



Global Compact
Network South Africa

PRIORITY TOPIC ROUND TABLE GUIDE

Defining Private Sector
Sustainability Delivery Pathways



2024 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Strategic Partners:



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The City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

10 PRIORITY TOPICS

Through the Voluntary National Review process, we will be investigating 10 priority topics. These topics have been identified in consultation with our wider stakeholders through the planning process.

In the Priority Topic Round Table Series, we will bring together companies and topic subject matter experts from across sectors to surface South African private sector Transition Roadmaps:

Questions we will investigate:

- What is the impact of this topic on business?
- What is the private sector role in transition?
- What public sector support, enablers or policies are needed?
- What goals and solutions should we target?
- What best practices are available?
- What initiatives can we galvanise and play into?
- What partnerships are needed for progress?
- How can the SDGs provide a framework for success?

Which priority topic round tables should your company attend to share best practices, to network for future partnerships, or to leverage within your organisation's sustainability strategy?

THE PRIORITY TOPIC ROUND TABLES:



1: GROWING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

How do we increase investor confidence in our private sector?



6: SYNERGIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

How do we collaborate best with the power of our people?



2: A JUST TRANSITION TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

How do we achieve net zero emissions by 2050?



7: IMPACT & OPPORTUNITY POST PANDEMIC

How do we adapt to changes in our post Covid landscape?



3: SOLVING OUR ENERGY CRISIS

How do we enable sufficient electrical supply?



8: BUILDING GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

How do we best show up in our global trading environment?



4: ETHICAL TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE

How do we assure high integrity business without corruption?



9: EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

How do we accelerate equity and diversity?



5: EFFECTIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

How do we accelerate sustainability through partnerships?



10: LEVERAGING SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS

How do we leverage new and existing frameworks?



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PRIORITY TOPIC 1

GROWING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

**How do we increase investor
confidence in the private sector?**





GROWING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

How do we increase investor confidence in the private sector?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
10th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

What can the South African private sector do to foster a culture of sustainability and create an environment conducive to sustainable investment?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Sustainable investment, or socially responsible investment (SRI) is the process of considering environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors when making investment decisions. Investors are increasingly allocating capital to companies and projects that demonstrate strong sustainability practices, positive social impact, and responsible governance.

By embracing practices that attract sustainable investment, South African businesses can proactively address environmental and social challenges and build resilience. We are going to focus on how we can access new opportunities, contributing to South African achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Mitigating Environmental Risks:** How do we face off against environmental challenges, such as water scarcity, pollution, shortage of renewable energy, waste management, and climate change?
- 2. Enhancing Reputation and Stakeholder Trust:** How do we overcome reputational challenges to enhance brand value, and attract socially conscious investors?
- 3. Accessing New Markets and Opportunities:** How do we open doors to global demand for sustainable products and services and in alignment with sustainability principles?
- 4. Attracting and Applying Talent:** How do we absorb a younger workforce that increasingly prioritises companies with a commitment to sustainability and responsible practice?
- 5. Driving Innovation and Operational Efficiency:** What can accelerate innovative and sustainable operational practices that promote efficiency, reduce waste, optimise operations, and yield cost savings, productivity, and competitive advantage?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- Greenkid
- Green Building South Africa
- Nedbank
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Holland Investments
- Bidvest
- Sanlam Limited
- Redefine Properties Ltd
- Umngeni-Uthukela Water
- Sasol Ltd
- Pick n Pay
- Investec
- AFSA
- Anglo American
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Unlimited Group
- Eskom
- Centre for New Liberalism
- CE ENVIROSOL
- Deloitte
- Sustainability Institute
- School Central
- Bokashi Bran (Pty) Ltd
- Ensekta

Private sector stakeholders, including government bodies, customers, investors, and civil society, have increasing expectations that businesses take responsibility for operating in a sustainable manner. How do we align with these expectations and contribute to a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society?





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PRIORITY TOPIC 2

A JUST TRANSITION TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

**How do we achieve net zero
emissions by 2050?**





A JUST TRANSITION TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

How do we achieve net zero emissions by 2050?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Thursday | 2 Hours
12th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome & Subject Matter Keynotes
- Business Impact Analysis
- The Private Sector Goals & Ambition
- Just Transition Pathways & Enablers
- Cross Sector Roles and Metrics
- Collaboration Platforms & Initiatives
- Direction and Close

What can the South African private sector do to make the most of future opportunities for growth and job creation in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other low-carbon solutions?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

South Africa, like many countries, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, water scarcity, and shifts in agricultural productivity. By committing to net zero emissions, the private sector can contribute to global efforts to limit global warming and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Innovation and Business Opportunities:**
How can we access the opportunities arising as we transition to a net zero emissions economy, including the innovation and implementation of new technologies, products, and services?
- 2. Staying Ahead of Regulatory Change:**
Governments, including ours, are implementing policies and regulations to address climate change. How do businesses align early, to maintain competitive edge and reduce the risk of future non-compliance or the impact of carbon taxes and emerging carbon border taxes?
- 3. Investor and Consumer Expectations:**
How can we build and accelerate the benefits net zero can bring to business and country brand reputation, attracting socially conscious support from our stakeholders? How does business best leverage emerging scorecards for carbon emissions and solar programmes?
- 4. Access to Funding and Financing:**
What are the financing opportunities, carbon trading, transition funding, grants, and subsidies that are increasingly available for projects aligning to net zero emissions targets?
- 5. Sustainable Supply Chains:**
Achieving net zero emissions requires collaboration along the entire supply chain. How does business most effectively work with suppliers and partners achieve carbon neutrality?

Committing to action that results in net zero emissions by 2050 will contribute to global climate action, meet stakeholder expectations, mitigate risks, unlock new business opportunities, and demonstrate environmental leadership in our rapidly changing world.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Allied Valve Specialists
- Anglo American
- Bidvest
- Big Impact Group
- Bokashi Bran (Pty) Ltd
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Deloitte
- Digital Girl Africa
- Ensekta
- Eskom
- Green Building
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Hollard Investments
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Investec
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Nedbank
- Pick n Pay
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sasol
- Sustainability Institute
- Umgeni-Uthukela water
- Unlimited Group
- Vodacom
- Xperien

Businesses within our private sector would benefit strongly, both locally and globally, from being part of a low-carbon economy. What can we do to accelerate the transition?





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PRIORITY TOPIC 3

SOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS

**How do we enable sufficient
electrical supply?**





SOLVING OUR ENERGY CRISIS

How do we enable sufficient electrical supply?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
17th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

What are the powerful actions business can take to contribute to energy efficiency, sustainability, and the overall goal of ensuring a reliable and stable electricity supply in South Africa?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Loadshedding is a problem that must be solved due to its significant impact on our economy, businesses, households, and overall quality of life. Whilst the problem sits heavily with the government and Eskom, the private sector is collaborating both to mitigate the impact, and to contribute to solutions, from accelerated progress in the renewable energy sector, through to business specific action to build resilience.

Businesses can play an active role in addressing loadshedding challenges, reducing dependence on the grid, and improving resilience to power outages. We intend to investigate the lessons that have been learned and the solutions that are being implemented.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

1. Energy Efficiency Measures:

How can we accelerate energy-saving initiatives within operations, such as energy-efficient appliances, equipment, and lighting systems? What smart energy management systems are we adopting?

2. Backup Power and Renewable Adoption:

What are the most reliable backup power solutions, energy storage solutions, or fresh opportunities to integrate with renewable or off-grid energy solutions, and how are companies selecting and funding solutions?

3. Collaboration on Energy Solutions:

Which industry associations, chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders are working to collectively address loadshedding to engage in dialogues that advocate for reliable and sustainable solutions?

4. Employee Flexibility and Enablement:

How are businesses working to educate employees, manage schedules, and create flexible work arrangements or resilient workspaces that address power outages? How are companies reducing demand during peak periods to alleviate strain on the grid?

5. Linking Energy Efficiency to Sustainability:

Are companies connecting the dots between sustainability and electrical continuity objectives and using energy audits to identify areas of energy waste and inefficiency as an opportunity to spring forward?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- Greenkid
- Green Building South Africa
- Nedbank
- Minerals Council South Africa*
- Hollard Investments
- Bidvest
- Sanlam Limited*
- Redefine Properties Ltd
- Umngeni-Uthukela Water
- Sasol Ltd
- Pick n Pay
- Investec
- AFSA
- Anglo American
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Unlimited Group
- Eskom
- Centre for New Liberalism
- CE ENVIROSOL
- Deloitte*
- Sustainability Institute*
- School Central
- Bokashi Bran (Pty) Ltd
- Ensekta

Generating on-site renewable energy can help reduce dependence on the main electricity grid and mitigate the impact of load shedding, whilst also achieving longer term sustainability goals.





