



SOUTHERN VOICE



São Paulo, Brazil
27-29 October 2025

Southern Voice Conference 2025: Reimagining the Global Development Architecture



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Executive Summary

In October 2025, the Southern Voice Conference brought together 140 representatives from leading research institutions and international organisations across the Global South and beyond to chart a renewed vision for global development. The event highlighted the urgency and opportunity for the Global South to move from responding to global agendas to actively shaping them. Over three days of discussions and collaboration, six themes emerged as key priorities for the network and its partners.

1. Shaping the Global Development Agenda

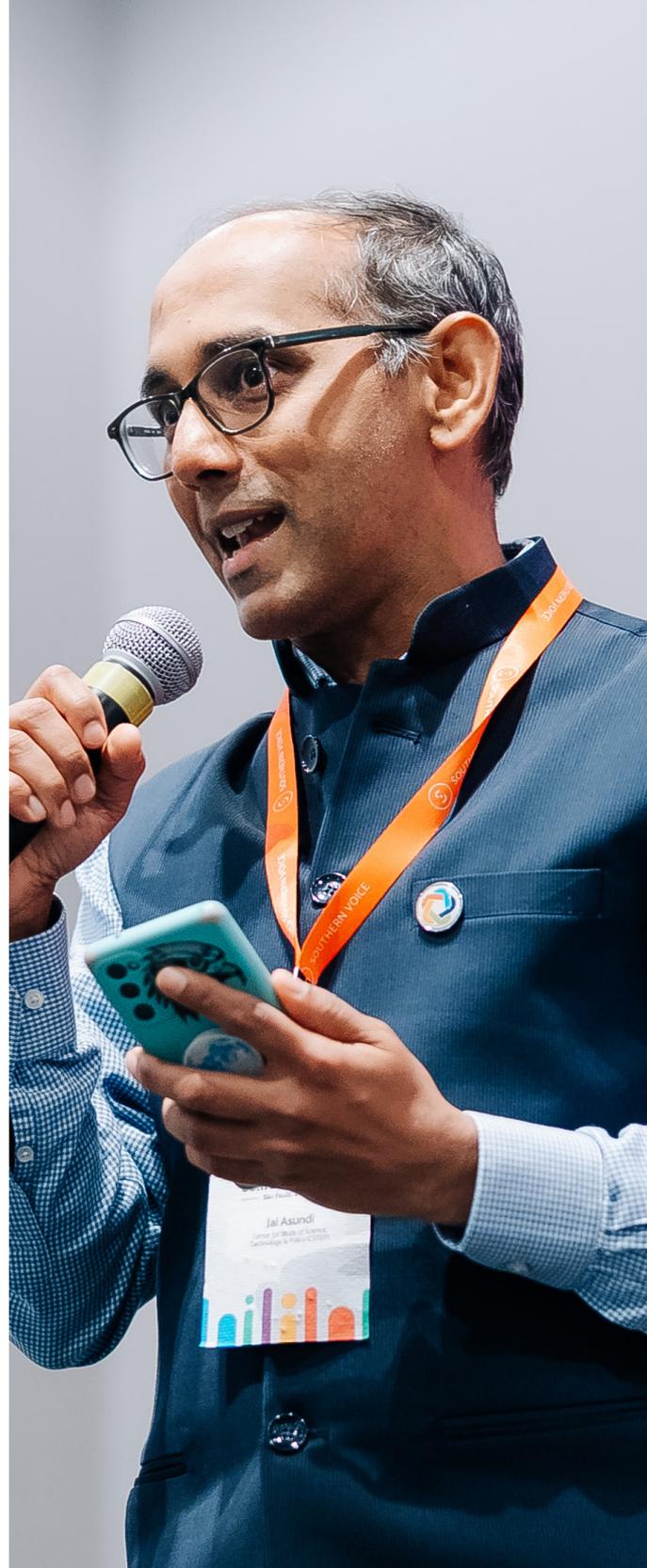
Participants stressed that the Global South must exercise agenda-setting leadership by defining its own priorities and convening global dialogue spaces, in order to build momentum and ensure that these priorities shape the post-2030 framework. This framework should centre equity and justice, integrate development and climate objectives, and position democratic integrity and civic space as essential foundations for sustainable development.

2. Transforming Development and Research Architectures

Participants argued for pragmatic, incremental reforms within multilateral systems, alongside the creation of Southern-led platforms that model alternative approaches. Knowledge sovereignty, where Southern institutions set research agendas and control their data, is essential for dismantling extractive research practices and rebuilding trust in international cooperation.

3. Enhancing Financial Resilience amidst Global Instability

Deepening debt distress, declining concessional finance, and persistent structural inequities in the international financial architecture demand urgent reform. Participants identified domestic resource mobilisation, progressive tax systems, and tackling illicit financial flows as sustainable



pathways to resilience. For think tanks, financial sustainability hinges on diversified funding models and greater flexibility from partners.

