

#LedFromAfrica #SharedWithTheWorld

THE B20 SOUTH AFRICA FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

A guide for Inclusive Growth and Prosperity
Through Global Cooperation





INTRODUCTION

This communiqué marks the culmination of the B20 South Africa cycle; an ambitious, ground-up effort shaped by a unifying theme and a focused set of foundational pillars.

Guided by these foundations, eight task forces developed 30 actionable recommendations aimed at advancing inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth.

From this collective work, five overarching strategic themes and enabling conditions emerged, each distilled into a concise set of priorities designed for immediate relevance and long-term impact. These priorities were further enriched through deliberations by the Local Business Advisory Council, which surfaced Africa-specific imperatives, and through the valuable insights and support of our International Business Advocacy Caucus, sponsors and partners.

The structure of this communiqué reflects this journey. It is intended as a practical guide for leaders, clear enough to inform tomorrow's conversations and robust enough to inspire action across the G20. It is a blueprint for translating insight into impact and ambition into achievement.

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FOREWORD BY THE B20 SOUTH AFRICA SHERPA, CAS COOVADIA

For the first time in history, the Business 20 (B20) has convened on African soil. This moment is transformative. It marks Africa's role as a co-architect of the global economic agenda and affirms South Africa's enduring commitment to principled, future-facing leadership.

We embarked on this journey with a singular theme: Inclusive Growth and Prosperity through Global Cooperation. Its foundational pillars – broadening participation, fortifying resilient supply chains and embedding women and SMEs into leadership and value chains – were not theoretical ideals. They were urgent imperatives, drawn from Africa's lived experience and aligned with the world's shared responsibilities.

Since the start of the 2025 G20 Presidency, the global landscape has shifted with intensity. Geopolitical tensions have disrupted trade and accelerated the quest for energy independence. Protectionist currents are testing the resilience of multilateral institutions. Climate-related losses are deepening, reminding us that adaptation and equity are no longer optional.

Another critical development is the rise of generative artificial intelligence, which is reshaping knowledge work whilst exposing critical gaps in energy security, computer and data infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, workforce skills and organisational dynamics.

Yet within this complexity lies a profound opportunity: to reimagine the compact between business and society, and to forge a new model of growth that is inclusive, sustainable and future-ready.

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I am proud to present this final B20 South Africa communiqué, which consolidates a programme for coordination and impact and calls on private, public, social and civic sector leaders across the G20 to drive inclusive growth strategies and policy reform that, in President Nelson Mandela's words, 'reflect our hopes and not our fears'.

- Cas Coovadia

This communiqué is the product of rigorous collaboration: the technical insights of eight task forces, the global perspective of the International Business Advocacy Caucus (IBAC) and the grounded wisdom of the Local Business Advisory Council (LBAC). Together, they have shaped a programme that is both visionary and implementable. It calls for coordinated action to unlock near-term economic opportunity, embed sustainability into business practice, and ensure continuity across presidencies. With it, we renew our collective commitment to rules-based multilateralism, facilitated through strengthened multilateral organisations.

It builds on the legacy of past B20 presidencies, while amplifying Africa's voice, its optimism, ingenuity and resilience. It celebrates the continent's strengths: a youthful population, abundant resources and boundless creativity. And it confronts the structural barriers that inhibit competitiveness with clarity and resolve.

Above all, this communiqué affirms a truth Africa has long understood: that resilience and inclusion are inseparable and that global prosperity is inextricably linked to Africa's progress.

This is both a culmination and a beginning. It is Africa's contribution to the world - a blueprint for shared prosperity, grounded in courage, cooperation and conviction.





A personal reflection

I was humbled when Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), South Africa's apex business association, asked me to lead this critical initiative. Leading this process has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life. It has deepened my belief in the power of dialogue, the necessity of trust and the urgency of action. I have witnessed, firsthand, the readiness of global counterparts to collaborate and the extraordinary enthusiasm of African business leaders to engage with global peers as active agents of change. I have seen the pride with which South Africa has carried this responsibility and the seriousness with which our partners have responded.

This journey has reminded me that leadership is not about commanding attention, but about convening purpose. It is about listening across difference, building bridges where there are divides and holding fast to the belief that progress is possible, even when the path is steep.

I must emphasise that we come to this part of the journey without compromising on our theme, which has been our lodestar from the beginning. The ultimate outcome of the recommendations the B20 presented to the G20 must be inclusive growth and prosperity in a cooperating world.

To mark this historic presidency, I turn to the words of the great African poet Ben Okri, who reminds us:

"Our future is greater than our past. We are the miracles that must make the world anew."

May this communiqué serve as a guiding light for our colleagues in the United States and future B20 presidencies. Let it stand as a testament to what is possible when Africa leads with vision, and the world responds with hope and purpose.

Finally, my sincere appreciation goes out to:

- BUSA and its members, including Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA), who co-host B20 South Africa with BUSA
- · The Local Business Advisory Council
- · The International Business Advocacy Caucus
- The chairs, co-chairs, and members of the B20 South Africa task forces
- · Our sponsors
- · Our knowledge partners
- Our network partners
- · The South African G20 Presidency
- The B20 South Africa Secretariat, which
 I have the honour to say is the best team I have
 worked with.

Let us celebrate the moment and start the important work of implementation.



Cas Coovadia, a visionary African Sherpa and distinguished business leader, activist and driver of change, guiding the historic B20 South Africa Presidency.



Tracking what matters: A KPI-driven tool for lasting B20 impact

To ensure lasting impact across presidencies, the B20 proposes an Impact Tracker - a practical tool to monitor a focused set of catalytic KPIs that drive inclusive growth and collaboration.

Initiated under B20 Brazil, tested during South Africa's presidency, and now ready to be implemented with the United States and future hosts, the tracker consolidates existing task force work and offers a live view of progress.

It aims to enhance transparency, support G20–B20 dialogue on measurable commitments and focus efforts on high-impact actions. This legacy initiative will track implementation, enable follow-up and reinforce credibility year after year.

Tailoring priorities for country contexts

We, the B20, reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth through frameworks and partnerships that deliver tangible progress for all. Recognising the diversity of national starting points, including economic structures, energy systems, resource endowments and development priorities across the G20, we emphasise the importance of balancing global ambition with national contexts.

To this end, we advocate for the adoption of flexible, context-sensitive approaches to implementation that align with national goals whilst upholding shared global priorities. This includes using tailored metrics, sequencing and pathways that reflect local realities, without compromising the urgency of advancing inclusive growth. We encourage cooperation that mobilises investment, technology and skills to enable multiple credible routes to prosperity, underpinned by accountability frameworks that ensure progress towards our collective goals.

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A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM THE G20: TURNING SHARED PRIORITIES INTO ACTION FOR INCLUSIVE GLOBAL GROWTH

The Government of South Africa strongly supports the B20 South Africa's call for inclusive growth and shared prosperity through global cooperation. The outcomes of this process have demonstrated that when business and government work in genuine partnership, they can move beyond dialogue to delivery. The priorities reflected in the B20 recommendations mirror those of South Africa's G20 Presidency, which seeks to reindustrialise economies, unlock sustainable finance, and ensure that digital and green transitions drive opportunity that leads to inclusion. The B20 and G20 recommendations also agree on multilateralism in a cooperating world.

South Africa is committed to building a resilient and inclusive economy that advances growth while addressing inequality. Investment in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies must translate into broader participation and sustainable development. In an increasingly fragmented world, cooperation and coherence are not optional - they are the foundation of progress. The private sector is central to this effort as a collaborator that grows economies on the back of reforms implemented by government. This can be achieved through partnership that restores trust, rebuilds value chains, and secures long-term prosperity.

The B20's work throughout South Africa's Presidency has underscored a shared truth: that inclusive growth requires courage, transparency and sustained action. Growth that excludes cannot endure, and sustainability that remains on paper cannot transform lives. The Government of South Africa therefore reaffirms its commitment to turning ambition into measurable outcomes and ensuring that implementation becomes the defining test of global cooperation.

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History will not remember the communiqués that we have signed or the documents that you handed over. It will remember whether we rose to meet the urgency of this communiqué in terms of implementation.

- Minister Ronald Lamola, on receiving the B20 South Africa Report on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa





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B20 SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The leadership of B20 South Africa represents a diverse coalition united by a shared purpose: turning global dialogue into tangible progress. At the helm are the B20 Co-Chairs, who set strategic direction. At the core is the B20 Sherpa, responsible for overall coordination and interfaces with the G20 Sherpa. The B20 Sherpa is supported by the Head of the Secretariat, who oversees operational delivery of the B20 cycle.

The Local Business Advisory Council aligns B20 insights with South African and regional priorities, whilst the International Business Advocacy Caucus amplifies these globally, ensuring the B20 voice reaches G20 leadership.

Task force Chairs and Co-Chairs lead technical recommendations, supported by over 1,400 professionals from over 25 countries and 16 sectors, with nearly 45% female participants. Expert advisers, partners and sponsors enhance the process, ensuring technical rigour, strategic coherence and alignment with G20 counterparts to drive inclusive, sustainable growth and the successful delivery of the B20 Presidency.

B20 South Africa is driven by a dynamic and influential leadership team

Mxolisi Mgojo

Co-Chair

B20 Co-Chairs lead the B20 by defining vision, direction and guidelines, and represent the B20 before the international community



Nonkululeko Nyembezi Co-Chair



Sherpa

Coordinates the Secretariat's work and supports the Co-Chairs in all key functions



Co-Chair

Busi Mavuso Local **Business** Advisory Council



Khulekani Mathe Local **Business** Advisory Council Co-Chair

LOCAL BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Comprises business leaders from the host country who assist the Co-Chairs with localising insights and publicising B20 recommendations in the country

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADVOCACY CAUCUS

Comprises senior business leaders from G20 countries who radiate B20 key messages globally

Anthony Costa Head of Secretariat

Carries out the operational management of the B20, including the coordination of task force documents, events, etc.



TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Trade & Investment



Former Chair, IDC

Employment & Education



Paul Hanratty CEO, Sanlam

Energy Mix & Just Transition



Daniel Mminele Chair, Nedbank

Digital **Transformation**



Phuthi Mahanyele-Dabengwa **Executive Director: Naspers Limited**

Finance & Infrastructure



Sim Tshabalala Group CEO, Standard Bank

Integrity & Compliance



Ruwayda Redfearn CEO, Deloitte Africa

Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture



Debra Mallowah Head of Africa, Bayer

Industrial Transformation & Innovation



Andrew Kirby CEO, Toyota SA



STATEMENTS BY B20 SOUTH AFRICA LEADERS

B20 South Africa Co-Chairs

B20 South Africa Local Business Advisory Council Co-Chairs

B20 South Africa International Business Advocacy Caucus





Nonkululeko Nyembezi, a visionary global strategist, steering South Africa's B20 Presidency with integrity and economic foresight.

Mxolisi Mgojo, a transformative leader and sustainability champion, co-piloting the B20 South Africa journey with bold ambition and collaborative strength.

G20 economies collectively generate 80% of global GDP and 90% of employment, with the private sector acting as the connective tissue that transforms talent, technology and innovation into growth and meaningful work. When these resources align behind a shared purpose, progress becomes both faster and fairer. Yet, for too many, this aspiration remains out of reach.

Under South Africa's Presidency, the B20 focused on demonstrating how implementation can succeed across diverse contexts. This year, we have shown what is both possible and pragmatic. Our efforts centred on key enablers of progress: affordable capital, resilient energy systems, food and digital security, effective public–private partnerships and competitive markets that empower women and SMEs.

These priorities directly support the G20's broader agenda, including mobilising finance for a just energy transition, harnessing critical minerals for sustainable development, strengthening disaster resilience and restoring debt sustainability for emerging economies.

Ionkululeko Myempezi and Mixolisi Migojo

We also sought to shift the conversation from what governments alone could do to how private and social sector leaders can act as partners and catalysts for change. Coordination requires collective action. Now is the time to act swiftly and with unwavering focus.

Serving as Co-Chairs of B20 South Africa has been an honour of the highest order. We carry forward the mission of Inclusive Growth and Prosperity through Global Cooperation as our enduring call to action. We are deeply grateful to our partners across the G20 and to the thousands of business and policy leaders whose collective effort has made this Presidency a landmark in the history of the B20.

We are deeply grateful to our leadership councils, Secretariat, knowledge and network partners for the leadership that enabled robust dialogue and technical insights that have shaped our conviction.

B20 South Africa Co-Chairs





Busi Mavuso, a fearless advocate for inclusive growth and principled leadership, shaping South Africa's business voice on the global B20 stage.

Khulekani Mathe, a strategic thinker and policy trailblazer, championing unity and transformation in business.

DELIVERING AFRICA'S B20 LEGACY: REFLECTIONS BY LOCAL BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS

It has been an honour for Business Unity South Africa, the apex body of organised business, and Business Leadership South Africa, the CEOs' forum of leading companies, to co-host this historic B20 Presidency on African soil.

