SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL TALANOA DIALOGUE REPORT

23 - 24 August 2018
Midrand, South Africa

Hosted by: Minister of Environmental Affairs: Dr Edna Molewa

Supported by the European Union and its Member States and the Federal Government of Germany, through the Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) Programme implemented by GIZ.

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The key messages are summarised along the lines of the Talanoa framing questions of, Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? The key messages are drawn from sessions of the event to present an all-encompassing narrative that emerged from the dialogue.

1. KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICA TALANOA DIALOGUE

Where are we?

Scientific perspective
The world is currently on the RCP 8.5 mitigation scenario, which translates into reaching 2°C increase in global average temperature since the start of the industrial era by as early as 2040. Temperature increases are projected to range between 4 and 7 °C over the interior of South Africa by the end of the century, with increases plausibly reaching 3-4 °C by the 2040s. This alarming projection is a signal for enhanced action.

Drastic increases in the number of high fire-danger days, very hot days and heat-wave days are projected to take place across the African continent under a low mitigation action scenario. The southern African region is likely to become generally drier – South African annual average rainfall of 664mm, with rainfall reductions of up to 80mm projected for the eastern escarpment, yet North-eastern South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe will plausibly have an increase in extreme rainfall events. Multi-year El Niño type droughts - similar to the present southern and western cape drought - may plausibly occur from the mid-century (2036-2065) onwards.

Science suggests that highly impacted sectors include, water services provisioning and grain crops and livestock. As such South Africa and the region should focus on ambitious adaptation efforts e.g. last year there was a 30% decline in maize production. The region should consider regional integration programmes and regional trade in agriculture, as well as better regional water and energy transfer systems.

Social, economic, development perspective
The most pressing issue facing South Africa is socio-economic transformation, as the country is typified by inequality [Ranked 2nd most unequal society at a Gini Coefficient of 0.66], with slow economic growth and over 50% youth unemployment, 55% of people living in poverty, 17.1 million people on social grants; 23% of people above 26 years with no formal education; as well as more than 164 service delivery protests in 2017 compared to 137 the previous year. South Africa is further affected by infrastructure, education, health challenges, and a back-log of investments in these areas.

The economy is mineral and fossil fuel dependent, with a low growth track of not higher than 2% since the economic crisis, and a significant emitter per capita of 4 times the world average amongst countries of our size. New constraints to use natural resources due to climate change creates economic risks and may trigger the breaking down of social cohesion. Climate change related impacts on economic development and key industries/sectors have a direct and bigger impact on the poor; hence equity, justice and fairness considerations, as outlined in the IPCC Report, should be understood and expressed through this context. Fundamentally South Africa must address basic needs (health, housing, education, services) and align the building of resilience with poverty eradication.

South Africa’s natural resource dependant and energy intensive economy is particularly vulnerable to climate variability and to a carbon constrained global trade regime. Some new technology transitions would have a significant impact on the South African economy, such as the coal industry employs 80 000 with 4 or 5 dependents; and electric vehicle manufacturing will modify global value chains and the consumption of the Platinum Group Metals. Managing these transitions is also key to achieving South Africa’s development objectives.

Climate action perspective
South Africa aspires to make a fair contribution to the global effort and places priority on multilateralism, particularly the principles of progression and no backsliding in the Paris Agreement.

South Africa has communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement in 2015, which covers mitigation, adaptation, and support and has ratified the Agreement. The NDC commits to a policy backed “deviation from business-as-usual” in the form of a peak, plateau and decline GHG emissions trajectory range. South Africa’s emissions by 2025 and 2030 will be in a range between 398 and 614 Mt CO₂eq, relative to the 2010 emissions 518 239 Gg CO₂eq.

Six goals for adaptation are identified in the NDC, namely: i) to develop a national adaptation plan; ii) integration of climate considerations in national and subnational development planning; iii) building institutional capacity; iv) developing an early warning system; v) assessment of adaptation needs; and vi) communicating past adaptation investments.
South Africa has made progress in climate planning aspects, such as policy formulation (with its National Climate Change Response Policy, and currently consolidating comments from the Climate Change Bill consultation process), assessments for mitigation potential and vulnerability assessments by the national government and subnational levels, including the private sector. However, the actions lack a legal basis for coordination and a coherent vision that is based on an understanding of the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient future, that is also cognisant of the country’s development and economic challenges. As such there is insufficient policy certainty.