4. Strengthening Cooperation within the Global South

Global South cooperation across and within regions and countries is growing as a source of innovation and practical problem-solving. Cities in particular emerge as agile actors capable of translating global frameworks into local action. Participants called for shared digital infrastructure to enable the exchange of evidence, methods, and tools across regions to aid collaboration.



5. Turning Evidence into Impact

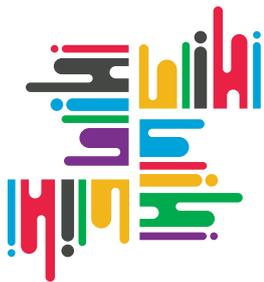
The conference underscored that policy influence requires research created with, not for, stakeholders. Co-production, accessible communication, and long-term institutional relationships were consistently cited as the most effective drivers of research uptake. Southern Voice's new Resilience and Sustainability Framework, co-created with 14 of our member institutions, offers a practical tool for strengthening the internal capacities that underpin policy influence.

6. Building Innovative and Influential Think Tanks

Rising misinformation and declining trust in experts require think tanks to embrace new roles as strategic communicators, conveners, and capacity builders. In this context, reframing complex issues as accessible, compelling narratives is now essential, while independence, transparency, and institutional resilience remain key to maintaining credibility.

Strategic Priorities Moving Forward

- Shape a coherent Southern vision for the post-2030 development framework.
- Monitor global financing commitments and advocate for equitable resource mobilisation.
- Institutionalise co-production and stakeholder partnerships across various research activities.
- Strengthen think tank resilience by creating succession plans, documenting workflows, and diversifying funding to reduce dependency on single donors.
- Build digital infrastructure and operationalise shared knowledge repositories to facilitate cross-regional learning and consortium building.
- Foster youth engagement and support emerging leaders across the network.
- Advocate for fairer research partnerships and the channelling of resources directly to Southern institutions.
- Maintain safe and trusted spaces for Global South actors to engage in candid dialogue and collaboration.



Introduction

On 27–29 October 2025, Southern Voice gathered the network’s leaders and key partners for our landmark conference in São Paulo, Brazil, under the theme Reimagining the Global Development Architecture. As a network of 71 think tanks from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, Southern Voice works to inform global debates, rebalance power asymmetries, and tackle participation deficits in the dialogue on global development.

The conference was co-hosted by Southern Voice local members—the Institute for Applied Economic Research and Plataforma CIPÓ—and supported by the Municipal Secretariat for International Relations of the city of São Paulo, Brazil. It brought together 140 representatives from think tanks, research institutions, governments, and international organisations. Over two days of conference sessions and a public event, followed

by a third day of in-depth workshops, participants gathered to address a pressing issue: how can the Global South move towards proactive leadership in reimagining the development architecture?

This report shares some of the key insights from the conference, highlighting how they connect to Southern Voice initiatives and future priorities. It outlines six interconnected themes that emerged from the collective insights, discussions, and commitments across the gathering:

1. Shaping the Global Agenda
2. Transforming Development and Research Architectures
3. Enhancing Financial Resilience amidst Global Instability
4. Strengthening Cooperation within the Global South
5. Turning Evidence into Impact
6. Building Innovative and Influential Think Tanks

Together, these themes chart the strategic direction that think tanks from the Global South are taking as the world prepares for key junctures, such as the 2027 SDG Summit and negotiations around the post-2030 development agenda. Importantly, it serves as a blueprint for what we will do, distilling our collective dialogue into actionable next steps for our network, our partners, and our shared future.



Conference Sessions Overview

This section provides a brief outline of the key themes and resulting discussion points of the sessions held during the 2025 Southern Voice Conference.

Main Sessions

- **Plenary 1 – Southern priorities for development leadership**
Explored how the Global South can assert leadership in a shifting global order, examining which key issues ought to be centred, and in which spaces.
- **Plenary 2 – Towards the post-2030 agenda: Shaping the development architecture**
Examined the institutional and financial reforms needed to ensure post-2030 development frameworks are equitable, inclusive, and actionable.
- **Plenary 3 – Southern perspectives, global influence: Rethinking our role**
Discussed how think tanks must adapt to existential threats such as democratic erosion and disinformation, to maintain influence.
- **Plenary 4 – Collective action: From ideas to implementation**
Focused on moving from diagnosis to practical collaboration, identifying priority themes and strategies for regional and cross-regional joint action.
- **Public event – Empowering the Global South: Shaping the future of development in a shifting world**
A broader forum which explored how to move from reactive adaptation to proactive leadership in global financing and governance.
- **Town hall**
A closing reflection on network strategy which highlighted assertiveness and collective impact.

Parallel Track 1: Key Thematic Areas

- **Financial resilience with strong, inclusive economies**

Examined how to strengthen financial resilience through domestic resource mobilisation, debt management, and improved quality of public spending.

- **Bridging divides: Collaborative approaches to combating inequality**
Explored structural drivers of exclusion and the South's role in shaping a responsibility-based development model.
- **A Global South agenda on climate: From priorities to action**
Discussed aligning climate goals with industrialisation and local governance to create a Southern-led climate agenda.

