

# From Aspiration to Actions

*Accelerating a Circular Transition Worldwide!*

**Strategic Brief**  
*WCEF2024, Brussels*  
*15th April'24*



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# Executive Summary

The Roundtable held at the World Circular Economy Forum 2024 (WCEF 2024) witnessed an overwhelming participation of 78 stakeholders, surpassing the seated capacity of 50 in the room. This diverse group comprised representatives from Industries, Government Bodies, Think Tanks, Academic Institutions, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), Inter-Governmental Agencies, and Consultancies. Notably, the gathering was inclusive, with nearly 40% of attendees being female.

Among the distinguished delegates were representatives from prominent entities such as the EU Commission, the Government of Finland, and the Ministry of External Affairs India. The Roundtable discussions gravitated towards a proposal that garnered significant acclaim from global participants: the establishment of a Global South Centre on Circular Economy.

The proposed center aims to:

- 1. Develop Pathways for Sustainable Development:** By advocating for low carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable practices through an integrated and inclusive approach.
- 2. Bridge Technical Divides:** By offering "glocal" solutions to address pressing global challenges, thus fostering a greener future.
- 3. Inspire Implementable Policy Actions:** By promoting environmentally sustainable, integrated, holistic, and balanced growth through actionable policy recommendations.
- 4. Mitigate Risks for Global Businesses:** By facilitating risk management strategies for businesses operating across borders.

The prospect of female leadership at the global level generated significant anticipation, with numerous entities expressing interest in collaborating for the center's establishment. This unique proposition is poised to bridge the gap between the Global North and South, facilitating constructive dialogues and fostering collaboration across diverse demographics.

The overwhelmingly positive response to the proposal has galvanized our resolve to elevate this initiative to the next level. We are committed to realizing the vision of the Global South Centre on Circular Economy and harnessing its potential to drive sustainable development on a global scale.



Shalini Goyal Bhalla  
Managing Director  
International Council for Circular Economy  
India



Chris Whyte  
Director  
African Circular Economy Network  
South Africa

# The Global South Partners



International Council For Circular Economy



Shalini Goyal Bhalla  
Managing Director  
International Council for Circular Economy  
India



Chris Whyte  
Director  
African Circular Economy Network  
South Africa



Beatriz Luz  
Associate President  
Brazilian Institute for Circular Economy  
Brazil

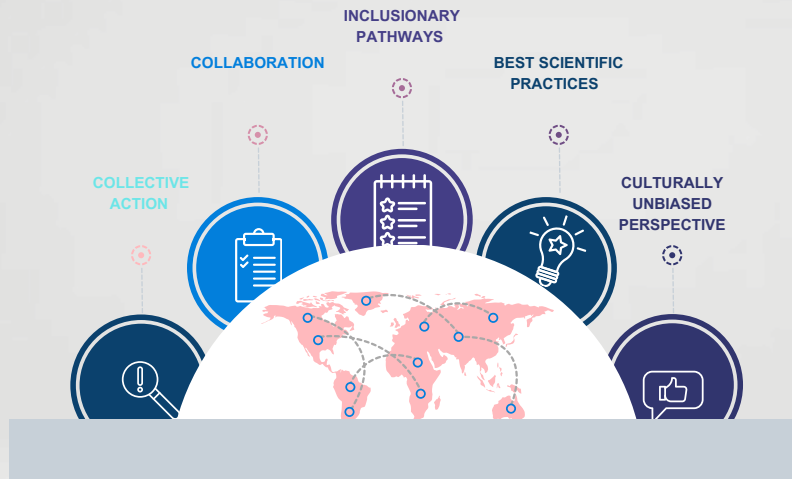


Treesvit (David) Arriyavat  
Secretariat,  
ACESP  
Thailand

# Insights and Perspectives:

*Fast forward from WCEF2023, Helsinki*

## Circular Economy: Approach to 2030



ICCE lead the discussions at WCEF2023, at Helsinki. The discussions focussed on bridging the Global South and the Global North: breaking cultural and lifestyle barriers through solutions and best practices of mapping circular policies, economic incentives and business models. It also suggested a joint planning for the Global Dialogue that could lead to a global circular transition.