The Local Business Advisory Council (LBAC) has served as the bridge between global B20 insights and South Africa's national and regional priorities. Twenty of the country's most astute and experienced leaders embraced the call, probing emerging B20 insights, engaging G20 stakeholders and serving as trusted messengers at key events and bilateral discussions. As co-chairs, we extend our deepest gratitude for their unwavering commitment, constructive challenge and the resources that ensured this success.

Reflecting on the B20 recommendations, and in response to G20 priorities, we stand ready to support partners across the G20 to accelerate action that

drives investment, secures infrastructure and opens trade corridors that connect African talent and goods to global markets.

We reaffirm our commitment to the reforms outlined in this communiqué and to deepening collaboration among business, government and global partners. Sustainable progress demands alignment: when institutions govern effectively, nations gain stability and in that stability, business finds the confidence to invest, innovate and grow.

This B20 must carve a legacy that is transformative by driving responses that are agile, clear and deeply felt.

Our detailed reflections building on the Task Force recommendations are documented later in this communiqué.

B20 South Africa Local Business Advisory Council Co-Chairs

Busi Wavuso and Shulekani Wathe









THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADVOCACY CAUCUS URGES CONTINUITY AND MEASURABLE IMPACT ACROSS PRESIDENCIES

The International Business Advocacy Caucus (IBAC) stands firmly behind B20 South Africa's call for Inclusive Growth and Prosperity through Global Cooperation. As geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and economic fragmentation reshape the global landscape, the B20 and G20 remain vital platforms for fostering collaboration, adapting to change and driving reform.

We highlight three calls to action:

1. REINFORCE GLOBAL COOPERATION AND RULES-BASED SYSTEMS

IBAC urges renewed commitment to predictable, rules-based trade and investment frameworks. A level playing field for businesses of all sizes and regions must remain central to multilateral efforts whilst respecting the socioeconomic foundations of each country. Regulatory coherence and trade harmony are essential to sustaining global economic stability.

2. PRIORITISE SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESPONSIVE GROWTH

We call on G20 nations to accelerate the transition towards lower-carbon energy systems, recognising the diverse national circumstances, energy needs and development priorities of each country. Strengthening geopolitical alignment and mobilising infrastructure development and financing enable fair, country-specific shifts. These can be supported by collaboration across governments, the private sector and development institutions. To ensure sustainable transitions, we emphasise the importance of re-skilling and upskilling the global workforce to meet the demands of emerging technologies whilst enabling sustainable job creation and formalisation of the economy to address the socioeconomic impacts of this transformation.

3. DRIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

IBAC advocates for stronger B20 governance and deeper G20 engagement to ensure tangible progress. Anchoring the agenda in sustainability, inclusion and growth tracked through public KPIs that could become country-owned, will help shift the focus from reports to real-world solutions.

Co-designed delivery playbooks and legacy initiatives, such as the Carbon Centre of Excellence and Carbon Knowledge Hub, exemplify scalable models for global impact. We commend the progress achieved through the She Leads B20 initiative, launched under the B20 Brazil presidency and further advanced during the South African term, which has successfully increased female participation across all B20 task forces. This initiative represents a significant step towards fostering gender diversity and empowering women in leadership roles.

IBAC congratulates Cas Coovadia, the B20 South Africa Sherpa and the leadership of B20 South Africa for their outstanding stewardship. Their efforts have elevated Africa's voice whilst reinforcing the B20's global mandate for inclusive, sustainable growth.







Harnessing Africa's potential for inclusive and sustainable growth



Promoting economic inclusion and reducing inequality



GLOBAL Cooperation

Strengthening multilateral collaboration

OUR WORK HAS BEEN GUIDED BY FOUR FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS



Unlocking inclusive growth and enabling widespread economic participation



Investing in human capital and re-energising a thriving skills market



Driving industry reforms to build resiliency into global and regional supply chains



Strengthening the role and involvement of women and SMEs in business

These pillars have anchored our efforts to serve as a platform for deeper global cooperation, to showcase Africa's capabilities and opportunities and to foster partnerships that address shared challenges.

Across our eight task forces, thirty recommendations have been put forward spanning finance, trade, food security, energy, digital transformation, integrity, skills development and industrialisation. Each reflects rigorous analysis and collective insight from global business leaders.

In drawing these together, we have identified five strategic themes and three enabling mechanisms that capture the most urgent and actionable levers for inclusive global growth. Together, they provide a road map that is both ambitious in scope and grounded in the realities of implementation.

B20 TASK FORCES



Digital Transformation



Employment & Education



Energy Mix & Just Transition



Finance & Infrastructure



Industrial Transformation & Innovation



Integrity & Compliance



Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture



Trade & Investment



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OUR KEY MESSAGES FROM B20 SOUTH AFRICA TO G20

Thematic Strategy
Task Force Recommendations
Driorities for Africa



THESE STRATEGIC THEMES AND ENABLING MECHANISMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO UNLOCKING THE NEXT CHAPTER OF GLOBAL GROWTH



Power infrastructure and industry through capital access

We advocate for innovative finance models, data-driven approaches to reduce capital costs and the scaling of bankable, high-impact projects.



Drive food security through stronger agricultural value chains

We call for enhanced privatesector roles, sustainable farming practices and the removal of trade barriers to build resilient food systems.



Build sustainable and climate-responsive economic systems

We encourage expanded adaptation financing for emerging markets and developing economies, growth in renewable energy industries and the adoption of sustainable technologies through incentives and collaboration.



Empower Africa's digital and skills transformation

We propose inclusive digital infrastructure, alignment of skills with industry needs and responsible use of technology to combat corruption and drive productivity.



Unlock Africa's industrialisation in the critical minerals value chain

We see the energy transition as a generational opportunity to drive value-added production, improve governance and address power and logistics challenges.



Achieving progress across these five themes is only possible if the conditions for success are in place.

Three enablers underpin this effort, namely, fostering business resilience and market stability, unlocking investment and growth through well-designed public-private partnerships and building competitive markets can help turn our collective ambitions to action.



Power infrastructure and industry through capital access

Across the G20, growth increasingly hinges on financing modern infrastructure and industrial upgrading, yet global infrastructure needs are projected to exceed available funding by approximately 15 trillion USD by 2040.¹ The result is a mounting backlog of projects that are technically needed but not financially ready. The challenge is most acute in markets with limited or expensive access to capital, where perceived risks drive up borrowing costs and stall investment.



PRIORITY

Unlock growth by reducing capital costs with data-driven approaches, and scaling high-impact projects to boost funding into the wider economy

Example actions

- Lower capital costs with improved data to support credit rating assessments and boost confidence via standard bankability playbooks, open pipelines and evidence-based risk mitigation
- Align capital to priority industries to grow value-add, competitiveness, and skilled jobs, and facilitate the flow of funds from infrustructure investments into the wider economy
- **Expand affordable finance and credit facilities** for SMEs, mid-caps and women-led firms, and enhance working capital and payment efficiency
- Scale investment incentives and financing mechanisms for industrial decarbonisation, digitalisation, and green technological upgrading

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Finance & Infrastructure
- Energy Mix & Just Transition
- · Industrial Transformation & Innovation

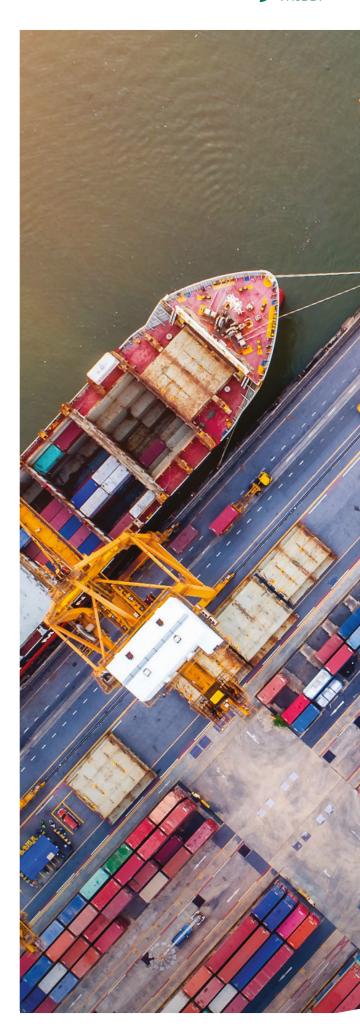
Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa's vast infrastructure and industrial potential face a USD70–USD110 billion annual financing gap,² with clean energy attracting just 2%³ of global investment and regional borrowing costs far above global averages.⁴ Success stories like Rwanda's Kigali Bulk Water Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) and Côte d'Ivoire's Azito power station highlight potential but remain limited in scale. Strengthening institutions such as the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) to collaborate with global players such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is key to blending capital, improving transparency and enabling cross-border investment.



^[3] International Energy Agency. (2024). Africa – World Energy Investment 2024. International Energy Agency. https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-investment-2024/africa

[4] George, L. (2025, June 3). Local debt markets could shield Africa as funding sources shrink, Moody's says. Reuters. https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/local-debt-markets-could-shield-africa-funding-sources-shrink-moodys-says-2025-06-03/





Drive food security through stronger agricultural value chains

Global food systems are facing mounting strain from climate shocks, conflict and trade disruptions that drive price volatility⁵ and expose weak links across agricultural value chains.⁶ Particularly, smallholders and agri-SMEs, which produce approximately onethird of global food and up to 80%⁷ in developing regions, remain constrained by limited market access, finance and digital connectivity.⁸ Fragmented logistics and inadequate storage amplify these risks, deepening food insecurity and rural vulnerability.



PRIORITY

Drive global food security by reinforcing trade and scaling resilient value chains through innovation and inclusive finance

Example actions

- Facilitate regional trade and market integration to open cross-border value chains, harmonise standards and ensure affordable food access
- **Mobilise blended finance and risk-sharing mechanisms** to expand access for smallholders and agri-SMEs, enabling value chain upgrading and innovation
- Scale climate-smart and regenerative practices through technology transfer, R&D and local partnerships to boost productivity and resilience
- Invest in cold chain, effective trade corridors, and digital and financial systems to cut losses, stabilise supply and strengthen value-chain connectivity and resilience

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture
- Finance & Infrastructure
- Energy Mix & Just Transition

[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2022, March 4). FAO Food Price Index rises to record high in February. https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-food-price-index-rises-to-record-high-in-february/en

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), & World Health Organization (WHO). (2024). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024: Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en

[7] International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2013). Smallholders, food security, and the environment. IFAD.

[8] International Finance Corporation. (2024). Scaling up farmer financing through AgTechs in Sub-Saharan Africa. IFC. https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2024/scaling-up-farmer-financing-through-agtechs-in-sub-saharan-afric

Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa's food systems face execution challenges, not strategy gaps. Tailored, accessible finance, more resilient trade corridors and digitised value chains could accelerate agricultural value chain maturity. This could enable the continent to bolster global food security and continue powering growth. Immediate priorities include fixing border rules and standards through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Africa Union (AU) coordination, deploying local currency and blendedfinance windows to expand working-capital and warehouse-receipt lending, and digitising essentials like e-payments, e-invoicing and farmer IDs to boost traceability and market access. Africa's edge could be unlocked by scaling these enablers through regional cooperation, turning frameworks into projects with measurable proof points, such as unlocked finance, reduced post-harvest losses and rising rural incomes.





Build sustainable and climate-responsive economic systems

Climate risk is economic risk. Rising resource pressures, volatile energy markets and intensifying climate risks are redefining global competitiveness. Building sustainable and climate-responsive economic systems is essential to long-term stability and growth. Achieving this transition will require US 4-6 trillion USD⁹ in annual investment this decade. However, emerging economies receive less than 15%¹⁰ of current climate finance, pointing to imbalances in climate responsiveness and equity.



PRIORITY

Drive a just, sustainable global transition by scaling climate finance, clean innovation and resilient industrial systems

Example actions

- Mobilise large-scale climate and transition finance through blended-finance platforms, de-risking mechanisms and pipeline transparency to unlock capital for transition projects
- Accelerate renewable-energy and sustainable-technology adoption by investing in local manufacturing, grid modernisation and innovation hubs that reduce energy and resource intensity
- Integrate circular and bio-economy value chains by linking energy, water and agriculture systems to create jobs, deepen industrial competitiveness and cut emissions
- **Build human and institutional capability** through skills development, regulatory reform and public-private partnerships that embed resilience and enable long-term climate-responsive growth

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Energy Mix & Just Transition
- Finance & Infrastructure
- · Industrial Transformation & Innovation

Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa could convert its natural resource wealth into diversified, low-carbon industries. Beyond finance and technology, the continent's advantage lies in linking sectors, i.e., energy, water, agriculture and nature-based value chains, into an integrated bioeconomy that drives jobs, competitiveness and green growth. Reliable power, water security and coordinated infrastructure investment are essential enablers, alongside clear land tenure, local capability building and community participation. Strengthening collaboration among governments, business and development finance institutions to co-invest in renewable energy, irrigation, and bio-based industries will anchor Africa's leadership in climate-responsive growth.





Empower Africa's digital and skills transformation

Digital transformation and skills development are redefining global competitiveness and inclusion. As Al and automation reshape economies, those investing in digital infrastructure, talent and innovation will capture the next wave of productivity and growth. Yet gaps in connectivity and capability persist where 2.6 billion people remain offline globally. Africa, with the world's fastest-growing workforce, risks being left behind without rapid investment in digital access and skills.



PRIORITY

Accelerate inclusive digital transformation by expanding connectivity, building skills and enabling innovation-driven growth

Example actions

- **Expand affordable and reliable digital connectivity** through blended investment in broadband, data centres and cross-border infrastructure to close access gaps
- Strengthen digital and green skills pipelines by aligning education systems with industry demand, scaling vocational and STEM training, and embedding lifelong learning
- **Enable interoperable digital public infrastructure,** including e-IDs, e-payments and data standards, to lower transaction costs and boost SME participation in digital trade
- Support tech hubs, Al and fintech start-ups, and open-data partnerships that commercialise local talent and research to foster innovation ecosystems and value-chain upgrading

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Digital Transformation
- · Employment & Education
- Finance & Infrastructure

Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa's path from demographic to digital dividend runs through affordable, trusted, interoperable digital infrastructure that links talent to global markets.

Rapidly implementing the AfCFTA Digital Trade

Protocol (e.g. e-signatures and digital customs) will cut friction in regional trade.

Expanding access, building future-ready skills, aligning education with new technologies and strengthening public-private collaboration will convert connectivity into jobs, competitiveness and inclusive growth.



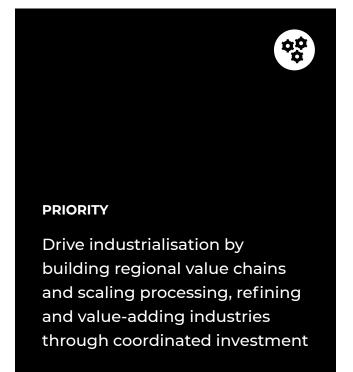




Unlock Africa's industrialisation in the critical minerals value chain

Critical minerals are vital to the global low carbon energy, technology and manufacturing transitions,¹² yet supply chains remain concentrated and fragile.¹³ Demand for key minerals is expected to rise fourfold by 2040, whilst Africa, which holds approximately 30% of global reserves,¹⁴ captures only a limited value as most of its exports remain unprocessed.¹⁵

Building sustainable, transparent and regionally integrated value chains is essential to secure supply and drive inclusive growth. Achieving this requires coordinated investment in processing, refining and manufacturing capacity, alongside stronger infrastructure, trade corridors and ESG standards to ensure responsible, locally beneficial development.



Example actions

- **Mobilise blended and transition finance** to de-risk investment in mineral processing, refining and infrastructure projects in Africa
- **Develop regional hubs** anchored by reliable power, water and transport infrastructure to capture more value locally and attract private capital
- **Build skills and supplier ecosystems** through vocational training, SME upgrading and community participation to ensure inclusive and sustainable industrialisation

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Industrial Transformation & Innovation
- Finance & Infrastructure
- Energy Mix & Just Transition

Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa's mineral wealth must translate into diversified, value-adding industries that drive sustainable growth. Governments, business and DFIs could coordinate regionally to move from frameworks to bankable projects, harmonising rules and fast-tracking permits through the AfCFTA and SADC.

Priority should be placed on local processing and manufacturing, anchored by reliable energy and logistics corridors, and supported by transparent financing platforms that crowd in private capital. Ensuring that communities share in the benefits through jobs, skills and fair value distribution will be key to building a responsible and competitive African minerals economy.





Enabling conditions

Sustained growth in a volatile world rests on resilient markets, trusted institutions and inclusive participation. Reinforcing integrity and rules-based trade, modernising multilateral systems, and creating predictable conditions for long-term capital will attract long-term investment and help lift productivity.

Example actions

- Foster business resilience and market stability, promoting integrity, anti-corruption and rules-based trade, supported by a reset of key multilateral institutions to address evolving trade dynamics
- Unlock investment and growth through well-designed public-private partnerships
- **Build competitive markets** by empowering women, upgrading SMEs and championing safe, healthy workforces

RELATED TASK FORCES

- Finance & Infrastructure
- Integrity & Compliance
- Trade & Investment

Priorities for Africa and South Africa

Africa's next growth chapter depends on rebuilding confidence through capable institutions, predictable rules and visible delivery. Strengthening governance, transparency and coordination across public and private systems will be key to lowering risk and attracting sustained investment. Beyond capital, progress hinges on execution - ensuring partnerships deliver assets, not just plans - and on inclusion, so SMEs, women and communities share in the gains of industrial and digital growth.





PHUTHI **Mahanyele-Dabengwa**

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Chair, Trade & Investment Task Force | Former Chair, Industrial Development Corporation



THE TASK FORCES POWERING B20 SOUTH AFRICA

The task force Chairs of B20 South Africa are honoured to have stewarded a rigorous, inclusive and forward-looking process that culminated in a pivotal milestone: the presentation of 30 peer-reviewed, data-backed recommendations to the G20 Presidency in September 2025. These recommendations reflect continuity with past B20 efforts, respond to the realities of today and look ahead to the aspirations of economies in transition both in emerging and developing economies.

66

The power of ideas lies not in their purity but in their capacity to mobilise.

 Ali Mazrui, African scholar and political philosopher The work of the eight task forces has served as the engine of B20 South Africa, driving a shared ambition to develop an actionable blueprint for inclusive and sustainable growth. From this collective endeavour, three central imperatives have emerged:



Collaboration as a catalyst

Enduring progress is rooted in partnership between business, government and civil society. Each successful case examined affirms that transformation is sustained by mutual commitment and accountability.



Integrity as infrastructure

Some of the most decisive reforms are underpinned by trust. Transparent governance, ethical leadership and institutional integrity form the bedrock upon which innovation and investment flourish.



Agency as momentum

The moment demands readiness. These recommendations are designed to be implementable in the near term, helping to ensure that strategic vision is matched by empowering agency and decisive action.

For these ambitions to take root, key enablers are needed: political will, institutions that embrace innovation and the essential services that enable people and businesses - particularly youth, women and SMEs, who are too often excluded from support structures - to participate in economic activity that creates opportunity.

A defining feature of B20 South Africa was its insistence on broad participation. This inclusivity enriched the evidence base, diversified perspectives and gave tangible expression to the principle that inclusive growth is only possible when all voices are heard and valued.

The recommendations presented through the B20 South Africa process embody this spirit of cooperation.

The task now is to move from recommendations to results. Implementation is the true measure of ambition: the bridge between dialogue and delivery. The success of this B20 will be judged not by what was said, but by what we are able to do, together. This is the test of our collective credibility: to turn insight into impact, and conviction into change.

The world stands at a defining moment that looks towards collective leadership, pragmatic collaboration and a renewed sense of shared responsibility.

The following provides a high-level overview of the B20 South Africa task forces' work. For a full breakdown of the 30 recommendations and their detailed rationale, please access these papers here:



Digital Transformation



Education & Employment



Energy Mix & Just Transition



Finance & Infrastructure



Industrial Transformation & Innovation



Integrity & Compliance



Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture



Trade & Investment



Digital Transformation





Recommendation

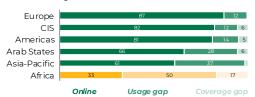
Context example



1. Closing usage & connectivity gaps

2.6 billion people remain offline, with LICs facing persistent coverage and affordability gaps despite global network avai lability

Africa faces the largest usage gaps, showing connectivity alone won't close the divide



Infrastructure alone is not enough; affordability, devices, and digital literacy must be addressed in parallel

Details

Action 1.1: Deploy high-speed infrastructure in unserved areas

Action 1.2: Support localised connectivity initiatives

Action 1.3: Scale affordable mobile device access



2. Increasing penetration of digital literacy

38% of individuals globally lack digital skills; rapid tech shifts mean 39% of core job skills will change by 2030

Rapid skills shifts highlight the need for workforce re-skilling and digital readiness

Share of worker skill sets (%) 100 44% 39% 57% 50 56% 61% 0 2025

bridging the skills gap Core skills which will change in the next five years

Core skills which will remain the same in the next five years

Action 2.1: Universal basic digital literacy in schools

Action 2.2: Align tertiary education with digital industry needs

Workforce resilience hinges on digital upskilling as job roles evolve rapidly towards AI-enabled, digitised labour



3. Driving aligned Al governance Trust in AI has dropped from 63% in 2022 to 46% in 2025; fragmented global regulatory landscape an additional, related issue

Driven by lack of ethical safeguards, bias, and opaque use in public & private services

Global population willing to trust Al systems (%) 50 63% 46%

2022

72% Of global AI experts say there is insufficient. international alignment on standards

~2.5B

People globally

are unable to

access

afford able

smartphones

US\$11.5T

In GDP across

G20 countries

to be unlocked

through

Action 3.1: Align countries on a coherent Al governance framework

Global trust is eroding as AI use outpaces regulation; international coordination on AI is now urgent



4. Encouraging inclusive **Digital Public** Infrastructure ecosystems

Getting governance and incentives right will help scale Digital Public Infrastructure as a critical catalyst for inclusive economic growth

2025

People-centric Digital Public Infrastructure unlocks innovation when it balances public and private roles:

Sustainable

business models

Co-creation with the private sector

innovation

Avoid crowd out Ensure long-term viability and growth

Clear legal and institutional frameworks

Build trust and enable fair participation

1.1**R** People still lack a digital identity

0.07 MSMEs with LEIs per 1,000

Closing the identity gap and enabling trusted business IDs requires Digital Public Infrastructure that is open, interoperable, and market-friendly

Action 4.1: Create frameworks for people-centric Digital Public Infrastructure

Recommendation

Employment & Education

Task force paper summary



1. Promote a business agenda for job growth and people participation in labour markets, recognising it will promote societal and political stability

Context example

- While most economic actors acknowledge the need for more integrated thinking and actions bridging new job strategies to financial incentives for governments, **joint meetings have been the exception rather than the norm at G20 levels**.
- While the labour market landscape has fundamentally changed since COVID-19, the policies that regulate labour require a significant upgrade to reflect current business and worker dynamics.
- The G20 can champion the development of guidelines to unleash SMEs growth by applying lessons from the ILO's ongoing SME Productivity Ecosystem project.
- The creation of fit-for-employment investment and infrastructure projects at national and local levels is essential for growth in SMEs.

Details

Action 1.1: The G20 should establish a regular mechanism for joint finance-employment minister's meetings to explore concrete ways to promote more employment

Action 1.2: The G20 should mandate relevant international organisations to compile policies and regulatory frameworks that create an enabling environment for businesses

Action 1.3: Develop G20-owned guidelines and associated actions to boost micro-entrepreneurs, SMEs and business-led jobs

Action 1.4: The G20 should ask its Global Infrastructure Hub for a dash board to encourage employmentrelated investments



2. Increase female labour force participation by removing barriers to women's employment

- Brisbane Goal: to reduce the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2025.
- Nine out of the G20 countries are set to meet or even surpass the targets for the Brisbane Goal.
- Lack of affordable childcare, discriminatory tax policies and limited access to finance are leading constraints to women's economic empowerment.

Action 2.1: The G20 should extend the "Brisbane Goal" to a "Johannesburg Goal" for women economic empowerment



3. Advance a flexible and pragmatic approach toward digital platform work and the gig economy

- Digital platforms are an important factor for business development and employment creation in many industries and in all parts of the world.
- As businesses increasingly adopt digital and Al technologies, this evolution will open doors to new forms of employment. In particular, it will enhance the viability of platform-based work

Action 3.1: The G20 should advocate for maximum flexibility as new policies emerge on the platform economy



4. Equip citizens early on

- Appropriate early childhood care and education (ECCE) can increase a country's GDP by up to 5%.
- Focusing both on the affordability of ECCE systems and on futureproofing them will be essential to provide children with cognitive and emotional skills.