All sectors of the South African society are implementing climate actions, ranging from national initiatives, such as the Renewable Energy Independent Producer Procurement (REIPPPP) and the Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) on adaptation. Progress has, however, been incremental, such as the 4-5% incremental change in energy mix in the electricity sector, a sector representing 45% of emissions. Sub-national initiatives on low-carbon transportation systems are being implemented (e.g. bus rapid transit systems), as well as small-scale adaptation projects but these are not fully integrated across municipalities, albeit civil society has played an important role in grassroots adaptation programmes, particularly in agriculture, such as small scale climate smart agriculture, new sustainable livestock management, drought resistant crops, water harvesting/small dams in the Northern Cape and other areas of the country. Overall South Africa is investing almost 6% of its GDP for adaptation and other public expenditure provides bigger benefits for adaptation. Furthermore, some participants shared accounts of how they were able to leverage the UNFCCC finance mechanism to drive adaptation programmes, such the GCF Funded Small Grants Facility to the South African National Biodiversity Institute [SANBI], which have proved effective. The voluntary efforts of the private sector on carbon disclosure and implementation of mitigation actions, including participation in international initiatives suggest that the private sector is ready for enhanced action, with most listed companies having specific oversight on climate change issues and a keen interest for understanding financial impacts from an insurance point of view, and the water-energy-food nexus.

Where do we want to be?
South Africa aspires to becoming an environmentally sustainable society, with an expanded low-carbon economy and reduced emissions, while at the same time reducing poverty, unemployment and social inequalities by 2030. South African emphasis should continue to be on reducing poverty and inequality and building resilience; a thriving rural economy; urban development that is energy efficient and a just transition that is inclusive of trade union inputs in order to develop sector jobs as industries are shifting. The restructuring of the economy must be transformative, clearly identifying trade-offs in transitioning and full cost accounting; with long term planning that is economy- and society- wide in scope.

More specifically there was an affirmation by all participants of the importance of South Africa transitioning to a low-carbon economy, with a suggestion that the country target set a carbon neutrality target date, as a means sustainable development and to address the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The importance of South Africa shouldering its fair share in limiting global average temperature increase to below 2°C and towards 1.5°C was affirmed.

The centrality of adaptation was emphasised where South Africa aspires to become climate proof and climate resilient, with an enhanced understanding of its vulnerability and where climate change is fully integrated in development planning, including through municipal level IDPs. South Africa requires a climate governance structure that transcends the national sphere of government to better include provincial and local government structures. New framework legislation is being developed that will operate in a similar fashion as the air quality and waste management structures in the country.

How do we get there?
A number of proposals were made on how South Africa might get there, including:

- Action by business needs to be guided by human dignity, quality of life, sustainability, equity and support for the National Development Plan (NDP) and a just transition, for economic growth investments and re-industrialization. We need a dialogue with grassroots and local level, such that the conversation reflects peoples’ interests and issues, and that these key constituencies are part of the design process for a Just Transition.

- Establish a Just Transition Task Force driven from the Presidency, comprised of civil society, labour, business and government, to be housed in the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) to address the achievement and enhancement of South Africa’s NDC. The Task Force would define how the transition is to be managed, including preparing a sector analysis of job losses and opportunities associated with the transition.

- We need to identify the skills required in a low carbon economy and increase investment in R&D, however this requires policy makers and key stakeholders to have a clear sense of the future growth areas in the economy. South Africa must address fundamental issues, such as basic needs [health, housing, education, services] and align the building of resilience with poverty eradication.

  - Capacity building -including organisational- mentorship, continuation and sustainability of capacity building through various means including education, awareness and campaigns and the sharing of success stories and benefits. One of the emphasized elements were the inclusion of climate change and climate science in education. Specifically raised was the
need to have a broader participation in the climate response debate, including the general citizenry that is vulnerable to climate change and lobby groups likely to be impacted by the transition to a low-carbon economy

- We need to build on the broad support for South Africa’s NDC and peak plateau and decline (PPD) commitment including business, civil society and labour. Despite differences, there is a culture of 'South Africanism' that is typified by robust debate and a shared, collective understanding on how to move forward. However, South Africa needs to define its just transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy in light of its development challenges through its National Development Plan for 2030 (NDP) and respective plans such as Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Climate Change Bill, Tax Regime, etc.

