

INDC Focus Group Discussion – 11 November 2016

A Focus group Discussion (FGD), facilitated by OneWorld Sustainable Investments, was held after the Cities Mitigation workshop on Monday 9th November 2015 at the SALGA offices in Pretoria. The objective was to discuss the contribution South Africa (SA) cities could make to realising the targets for low carbon development as outlined in SA's recent submission of the country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This was the first of more discussions required on this topic. The FGD specifically examined how city contributions to mitigation targets could be enabled through their primary mandate of service delivery.

The main discussion points considered the prerequisites for establishing an enabling environment, the support required from national government and funding needs:

Enabling environment:

- The right enabling environment is critical and will allow all implementers, including cities, to take up relevant opportunities. The primary question therefore is not about how cities can contribute to the INDC, but rather how cities can be supported to achieve their mandates, which in turn will help national climate change prerogatives to be achieved.
- Partnership is critical with alignment between thinking and implementation. The key issue is about how best to approach implementation.
- Local level government and municipalities need to be knowledge-capacitated and empowered by national incentives
- Every level of government is constrained by its own work and mandates –the space for a small municipality to have a voice or plan for the long term is a necessary condition.

Support from national government:

- Establish a dedicated support system for local government staff and top-up funding in order to build sub-national capacity in a focused way (e.g. a help desk)
- Enhance skills through a programmatic approach – national government to identify opportunities (e.g. within environmental goods and services) and provide a framework of support.
- National government is well positioned to leverage funding for local government, taking a programmatic approach that ensures scale and reduces transaction costs.
- Targets need to be within the Peak Plateau and Decline (PPD) framework, to include low hanging fruits. It is important to identify opportunities that fit with nationally and politically endorsed priorities.

Funding:

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) intends to deliver transformation and scale; SA's national government is well placed to help municipalities leverage international funds such as the GCF for city initiatives.
- Treasury is getting increasingly involved in environmental determinant issues (e.g.





- carbon tax, RE IPPP), the Cities Support Unit within Treasury can play an important role.
- Treasury can share with different spheres of government – they are a missing layer, where such a layer could provide a platform for proactive engagement with line departments, and bring stakeholders together.



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety