all necessary procedures, and can substitute primary raw materials.** |
| **Life cycle** | Consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal. (para. 3.20, [ISO 14025:2006(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:14025:ed-1:v1:en)Environmental labels and declarations — Type III environmental declarations — Principles and procedures)*Cf*Consecutive and interlinked stages in the life of a product, a service or a combination thereof, that fufils a need of an interested party. The interlinked stages can include acquisition of natural resources, design, production, transportation or delivery, use reuse, remanufacturing and recycling. Within a circular economy, traditional linear life cycle understanding is transformed by the thinking that a life cycle can consist of several end of use (e.g. multiple use cycles) and eventually ends at the end of life (para. 3.2.4, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en))*Cf*All consecutive and interlinked stages in the life of the object under consideration. For consideration of *environmental impacts* (ISO 21931-1:2010, 3.4) and *environmental aspects* (ISO 15392:2008, 3.10), the life cycle comprises all stages, from *raw material* (ISO 14040:2006, 3.15) acquisition or generation from natural resources to end-of-life. (para. 3.3.1, , [ISO 21930:2017(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/es/#iso:std:iso:21930:ed-2:v1:en),Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services))) | The consecutive and interlinked stages of a product’s life, consisting of raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources, pre-processing, manufacturing, storage, distribution, installation, use, maintenance, repair, upgrading, refurbishment and reuse, and end-of-life (Art. 2(12) [EU Ecodesign Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj/eng))*Cf*The consecutive and interlinked stages of a product from raw material use to final disposal (Art. 2(13) [EU Energy Products Ecodesign Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0125-20121204))*Cf*The consecutive and interlinked stages of the life of packaging, consisting of raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources, pre-processing, manufacturing, storage, distribution, use, repair, re-use and end-of-life (Art. 3(1)(67) EU [PPWR](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500040)) |  | ***"Life cycle"***of a product includes: (a)   the time when the product begins to be manufactured; and (b)   the time when the product is waste. (Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, [Section 10](https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/rawra2020287/s10.html)) |  |  |  | Series of stages involving product’s development, collection of raw material and supplies, productive process, consumption and final disposal. (Art. 3 (IV), [Law No. 12305 – Brazilian National Policy on Solid Waste](https://braziliannr.com/brazilian-environmental-legislation/law-no-12305-brazilian-national-policy-solid-waste/)) | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **The consecutive and interlinked stages of a product from raw material acquisition or generation to end-of-life final disposal.** |
| **Value chain** | Set of organizations that provide a product or a service, or a combination thereof, that fulfils a need of an interested party, that results in value for them (para. 3.5.2, [ISO 59004:2024(en)](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:59004:ed-1:v1:en)) | All activities and processes that are part of the life cycle of a product, as well as its possible remanufacturing (Art. 2(11) [EU Ecodesign Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj/eng))The full range of activities, resources and relationships related to the undertaking’s ***business model***and the external environment in which it operates.A ***value chain***encompasses the activities, resources and relationships the undertaking uses and relies on to create its products or services from conception to delivery, consumption and end-of- life. Relevant activities, resources and relationships include:

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| - those in the undertaking’s own operations, such as human resources; |

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| - those along its supply, marketing and distribution channels, such as materials and service sourcing and product and service sale and delivery; and |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | the financing, geographical, geopolitical and regulatory environments in which the undertaking operates. |

***Value chain***includes ***actors***upstream and downstream from the undertaking. ***Actors***upstream from the undertaking (e.g., ***suppliers***) provide products or services that are used in the development of the undertaking’s products or services. Entities downstream from the undertaking (e.g., distributors, customers) receive products or services from the undertaking.ESRS use the term “***value chain***” in the singular, although it is recognised that undertakings may have multiple ***value chains***. (Annex II, Table 2, [EU Delegated Regulation on Sustainability Reporting Standards](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2772)) |  | The full range of activities involved in bringing a product or service from conception,through production, to delivery to the end consumer, including after-sales services. ([Australia’s Circular](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf) [Economy Framework 2024](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-circular-economy-framework.pdf), p. 35) |  |  |  |  | *Proposed Ecoterm definition*: **All activities and processes that are part of the life cycle of a product, as well as its possible remanufacturing.***Comment from the WG leadership*: I would rather say “as well as the disposal/recycling of the product (can be reuse, remanufacturing, recycling including energy recover and resource recovery after incineration)”.*Response*: Thank you for your comment. We would suggest to delete the part starting with “as well as…”, given that remanufacturing is part of the life cycle, so are disposal and recycling: “All activities and processes that are part of the life cycle of a product.”***WG Comment*:** This definition seems particular to this context and could be subject to different interpretations. In other contexts, "value chain" would, in my understanding, take on a broader connotation, including for example investors and other financial supporters, or affected communities. Is it clear enough whether or not such entities are included? How would "value chain" under this definition relate to the concept of "chain of activities" adopted under the CSDDD (albeit potentially broader in the down stream phase), seemingly to narrow the term? Should it, at any rate, be made clear how the definition relates (if at all) to other definitions of this term as used in other contexts?***Response*:** Thank you for raising this important question on the scope of the term. After reflecting on your comment, we would suggest to consider this term in Ecoterms cluster on Governance (Corporate Responsibility and Due Diligence) and delete it from the Circular Economy cluster. |

