



PRESIDENTIAL
CLIMATE COMMISSION
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

NDC Recommendations

Means of Implementation

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Why this Means of Implementation Chapter Matters

“Implementation is the true test of ambition”



- Ambition is meaningless without a **credible, funded, and inclusive delivery system**.
- The NDC is not just a compliance document, it's a **national development tool** aligned with justice, growth, and resilience.
- Implementation must be whole-of-government: **treasury, municipalities, and line departments** all play a role.
- Success depends on bridging the gap between plans and delivery, through **finance, institutional capability, and innovation**.
- Means of Implementation (MOI) must be aligned with the **Climate Change Act and Just Transition Framework**, ensuring accountability and equity.



South Africa's Challenge

"We cannot deliver the NDC with ambition alone; capacity and coordination are non-negotiable."

Fiscal Constraints

South Africa's public finances are under strain, with limited space for new spending.

Climate funding must therefore be strategically targeted, focusing on areas where market mechanisms fail, and where public and concessional finance can unlock private capital or deliver public goods.

Institutional Weakness

Fragmented delivery systems, especially at the municipal level, hinder implementation.

The draft recommendations call for strengthening local institutions, especially municipalities, through planning support, embedded technical assistance, and alignment with instruments like the Climate Change Act and Just Transition Framework.

Access to Finance

Despite available international finance, South Africa struggles to mobilise it at scale.

The recommendations highlight the need to strengthen absorptive capacity, prioritising the development of country platforms by operationalising delivery platforms like the CCRF and JTfM, improve project pipelines, and reduce risks to attract climate-aligned investment.

What Enables Implementation?

"Delivering the NDC requires more than ambition, it requires alignment, capability, innovation, and financing."

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Climate targets must be embedded into **mainstream government planning and financing tools**, including the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), Division of Revenue Act, and public procurement processes. This ensures delivery is resourced, not parallel.

Grant and concessional finance should be used to **de-risk high-impact sectors** (e.g. EVs, green hydrogen), enable adaptation infrastructure, and support early-stage innovation or localisation. The aim is to **crowd in private capital** and correct market failures.

Local government is central to implementation. The draft recommends building municipal capacity through technical assistance, operationalising the CCRF and JTFM, and aligning with the Climate Change Act's planning requirements.

Domestic carbon markets must be activated and linked to international mechanisms like **Article 6** and **CORSIA**. Innovation ecosystems (especially around green SMMEs) need support to thrive and attract investment.

MOI Recommendations

Legal basis for MOI Instrument

- MOI mechanisms are now legally mandated under the Climate Change Act.
- These instruments must be implemented as part of South Africa's climate governance framework.

Embedding Adaptive Social Protection & Labour Market Reform

- MOI should support skilling, reskilling, and job transition schemes in vulnerable regions.
- Enable financing for social protection instruments in climate-impacted sectors (e.g. women, informal workers, youth, subsistence farmers).

Loss and Damage Finance

- Support the establishment of a National Loss-and-Damage Response Framework, co-led by DFFE and NDMC.
- Finance window to be managed by Treasury with fast disbursement mechanisms to affected communities.
- Ensure alignment with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) principles.

Operational Status of CCRF & JTFM

- Clarify that both CCRF and JTFM are under development, not yet fully operational.
- MOI must prioritize building these platforms into active financing and delivery vehicles.

Framing MOI Instruments as a Country Platform

- Align CCRF, JTFM, MEL systems, and budget integration efforts as part of a national platform for transition finance.
- Ensure whole-of-government coordination, including line departments, Treasury, and municipalities.
- Position this platform strategically for engagement with global mechanisms (e.g. GCF, JETPs, Article 6).



MOI Recommendations

Strengthening Absorptive Capacity

- Institutional and municipal capacity gaps hinder the absorption of climate finance.
- Embed technical assistance and advisory support at local levels to improve readiness.
- Use tools such as the CaDD (Climate Capacity Diagnosis and Development) to assess and enhance absorptive capacity.
- Support project preparation facilities and staff training to increase delivery efficiency.

Financing Sector-Specific Adaptation Targets

- Direct MOI funding to water security, food systems, health, infrastructure, and human settlements.
- Align with NCCAS and the Global Goal on Adaptation to enable measurable progress.

Climate Budget Tagging and Public Finance Integration

- Align MOI with the MTSF, Division of Revenue Act, and municipal IDPs.
- Introduce climate budget tagging to enable transparent allocation and tracking of climate finance.

Expanded MEL System for Justice Outcomes

- Monitor and report on resilience, social protection, and equity outcomes through annual dashboards.
- Use participatory and inclusive MEL design with feedback loops for adaptive learning.
- Include metrics to highlight gender, youth, and other marginalised groups in tracking of MEL.



In summary...

Our ability to implement depends on three interdependent pillars:

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Quantifying the full investment need to underpin fiscal coherence and mobilise finance.

Strengthening absorptive capacity so that institutions across government are equipped to deliver.

Advancing fully operational Country Platforms that consolidate fragmented initiatives and create credibility, scale, and governance confidence.



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Thank You