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PRIORITY TOPIC 1

ETHICAL TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE

**How do we assure high integrity
business without corruption?**





ETHICAL TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE

How do we assure high integrity business without corruption?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Thursday | 2 Hours
19th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

Ethical transformational governance is important to the South African private sector because it assures peace, justice and the strong institutions that we need to flourish.

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Ethical transformational governance refers to leadership and management approaches that promote high integrity behaviour, transparency, accountability, and responsible decision-making. This is a vital focal point when driving positive change into all aspects of business operations.

We intend to focus on sharing the approaches that businesses are taking to building resilient and responsible business environments that contribute to building South Africa’s social, economic, and environmental outlook and reputation. We also intend to investigate and define the supporting role of the private sector in enabling public sector transformational governance.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Rebuilding Trust & Nurturing Resilience:**
South Africa has faced several high-profile cases of corporate corruption and unethical behaviour. Are businesses implementing ethical transformational governance frameworks to restore confidence and future proof business practices?
- 2. BBBEE Transformational Compliance:**
How are South African businesses aligning to and prioritising the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Act? What are the emerging best practices? Has the transformation agenda been disrupted by the impact of the global pandemic?
- 3. Whistleblowing & Corruption Detection:**
What are the best practices for developing robust systems for detecting, preventing, and addressing unethical conduct and for rooting out corruption?
- 4. Building Ethical Culture & Reputation:**
What approaches are company leadership teams taking to assure responsible leadership, decision-making and brand? How do we both attract and motivate for ethical behavioural standards, and deter employee, supplier and customer malpractice?
- 5. Meeting Global Stakeholder Expectations:**
How can the South African private sector best collaborate with the public sector to restore reputational damage and deliver an ethical and transformed South Africa.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Agri SA
- Allied Valve Specialists
- Bidvest
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Eskom
- Green Building South Africa
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Investec
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Nedbank
- Pick n Pay
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sasol
- School Central
- The South African Breweries
- Umgeni-Uthukela water
- Unlimited Group
- Vodacom
- Xperien

Ethical transformational governance contributes heavily to the achievement of the SDGs. It is vital that we have healthy private and public sector institutions to power a sustainable future.





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PRIORITY TOPIC 5

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC- PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

**How do we accelerate sustainability
through partnerships?**





South African business is well positioned to make a strong contribution to societal and economic value creation alongside the public sector.



EFFECTIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

How do we accelerate sustainability through partnerships?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
24th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

We seek to understand how effectively the public and private sector are collaborating, and what emergent areas require an improved dialogue if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Collaboration between the public and private sectors brings numerous benefits to business, including access to resources, market opportunities, risk mitigation, policy influence, and enhanced social license to operate. Public sector support is vital to enabling companies to navigate complex challenges, drive sustainable growth, and to aligning operations with societal needs and goals.

We intend to seek existing and new opportunities for public-private collaboration that can promote long-term value creation.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

1. Engaging on Policy & Regulation Development:

How do businesses most effectively participate in public sector activities to define policies, regulations, and standards that govern business operations? Which policies are most important to evolve in order to enable and support private sector sustainability outcomes?

2. Which Market Opportunities are Top Priority:

Public-private collaboration can open new market opportunities for business. Which South African projects, initiatives, and industry sectors offer the biggest opportunities for business growth and expansion?

3. Future Proofing and Resilience:

South Africa, like other countries, is facing rapid, disruptive change. What new and emergent risks are arising for business and for our people? What should the public and private sectors be collaborating on to anticipate, prepare, and protect?

4. Collaboration within Communities:

How can businesses participate in inclusive decision-making processes to collaborate with the public sector to build a social license to operate and build positive relationships with communities?