The discussions concluded in agreement that the journey towards a global circular economy by 2030 necessitates collective action and collaborative efforts. Inclusionary pathways can be developed through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among stakeholders worldwide. By fostering partnerships, sharing insights, and engaging diverse perspectives, we can collectively address the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a circular economy. Through collaborative endeavors, we can unlock innovation, drive systemic change, and pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



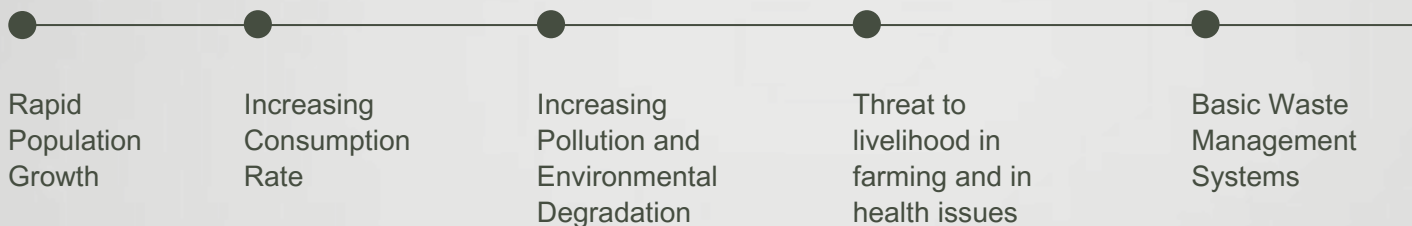
WCEF23 Global South Cooperation Signatories

# **Transforming Aspirations into Action!**

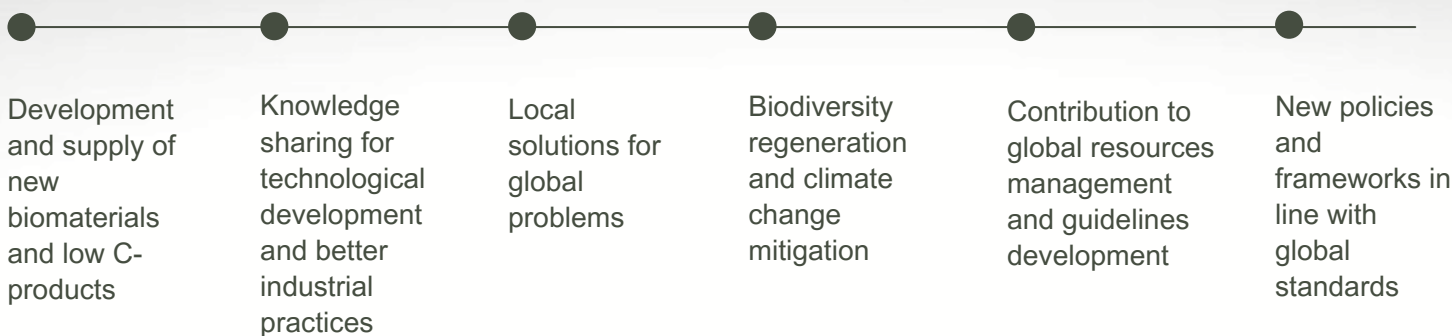
*The GSCCE Story!*

# Challenges & Opportunities in the Global South

## Challenges



## Opportunities



## Role of a Circular Economy

### REGENERATIVE GROWTH

By transforming the way we produce, consume, and manage waste, the circular economy can play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs and net-zero targets, both individually and globally, paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

### GREEN TRANSITION

By reducing waste, promoting resource efficiency, and encouraging the use of renewable materials, the circular economy can contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions, leading to Green transition.

### MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Circular economy models can promote sustainable practices across all sectors, contributing to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, thus mitigating Climate Change.

