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## NEWS UPDATE FROM THE NBI

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10 November 2017

### Share in the COP23 Action, On Now

This NBI News Update provides a short brief on COP23, which is on right now (6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017), as a key climate event but also some practical information about the COP and some details of the NBI and general business activity at COP23 this year. Please feel free to share this with your networks where you know they are travelling to COP.

#### Quick COP primer

Although technically under the Presidency of the Fijian government COP23 is happening in Bonn, Germany this year. Following on from the key political moment of COP22 in Paris, which gave us the Paris Agreement, this is a technical COP where parties (countries) try to put the rules in place to actually make the Paris Agreement work. The key political interest point is what the US will do given President Trump's announcement of a US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement (this will take until 2020). With Syria and Nicaragua ratifying the Paris Agreement in the last few weeks – only the US remains outside the agreement.

#### Key issues to monitor during COP23 include:

- The facilitative dialogue is a ministerial dialogue intended to work out how Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (countries (inadequate) bottom up commitments) will be updated in 2020. Of key interest is how non-state actor's interests and activities will be included in this.
- The Marrakesh Partnership ([Action Agenda](#)) results from a 2015 COP agreement to appoint two High-Level Champions from France and Morocco to facilitate partnerships with the ultimate objective to accelerate climate action. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action provides the working framework for the high-level champions. The Marrakech Partnership organises actions across seven thematic areas, namely – land use, water, oceans and coastal zones, energy, industry, human settlements and transport. As the WBCSD aptly asks "Will this become a show and tell...or a genuine policy dialogue to catalyse private sector ambition?"
- Climate resilience is an increasing priority in the negotiations, strongly supported by South Africa. Making meaningful progress on resilience and adaptation is critical.
- Climate finance may be an area significantly impacted by the US withdrawal. The Green Climate Fund is making slow progress and the adaptation fund is under political threat. If we are going to transform economies, particularly in the developing world, climate finance is critical. What role is there for the private sector?
- The global stocktake refers to a proposed five-yearly review of the impact of countries' climate change actions. It is a key element in the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

While the COP technically started this week on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November the business action only really gets going later. The predominant event programme of interest to businesses is the Marrakech Partnership/Global Climate Action agenda, taking place from today, the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. There are many other formal side events providing ample opportunity for stakeholder dialogue, policy influence, exchange of best practice and showcasing of successful climate strategies. An advantage of being a technical, as opposed to a political, COP is that many of these discussions are more detailed.

**There is plenty of NBI and business action at COP23 this year:**

#### [The South African Pavilion](#)

The Government of South Africa, through the Department of Environmental Affairs, and the National Business Initiative (NBI) are hosting a South African Pavilion at COP23. The purpose of the pavilion is to share the positive story about South African activity in climate change. To reflect that a sophisticated policy environment is in development and that South African companies have been making steady mitigation and adaptation progress. Government and business are working together and are making a bigger impact than working on their own. The pavilion will show a video on the South African context and examples of efforts made by government and business on loop throughout. This video will be supported by 4 infographics. One infographic on South Africa's vital statistics, one on the South African policy environment, one on adaptation and one on mitigation. We hope that the South African pavilion will become a meeting place for people talking about the need to transform their economies to meet the needs of society and the environment.

Join in the fun and view the [video here](#) and [infographics here](#).

## The Team South Africa Cocktail Event

On the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> November (18:00 onwards) Government and the NBI will be hosting a cocktail event at the South African pavilion. The idea is to celebrate our mutual successes and build relationships that will allow us to do more together. Anyone is welcome to attend this function.

## NBI Events

Part of the South African pavilion is a small event space. [Attached](#) is the schedule of events that the NBI will host at the South African pavilion and appended at the end is the full schedule of events hosted at the pavilion (some from our member companies and our government partners). **Please feel free to share this with your networks where you know they are travelling to COP.** We are working with government on events looking at energy efficiency, adaptation, climate finance and our socio-economic development scenarios for South Africa.

## NBI speaking at other events

Between our CEO, Joanne Yawitch, and our Head of Environment, Steve Nicholls, the NBI is speaking at three other events. We are speaking on climate finance at the [Development and Climate Days](#) (hosted on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November), a South African government adaptation event and a WWF driven event as part of their Climate Action Platforms (CAPs), which aim to catalyse greater engagement of non-state actors in support of accelerated implementation and enhancement of NDCs by 2020.

## Our Partner Activities

### We Mean Business

- We Mean Business are continuing to support ambition in the negotiations and have produced a "Z-Card" describing the collective business policy recommendations. Please find [attached](#) and **please let us know if you have any comments!**
- In addition, We Mean Business are hosting or are involved in a number of events at COP, view them [here](#).
- Please also look at the [attached](#) COP23 Event Highlights – a perspective on key events from We Mean Business.

### The WBCSD

- The WBCSD are helping lead the Marrakech Partnership programme and many of their members are participating in the thematic days.
- The WBCSD flagship event (which was the key attraction at COP22) "[The Low Emissions Solutions Conference \(LESC\)](#)" will be in a short format (given their engagement through the Marrakech Partnership). They will have a novel format of engaging the full audience of 350 people in a dialogue across business, government, academia and NGOs. The theme of this LESC is "Implementation at Scale" and the outcomes of this event will be made available to the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action High Level Roundtable on Innovation on 14 November.

## Full Event Schedule

The full COP side event schedule is [available here](#).

The **Marrakech Partnership** with its thematic days will be central to business engagement at COP23. The final agendas can be viewed [here](#). Please share the Industry and Innovation Day information widely with your stakeholders to ensure we have a relevant and diverse audience attending on both of these days. Please also note that several of our members are participating in the other thematic days as well.

Please contact [Steve Nicholls](#) should you have any enquiries or comments.

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