5. Access to Public Sector Resources & Expertise:

How do businesses properly access public sector resources, data, and expertise to support sustainability initiatives? What collaboration opportunities are there to drive innovation and solve complex problems?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- Agri SA
- Bidvest
- Ce EnviroSol
- Centre for New Liberalism
- EOH
- Eskom
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Modern Centric Holdings
- National Separations
- Nedbank
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sappi
- School Central
- The Well Health Company
- Umngeni-Uthukela Water





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PRIORITY TOPIC 6

SYNERGIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

**How do we collaborate best with
the power of the South African people?**





SYNERGIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

How do we collaborate best with the power of the South African people?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Thursday | 2 Hours
26th October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome & Subject Matter Keynotes
- Business Impact Analysis
- The Private Sector Goals & Ambition
- Just Transition Pathways & Enablers
- Cross Sector Roles and Metrics
- Collaboration Platforms & Initiatives
- Direction and Close

How are the needs of communities and civil society evolving, and how are partnership models developing in the face of disruptive change?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

The South African private sector has an abundance of examples where businesses have collaborated with communities and civil society to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. These collaborative efforts can facilitate meaningful engagement, foster local ownership, and promote sustainable development that meets the needs of both businesses and broader society. We intend to highlight business initiatives that offer sustainable solutions that can be more widely adopted.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. NGO Partnerships and Alliances:** What are the best models for business collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? Which scalable partnerships and alliances are making most impact in the alleviation of poverty, food security, education, conservation, and community development?
- 2. Community Needs Assessment:** What are the best approaches for business to engage with civil society and communities to hold a structured stakeholder dialogue and engagement that enables understanding and prioritisation of needs and measure success?
- 3. Social Responsibility Initiative Insights:** Which South African businesses have highly effective Corporate Social Responsibility examples that have successfully uplifted communities or addressed social and environmental challenges?
- 4. Local Economic Development:** What are the best examples of collaboration with local communities to promote economic development? How are companies working within communities on social enterprise models, or to source goods and services, support small business, or provide workforce skills and training?
- 5. Community Investment and Philanthropy:** How are companies making community investment in philanthropic initiatives aimed at improving the well-being, from donations, grants, sponsorships, to support for community-driven projects?

From financial support to in-kind contributions, volunteering, education, healthcare or infrastructure. We are looking to surface perspectives, approaches and blueprints that can be repeated and incorporated into effective long term sustainability strategies to foster trust and shared value. Are companies successfully maximising the opportunity for maximised strategic impact?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- Agri SA
- Bidvest
- Ce EnviroSol
- Centre for New Liberalism
- EOH
- Eskom
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Modern Centric Holdings
- National Separations
- Nedbank
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sappi
- School Central
- The Well Health Company
- Umngeni-Uthukela Water

Business collaboration with local communities can create sustainable solutions to societal challenges whilst also generating economic value.





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PRIORITY TOPIC 7

IMPACT & OPPORTUNITY POST PANDEMIC

**How do we adapt to changes in
the post Covid landscape?**





IMPACT & OPPORTUNITY POST PANDEMIC

How do we adapt to changes in the post Covid landscape?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
31st October 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

How can South African business
step forward, embracing innovation
brought by the pandemic, whilst
healing from the negative impact?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

The long-term impacts and changes from the COVID-19 pandemic are still unfolding. While businesses have experienced challenges, the crisis has also sparked innovation, resilience, and adaptation. It is important we understand the impact so that we can leverage lessons learned and adapt quickly to embrace emerging opportunities, as well as mitigate negative impact.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Economic Resilience and Recovery:** Which industry sectors were worst impacted by lockdowns and impact on cash reserves? What was the damage, and how far have businesses recovered? Where are the biggest needs for support, recovery, and future resilience?
- 2. Accelerating Digital Transformation:** The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital technologies. How can we identify, accelerate, and share the advances that are crucial for the innovation of sustainable business practices?
- 3. Focus on Mental Wellbeing & Health:** The pandemic highlighted the importance of health and safety in business operations. What initiatives have been created that successfully address the impact on employee mental health and well-being?
- 4. Hybrid, Remote Work and Flexibility:** Remote work has become a norm, creating opportunity to embrace flexible work arrangements that attract top talent, and reduce commutes and carbon footprints. What are the best practice remote or hybrid work policies that give flexibility, while retaining connection and productivity?
- 5. Enhanced Connectivity & ICT Literacy:** The pandemic thrust employees forward into a world of virtual collaboration, improving connectivity. How far have we advanced, and who has been left behind? What new gaps have emerged alongside our advances?

