



Seminar on the OECD report

Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth

25 July 2017, 15:00 – 17:00

Kwame Nkrumah Hall, Robert Sobukwe Building
263 Nana Sita Street, Pretoria

PROGRAMME

Background

The OECD has undertaken a major project on growth and investment opportunities arising from the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient economy. The resulting report, "[*Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth*](#)", commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), in the context of the German G20 Presidency, was launched at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin on 23 May 2017. The report provides an analysis of how climate goals can be achieved while simultaneously spurring economic growth, competitiveness and well-being. Its key message is that combining strong climate action with fiscal and structural reforms will boost growth in both the short and long term. The report was noted by G20 leaders in their Declaration on the occasion of the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany on 7-8 July 2017.

South Africa is hosting an OECD Week starting on 24 July, which features a number of high-level events and bilateral meetings between South African leaders and the OECD Secretary General, including the launch of the 2017 Economic Survey of South Africa jointly with the Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba.

In this connection, the present seminar aims at a discussion on the key findings of the flagship report "[*Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth*](#)" and the way forward in the South African context. The event seeks to bring together representatives from the government, academia, industry and civil society, to solicit their views and inputs on the discussion of the opportunities and challenges South Africa is facing in its transition to the low-carbon economy.

Agenda

- 15:00 – 15:05** Welcome by **Philani Mthembu**, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue
- 15:05-15:20** Introductory remarks by **Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General** (*tbc*) and by high-level Government representative (*tbc*)
- 15:20-16:05** **Session 1: OECD report *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth***
- The session will focus on key findings of the report which show how the dual benefit of economic growth and avoided future climate damages can be achieved, if governments ignite an ambitious transition towards low-carbon economies by combining country-appropriate growth-enhancing policies with well-aligned policy packages for mobilising investment in low-carbon infrastructure and technologies.
- Presentation of key findings of the report *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth* by **Simon Buckle**, Head of Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, Environment Directorate, OECD
 - Short remarks by a Government representative
 - Short remarks by **Happy Khambule**, Climate and Energy Political Advisor, Greenpeace
 - Q&A
- 16:05-16:50** **Session 2: Investing in the right type of infrastructure for South Africa's low-carbon development pathway**
- Current economic conditions afford many governments the opportunity to invest in the right infrastructure now to reignite growth at the same time as paving the way to achieve the Paris Agreement outcomes. The session will explore the challenges and opportunities faced by South Africa in pursuing a low-carbon development pathway.
- Presentation by **Faiqa Hartley**, Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town
 - Short remarks by **Simon Buckle**, Head of Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, Environment Directorate, OECD (as discussant)
 - Short remarks by an expert
 - Q&A
- 16:50-17:00** Closing remarks by:
- Representative of the Treasury or Department for Environmental Affairs
 - **Andreas Schaal**, Director, OECD Global Relations Secretariat
 - **Philani Mthembu**, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue