



Inspiring new ways

# WEF 2024

Team South Africa  
Key Messaging



**WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM 2024**  
ANNUAL MEETING IN  
DAVOS-KLOSTERS,  
SWITZERLAND

**THEME**  
**REBUILDING  
TRUST**

**SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAG**  
**#SAINDAVOS2024**

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# A. KEY MESSAGING

## 1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa is participating in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, scheduled to take place from 15 – 19 January 2024 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The World Economic Forum is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

*The programme of the 54th Annual Meeting of WEF will discuss critical issues across four interconnected thematic priorities:*

- 1) Achieving Security and Cooperation in a Fractured World;
- 2) Creating Growth and Jobs for a New Era;
- 3) Artificial Intelligence as a Driving Force for the Economy and Safety
- 4) A Long-Term Strategy for Climate, Nature and Energy.

The Annual Meeting will offer new and upgraded platforms for dialogue, building stronger partnerships, and developing agile policy frameworks. It will also offer possible solutions on the effective deployment of technologies that can lead to practical and implementable gains for society, across both short-term and strategic horizons.

As in previous years, the upcoming Annual Meeting will be the foremost platform to drive public-private cooperation at the highest level, convening over 100 governments, all major international organisations, the Forum's 1000 global partner companies, civil society and academic institutions, as well as international media.

The South African delegation, led by the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, will add the country's voice to discussions about global issues, with the overall aim to position South Africa as a competitive business and investment destination and a partner in global governance.

*Five Ministers have been invited to participate at WEF Davos, in addition to the Minister of Finance, and these include:*

- Minister of Trade Industry and Competition
- Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
- Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies
- Minister of Electricity
- Minister of Health

## 2. SOUTH AFRICA'S KEY MESSAGES ARE INFORMED BY THE FOLLOWING:

*South Africa aims to showcase and provide an update on the country's progress since 2023 WEF Annual Meeting through the following key areas:*

1. Status of implementation of the country's Structural Reforms, particularly in the Energy and Logistics sectors.
2. Economic Recovery and Reconstruction through strategic infrastructure investment



3. Providing an update on plans to address climate change through just energy transition and climate mitigation and adaptation plans.
4. South Africa is committed to the success of the AfCFTA and is performing an advocacy role on behalf of Africa at International Financial Institutions.
5. Reiterating the call for the reform of multilateral institutions.
6. Creating a favourable environment to stimulate investment in emerging and transformative technologies.
7. Profiling South Africa as the preferred international science, technology and innovation cooperation partner

## 2.1. Structural reforms key to sustainable growth (Operation Vulindlela)

South Africa's economy is undergoing a fundamental transformation that will make it more competitive, inclusive, and capable of growth.

Operation Vulindlela, which was initiated by President Ramaphosa in 2020 as part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, aims to modernise and transform network industries, including electricity, water, transport and digital communications. These network industries are the bedrock of economic growth and are essential to creating a globally competitive economy. In addition, reforms to the visa-regime are being prioritised to attract skills and promote growth in tourism.

Through these reforms, South Africa is steadily laying the foundation for a revival of economic growth and opening the space for investment and a renewal of infrastructure. Despite difficult global conditions, investors continue to see value in the South African economy and the benefit of the reform agenda being pursued.

## 2.2. Enhancing Economic Recovery and Reconstruction through Strategic Infrastructure Investments:

South Africa's accelerated investments in its public sector infrastructure ecosystem, encompassing water, energy, transport, and digital communications, serve as a catalytic force not only for expanding the nation's infrastructure base; but also, for accelerating employment creation, mitigating poverty and inequality. This strategic approach not only provides opportunities for enhancing education and continuous skills development; but also stands as a long-term solution for fostering comprehensive human development.

## 2.3. Implementing JET: Forging Global Partnerships in Pursuit of a Just Transition for Climate Justice

South Africa's pursuit of green industrial development, as outlined in its comprehensive Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan, necessitates collaboration with global partners to achieve its ambitious goals for a sustainable energy transition. The country has set a target to reduce its emissions within the range of 420-350 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>-eq) by 2030, concurrently fostering resilient economic growth in alignment with the objectives outlined in South Africa's National Development Plan 2030.

At a global level, transitions must be based on the principles of equity and differentiation, and must be executed in a just, equitable and orderly manner, that allows space for countries and regions to meet energy related SDG's and broader sustainable development, to ensure climate justice.

