

# ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



On A Clear Day: Issue 837, 2 June 2023

Dear Angela

## NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

**WHY JOIN THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)?** South Africa continues to face major challenges underpinned by the fact that we are one of the most unequal societies in the world, with more than half of our population living in poverty, accompanied by escalating unemployment levels. Additionally, climate change threatens to further exacerbate these pressing economic and social issues. The NBI's purpose is to effect change in South Africa in the areas of **Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability** and **Institutional Capacity**. We believe a thriving society, economy and environment are possible, through the collective action of business, government and civil society. Please contact: [Gillian Hutchings](#) - Head: Membership & Communications for further information about our work and how to become an NBI Member Company.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS** The National Business Initiative (NBI) is thrilled to extend a heartfelt welcome to our new member company, Spur! We are excited that you have chosen to join forces with us in our mission to shape a vibrant and prosperous South African society. Your decision to join us is a testament to your unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the world around you. We admire your dedication to fostering economic growth, creating sustainable practices, and nurturing an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

**SA NEEDS GAS, BUT 20-YEAR POWER SHIP CONTRACTS ARE 'ILL-CONCEIVED' – OLVER** While the country could potentially use power ships to provide electricity to address the energy crisis urgently, there are concerns about the costs and potential for corruption associated with 20-year contracts, said Crispian Olver. Olver, who is executive director of the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), made his remark in a personal capacity at Daily Maverick's all-day conference on climate change and environmental issues. [News24, 26 May 2023.](#)

**ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE: UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE** The highly anticipated second edition of the ESG Africa Conference is scheduled to take place from 4-5 October 2023 at the Sandton Convention Centre. This groundbreaking event aims to explore how Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles can drive sustainable growth and development throughout the African continent. With an impressive lineup of renowned speakers, engaging panel discussions and networking opportunities, the conference promises to be a crucial gathering for industry leaders, policymakers, investors and anyone passionate about Africa's future. In addition to securing sponsorships from various organisations, the organisers are excited to announce strategic partnerships with key bodies such as the SVAI (Shared Value Africa Initiative), the NBI (National Business Initiative), BUSA (Business Unity South Africa), the Good Governance Academy, SAPVIA (South African Photovoltaic Initiative Association), Good Governance Africa and Sustainability Africa. [Mail and Guardian, 23 May 2023.](#)

**PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PEPSICO FOUNDATION AND WATERAID PROVIDES SAFE WATER ACCESS IN ETHIOPIA** The PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of food and beverage giant PepsiCo, has partnered with WaterAid to bring clean water to more than 10,000 people in two rural towns in the North Mecha District of Ethiopia. This is part of the company's pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) agenda – a strategic end-to-end transformation with sustainability at the center of how it will create growth and value by inspiring positive change for the planet and people. PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation work with partners — including WaterAid, Water.org, Safe Water Network, and the National Business Initiative — alongside community-driven and local organizations to close the gap in safe water access. One of their pep+ goals is to reach 100 million people with safe water access by 2030. [Smart Water Magazine, 22 May 2023.](#)

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS TO CUT CARBON: SUPPLY CHAIN'S ROLE IN CLIMATE ACTION** Following a difficult and tumultuous few years for the warehousing and logistics industry, there is hope on the horizon. Global supply chain pressures have gradually begun to ease, prompting many to adopt an optimistic outlook on the progress of the sector as it navigates its post-pandemic response. However, due to the enormous impact of the global supply chain on carbon emissions, sustainability progress still hangs in the balance as it becomes apparent that the UN Paris Agreement climate pledge is at real risk of being missed unless action is taken immediately. According to a report by the National Business Initiative in partnership with Business Unity South Africa and Boston Consulting Group, South Africa's transport sector is the third largest emitting sector, with over 90% of these emissions coming from road transport. [Bizcommunity, 22 May 2023.](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**TRACIT RECOMMENDS GOVT ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY ANTI-ILLICIT TRADE COORDINATOR** Global independent private organisation the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (Tracit) has published a report on illicit trade activity in South Africa, with recommendations on how the country can increase its efforts to curb the problem. For South Africa to achieve its critical development objectives, it must effectively tackle what is a pervasive and complex problem of illicit trade that undermines and corrodes the entire economy, Business Unity South Africa (Busa) states, in hosting the launch of the report on behalf of Tracit. [Engineering News, 30 May 2023.](#)

