

ENSURING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL GAINS OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

21-22 NOVEMBER 2022

Hybrid event (Pretoria & MS Teams)

Organised by



Thought partners



INTRODUCTION

South Africa faces growing economic, social and environmental pressures, particularly in a post-Covid landscape, and is in desperate need of job-creating economic growth. At the same time, recent studies reconfirmed that South Africa is a significant supplier of resources into the global economy, but with very little use of its resources for the stock building of domestic infrastructure (buildings, roads, etc.), leaving South Africa at greater risk.

As the global economy expands and living standards rise, the world's raw materials consumption is expected to nearly double by 2060. This is particularly alarming because materials extraction, processing, use and waste lead to significant environmental pressures, ranging from local pollution at mining sites, to GHG emissions from metal processing, or terrestrial, aquatic and air pollution from waste handling and disposal.

A circular economy provides an alternative development model for South Africa – a development path that is resource efficient, and less resource intensive, than that followed by the global north. A development path that provides society with greater access to goods and services through, for example, alternative delivery and business models, with opportunities for job creation and enterprise development. The circular economy aims to use products for longer; drive refurbishment, repair and reuse of end-of-life products; unlock the potential of the sharing and services economy; and reduce the consumption of finite resources by recovering materials from waste streams for recycling. Circular economy policies and initiatives largely take place domestically at the national or regional level. However, they also have essential interlinkages with international trade.

As societies change, consumption patterns also change, and are typically associated with an increase in single-use products, including single-use plastics. The mismanagement of plastic has resulted in significant environmental pollution and, if left unchecked, has the potential to cause even greater economic and social impacts since annual, global plastics production is projected to triple by 2060.

This two-day workshop investigates the following questions:

- How can South Africa address the growing plastic pollution problem in a way that benefits the environment, society and the economy?
- As a developing country, what are appropriate policy instruments to unlock a more circular economy and realise the triple dividends for the economy, labour markets and the environment?
- How can trade contribute to a more resource-efficient and circular South African economy?

DAY 1 – TRANSITIONING TOWARDS CIRCULARITY – THE CASE OF PLASTICS

Monday, 21 November, 09:00 – 13:00

8:30 – 9:00	Arrivals and coffee/tea
9:00 – 9:20	<p><u>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</u> (This session sets the scene for the discussion on the first day)</p> <p>Session Chair: Linda Godfrey, South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kgauta Mokoena, South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment - Marlies den Boer, Netherlands Embassy in South Africa (EU representative) - Rob Dellink, OECD Environment Directorate
9:20 – 10:00	<p><u>CREATING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA</u></p> <p>Session Chair: Ariane Labat, EU Delegation to the Republic of South Africa</p> <p>This session will introduce South Africa's policy plans for the transition to a circular economy and present the findings from the CSIR's work on creating a more circular plastics economy in South Africa.</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>The transition to a circular economy in South Africa</i>", Kgauta Mokoena, DFFE (10 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>Creating a circular plastics economy in South Africa</i>", Anton Nahman, CSIR (20 min) (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (10 min)</i></p>
10:00 – 11:00	<p><u>THE ROLE OF EPR IN THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY</u></p> <p>This session will present the findings from the CSIR's and OECD's work on Extended Producer Responsibility as a policy instrument to address plastic pollution and achieve circularity.</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>Can EPR get South Africa to a circular plastics economy</i>", William Stafford, CSIR (20 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>EPR towards a greater impact on product design</i>", Frithjof Laubinger, OECD (20 min)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (20 min)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:30	<u>COFFEE BREAK</u>
11:30 – 12:45	<p><u>ELIMINATING PLASTIC POLLUTION</u></p> <p>This session will discuss how to eliminate plastic pollution. It presents the findings from the OECD's Global Plastics Outlook reports and discusses the INC process for a global plastics treaty.</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>The OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic drivers, environmental impacts and policy options</i>", Frithjof Laubinger, OECD (15 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>The OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Policy scenarios to 2060</i>", Rob Dellink, OECD (15 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>Preparing for a legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution</i>" Christoffer Vestli, European Commission (15 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "<i>Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) process: the South African lead-up and perspective</i>", Margarette Molefe, DFFE (15 min)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (15 min)</i></p>
12:45-12:50	<p><u>CLOSING REMARKS</u></p> <p>This closing session will tease out the main insights from the discussions, with closing remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) - Katharina Gihring, African Circular Economy Network (ACEN)
12:50 – 13:00	<p><u>Launch of #SolvePlasticsAfrica</u></p> <p>The CSIR (South Africa) and The Pew Charitable Trusts (USA) will launch the South African Pathways Report and the #SolvePlasticsAfrica initiative, a Science, Technology and Innovation Hub for Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suzan Oelofse, CSIR Principal Researcher and project lead - Winnie Lau, Project Director, Preventing Ocean Plastics at The Pew Charitable Trusts (<i>video</i>)
13:00	<u>END</u> – The morning workshop will be followed by an opportunity for networking and lunch.