The phasedown of unabated fossil fuels must allow for differentiated pathways with developed countries taking the lead and creating space for regions like Africa, to pursue sustainable development pathways. Calls for higher levels of ambition must be met with higher levels and means of implementation, finance, technology and capacity.

## 2.4. Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is set to create the largest free trade area in the world, potentially boosting Africa's income by \$450bn by 2035 and lifting 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty.

Current trade in commodities from South Africa and other African States have a significant carbon footprint. The anticipated change in trade rules with the introduction of carbon border tax adjustments on imports and other similar measures, in keeping with net-zero pledges, in the EU, US and UK, will be an impediment to unlocking opportunities through the AfCFTA.

## 2.5. Reforming Global Multilateral Institutions

South Africa continues to call for existing global institutional mechanisms to both be strengthened and reformed. Greater participation of countries of the Global South will promote inclusiveness and engender trust. Key positions being advanced in the Global Governance fora are: the need for equal opportunities for Africa and countries of the Global South in terms of access finance, supply chains, trade and investment opportunities.

## 2.6. Emerging and Transformative Technologies to propel economic growth and Social Inclusion.

South Africa is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on the 4th Industrial Revolution (PC4IR) Report which aims to make South Africa a digital society. The report outlines a vision for achieving this through adoption of the digital economy, digitally skilling the nation, building digital infrastructure and developing an Artificial Intelligence National Plan. This involves capacitating the Artificial Intelligence Institute (AIISA) and the Centre of Artificial Intelligence Research (CAIR). amongst other priorities.

## 2.7. Profiling South Africa as the preferred international science, technology and innovation cooperation partner

South Africa has a comprehensive national policy framework for the development of a knowledge economy, the Decadal Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation, which deliberately seeks to enable public-private partnerships in priority investment areas such as the digital or circular economies, as well as the modernising of agriculture, manufacturing and mining through innovation.

## 3. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### 3.1. Growth

The National Treasury forecasts real GDP growth of 0.8 per cent in 2023 (downwardly revised from 0.9 per cent in the 2023 Budget Review mainly due to weaker net exports), driven by private investment in imported machinery and equipment, primarily focused on enhancing electricity infrastructure, but also strong public sector investment. Over the medium term, growth is projected to average 1.4 per cent from 2024 and 2026. This is alongside an unwinding of monetary policy tightening, which should support consumption expenditure.

Growth in global trade volumes is anticipated to slow in 2023, due to a compositional shift in spending from traded goods back to domestic services, an easing in global demand following the strong post-pandemic rebound, rising trade barriers, and lagged effects of an appreciation of the US dollar. Global trade volumes are expected to rebound in 2024, but still at weaker than pre-pandemic growth rates.

Sectors that will likely drive growth in 2023 include agriculture (in line with several years of strong growth), and the finance, real estate and business services sector (largely driven by increased economic activity in financial intermediation, insurance, real estate, and the business services sector as well as the equity market). Other sectors that may only see marginal growth include the transport, telecommunication, and storage sector (supported by improvements in freight movement and the robust performance of communication services), construction (continues to struggle but coming off a low base), and personal services.

### 3.2. Principles Underpinning the Growth Outlook

National Treasury's baselines are neutral to policy or reform interventions, unless these are already showing in the data or are passed by law. Considering this, the baseline forecast reflects some of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) investments, embedded generation investments, and part of the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP) investments. Fiscal consolidation and reform measures are reflected in the baseline, which improves fiscal position and business confidence.

### 3.3. Global Factors Affecting Growth

Growth in global trade volumes is anticipated to slow down in 2023, due to a compositional shift in spending from traded goods back to domestic goods and services, an easing in global demand following the strong post-pandemic rebound, rising trade barriers, and lagged effects of an appreciation of the US dollar. Global trade volumes are expected to rebound in 2024, but still be weaker than pre-pandemic growth rates. The scarring impact of the pandemic on employment and investment decisions continues to weigh on the recovery and is expected to persist over the medium term- and on long term growth.

The outlook continues to be clouded by uncertainty as the world continues to face geopolitical risks stemming from the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, Russia's Black Sea Grain Initiative withdrawal, China's property sector challenges, supply shocks, climate change, oil supply cuts by OPEC+ countries; and slowing global activity owing to further global monetary policy tightening.