- The key sectors of the economy that urgently require a clear resilience, and carbon constraint response are those that drive the balance of trade: primarily minerals and agricultural products, which are highly vulnerable to climate change and decisions of trading partners. This is particularly important in light of a transition to low carbon global economy, Parties investing in low carbon technologies would look to protect their investments in low carbon infrastructure (physical and policy) through trade, trade agreements, pricing and ultimately sanctions.

- There is a need to continue leveraging support from the finance mechanism of the UNFCCC, such as the Adaptation Fund and the GCF to allow for the upscaling of successful and robust projects. Consideration of budgetary support instruments from the UNFCCC support mechanism to support successful initiatives being implemented by the government. Budget lines for climate change should be created in government institutions.

- The support component of the South African NDC outlines actions the country is investing including up to 6% of GDP in adaptation programmes, as well as adaptation needs for scaling up some existing adaptation projects to $6.7bn investment per annum from 2020 going to 2030. For mitigation, the expansion of the REIPPPP needs an estimated $3bn per annum from 2020 to 2030, with some transformative projects requiring more than $1.3 trillion dollars cumulative investment by 2050.

2. OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS AND SUMMARIES

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa hosted the South African National Talanoa Dialogue on 23 and 24 August 2018. The event brought together over 160 people ranging from government departments, the business community, academia, civil society organisations, and representatives from international development partner countries.

At this consultation, national stakeholders, speaking on their own respective experiences and roles, exchanged best practices and narratives, identifying new opportunities for raising ambition and outlining their views on future climate action and a just transition towards a low emissions and climate resilient future.

The framing questions of the Talanoa Dialogue, Where are we? Where do we want to go? and How do we get there? were used to guide the development of key messages, which will be shared by the Minister at the High Level Talanoa Event to be held under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference (CoP 24/CMP14/CMA1-2) in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland

3. SESSION I: HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

The Director General of Environmental Affairs, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba, delivered the welcoming remarks;

- she emphasised that a climate change response should be nested in sustainable development.
- she further emphasised the diversity of stakeholders responding to the challenge, noting the consistent ranking of climate change in the top three risks in the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report,
- and that the 2018 report identified only cyber-attacks and weapons of mass destruction as having comparable significance of impact and likelihood of occurrence.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa Minister Molewa delivered the keynote address in which she emphasised;

- the importance of multilateralism enshrined in the Paris Agreement, specifically the principles on no backsliding, progression, equity and fairness in the global regime
- the world is already locked into a one-degree temperature rise, with current vagaries in climate indicating an untenable future, particularly for the poor and vulnerable
- The ambitious action South Africa is taking on climate change will be continued through its NDC on adaptation and mitigation
- African countries are investing up to 9% of their GDP on adaptation – with South African investing almost 6% - but also that public expenditure provides bigger benefits for adaptation [UNDP, 2017: APEA Report]
- progress made towards the National Development Plan 2030 objective of 20,000 MW from renewable energy, of which 6,376MW have been procured so far, with a further 2,300 MW signed up in April 2018
- progress made in the transport sector with some cities implementing Bus Rapid Transport Systems, with fleets using Compressed Natural Gas, Electric and Hybrid Systems
South Africa has been investing in the expanded public works programme for more than a decade, where national development objectives are combined with climate change and environmental response.

The EU Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, Dr Marcus Cornaro delivered a speech on which he shared messages on:

- EU commitment to an international rules-based system and solidarity in furthering climate action
- EU hosted its own Talanoa Dialogue on 13 June 2018, with South African participation, further stressed the working partnership through the Bilateral Forum on environment, climate change, sustainable development and water.
- Commitment by the EU to cut emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared from 1990 levels; renewables target to be increased up to 32%, from the initially agreed 27% of the EU energy mix by 2030; and an energy efficiency programme.
- EU has begun preparatory work for an EU long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the proposals being presented in November, before COP24.
- Commitment, agreement to modernise the EU Emissions Trading System post- 2020. expect the carbon price to increase even further in the coming years and become a strong driver of clean investments.
- Also agreed the 2030 targets for reducing emissions in sectors not covered by the Emissions Trading System, including transport, buildings and agriculture.
- The EU and its Member States together represent almost 50% of climate funding, with the EIB having delivered 20.2 billion EUR in 2016 (reported in 2017) representing a 15% increase compared to the previous year or about a 50% increase from 2012 levels with extra focus on adaptation action in most vulnerable countries.