Parallel Track 2: Transforming the Development Agenda

- **An agenda for the Global South: Post-2030 framework**
Discussed how to refine the SDG framework to better reflect systemic inequalities and local realities.
- **Examining the future of international cooperation**
A consultation with the OECD which focused on how to reshape development cooperation into a partnership of mutual accountability.
- **Leveraging South-South partnerships for a sustainable future**
Examined knowledge sharing, development metrics, and how technology shapes policy within partnerships among Southern actors.

Parallel Track 3: Equity in Research, Evidence Use, and Innovation

- **Act4Equity: Action for equity in research**
Addressed systemic barriers in funding and the need to shift agenda-setting power to the South.
- **Innovative approaches to success for think tanks**
Explored concrete strategies for financial sustainability, digital transformation, and strategic partnerships to navigate a complex funding environment.
- **From evidence to action: Strategies and enablers**
Shared case studies on strategies that successfully promote the uptake of evidence by policymakers.

Parallel Track 4: Regional Meetings – Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa

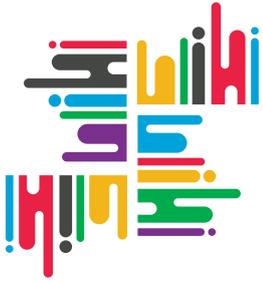
- Dedicated sessions for members to identify regional priorities, such as democratic crises or economic shocks, and to develop strategies for stronger regional cooperation.

Special Sessions and Workshops

- **Strengthening think tank resilience**
Introduced a framework for organisational self-assessment and sustainability.

- **Bridging local-national-international gaps** (co-organised with the German Institute of Development and Sustainability [IDOS])
Discussed scaling local climate action and connecting it to global frameworks.
- **The demand for international cooperation** (co-organised with Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais)
Presented findings on the conditional value of international cooperation and public trust.





Theme 1: Shaping the Global Development Agenda

This theme focuses on proactive engagement, highlighting the priorities that the Global South aims to advance to shape current and future global agendas. In the plenary “Southern priorities for development leadership”, participants articulated a clear set of guiding principles for the future development space, asserting that the post-2030 framework must place equity and justice at its core.

Democratic integrity and civic space were also recognised as essential foundations for sustainable development. Insights from the session “The demand for international cooperation” reinforced these points with empirical evidence. [Survey data](#) presented at the conference revealed that public trust in international cooperation is not inherent, but rather conditional on proven national benefit.

To achieve this vision, discussions highlighted the need to move beyond seeking inclusion in existing structures and towards actively shaping agendas. This requires the Global South to invest in its own priorities, to build momentum, and to create new spaces for regional and global dialogue that foster genuine agenda-setting leadership. By defining our own methodologies and success metrics, the Global South can assert the autonomy needed to drive this shift.

Discussions in the session “A Global South agenda on climate: From priorities to action” highlighted the need for a distinct climate agenda that integrates development goals such as industrialisation and job creation, rather than viewing climate action in isolation. This call for climate integration has also emerged in Southern Voice’s ongoing work with our members to create a Global South Common Agenda on Climate Change that reflects the region’s priorities.

The session “Bridging divides: Collaborative approaches to combating inequality” reinforced the

need to move beyond inclusion towards structural transformation and redistribution. Finally, the plenary “Towards the post-2030 agenda: Shaping the development architecture” and the parallel session “An agenda for the Global South: Integrating lessons for an improved post-2030 framework” grounded these topics in the upcoming Southern Voice on Global Development 2027 initiative. This initiative aims to use cross-regional case studies to shape the post-2030 agenda by providing context-specific evidence from the Global South to inform a more just, effective, and future-ready development framework.

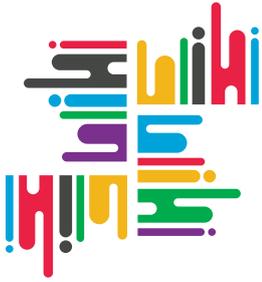
Key Takeaways on Shaping the Global Development Agenda

- **Intellectual autonomy:** The South must control not only its resources but also its intellectual agenda, which means defining its own problems, designing its own solutions, and developing its own measures of success. This requires moving beyond Northern-dominated research priorities to establish Southern-led frameworks for understanding and addressing development challenges.
- **Integrated climate agenda:** Climate action cannot be separated from the broader development agenda. Success requires aligning climate goals with industrialisation, fiscal policy, and social equity to ensure climate action drives rather than blocks sustainable development.
- **Democratic integrity:** The development agenda must explicitly include the defence of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, at a time when internal challenges, including corruption and shrinking civic space, directly threaten sustainable progress.

Next Steps

- **Inform the post-2030 agenda:** Coordinate the Southern Voice Global Development 2027 initiative to contribute to the framework’s priorities, architecture, and methodologies.
- **Champion core priorities:** Position democratic resilience, equity, and ecological sustainability as central, transversal pillars of the network’s research and advocacy.





Theme 2: Transforming Development and Research Architectures

This theme examines the role the Global South can play in redefining the structural architecture of global development and research. In the plenary session “Towards the post-2030 agenda”, participants discussed how to navigate a multilateral system facing deep crises of legitimacy and effectiveness. Speakers proposed a multi-sided approach: pursuing an overhaul of existing systems, while also driving change through small, creative experiments and reforms from within, and building parallel Southern-led structures to reduce dependency.

The public event “Empowering the Global South: Shaping the future of development in a shifting world” reinforced this call for autonomy, urging the Global South to shift to proactive leadership to fill the current global governance vacuum. The existing flaws in global development architectures were further analysed in the session “The demand for international cooperation”, co-led by the Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais. Discussions here pinpointed the crisis in international cooperation as stemming from donor-imposed agendas, where priorities are defined externally without Southern co-creation. To rebuild trust, the architecture must shift from a donor-recipient model to one of joint planning and mutual transparency.

The session “ACT4Equity: Action for equity in research for development” discussed issues around international research dynamics, critiquing systemic inequities, including how Southern researchers are often relegated to the role of data collectors for Northern agendas. Participants argued for knowledge sovereignty, meaning the right of the Global South to define its own research questions, conduct the work locally, and own the results. This requires a fundamental restructuring of funding flows to support Southern agenda-setting rather than mere project implementation.

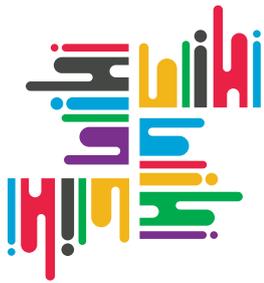
Participants emphasised that collaborative work should not be contingent on funding, but rather focus on mutual learning and addressing resource gaps internally. With tools like the [Southern Voice Network Database](#) and emerging initiatives around the post-2030 agenda and climate action, the network continues to work on mechanisms that can help address these issues.

Key Takeaways on Transforming Development and Research Architectures

- **Systemic reform:** The South can drive change through creative, incremental reforms and new regional coalitions that demonstrate viable alternatives to the current order.
- **Proactive leadership and knowledge sovereignty:** Global South countries must position themselves as active architects of a new development system, filling the governance vacuum with their own solutions. Transforming the research architecture requires establishing knowledge sovereignty to ensure Southern institutions control the intellectual agenda and data ownership, rather than servicing external priorities.

Next Steps

- **Proactively engage in system reform:** Participate in key multilateral reform processes, such as the UN-80 initiative, to ensure that Global South perspectives are integrated into the foundational design of future global governance structures. Furthermore, it is crucial to engage in pivotal moments, such as the selection of the next UN Secretary-General, which will significantly shape the next phase of development efforts. Southern Voice is currently advancing this agenda through its role as a steering committee member of the [1 for 8 Billion](#) campaign.
- **Address funding inequities:** Advocate for direct funding to Southern institutions and enforce two-way accountability in research partnerships to dismantle the donor-recipient hierarchy.
- **Monitor commitments:** Establish independent monitoring mechanisms to hold global actors accountable for development and climate finance commitments, ensuring implementation matches rhetoric.



Theme 3: Enhancing Financial Resilience amidst Global Instability

This theme brings together discussions about the financial mechanisms required to support sustainable development from a Global South perspective. The conversations were framed by the reality that, despite passing the midpoint of the SDG timeline, the world remains significantly behind in target delivery, with progress gaps widening most sharply among vulnerable countries.

In the session “Financial resilience with strong, inclusive economies”, discussions painted a sobering picture of financial instability. According to the *Global Sovereign Debt Monitor 2024*, 55% of Global South countries surveyed now face critical debt distress. Participants reflected on this in relation to the recent 4th International Financing for Development Conference (FfD4), which took

place amidst growing economic instability and geopolitical fragmentation. Their concerns echoed urgent calls in Southern Voice’s *Joint Statement towards the 4th International Financing for Development Conference* for concrete, time-bound commitments to address both the structural failures of the global financial architecture and the critical resource constraints facing developing countries.

The session “Examining the future of international development cooperation” further highlighted the critical shortfall in funding directed to the most vulnerable, noting that while Official Development Assistance is declining, military spending in donor countries has risen. This signals a need to shift the narrative from aid to global investment.

Discussions in the session “Innovative approaches to success for think tanks” explored financial resilience specifically for research institutions, proposing a move towards profit generation and diverse funding models to reduce reliance on volatile grants. This need for agility was reinforced in the session “From evidence to action: Strategies and enablers”, where funding flexibility was identified as the single most critical enabler for navigating political volatility and ensuring policy uptake of research.

