

Redefining resource management as a public good:

UNRMS as a transition vehicle to the circular economy

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2021

ENABLING SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



UNECE

To begin at the beginning...

April 2017

The EGRM



The Executive Secretary of ECE welcomed the participants to the meeting.

He drew attention to the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the key challenges in attaining it. He noted the need to change the narrative on resources from one of unbalanced production, which leaves behind significant externalities, to one where more value will be created.

Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles with current consumption patterns.

He further noted with appreciation the work undertaken to broaden the application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) including to renewable energy as well as the development of bridging documents.

In closing, he underlined the importance of the work being undertaken on resource classification and the value of UNFC as a public good.

See https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pp/unfc_egrm/egrc8_apr_2017/ece.energy.ge.3.2017.2_e.pdf

Seven theses on the portal of the Palais des Nations

Someone's knocking at the door...

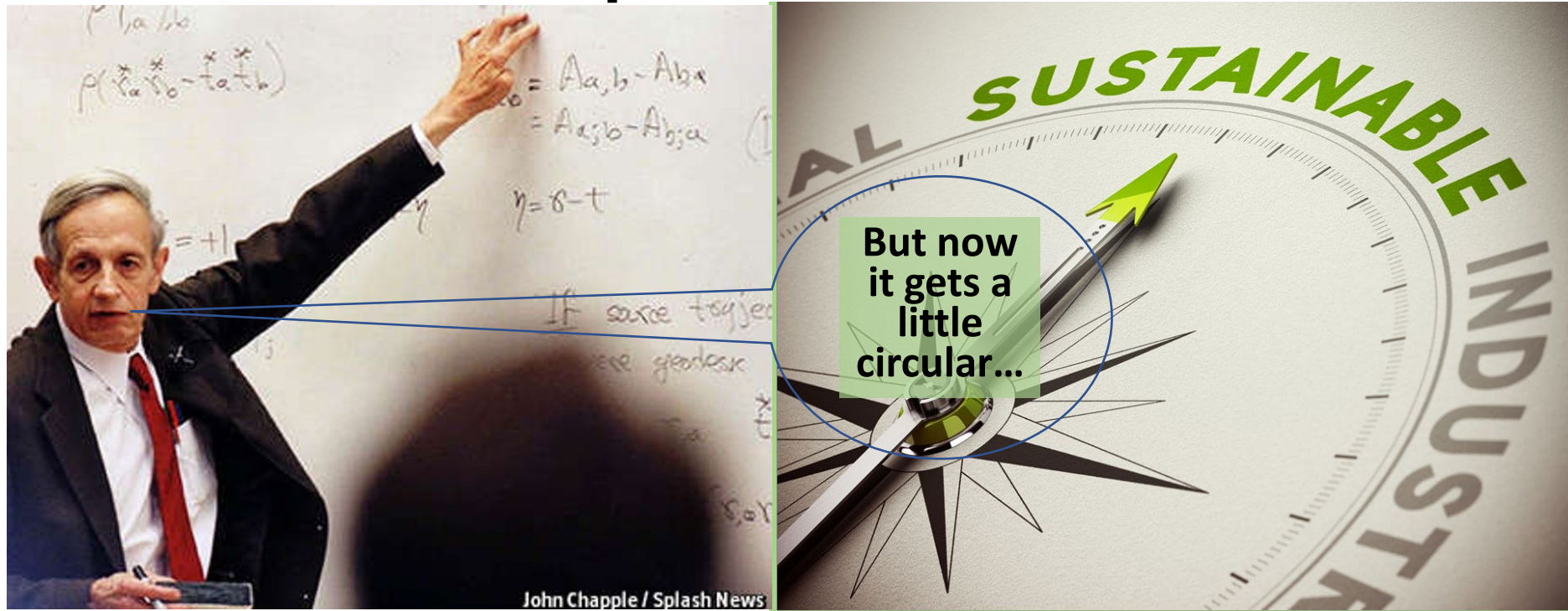


- Extractive industries in a linear economy sit at the highly conflicted junction between “public good” as a commodity or service to society as a whole and “public good” as a business run without profit for the equal benefit of all.
- The reason why extractive industries have become so unpopular, even to the point of civil unrest or conflict is that a social licence to operate to recover and use resources critical to all of us is no longer enough. The public has to be a prime stakeholder, and in this capacity enjoy equal access to what we all equally need.
- The linear model is broken. It is also deeply tarnished by its associations with colonialism and slavery. Stakeholder capitalism understands this, as does ESG finance.
- Hence my argument at the ECE Round Table January 21, 2021, that a new Social Resource Contract based on a Nash equilibrium of interests has to be negotiated.
- It will be based on redefining public good to be the point of convergence between stakeholder capitalism and meeting the essential needs of all, notably for Water, Energy and Food security as “public good”.
- As a result, the economic transformation to circularity will be in effect to fuse two “value systems” in the linear resource economy, those of money and molecules, into one single currency where money is “heads” and molecules “tails”.
- The UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting inherently proposes this fusion.

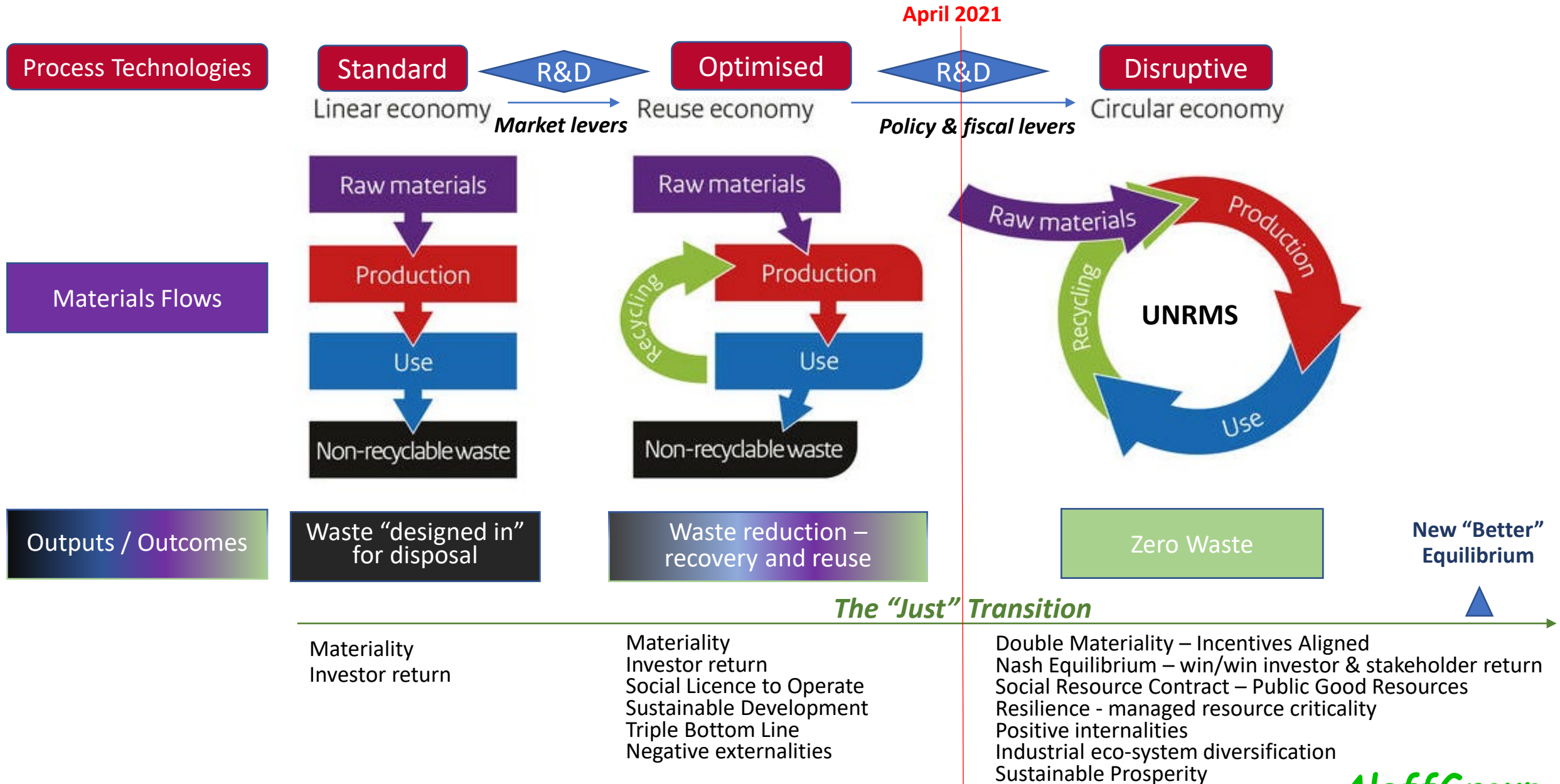
Time and Place for the Resource Reformation?



Where apter than Geneva?...



The “Just Transition” – From Linear to Circular Economy





Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

xx April 2021

Original: English

Please download and comment this paper:

https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/ECE_ENERGY_GE.3_2021_15_Circ%20Economy%20Concpet%20Note-ECEL17874500.pdf

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Expert Group on Resource Management

Twelfth session

Geneva, 26-30 April 2021

Item 8(b) of the provisional agenda

United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and United Nations Resources Management System guidelines and best practices for delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

Redefining resource management as a public good: The United Nations Resource Management System as a transition vehicle to the circular economy

Thank you!

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