Action 4.1: G20 should leverage its convening power to improve affordable access to early childhood education



5. Connect youth to earning opportunities

- Many G20 countries have **national** youth employment programmes that include training, apprenticeships and partnerships with the **private sector**. These efforts remain fragmented, however, and there is no shared guidance on what works best, how to fund it or how to scale it effectively.
- Action 5.1: The G20 should task the OECD to determine the pillars and funding conditions for a G20 Youth Employment Compact



6. Empower reskilling and upskilling based on real demand

- Stakeholders (government, private sector, labour unions, etc.) need to set clear and realistic goals that everyone can track and adjust their action toward effective demand-led skilling.
- Action 6.1: G20 countries should set and track a goal of 0.5% of annual GDP for investments in lifelong learning

Energy Mix & Just Transition

Task force paper summary

Recommendation Context example



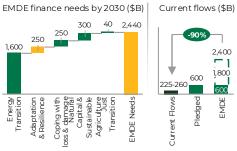




1. Mobilising sustainable energy transition finance

Significant finance shortfalls persist, with EMDEs receiving only 10-25% of required funding to meet transition goals

EMDEs face finance needs of \$2.4 T, incl. \$250B for adaptation and resilience



slow delaying transition

2,400 1,800

7X Increase of

international financing needed for Just Energy Transitions from \$45B to \$330B by 2040

Action 1.1: De-risk finance in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, by scaling tools like guarantees

Action 1.2: Launch a G20 adaptation finance accelerator

Action 1.3: Institutionalise country platforms via integrated road maps

Action 1.4: Improve private investment certainty

Action 1.5: Strengthen domestic carbon markets



Accelerating industrialisation across the energy value chain

\$11T opportunity at risk as Africa and the Global South remain stuck in low-value extraction, limiting value chain capture

Energy finance commitments and implementation has been

Energy transition value chain set to grow 5X, unlocking a \$11T opportunity



jobs to be generated by growth of this market; 38M of them coming from EMDEs

2X

growth of

annual global

investment in

grid infra.

needed, from

\$390B to

\$750B in 2040

EMDE share (right axis)

100M

Action 2.1: Equip EMDE workforces for the transition by expanding skills

Action 2.2: Build sustainable energy-sector supply chains by boosting trade and market access

Action 2.3: Expand access to advanced energy technologies in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

Transition to optimal energy mix provides EMDEs with unique opportunity to further industrialize



3. Expand and modernise energy infrastructure Energy infrastructure investment must grow by 2x to meet global electrification and sustainability targets

By 2035, Emerging Markets and Developing Economies must deliver 60%+ of global power sector investment Global power sector investment by tech (\$B)



Other renewables Unabated fossil fuels Transmission and distribution Nuclear

Transition towards optimal energy mix must be supported by modernized energy infrastructure

Action 3.1: Enhance climate-resilience in energy infrastructure

Action 3.2: Develop flexible, shock-responsive eneray systems

Action 3.2: Accelerate local energy infrastructure delivery by streamlining permitting and strengthening local









Finance & Infrastructure

Task force paper summary

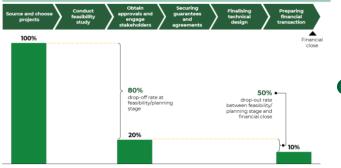
Recommendation Context example





1. Support the expansion of investable infrastructure projects

Most projects fail in early stages, with 90% of projects in Africa not reaching financial close due to poor restructuring, inconsistent regulation, and lack of coordination



More investable projects & better coordination, attracting greater private & public capital and meeting infrastructure needs.

Details

Action 1.1: provide targeted support for infrastructure projects across their development cycle to reduce pipeline bottlenecks and drop-offs

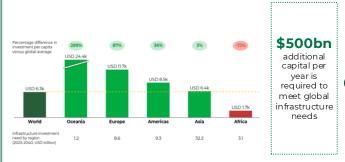
Action 1.2: prioritise the provision of critical infrastructure, with greater focus on international coordination and cooperation



2. Improve access to capital by increasing the availability, effectiveness and resilience of public, private and philanthropic investment

De-risking and blended finance partnerships are needed to mobilise this capital

Forecasted infrastructure investment per capita, per region (2025-40)



Increased provision of public, philanthropic, and private capital for infrastructure, driven by greater use of partnerships, de-risking, and better data.

Action 2.1: build investment capacity by expanding the availability of new and existing sources of capital and addressing regulatory considerations

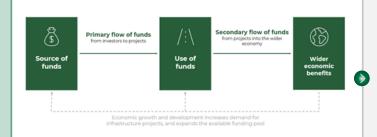
Action 2.2: explore improvements to data and information availability to support credit rating assessments, capital allocation, and opportunities to reduce the cost of capital

Action 2.3: de-risk investing through increased use of concessional blended finance and public private philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs), and other scalable private capital mobilization techniques and credit insurance mechanisms



3. Enhance
the flow of
funds
between
investors,
infrastructure
projects and
the wider
economy

Inefficient capital flows hinder infrastructure development and MSME participation in value chains



Reduced barriers to capital flows between investors and projects, can increase MSME participation and economic

Action 3.1: facilitate the flow of funds between investors and infrastructure projects, both within and across borders

Action 3.2: enhance working capital and payment efficiency to facilitate the flow of funds throughout infrastructure supply chains

Action 3.3: support wider economic development and growth by facilitating the flow of funds from infrastructure investments into the wider economy.

Industrial Transformation & Innovation

Task force paper summary

Recommendation Context example

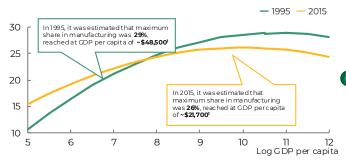




1. Enable & renew industrial growth through strategy and innovation

Strong manufacturing activity (MVA) supports economic performance (GDP per capita)

Share of value added in manufacturing at different GDP per capita levels, % of GDP



Manufacturing value added is positively correlated with economic performance, given its impact on employment and GDP per capita

1. Simulated share assuming median population across sample of countries. Source Groningen Growth and Development Centre; Dani Rodrik, Premature de industrialisation, NBER working poper, 2015: McKinsev Global Institute andvis

Details

Action 1.1: establish publicprivate platforms to co-design and refine national industrial strategies

Action 1.2: build empowered delivery institutions to coordinate implementation and monitor progress with transparency

Action 1.3: build national foresight systems to future-proof industrial strategy and enable renewal

Action 1.4: scale innovation capabilities and cultivate public-private—academic ecosystems to support continuous industrial upgrading and adaptability to global market changes, including disruptions driven by Al



2. Broaden & deepen value chain capabilities

High-skill occupations are expected to grow strongly, highlighting opportunity to upgrade industry capabilities

Jobs change in manufacturing sector, 2022 - 30

Select increasing and declining occupations	Absolute la bo u 2022-30,00 0s	rchange,	Per cent change, 2022-30
Engineer		2	259 29%
Material movers and loaders		140	29%
Manager+		134	16%
Business and financial special ists		102	17%
Manager		95	21 %
Construction workers		14	7%
Transportation workers		11	5%
Executives		8	3%
Material moving machine operators		5	1%
Sales workers (retail and online)	-22		-9%
Information and record clerks	-31		-6%
Office support workers	-46		-21 %
Production workers -479			-8%

Investment in workforce, industry alignment and broader adoption of tech is essential to boost value chain capabilities

Source: McKinsey G lobal Institute (2017), Jobs lost, jobs gaine d: What the future of work will mean for jobs, skills, and wages; McKinsey & Company

Action 2.1: deepen business capabilities and enable supplier upgrading through bundled support, procurement linkages, and anchor partnerships

Action 2.2: expand international market access and regional integration through trade facilitation, corridor infrastructure, and exportoriented business linkages

Action 2.3: align skills systems with industrial transformation by scaling flexible, industry-led, and regionally responsive training models

Action 2.4: promote inclusive industrial employment (targeting women and youth) through local hiring incentives, transition support schemes, and work-integrated learning pathways



3. Embrace futurefocused sustainable technologies and digitalisation Some Industry 4.0 moves can be accelerated without major technology investments

Mapping of Industry 4.0 use case adoption readiness against levels of tech infrastructure

against it veis or teem initiast acture			
	No adoption at all	Rapid accele	eration in adoption
		Level ofexisting t	ech infrastructure
		None/Basic	Advan ced
Acc elera ted	Digital work in structions for operator assistance		
adoption	Digital performance management using IIoT		
irrespective of existing technology	Operator assist ance through augmented reality		
infrastructure	Retr ofit automation for loading, conveyors, etc		
	Digital mainte nance (condition-based)		
Differential speed of	Advanced a nalytics (AI/ML ¹) for operations		
adoption with	Robotic process automation for services		
advantagetothose with existing	Automation of plant (ware house logistics (AG Vs ² etc)		
technology	Digital-twin simulations for optimisation		
infrastructure	Operator training using virtual reality		
Slowed adopt ion	Full, end-to-end advanced robotic automation		
irrespective of	3D printing of spares, jigs, product components		
existing technology infrastructure	Blockchain for supply-chain traceability		
iiii asti uctui e	Na no tech no logy in ma nu facturin g		

The maturity of the existing tech infrastructure should not be seen as a defining barrier to entry for digitalisation

Ar tificial intelligence/machine learning
 Autonomous guided vehicles.

Source: McKinsey, Industry 4.0: Reimagining manufacturing operations after COVID-19

Action 3.1: scale investment incentives and financing mechanisms for industrial decarbonisation, digitalisation, and green technological upgrading

Action 3.2: establish publicprivate demonstration platforms to localise sustainable and advanced manufacturing solutions

Action 3.3: enable technology adoption through shared industrial infrastructure, localised advisory services, and smart production ecosystems

Integrity & Compliance

Task force paper summary

Recommendation Context example





1. Encourage
the
responsible
use of
technology in
integrity and
anticorruption
measures

In an era defined by **rapid technological advancement**, digital transformation presents a significant opportunity to **strengthen integrity and anti-corruption frameworks** globally.

Without proper frameworks, digital technologies may perpetuate or amplify existing biases, create opacity in decision-making or lead to over-reliance on automated systems without human oversight.

By embedding ethics, inclusion, transparency and human oversight into the very DNA of digital transformation, G20 nations can help ensure that digitally driven whistleblowing platforms uphold — not undermine — moral values.

Digital identity integrity tools, such as the **Legal Entity Identifier**, bring **greater trust, efficiencies and transparency** to business-to-business trades of all kinds.

Details

Action 1.1: promote the adoption of international frameworks for the responsible use of technology in anticorruption and integrity measures

Action 1.2: establish secure and inclusive digitally driven whistleblowing platforms for reporting suspected integrity breaches

Action 1.3: promote the use of digital identity integrity tools, such as the Legal Entity Identifier, to enhance transparency



2. Strengthen integrity embedment in climate and sustainability finance systems

The rapid increase in extreme weather events and other environmental crises worldwide has reinforced the need for action in addressing environmental risks with intentional and responsible sustainable governance initiatives

There is an urgent need for sustainable integrity due diligence in infrastructure investment and climate finance mechanisms, stronger advocacy for convergence across sustainability disclosure standards, and the adoption of third-party assurance of sustainability claims in capital markets and project finance.

Funding earmarked for extreme weather and other environmental challenges may be susceptible to **financial mismanagement and corruption**

Through the creation of a global climate finance transparency registry, overlaying existing platforms, to integrate and verify climate finance flows, can reduce opacity, and promote accountability through international cooperation and shared visibility

85%

43%

Occupational

frau ds were

detected by a

tip (Association

of Certified

Fraud

Examiners 2024:

A Report to the Nations)

of the world's population lives in countries with CPI scores under 50 (Transparency International. Corruption Perception Index 2024) Action 2.1: leverage existing sustainability due diligence standards that promote integrity, particularly for climate finance, and promote the adoption of international sustainability reporting, sustainability assurance, and susta inability ethics and independence standards in local jurisdictions and territories

Action 2.2: create a global climate finance transparency registry that tracks funding flows, outcomes and integrity safeguards, codesigned with multilateral institutions and supported by independent verification mechanisms that address governance and data limitations at the national level



3. Amplify Collective Action and integrity standards for inclusive growth Collective Action can be proven to be a powerful tool in advancing integrity and enabling more inclusive economic systems.

With coordinated efforts across governments, organisations and international actors, Collective Action can serve as a cornerstone for resilient, transparent and inclusive growth

Public Private Partnerships are are a powerful tool to promote integrity and advance inclusive growth

Embedding integrity-focused PPPs into national and sectoral strategies, supported by clear standards and inclusive dialogue, will enable both the public and private sectors to jointly tackle corruption, enhance service delivery and foster an enabling environment for sustainable, inclusive growth).