The former COP 21 French Presidency lead negotiator, and Director of IDDRI responsible for the 2050 Pathways, Dr Laurence Tubiana shared on:

- Highlighted the centrality of the principles of no backsliding and progression in the architecture of the Paris Agreement
- The importance of thinking both in the long term and short term as envisaged in Art 2 and 4 of the PA
- Emphasised that ambition goes beyond the numbers and reaching targets, rather includes a mind shift on how we do things, understanding risk, new technologies and approaches to clean development, planning and decarbonizing sectors.
- Need a critical look at how sectors can increase ambition, and how non-state actors can increase their accountability.
- Important for SA diversifying away from mineral intensive / extractive industries, rebuilding momentum for 2020.

4. SESSION II: TECHNICAL PANEL

Francois Engelbrecht presented a science perspective on climate change in the region and specifically South Africa:

- The world is currently on the RCP 8.5 pathway (low mitigation scenario), which translates into reaching 2°C increase in global average temperature as early as 2040. To achieve the Paris agreement temperature goal an investment in technologies to remove carbon dioxide will be necessary.
- Temperature increases are projected to range between 4 and 7 °C over the interior by the end of the century, with increases plausibly reaching 3-4 °C by the 2040s - constituting an actionable climate change signal. Based on the world failing to achieve the 2020 and 2030 targets for emission reductions.
- Drastic increases in the number of high fire-danger days, very hot days and heat-wave days are projected to across the African continent under low mitigation. The southern African region is likely to become generally drier- with rainfall reduced by up to 80mm in the eastern escarpment.
- North-eastern South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe will plausibly have an increase in extreme rainfall events is plausible. Multi-year El Niño type droughts - similar to the present southern and western cape drought may plausibly occur from the mid-century (2036-2065) onwards.
- The highly impacted sectors include, water services provisioning, grain crops and livestock, as such South Africa and the region should focus on ambitious adaptation efforts e.g. last year there was a 30% decline in maize production. The region should consider regional integration programmes and regional trade in agriculture as well as better regional water and energy transfer systems.

Steve Nicholls presented on the transition risk that the South African economy faces in light of climate change, and observed the following:

- The most pressing issue facing South Africa is socio-economic transformation as the country is typified by inequality (Gini of 0.66) with slow economic growth and almost 50% youth unemployment, 55% of people living in poverty, 17.1 million people on social grants; 23% of people above 26 years with no formal education; more than 164 service delivery protests in 2017.
compared to 137 the previous year

- Key sectors of the economy which drive the balance of trade are primarily minerals and agricultural products, which are highly vulnerable to climate change. Part of the risk faced by these sectors is the exposure to South Africa’s major trading partners protecting their investments in carbon infrastructure (physical and policy) through trade, trade agreements, pricing, and ultimately sanctions.

- He cited some inevitable transitions, such as electric vehicles, which would have a significant impact on the South African economy, in terms of vehicle manufacturing as well as the consumption of the Platinum Group Metals, which is declining due to a number of factors including recovery of the metals.

- The coal mining industry is highly vulnerable to the transition as renewable energy technologies are becoming cheaper, and a stable industry requires a healthy domestic export markets, which is unlikely in a carbon constrained world. Sectors that are trade exposed, as such present a transition risk employ 26% of employed people in the country.

- Business in South Africa is progressive, and has contributed to the reduction of emission since 2011 translating to a 17% reduction between 2016 and 2017 [Carbon Disclosure Project]. Despite good corporate reduction progress how do we maintain momentum, as private sector, in partnership with other sectors, needs to enhance ambition.

- The global economy is changing, we need to reflect on how we will adapt to the change. How South Africa manages risk in a transition to a low carbon economy will place us in a position to be able to tap into the investment opportunities of a new climate economy. Rethink how we approach investment mindful of climate variabilities and impacts and our understanding of risk.

Tasneem Essop presented on the national development landscape, based on the work of the National Planning Commission;

- South Africa seeks be an environmentally sustainable society, with an expanded low-carbon economy and reduced emissions while at the same time reducing poverty, unemployment and social inequities by 2030. South Africa is crippled by a backlog in the investment in infrastructure, education, health, etc.