1. ***Comment received:***

Proposal to Add the Term "Ecology-Oriented Development (EOD)" after the Term "Eco-design / Environmentally Conscious Design (ECD) / Design for Environment (DfE) / Green Design, Environmentally Sustainable Design":

Ecology-Oriented Development (EOD) is an innovative project implementation model. It is rooted in ecological protection and environmental governance, relying on characteristic industry operations, regional comprehensive development, and industrial chain extension to integrate ecological environment governance projects with related industries, promoting their coordinated advancement and internalizing the economic value of ecological environment governance. The concepts of eco-design, environmentally conscious design (ECD), design for environment (DfE), green design, and environmentally sustainable design all focus on sustainable development, aiming to balance economic, social, and environmental benefits. The EOD model emphasizes the mutual promotion and harmonious coexistence of environmental protection and economic development, aligning with these design concepts in principle. Adding EOD to the circular economy terminology system is highly necessary:

3.1 Strong Alignment with the Core Principles of the Circular Economy: EOD integrates "ecological restoration + green industry," deeply practicing the principles of "reduction, reuse, and recycling" in the circular economy. For example, during mine restoration, vegetation reconstruction reduces pollution sources, achieving reduction; transforming abandoned mining areas into new energy bases achieves land resource reuse; and conducting green agriculture after soil restoration completes solid waste recycling. This comprehensive practice shows that EOD is an innovative implementation model of circular economy principles, and its inclusion in the terminology system can enhance the theoretical and practical framework.

3.2 Close Alignment with Global Green Development Trends: From the perspective of international policy adaptation, the EU's "Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)" and the OECD's green growth strategy, which emphasize "brownfield restoration + green urban development" and "ecological restoration parallel to economic growth," respectively, resonate with the EOD model. Moreover, EOD is closely linked with green finance, leveraging green bonds, PPP models, and other financing mechanisms to ensure economic sustainability. Integrating EOD with the existing "green finance" concept can expand the connotation of circular economy terminology in the financial field.

3.3 Practical Satisfaction of Development Needs in Different Countries: Developing countries face challenges such as pollution control and abandoned land reuse, and the EOD model provides sustainable solutions like "mine restoration + agriculture development" and "pollution control + tourism industry," which can be applied in countries like India and Brazil. Developed countries promoting "urban regeneration + circular economy" can also benefit from EOD's ecological and industrial integration concepts, enhancing urban quality and development in regions like the EU and the US. Its broad applicability meets the global promotion requirements of ICC terminology. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *WG Comment:*

Proposal to Add the Term "Ecology-Oriented Development (EOD)" after the Term "Eco-design / Environmentally Conscious Design (ECD) / Design for Environment (DfE) / Green Design, Environmentally Sustainable Design":

Ecology-Oriented Development (EOD) is an innovative project implementation model. It is rooted in ecological protection and environmental governance, relying on characteristic industry operations, regional comprehensive development, and industrial chain extension to integrate ecological environment governance projects with related industries, promoting their coordinated advancement and internalizing the economic value of ecological environment governance. The concepts of eco-design, environmentally conscious design (ECD), design for environment (DfE), green design, and environmentally sustainable design all focus on sustainable development, aiming to balance economic, social, and environmental benefits. The EOD model emphasizes the mutual promotion and harmonious coexistence of environmental protection and economic development, aligning with these design concepts in principle. Adding EOD to the circular economy terminology system is highly necessary:

3.1 Strong Alignment with the Core Principles of the Circular Economy: EOD integrates "ecological restoration + green industry," deeply practicing the principles of "reduction, reuse, and recycling" in the circular economy. For example, during mine restoration, vegetation reconstruction reduces pollution sources, achieving reduction; transforming abandoned mining areas into new energy bases achieves land resource reuse; and conducting green agriculture after soil restoration completes solid waste recycling. This comprehensive practice shows that EOD is an innovative implementation model of circular economy principles, and its inclusion in the terminology system can enhance the theoretical and practical framework.

3.2 Close Alignment with Global Green Development Trends: From the perspective of international policy adaptation, the EU's "Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)" and the OECD's green growth strategy, which emphasize "brownfield restoration + green urban development" and "ecological restoration parallel to economic growth," respectively, resonate with the EOD model. Moreover, EOD is closely linked with green finance, leveraging green bonds, PPP models, and other financing mechanisms to ensure economic sustainability. Integrating EOD with the existing "green finance" concept can expand the connotation of circular economy terminology in the financial field.

3.3 Practical Satisfaction of Development Needs in Different Countries: Developing countries face challenges such as pollution control and abandoned land reuse, and the EOD model provides sustainable solutions like "mine restoration + agriculture development" and "pollution control + tourism industry," which can be applied in countries like India and Brazil. Developed countries promoting "urban regeneration + circular economy" can also benefit from EOD's ecological and industrial integration concepts, enhancing urban quality and development in regions like the EU and the US. Its broad applicability meets the global promotion requirements of ICC terminology. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)