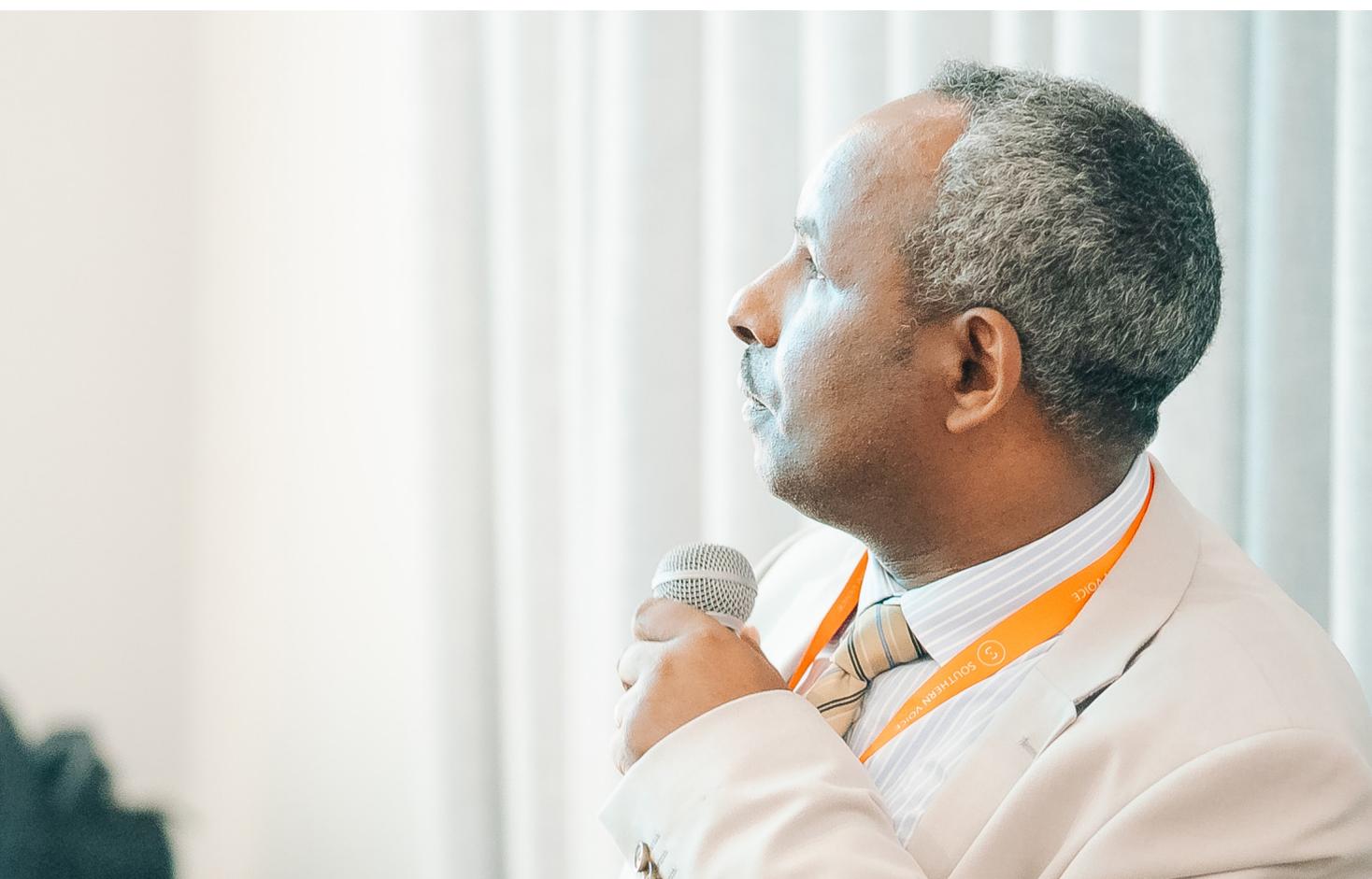


Key Takeaways on Enhancing Financial Resilience amidst Global Instability

- **Structural failures and debt:** The current international financial architecture systematically disadvantages developing economies. There is a need for urgent reform of lending practices and debt restructuring to prevent debt servicing from crowding out development spending. This is a key demand of the network's FfD4 advocacy.
- **Domestic resource mobilisation (DRM):** DRM is the most sustainable path to resilience, but requires progressive tax reforms and a focus on the quality of public spending, which is essential to building the citizen trust needed for tax compliance.
- **Optimising available resources:** As outlined in the network's FfD4 joint statement and discussed in the sessions, an immediate priority is to optimise existing resources, including measures to eliminate perverse incentives and curb illicit financial flows.
- **Innovative funding models:** Financial resilience for research institutions requires radical diversification, moving beyond traditional grants to engage the private sector and develop entrepreneurial revenue streams.

Next Steps

- **Monitor FfD4 commitments:** Actively monitor the implementation of the commitments made at the FfD4 in Seville, ensuring international stakeholders optimise available resources and accelerate the equitable mobilisation of domestic revenues.
- **Promote tax justice:** Champion the 15% tax-to-GDP benchmark and advocate for global mechanisms to curb illicit financial flows and profit shifting.
- **Develop joint funding proposals:** Move from competition to collaboration by forming consortia within the network to secure resources for multi-country research bids.





