



# PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE COP 26, GLASGOW

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MEETING  
31 AUGUST 2021



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

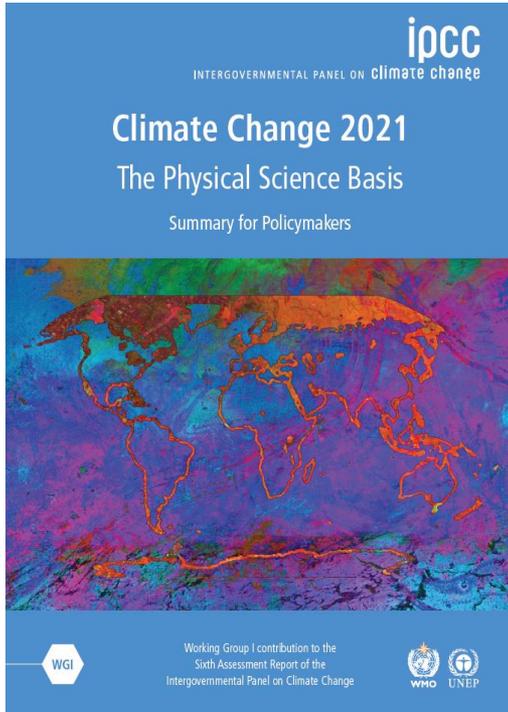


# Purpose

- To provide Portfolio Committee with:
  - Update on UNFCCC Negotiations, and
  - Proposed negotiating position for engagement at the UNFCCC's Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held from 31 October - 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.



# Climate change – the latest science



- Climate change results from **GLOBAL WARMING**, which is in turn a result of human activity (GHG emissions) – **this is now beyond dispute**
- The IPCC Working Group I sixth assessment report (AR6) shows that the world will probably reach or exceed 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) of warming within just the next two decades.
- **Only with ambitious emission cuts can the world keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C**, which is necessary for preventing the worst climate impacts.
- **Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.** Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since AR5.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa can expect more frequent heat waves, heavy rainfall, fires and droughts** which will continue to affect livelihoods, agriculture, water systems and ecosystems.
- **Some impacts, such as sea level rise, will not be reversible** for at least several centuries even after emissions fall.

The vulnerability of the African continent to the adverse impacts of climate change is indisputable. South Africa faces severe impacts on, *inter alia*, agriculture; thereby impacting food security, tourism, water availability, and infrastructure damage from extreme weather events.



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# CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRED A MULTILATERAL APPROACH

- The need to reduce emissions in a coordinated way, and to adapt to climate change, and more importantly, to find ways to fund both of these activities, requires a multilateral solution.
- Moreover, the solution needs to be fair – it needs to take into account that not all countries have the same capacity to respond to climate change, and that not all countries are equally responsible for climate change.
- These concerns have led the international community to develop an international climate change regime.
- Under the UNFCCC, the main instrument for implementing climate change solutions is the Paris Agreement (PA), which was negotiated in Paris in 2015, and is now key to international efforts to address climate change.
- Under the PA, each country is expected to submit a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) every five years, which must contain a mitigation target, and can also contain adaptation measures and support needs.
- The collective impact of all NDCs is reviewed every five years. If the overall mitigation effort is inadequate, countries are expected to take this into account when submitting their next NDCs.



# ROAD TO GLASGOW CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – COP 26<sub>(1)</sub>

- We have received assurance from the UK that COP 26 will go ahead in Glasgow as planned.
- In 2020 the UNFCCC successfully hosted two successful Informal Dialogue meetings, namely;
  - a) The June Momentum – 1 to 10 June 2020; and
  - b) The Climate Dialogues – 23 Nov to 4 Dec 2020.
- In 2021 the UNFCCC hosted:
  - c) A virtual intersessional meeting of Subsidiary bodies –29 May to 17 June 2021.

## **NEXT:**

- d) COP 26– 1 to 12 Nov 2021.



# ROAD TO GLASGOW CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – COP 26<sub>(2)</sub>

- The Incoming UK COP26 Presidency also hosted an in-person Ministerial meeting in the UK on the 25 to 26 July 2021 in London.
- Ministers were expected to provide guidance to the experts on key political negotiating issues such as carbon market, adaptation, etc.
- South Africa highlighted that for the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow to be relevant, responsive and successful - we need ambition and progression on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, i.e., finance, technology and capacity building.
- South Africa also focused on the issue of adaptation which remains a key priority for Africa - called for an outcome at COP 26 on adaptation that will enable practical progress, including launching a formal programme of work on the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation and impressed on the fact that we need to increase the adaptive ability and resilience of the global population to the adverse impacts of climate change by at least 50% by 2030 and by at least 90% by 2050.
- **The full position/ mandate for COP 26 including SA's Nationally Determined Contribution is still before cabinet for consideration and adoption.**



# EXPECTATIONS FOR GLASGOW CLIMATE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES (COP26)

- South Africa expects an outcome for the Glasgow Climate Change Conference that is negotiated in a transparent, inclusive and balanced manner, with priority given to all core issues under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, in particular to:
  - Secure new commitments of support by developed countries for implementation by developing countries, addressing both mitigation and adaptation;
  - Complete work on Market Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, prioritising securing a share of proceeds for predictable financing for adaptation;
  - Conclude the elaboration on common reporting formats and tables as this will enhance transparency and understandability of Party contributions on mitigation, enhancing mutual trust and predictability and making it easier to aggregate the collective impact against the global temperature goal;



# EXPECTATIONS FOR GLASGOW CLIMATE CONFERENCE OUTCOMES (COP 26)(2)

- Conclude consideration of the common time frames for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which is also essential to transparency, comparability and the aggregation to assess the collective impact;
- Launch the work program on the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA);
- Provide clarity on and commence the process for determining a new and more ambitious goal for long-term finance, increasing beyond the \$100 billion per year from 2025; and
- Ensuring adequate budget allocation for the UNFCCC secretariat to enable it to discharge its mandates, especially adaptation activities under the convention and its Paris Agreement.



# South African Delegation

- The DFFE is responsible for coordination and national implementation of the UNFCCC decisions.
- South Africa's negotiating team includes representatives of other key sector departments:
  - Mineral Resources and Energy, Trade, Industry and Competition, Transport and Science and Innovation, as well as representatives of specialised research and academic institutions.
- The UK COP President will host a one-day Leaders Summit on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 with the objective to:
  - Raise ambition;
  - Accelerate climate action;
  - Generate political support and momentum for the negotiations.
- Parliamentarians from South Africa are expected to interact with counterparts under the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.



# South African Pavilion

- The DFFE in partnership with National Business Initiative (NBI) will co-host the South African pavilion COP 26,
- The SA Pavilion will:
  - Showcase advances made on Climate Change Action by both Government and Business,
  - Provide a platform to demonstrate collaborative action between government and business,
  - Provide an opportunity to promote South Africa's climate response,
  - Highlight the significant differences in addressing Just Transition concerns between developing and developed countries
  - Provide an open and interactive space for different stakeholders to engage closely and share insights on issues that affect the South African economy, the wellbeing of our people and the growth and development prospects of our country,
  - Provide an opportunity to showcase and attract support for key climate change actions by business, civil society and other stakeholders that are not represented in the formal negotiations.



# Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Portfolio Committee notes the:
  - Update on UNFCCC Negotiations, and
  - Proposed negotiating position for engagement and preparations for the UNFCCC's Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held from 31 October - 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.



# THANK YOU!

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Thank You