Climate Change Institutional Arrangement – South Africa

1.0 INTRODUCTION

South Africa is making substantial progress towards becoming a low carbon and climate resilient society. It has a robust partnership with climate change stakeholders and role players in continuing to strengthen its efforts of achieving and stabilizing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere. South Africa is one of the best examples of countries that highly values public consultation in all matters relating to climate change reporting, including National Communications (NCs) and Biannual Review Reports (BURs) and their components.

2.0 LEGAL FLAMEWORK

Climate Change intuitional arrangement in South Africa is inherent in the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP) White Paper of 2011.The NCCRP recognizes the climate threat to sustainable development and livelihoods and calls for appropriate policies and measures to be undertaken in the country.

Administratively, South Africa has three spheres of government (national, provincial and local). The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) guarantees the autonomy of each of these government spheres. With regards to climate change, the NCCRP provides a clear framework for the mainstreaming of climate change planning and action between the different spheres of government. From this central framework, many government departments and municipalities have started mainstreaming climate change into their government strategies, policies and Integrated Development Plans which signals South Africa's readiness to tackle climate change and service delivery.

3.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Central Government

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is responsible for co-ordination and management of all climate change-related information such as mitigation, adaption, monitoring and evaluation programs. DEA also plays a central coordinating and policy making role as the designated authority for environmental conservation and protection in South Africa. It monitors national environmental information, policies, programs and legislation related to climate change. The department is responsible for providing guidance and ensuring that there is a clear alignment of policies and international obligations when it comes to climate change. For example, there is a need to align the Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. All these

frameworks and policies play a significant role in the current efforts required for developing countries to become low carbon and climate resilient economies.

On climate change reporting, DEA leads the work on the preparation of National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and the National Inventory Reports (NIRs) under the Chief Directorate: Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation which falls under the Climate Change and Air Quality Management Branch in DEA. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) established by the Director General of the DEA supports contributing authors and in providing technical inputs and oversight on the compilation of these reports. This includes reviewing and commenting on technical information to ensure the reports reflect the national circumstances.

The PSC is chaired by DEA and comprises government officials from the following national departments: Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Transport, Department of Energy, Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Economic Development, Department of Human Settlements, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Water Affairs, National Treasury, the Presidency and the National Disaster Management Centre. The NCs, BURs and NIRs are endorsed by the PSC before they are submitted to Cabinet for approval. Once the reports are approved by Cabinet they are submitted to the UNFCCC by the Chief Directorate: International Climate Change Relations and Negotiations, and undergo an international review process.

3.2 Provincial and local government

At a provincial level, departments responsible for the environment are assigned to lead climate change response action in collaboration with their respective environmental departments and provincial entities. Most of the lead departments have established provincial climate change structures to provide a platform for provincial stakeholders to jointly learn about climate change and co-ordinate their respective climate change responses. South Africa's Local Government Association (SALGA) is mandated to support, represent and advise local governments on issues pertaining to governance at community level. The role of local government in South Africa is critical because it is the sphere of government closest to the people. The local sphere is seen as the most appropriate level to create public awareness and assist communities to build a better and more sustainable environment and enhance resilience. District and Local Municipalities are undertaking Climate Vulnerability Assessments and mainstream climate action into their policies, strategies and plans under the guidance of DEA and SALGA.

Roles and responsibilities Table

Structure	Function
Parliament and Portfolio Committees	• Oversee the implementation of the NCCRP • Review legislation to support the NCCRP • BURs and National Communication reports are submitted to the committee for their approval.
The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (IMCCC)	• Executive (Cabinet) level committee that will coordinate and align climate change response actions with national policies and legislation • IMCCC shall oversee all aspects of the implementation of the NCCRP • The Minister of the Environment will chair the IMCCC.
Forum of South African Directors-General clusters	• South African Director-General clusters based on their different mandates will guide NCCRP actions.
Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change (IGCCC)	• Operationalise cooperative governance • Consists of the relevant national and provincial departments and organised local government.
National Disaster Management Council	• Responsible for ensuring that the National Framework for Disaster Risk Management provides clear guidance across all spheres and sectors of government for managing climate change-related risk • Ensuring that an effective communications strategy is in place for early warnings to vulnerable communities.
MINMEC and MINTECH	• Facilitate a high level of policy and strategy coherence among the three spheres of government • Guide climate change work across the three spheres of government.
National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC)	• Consult with stakeholders from key sectors that impact on or are impacted by climate change • Advises on matters relating to national responsibilities • Advises on the implementation of climate change-related activities.
National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC)	• Forum where government comes together with organised business, labour and community groupings on a national level • Ensure that climate change policy implementation is balanced and meets the needs of all sectors of the economy.
City Resilience Committees	• Forums where city government come together to discuss climate change issues and how cities need to take lead in climate action.

Climate change administrative structure in the Ministry of Environment

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           │  Deputy Director General Climate Change, Air Quality│
           │      and Sustainable Development Branch             │
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| Chief Directorate - Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation | Chief Directorate - Climate Change Mitigation | Chief Directorate - Climate Change Adaptation | Chief Directorate - International Climate Change Relations and Negotiations | Chief Directorate - Knowledge and Information Management | Chief Directorate - International Governance and Resource Mobilization | Chief Directorate - Air Quality Management |