

ON A CLEAR DAY 2022



On A Clear Day: Issue 817, 14 July 2022

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.

PRESS RELEASE: UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CLIMATE PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA The Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) programme in South Africa has launched a call for proposals to support low-carbon projects fighting climate change and looking for investment. Unlocking investment and innovative technology are key enablers for South Africa's transition to a net zero economy by 2050. The CFA is looking for projects that are at least in the pre-feasibility stage and require at least USD\$4 million. The CFA call for proposals is open from 30 June until 12 August. Read the press release **here**.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: NBI GENDER PAY GAP ONLINE TOOL Following the conclusion of the Pilot, the NBI is now developing an online platform which will allow companies to track and measure income disparities. Furthermore, this platform

will serve as a space for companies to commit to closing the gender pay gap by participating in a national index on the gender pay gap in corporate South Africa. The deadline to receive proposals is 18 July 2022, Midday. Read more [here](#).

BUSINESS CALLS FOR UNBUNDLING OF ESKOM AND INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY The business sector has called for an urgent solution to South Africa's electricity crisis, including accelerating the unbundling process and investment in the transmission grid, as the crippling power cuts weigh in on activity. [IOL, 5 July 2022](#).

HOW CAN PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE DEMAND FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT? As the African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (ASPYEE) continues to gather good practices across the continent that address the growing problem of youth unemployment and underemployment, the role of partnerships in demand responsive or driven vocational education is emerging as a key strategy. This is all the more urgent in light of the growing challenge facing many young Africans, whereby, despite training, they are unable to find employment because their skills are not relevant for the market. [AUDA-NEPAD, 5 July 2022](#).

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES Unemployment and access to job markets are critical factors in the development of local economies and the wellbeing of citizens. To accelerate inclusive growth and income-generating opportunities for residents in the iLembe District, an Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Hub has been established. Read the Vuthela Spark Newsletter [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

WOMEN IN WORK: HOW COMPANIES IN CHILE REDUCED GENDER PAY GAP The Gender Parity Accelerator in Chile has significantly improved the professional prospects of women in the workforce. By bringing together leaders from the private and public sectors, the accelerator has enhanced the quality of work for more than 130,000 local women – the equivalent of 7% of salaried employees in Chile's private sector. [World Economic Forum, 13 July 2022](#).

FINANCE MUST TACKLE THE GROWING WATER CRISIS. HERE'S HOW The financial community increasingly understands and accepts that the global climate and biodiversity crises are a systemic and financial risk. This has spurred action. Similar efforts to address the global water crisis have been slower to gain traction. [World Economic Forum, 13 July 2022](#).

PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE KEY IN THE JUST TRANSITION – BLSA Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA) CEO Busi Mavuso has emphasised the important role the private sector has to play in the just energy transition in terms of investment in infrastructure for greener production. [Engineering News, 11 July 2022](#).

GREEN ELECTRONS AND GREEN MOLECULES CAN BE SOUTH AFRICA'S JUST ENERGY TRANSITION A green electron and green molecule energy transition is tailor-made for South Africa, an increasing number of observers are concluding. Superior sun, prime wind and land, favourable storage potential, know-how and metals put this country in pole position for green electricity and green mobility. [Engineering News, 7 July 2022](#).

17 MAJOR CONCRETE-CONSUMING BUSINESSES PLEDGE TO USE 100% NET-ZERO CONCRETE BY 2050 Today international non-profit Climate Group, in partnership with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), launches ConcreteZero, a new initiative with a goal of sourcing 100% net zero concrete by 2050. The initiative has gathered 17 pioneering businesses who have made the public commitment, including ambitious short-term commitments to use 30% low emission concrete by 2025 and 50% by 2030. [World Business Council, 5 July 2022](#).