**AT \$1BN A DAY, SOLAR INVESTMENT TO OUTPACE OIL FOR FIRST TIME IN 2023** The International Energy Agency (IEA) is forecasting that investment in solar will rise to more than \$1 billion a day, or to some \$380 billion for 2023 as a whole, increasing spending on the renewable technology to above upstream oil for the first time ever. The agency's World Energy Investment also indicates that more than \$1.7-trillion of the \$2.8 trillion to be invested in energy globally this year, will be

directed towards clean technologies, including renewables, electric vehicles, nuclear, grids, storage, low-emission fuels, efficiency improvements and heat pumps. [Engineering News, 25 May 2023.](#)

**AFRICAN FREE TRADE AREA COULD SPUR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: UN CHIEF** Mr. Guterres was speaking on the final day of the annual Africa Dialogue Series in New York, where the focus this year was on accelerating implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – set to be the largest in the world. He said the AfCFTA is set to be an engine of that growth. *“Its full implementation could generate income gains of up to nine per cent by 2035, according to latest estimates. This would lift up to 50 million people out of extreme poverty and reduce income inequalities,”* he added. The Secretary-General stressed that realizing the AfCFTA promise calls for action across four critical areas, starting with boosting access to financial resources and investment. *“We need a fundamental reform of the global financial system so that Africa is represented at the highest level,”* he said. Barriers that hold back intra-African trade and production capacities must also be broken down, including through eliminating tariffs, building *“made in Africa”* supply chains, and harmonizing regulations that would enable investment. [United Nations, 24 May 2023.](#)

**GREEN LIGHT FOR GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS TRACKING NETWORK** A hundred and ninety-three countries have unanimously approved the creation of a global greenhouse gas monitoring mechanism, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced. The landmark decision comes as heat-trapping greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels – *“higher than at any time over the last 800,000 years”*, WMO warned. The new Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will combine observations from Earth and from space with modelling, to fill critical information gaps. It will build on WMO’s experience in coordinating international collaboration on weather prediction. The agency said that the exchange of data will be *“free and unrestricted”*, in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change. [United Nations, 24 May 2023.](#)

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY “FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION”: BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HALTING AND REVERSING NATURE LOSS BY 2030** 22 May is recognized as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) by the United Nations to raise awareness about biodiversity concerns. This year’s global celebrations are particularly significant and bring a renewed sense of hope as they coincide with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at COP 15 in Montreal. To mark this historic achievement, this year’s theme is: *“From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity”*. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 22 May 2023.](#)

## NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

**PEPSICO RELEASES 2022 GLOBAL DE&I REPORT: GENDER PARITY IN MANAGEMENT RISES TO 44%** PepsiCo, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEP) published its most recent Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Report, illustrating actions that are driving equity and further embedding pep+ into the organization. Key accomplishments include making progress on gender parity in management globally, maintaining pay equity, while supporting historically marginalized communities around the world. [PepsiCo, 31 May 2023.](#)

**SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2023** This edition focuses on the need for companies to report non-financial data in order to help measure socio-economic progress better than is currently being done by the calculation of gross domestic product (GDP). This measurement of economic activity is a prominent macroeconomic statistic and is based on industry-level data which, in turn, originates from production and other data sourced directly from South African companies. [PwC, 30 May 2023.](#)

**MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER, REVENTUS POWER, AGL, AND DIRECT INFRASTRUCTURE SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR 2.5 GW OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN GIPPSLAND, AUSTRALIA** A consortium of Australian and global companies, comprising Mainstream Renewable Power (“Mainstream”), Reventus Power, AGL and DIRECT Infrastructure has submitted a feasibility license application for a 2.5 GW offshore wind development off the coast of Victoria, Australia. The consortium brings significant global offshore wind development track records, coupled with deep Australian industry and energy generation knowledge to deliver on the nation’s offshore wind ambitions. The area in the Bass Strait off Gippsland, Victoria, was the first offshore wind zone to be declared by the Australian Government. According to the Australian Department of



Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> zone has the potential to support more than 10 GW of year-round energy generation and the creation of thousands of new jobs. [Mainstream Renewable, 30 May 2023.](#)

**FOODFORWARD SA EXPANDS NATIONAL FOOTPRINT WITH NINTH WAREHOUSE OPENING** Registered food redistribution non-profit, FoodForward SA (FFSA), is proud to announce the opening of its ninth and newest warehouse in Mbombela, Mpumalanga – signalling the final milestone on its mission to establish a branch in every South African province. “We are grateful to have a warehouse in each province across South Africa,” says Andy Du Plessis, FFSA managing director. “Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic caused devastating scenes of acute food insecurity, we made it our mission to rapidly scale our operations. This strategic expansion has been realised with the long-awaited opening of our Mpumalanga warehouse.” The Mbombela warehouse will grow to serve as a vital hub for food distribution to around 150 beneficiary organisations (BOs), delivering life-saving services in the province. These organisations include those focussing on affordable healthcare, orphans and vulnerable children, care for women, skills development for unemployed youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. [Absa, 29 May 2023.](#)

**DE BEERS ON PACE TO DELIVER ON AMBITIOUS 2030 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND CREATE ENDURING POSITIVE IMPACT FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET** De Beers Group today provided an update on progress toward its 2030 ‘Building Forever’ sustainability goals. The goals were set in 2020 and are De Beers’ blueprint for creating a positive and sustainable impact in its host countries and throughout the diamond value chain. They span four pillars: leading ethical practices, partnering for thriving communities, protecting the natural world, and accelerating equal opportunity. During 2022, De Beers saw advances across all four Building Forever pillars and all 12 goals, which included reductions in water use and energy intensity, innovations in diamond tracing technology, increased representation of women in senior leadership and progress toward its climate commitments. [De Beers, 24 May 2023.](#)

**BCG EMPOWERS 160 STUDENTS TO DEVELOP FUTURE SKILLS AT THE 5TH EDITION OF JEEL TAMOOH LAUNCH EVENT** Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the global management consulting firm, launched the 5th edition of the Jeel Tamooh program on May 15. Under the theme ‘Building skills for the future’, the launch event focused on innovation, sustainability, and resilience, as well as personal development to accelerate professional advancement of youth in alignment with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030. Students who participate in the program will have the chance to connect with some of the biggest names in the industry, giving them a head start in building a professional network and access to tools to develop a consulting skillset. [Boston Consulting Group, 24 May 2023.](#)

**EXXARO AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (YES) PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES TO BUILD OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA** Diversified mining and renewable energy solutions company, Exxaro Resources’ partnership with the Youth Employment Services (‘YES’) programme, has led to 259 youth in its host communities from Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces being afforded job opportunities, since the inception of the programme in quarter one of 2022. Given the risks and opportunities inherent in the communities where Exxaro operates, the company’s Human Rights Policy has identified the right to equal opportunities/non-discrimination and transformation as key areas of potential impact related to Human Rights that the business aims to address. [Exxaro, 24 May 2023.](#)

**UPDATED ANALYSIS SHOWS DRAMATIC VARIATION OF METHANE EMISSIONS AMONG U.S. OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS** Ceres and Clean Air Task Force, with analysis from ERM, released the third annual report, Benchmarking Methane and other GHG Emissions of Oil and Natural Gas Production in the United States, which analyzes the production-based emissions of the largest oil and gas producers in the United States and highlights dramatic variation among producers and basins. The report provides clear, consistent information that investors, operators, natural gas purchasers, policymakers and regulators can use to compare producers’ performance in an industry where voluntarily reported emissions metrics have historically been inconsistent and non-comparable. [ERM, 23 May 2023.](#)

**VODACOM WORKING WITH ESKOM ON VIRTUAL WHEELING PLATFORM TO ENABLE FIRMS WITH DISTRIBUTED DEMAND TO BUY RENEWABLE POWER** Mobile telecoms company Vodacom has approach Eskom with a ‘virtual wheeling platform’ concept that the communications group believes could assist it and other companies with distributed electricity demand profiles to meet their decarbonisation goals, while also contributing to lowering the risk of loadshedding. [Engineering News, 22 May 2023.](#)

**SUN CITY EMPOWERS FEMALE-LED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AS VACATION CLUB EXPANDS** The pandemic may have caused Charlotte Mosito's one-year-old construction company to stumble. Still, her perseverance has paid off after the 31-year-old businesswoman was awarded part of Sun City's Vacation Club's expansion project. Read more, [here](#).

## NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

**AWARDS: ENTER SA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND INFLUENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS** The Eco-Logic Awards in partnership with Peoples Weather Channel as featured on DSTV and Openview, and WildAid, showcases and supports those who provide products, services and interventions that are 'Good for People and Planet'. The awards are opportunity for every one of us to support and participate in building a safer, kinder, and more sustainable society and environment to live in. By entering or nominating an Eco-Champion into South Africa's most prestigious and influential annual environmental award show, you can be a part of the Eco-Logical movement driving positive change and restoring our connection to nature and the planet. Come see how Going Green Fun, Fashionable and Financially Beneficial for all is! For more information and to enter, click [here](#).

**ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE** Get ready to join the most impactful and forward-thinking minds across Africa, as we empower leaders to drive a more sustainable future at the ESG Africa Conference. This highly anticipated event provides an unparalleled platform for industry pioneers and experts to come together and tackle the common challenges associated with embedding ESG practices within organisations. Make sure to mark your calendars and take advantage of our early bird ticket prices, available for only **R5,950 (Excl VAT)** for the full 2-day event. This exclusive rate is only valid until the end of **June 2023**. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

**REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PCC ON SOUTH AFRICA'S ELECTRICITY SYSTEM** This report presents the PCC's recommendations for South Africa's electricity system. The analysis and recommendations are based on significant research, evidence, and stakeholder engagement with all social partners, and is set against the current national policy framework, notably the National Development Plan, the Just Transition Framework, and South Africa's climate commitments (the NDC). Download the report, [here](#).

**REPORT: SOLAR PV, WIND TO LEAD THE LARGEST INCREASE IN NEW RENEWABLE CAPACITY A YEAR EVER – IEA** Renewable power is on course to shatter more records, as countries around the world speed up deployment. With the global energy crisis as a catalyst, solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind are set to lead the largest yearly increase in new renewable capacity ever, the International Energy Agency's (IEA's) 'Renewable Energy Market Update' report shows. [Engineering News, 1 June 2023.](#)

**WATCH: KUSINI TO EQUIP COMMUNITIES WITH WATER SKILLS, UNLOCK ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** Social enterprise Kusini Water is accelerating its Water Champions programme to train unemployed youth and unlock economic opportunities in communities, as it works to provide water access across South Africa. Natasha Odendaal tells us more. [Engineering News, 31 May 2023.](#)

**PUBLICATION: CIRCULAR TRANSITION INDICATORS V4.0 – METRICS FOR BUSINESS, BY BUSINESS** Businesses are increasingly recognizing the circular economy as a crucial building block in the transition to a net-zero and nature-positive world. But one key question remains: How can they measure their circular performance and its impact on sustainability in a consistent and reliable way? That's where the Circular Transition Indicators (CTI) come in. Designed for business by business to unleash the transformative power of the circular economy, CTI offers a universal and quantitative framework for evaluating how circular a company is. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 30 May 2023.](#)

**4 SHIFTS NEEDED TO CREATE A CARBON-FREE POWER SYSTEM** Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require a drastic shift in the global power system as the world moves from fossil fuels to carbon-free electricity. While the technologies and investments that can get us there are now available, it will be necessary to dramatically speed up efforts and do so more equitably to create a decarbonized energy system. [World Resources Institute, 25 May 2023.](#)

**WHITE PAPER: ENABLING CORPORATE PLASTICS DISCLOSURE: BUILDING A CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION ECONOMY** This white paper is published ahead of the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-2 in Paris, France, 29 May to 2 June 2023) with the aim to: Clarify the metrics that companies should use for plastic pollution accounting purposes, with a focus on the measurement of plastic leakage and circularity. Embed these metrics into a comprehensive corporate accountability system for plastic pollution that could help companies comply with the future International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) to end plastic pollution currently being negotiated by UN member states. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 25 May 2023.](#)

**PUBLICATION: CULTIVATING FARMER PROSPERITY: INVESTING IN REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE** The environmental benefits of regenerative agriculture are widely touted, but the economics that support the transition and sustained operation of regenerative farming systems still cast doubt. This piece of work brings forward the farmer perspective on transitioning to regenerative agriculture. We explore the economics through the lens of an “average” Kansas wheat farmer but present a methodology that can be translated and applied to other geographies and commodities. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 24 May 2023.](#)

## NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

**CDP** in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. Since their inception in 2000, CDP has played a transformational role in driving climate disclosure and action from businesses, investors, cities, and governments around the world. Read their latest **Press Release**, entitled: “**CDP comment on G7 outcomes**” [here](#).

**UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE** NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007 and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilizes business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **March 2023 Newsletter**, [here](#).

**WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION (WMB)** NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read their “**Net Zero Transition – The Latest Signals of Change: May 26, 2023**” [here](#).

**WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD)** WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of almost 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their recently published **Insight Article**, entitled: “**The Green Deal Industrial Plan: Flipping the Switch on net-zero industry**” [here](#).

## NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

**ACHIEVING IMPACT IN ADDRESSING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT | EXPLORING SOLUTIONS AND CELEBRATING WINS | 14 June 2023 | 09:30 to 11:30 (SAST) via Zoom** | The National Business Initiative (NBI) invites you to join us for an upcoming Thought Leadership Dialogue: Achieving Impact in Addressing Youth Unemployment, taking place on Wednesday, 14 June 2023. South Africa has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. The scourge of youth unemployment, exacerbated by the high levels of inequality, poverty and systemic barriers has brought forth many challenges, which continue to marginalise young people. The crisis requires urgent, innovative and impactful interventions if we are to create an enabling environment and opportunities for economic participation, which will in turn benefit society and ensure a stable and sustainable economy. While there is a strong commitment to addressing this challenge, it is critical that we have a deep understanding of the context and align approaches and interventions that will enable us to work collaboratively towards large-scale impact | [Website & further details.](#)

## ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

**REUTERS EVENTS: GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION 2023 | 7-8 June 2023 | New York, USA** | Global Energy Transition 2023 unites the world's energy and industrial leaders to accelerate net zero pathways, forge sustainable business models and deliver on the transition imperative. Over two days, executives will have a unique opportunity to establish benchmarks, break news and strategize meaningful models to deliver the transition. Alongside a 750+ congress, the event will offer a series of executive receptions and networking functions, in-depth roundtable and workshop sessions, and an exclusive net zero showcase and innovation zone. | [Website & further details.](#)

**IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE JUSTICE: SOLIDARITY WITH VULNERABLE COUNTRIES ON THE ROAD TO COP28 | 10 June 2023 | Bonn, Germany and Online** | The Global Stocktake at COP28 will evaluate how much progress has been made in the fight against the climate crisis and what more is needed to accelerate climate action forward. But the world is way off track, and the most vulnerable countries are already disproportionately feeling the consequences. | [Website & further details.](#)

**SECURING FUTURE CRITICAL MINERALS FOR ENERGY TRANSITION GOALS: AN ASIAN PERSPECTIVE ON CHALLENGES AND ISSUES | 12 June 2023 | Joy Nostalg Hotel & Suites, Pasig City, Philippines** | The availability of critical minerals will be essential to the transition to a low-carbon energy system, as well as boosting economic growth along the renewable energy supply chain. Asia is set to play a key role in both the demand and supply of critical minerals, and discussions are taking place in the region under India's G20 presidency and other high-level fora. Together with our partners, WRI is convening policymakers, industry and leading researchers to inform a strategy for the future of critical minerals as demand multiplies by 2 to 4 times current levels by 2040. Join us for a high-level discussion of the challenges and opportunities of securing future critical minerals in Asia. | [Website & further details.](#)

**AFRICA ENERGY FORUM 2023 | 20-23 June 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya** | Once again, we will unite governments, utilities and regulators with development finance institutions, commercial banks, power developers, technology providers, EPCs and professional services. Over the last 24 years, the Forum has earned a reputation as the most meaningful gathering of decision-makers in African energy to form partnerships, identify opportunities and move the industry forward. We hand-pick the most credible organisations in the sector, delivering an intensive networking experience. | [Website & further details.](#)

**RENEWABLE ENERGY: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICA TO OVERCOME LOADSHEDDING? | 21 June 2023 | 14:00 (SAST) via Zoom** | Join Creamer Media and a panel of experts for a discussion on renewable energy in South Africa. The discussion will unpack the following questions: What reforms have sparked the current rapid expansion in renewable energy and how rapidly are renewable energy solutions growing in South Africa? What is the breakdown of the major demand drivers for renewable energy solutions among businesses, households and small and large-scale investments? What technology platforms deal best with the variable nature of wind and solar energy sources? Is there potential for upstream manufacturing of renewable energy components in South Africa? What downstream advantage will increase renewable energy use have for South African industry? | [Further details.](#)

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2023 | 10-19 July 2023 | New York, USA** | The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2023, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This includes the three-day ministerial segment of the forum from Monday, 17 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2023 as part of the High-level Segment of the Council. The last day of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be on Thursday, 20 July 2023. The theme will be "*Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*" In the forum, participants will be able to further discuss the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at all levels. The HLPF in 2023, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the SDGs, will also review in-depth Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry,

innovation, and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. | [\*\*Website & further details.\*\*](#)

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