



**PRESIDENTIAL
CLIMATE COMMISSION**
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

***2025 NDC – PCC
Recommendations
Discussion***

***Special Commission
Meeting: 19 August 2025***

Overview

- Context
- Methodology
- Key Themes across Adaptation, Mitigation and Means of Implementation
- Areas of Divergence
- Thematic Issues
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Means of Implementation

Context

South Africa's 2030–2035 NDC Update

- South Africa is updating its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** amid worsening **climate risks** and **socio-economic vulnerabilities**.

The updated NDC must:

- Be grounded in **science** and responsive to **inequality, unemployment, and poverty**
- Act as a **lever for economic transformation** through inclusive growth, diversification, and a **just transition**.
- Address both **adaptation and mitigation**, ensuring fair and targeted **means of implementation**.

The PCC's Role

- **Economic and emissions modelling**
- **Scenario analysis**
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement**

- **Multi Stakeholder Engagement**
- Input gathered from **business, labour, civil society, youth, academia, government, faith groups, and communities** through:
 - Capacity-building sessions
 - Roundtable consultations
 - Written submissions
 - A **National Colloquium**
- **What we've heard:**
 - diverse stakeholder perspectives on **mitigation ambition, adaptation priorities, and implementation needs**.
- **What we are now communicating:**
 - **transparent, non-consensus account** of values, contestations, and practical considerations.

Methodology – Stakeholder Engagements

- **Transparency**
- **Inclusivity**
- **Responsiveness**

Objectives:

- Equip stakeholders with context & knowledge
- Gather structured technical, political & social inputs
- Build consensus on guiding principles & recommendations

Capacity Building → Formal Consultations → Thematic Roundtables

Guiding Questions:

1. What criteria should guide the NDC?
2. What actions/targets should be included?
3. What concerns exist around the NDC?

Participation

Business

Civil Society

Faith Communities

Youth

Labour

Local Government

Researchers & Specialists

Key Themes Across Mitigation, Adaptation & Implementation

- Equity
- Governance
- Finance
- Data transparency & accountability
- Institutional capacity

Procedural Justice & Inclusivity

Climate transition must be inclusive, participatory & grounded in local realities

Strong calls for co-designed responses with vulnerable & marginalised groups

Municipalities must be integrated in governance

Youth & gender groups: need structural representation beyond tokenism

Civil society, labour, faith groups: greater access for under-resourced, rural & informal communities

Transparency & real-time data = public trust + accountability

Areas of Divergence

Level of Ambition & Implementation Feasibility

- **Labour & local government:** warned of job losses, inequality risks, and urged safeguards (skills, regional transition support).
- **Youth, civil society & faith groups:** called for urgent cuts, fossil fuel phase-out, and full power sector decarbonisation before 2050.
- **Business & labour:** cautioned against overcommitment without clear delivery plans and fiscal safety nets.

Shared concerns:

- Eskom's operational and infrastructure constraints limit feasibility.
- Ambition must be grounded in **science & realism**.
- Risk of undermining credibility if targets are unachievable.

Areas of Divergence

Financing Structures & Instruments

- **Civil society, labour, gender:** Grants & public finance to protect vulnerable groups from debt.
- **Business:** Blended finance, private capital mobilisation, market approaches for efficiency.
- **Local gov't, youth, civil society:** Direct local access to finance.
- **National actors:** Centralised coordination mechanisms.
- **Path Forward:**
 - Multi-channel finance architecture: protect fiscal sovereignty + enable local access + mobilise private capital.

Governance Models (Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up)

- **National depts & business:** Strong government-led, regulatory coordination.
- **Faith, youth, civil society, traditional leaders:** Decentralised, participatory, locally grounded delivery.
- **Path Forward:**
 - Multi-scaled governance: clear mandates at all levels + structured participatory platforms

Areas of Divergence

Carbon Pricing & Market Mechanisms

- **Business + some youth:** Support carbon pricing for investment & behaviour change.
- **Civil society, labour, gender:** Equity concerns – risk of energy poverty & higher living costs.
 - Concern: markets may delay deeper structural change.
- **Path Forward:**
 - Future mechanisms must include equity safeguards, public oversight, & social protection measures.