# **Leading a Real Transformation!**

**To establish a Global South Center on Circular Economy (GSCCE) that aims to galvanize collective efforts to accelerate the transition to a circular economy - A fundamental shift towards a systemic approach to resource use, minimizing waste, designing products with environmental responsibility and encourage sustainable behaviors and development.**



# GSCCE: For Stakeholders

## *Why consider GSCCE?*



### 1. Industry

- Serve as a knowledge platform for **sharing best practices, research, and innovations**
- **Resource Optimization** by promoting the reuse, recycling, and remanufacturing of materials
- **Mitigate the risks** associated with resource scarcity, price volatility & geopolitical instability making them resilient
- Provide guidance and resources to help industries stay ahead of **regulatory changes**
- **Enhanced Reputation** and Market Access to environmentally conscious consumers
- Facilitate collaboration among sectors, allowing them to **learn from each other**

### 3. Academia

- A platform for conducting **interdisciplinary research**: Sustainable resource management, eco-design, waste reduction, recycling technologies, policy analysis, and the social and economic impacts of transitioning to a circular economy
- Offer educational programs, courses, workshops, and seminars on **circular economy concepts, practices, and technologies** that promote the adoption of circular economy approaches
- **Inform and influence public policy** through research and analysis
- Developing **new technologies, materials, and processes** with potential applications in the circular economy

### 2. Think tanks & not-for-profits

- A focal point for **joint research projects, policy dialogues**, and multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at addressing shared challenges
- **Advocate for policies** that support the transition to a circular economy at local, national, and international levels.
- Developing educational resources, organizing training workshops, and **providing technical assistance** to stakeholders
- Promoting practices such as **reducing waste, conserving natural resources**, and promoting **inclusive and sustainable** economic growth

### 4. Governments

- Provide governments data for developing **informed policies and regulations** at the national and international levels
- Provide tools, resources, and support needed to stimulate **sustainable economic growth**
- Advance environmental sustainability goals and protect **natural resources** for future generations
- Provide a platform for fostering international collaboration, sharing knowledge and best practices, and **building partnerships** on a global scale
- Enhancing **resilience and security** in the face of global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, and geopolitical instability

# GSCCE's Advantages: To the World!

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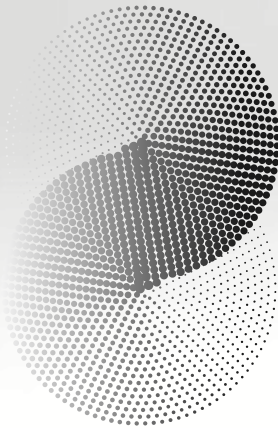


1. Developing pathways for **low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable development** by for an integrated and inclusive approach leading to a **GREENER FUTURE**
2. Bridging the **technical divide** by providing **GLOCAL SOLUTIONS** for the biggest problems of the world today
3. Inspiring the **POLICY ACTIONS** that are implementable, enforceable for environmentally sustainable, integrated, holistic and balanced growth
4. **RISK MITIGATION** for businesses operating globally