Action 3.1: strengthen support and incentives for organisations to engage and

drive Collective Action for inclusive growth

Action 3.2: expand and embed PPPs as a tool for promoting integrity and

driving inclusive growth

Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture

Task force paper summary



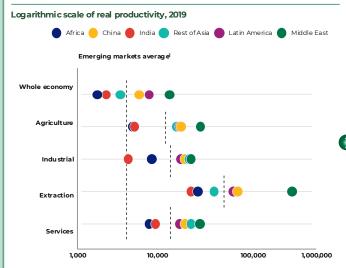
Recommendation Context example



1. Strengthen the resilience of agrifood supply chains



2. Enhance access to productivityboosting inputs and technologies Improving labour productivity and access to better inputs and technologies are crucial to strengthening the resilience of agrifood supply chains



In many G20 countries, agriculture em ploys 40-50% of the workforce but contributes just 10-20% to GDP — particularly in LMICs

 Emerging markets include middle-income count ries as determined by the World Bank Source: McKinsey Global Institute Africa Productivity Model (2023)

Details

Action 1.1: promote private sector involvement in the development of local and regional supply chains

Action 1.2: optimise the use of land to meet the growing needs for food, fuel, fibre, and nature

Action 1.3: collaborate with the private sector to enhance labour productivity

Action 1.4: scale innovation capabilities and cultivate public-private-academic ecosystems

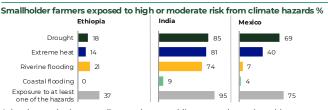
Action 2.1: promote equitable access of market-relevant improved inputs and technologies through incentives, tailored financing solutions and risk-based regulatory frameworks

Action 2.2: promote collaboration between governments, private sector entities and educational institutions to disseminate productivity-boosting technologies across borders



3. Promote inclusive and equitable livelihoods

Climate impacts vary; tailored, context-specific strategies to aid equitable livelihoods are vital



Adapting agriculture to climate change while supporting vulnerable groups is essential for inclusive, resilient food systems

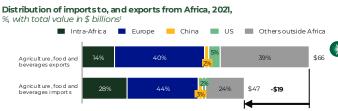
Source: McKinsey (2023), What climate-smart agriculture means for smallholder farmers, McKinsey & Company

Action 3.1: develop and scale up innovative finance solutions and inclusive investment models to expand access to capital

Action 3.2: invest in harmonised data systems to capture the contribution of women and youth across food systems



4. Integrate intra- and interregional trade into broader strategies for food security Agricultural trade is essential for building resilient, interconnected food systems



Intra-regional trade remains limited in some African regions
McKinsey GlobalInst itute — Reimagining economic growth in Africa Turning diversity into opportunity (2023);
UN Commodity Trade 5 tat sites Database (Comt rade) — Distribution of imports to and exports from Africa (2021).

Action 4.1: strengthen regional food resilience through integrated trade, rules-based multilateral trading system, reducing non-tariff barriers, and coordinated early warning and reserve systems

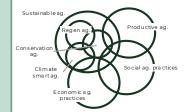
Action 4.2: harmonise agricultural and trade policy reforms — backed by targeted incentives, to support environmentally a ligned, digital trade tools, as well as sustainable food systems, while embedding internationally recognised standards



5. Accelerate the adoption of resilient and adapted agricultural innovations in food value chains

Overlap between different sustainable farming practices is significant

Ill ustrative overlap across sustainable farming practices



Scaling sustainable solutions requires alignment on priority practices, supported by cross-cutting enablers to enable lasting impact

Source: Revitalizing fields and balance sheets through regenerative farming: World Bank (LSMS-ISA), AGRA, Ogisi et al 2023 Action 5.1: promote inclusive innovation hubs to co-develop, adapt and disseminate sustainable practices

Action 5.2: collaborate with G20 countries to drive investment in agronomic support for sustainable farming practices

Action 5.3: strengthen public and private digital agronomic advisory systems in partnership with the private sector and adapt sustainability certification frameworks

B20 Trade & Investment

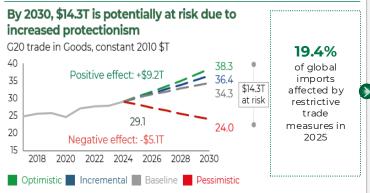
Task force paper summary

Recommendation Context example





1. Promote stability in global trade and improved market access Extraordinary tariff escalations, increased protectionism, and WTO organizational challenges threaten the stability of global trade



The multilateral trade system has been weakened and is not achieving trade stability & improving market access

Details

Action 1.1: De-escalate tariff crisis and roll back tariffs, minimize non-tariff barriers and recommit to multilateral principles

Action 1.2: Reduce erosion of the multilateral trading system in the short-term, while pushing for urgent longer lasting reform of the WTO

Action 1.3: Enhance business engagement model with WTO to build relevant trade



2. Create a new trade and investment deal for Africa Despite rich resources, a growing population, an integration imperative, low FDI and limited trade integration constrain Africa's economic potential

Intra-African trade is just ~17%, compared to 69% in Europe and 51% in North America

Share of intercontinental trade (2022)

80%
60%
40%
20%
Europe North Asia LATAM Africa

~3%
of global FDI
flows into
Africa, despite
being home
to ~18% of
global
population

Africa's participation in global trade is critical but current mode of engagement could curtail global growth

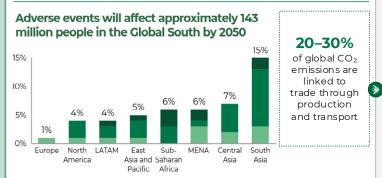
Action 2.1: Mobilize and grow investment in Africa by adopting innovative financial instruments and streamlining G20 initiatives

Action 2.2: Accelerate integration of African markets through the AfCFTA and harmonise regulations

Action 2.3: Expand African export competitiveness and promote meaningful participation in the global market



3. Build a climateresponsive system for international trade Intensified trade emissions due to climate change and fragmented carbon reporting policies threaten global trade resilience



Trade and investment must evolve to both reduce emissions and help economies adapt to climate change

Action 3.1: Develop interoperable carbon mitigation policies (including product-level carbon measurement) in trade and support green investment policies at the G20-level

Action 3.2: Develop mechanisms to support climate adaptation in trade, facilitating a just transition













Detailed insights from the Local Business Advisory Council responding to B20 task force recommendations

As members of the Local Business Advisory Council (LBAC), we are proud to have contributed to the delivery of the first Africa-led B20. Our focus has been to ensure this moment leaves a lasting legacy. We asked ourselves:

What will South Africa and the continent gain? What proof will endure?

In line with B20 South Africa's thematic strategy, we prioritised actions that could address South Africa's decade of sub-1% growth and reignite momentum across sub-Saharan Africa, where percapita growth remains stagnant. Importantly, we aimed to highlight how a thriving Africa reinforces global stability and growth.

Anchored in the B20 South Africa task force recommendations and aligned with G20 priorities, these focus areas target near-term multipliers for Africa's inclusive growth:

- Digital and data-driven growth that unlocks Africa's talent and service potential for global markets.
- Competitive agricultural trade and resilient food systems, vital to the continent's livelihood and employment, with agrifood supporting ~300 million jobs, or 65% of the workforce.
- Value addition in critical minerals, especially midstream and downstream processing, positioning Africa at the heart of global supply chains and green transitions.

Overall, we urge G20 partners to match ambition with enablement: drive forward AfCFTA implementation, harmonised rules, and corridors that connect African skills and products to global markets. To support this, deploy credible financing platforms and risk-sharing instruments at scale. Put capability before capital, such as data, operating know-how, and delivery capacity, so institutions in Africa can execute with confidence. Turn insight into activity with decisions that have consequences; published, measurable timelines; and regional coordination to scale what works.

With focused priorities, aligned support and clear proof points, this moment can mark the rise of a competitive, resilient African economy - one that shows what we achieved and how we delivered.



PRIORITIES TO DELIVER SOUTH AFRICA'S B20 LEGACY





Empower Africa's digital and skills transformation

PRIORITY

Build the digital highways linking African talent to the world.

Accelerating digital transformation is Africa's golden opportunity to convert its demographic tailwind into a global advantage. By 2050, Africa's working-age population will approach 1.6 billion,¹⁷ nearly a quarter of the world's total, marking an opportunity to build digital highways¹⁸ that connect African talent, services and innovation to global markets.

Rapid advances in artificial intelligence, cloud and digital tools are already lowering barriers to access, bringing classrooms to one's palm and playing a strategic role for small and medium enterprises. This shift could help position Africa's talent as a global hub, mirroring successful business process outsourcing approaches taken by regions like Costa Rica, India and Eastern Europe.¹⁹

Africa's tech hubs, from Cape Town to Nairobi, Kigali to Lagos, prove what is possible: mobile money moved about USD 1.4 trillion in 2023 and counts ~1.75 billion registered accounts, led by platforms such as M-Pesa, which processed KES 35.9 trillion in FY2023^{20,21}. African talent is scaling globally: Andela's USD 1.5 billion valuation signals demand for African engineers,²² whilst entrepreneurship platforms are crossing borders: Jumia's 2019 NYSE listing showed African tech can reach global capital markets²³. The digital backbone is advancing too: Azure (2019), ²⁴ AWS (2020)²⁵, and Google Cloud (2024).²⁶ opened

[17] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2024). World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of results. https://desapublications.un.org/publications/world-population-prospects-2024-summary-results

[18] World Bank. (2023). Digital Progress and Trends Report 2023. World Bank. https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/digital-progress-and-trends-report

[19] Digital Minds BPO. (2025, August 31). 7 top countries for outsourcing in 2025.

[20] GSMA. (2024). State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money 2024. https://www.gsma.com/solutions-and-impact/connectivity-for-good/mobile-for-development/gsma_resources/state-of-the-industry-report-on-mobile-money-2024/

[21] Safaricom PLC. (2023). Annual report 2023: M-PESA. https://www.safaricom.co.ke/annualreport_2023/m-pesa.html

local regions in South Africa; the country's Global Business Services sector created 20,518 export jobs in 2024.27 New capacity like Google's Equiano subsea cable is forecast to cut Nigeria's retail internet prices by ~21%, underscoring how infrastructure bends cost curves.28

Local digital capability programmes show that Africa can build resilience from within, and when scaled, set the global benchmarks for inclusive innovation

Lillian Barnard,

Chief of Enterprise Partners, Middle East & Africa, Microsoft

However fundamentals still matter: without reliable power and affordable last-mile access, the digital economy remains a promise. Initiatives like Mission 300, which aim to connect 300 million sub-Saharan Africans to electricity by 2030, could be game changers if paired with commercially viable delivery.

We recognise the success of the landmark AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol established in 2024. We call on leaders to act within 12 months to make digital trade work across countries: recognise e-signatures and e-invoices, and roll out one-stop, digital customs. Cut the cost of access with blended funding and zero-rate essentials like learning, IDs and basic health services. Start where it is hardest - rural schools, clinics and community hubs - whilst training people from basic literacy to advanced analytics, and running safe AI pilots for SMEs and public services.



Africa must lead in shaping AI to serve our industries, upskill at every level, and transport our talent globally

Acha Leke,

Chairman, Africa, McKinsey & Company

Set a high bar for integrity with e-procurement, public ownership registers, and visible anticorruption action. Finally, publish a simple scoreboard (access, affordability, cross-border use, SME participation, jobs) so everyone can track progress, and small pilots can scale into continentwide platforms.



Africa's digital transformation is not a regional ambition; it is a global opportunity. When we expand access, invest in skills, and connect communities, we build the foundations for shared prosperity across continents

Serame Taukobong,

Group Chief Executive Officer, Telkom Group

The question is no longer whether Africa will join the digital age, but how boldly it will shape it, designing technology that serves its people, strengthens its industries, and connects its youthful skills to the world.

[22] Andela. (2021, September 29). Andela announces \$200M investment led by SoftBank (Series E), valuing company at \$1.5B. https://www.andela.com/news/andelaannounces-200m-investment-led-by-softbank

[23] Jumia Technologies AG. (2019, April 12). Jumia listed on the New York Stock Exchange. https://group.jumia.com/news/jumia-listed-on-the-new-york-stockexchange?category=press-releases

[24] Microsoft Azure. (2019, March 6). Microsoft opens first datacenters in Africa with general availability of Microsoft Azure. https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/ microsoft-opens-first-datacenters-in-africa-with-general-availability-of-microsoft-azure/

[25] Amazon Web Services. (2020, April 22). Now open - AWS Africa (Cape Town) Region. https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/aws/now-open-aws-africa-cape-town-region/ [26] Patel, N. (2024, January 31). New Google Cloud region now open in Johannesburg. Google Cloud Blog. https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/infrastructure/ heita-south-africa-new-cloud-region/

[27] Business Process Enabling South Africa (BPESA), (2025, May 14). South Africa's Global Business Services sector boomed in 2024, creating thousands of jobs for local youth. https://www.bpesa.org.za/news/681-south-africa-s-global-business-services-sector-boomed-in-2024%2C-creating-thousands-of-jobs-for-local-youth. html. which is a superior of the property of the[28] Africa Practice, & Genesis Analytics. (2022, April 13). Equiano in Nigeria: Economic impact assessment. https://africapractice.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ Final-Nigeria-EIA-13-April-2022.pdf





Unlock Africa's industrialisation in the critical minerals value chain

PRIORITY

Coordinate regionally.
Execute locally: Align
governments, business and
DFIs across borders to turn
frameworks into bankable
projects, operating plants
and jobs within tangible
horizons.

Global dynamics in 2025, from supply-security policy shifts (e.g., the EU Critical Raw Materials Act) to rewired trade flows, have put critical minerals at the centre of national industrial strategies, accelerating a trend years in the making. With ~30% of proven critical-mineral reserves, Africa sits at the fulcrum of this shift. For Africa, a "dig and ship" model is no longer viable; value is accrued midstream and downstream, and concentration risks (e.g., the Democratic Republic of Congo drives ~70% of cobalt mine supply²⁹) heighten exposure to volatility and policy shocks.



