



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

30 MARCH 2021



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PROGRESS SINCE JUNE 2020 CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE

- In the previous dialogue government reiterated its commitment to the Paris Agreement. It was indicated in that meeting that we were working on the following:
 - Updating South Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and would then submit it to the UNFCCC secretariat before COP 26
 - The Draft Climate Change Bill
 - The Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)
 - The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
 - The Presidential Climate Change Co-ordinating Commission
 - Climate Finance

UPDATING SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

- In the stakeholder meeting that we held last year it was indicated that the technical work necessary to update the 2015 Nationally Determined Contribution had been ongoing. Cabinet has since approved the draft updated National determined Contribution for stakeholder consultation.
- The NDC is a key part of South Africa's international commitment under the Paris Agreement, and implementing it is a cornerstone of South Africa's climate change response.
- Today, as we present the draft updated NDC before you, I am **calling on all stakeholders to participate in the consultation process** over the next months (April and May), and call for you to provide valuable feedback. We will be holding stakeholder consultations in each of the nine provinces.
- After the consultation process, the Updated NDC will be revised, submitted to Cabinet for approval and then to the UNFCCC before the COP 26.

THE DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

- The Draft Climate Change Bill was submitted to NEDLAC and consultations have been finalized and a NEDLAC report was received by the Department. Certification of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Study (SEIAS) has been received from Presidency.
- The draft bill is currently with the State Law Advisors and will be submitted to Cabinet immediately thereafter upon pre-certification.
- Upon Cabinet Approval the Draft Bill will be published in the gazette and also submitted to the State Law Advisors for certification and translation.
- Once certified and translated, the Draft Bill will be tabled to Parliament where it will follow the Constitution's Section 76 process until it is enacted.

LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (LEDS)

- Cabinet approved the Low Emissions Develop Strategy for South Africa which communicates South Africa's long term emissions reduction objectives.
- The LEDS will play a vital role in the implementation of Sectoral Emissions Targets (SETS) and Carbon Budgets (CBs) for high emitting sectors.
- The Department is working on the SETS framework and the CB allocation process to inform the second phase of the Mitigation system.
- In accordance with the LEDS, government has developed Sector Jobs Resilience Plans working closely with all stakeholders to support the transition to the low carbon economy and climate resilient society in a just manner.
- Government has concluded the modalities for independent verification of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- Cabinet approved the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and it is currently under implementation. Progress on Implementation:
 - Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been developed by the following sectors at national level: Water, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Health, Biodiversity and a Climate Change Policy Framework for State Owned Companies and Rural Human Settlements;
 - All 9 provinces have developed climate change response plans. All 44 district municipalities and metros have been capacitated to mainstream climate change into Integrated Development Plans (IDPs);
 - The Department has supported the all district municipalities in developing the climate change adaptation plans.

PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATING COMMISSION

- The overall objective of the Commission is to advise on South Africa's climate change response to ensure realisation of the vision for effective climate change response and the long-term just transition to a climate resilient and low carbon economy and society.
- Cabinet approved the establishment of the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission;
- The President is the Chair of the Commission and Mr Valli Moosa is the Deputy Chair;
- Members of the Commission represent relevant departments across the state, the social partners, business organizations, academics and experts, civil society, youth representatives non-governmental organizations and community based organizations as well as relevant research institutions.
- The Commission's Inaugural meeting was held on 19 February 2021.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- The Climate Investment Funds (CIF), the African Development Bank and World Bank are providing concessional financing to renewable energy projects totalling US\$ 462 million.
- Multilateral Development Banks co-financed an additional sum of over US\$ 535 million of which Eskom received support for a large-scale distributed battery storage program linked to the REIPP Program.
- The UK Partnering on Accelerated Climate Transition (PACT) has a £ 3.2 million programme to improve the flow of climate finance in South Africa to deliver emissions reductions by improving the bankability as well as the just transition, green finance and green transport.
- The Department, in close liaison with the National Treasury and our partners – UNEP and GIZ, will also address skills sets through training interventions for participating municipalities on the issuance of Green Bonds.

ROAD TO GLASGOW CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – COP 26

- We have received assurance from the UK that COP 26 will go ahead in Glasgow as planned.
- We have also received assurance from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat that the preparatory meeting will go ahead in June in a virtual format.
- In 2020 the UNFCCC successfully hosted two successful Informal Dialogue meetings, namely;
 - a) The June Momentum – 1 to 10 June 2020; and
 - b) The Climate Dialogues – 23 Nov to 4 Dec 2020.
- The UNFCCC has published on its website a *Road map to Glasgow Consultations and other activities* - a series of focused technical discussions to advance work between March and June 2021.
- Later in the year we will host our usual National Stakeholder Consultation workshop to formulate our key messages for Glasgow COP26. We will be guided by the AMCEN priorities, including operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation, Long-term Finance, finalization of the rules for Article 6, ambition on Mitigation, recognition of the special circumstances of Africa, etc.
- We look forward to your participation in the workshop.