# GSCCE's Establishment

Virtual Space - 2024-25

Physical Centre - 2025



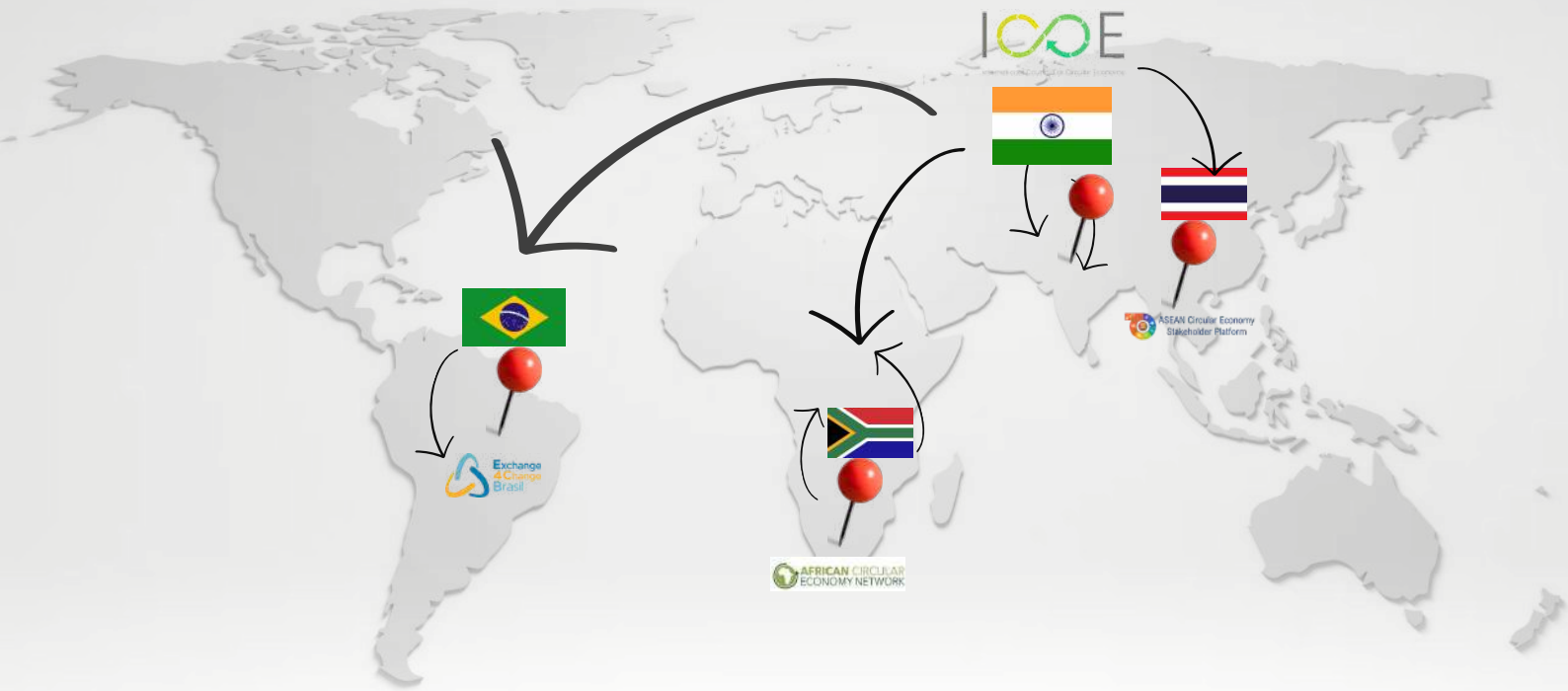
## Thematic areas:

1. Identifying Barriers
2. Fostering Glocal dialogue
3. Sharing knowledge and good practices

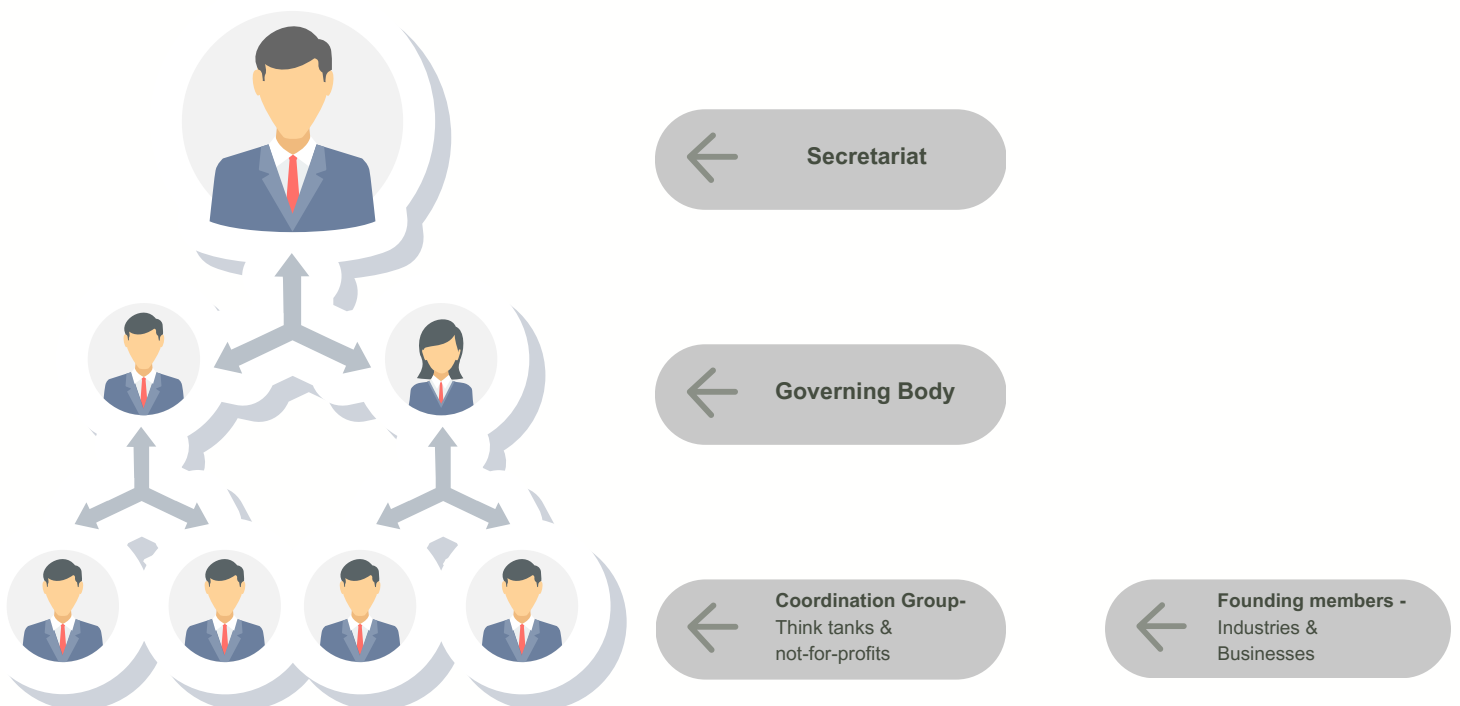
## GSCCE's Establishment requirement

1. Global Knowledge and expertise
2. Resources
3. Capital investment
4. Commitment
5. Support for projects

# GSCCE's Global Operations



## GSCCE's Structure



# GSCCE's Uniqueness



A pioneer move where  
**GLOBAL SOUTH** leads  
North-South  
collaboration



An initiative **LED BY**  
**WOMEN** highlighting the  
UN's commitment to  
build an inclusive world



Using the  
local knowledge for  
creating a  
**GLOBAL IMPACT!**

# **Voices of Impact**



**Luca Marmo**  
*Senior Expert on External Relations*  
**Directorate-General for Environment**  
*European Commission*

There are many ongoing initiatives that supports the transition to a circular economy, including the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) as well as coalitions and alliances in Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. And of course the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its One Planet Network. The Global South Centre on Circular Economy should build on such existing endeavours.

“Circular economy is a universal trend touching upon every aspect of society. It is evolving into a mainstream necessity that will also offer many possibilities for the private sector. It will bring about opportunities for collaboration and sustainability across the globe, and we need to seize these opportunities.”

*Pirjo Suomela-Chowdhury*  
*Deputy Director General, Department for Africa and Middle East*  
*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*  
*Finland*



There is an urgency for North-South collaboration in addressing global challenges like climate change through circular economy approaches. They highlighted each region's unique strengths, with the South providing resources and willingness while the North contributing technology and capital. We advocate increased female leadership in sustainability initiatives and are committed to leapfrogging traditional development pathways towards clean, environmentally neutral technologies. India has an ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable energy. Our partnerships with the EU, emphasize the importance of joint efforts in research, investment, and policy dialogue. Collective action is appreciated. I extend my best wishes for the initiative's success.

*Mr. N. Ashok Kumar (IAS)  
Adviser (I&E)  
Embassy of India, Brussels*



8 years back when the EU circular Economy stakeholder platform was conceived, the government's role was considered pertinent. This is suited to the EU as we have a single market and policy framework. “Platforms like this must be driven by CSO and not by the business sector nor by governments. We are keen to collaborate, exchange our knowledge and share our learning from the last 8 years with this truly global initiative.