If frameworks only facilitate extraction, we've missed the opportunity. We need to incentivise value addition and manufacturing

Boitumelo Mosako, Chief Executive Officer, DBSA Africa faces a generational opportunity to accelerate industrialisation if we shift from agreements to execution, with cross-border coordination as the catalyst. We call on African governments, Chambers of Mines and G20 partners to leverage AfCFTA and SADC to align rules, fast-track permits and adopt shared standards for responsible mining and traceability.

A pan-African investment facility, drawing on governments, DFIs and private capital, should catalyse first-wave processing and manufacturing, anchored by multi-year offtakes. Infrastructure must follow: power, water, rail and ports around industrial parks. Scale up skills through vocational training, micro-credentials and SME development and ensure communities benefit through procurement targets, safety standards and enforceable agreements.



Africa needs a credible critical minerals possible path forward with clear roles, priorities and the political will to align finance, infrastructure and people

Nolitha Fakude.

Chair, Anglo American in South Africa

The window is narrow. With sustained political will, regional coordination and local execution, Africa can convert its mineral endowment into diversified industries, resilient supply chains and quality jobs, building prosperity that endures beyond any single commodity cycle.



Drive food security through stronger agricultural value chains

PRIORITY

Unlock finance, build resilient corridors and digitise value chains so Africa can feed people and power growth.

Africa sits at the nexus of urgent need and vast opportunity: It holds 65% of the world's untapped arable land, yet over 307 million people were undernourished in 2024 - more than one in five – driven by conflict, climate shocks and economic strain³⁰.

We cannot educate, build communities or grow livelihoods on empty stomachs. In a high-cost, disrupted environment, regional levers like the Kampala Declaration and the AfCFTA can keep trade flowing, whilst targeted finance and practical digital tools connect farmers to inputs and markets and lift competitiveness. The task now is execution.



Banks have a pivotal role to play in mobilising blended finance, partnering with agri-tech and fintech to cut transaction frictions, and fuel commercialisation for emerging farmers

Charles Russon,

Group Executive: Africa Regions, Absa Group

In the next 12 months, focus on four catalytic moves:

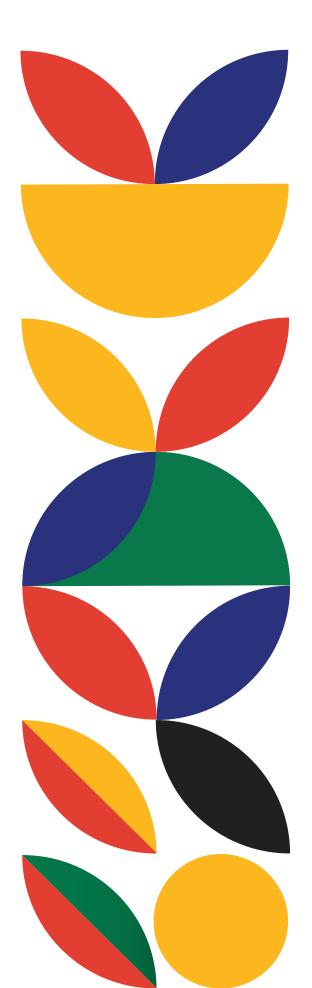
- Fix border rules by aligning food-safety standards, recognising certificates and implementing one-stop crossings via AU/AfCFTA to cut delays and costs.
- Scale finance through local-currency blended windows with guarantees and expand workingcapital and warehouse-receipt lending backed by clear offtake contracts.
- 3. Digitise the essentials with e-payments, e-invoicing, farmer IDs, traceability tools and mobile market and weather services.
- 4. Build cold-chain corridors by investing in storage, feeder roads, rail and port links and reliable utilities around agro-processing zones.

Empower the private sector to invest in cost-saving capabilities. Track progress with a simple scoreboard: finance unlocked, border wait times, post-harvest loss, and jobs created.



Agriculture development is not a social goal; it's an economic multiplier. When finance flows, borders work, and farmers connect to markets, we build resilient economies from the ground up

Richard (Boris) Rivett-Carnac, CEO, South African Breweries (SAB)



Powering infrastructure and industry through capital access

PRIORITY

Scale what works. Lower the cost of capital. Make development finance act as one system to improve confidence.

There is no shortage of high-potential, high-impact infrastructure and industrial projects across Africa; what is missing is scale, affordable capital, and trust. Annual infrastructure needs of \$130–\$170 billion leave a financing gap of roughly \$70–\$110 billion.³¹ Clean energy still attracts only about 2% of global investment, and total energy investment is just over one per cent of regional GDP,³² with projects often facing financing costs two to three times higher than their international counterparts.³³

The G20 South Africa Presidency highlights how high borrowing costs and sovereign debt pressures hold developing economies back. Yet, where credible counterparts, clear regulations and blended finance are in place, projects such as the Kigali Bulk Water PPP,³⁴ or Côte d'Ivoire's Azito power station³⁵ have demonstrated success. These successes, though impactful, remain too few and undersized. These proven models could be seen as blueprints for systemwide momentum.

66

It's not about starting from scratch. Take proven financing models and mandate them to scale

Simon Denny,

Chief Executive Officer, Goldman Sachs South Africa

As the LBAC, we endorse the B20 South Africa Task Force agenda to accelerate infrastructure investment, particularly for the energy transition, by expanding the pipeline of bankable projects and improving capital flows to SMEs, projects and the broader economy.

We call on G20 partners to lower the cost of capital by scaling proven models across Africa (in conjunction with multilateral and development finance institutions), standardising bankability playbooks, publishing open pipeline dashboards, and using evidence-based success stories to reduce perceived risk and enable rapid replication.

We also urge greater empowerment of Africa's regional development banks, such as AfDB, DBSA, and AFC, to operate in lockstep with global peers like the IFC. Together, they should form a coordinated platform to blend public and private capital, backed by transparent, comparable data on returns, defaults and delivery timelines. Acting as a unified system, this approach will reduce friction, de-risk investment and unlock cross-border capital at scale.

66

We still meet fund managers who say, 'We don't look at Africa.' Yet those who do engage here often make excellent returns

Boitumelo Mosako, Chief Executive Officer, DBSA It is crucial to continue strengthening public development banks to be considered viable partners for international institutions, which currently work more closely with private banks.

Concurrently, governments could continue prioritising regulatory clarity and sustained political commitment, signalling reliability and stability to investors. These steps can move more projects from paper to operating assets and jobs.



^[31] African Development Bank. (2023). Public-private partnerships needed to bridge Africa's infrastructure development gap [Press release].

^[32] International Energy Agency. (2024). World Energy Investment 2024: Africa.

^[33] International Energy Agency. (2024). World energy investment 2024: Overview and key findings. https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-investment-2024/overview-and-key-findings

^[34] World Bank Group (IFC). (2015). Rwanda: Kigali Bulk Water Project (PPP Stories). https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/747691542225189578/pdf/132054-BRI-PUBLIC-PPPStories-Rwanda-KigaliBulkWater.pdf

^[35] African Development Bank Group. (2024). Azito III Power Expansion Project—Results brief (P-CI-FA0-004). https://www.afdb.org/fr/documents/cote-divoire-azito-iii-power-expansion-project-p-ci-fa0-004-results-brief-2024-0





Build sustainable and climate-responsive economic systems

PRIORITY

Position the bio-economy as an engine for growth, turning Africa's natural assets into a competitive advantage

Across agriculture, forestry, water and energy, better application of mechanisation, improved seed technology, reliable irrigation and electrification can transform livelihoods, especially for women, smallholders and rural enterprises. Across agriculture, forestry, water and energy, mechanisation, improved seeds, reliable irrigation and electrification can transform livelihoods, especially for women, smallholders and rural enterprises.

Without coordinated policy, affordable power and open, reliable transmission grids, the continent cannot compete at scale. The path forward requires collaboration between governments, business and communities and co-investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and bio-based industries.



Africa's opportunity lies in its natural resources, which could be developed into commercial forestry and agricultural opportunities. Adapting global bio-economy frameworks can fuel local resilience and global growth.

Steve Binnie, Chief Executive Officer, Sappi



There's a powerful opportunity to integrate sectors that rely on shared ecosystem services, linking soil health, water security, clean energy, cold chains and nature-based value chains like forest products and green chemicals.

This requires coordinated policy to treat clean power and open transmission grids as core industrial inputs, align investment across water, energy and logistics infrastructure and unify finance to crowd in private capital. Crucially, local municipalities must be empowered to engage investors, deliver projects and ensure communities benefit through jobs, supplier opportunities and essential services.

Kenya's rapid uptake of solar irrigation³⁶ offers a clear blueprint: combining clean energy, efficient water use and digital finance to boost productivity, incomes and decarbonisation. Solar pumps are expanding water access, increasing yields, raising farmer incomes and cutting diesel costs and emissions, now scaling through public–private partnerships and growth finance.

44

Innovation ignites where industries intersect, real climate resilience demands coordinated action. Without grid readiness and co-investment between industry and utilities, private sector capital won't flow

Sabine Dall'Omo, Chief Executive Officer, Siemens South Africa Scaling such solutions across Africa, in collaboration with G20 partners, requires addressing infrastructure bottlenecks and unlocking innovative financing mechanisms.

Reliable power for industry, grid access reforms and investments in irrigation, water storage and transport infrastructure are critical. Financing solutions like bioeconomy finance windows, blended capital and de-risking mechanisms will enable progress. Supporting small producers through results-based grants, pay-as-you-grow loans and bundled index insurance will further drive inclusive growth. Clear land tenure, community consent and transparent procurement practices will ensure trust and sustainability.





Unlock investment and growth through well-designed public-private partnerships

PRIORITY

Decide with consequences, focus on a few priorities and build delivery capacity so PPPs become bankable assets and jobs.

Plans alone don't build assets; decisions and delivery do. Africa could close its infrastructure gap if governments and investors pick a few priorities, standardise risk-sharing and field joint "A-teams" that move bankable projects from paper to operating plants and jobs.

Market confidence is necessary but not sufficient on its own; it needs to be combined with structural reform and the right investment environment to unlock private capital. Well-structured public-private partnerships can mobilise funding, improve service delivery and accelerate clean power, transport, and digital build-out; the binding constraints are prioritisation, clear decisions and disciplined execution.

Our experience supporting the Business–Government Partnership between the South African Presidency and organised business³⁷ to tackle blockages in energy, transport and logistics, and crime and corruption, highlights the catalytic factor for rapid delivery: progress is driven by decisions with real consequences and delivery teams with mandate and stamina.

Since launch, the Business-Government Partnership has delivered³⁸: a surge in rooftop and behind-themeter solar, Cape grid headroom was unlocked to connect more renewables, and electricity-market reform advanced with an independent National Transmission Company³⁹ board and progress on the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill.⁴⁰ Port efficiency improved at Durban with fewer vessels at anchor and shorter waits, with sharper corridor

security efforts cutting theft and vandalism on critical rail lines.⁴¹

The Joint Initiative on Crime and Corruption, 10111 modernisation, and the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Bill strengthened enforcement. Business has also put material capacity on the table, with over R170 million and more than 350 specialists deployed via the Resource Mobilisation Fund⁴², turning collaboration into operating power, faster logistics, and clearer, investable rules.



Implementation is preceded by decision-making – decisions with consequences – or nothing moves.

Martin Kingston,

Executive Chairman, Rothschild & Co South Africa

To support the ambitions outlined in this B20 agenda, collaborating parties across government and G20 stakeholders are encouraged to consider a few decisive principles for partnerships: choose a small set of priorities with visible political sponsors and named, accountable leads.

Stand up public–private "A-teams" to help resolve permitting, land, and grid hurdles and move transactions forward. Govern with data: transparent dashboards, digital procurement, and independent monitoring. Capability should be put at the centre: second scarce skills, bring transaction expertise and use blended finance to buy down risk without replacing reform.

With limited capacity, priorities must be ruthlessly focused, and most project "pipelines" remain wish lists unless anchored by a committed public sponsor, precise risk-sharing mechanisms and a capable delivery team that can advance initiatives to actionable term sheets. Capital will follow capability.

^[37] Organised business is represented by Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), Business for South Africa (B4SA), and Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA)
[38] The Presidency (Republic of South Africa). (2025, May). Government-Business partnership sets three-month sprint to accelerate delivery. https://www.presidency.

^[39] Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. (2024, January 9). Eskom Board announces the appointment of the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA) Board. https://www.eskom.co.za/ Eskom



Build competitive markets by empowering women, upgrading SMEs, and championing safe, healthy

PRIORITY

Bridge the support gap with a more coordinated strategy that connects finance, infrastructure and markets, so women-owned businesses and SMEs can move from survival to scale, and workers thrive.

SMEs account for most firms and jobs across Africa, yet one-size-fits-all support consistently underdelivers. Growth is stifled by expensive credit, late public payments and missing infrastructure essentials such as power, logistics and connectivity.