Role of Transitional Technologies

- **Business + some youth:** Support gas/nuclear as transitional & baseload options.
- **Civil society + faith groups:** Oppose – safety, waste, and justice concerns.
- **Path Forward:**
 - Transparent tech assessments + lifecycle costing + alignment with just transition principles.

Areas of Divergence

Sectoral Support & Legacy Industries

- **Labour & business: Managed transition** for coal & heavy industry to protect jobs & competitiveness.
- **Civil society & youth: Immediate divestment** & reinvestment in renewables.
- **Path Forward:**
 - Sector-specific **Just Transition plans** co-designed with workers, communities & investors.

Overall Insight

- These divergences are not deadlocks but **policy design challenges**.
- The NDC must enable **co-existence of approaches** while uniting stakeholders around **equity, ambition, and resilience**.

Mitigation – Stakeholder Perspectives

Sectoral Targets

- Business → 6–7 GW renewables/yr, efficiency
- Civil society/youth → Full decarb by 2040
- Labour → Phased transition w/ jobs focus
- Local gov't → Distributed energy, resilient grids
- Transport: EV public transport, local manufacturing
- Industry: Sector-specific targets & just transition roadmaps
- Waste: Mandatory targets + jobs in decentralized solutions





Carbon Budgets & Pathways

- Consensus: Enforceable budgets + interim milestones
- Civil society/youth: 1.5°C-aligned, legal enforcement
- Labour: Budgets must protect jobs & communities
- Business: Predictability for investment
- Local gov't: Municipal tracking & support
- **Roundtables:** Anchor in 9–10 GtCO₂e, clarify gross vs. removals, conditional vs. unconditional targets

Ambition, Feasibility & Timelines

- Civil society/youth/faith: Urgent, higher ambition
- Labour: Ambition + credible delivery + social protection
- Business: Cost-effective, feasible, finance-ready
- Local gov't: Capacity gaps for implementation
- **Roundtables:** Integrate with IRP/JET-IP/industrial policy, cautious on CCS/hydrogen, recognize co-benefits

Tools debated:

- Carbon pricing (Business/Youth  , Civil society/Labour )
- Nuclear (Business/Youth  , Civil society/Faith )

Convergence: Science-aligned ambition, measurable interim goals, integration of justice, jobs, and feasibility.

Adaptation – Stakeholder Perspectives

Adaptation as Central Pillar

- Urgent, deeply local, fundamental to just transition
- Not secondary to mitigation
 - equal priority in 2035 NDC
- Balance ambition with feasibility: credibility, trust, and institutional clarity

Sectoral Priorities

- Water Security – drought-proof systems, flood references
- Health – resilient systems, mental health, vulnerable groups
- Food Security – climate-smart agriculture, women & smallholders
- Ecosystems – restoration, urban greening, nature-based jobs

- **Equity focus:** women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, and informal workers.
- **Local alignment:** integrate adaptation into IDPs, SDFs, and municipal planning with financing.
- **Divergences:** funding balance (mitigation vs adaptation), top-down vs bottom-up approaches, and visibility at community level.
- **Shared consensus:** ambition must be realistic, inclusive, and matched by strong delivery capacity.

Means of Implementation –Stakeholder Perspectives

- Transparent climate finance
- Human & institutional capacity
- Fair tech access & inclusive governance
- Adaptation & mitigation synergies
- Decentralized renewable energy benefits
- SME participation

- **Agreements**

- National finance mobilisation target: ZAR 535B by 2030
- Transparent adaptation finance tracking
- Localised finance mechanisms
- Just Transition support
- Private sector engagement

- **Divergences**

- Grants vs Loans / Public vs Private
- Centralised vs Decentralised delivery

Key Takeaways

- Finance: Diversified, transparent
- Capacity: Equitable development & tech access
- Institutions: Coherent & coordinated
- M&E: Inclusive, adaptive & transparent
- **Credible, inclusive, and accountable MOI is essential to achieve South Africa's 2035 NDC targets.**

In Conclusion

Key Takeaway

Stakeholders share a **commitment to science-aligned, just, and accountable climate action**, but diverge on **pace, tools, and fairness of distribution**.

The NDC must balance ambition with **credible delivery, sectoral roadmaps, financing, and social safeguards**.

Thank You