Theme 4: Strengthening Cooperation within the Global South

This theme focuses on the significant opportunity to deepen collaboration both within regions and across the wider Global South. Participants in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean regional meetings identified enormous potential for growing organic partnerships between institutions, highlighting the need to reimagine current funding structures to foster connection rather than competition. In the Latin America and the Caribbean session, discussions highlighted the benefits of addressing shared governance challenges, including issues around democratic integrity and the information ecosystem. The Asia meeting participants explored pathways to build a unified regional perspective on critical issues such as economic resilience, labour market shifts linked to artificial intelligence, and green energy transitions.

Across these regions, participants noted that overcoming linguistic diversity and aligning research agendas with local priorities offer a clear path to stronger impact. By shifting from competitive models to collaborative frameworks, institutions can leverage their collective resources more effectively. The public event “Empowering the Global South: Shaping the future of development in a shifting world” highlighted the strategic value of subnational diplomacy, where cities and local states engage directly with international partners to drive progress. Cities were described as agile laboratories of innovation that are often well-positioned to translate global frameworks into tangible community action. Notable examples include the waste management partnership between São Paulo and Copenhagen, as well as growing networks of cities connecting Brazil, South Africa, and India.

To scale these efforts, there was a unified call for shared digital infrastructure, as well as a knowledge repository to exchange methodologies and insights.

This approach aims to reduce duplication and to build a robust collective evidence base to inform policy across the Global South.

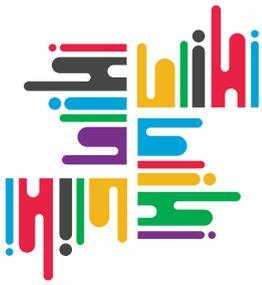
Key Takeaways on Strengthening Cooperation within the Global South

- **Collaboration potential:** There is significant opportunity to connect institutions working on similar challenges across the region. Building infrastructure to link work on particular regional priorities would provide a powerful lever for collaboration across the network.
- **Subnational agility:** Local governments offer a complementary model of implementation, often acting as effective drivers of development by translating abstract global frameworks into specific local solutions.
- **Shared infrastructure:** Participants identified the need for tools to enhance connection, such as digital platforms for knowledge exchange and mechanisms for joint fundraising that encourage partnership.
- **Balanced partnerships:** Strengthening South-South cooperation enables the region to engage in North-South partnerships with greater confidence. This allows the Global South to set its own priorities while international partners provide support.

Next Steps

- **Institutionalise regional networks and develop joint research agendas:** Establish dedicated coordination mechanisms for regional think tank networks with mandates to develop shared research agendas on specific topics. Work within regions to identify shared priority topics and to develop collaborative research programmes that pool expertise and resources.
- **Promote subnational cooperation:** Document and facilitate city-to-city learning by creating case studies that help local governments engage internationally and scale successful innovations.
- **Build digital knowledge infrastructure:** Create digital platforms to share policy innovations and practical tools, ensuring these are user-friendly and regularly updated.





Theme 5: Turning Evidence into Impact

This theme examines how think tanks are refining their strategies to ensure that evidence translates into action. Discussions across the sessions “ACT4Equity: Action for equity in research for development”, “Strengthening think tanks”, and “From evidence to action: Strategies and enablers” highlighted how traditional models of conducting, publishing, and disseminating research are inadequate amid declining trust in experts, expertise, and science. In response, research institutions are emphasising deeper stakeholder co-production and systemic engagement.

Broadly, the session “ACT4Equity: Action for equity in research for development” emphasised that impact is limited when research agendas are set by external funders rather than local actors. Participants argued that achieving genuine policy influence requires Southern institutions to both define the problems and design the solutions.

Focusing on institutional capacity in this context, the project session “Strengthening think tanks” highlighted that long-term influence relies on organisational health. Participants emphasised that impact is not about a single project’s success, but about building institutions capable of sustained engagement. Furthermore, they called for the redefinition of research quality based on its utility and accessibility to policymakers, rather than academic citations.

Finally, in the session “From evidence to action: Strategies and enablers”, researchers participating in Southern Voice’s Challenge Fund for Evidence Use initiative shared learning from six projects carried out across eight countries. Their experiences highlighted the importance of early and sustained stakeholder engagement, co-created research, and coalition-building to achieve effective influence on policy or practice. They also discussed the realities of advocacy in contexts of political instability, and the importance of flexible approaches to ensure

optimal results. Beyond strategies that teams can implement to enhance the impact of their research, discussions emphasised the conditions needed at the funding and organisational level for think tanks to consistently pursue impactful work.