Despite driving some of the world's highest rates of enterprise creation in sub-Saharan Africa,⁴³ women entrepreneurs face even steeper barriers to formal finance, market access and scaling opportunities. Support for SMEs and women-owned businesses is often fragmented, with impacts that are difficult to measure. Inclusion only boosts competitiveness when financial support is paired with the proper scaffolding - tailored, measurable assistance, and easier access to customers and markets.



Funding should not be a smoke screen for support. It must create real opportunity

Mtho Xulu,

President of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry To unlock SME-led, women-powered growth, prioritise quick wins within institutional control: pay small suppliers on time - a proven lifeline for small suppliers.⁴⁴ Expand fit-for-purpose finance, e.g., guarantees, working-capital lines, factory and supplychain finance, with gender-responsive products like collateral-free loans for women entrepreneurs to enable affordable local-currency working capital. Leverage digital tools: build simple digital rails for e-invoicing, instant payments, and cross-border trade. Enforce fair competition: tackle illicit trade, predatory fees and anti-competitive practices that disproportionately harm SMEs and women entrepreneurs.

Coordinate capability-building by sector so SMEs can meet quality and reliability standards and scale demand. Establish regional SME hubs that integrate finance, training and market access in one place. Track results with transparent metrics and use public–private partnerships to pool resources, share risk, and scale what works.

A healthy, resilient workforce is essential for sustainable operations. To enhance well-being and productivity, businesses and governments must ensure access to affordable preventive healthcare, enforce workplace safety standards with tools and training for SMEs, and promote family-friendly policies like childcare support, flexible work arrangements and maternity protections to enable full workforce participation.

When women and SMEs can thrive, their growth becomes a flywheel for jobs, innovation and a more prosperous Africa.

^[41] SAnews (Government Communication and Information System). (2024, March 11). Government, private sector partnership yields positive results. https://www.sanews.gov.za/ SA News

^[42] Business for South Africa. (n.d.). The Resource Mobilisation Fund (RMF). https://businessforsa.org/

^[43] Center for Strategic and International Studies. (n.d.). Supporting small and medium enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa through blended finance. CSIS.

^[44] National Treasury. (2024). Annual report on non-compliance with payment of supplier's invoices within 30 days - 2023/24. National Treasury

6 LEGACY INITIATIVES





B20 SOUTH AFRICA LEGACY INITIATIVES: BUILDING CONTINUITY, COOPERATION AND IMPACT

As B20 South Africa, we champion these B20 legacy initiatives, ensuring each Presidency's work delivers lasting impact. Our focus is on turning recommendations into tangible outcomes by scaling proven initiatives and launching new ones that reflect emerging global business priorities.

Approach

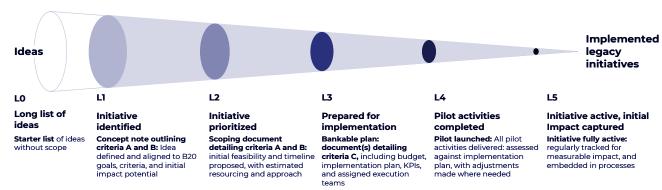
There are three legacy initiative pillars:

- From B20 for B20: reinforcing governance, institutional knowledge and continuity
- From B20 for society: delivering scalable, solution-driven initiatives that promote sustainable, inclusive growth
- From B20 for the host nation: embedding long-term economic and social value within South Africa and the wider African region

Development and assessment

Each initiative is assessed for strategic relevance, scale, impact potential, practicality and feasibility, progressing through defined stages from concept to implementation. Oversight and alignment are ensured through collaboration with the B20 Secretariat, the Steering Committee and both the Local Business Advisory Council and International Business Advocacy Caucus.

There are 5 stage gates of initiative development and delivery



B20 South Africa legacy initiatives

As a result of this process, eleven initiatives have been selected to continue as part of the B20 legacy initiative portfolio, including pre-existing initiatives and new, compelling proposals. B20 South Africa's 2025 legacy initiatives are anchored in six interconnected themes that capture global imperatives for sustainable, inclusive growth, and also home in on specific opportunities for Africa.



MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Africa's rich mineral base offers a generational opportunity to transition from extraction to value-added manufacturing. This theme backs investment in mining, refining, and processing capacity, while supporting integrated strategies to help mining-dependent economies diversify beyond mining.

B20 Collaboration on Critical Minerals in Africa - a Securing Energy for the Energy Transition (SMET) initiative

World Economic Forum From B20 for Society

Co-delivered with the World Economic
Forum and B20, with support from McKinsey
& Company, this initiative seeks to unlock
investment and coordination across Africa's
critical minerals value chain. It will produce
a flagship publication; host a B20 Summit
workshop; engage private companies in
mining, financiers, academics and policymakers to align financing and regulatory
frameworks, positioning Africa as a strategic,
responsible partner in global energy
transition supply chains.

Transforming Mining-Dependent Economies into Sustainable Economic Hubs

Minerals Council South Africa From B20 for the Host Nation

This initiative addresses the socioeconomic challenges of mine closure by transforming legacy mining infrastructure into platforms for new industries. It introduces a framework for integrated transition planning, scaling regional pilots that show early progress in turning postmining economies into thriving, sustainable communities. Led by the Minerals Council South Africa, with project support from Anglo American and Sasol and knowledge support from McKinsey & Company, the initiative aims to develop investment compacts that drive industrialisation in renewable energy, agriprocessing, and service sectors across former mining regions.



FOOD, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

As climate change reshapes agriculture and food security, this theme focuses on building resilient food systems, harmonising regional standards and promoting circular, climate-smart practices that connect farmers and markets across Africa.

South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative

Nestlé Eastern and Southern Africa Region, Consumer Goods Council of South Africa From B20 for the Host Nation

Anchored by Nestlé ESAR and the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa, this project tackles food waste by creating continental reporting and best-practice platform. Working with the African Union and regional partners, it will harmonise data, redistribute surplus nutritious food and share scalable solutions to improve food security and supply-chain efficiency.

BloombergNEF Academy South Africa BloombergNEF From B20 for Society

Led and funded by BloombergNEF, this academy will train senior leaders from energy, finance and industry in low-carbon transition strategies. Combining online modules and in-person sessions, it develops Africa's climate-leadership capacity and connects participants to a global BNEF network. The initiative will create a lasting community of sustainability-focused decision-makers advancing the netzero economy.

Carbon Knowledge Hub for Carbon Market Insights

BloombergNEF From B20 for Society

First launched under Indonesia's 2022 B20
Presidency, the Carbon Knowledge Hub
continues to advance transparency and
knowledge in both compliance and voluntary
carbon markets. Now expanded through B20
South Africa, it equips companies, investors
and policymakers with reliable data and
analysis to strengthen market integrity, attract
sustainable investment, and support Africa's
growing role in the global carbon economy.

Beyond Collaboration Platform South African Breweries From B20 for the Host Nation

This platform unites business, government and community partners to strengthen South Africa's water and infrastructure resilience. By focusing on practical, scalable solutions for resource efficiency and climate adaptation, it fosters transparent public–private partnerships that enhance service delivery, safeguard essential resources and build long-term economic and environmental resilience.





EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

As technology transforms industry, this theme champions inclusive learning and re-skilling. Initiatives create opportunities for youth, women and small businesses through public-private partnerships and global knowledge networks.

Special Report on Youth, Women and SMMEs in Trade

Boston Consulting Group From B20 for Society

Expanding on B20 Brazil's Women in Trade legacy, this initiative focuses on youth and small enterprises. It identifies systemic barriers, such as limited trade finance, fragmented regulations and certification hurdles and proposes targeted reforms. Through research, dialogue and training, it aims to harmonise non-tariff measures and empower women, youth and small businesses across export value chains.

Solutions Exchange on Youth Pathways to Earning

Yellowwoods Holdings, BUSA, BLSA From B20 for Society

The Solutions Exchange on Youth Pathways to Earning will create a global platform for sharing models that tackle youth unemployment, inspired by South Africa's SAYouth Network. Convened with partners, including the World Bank, it will connect governments, businesses and innovators to scale demand-led skilling, job matching and inclusive employment solutions across B20 and G20 economies.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sustainable growth depends on small and medium enterprises. Entrepreneurship initiatives strengthen SME ecosystems through access to finance, capacity building and trade linkages, embedding innovation as a permanent feature of the B20's legacy.

ICC Centre of Entrepreneurship - TradeRoots Africa

International Chamber of Commerce From B20 for Society

This programme will strengthen SME export readiness through webinars, accelerators and trade missions. By improving compliance, finance access and AfCFTA awareness, it enables women- and youth-led businesses to reach global markets and supports regional integration through entrepreneurship and innovation.



FINANCE AND CAPITAL ACCESS

Unlocking affordable and sustainable finance is essential to accelerate growth and inclusion across Africa. The focus is on lowering borrowing costs, expanding blended-finance mechanisms, and mobilising investment into infrastructure and industry to ensure capital flows towards projects that deliver long-term economic resilience and social impact.

Reducing the Cost of Capital for Africa

Standard Bank Group, Oliver Wyman, Deloitte, Africa Practice From B20 for Society

Aiming to lower Africa's borrowing costs, the initiative focuses on enhancing data transparency, reforming credit ratings and expanding blended finance solutions. By reducing risk perceptions and unlocking affordable capital, it accelerates infrastructure investment, stimulates job creation and drives inclusive, sustainable growth - ensuring Africa's development is financed competitively and on its own terms.



B20 CONTINUITY

Role of partnerships between business, philanthropy and development actors in mobilising new sources of capital for inclusive and sustainable growth is growing. Encouraging practical mechanisms to fund shared priorities such as climate resilience, youth employment and social innovation would ensure that the B20's legacy of cooperation continues across presidencies that deliver long-term economic resilience and social impact.

From South Africa to the United States and Beyond

WINGS global philanthropy network, Standard Bank Group From B20 for B20

Bridging business and philanthropy, this initiative creates formal mechanisms for philanthropic engagement within the B20 process. It will convene global leaders to design collaborative investment frameworks and long-term partnerships extending into the 2026 US Presidency, aligning catalytic capital with private-sector innovation.



7

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

On behalf of the Secretariat for B20 South Africa, I extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors and partners whose unwavering support, generosity and shared vision made this historic, African-led B20 a resounding success.

Your commitment went far beyond financial contribution, it was a bold affirmation of Africa's capacity to lead, convene and shape the global economic agenda. Through your partnership, we were able to host a B20 that reflected the dynamism and innovation of the African continent and elevated the voices of emerging markets in the global dialogue on inclusive growth, sustainability and digital transformation.

This milestone would not have been possible without your belief in the power of collaboration and your investment in a future where Africa is not merely a participant, but a co-architect of global prosperity. You have helped write a new chapter in the story of African leadership on the world stage.

We salute your vision. We honour your contribution. And we look forward to building on this legacy together.

With profound appreciation

B20 South Africa Head of Secretariat

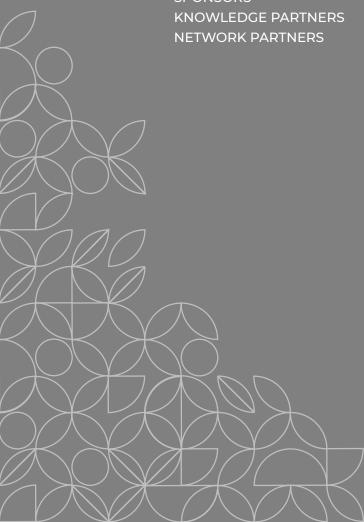




8

APPENDIX

TABLE OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS
SPONSORS
KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS
NETWORK PARTNERS



TACK FORCE	DECOMMENDATION	ACTION
TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
Digital Transformation	Expand inclusive modern digital infrastructure and connectivity to deliver affordable, reliable access to digital services, particularly in underserved regions	Deploy high-speed internet infrastructure to connect unserved and under-served areas
		Boost internet access in rural and low-income communities by supporting localised connectivity initiatives
		Scale access to connected mobile devices to enable full use of digital platforms in education, employment, healthcare, commerce and public services
	Strengthen national digital literacy systems to equip the workforce with foundational and advanced capabilities aligned with future-oriented labour market demands	Ensure universal basic digital literacy by prioritising digital education, training programmes and inclusive learning resources
		Synchronise tertiary education with industry demands to prepare the workforce for digital and Al-enabled jobs
	Advance secure, trustworthy, inclusive and human-centric Al grounded in ethical standards, regulatory clarity and transparent practices	Align countries to a coherent and accountable Al governance framework as a shared basis for ethical development and regulation of Al
	Promote secure and inclusive digital public infrastructure (DPI) ecosystems that incentivise private sector innovation and investment	Support the development of frameworks to guide countries in designing and implementing people-centred DPI
Employment and Education	Promote a business agenda for jobs growth and people participation in labour markets, recognising it will promote societal and political stability	Establish a regular mechanism for joint finance-employment ministers meetings to explore concrete ways to promote more employment
		Mandate relevant international organisations to compile policies and regulatory frameworks that create an enabling environment for businesses
		Develop G20-owned guidelines and associated actions to boost microentrepreneurs, SMEs and business-led job
		Ask the Global Infrastructure Hub for a dashboard to encourage employment-related investments
	Increase female labour force participation by removing barriers to women's employment	Extend the "Brisbane Goal" to a "Johannesburg Goal" for women economic empowerment
	Advance a flexible and pragmatic approach towards digital platform work and the gig economy	Advocate for maximum flexibility as new policies emerge on the platform economy

TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
	Equip citizens early on	Leverage convening power to improve affordable access to early childhood education
	Connect youth to earning opportunities	Task the OECD to determine the pillars and funding conditions for a G20 Youth Employment Compact
	Empower re-skilling and upskilling based on real demand	Set and track a goal of 0.5% of annual GDP for investments in lifelong learning
Energy Mix and Just Transition	Mobilise sustainable energy transition finance at the scale and speed required to achieve a just and	De-risk energy transition finance in emdes
	inclusive global energy transition	Enhance adaptation finance
		Institutionalise country platforms
		Improve private investment certainty
		Strengthen domestic carbon markets
	Accelerate industrialisation across the energy value chain to promote a just energy transition through skills development, supply chain resilience, and global market access	Equip workforces for the energy transition
		Build sustainable supply chains and market access
		Expand access to advanced energy technologies
	Accelerating Industrialisation Across the Energy Value Chain to Promote a Just Energy Transition Through Skills Development, Supply Chain Resilience, and Global Market Access	Enhance climate-resilient energy infrastructure
		Develop flexible, integrated energy systems
		Accelerate local energy infrastructure delivery
Finance and Infrastructure	Support the expansion of investable infrastructure projects	Provide targeted support for infrastructure projects across their development cycle to reduce pipeline bottlenecks and drop-offs
		Prioritise the provision of critical infrastructure, with greater focus on international coordination and cooperation
	Enhance the flow of funds between investors, infrastructure projects and the wider economy	Build investment capacity by expanding the availability of new and existing sources of capital and addressing regulatory considerations

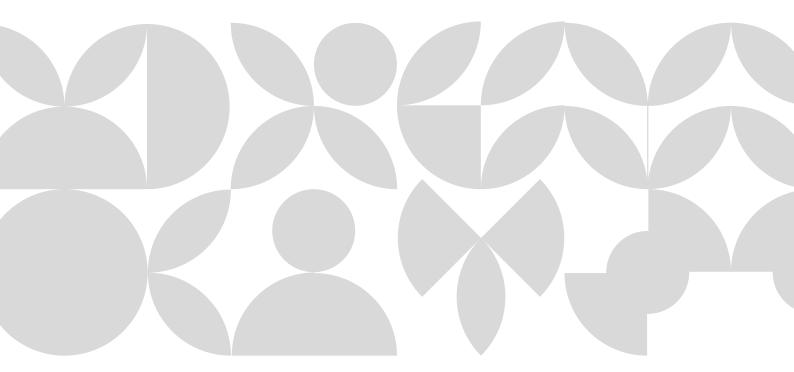
TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
PASK FORCE	Enhance the flow of funds between	Explore improvements to data and information availability to support credit rating assessments, capital allocation and opportunities to reduce the cost of capital De-risk investing through increased use of concessional blended finance and public private philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs), and other scalable private capital mobilisation techniques and credit insurance mechanisms
	investors, infrastructure projects, and the wider economy	investors and infrastructure projects, both within and across borders Enhance working capital and payment efficiency to facilitate the flow of funds throughout infrastructure supply chains Support wider economic development and growth by facilitating the flow of funds from infrastructure investments into the wider economy.
Industrial Transformation and Innovation	Support policymakers and industrial strategy implementation agencies to collaborate with the private sector to create strategies that fit business needs, align with national plans, and use innovation platforms, data, and R&D to enable long-term competitiveness	Establish public-private platforms to co-design and refine national industrial strategies Build empowered delivery institutions to coordinate implementation and monitor progress with transparency Build national foresight systems to future proof industrial strategy and enable renewal Scale innovation capabilities and cultivate public-private-academic ecosystems to support continuous industrial upgrading and adaptability to global market changes, including disruptions from AI
	Strengthen value chain competitiveness and inclusive industrial employment by enabling business upgrading, regional trade integration, and workforce development within strategic sectors and cross-border production systems	Deepen business capabilities and enable supplier upgrading through bundled support, procurement linkages and anchor partnerships Expand international market access and regional integration through trade facilitation, corridor infrastructure, and export-oriented business linkages Align skills systems with industrial transformation by scaling flexible, industry-led and regionally responsive training models

TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
		Promote inclusive industrial employment (targeting women and youth) through local hiring incentives, transition support schemes and work-integrated learning pathways
	Accelerate the adoption of sustainable and Industry 4.0 technologies in manufacturing through clear incentives, demonstration platforms and	Scale investment incentives and financing mechanisms for industrial decarbonisation, digitalisation and green technology upgrading
	public-private delivery models that reduce adoption risks, unlock investment and build future readiness.	Establish public-private demonstration platforms to localise sustainable and advanced manufacturing solutions
		Enable technology adoption through shared industrial infrastructure, localised advisory services, and smart production ecosystems
Integrity and Compliance	Encourage the responsible use of technology in integrity and anticorruption measures	Promote the adoption of international frameworks for the responsible use of technology in anti-corruption and integrity measures
		Establish secure and inclusive digitally driven whistleblowing platforms for reporting suspected integrity breaches
		Promote the use of digital identity integrity tools, such as the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), to enhance transparency
	Strengthen integrity embedment in climate and sustainable finance systems	Leverage existing sustainability due diligence standards that promote integrity, particularly for climate finance, and promote the adoption of international sustainability reporting, sustainability assurance and sustainability ethics and independence standards in local jurisdictions and territories
		Create a global climate finance transparency registry that tracks funding flows, outcomes and integrity safeguards, co-designed with multilateral institutions, and supported by independent verification mechanisms that address governance and data limitations at the national level

TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
	Amplify Collective Action and integrity standards for inclusive growth	Strengthen support and incentives for organisations to engage and drive Collective Action for inclusive growth
		Expand and embed public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a tool for promoting integrity and driving inclusive growth
Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture	Strengthen the resilience of agrifood supply chains: Invest in regional and local sourcing and processing of food products across the agrifood supply	Promote private sector involvement in the development of local and regional supply chains
	chain. Increase the participation of small-scale producers and businesses, including women and youth, and promote transparent	Optimise the use of land to meet the growing needs for food, fuel, fibre and nature
	supply chain governance. Balance regional and local supply chain development with intra- and interregional trade, optimised land use and support for inclusive workforce development suited to market needs.	Collaborate with the private sector to enhance labour productivity through tailored development programmes for upskilling and reskilling, considering emerging digital technologies, such as the rapidly evolving generative AI landscape (Africa's potential in generative AI could add up to USD 1.5 trillion to the global economy annually by 2030); 17 promote the uptake of these programmes by women, youth and smallholder farmers in agriculture
	Enhance access to productivity inputs and technologies: Promote equitable access to agricultural inputs and technologies to boost productivity, resilience and profitability, including for small-scale producers and agrifood SMEs in two main ways. Prioritise uptake of emerging digital tools like AI, drones and precision farming through user centric design and interoperable digital platforms that safeguard privacy, land rights and labour. Strengthen global cooperation on science, technology transfer and dissemination to support affordability, last-mile delivery and capacity building.	Promote equitable access of market- relevant improved inputs and technologies through incentives, tailored financing solutions and risk- based regulatory frameworks
		Promote collaboration between governments, private sector entities and educational institutions to disseminate productivity-boosting technologies across borders
	Promote inclusive and equitable livelihoods: Invest in building more inclusive strategies across the food value chain that intentionally address the climate resilience needs of smallholder farmers, women and youth. Achieve this through tailored financial solutions and capacity building across the value chain. Support these efforts by generating rigorous evidence on their impact.	Develop and scale up innovative finance solutions and inclusive investment models to expand access to capital for climate-resilient technologies and inputs for womenled farms, smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, supported by financial literacy and tailored credit solutions
		Invest in harmonised data systems to capture the contribution of women and youth across food systems, enabling targeted, inclusive interventions and progress tracking

TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
	Promote inclusive and equitable livelihoods: Invest in building more inclusive strategies across the food value chain that intentionally address the climate resilience needs of smallholder farmers, women and youth. Achieve this through tailored financial solutions and capacity building across the value chain. Support these efforts by generating rigorous evidence on their impact.	Strengthen the resilience of regional food systems by integrating regional trade into food security strategies, safeguarding and strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system, reducing non-tariff barriers, and coordinating early warning systems and food reserves along trade routes to monitor and respond to climate and conflict risks
	ngorous evidence on their impact.	Harmonise agricultural and trade policy reforms — backed by targeted incentives, to support environmentally aligned, digital trade tools, as well as sustainable food systems, whilst embedding internationally recognised standards to ensure product safety, reduce certification barriers and enhance cross-border trust
	Accelerate the adoption of resilient and adapted agricultural innovations in food value chains: Promote regenerative agricultural practices and certifications that are science-based and risk-informed for businesses of all sizes across the food value chain. Strengthen public and private digital agronomic advisory systems in partnership with the private sector to ensure effective uptake of these innovations, particularly in LMICs.	Promote inclusive innovation hubs to co-develop, adapt and disseminate sustainable practices whilst integrating local and Indigenous knowledge
		Collaborate with G20 countries to drive investment in developing and scaling agronomic support for sustainable farming practices
		Strengthen public and private digital agronomic advisory systems in partnership with the private sector and adapt sustainability certification frameworks to local contexts, particularly in LMICs, to ensure that they are practical and profitable and drive the effective uptake of sustainable agricultural practices
Trade and Investment	Promote stability in global trade and improved market access through de-escalation of recent trade actions and pragmatic reform	De-escalate tariff crisis and roll back tariffs, minimise non-tariff barriers and recommit to multilateral principles
		Reduce erosion of the multilateral trading system in the short-term, whilst pushing for urgent longer lasting reform of the WTO
		Enhance business engagement model with WTO to build relevant trade policy
	Create a New Trade and Investment Deal for Africa	Mobilise and grow investment in Africa by adopting innovative financial instruments and streamlining G20 initiatives

TASK FORCE	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
		Accelerate integration of African markets through implementing the AfCFTA and harmonising regulation to realise benefits of scale
		Expand African export competitiveness and promote meaningful participation in the global market
	Build a climate-responsive system for international trade and investment	Develop interoperable carbon mitigation policies (including product-level carbon measurement) in trade and support green investment policies at the G20-level
		Develop mechanisms to support climate adaptation in trade, facilitating a just transition



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Supports the successful delivery of B20 South Africa by providing research-driven insights, data-backed content, and delivery support. This includes establishing robust governance frameworks, equipping teams with practical operational tools, and enabling effective, actionable priorities for inclusive growth and prosperity through global cooperation.

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KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Support the effective coordination of the B20 paper development process for each task force, providing research, insights, and datadriven analysis to the Secretariat, Task Force Chairs, and Co-Chairs to shape recommendations that promote inclusive growth, sustainable development, and resilient global cooperation.











ASSOCIATE KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS









NETWORK PARTNERS

Network Partners amplify B20 South Africa's mission by fostering collaboration between the business community and G20 stakeholders and decision makers. They co-lead forums, engage global leaders, advocate for priority themes, and collaborate on research and outreach to drive inclusive and sustainable economic outcomes.































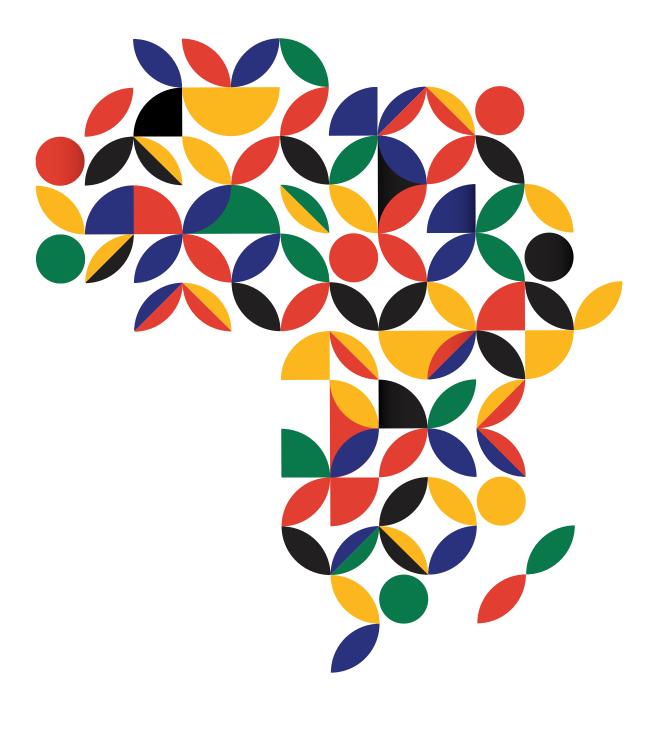
















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