- Where are we? Economy is mineral and fossil fuel dependent; low growth track of not higher than 2% since the economic crisis; poverty levels increasing amongst black South Africans; unemployment level at nearly 40%, and 53% amongst youth; significant emitter 4 times the world average amongst countries of our size; economic risks related to climate change are based on decline in natural resources and result in conflict - breaking down a social cohesion--; impact on economic development and key industries/ sectors have a direct and bigger impact on the poor; equity, justice and fairness as outlined in the IPCC Report should understood and expressed through this context.

- Where do we want to go? consistent emphasis on reducing poverty and inequality together building resilience; thriving rural economy; urban development that is energy efficient; just transition that in inclusive of trade union inputs in order to sector jobs as industries are shifting, it must be transformative, clearly identifying trade off in transitioning and full cost accounting; long term planning that is economy wide and society wide in scope.

- How do we get there? tackle unresolved issues of who pays for what in the global arena; clarity in the shape and structure of the South African energy mix looks like; deal with ‘losing’ sectors and the associated job creation and losses; building resilience in existing and new sectors; inclusive voice on how the Transition will look like.

- We need to identify the skills required in a low carbon economy and increase investment in R&D, however this requires policy makers and key stakeholders to have a clear sense of the future growth areas in the economy; fundamentally South Africa must address basic needs (health, housing, education, services) and align the building of resilience with poverty eradication.

5. SESSION III: FACILITATED DIALOGUE
The facilitated Dialogue comprised of Joanne Yawitch reflecting on the stories from business, Tsakane Ngomane on behalf of government, Melisizwe Tyiso on behalf of labour, Rebecca Cameron on the subnational constituency, and Louise Naude on behalf of civil society.

Where are we?

- We are in a low economic growth and investment scenario in the South African economy, which impacts on business ability to act

- SA business is at the forefront of international trends and want better alignment with efforts internationally. South African companies are strong on climate governance with many having incorporated risk management in their plans, some with an integrated carbon price in their plans.

- Climate change negatively impacts on economic growth, however business in South Africa are reflecting risks and impacts to climate change, currently through the CDP (focused on climate change and water).

- R3.5 billion investment has been made on emissions reduction, based on scientifically determined targets, currently setting targets for investment in renewables 56% of countries with an internal target; 57% of respondents also have renewable energy targets.

- The government is the custodian on the policy mandate derived from the constitution, with a policy environment having been created through the National Climate Change Response Policy, and currently consolidating comments from the
Climate Change Bill consultation process which will provide a turning point in catalysing action

- The policy work of the Department of Environmental Affairs includes the adoption of the Mitigation Framework in 2015, with two phases, the first being voluntary going to 2020, and backed by legislation post 2020. The development of a National Adaptation Strategy is in its final stages with LTAS having been concluded, and starting another review, with the M&E System under development.

- All the above initiatives, together with other initiatives through sector departments, e.g., Carbon Tax, progress on renewable energy initiatives etc – will all enable us move towards the realization of our targets.

- The labour movement has been working on increasing awareness on climate change and how it potentially impacts the lives of the working class, to that produced a booklet of what climate change is

- Used DBSA Green Fund support to do provincial workshops across trade union educators and federations of unions; focussing on, what is climate change? why should trade unions take up the climate change struggle? how do the sectors that trade unions organise in, contribute towards climate change debates, what are the alternative production methods/new sectors that can arise from climate change with minimal job losses?

- The labour constituency further posited the need for a strategic focus on alternative production processes, jobs/ green jobs, inclusivity etc, all within the context of a just transition.

- Civil society anchored its contributions on the missing voice of grass roots participation, that the most impacted and vulnerable are, more often than not, who are absent from the room. Their participation is further plagued by the real challenges such as the triple challenges (unemployment, poverty, inequality) but also skills development.

Where do we want to be?

- Business advocates for the ideal of sustainable development and equitable society, hence it is in support of NDP and just transition. It is within such a context that economic growth, enhanced investment inflows and re-industrialization can also be realised.

- Business needs policy certainty and alignment, with an integrated energy transition roadmap and the envisaged energy mix to create opportunity for investment, such as clarity with the carbon tax and carbon budgets debate.