### 3.4. Fiscal Policy

South Africa's fiscal policy focuses on strengthening public finances by staying the course on plans to achieve a surplus on the main budget primary balance. Fiscal policy will also support efforts to boost GDP growth by improving electricity and rail operations, building investor confidence, attracting new infrastructure investment, speeding up service delivery; as well as reconfiguring the state for efficiency. A new mechanism will be created to improve the financing and execution of large infrastructure projects by crowding-in the private sector and multilateral development financing.

Over the medium-term, government will support the economy, stabilise the public finances and protect the social wage. Strategic spending adjustments will see baseline budgets for basic education, health, social protection and the police grow in nominal terms over the medium term, while spending on executive and legislative organs declines. The composition of spending remains broadly in line with existing policy.

Government's medium-term fiscal policy remains unchanged: achieve fiscal sustainability, support economic growth and reduce fiscal and economic risks. The fiscal strategy aims to continue rebuilding the public finances by narrowing the budget deficit and stabilising debt, while ensuring the country's long-term economic prospects. The balanced approach to fiscal consolidation includes targeted spending reductions based on policy priorities, efficiency measures across government, and moderate tax revenue measures. Work is underway on fiscal rules to anchor sustainable public finances. Maintaining a sustainable fiscal trajectory - narrowing the budget deficit and stabilising debt - will reduce economy-wide cost of borrowing and facilitating investment.

### 3.5. Monetary Policy

Headline inflation for 2023 is revised down slightly to 5.8% (from 5.9%). The headline inflation forecast for 2024 is 5.0% (down from 5.1%), before stabilising at 4.5% in 2025 and 2026. While our baseline inflation forecast has improved, risks to the inflation outlook are still assessed to the upside.

The upside risks in the short-term stem from food and fuel prices coupled with some key components of core inflation, while electricity and other administered prices remain a significant source of upside risk to the medium-term inflation outlook.

The upward revision to the CPI outlook is expected to weigh negatively on economic growth through an increase in the cost of living, the cost of doing business and elevated debt service costs.

The monetary policy stance aims to anchor inflation expectations more firmly around the midpoint of the target band and to increase confidence of attaining the inflation target sustainably over time. Guiding inflation back towards the mid-point of the target band aims to reduce the economic costs of high inflation and achieve lower interest rates in the future.

In terms global outlook, the tight monetary policy response globally to cool inflation is expected to endure well into 2025 as tighter credit conditions will continue to dampen lending

and economic activity. The IMF outlook suggests growth will remain at decade lows over the medium-to-long term. Across most regions, monetary policy will continue to focus on achieving inflation targets, while high debt levels will require fiscal consolidation efforts. In the developing world, financing conditions are expected to remain tight and growth moderate.

## 4. REFORMS TO SUPPORT EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

*Government has taken several steps and most of these will be finalized in the current financial year to improve the environment for doing business through:*

- Reducing cost of data and improving broadband access
- A shortened process to acquire construction permits.
- Eased tax compliance through shortened value-added tax and corporate income tax audit turnaround times.
- Improved property registrations transparency.
- Setting up a BizPortal to ease starting a business through a One-Stop-Shop.
- Reducing the timeframes for mining, prospecting, water, and environmental licenses.
- Finalizing the Petroleum Resources Development Bill, to unlock potential in upstream oil and gas reserves.
- Decisively action against crime and corruption.
- Government has established a team in the Presidency with the mandate to cut red tape across government.

## 5. STRUCTURAL REFORMS TO ACHIEVE JOB-RICH AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

**On the structural policy front**, the government has made important headway on reforms. Operation Vulindlela, launched in 2020 by the Presidency and National Treasury, is aimed at accelerating the implementation of structural reforms to support South Africa’s economic recovery.

### 5.1. Operation Vulindlela

*Operation Vulindlela has five key objectives:*

1. Supply of electricity stabilised.
2. Reduced cost and improved quality of digital communications
3. Sustainable water supply to meet demand.
4. Competitive and efficient freight transport
5. A visa regime that attracts skills and grows tourism.

Over 70% of reforms are either complete, or on track to be finalised within this administration. No reforms face critical challenges and are unlikely to be completed, and all reforms have started.