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

ABSA APPOINTS DAWN MTHOMBENI TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND STRATEGIC ADVICE TO CEO'S OFFICE Absa has appointed one of its long-standing black executives to its CEO's office to provide operational support and strategic advice to Arrie Rautenbach. The banking group said Dawn Mthombeni will start a new role as the executive in the office of the CEO on 1 August. During that announcement, Absa promoted several black executives to become part of the group exco, bringing black representation at its leadership level closer to 50%. [Fin24, 13 July 2022.](#)

EY ENTREPRENEURIAL WINNING WOMEN With programs around the world, EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women™ identifies ambitious women entrepreneurs and provides them with advice, resources and access to unlock their full potential. Applications are open for the EMEIA 2022 program. Join an international network of women entrepreneurs and be part of the Class of 2022. [EY, 12 July 2022.](#)

DE BEERS GROUP DONATES \$356,000 TO EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTRE De Beers Group is pleased to announce a CAD\$356,000 contribution to support construction of a CAD\$1.2 million Early Childhood Learning Centre in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories (NWT) by the Fort Resolution Métis Council. The centre will provide education and childcare services for up to 15 children under the age of five. A building site has been cleared and a 1,700 square foot modular building now under construction in Alberta will be assembled on the site. The centre is scheduled to open on September 1, 2022. [De Beers Group, 12 July 2022.](#)

PEPSICO'S NEW ESG SUMMARY OFFERS FIRST LOOK AT PROGRESS TOWARD INDUSTRY-LEADING PEPSICO POSITIVE GOALS PepsiCo, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEP) today published its first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Summary since the launch of PepsiCo Positive (pep+), a strategic end-to-end business transformation with sustainability and human capital at the center of how the company will create growth and value. The 2021 ESG Summary – an evolution from PepsiCo's prior Sustainability Reports – highlights how the company is leveraging its brands, people, and scale to chart a new course to drive positive action for the planet and people. [Pepsico, 7 July 2022.](#)

RMB EXCELS IN GLOBAL FINANCE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AWARDS RMB has won both the Best Bank for Sustainable Finance for South Africa and the Regional Award for Outstanding Leadership in Sustainable Project Finance in Africa in the recent Global Finance Sustainable Finance Awards. The awards, hosted by Global Finance magazine, celebrate the international leaders in financial services. [RMB, 6 July 2022.](#)

STANDARD BANK IS EMPOWERING AFRICA THROUGH EDUCATION Investing in and developing the continent's education sector is crucial to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth, says the bank. [Business Day, 6 July 2022.](#)

ERM ACQUIRES MARINESPACE TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL CAPABILITIES ACROSS THE RENEWABLES PROJECT LIFECYCLE ERM, the world's largest pure play sustainability advisory firm, has acquired MarineSpace, a marine planning and environmental consultancy that provides specialist advice and services to clients across a range of sectors. ERM continues to strengthen its renewables capabilities at a time when the need to accelerate the energy transition to guarantee energy security and tackle climate change has become an urgent priority for economies across the globe. [ERM, 6 July 2022.](#)

DISCOVERY FUND CELEBRATES TWO DECADES OF STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTHCARE IN SA Leaders in healthcare met on 05 July 2022 to celebrate 20 years of Discovery's corporate social investment (CSI) into health systems in rural South Africa. The Discovery Fund records a total of over 350 000 direct and 57 million indirect beneficiaries since the programme's inception in 1997. [Read Press Release here.](#)

CONCOR AT THE FOREFRONT OF "GREEN" CONSTRUCTION When it comes to care for the environment, there can be few contractors around with the track record of Concor, which has shown its commitment to 'green' construction on literally scores

of building, construction and civil engineering projects, some of which have won top industry awards. [Cape Business News, 3 July 2022.](#)

ABB COLLABORATES WITH MICROSOFT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO REINFORCE COMMITMENT TO LOW-CARBON SOCIETY ABB announced today that Microsoft has joined its Energy Efficiency Movement. Launched in March 2021 by ABB, the #energyefficiencymovement is a multi-stakeholder initiative to raise awareness and spur action to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions to combat climate change. Companies are invited to join the movement and make a public pledge as a way of inspiring others to take action. Microsoft represents one of the largest corporate partners to join the initiative to date. [ABB, 30 June 2022.](#)

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2022 Gender parity is not recovering, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022. It will take another 132 years to close the global gender gap. [World Economic Forum, 13 July 2022.](#)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CAN BE REACHED ‘DESPITE OUR GRIM TIMES’: ECOSOC PRESIDENT Despite two years of a “surreal struggle” against the COVID-19 pandemic, and amidst rising global challenges, optimism for achieving sustainable development persists, a senior UN official declared on Wednesday. Countries are meeting in the General Assembly Hall to examine how recovery policies can reverse the pandemic’s negative impacts on the common goal of creating a more equitable future for all people and the planet. [United Nations, 13 July 2022.](#)

MORE WOMEN WORK IN HEALTH AND CARE BUT THEY EARN 24 PER CENT LESS THAN MEN: UN REPORT The gender pay gap in the health and care sector: a global analysis in the time of COVID-19, was published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It documents a raw gender pay gap of roughly 20 percentage points which jumps to 24 percentage points when factors such as age, education and working time are taken into account. [United Nations, 13 July 2022.](#)

DEMYSTIFYING CLIMATE TRANSITION SCENARIOS A report that helps companies, financial institutions and policy makers understand some of the assumptions and methodologies that feed into climate transition scenarios and models. The report is a collaboration between PwC UK and WBCSD presenting some of the learnings from the project management team in the WBCSD Climate Scenario Analysis Reference Approach project. * [World Business Council, 12 July 2022.](#)

GENDER, WORK AND ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE 2023 The next Gender, Work and Organization (GWO) international conference will be hosted from 28-30 June 2023, for the first time on African shores. Join us for an in-person conference in Cape Town, South Africa. The GWO 2023 Program Committee now invites proposals for stream topics that respond to the conference theme: **Marginalized gender identities: How can intellectual activism transform work and organizations?** We also invite proposals for collaborative events. The submission deadline for proposals is 29 July 2022. Read more [here.](#)

UN REPORT: VALUE OF NATURE MUST NOT BE OVERRIDDEN BY PURSUIT OF SHORT-TERM PROFIT The values that we ascribe to nature are vital parts of our cultures, identities, economies, and ways of life, all of which should be reflected in policy decisions surrounding our natural world, according to a new UN-backed report released on Monday. [United Nations, 11 July 2022.](#)

CLIMATE RISK TOP PRIORITY FOR FINANCIAL FIRMS, NO CONSENSUS ON HOW TO ANALYSE 85% of firms have started assessing climate risk, however, there is still a way to go with embedding climate into risk management frameworks, says Bloomberg. Firms are focused on the financial impacts of climate change, but most are still in the early-stages of effectively modelling and monitoring this risk, according to a new survey by financial/software/media company. The survey was conducted in May 2022

during Bloomberg's Risk and Regulation Week event and polled over 100 senior executives from financial services firms and corporations around the globe. [ESI Africa, 11 July 2022.](#)

HYDROGEN WILL COVER 12% OF GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND BY 2050, PREDICTS IRENA A new report series released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) sees hydrogen trade significantly contributing to a more diversified and resilient energy system. [ESI Africa, 8 July 2022.](#)

INEQUALITIES HINDER UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY – REPORT A newly released Energy Progress Report reveals that access to sustainable energy will remain elusive around the world if inequalities are not addressed. The International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO) have collaborated on the newly released Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report. The Report cites those sustainable solutions must target African countries left behind in the quest for global energy access. [ESI Africa, 6 July 2022.](#)

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 EU Taxonomy vote**”, [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 **April 2022 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 – Latest Signals Of Change (08.07.22)**” [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: “**Identifying and responding to climate change and other key megatrends in ways which ensure respect for human rights and tackle inequality**”, [here.](#)

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2022

UMHLATHUZE WATER STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP (UWASP) PARTNERS PLATFORM| Tuesday, 19 July 2022 via Zoom | 09:00 to 11:00 SAST| The uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership (UWASP) invites you to join our annual interactive virtual Partner's Platform meeting. UWASP is a recognised example of good water stewardship practice in South Africa, serving as a coordination hub for collective action across the uMhlathuze region. UWASP's approach is collaborative, with all partners working to identify focus areas and implement projects across industry, agriculture and communities. | [Further details & registration link.](#)