DAY 2 – BUILDING THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION

Tuesday, 22 November, 09:00 – 13:00

8:30 – 9:00	Arrivals and coffee/tea
9:00 – 9:20	<p>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (This session sets the scene for the discussion on the second day)</p> <p>Session Chair: Linda Godfrey (CSIR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mahendra Shunmoogam, South Africa’s Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) - Marko Saarinen, Embassy of Finland (EU representative) - Rob Dellink, OECD Environment Directorate
9:20 – 10:20	<p>A MORE CIRCULAR SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY</p> <p>Session Chair: Mahendra Shunmoogam, South Africa’s Department of Trade, Industry and Competition</p> <p>This session will present the findings from the CSIR's work on understanding the circular economy opportunities across different sectors of the South African economy, and from OECD's work on the macroeconomic and sectoral implications of the CE transition.</p> <p>Presentation: "A more circular South African Economy", Linda Godfrey, CSIR (20min)</p> <p>Presentation: "Consequences of a CE transition on the structure of the economy", Rob Dellink, OECD (20min)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (20 minutes)</i></p>
10:20 – 10:50	<p>THE JOBS POTENTIAL OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION</p> <p>This session highlights the social pillar of the CE transition, focusing on labour market aspects. It deals with projected ways in which the CE transition can generate jobs, and the need for flanking policies to govern the decline of materials extraction and materials-intensive industry and ensure the required skills for a circular economy are developed.</p> <p>Presentation: Frithjof Laubinger, OECD (15 minutes)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (15 minutes)</i></p>
10:50 – 11:20	COFFEE BREAK
11:20 – 12:05	<p>THE ROLE OF TRADE IN FACILITATING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSITION</p> <p>This session focuses on the international dimension of the CE transition. It will highlight how the economic and environmental gains depend on international cooperation and how the comparative advantage of specific sectors and countries is affected by ambitious policies to improve resource efficiency and make the economy more circular.</p> <p>Presentation: "The trade consequences of a global CE transition", Rob Dellink, OECD (15 min)</p> <p>Presentation: "Integrating the circular economy into economic and trade policy", Mahendra Shunmoogam, dtic (15 min)</p> <p><i>Followed by questions and discussion among participants (15 minutes)</i></p>
12:05-12:45	<p>CLOSING PANEL</p> <p>This closing session will tease out the main insights stemming from the discussions, building on closing remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mahendra Shunmoogam, South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition - Katharina Gihring, African Circular Economy Network - Frithjof Laubinger and Rob Dellink, OECD Environment Directorate - Linda Godfrey, CSIR
12:45	END – The morning workshop will be followed by an opportunity for networking and lunch.

This two-day event highlights findings from a series of recent OECD and CSIR studies on the circular economy, including:

OECD:

- Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060: Economic Drivers and Environmental Consequences ([link](#))
- Global Plastics Outlook I & II ([link](#))
- Policy Scenarios for a transition to a more resource efficient and circular economy ([link](#))
- Labour market consequences of a transition to a circular economy: A review paper ([link](#))
- The jobs potential of a transition towards a resource-efficient and circular economy ([link](#))
- Business models for the circular economy ([link](#))
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Updated Guidance for Efficient Waste Management ([link](#)) & Modulated fees for EPR schemes ([link](#)) & EPR and impact of online sales ([link](#))
- Preventing single-use plastic waste ([link](#))
- Labelling and Information Schemes for the circular economy ([link](#))
- Digitalisation for the transition to a resource efficient and circular economy ([link](#))
- International trade and circular economy - Policy alignment ([link](#))
- The Consequences of a More Resource-Efficient and Circular Economy for International Trade Patterns ([link](#))
- Management of Pharmaceutical Household Waste: Limiting Environmental Impacts of Unused or Expired Medicine ([link](#))

The "Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy" (RE-CIRCLE) project provides policy guidance on resource efficiency and the transition to a circular economy. It aims to identify and quantify the impact of resource-efficient, circular economy policies to guide a range of stakeholders in OECD member countries and emerging and other market economies through quantitative and qualitative analysis.

CSIR:

- The circular economy as development opportunity for South Africa ([link](#))
- Application of P2O marine plastic model to South Africa ([link](#))
- Informing decisions on single-use plastic carrier bags in South Africa: Evidence from a life cycle sustainability assessment ([link](#))
- Incentives for municipalities to divert waste from landfill in South Africa ([link](#))

For more information on the event:

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