*Since its establishment, Operation Vulindlela has achieved the following:*

### 5.2. Energy

The Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill was tabled in parliament on the 23rd of August 2023, with hearings completed in all provinces. This Bill will establish a competitive electricity market, enabling multiple generators to compete on a level playing field.

Eskom released the Interim Grid Capacity Allocation Rules in June 2023 which aim to ensure fair, equitable and transparent allocation of the limited grid capacity and give effect to the “first-ready first-served” principle.

In terms of capacity procurement under the Integrated Resource Plan 2019 (The IRP is an electricity infrastructure development plan based on least-cost electricity supply and demand balance, considering security of supply and the environment); three projects totalling 150 MW from the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPP) are completing construction for grid connection in November 2023.

The National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) has been granted licenses from NERSA for transmission, electricity trading, and electricity import and export licenses.

Since the amendment of Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act to lift the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects in August 2021 and subsequently remove the threshold in December 2022, there has been a significant increase in private sector investment in renewable energy projects. The 2023 South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey revealed that about 66 GW of wind and solar energy projects have been unlocked, and of this, 18 GW are in advanced development. Projects with a cumulative total of more than 5 600 MW have been registered with NERSA to date.

The Energy One Stop Shop was launched in July 2023 to coordinate regulatory processes and fast-track approvals for energy projects.

Eskom has signed agreements for the leasing of its land to four Independent Power Producers (IPPs). This will facilitate the development of up to 2 000MW of generation capacity by the IPPs, with sufficient grid capacity already in place to connect these projects.

Eskom launched a request for proposal in October 2023 for the Cross Border Standard Offer Programme enabling the procurement of 1 000 MW power from neighbouring countries.



5.3. Spectrum

On 31 July 2023, the Communications and Digital Technologies Minister switched –off the last transmitter for frequencies above 694 Megahertz (MHz). This key reform will improve network quality, reduce data costs and expand digital access.

Cabinet recently approved the final Next Generation Radio Frequency Spectrum Policy. The policy is aimed at advancing the availability of spectrum along with flexibility of its use, including through the establishment of a secondary market for spectrum.

A Standard Draft By-law for the Deployment of Electronic Communications Facilities was gazetted by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and is aimed at streamlining the municipal process for the approval of wayleaves to support infrastructure deployment. Support is being developed by Operation Vulindlela to support a broad adoption of the by-law.

The National Policy on Rapid Deployment of Electronic Communications Infrastructure was gazetted by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies. The policy provides a clear framework for the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure.

5.4. Transport

Working alongside government and Transnet, the Freight Logistics Roadmap has been completed and has been approved by Cabinet. The Roadmap provides a clear reform path towards resolving immediate operational challenges driving the decline of rail and ports. It consists of interventions required to fundamentally restructure the logistics sector through policy and legislative intervention.

The Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has been corporatised to increase the competitiveness of South Africa’s ports. The Minister of Public Enterprises announced the appointment of a permanent board for TNPA in October 2023.

Transnet has completed its selection of an international terminal operator with which to establish a partnership for the Durban Pier 2 container terminal. This partnership will crowd in private investment, including for upgrading equipment and expanding terminal capacity, as well as management expertise to improve operational performance.

5.5. Water

Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has cleared the water use license application backlog and is on track to meet the target for approval within 90 Days. This will unlock billions of Rands in investment.

Both the National Water Resource Infrastructure Bill, to establish a Water Resources Infrastructure Agency, and Revised Raw Water Pricing Strategy been tabled in Parliament, with the aim of enactment before the end of the Sixth Parliament. An independent review of the Bill’s potential impact on existing loans has been conducted to ensure a seamless transition for the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority.

5.6. Visa Regime

A comprehensive review of the work visa system and the revised immigration regulations has been completed.

The Department of Home Affairs launched the Trusted Employer Scheme, which is a key recommendation of the work visa review. The scheme will allow major investors and large employers to follow a streamlined process with improved turnaround times.

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6. STRATEGIC STEPS TOWARDS A CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Government is committed to a just transition to cleaner energy, ensuring that workers and communities in affected industries are not left behind in the pursuit of climate goals. South Africa’s just transition initiatives will be supported by financing from international sources.