CLIMATE PATHWAYS AND JUST TRANSITION FOR SOUTH AFRICA REPORT LAUNCH – ENERGY SECTOR | Thursday, 21 July 2022 via NBI & BCG YouTube livestream | 13:00 to 14:30 SAST | The National Business Initiative (NBI), Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), have explored over the past two years, pathways to achieve a net-zero economy within a fair share carbon budget, and in the process lift people out of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. We are now proud to announce the launch of our integrated energy report focused on the energy sector titled: **“It All Hinges on Renewables – The Massive and Urgent Energy Transformation South Africa Needs To Get Right.”** This is the first report in a series of reports that we will be releasing between now and the end of November 2022. | [Further details & YouTube links.](#)

INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE: MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK | Wednesday, 27 July 2022 via Zoom | 11:00 to 12:30 SAST | The National Business Initiative (NBI) invites you to our fifth Intergenerational Leadership Dialogue on ‘Mental Health at Work,’ on 27 July 2022. The discussion will focus on addressing mental health needs as a key aspect of achieving transformation in the workplace. This key dialogue will unpack the role of the private sector in extending mental health support in order to decrease psychological distress and improve performance. It will also highlight how organisations can better navigate shame, stigma, and stereotypes around mental illnesses. | [Further details & registration link.](#)

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2022

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM- ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW CHAMPIONS | 18—19 July 2022 | Virtual Event | At the World Economic Forum, the "New Champions" concept has historically emphasized the pivotal role of entrepreneurial approaches in emerging and developed economies alike to advance in economic, environmental and technological progress. In this spirit, the virtual New Champion Dialogues 2022 will convene entrepreneurial leaders from business, government and society for a select number of high-level dialogues and action-oriented discussions to move critical collaborations forward despite ongoing global uncertainty. | [Further details.](#)

AUSTRALIAN CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT 2022 | 19 - 20 July 2022 | ICC Sydney 14 Darling Drive Sydney, NSW, Australia | Heads of industry, government and finance will gather together to share the models, trends and technology innovations in driving clean energy adoption. Michael Ottaviano, ERM Managing Partner, Renewable Energy in, APAC will be speaking at the session **“Joining the dots: Transmission and Connection in Renewable Energy Zones”**, which will highlight the essential shift and the industry dynamics around renewable energy. | [Further details.](#)

THE SANLAM GAUGE CONFERENCE | 20 July 2022, Online | The Sanlam Gauge was launched in 2021 as the first consolidated research report of its kind to provide a holistic measurement of economic transformation in SA, accounting for all elements of BBBEE. The Sanlam Gauge Conference, will see the launch of the 2022 Sanlam Gauge Report which will provide insights on the state of change in the country | [Further details.](#)

IN CONVERSATION WITH JULY NDLOVU, CEO, THUNGELA RESOURCES LTD | 26 July 2022, Online | Join us for a conversation with July Ndlovu, CEO of Thungela Resources Limited and World Coal Association chairperson for a discussion on energy stability, affordability, and sustainability – and finding the best solutions to deal with the energy crisis that the world is facing due to dependency on fossil fuels. | [Website & further details.](#)

GWS 2022: 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES 2022 | 28-29 July 2022 | National University of Singapore Society, Singapore | We welcome individual paper presentations, panel sessions, round table discussions, performances, short films, and posters. Your participation in GWS2022 may be under Oral, Poster & Virtual categories. Your presentation may include (Original research papers, published articles, Dissertations/Ph.D. thesis, Research abstracts, etc.) | [Website & further details.](#)

WOMEN IN BUSINESS BREAKFAST 2022 | 04 August 2022, Online | We will pose some hard-hitting questions relating to women in business, industry, and the economy as well as touch on issues such as gender-based violence and the empowerment of women. Be prepared to be inspired, empathise, and engage. | [**Website & further details.**](#)

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