



29 June 2020

## Launch of the Race to Zero Campaign held on World Environment Day

The 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 simultaneously marked World Environment Day and the launch of the Race to Zero Campaign, uniting leading climate action networks on the delivery of structured net-zero greenhouse-gas emission pledges by the COP26 UN Climate Conference in 2021.

This Initiative mobilizes a coalition of leading net zero initiatives, representing **449 cities, 21 regions, 995 businesses, 38 of the biggest investors and 505 universities**. These 'real economy' actors join 120 countries in the **largest ever alliance** committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. Collectively these actors now cover nearly 25% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and over 50% GDP.

**Led by the UNFCCC High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action – Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz** - Race To Zero mobilizes actors outside of national governments to join the **Climate Ambition Alliance**, which was launched at the UNSG's Climate Action Summit 2019 by the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera. A full list of Race to Zero partners can be accessed [here](#).

The objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

Watch the recording of the [webcast here](#). If you would like to participate in the Race to Zero please see the [minimum requirements](#) and a [mapping of current practice around net zero targets](#).

The global Alliances for Climate Action is one of the organisations contributing to the Race to Zero Campaign and contributed 276 signatories to the total number of cities and businesses mobilized around the net zero commitment including, the four major metros in South Africa and a collection of leading private sector companies. ACA is operating locally in several countries, including South Africa, to mobilize stakeholders behind a net zero by 2050 commitment.

**The National Business Initiative (NBI), WWF South Africa, and C40** are the local Alliances for Climate Action partners for this global Initiative working with cities and other stakeholders to achieve a just and thriving net zero economy for

South Africa by 2050. The Alliance is dedicated to forming city-to-city, city-to-business, and business-to-business partnerships to advocate for a shift toward a net zero economy by 2050 and implement collective action projects that help us reach this goal, mitigate climate risk and unlock real economic opportunity.

**For more information, and to join the local alliance, please contact Reitumetse Molotsoane [ReitumetseM@nbi.org.za](mailto:ReitumetseM@nbi.org.za) or Geeta Morar [GeetaM@nbi.org.za](mailto:GeetaM@nbi.org.za).**



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela

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