- Companies should better manage risk exposure with long term planning, timelines, technology investment. The risk should include both climate variability and operational risks as well as trade and competitiveness

- Our collective effort at enhancing ambition for emission reduction and climate resilience to align with what we need to achieve with SDGs

- Position South Africa for the 4th Industrial Revolutions and opportunities it presents for a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy, which must include local beneficiation and ownership from technologies and the training, education and reskilling of workers. Condition for the transition.

- Broadened participation and ownership on some climate change initiatives such as ownership of renewables - the issue of renewables should be deployed in consideration of such factors including beneficiation. In addition, socio-economic imperatives focusing on improving material conditions of workers will be addressed through such initiatives.

How do we get there?

- Action by business to be mindful of human dignity, quality of life, sustainability, equity and support of NDP and a just transition. Advocates for economic growth investments and re-industrialization. Supports Paris Agreement commitments and NDC, PPD

- South Africa needs a dialogue with grassroots and local level, such that the conversation reflects peoples interests and issues, and that they are part of the design process for a Just Transition.

- Establish a Just Transition Task Force driven from the Presidency, where civil society, labour, business and government housed in NEDLAC to address the achievement and enhancement of its NDC.

- Define how the transition is to be managed (e.g. the coal industry employs 80 000 with 4 or 5 dependents), including a sector analysis of job losses and opportunities associated with the transition.

- Creative approaches are needed for subnational governments access climate finance to support integrated planning and implementation.

- understanding the externality costs and the fact that entities need to internalize those - we need to connect the dots on impacts and their associated costs

- Scaling up on urban low carbon emissions project as it contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions
6. SESSION IV: BREAKOUT SESSION
The breakout sessions addressed the three Talanoa framing questions, with participants divided along the lines of mitigation, adaptation, a joint session for support and governance.

Where are we?

- Some participants cited the state of South African mitigation work as being backed by good policy and legislative framework, and noted the transformation of the electricity sector at an incremental rate of 4-5% per annum. They further noted that further action in constrained by lack of resources to implement the policy actions.
- Some participants felt the country has not implemented the Copenhagen pledge, whereas other observed the challenge as not implementation of the pledge, rather ambitious action has been hampered by a lack of leadership and coherent vision - particularly from government - evidence being misalignment of sectoral policies with climate policy.
- This according to participants leads to a significant divide between the planning objectives with implementation and subsequent impacts. Furthermore, it is unclear as to who is undertaking which activities, particularly at municipal level, a key platform for implementing climate actions.
- Some participants highlighted the importance of a balanced development of a transition vision to strongly embed adaptation, citing that South Africa is the 10th most vulnerable country in the world.
- Some civil society participants shared the current efforts which include local level in the agricultural sector such as the development of small-scale farmers in the Namaqua region, such as rooibos production, climate smart agriculture, new breeds and cultural practises such as mobile kraals with biodiversity and economic benefits. Some are supporting installation of solar panels, bio digesters, water harvesting systems and small dam refurbishment in rural schools and communities whilst others are promoting the use of compost and drought resistance crops.
- Some private sector participants shared their actions on climate change response is a sustainability and risk management issue, hence participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project, where a number of mitigation actions were taken, including investment in renewable energy. They are still in the early stages of understanding climate impacts, with current research topics being on jobs for the 4th industrial revolution, understanding financial impacts from an insurance point of view, and the water-energy-food nexus.
- Some research institutions highlighted their current investments, which are in climate modelling and provide support to government and private sector with modelling products for their planning processes, and increasing the body of knowledge on climate impacts, which have served as inputs to the IPCC assessments.
- Subnational players shared a significant amount of activity, which is rather poorly coordinated, however with a lot of initiatives in the transport sector, including a specific municipality working on, as part of an international programme on greening hospitals focusing on waste, energy efficiency, recycling and food production.
- Some participant organisations outlined a provision of support to communities through a small grants’ facility supported by the UNFCC finance mechanism, which the Adaptation Fund is replicating in other countries. The key features include that, communities decide on the project they want, and partnerships are established to support the community activities.
- Focus has primarily been on vulnerability assessments both in the private and subnational sectors, integration of climate change considerations into the strategies, planning and design of climate programmes, and less work done on actual projects and reporting. The structures and governance arrangements for climate change have gone unfunded.

Where do we want to be?

