



## Media Release

### **B20-G20 ministerial dialogue advances Africa's agricultural resilience**

**South Africa, 17 September 2025:** Resilient food systems and agriculture will define Africa's future over the next five years and long into the future. With climate pressures mounting and demand for food surging, the continent's ability to feed itself and the world, depends on urgent, coordinated action.

On Wednesday 17 September, B20 South Africa and Absa co-hosted a high-level B20-G20 Ministerial dialogue titled "Resilient food systems across Africa." The event brought together business leaders, policymakers and agribusiness stakeholders to advance the recommendations of the B20 Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture Task Force, recently submitted to the G20 Presidency.

These recommendations are not aspirational. They are grounded in the realities of African agriculture and offer a practical roadmap to unlock the continent's potential as a global driver of food security, trade and economic resilience.

**Hon. John Steenhuisen, South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, emphasised the importance of partnerships to bring the much-needed change.** "Our goal is clear: to ensure that capital flows at the scale, speed and integrity needed to build food systems that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable. This means translating intent into investment, where every Rand deployed attracts more Rands, de-risks more production and delivers more nutrition per litre of water, per kilowatt of energy, and per hectare of land.

The stakes are high. Too many families are facing food insecurity, while producers, especially women, youth and smallholders, struggle to secure the finance that would allow them to innovate, adapt and thrive. At the same time, demand is growing and supply chains are rapidly transforming. This is where the G20's policy levers and the B20's balance sheets must meet: to connect innovation with impact and policy with pipelines. That is the spirit of South Africa's G20 agriculture agenda: inclusion, innovation, climate resilience and outcomes that people can feel in their daily lives".

The B20 South Africa Task Force's blueprint calls for strengthening agrifood supply chains, scaling climate-smart practices and closing the \$180 billion agrifood financing gap. It also highlights the need for inclusive growth, particularly for women and youth and for harmonised trade and regulatory frameworks that allow African farmers to compete globally.

**Kenny Fihla, CEO of Absa Group, underscored the role of finance, innovation and collaboration:** "Modern agriculture demands modern tools. From AI to bio-based inputs, we must ensure that farmers, especially smallholders, have access

to the technologies and capital that reduce risk and lift productivity. Finance must be matched by innovation and innovation must be inclusive. That is why partnerships matter. When financial institutions, agritech platforms and policymakers work together, we unlock real transformation.

The Khula App, in which we invest, is a powerful example: it connects farmers to markets, inputs and finance in ways that were unimaginable a decade ago. Africa's agricultural future is not just about productivity. It is about resilience, equity and opportunity. With cereal demand projected to rise 40% by 2050 and climate-related losses threatening billions in damages, the stakes are high. But so is the potential."

**Mildred Nadah Pita, deputy chair of the B20 SA Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture Task Force, reflected on the journey so far:** "When you cultivate the land, you understand that a successful harvest is never guaranteed. Equally, the importance of preparation is recognised. These recommendations stem from extensive global collaboration and thoughtful analysis and they are poised for implementation. The real question is whether we will act now or allow others to reap the benefits.

The B20-G20 Ministerial dialogue served as a platform to galvanise action, align stakeholders and ensure that Africa's agricultural transformation is not just envisioned, but realised.

## ENDS

### Note to Editors:

#### About B20 South Africa:

The Business 20 (B20), the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community, is set to convene in South Africa in 2025 under the leadership of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA). This marks a historic milestone as the first B20 summit hosted by an African nation, reinforcing the continent's growing role in shaping global economic policy.

The B20 serves as a vital platform for G20 business leaders to develop actionable policy recommendations, which are presented to the G20 to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The B20 Summit will bring together up to 3,000 business leaders, heads of international organisations, public policy experts from approximately 25 countries, fostering high-level dialogue and collaboration.

Under the theme Inclusive Growth and Prosperity Through Global Cooperation, B20 South Africa 2025 will focus on advancing policies that promote equitable economic development, strengthen international partnerships and address pressing global challenges.



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**For more about the Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture Task Force recommendations**

<https://www.b20southafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/B20-Sustainable-Food-Systems-and-Agriculture.pdf>

**More about the Khula App**

In 2023 Absa Bank acquired a minority stake in the agritech start-up, Khula! App Pty Ltd. Through its award-winning app, Khula! has built an ecosystem of three platforms that addresses challenges across the agricultural value chain. This includes a Fresh Produce Marketplace that connects small-scale farmers, commercial farmers or distributors of fresh produce with retail, wholesale and export buyers and an Input Marketplace where farmers can buy products and services (seed, plant health, plant protection and animal health products) from leading industry suppliers. A Funder Dashboard that connects buyers and sellers to complete orders and payments on the platform and that links farmers in need of funding with potential investors will also be operational in due course.

For more information please visit: [www.khula.co.za](http://www.khula.co.za)

For more information, visit: <http://b20southafrica.org>

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