*Peter Schmidt  
Founding Member, EUCESP  
President, NAT Section of the EESC (Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment).*



Access to finance and localized solutions are pivotal, as the global north's prescriptions may not fit the south's needs, as highlighted by Schmidt. Transitioning to a circular economy must encompass the entire value chain, not just recycling, to foster inclusive, sustainable economies. Both hemispheres face pressing challenges, demanding measurable and manageable transitions, beyond token efforts like banning plastic straws. Climate change disregards borders; the north's future hinges on the south's prosperity. Responsibility rests with all, requiring tailored solutions and inclusive collaboration. Urgency underscores our actions; waiting for perfection is futile. Learning by doing, exemplified by initiatives like Holland's Zurvian hotspot, offers a pathway to seize business opportunities in a circular economy. Establishing a Global South Centre for Circular Economy is not mere rhetoric; it's a crucial step towards a sustainable future, signaling genuine commitment over mere words.

*Freek van Eijk*  
*Managing Director, Holland Circular Hotspot*  
*Co-Chair, EUCESP*



We at EIB commend the platform's launch and stress the pivotal role of cities as epicenters of circular innovation, especially within the rapidly evolving megacities encompassed by this initiative. I urge the integration of data from diverse geographies to inform global strategies, aligning with findings from the International Resource Panel. Let's ensure our collective efforts drive sustainable growth and transition, reflecting the unique opportunities and challenges across regions.



**Jane Feehan**  
*Senior Advisor / Conseiller principal, Environment and Natural Resources Department*  
**European Investment Bank**



**Ankit Bhatt**  
*Program Lead, Circular Economy & Waste, Asia Region*  
**GGGI**

As you embark on this journey, consider the invaluable role of government and public sector involvement. GGGI, with its extensive network spanning 48 member countries, stands ready to support the center's mandate. Let's work together to enhance organization and collaboration within the global south, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

We're eager to learn and collaborate, recognizing that we don't have all the answers but are committed to envisioning a sustainable future together. Let's embark on this journey to create a global security protocol for business flight. Your participation is key.



**Filipe Camano Garcia**  
*Manager, Global Circularity Protocol*  
**WBCSD**

The next 20 years will witness a significant shift in global relations, predominantly driven by countries within. Establishing a central hub for partnerships and collaborations offers immense potential. Simplifying access to practical examples and innovations for both private and public sectors is paramount. However, the challenge lies in creating a truly global platform that addresses diverse objectives. Balancing research, education, knowledge transfer, policy challenges, and technology innovation will be crucial for success in building an effective business model. It's a journey toward creating a one-stop shop for innovation and collaboration, one that must be navigated with strategic focus and adaptability.



**Andrea Liverani**  
*Lead Specialist , Sustainable  
Development, Europe and Central  
Asia,*  
**The World Bank Group**



**Joe Papineschi**  
*Chairperson*  
**Eunomia Research and Consulting**

We work with global brands & NGOs and it's clear that there are opportunities for knowledge transfer and learning from our mistakes in the Global North. The business growth will come from the Global South and lower income countries and it's a huge opportunity for Global Businesses. The center can be genuinely useful for the Global North to engage with.

# Manifesto



ISSUED BY THE GLOBAL SOUTH PARTNERS

## Manifesto of the Global South Center on Circular Economy, hosted by India and supported by Global South Partners.

In the face of escalating environmental challenges and unsustainable consumption patterns, we, the undersigned, are compelled to address the pressing need for transformative action towards a more sustainable future. This manifesto serves as a clarion call to establish the Global South Center on Circular Economy, hosted by India and supported by the Global South Partners. The global South partners collectively maintain that transitioning along circular economy principles holds the key to achieving the SDGs, reversing the impacts of climate change and related environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, and providing a pathway to a just transition that empowers and enables all planetary citizens.

*The Center aims to galvanize collective efforts to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in the Global South - A fundamental shift towards a systemic approach to resource use, minimizing waste, and designing products with environmental responsibility. This will also encourage sustainable behaviors and development.*

*Our vision is a world where resources are valued, waste is minimized, and prosperity is shared equitably among all people and nations. The following core values guide us:*

- 1. Sustainability:** We prioritize the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.
- 2. Inclusivity:** We believe in fostering diversity and ensuring that the benefits of the circular economy are accessible to all within different cultural contexts and habits.
- 3. Collaboration:** We recognize the importance of working together across borders, sectors, and disciplines to achieve our shared goals.