- Participants affirmed the importance of South Africa transitioning to a low-carbon economy, with suggesting of the country targeting carbon neutrality by 2060. This should be done as a means, and to address the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.
- Participants outlined a vision where South Africa would shoulder its fair share in limiting global average temperature increase to below 2°C and towards 1.5°C. Some indicated the need for the country to continue increasing their ambition in subsequent undertakings to the international community.
- To have climate proof and climate resilient society, with an enhanced understanding of vulnerability, where climate change is integrated in development planning, including through municipal level IDPs.
- Resilience for urban and rural communities addressing all sectors, specifically farming systems and infrastructure, with clear business standards for adaptation, with a society that has deep awareness of climate change issues.
- To have a climate governance structure that transcends the national level, rather to have provincial and local government structures, on the back of the legislation that operates in a similar fashion as the air quality and waste management structures in the country.
How do we get there?

- Participants emphasised the alignment and coordination of mitigation policies of the country as a means to enhance ambition. The long-term vision should be supported by shorter- and medium-term milestones. This should be built into the NPC review of the country’s long-term vision. The vision should outline what a transition to low carbon economy means for all.

- Participants outlined the assessment of problem and possible pathways, and identified the definition of a clear vision, coupled with a clear articulation and understanding of technology requirements as a way of achieving our objectives.

- Some participants identified some concrete areas of focus, as including, addressing structural problems associated with the energy and transport sectors, including the alignment of the energy and transport policies with climate mitigation objectives.

- Other recognised the importance of environmental rehabilitation and enhancement of carbon sinks as a key intervention in achieving mitigation objectives, whilst others emphasised the importance of a multisectoral approach as well as spatial planning and greening the building and construction industry.

- A concerted effort on education, skilling, training and public awareness are key aspects of enhancing climate action, with a view of developing appropriate skills for the transition, whilst considering the relevance of indigenous knowledge, and behavioural change. Some participants proposed a central hub for expertise as well as for availing means of implementation as a necessary mechanism in delivering ambitious actions.

- Some participants identified public-private partnerships as central piece to achieving the country’s mitigation objectives, which however requires policy certainty to stimulate investments. Some participants specifically highlighted the need for a protocol for Carbon Capture Storage to support the contributions of the petroleum sector due to limited mitigation opportunities.

- We need to operationalisation of climate service framework to enhance processing of data, knowledge generation, and coordinating efforts and based on science, so as to continuously understand the state of affairs and identifying adaptation options.

- Enhanced project implementation including community ownership of projects, whilst bridging the gap between traditional and modern knowledge, as well as policy and community action. Ensuring that projects deliver on the socio-economic objectives of the country through the implementation of robust projects that build from previous lessons.

- Leveraging the finance mechanism of the UNFCCC, such as the Adaptation Fund and the GCF for the upscaling of robust projects. Considering budgetary support instruments from the UNFCCC support mechanism to support successful initiatives being implemented by the government.

- Leverage on existing Policies for CC implementation through integration of CC issues and avoid duplication with long-term planning integrated in all spheres and sectors of government.

- Focus on big projects on resilience and link small projects with existing projects, whilst moving from general policy discussion to how specific impacts can be addressed.

- Creation of climate change adaptation budget lines in government institutions, including through integrating projects -beyond planning- into the municipal sector planning through IDPs. Expanding the small grants facility beyond climate smart agriculture, climate proofing and early warning system to cover other areas, and multiplied to different areas of the country.

- Capacity building -including organisational- mentorship, continuation and sustainability of capacity building through various means including education, awareness and campaigns and the sharing success stories and benefits. The inclusion of climate change, climate science in education was emphasised.

- Improve on education outreach, awareness raising among communities, entities, peers etc on how to access climate finance.

7. SESSION V: CLOSEOUT SESSION

The closeout session was a reflection from the Deputy Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs. Climate Change and Air Quality Branch providing some initial feedback, which was primarily based on Day 1 proceedings, with the complete document being made available on the 28th of August 2018.

DEA remains grateful to the support provided by the European Union under the SPIPA programme. This new programme from the EU has certainly had positive impact not only in supporting the hosting of the Talanoa Dialogue but also came out with messages that are relevant to other national policy development process.

In some cases the outcomes proved to be useful for other national process such as the work that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is doing particularly on the mid-term low-greenhouse gas emission strategy intended for publication in 2020. These messages are also consistent and feed well with the scenarios work the National Planning Commission is currently undertaking.

The Environment Minister will share key messages from the South African Talanoa Dialogue with the international community at COP24.