

24 July 2024

Mr Zane Dangor
Director-General: Department of International Relations and Cooperation
By email: Bowmanj@dirco.gov.za

And
Dr Duncan Pieterse
Director-General: Department of National Treasury
By email: DGRegistry@treasury.gov.za

And
Mr. Jacob Mbele
Director-General: Department of Mineral Resources and Petroleum
By email: Mamabefu.Modipa@dmre.gov.za and Thobile.Mbatha@dmre.gov.za

And
Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala
Director General: Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
By email: dg@dff.gov.za
Copy to: Mr Maesela Kekana, Deputy Director General: Climate Change and Air Quality Management,
MJKekana@dff.gov.za

And
Director General: Department of Electricity and Energy
(To be sent in future)

And
Mr Mooketsa Ramasodi
Director-General: Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development
DGOffice@dalrrd.gov.za

Dear Mr Zane Dangor, Dr Duncan Pieterse, Mr Jacob Mbele, Ms Nomfundo Tshabalala, Mr Mooketsa Ramasodi and Mr Maesela Kekana,

RE: South Africa's climate and development related priorities for the Presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2025

We write as a group of civil society organisations working for climate, energy and financial justice, in South Africa, raising key topics for consideration and inclusion on the G20 agenda as well as the establishment of regular communication and consultation channels throughout South Africa's presidency.

The South African Presidency of the G20 in 2025 can provide critical continuity on elements of Brazil's agenda¹, **championing the position of developing countries** and the African Union, before the United States of America takes on the G20 presidency in 2026. This offers a valuable opportunity to **prioritise both climate change and development concerns** in developing countries. It is crucial that South Africa doesn't allow for the developed countries to backtrack on decisions and reform agendas as we know that the G20 often provides important political moments and signals for key multilateral processes such as the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (e.g. COP30) and the UN General Assembly. As such, we would like to **propose overarching themes of Ubuntu and solidarity** to remind the members of the G20 of the common humanity of all citizens of the world. This theme also recognises the need for multilateral

¹ The Brazilian Presidency's priorities have included social inclusion and combating inequality, hunger, and poverty; addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions; and supporting the reform of global governance institutions to reflect current geopolitical realities.

cooperation to successfully achieve the SDGs by 2030. Furthermore, South Africa's G20 strategic themes should provide an opportunity for the inclusion of African priorities as per Agenda 2063.

As South African civil society organisations working on the intersection between the **financial, climate and energy justice** areas, we call on the government of South Africa to elevate the following priorities for its G20 presidency:

1. **Elevate adaptation and resilience in the political agenda** of the climate discourse as a matter of urgency for Africa- ensuring we take the needs of developing countries into account. Consequently, we would like the G20 agenda to highlight the importance of doubling adaptation finance (aligned to the Glasgow commitments) and ensure global financial commitment to a significant increase in dependable and quality adaptation finance. Moreover, the commitment to adaptation finance should be in the form of grants and not loans, and focus on innovative financial mechanisms to mobilise private finance for adaptation. Furthermore, the G20 agenda should focus on strengthening transformative adaptation priorities including health, land rights, biodiversity & ecosystem restoration, water, food systems and agriculture, indigenous and traditional knowledge.
2. Drive international cooperation towards **a global just transition away from all fossil fuels to deliver on such a commitment for an 'all of economy, all of society', inclusive transformation²** to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Building on its experience and leadership in advancing the just transition domestically, SA has a unique opportunity to strengthen the multilateral agenda on energy transition, the creation of decent green jobs in emerging sectors and workforce adaptation and the promotion of mining practices that allow for communities to assert their rights, alongside local value chains and benefit-sharing as part of a package of measures aimed at the extraction and export of critical minerals required to implement fast, fair energy transitions that align with global goals such as tripling renewable energy and reaching net zero by 2050.
3. **Address energy poverty** in Africa through **scaling up renewable installed capacity by at least 5 times by 2030**, quadrupling investments in grid infrastructure extension and maintenance and focusing on household energy security.
4. **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies** by 2025 as progress has been lagging.
5. **Reform the [international financial architecture](#)** to realise fair and inclusive economies that redress racial and systemic inequalities between G7 countries and the Global Majority. This agenda should continue to prioritise:
 - a. **reform of the multilateral financial institutions** to make them fair and fit-for-purpose to give developing countries the means to advance their development aspirations and share in the prosperity of the world;
 - b. agreement on **fair sovereign debt relief and resolution** measures for low-income and highly indebted countries in times of economic and political distress;
 - c. enabling developing countries to **scale public finance** to take ambitious climate action and make just, inclusive and orderly transitions without undercutting social expenditure by expediting work on the UN Common Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.
6. **Mobilise [private sector finance](#)** for climate and development and focus on **further reforms to the governance and regulation of the private financial system** by:
 - a. **reducing the information asymmetries** that affect lending, investing and underwriting decisions. This includes the information from service providers such as credit rating agencies and political risk insurers that strongly influence access to and [pricing of financial services](#). It also includes information asymmetries from the lack of consistent, comparable sustainability reporting by real sector companies.

² Energy transition that recognises scaled up renewable energy to meet Africa's access and industrialisation objectives is thus crucial to any multilateral action on energy and climate change.

- b. supporting the **coherence of financial sector policies** developed by G20 countries with those in other countries to maximise efficiencies and address unintended consequences on vulnerable populations e.g. [Taskforce on Net Zero Policy](#);
 - c. implementing **regulation that supports the mobilisation of finance** such as [curbing illicit financial flows](#); and
 - d. supporting [mechanisms to include private creditors in sovereign debt negotiations](#).
7. **Reverse the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation** through a renewed focus on nature [finance solutions](#) to meet the finance goal of raising at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025; set a target to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by the year 2030; and accelerate the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems.
8. Transition global agricultural production systems to **agroecology practices and reform food systems** to adapt to climate change while prioritising the second UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's [roadmap](#) on **ending hunger by 2030 (SDG2) without breaching 1.5°C**.

Furthermore, as civil society organisations, we would like to encourage a spirit of transparency and open engagement between ourselves and the SA G20 Presidency. We affirm the important role of civil society and its formal engagement with the G20 process through the C20 platform. This should include the necessary resources it needs to coordinate the voices of civil society to inform the G20 process, as well as opportunities for the C20 to engage with SA government officials, including the Sherpa's of both tracks. As such we would like to request a meeting with the Directors General of the Department of International Relations and National Treasury to further discuss these priorities and the provision of observer status for CSOs to the G20 meetings scheduled in 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Organisations making this request include:

350Africa.org
African Climate Reality Project
Centre for Environmental Rights
Earthlife Africa
GenderCC SA- Women for climate justice
Just Share
Movement for Debt and Reparations
Natural Justice
Project 90 by 2030
Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)
The GreenConnection
The Just Energy Transition Africa Initiative
Wilderness Foundation Africa
ZeniZeni Sustainable Finance

Tina Schubert
Policy and Research Coordinator at Project 90 by 2030
Direct email: Tina@90by2030.org.za