*The Centre aims to catalyze the transition to a circular economy to address key challenges and opportunities related to resource management, waste reduction, and sustainable production and consumption to help countries reach their Net Zero targets. The overarching goal is to foster:*

- 1. Awareness and understanding of circular economy principles.**
- 2. Research, innovation, technology, and knowledge exchange on circular economy solutions.**
- 3. Supportive policies and regulations at local, national, and international levels.**
- 4. Empower communities and businesses to adopt circular economy practices and technologies.**
- 5. Partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders from the Global South and beyond.**

The circular journey starts now! We need all hands on deck - governments, NGOs, industry, academia, and individuals from around the world to tackle this critical challenge. Together, let us harness our collective wisdom, creativity, and determination to create a more sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come. Join us in supporting the Global South Center on Circular Economy and collaborating towards a circular economy revolution.

**As we embark on this journey, let us be guided by the vision of a world where every action we take contributes to the regeneration of the planet and the well-being of all its inhabitants. Together, we have the power to shape a future that is sustainable, equitable, and thriving. Let us seize this opportunity to build a better world for ourselves and for future generations.**

April 2024

### SIGNATURES

**Shalini Goyal Bhalla**  
International Council for  
Circular Economy, India

**Chris Whyte**  
African Circular Economy  
Network, South Africa

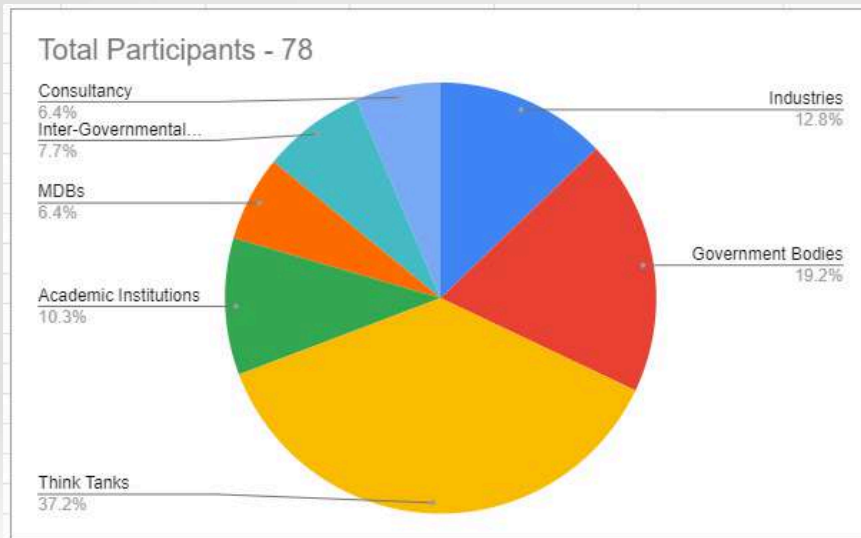
**Beatriz Luz**  
Exchange4Change, Brazil