Over the next five years, this funding will be used to improve electricity infrastructure, transition retiring coal plants, address regional energy transitions, promote new energy vehicles, support green hydrogen, develop skills and empower municipalities. These goals are supported by policies such as the Green Hydrogen Commercialisation Strategy, approved by Cabinet in October 2023. In addition to decarbonising the electricity system, government will also propose measures to help the automotive industry transition to new energy vehicle production, with details to be announced in the 2024 Budget. The private sector plays a major role in supporting South Africa’s clean energy transition. According to Eskom data published in July 2023, households and businesses have installed 4 412 MW of rooftop solar capacity – twice the capacity installed to date under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.



7. A COORDINATED AND EFFICIENT NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATION WILL HELP THE COUNTRY ACHIEVE ITS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES BY PROMOTING CHANGE THROUGH INNOVATION.

South Africa has a comprehensive national policy framework for the development of a knowledge economy, the Decadal Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation, which deliberately seeks to enable public-private partnerships in priority investment areas such as the digital or circular economies, as well as the modernising of agriculture, manufacturing and mining through innovation.



8. POSITIONING SOUTH AFRICA AT WEF DAVOS 2024

KEY MESSAGE	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
South Africa is an attractive investment destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa is one of the most diversified and industrialised economies in Africa, with the most affluent consumer market in Africa.</li><li>• The country is a well-established infrastructure and strategic location and a key global hub and attractive gateway into key frontier markets in the Southern African region.</li><li>• With 11 special economic zones across the country, South Africa provide investors with world class infrastructure, targeted investment incentives, preferential tax rates and export support.</li><li>• South Africa further boasts a highly sophisticated business environment, world-class financial services sector and excellent transport links. More than 180 Fortune Global 500 companies have invested in South Africa, the largest concentration in Africa. The South Africa Investment Strategy (SAIS), approved by Cabinet on 5 July 2023, aims to position South Africa as the premier African investment destination and to leverage the government’s commitment to attracting and facilitating top-tier Foreign and Domestic Direct Investment (FDI and DDI) in a well-coordinated fashion, bolstered by strong institutions and robust economic infrastructure networks.</li><li>• This comprehensive strategy aims to create an enabling environment that attracts diverse forms of investment. This is achieved through implementing investor-friendly policies, ensuring transparent and predictable regulations, and providing essential support systems for investors.</li><li>• The South Africa Investment Strategy (SAIS) also focuses on developing strong partnerships between the public and private sectors, fostering collaboration, and leveraging resources to maximize the developmental impact of investments.</li><li>• By implementing the SAIS, South Africa aims to leverage investment inflows to drive inclusive growth, reduce inequality, and foster long-term sustainable development for the benefit of its people.</li><li>• South Africa offers investors lucrative opportunities through its massive build programme to develop social and economic infrastructure.</li><li>• The Exploration Implementation Plan will serve as a roadmap to revive South Africa’s appeal and market share in the global minerals sector. The Plan offers access to a host of new investment frontiers such as oil and gas exploration, upstreaming of the gas industry, green hydrogen, oceans economy and hi-tech industries.</li></ul>
South Africa is an attractive investment destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa supports industries with high growth potential such as automotive, clothing and textiles, gas, chemicals and plastics, renewable energy, and agriculture.</li><li>• Core productive sectors of manufacturing, mining, infrastructure, technology, and telecommunications offer good expansion opportunities.</li><li>• More information on the collaboration between Government and private sector to be included by BrandSA</li></ul>