Key Takeaways on Turning Evidence into Impact

- **Co-production is essential:** Involving a range of stakeholders, including ministries, civil society, and communities, from the research design phase creates ownership and significantly increases the likelihood of policy uptake.
- **Institutional resilience:** Sustainable impact requires resilient institutions. As highlighted by the Strengthening Think Tanks project, organisations must intentionally plan for leadership succession and financial stability to maintain the long-term relationships necessary for influence.
- **Navigating political contexts:** Successful policy influence in volatile environments involves diversifying relationships across government bodies and formalising cooperation agreements that can outlast individual political appointments.
- **Redefining quality:** Research excellence must be measured by its actionability and accessibility to non-academic audiences, moving beyond traditional metrics to focus on how evidence serves public needs.

Next Steps

- **Embed co-production:** Mandate stakeholder co-design in future research proposals to shift from extractive data collection to equitable partnerships, in which stakeholders help interpret findings.
- **Cultivate change agents:** Intentionally map and develop relationships with technical officials and community leaders who can champion evidence-based policy from within government institutions and communities.
- **Formalise strategic partnerships:** Establish formal institutional agreements with partners to ensure project continuity through political transitions and leadership changes.



Theme 6: Building Innovative and Influential Think Tanks

This theme explores the crucial issue of think tank evolution: how must research institutions evolve to remain relevant in a context marked by democratic backsliding, information overload, and declining trust in expert knowledge? In the plenary “Southern perspectives, global influence”, speakers discussed the rise of anti-science populism, arguing that think tanks must evolve from knowledge producers into active defenders of democratic integrity. Participants noted that in an attention-based society often driven by emotional content—described by one speaker as “TikTok democracy”—organisations must find new ways to cut through the noise with evidence.

The discussions also identified clear pathways for evolution. The “Strengthening think tanks” workshop presented the Resilience and Sustainability Self-Assessment Framework, co-created with 14 Southern Voice member institutions. This framework emphasises that resilience is not accidental, but rather must be intentionally planned across six specific pillars: (1) people,

leadership, and organisational culture; (2) sustainable finance and tactical administration; (3) learning and innovation; (4) research quality and dissemination for impact; (5) strategic partnerships; and (6) institutional communication.

A critical component of this resilience is the ability to communicate effectively. The session held in partnership with the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), “Bridging local-national-international gaps”, highlighted that technical language often alienates audiences. To rebuild trust, institutions must reframe complex issues into accessible narratives that demonstrate tangible benefits, for example, positioning climate change as a matter of jobs, livelihoods, and green industrialisation rather than environmental sacrifice.

Perhaps most fundamentally, the role of the think tank is expanding. As discussed in the sessions “Innovative approaches to success for think tanks” and “ACT4Equity: Action for equity in research for development”, these institutions are no longer just research centres. They now also act as advocates, capacity-builders, conveners, and direct implementers. Navigating this multifaceted identity requires new skills, different partnerships, and clarity about how diverse activities contribute to the ultimate goal of positive social change. To support this evolution, in 2026 Southern Voice is launching its Leadership Community of Practice, a dedicated space for executive directors from across the network to connect, exchange, and co-create solutions.



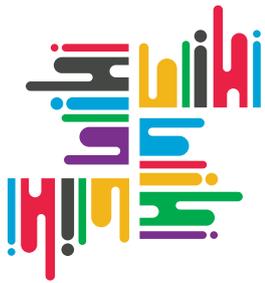
Key Takeaways on Building Innovative and Influential Think Tanks

- **Institutional resilience:** Sustainability requires deliberate planning across the six pillars of the Resilience Framework. This includes creating succession plans, documenting workflows, and diversifying funding to reduce dependency on single donors.
- **Strategic communication and narrative:** To compete with the speed of digital misinformation, think tanks must master new forms of storytelling and digital formats. Success depends on reframing policy issues and connecting evidence to lived experiences and economic realities to build broad public support
- **Evolving role:** Think tanks must embrace their expanded roles as conveners and capacity builders, ensuring that success metrics capture these diverse forms of influence rather than focusing on academic citations.
- **Neutrality and independence:** Maintaining independence from both government and donor agendas allows think tanks to provide honest analysis and maintain the trust essential for long-term influence.

Next Steps

- **Adopt the resilience framework:** Use the six-pillar self-assessment framework (people and leadership, sustainable finance, learning and innovation, research quality, strategic partnerships, and institutional communication) to identify organisational strengths and gaps.
- **Develop strategic outputs and communications:** Create shared toolkits for digital engagement and narrative development. Work collectively to test new framings for complex issues, ensuring members can effectively reach diverse audiences, including youth, with compelling stories. Build on the new Southern Voice [Global South Perspectives](#) publication to bring forward critical, timely perspectives on unfolding global debates.
- **Launch communities of practice:** Use the Southern Voice Leadership Community of Practice and strengthen it by creating additional thematic working groups in which members can share solutions to common challenges.
- **Build safe spaces for exchange:** Provide both virtual and in-person platforms where think tanks operating in constrained or threatening environments can freely share strategies and access support.