**Treesuvit (David) Arriyavat**  
ASEAN Circular Economy  
Stakeholder Platform, Thailand

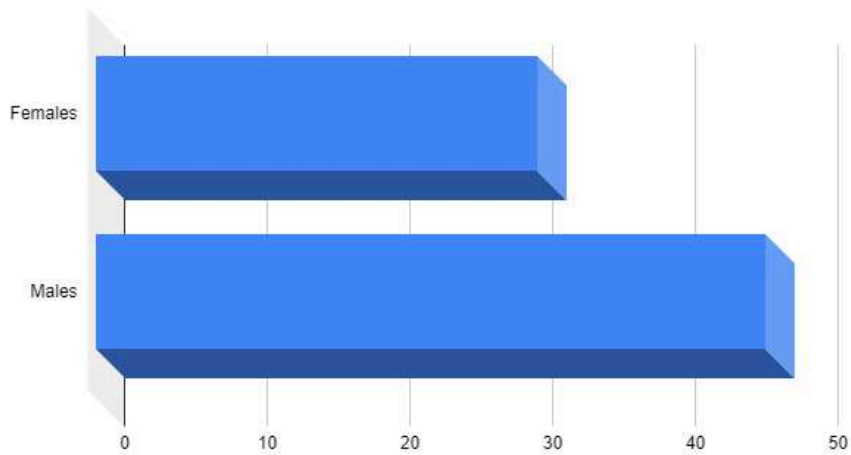
Download the Manifesto  
HERE

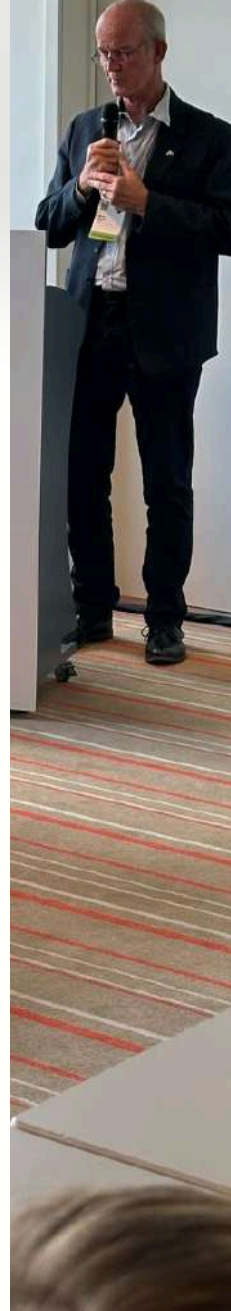
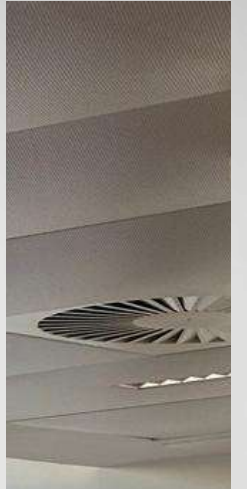
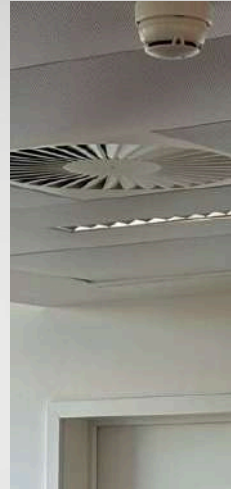
Read the Manifesto  
HERE

# Global Participation



## Gender-wise Participation





## Global Center on Circular Economy to advance circularity worldwide

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Brussels/New Delhi - Leaders of the India-based International Council for Circular Economy, the African Circular Economy Network, and other organizations have issued a manifesto calling for the creation of a new Global South Center on Circular Economy in India. The Center would serve as a clearinghouse for ideas to advance circularity worldwide.



### Global South leads circular transition agenda for the planet at WCEF 2024 | industry news updates - India's...

Global South leads circular transition agenda for the planet at WCEF 2024  
The roundtable, "From Aspiration to Actions: Accelerating Circular Transition Worldwide" held on April 15th, at The Square in Brussels, at...

 mojo4industry\_Media / Apr 16



### Global South | Circular Transition

The roundtable, "From Aspiration to Actions: Accelerating Circular Transition Worldwide" held on April 15th, 2024, at The Square in Brussels, at WCEF2024, saw

 ic-ce.com / Apr 16

16 Apr 2024

## ICCE: Manifesto from Global South

During WCEF2024, a roundtable "From Aspiration to Actions: Accelerating Circular Transition Worldwide" was held on 15 April 2024 at The Square in Brussels. A manifesto released during the roundtable endorsed the Global South's role in accelerating the global transition towards circularity and called for setting up a Global Center on Circular Economy hosted by India and supported by partners from the Global South.

Read more on [ICCE's website](#) and see the [manifesto](#).

**Presented by**



International Council For Circular Economy

*International Council for Circular Economy  
India*

**Global South Partners**



African Circular Economy Network  
South Africa



Brazilian Institute for Circular Economy  
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