KEY MESSAGE	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
South Africa’s most immediate priority is to restore energy security to resolve the energy crisis that the country finds itself in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieving energy security is the single most important objective to enable economic growth and job creation.</li><li>• Government is working to improve the performance of its power stations and is driving work to bring more capacity onto the grid as quickly as possible. To succeed, these efforts need to be supported by all social partners and by all South Africans.</li><li>• The Energy Action Plan is South Africa’s plan to end load shedding and achieve energy security. Announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in July 2022, it outlines a bold set of actions aimed at fixing Eskom and adding as much new generation capacity as possible, as quickly as possible, to close the gap in electricity supply.</li><li>• The plan includes five key pillars:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fix Eskom and improve the availability of existing supply</li><li>2. Enable and accelerate private investment in generation capacity</li><li>3. Fast-track the procurement of new generation capacity from renewables, gas and battery storage</li><li>4. Unleash businesses and households to invest in rooftop solar</li><li>5. Fundamentally transform the electricity sector to achieve long- term energy security</li></ol></li><li>• While South Africa has made great strides in liberalising the generation sector, actions to mitigate ailing transmission grid capacity have fallen short and are vital in ensuring the country’s energy security and sovereignty.</li><li>• The demand for grid capacity has increased substantially for various reasons, including the increase in generation capacity through renewable energy projects.</li><li>• Investment in the maintenance, modernisation and expansion of the national grid has been suboptimal in recent years, which has resulted in the requirement of over 14,000km of new transmission lines, according to Eskom’s Transmission Development Plan, at a cost of USD15 billion over the next decade, highlighting a critical need to explore competitive alternative financial solutions.</li><li>• South Africa is at advanced stage of pursuing an appropriate finance and funding pathway for South Africa and is now in a position to firmly communicate the manner in which the country will crowd-in the private sector into this important initiative.</li><li>• South Africa signed agreements with China in August 2023, on the sidelines of the recent BRICS Summit, to help it overhaul its energy sector including upgrading its nuclear power plant as the government seeks to ease a severe energy crisis hobbling the economy.</li><li>• China, one of South Africa’s largest trading partners, has supplied emergency power equipment worth 167 million rand (\$8.9 million) and a grant of around 500 million rand for the power sector.</li><li>• South Africa is actively pursuing partnerships with a number of countries across the world, who have traversed energy supply and energy security challenges.</li></ul>

KEY MESSAGE	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
South Africa’s economic reconstruction and recovery plan aims to build a new economy and unleash South Africa’s true potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa’s Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, launched in October 2020, contains practical initiatives to improve investment environment and unlock job creation and faster economic growth.</li><li>• This includes, amongst others, regulatory reform, and the energy sector proposals.</li><li>• Infrastructure development is another key pillar of the plan with the Infrastructure Fund providing R100 billion in catalytic finance over the next decade, leveraging as much as R1 trillion in new investment for strategic infrastructure projects.</li></ul>
South Africa is committed to addressing climate change and transitioning to lower carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa continues to make efforts to fully operationalise the Paris Agreement to meet all challenges associated with and posed by climate change.</li><li>• The revised Nationally Determined Contribution sets the country’s contribution to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.</li><li>• It details adaptation goals to be implemented through the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and updates mitigation targets for 2025 and 2030.</li><li>• The updated Nationally Determined Contribution brings forward the year in which emissions are due to decline from 2035 to 2025.</li><li>• The outcomes of the G20 negotiations fed into decisions made at COP26, where South Africa received \$8.5 billion (R131billion) from partnering countries, to accelerate sustainable energy programmes and phase out coal, while cushioning the blow for workers affected by the transition.</li><li>• While coal currently accounts for 90% of South Africa’s energy sources, the funds are intended to reduce South Africa’s emissions over the coming decades, as the nation works alongside its allies to combat the climate crisis.</li><li>• Dubbed the “Just Energy Transition Partnership” between South Africa, the EU and the UK, this collaboration has been described as a “blueprint” for other global economies.</li><li>• The International Partners Group, chaired by the UK and comprised of France, Germany, the UK, the US, and the EU, jointly welcomed and endorsed South Africa’s Just Energy Transition (JET) Investment Plan at during the World Leaders Summit at COP27 in Egypt.</li><li>• A ‘Just’ approach underpins the Plan, aiming to ensure that those most directly affected by a transition from coal - workers and communities including women and girls – are not left behind.</li><li>• It identifies \$98 billion in financial requirements over five years to begin South Africa’s energy transition.</li><li>• The IPG is mobilising an initial \$8.5 billion to catalyse the first phase of the programme.</li><li>• Ultimately, the investment plan stresses that workers and communities must share in the benefits of the climate transition and the creation of new industries and jobs.</li></ul>

