

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Task Force 5: Accelerating Climate Action and the Just Energy Transition**

Ambitious climate action and inclusive, just energy transitions are central to ensuring a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient world for current and future generations. South Africa and other members of the Global South are highly vulnerable to climate change yet face limited means to mitigate, adapt, and address climate-related loss and damage. The G20 is well positioned to support South-South and North-South partnerships to scale and improve the accessibility of climate finance, accelerate action on adaptation, and assist countries in pursuing just energy transitions. As investments in clean technologies accelerate, geostrategic competition for critical minerals intensifies, while countries with critical mineral reserves seek to promote greater value addition domestically. Greater cooperation is needed to promote sustainable and equitable critical mineral value chains in line with the principles developed through the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

Policy inputs developed under this task force should take into consideration the outcomes of the Brazilian G20 presidency, including the work of the Task Force for the Global Mobilization Against Climate Change and the outcome of relevant working groups (eg, Energy Transitions and Environment & Climate Sustainability), as well as the outcomes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP29 climate negotiations. The G20 climate agenda in 2025 must support ambitious outcomes under the COP30 climate negotiations hosted by Brazil. The G20 climate agenda must recognise the role of the UNFCCC as the pre-eminent multilateral process for negotiating climate action while exploring the G20's unique role as a forum for dialogue, lesson-sharing, and consensus-building.

The issues addressed within this task force encompass:

## 1. Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Critical Mineral Value Chains:

Transitioning to renewable energy sources to avoid the worst climate change scenarios will require a massive ramping up of renewable energy technologies and the critical minerals required for their production. As geopolitical competition intensifies for reliable access to these minerals, the development ambitions of the countries where these minerals are sourced risk being sidelined. Under the South African G20 presidency, efforts are required to support action in line with the principles outlined by the [UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#).

- What concrete actions by the G20 can support the implementation of the principles outlined by the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals?
- What are the core barriers preventing more equitable critical mineral supply chains with greater value addition in countries where these minerals are sourced, and what role can the G20 play in overcoming these barriers?
- As global competition for critical minerals intensifies, what governance interventions can support more sustainable development of mineral resources?

## 2. Scaling Adaptation Finance:

Recognising that current access to climate finance is slow, highly complex and poorly targeted at developing countries, this sub-theme will propose policy recommendations to alleviate barriers to multilateral and development finance for sustainability. The current emphasis on project-based financing limits capacity building, technology acquisition and climate research financing. The sub-theme will explore concrete proposals for increasing adaptation finance and a move away from financing structures that exacerbate debt levels.

- What are the key barriers to scaling adaptation finance and ensuring such finance is targeted to those areas where it is needed most and how may these barriers be overcome?

- How can the G20 drive the scaling up of private sector and blended finance solutions for adaptation?
- What are the key opportunities and/or emerging models for scaling financing for ecosystem-based adaptation?

### **3. Supporting Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions:**

This sub-theme will propose concrete policy proposals to support nationally driven and equitable country platforms to advance energy transitions. These proposals will foreground national objectives while encouraging climate-ambitious energy mixes underpinned by justice, inclusion, and fairness. Understanding that energy transitions should be part of economy-wide decarbonisation efforts, these proposals will promote sustainable energy planning, equitable transfer of renewable technologies and jobs, and community and skills development support as driving forces for inclusive and people-centred transitions, building on the outcomes of the UNFCCC Just Transition Work Programme. Inputs should further build on the [Principles for Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions](#) developed under the Brazilian G20 presidency.

- What lessons emerge from the initial phase of country platforms with broader applicability for countries seeking to develop such platforms?
- What are the opportunities and pitfalls for ensuring sustainable financing for country platforms?
- How can the G20 better support developing and implementing country platforms to ensure just energy transitions?

### **4. Biodiversity-Climate-Development Nexus:**

Climate and biodiversity are deeply interconnected, with oceans, fisheries, forests, drylands and ecosystems playing vital roles in supporting local development,

livelihoods, and natural resilience. Climate change intensifies pressures on these ecosystems, threatening their integrity and the natural services they provide. South

Africa's leadership at the G20 can promote key priorities such as biodiversity finance, restoration and sustainable management of forests, oceans, and other critical habitats - which are essential for carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, health and other key development outcomes. Advancing a bioeconomy rooted in sustainable practices, restoring degraded landscapes, and enhancing natural resource management are crucial steps to bolster resilience against climate impacts, while safeguarding Africa's rich biodiversity to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

- How can the G20 better champion nature-based solutions that address both climate, biodiversity and development goals, while ensuring these initiatives are co-developed with and deliver tangible benefits to local communities?
- How can the G20 foster greater alignment between the goals and outcomes of the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification) to ensure synergies in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation, while promoting integrated approaches to sustainable development and resilience building?
- How can the G20 leverage its diverse partnerships, particularly between the public and private sector, to drive investments and innovations that advance the biodiversity-climate-development nexus, ensuring sustainable practices, equitable benefits, and alignment with global frameworks?