



PARLIAMENT
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SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND PAPERS IN PREPARATION FOR COP28

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HIGHLIGHTS

This document provides links to various documents that are prepared to support the delegation that will be attending the COP28 meeting in Dubai. The focus areas of the documents are the impact of climate change on climate finance, the health sector, food systems, and public finances, particularly the financial resources needed to address it. There is an emphasis on the vulnerability of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to climate-related risks and the potential fiscal risks and impacts on inequalities. The need for effective disaster preparedness and response efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change in South Africa and the importance of gender-responsive approaches in climate policies are highlighted. The papers were prepared as guided by the published thematic programme of COP28 that will focus on health, gender, trade, finance, energy, food and agriculture, disaster recovery and resilience.


1 CONSIDERING THE APPROACH TO CLIMATE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN SOUTH AFRICA

This document provides an overview of the impact that climate change is having on South Africa, particularly in relation to extreme weather events such as droughts, storms, flooding, and wildfires. These events have negative socio-economic impacts on the country, affecting various sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and fishing. The document highlights the challenges faced by the government in responding to these disasters, including the strain on resources and infrastructure. It also discusses measures that have been implemented to address the impacts of climate change and outlines issues for consideration by Parliament. There is a need for effective disaster preparedness and response efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change in South Africa. 


2 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION TOWARDS RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM

This document discusses the impact of climate change on food systems and agriculture in South Africa and the need for adaptation measures to ensure sustainability and resilience. It highlights the need for sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices and emphasises the role of the South African commercial agricultural sector in addressing climate change on a global scale. The document also mentions the vulnerability of small-scale farmers to climate change and the importance of research, innovation, and policy implementation in promoting sustainable agriculture. It suggests various strategies such as climate-smart agriculture, diversifying food sources and diets, and promoting renewable energy in the food supply chain. The document emphasises the role of Parliament in enacting laws and policies that incentivise sustainable




practices and strengthen the resilience of the agricultural value chain. The core message is the need for coordinated efforts across various sectors to adapt food systems to climate change and reduce their carbon intensity. 

3 THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH AND BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE SECTOR

This document discusses the impact of climate change on human health, particularly in South Africa. It highlights that climate change will directly and indirectly affect non-communicable diseases, increase poverty and malnutrition, and lead to population displacement and civil conflict. The document also mentions specific health risks in South Africa due to climate change, such as malnutrition, food insecurity, heat stress, water scarcity, and increased vector-borne diseases. It emphasises the need for resilience-building strategies and integrated responses to address the complex challenges posed by climate change on health. 

4 THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE FISCUS

This document discusses the impact of climate change on public finances and the financial resources needed to address it. It highlights the potential economic consequences of climate change, such as destabilizing financial markets and affecting vulnerable groups the most. The South African government has entered into a political declaration to support the country's transition to a low-carbon economy. The document mentions the effects of climate change on tax revenue, industrial growth, and funding requirements for carbon emissions. It also emphasises the need for climate financing and the potential fiscal risks and impacts on inequalities. The National Treasury plans to pilot a climate budget tagging methodology and introduce systemic changes for a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The document stresses the importance of climate change responsiveness and the challenges faced by developing countries in allocating fiscal resources to address climate change. 

5 REFLECTIONS ON CLIMATE FINANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Climate finance in South Africa is driven by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The country has mobilised significant funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including from the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. Climate finance in South Africa aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience, and address loss and damage from climate change impacts. The country is implementing various programs in energy efficiency, green transport, sustainable housing, and climate-resilient agriculture. The International Just Energy Transition Partnership has been established with an initial pledge of \$8.5



billion to support climate action in South Africa. However, there is a need for increased investment and planning on climate adaptation. Parliament plays a crucial role in overseeing climate finance and ensuring the proper use of funds. ↓

6 CLIMATE CHANGE AND SMALL BUSINESSES

This document highlights the importance of aligning the carbon tax rate with GHG emission reduction targets and the need to consider the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. South Africa is the largest GHG emitter on the African continent, with the energy sector accounting for the majority of emissions. Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) play a crucial role in achieving global decarbonization targets due to their collective size. Climate change poses both challenges and opportunities for SMMEs, and they are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks. The government has proposed progressively raising the carbon tax rates and implementing a long-term carbon tax trajectory. However, there is a need to improve the effectiveness of the carbon tax policy in South Africa. Climate change affects SMMEs in terms of employment and productivity loss, and companies that fail to manage the social consequences of transitioning may face greater scrutiny from investors. The just transition to a sustainable economy requires a planned decarbonization strategy that maximises climate action while minimizing social hardship. ↓

7 GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

This document discusses the impact of climate change on food systems and the need for gender-responsive approaches in climate policies. It emphasises that women's needs and interests are often overlooked in decision-making related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. However, women's involvement is crucial as they are well-positioned to contribute to climate adaptation measures due to their community and household responsibilities. Climate change undermines the stability of global food systems, leading to food insecurity and malnutrition. Increasing women's access to resources can reduce vulnerability and create more resilient households and communities. Furthermore, women's involvement in decision-making can drive the adoption of climate change policies that benefit their specific needs. The document highlights the importance of gendered considerations in climate change policy and action plans and calls for gender-responsive governance and inclusivity in disaster risk management. It also points out that women face higher risks and burdens from climate change impacts and emphasises the importance of women's engagement in co-creating resilience and adaptation strategies. Overall, the document emphasises the need to address gender inequality in climate change policies and actions to ensure the rights and needs of women and



girls are fulfilled while mitigating the effects of climate change on food security and livelihoods. 