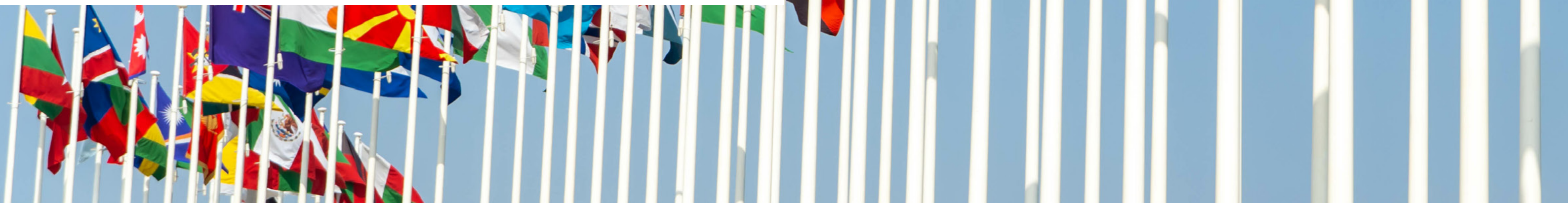
KEY MESSAGE	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
Technology is at the centre of the country’s development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies is coordinating the development of South Africa’s national response to the Fourth Digital Industrial Revolution.</li><li>• The South African government has recently launched the new two institutions, the Artificial Intelligence Institute of South Africa (AIISA) and the Centre of Artificial Intelligence Research (CAIR). These institutions are collaborating with the academia, industry and civil society to create an environment fosters the growth of local AI innovations</li><li>• Government has also ensured that a SMME Digitech Platform was created to ensure local products are marketed both nationally and globally using digital platforms.</li><li>• Government has also launched a digital skills platform and engagement pact with industry to ensure that the right digital skills and technologies conducive for South Africa’s growth is facilitated with the right digital skills and technologies.</li><li>• In addition, the Council for Scientific &amp; Industrial Research, and the Manufacturing, Engineering &amp; Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority have established 18 Industry Partnered Learning Factories.</li><li>• These facilities will support skill development in students and educators in each province.</li></ul>
South Africa is committed to international cooperation in science and has extensive experience of and leads in global science partnerships, and offers exciting opportunities for science, technology and innovation orientated foreign investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa has a comprehensive national policy framework for the development of a knowledge economy, the Decadal Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation, which deliberately seeks to enable public-private partnerships in priority investment areas such as the digital or circular economies, as well as the modernising of agriculture, manufacturing and mining through innovation.</li><li>• South Africa has matured national public research and innovation funders, such as the National Research Foundation and Technology Innovation Agency, with instruments such as the National Innovation Fund, which offers co-investment opportunities with international partners</li><li>• South Africa hosts the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) global radio telescope, the world’s largest radio telescope and “flagship” big data science project of the 21st century, with South African engineers and scientists playing crucial leadership roles in the international partnership.</li><li>• South Africa is implementing several large-scale science programmes targeting key societal challenges such as climate change, pandemic disease and food security, which offers opportunities for international cooperation and investment.</li><li>• South Africa is prioritizing investment in the development of the hydrogen economy with a world-class programme developing fuel cell technologies.</li><li>• South Africa through its National Space Agency is a reliable and preferred host for supporting infrastructure of global science programme, from the Americas, Asia and Europe.</li><li>• South Africa is actively investing in future pandemic preparedness, with actively developing capacities for vaccine manufacturing and hosting global initiatives such as the mRNA Technology Transfer Hub.</li><li>• South Africa is an African leader in science with several South African scientists leading their fields according to ratings compiled by authoritative international science publishers, and several South African universities rank among the continents leading institutions in global university rankings, whilst South Africa’s CSIR is Africa’s industry-focused research and technology organisation.</li><li>• South Africa hosts several African continental and regional cooperation initiatives, such as the African Union’s Development Agency’ Science, Technology and Innovation Centre of Excellence.</li><li>• South Africa has a rich and diverse portfolio of international partnerships, bilaterally and multilaterally, Pan-African, with the Global North and the Global South, and is committed to science diplomacy.</li></ul>

KEY MESSAGE	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
South Africa’s progress in Anti-Money Laundering measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Africa has made progress in addressing the 20 technical compliance difficulties in its anti-money laundering system.</li><li>• On 27 October 2023, the FATF Plenary formally re-rated 18 of the 20 deficiencies, based on the progress made by South African authorities in the two-year period following the 2021 Mutual Evaluation . Of these, fifteen were upgraded to be no longer deficient, as 14 recommendations were now fully or largely compliant, and one recommendation was rated as not being applicable to South Africa.</li><li>• Following these re-ratings, South Africa is now deemed to be fully or largely compliant (or not deficient) in 35 of the 40 FATF Recommendations, including in five of the six core FATF Recommendations. This means that South Africa is left with five deficiencies in technical compliance (including three of the 18 which were upgraded from non-compliant to partially compliant), and two which remain as partially compliant since 2021. The FATF follow up report does not address the progress made by South Africa to improve the effectiveness deficiencies that were identified in the mutually agreed upon Action Plan following South Africa’s grey listing by FATF earlier this year. Overcoming the effectiveness deficiencies is essential for South Africa to exit the FATF “grey list”.</li></ul>



# SOUTH AFRICA'S GLOBAL RANKINGS

- South Africa is the world's leading producer of platinum group metals, the sixth-largest producer of gold, with more than 100 listed mining companies operational in the country.
- According to the Legatum Prosperity index, South Africa performs most strongly in Personal Freedom and Social Capital.
- Of the 63 countries surveyed in 2022, South Africa ranked 60th in terms of its overall competitiveness, an improvement of 2 positions from 62nd in 2021. South Africa's biggest improvement occurred in government efficiency, moving up 8 positions from 61st in 2021 to 53rd in 2022. In 2022, South Africa's ranking improved in business efficiency (from 58th to 56th), in economic performance (from 61st to 59th) and in infrastructure (from 61st to 60th).
- In 2022, the country ranked 54th in the knowledge factor and 50th in the education and training subfactor; the latter reflects the greatest improvement, up by 12 positions from 62nd in 2021.
- South Africa is the second largest exporter of citrus, and an internationally competitive producer of various manufactured goods.





# B. PARTNERS



## Brand South Africa thanks its partners

Brand South Africa would like to acknowledge the role of our corporate partners in the execution of the Team South Africa programme at the 2024 World Economic Forum Annual meeting in Davos. Building a Nation Brand is a collective national effort and requires that a broad spectrum of stakeholders actively participate in country building initiatives.

As we celebrate 30 years of democracy, partnerships, and growth, we acknowledge and appreciate our corporate partners in positioning South Africa as a compelling investment destination. Their partnership and commitment have played a pivotal role in showcasing the country's economic achievements, highlighting investment opportunities, and fostering an environment conducive to growth.



The story of the South African Breweries is one of longevity and a rich involvement in the development and history of our country.

Established in 1896, SAB remains South Africa's foremost brewing company and is now a proud part of AB InBev. With seven breweries and forty-four depots across the country, the company strives to ensure that 95% of the raw materials to manufacture the product are locally sourced.

SAB offers a diverse beer portfolio featuring iconic brands like Castle Lager, Hansa Pilsener, Carling Black Label, and Castle Milk Stout.

SAB is committed to creating sustainable investments; and driving real, tangible growth for the South African economy. The company significantly contributes to the beer value chain, supporting over 249 000 jobs.

SAB's purpose is "We Dream Big to Create a Future with More Cheers," which reflects the company's values, vision, and strategy.



## OLDMUTUAL

Old Mutual was established in Cape Town in 1845 as South Africa's first mutual life assurance society. Our purpose is to help our customers thrive by enabling them to achieve their lifetime financial goals, while investing their funds in ways that will create a positive future for them, their families, their communities and broader society. In this way, we significantly contribute to improving the lives of our customers and their communities while ensuring a sustainable future for our business. We employ over 30 000 people and operate in 14 countries across two regions: Africa (South Africa, Botswana, eSwatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and Asia (China)



## NASPERS

Established in 1915, Naspers has transformed itself to become a global consumer internet company and one of the largest technology investors in the world. Through Prosus, the group operates and invests globally in markets with long-term growth potential, building leading consumer internet companies that empower people and enrich communities. Prosus has its primary listing on Euronext Amsterdam, and a secondary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and Naspers is the majority owner of Prosus.

In South Africa, Naspers is one of the foremost investors in the technology sector and is committed to building its internet and ecommerce companies. These include Takealot, Mr D Food, Superbalist, Autotrader, Property24 and PayU, in addition to Media24, South Africa's leading print and digital media business.

Naspers has a primary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (NPN.SJ), a secondary listing on the A2X Exchange (NPN.AJ) in South Africa, and has a level 1 American Depositary Receipt (ADR) programme which trades on an over-the-counter basis in the United States of America.

For more information, please visit [www.naspers.com](http://www.naspers.com).





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