We intend to explore and share sustainable workplace best practices that are now emerging in business, investigating the sustainability benefits and enhanced opportunity for collective problem solving. We also need to surface the negative impact on businesses that are still recovering, to understand the support they can most benefit from.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Agri SA
- Bidvest
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Digital Girl Africa
- Eskom
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Modern Centric Holdings
- National Separations
- Nedbank
- Sanlam
- School Central
- Umngeni-Uthukela Water
- Vodacom South Africa

The pandemic has influenced culture and consumer behaviour. There is a greater emphasis on health and sustainability. How can business most effectively align for people and for planet?





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PRIORITY TOPIC 8

BUILDING GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

**How do we best show up in the
global trading environment?**





BUILDING GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

How do we best show up in the global trading environment?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
2nd November 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

How does South African business participate to combat future supply chain disruption and to adapt quickly to changes, whilst landing sustainability objectives?

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

The global supply chain which had already been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic has been further impacted by the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Disruption is set to stay, driven by inflationary pressure, global recession, climate change and weather events. This is impacting South African access to imports as well as the flow of exports to their destination. Businesses are facing port hold ups, reduced freight availability, and surging prices.

Within this context is it vitally important for business to pay attention to sustainability across its supply chain, beyond internal company operations. We intend to look at the best practices and initiatives that can protect our global supply chain and enable domestic resilience to disruption and inflation driven by rising commodity prices. How does the carbon neutrality agenda impact the attractiveness of our South African supply chain?

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Ensuring a Sustainable Supply Chain:** How can companies best ensure that sustainability principles are respected within their extended supply chain? What are approaches to supporting supplier sustainability?
- 2. Anticipating Further Geopolitical Tension:** How does the private sector collaborate with the public sector to enable international cooperation and interdependence? What trade links can enable resilience for both imports and exports?
- 3. Domestic Self Sufficiency in Material Supply:** What does it take to enable South African self-sufficiency? What are the priority materials and lead times for protecting core commodities required by our economy? How can sustainability goals align with strengthening domestic production?
- 4. Protection from Cyber Criminals:** Supply chains are becoming increasingly vulnerable to infiltration, damage and theft by cyber criminals. What are the innovative new technologies, such as Blockchain that can be shared to protect businesses?
- 5. Adapting to Shifts in Global Manufacturing:** How can South African business benefit from global demand from businesses that are re-evaluating their manufacturing footprint to optimise on cost efficiencies, sustainable and traceable sources of supply?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Agri SA
- Allied Valve Specialists
- Bidvest
- Bokashi Bran
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Eskom
- Greenkid
- Minerals Council South Africa
- National Separations
- Nedbank
- Pick n Pay
- Redefine Properties
- Sasol
- The South African Breweries
- Umgeni-Uthukela Water
- Unlimited Group
- Xperien



By focusing on becoming a sustainable source of supply and developing global supply chain resilience, South Africa can gain competitive advantage and boost our domestic economy.





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PRIORITY TOPIC 9

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

**How do we accelerate equity
and diversity?**





Inclusive and supportive environments that prioritise the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of women employees are a vital sustainability enabler.



EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

How do we accelerate equity and diversity?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Tuesday | 2 Hours
7th November 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

Not only is gender equality a fundamental human right, when women have access to education, employment and economic opportunity, it leads to increased productivity, innovation and economic prosperity.

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Enabling gender equality and women’s empowerment continues to be a huge challenge both globally and in South Africa. We need to focus on driving systemic change by sharing the initiatives that are advocating effectively and the strategies that are getting results. Gender equality promotes social wellbeing and stability, reducing social inequalities, discrimination and violence, leading to more peaceful, cohesive societies.

