

## **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES**

### **1. Ms. Joanne Yawitch**

Joanne Yawitch has been the Chief Executive Officer of the National Business Initiative since March 2011, having previously been Deputy Director General for Climate Change in the Department of Environmental Affairs with responsibility for environmental quality and protection, as well as for the Department's climate change work. Joanne worked for the Gauteng Department of Environment from 1997 to 2004 and prior to that was Special Adviser to the then Minister of Land Affairs. Joanne is currently the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of South African National Parks and is a Board Member of SAFCOL as well as the Chair of their Social and Ethics Committee. In 2020 Joanne was appointed as a member of the inaugural Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission (PCCCC). The Commission advises on South Africa's just transition to a low-carbon, inclusive, climate change-resilient economy and society, as well as providing guidance on matters of adaptation and mitigation. Joanne's expertise lies within business and sustainability, business and government collaboration, climate change and climate change negotiations.

### **2. Mr. Steve Nicholls**

Steve Nicholls leads the Environment and Society programmes at the National Business Initiative (NBI). In this role Steve runs the programmes that harness the collective effort of business across the areas of Energy, Climate Change, and Water. Steve also leads the NBI programme on the SDGs and NDP.

Steve's key focus is on connecting environmental issues with economic impact and therefore building the strategic case for business to integrate environmental and sustainability issues into their core business areas of strategy, risk management and implementation. Currently the NBI focus is on understanding future competitive economies (especially in relation to climate change and water) and what kind of investments are required to enhance South Africa's economic competitiveness while creating employment and

reducing inequality and poverty. A big portion of the NBI work is to develop collective action projects and work with local and international finance institutions to fund them.

Prior to joining the NBI Steve has worked in the consulting industry in the United Kingdom and South Africa and has worked on projects in Europe and Southern and East Africa. Steve has worked across several sectors including Mining, Telecoms, Government, Electrical Energy, Oil and Gas, Financial Services and Retail. Prior to joining the NBI Steve worked within the strategy team at Accenture and headed the sustainability services function for Accenture across Africa. Steve has also worked within KPMGs advisory and assurance team and has completed a number of advisory, reporting and verification engagements on sustainability and voluntary carbon credit data. Steve also spent a few years working in the United Kingdom looking at the sustainability risk inherent in the supply chains of major UK and multi-national retail companies.

### **3. Ms. Nokwanda Maseko**

Nokwanda Maseko is an Economist for Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS). Her work at TIPS covers various pillars, including trade, industrial policy and climate change. Some of her work has been on the National Employment Vulnerability Assessment (NEVA) and Sector Jobs Resilience Plans (SJRPs), particularly focusing on the petroleum transport-based value chain. Outside climate change related projects, her other work has been on trade, particularly the Import Tracker, and the Import Localisation and Supply Chain Disruption Study which seeks to understand manufacturing capacity and potential to increase that capacity in the country. Prior to joining TIPS, she worked as a Policy Analyst at the Economic Development Department, and as a Budget Analyst in the Public Finance division of the National Treasury. She holds an MComm in Economics from North West University.

### **4. Mr. Mzila Mthenjane**

Mzila Mthenjane is a mining engineer with combined experience in mining and investment banking of 20 years. This includes seven years in deep-level gold mining at AngloGold Ashanti and Gold Fields Limited in senior mine management and corporate development roles, respectively, and six years in investment banking at RMB and Deutsche Bank. His knowledge of business

sustainability was honed over six years as Executive: Business Sustainability at Royal Bafokeng Holdings and Royal Bafokeng Platinum. He assumed his current role as Executive Head: Stakeholder Affairs, Exxaro Resources in May 2013. Mzila also served as the 2019/2020 President of the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM).

## 5. Ms. Xolile Msimanga

Xolile Msimanga is currently a Senior Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Smart Places Cluster's Energy Centre in the Energy Industry Team. Since joining the CSIR in January 2021, she has worked on research projects in the Just Energy Transition domain, with the most recent being the CoBenefits report on Mpumalanga coal repurposing and its impact on employment, skills, and value creation. She has several years of experience in energy related research, modelling and analysis on the African continent. She was formerly part of McKinsey & Company Africa's Research and Insights Team for several years where she was affiliated with their global Energy, Power and Natural Gas Practice wherein she conducted their Africa related research projects. She has served multiple teams working on power sector engagements across the African continent – including Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Malawi, and Zambia among others. In South Africa she has worked on projects for public and private sector clients in the energy space and was part of the team developing McKinsey's South African Energy Perspective. She has knowledge on power market structures, off-grid electrification, and business unit strategy for energy sector organisations. She is also a board member at the South African National Energy Association (SANEA). To enhance her expertise, she is currently pursuing a Masters in Management in Energy Leadership at the Wits Business School in Johannesburg, where her research will be centred around the gendered perspectives of female energy leaders.