Conclusion

The Southern Voice Conference 2025 sent a powerful and clear message: Southern leadership must be strengthened to steer global development in a new direction. Beyond a critique of existing asymmetries, through this event the network outlined a proactive strategy to reshape global development architectures from the South. The path forward is clear. We will build the platforms, generate the evidence, and forge the partnerships necessary to lead the global conversation. As we look ahead to 2030, Southern Voice remains committed to driving this transformation, ensuring that the future of development is defined by those it is meant to serve.



Conference Participants

Full Name	Position	Main Institution Name	Country of Institution
Adebukola Daramola	Associate Professor	Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research	Nigeria
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Aline Contti	Coordinator of International Financing for Sustainable Development	Institute for Applied Economic Research	Brazil
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Anthea Haryoko	Chief Operating Officer	Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies	Indonesia
Anton Rizki	Chief Executive Officer	Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies	Indonesia
Axel Berger	Deputy Director (interim)	German Institute of Development and Sustainability	Germany
Beatriz Muriel	Executive Director	Institute for Advanced Development Studies	Bolivia
Beatriz Pfeifer	International Cooperation Manager	Brazilian Center For International Relations	Brazil
Benjamín García	Executive Director	Espacio Público	Chile
Bernardo Torres	Specialist in Institutional Relations	Municipal Secretariat of International Relations	Brazil
Carlos Alvarez Pereira	Secretary General	The Club of Rome	Switzerland
Carmen Arias Larroza	Executive Director	Research for Development	Paraguay
Carole Medy	Special Advisor to the President - Former executive director The Okwelians	The Okwelians	Cameroon
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Claudia Maselli	Board of Directors Member	Association for Research and Social Studies	Guatemala
Damian Cardona Onses	UNIC RIO Director	United Nations	United States of America
Daniela Schettini	Associate Professor	Institute for International Relations University of São Paulo	Brazil
Dayvikson Tavares	Deputy Executive Director	The Bissau Economics Lab	Guinea-Bissau
Debapriya Bhattacharya	Distinguished Fellow	Centre for Policy Dialogue	Bangladesh
Denis Foretia	Executive Chairman	Nkafu Policy Institute	Cameroon
Diana Thorburn	Director of Research	Caribbean Policy Research Institute	Jamaica

Donald Mmari	Executive Director	REPOA	Tanzania
Dushni Weerakoon	Executive Director	Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Enrique Mendizabal	Executive Director	On Think Tanks	Global
Erica Nelson	Research Fellow	Institute of Development Studies	United Kingdom
Fernanda Wanderley	Director	The Institute of Socio-Economic Research of the Bolivian Catholic University of Saint Paul	Bolivia
Fernando Masi	Director	Center for Analysis and Dissemination of the Paraguayan Economy	Paraguay
Florencia Betancor	Research Coordinator	Center for the Study of Economic and Social Affairs	Uruguay
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Gabriela Guerrero Barnechea	Senior Researcher / Research Director	Group for the Analysis of Development	Peru
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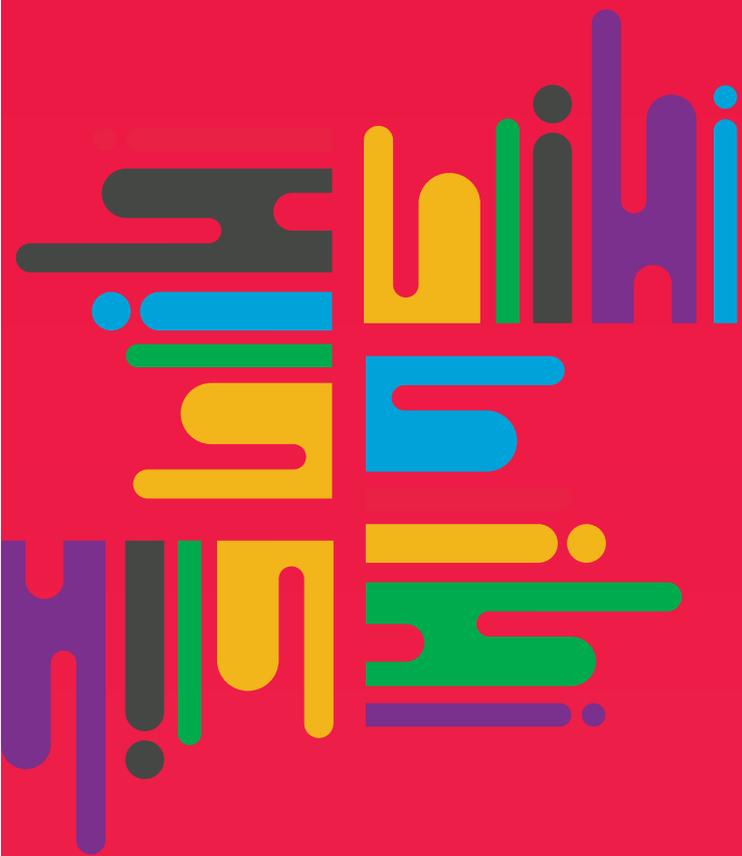
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