We intend to surface the business role and best practice examples that can enable gender equality, both directly in the workplace, and when engaging in partnerships with government, civil society organisations, and communities. How do we push for a public-private sector alliance that ends gender-based violence, leveraging collateral such as the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide, beyond our immediate workplaces.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis surfaces the following initial findings that we will delve into during our round table series:

- 1. Equal Pay and Workplace Gender Equity:** How have leading companies managed to transition to equal pay for equal work? How have disparities in hiring, promotions, and leadership positions been successfully addressed? How have businesses tackled unconscious biases to enable career progression for women?
- 2. Gender-Based Violence and Harassment:** How have companies succeeded in landing zero-tolerance for gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace? What are the incident reporting and support approaches that both address and prevent issues, enabling a culture that is safe and respectful?
- 3. Work-Life Balance & Flexible Work:** What are the benchmark policies and practices that support work-life balance for women, such as flexible work hours, remote work options, and family-friendly policies? What are the tactics that companies have used to create an inclusive and supportive work environment that recognises the needs of women employees?
- 4. Access to Education, Skills & Wellbeing:** How can education and skills development for women be promoted alongside policies and initiatives to address women specific needs such as reproductive health and maternity at different life stages?
- 5. Gender Equality Across the Value Chain:** How do businesses ensure gender equality and empowerment throughout the supply chain, encouraging diversity friendly procurement practices?

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Allied Valve Specialists
- Bokashi Bran
- Ce EnviroSol
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Digital Girl Africa
- EOH
- Eskom
- Greenkid
- Hollard Investments
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Investec
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Modern Centric Holdings
- National Separations
- Nedbank
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sasol
- The Well Health Company
- Umgeni-Uthukela Water
- Vodacom South Africa
- Xperien





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PRIORITY TOPIC 10

LEVERAGING SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS

**How do we leverage new and
existing frameworks?**





LEVERAGING SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORKS

How do we leverage new and existing frameworks?

LOGISTICS:

10:00 – 12:00 | Thursday | 2 Hours
9th November 2023

PRIORITY TOPIC AGENDA

- Welcome
- Feedback from Industry Round Table Series
- Review Topic Goal & Ambition
- Define Topic Delivery Pathways
- Business Impact Analysis & Enablers
- Next Steps and Close

Whilst the Voluntary National Review 2024 focuses on achievement of the 2030 Agenda the Sustainable Development Goals, there are other valuable frameworks to consider.

PRIORITY TOPIC OVERVIEW

Navigating across the range of existing and emerging sustainability frameworks can be complicated and intimidating for companies seeking to report and perform against the sustainability agenda. It can be resource consuming reporting against a variety of different frameworks. This priority topic seeks to understand how frameworks align, including alignment to public sector frameworks such as the South African government’s National Development Plan 2030 and the 2063 Agenda on Peace and Security and International Agreements such as the International Bill of Human Rights.

SYNOPSIS QUESTIONS ARISING:

Our synopsis cites the following sustainability reporting regulatory standards and frameworks that will be investigated, along with other frameworks that may arise, for their domain of focus, regional application, similarities, differences, and for alignment with each other:

- The Ten Principles – UN Global Compact
- SDGs – UN Sustainable Development Goals
- UNCTAD – Investment Policy Framework
- SEE – The JSE Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative
- JSE – Climate Disclosures
- JSE – Sustainability Disclosures
- King IV – Responsibilities of Governing Bodies
- GRI – Global Reporting Initiative
- SASB – Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project
- ISO 26000 – Social Responsibility Guidance Standard
- PRI – Principles of Responsible Investment
- ISSB – International Sustainability Standards
- IFRS – International Finance Regulatory Standards
- ESRS – European Sustainability Reporting Standards
- EP – The Equator Principles
- CDSP – The Climate Disclosure Standards Board
- TCFD – Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

We intend to explore how different frameworks serve as guidelines and tools to help companies measure, manage, and report their sustainability, ESG, CSR, and climate-related performance. We will work with experts to understand how different frameworks align and can support transparency, accountability, and easier integration of sustainability into business strategies, operations and reporting.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- AFSA
- Allied Valve Specialists
- Bidvest
- Big Impact Group
- Bokashi Bran
- Ce Envirozol
- Centre for New Liberalism
- Digital Girl Africa
- Eskom
- Green Building South Africa
- Greenkid
- Hollard
- Informal Economy Development Forum
- Investec
- Makwande Group
- Minerals Council South Africa
- Modern Centric Holdings
- Nedbank
- NUDE FOODS
- Pick n Pay
- Redefine Properties
- Sanlam
- Sasol
- School Central
- The South African Breweries
- The Well Health Company
- Umgeni-Uthukela Water
- Unlimited Group
- Vodacom South Africa
- Xperien

Sustainability reporting can be intimidating. It is important to demystify frameworks and regulations and to look at best practices for businesses that need to report against different standards for their varied stakeholders.



THANK YOU



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