



National Development Plan: Pathways for a Just Transition

Western Cape Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting

24 MAY 2018

COMMUNITY HOUSE, SALT RIVER, CAPE TOWN

REPORT

Welcome

Peta Wolpe, Managing Director for Sustainable Energy Africa, welcomed participants and facilitated introductions, followed by an open discussion from participants regarding the expectations of the day.

The discussion confirmed that many of the participants share the same concerns and that there is an increasing sense of urgency to address the multitude of challenges facing South Africa today. These include achieving a transformative shift in thinking and practice, and an alignment of policies, plans, and projects across the spheres of government and all economic sectors. The three key areas of water, land, and energy, identified in the Social Partner Dialogue two weeks earlier were also discussed briefly.

It was acknowledged that there was a good cross-section of relevant stakeholders in the room.

Opening

Commissioner Tasneem Essop welcomed participants and delivered a presentation that contextualised the National Development Plan (NDP), highlighting the processes that were undertaken to develop Chapter 5 of the NDP (Ensuring environmental sustainability and an equitable transition to a low-carbon economy) the content and its importance in reducing poverty and inequality, including issues left unresolved. She concluded by explaining the process of the *Pathways for a Just Transition* project, noting changes that were made following input and suggestions from the Social Partner Dialogue.

National Development Plan Chapter 5: the framework

Chapter 5 of the NDP seeks to provide high-level guidance to ensure that by 2030 South Africa is an environmentally sustainable society, with an expanded low-carbon economy and reduced emissions while at the same time reducing poverty, unemployment, and social inequities. The benefits of building resilience are evident in the strides towards a flourishing and prosperous nation. Chapter 5 provides a set of guiding principles, which demand that the transition be just, ethical, sustainable, transformative while taking a strategic, regional and ecosystems approach during a managed transition.

However, there are some issues left unresolved which require further interrogation. Who pays for the input costs of the transition and how much will it cost? Will the transition require a restructured economy or new development models? What should the energy mix, the role of energy efficiency and the shape and structure of energy industry be in the future? How is job-creation maximised and job



losses addressed? How do we continue to build resilience in communities and economic sectors and ensure that the poor are not disproportionately impacted?

Pathways for a Just Transition: the project and process

Despite, or perhaps because, of the questions left unanswered, phase two of implementation of Chapter 5 is now commencing. This year-long initiative seeks to bring together a group of social partners and experts to engage in a series of high-level dialogues in order to determine the best ‘Pathway for a Just Transition’ by dealing with some of the outstanding contested issues. The intention is that this process will run in parallel to a series of wider stakeholder engagements with stakeholders from a wide range of sectors, namely civil society, labour, business, and government. The aim of both of these engagements is to build a collective vision of an end state by 2050 and to provide guidance for the development of pathways that will ensure that the transition to this end state is a fair and equitable one. This framework which is to be just, equitable, transformative, transparent and inclusive will include pathways and milestones. At its center, the approach should identify and address trade-offs, build social cohesion and contribute to the eradication of poverty and inequality. It is envisaged that the consensus we build during our engagements will be the foundation from which a national social compact can be developed.

The National Planning Commission serves as an independent, advisory body, providing recommendations to cabinet that will make decisions on what action to take. This process is therefore not politically led. The point of a social compact is to put a certain degree of control within the hands of the people to promote a transition that is just. In addition to presenting results to government, a social compact can then be taken to business and other social partners to help address some of the challenges. These results are yet undetermined and will be led directly by those involved.

The original process is described below in Figure 1.

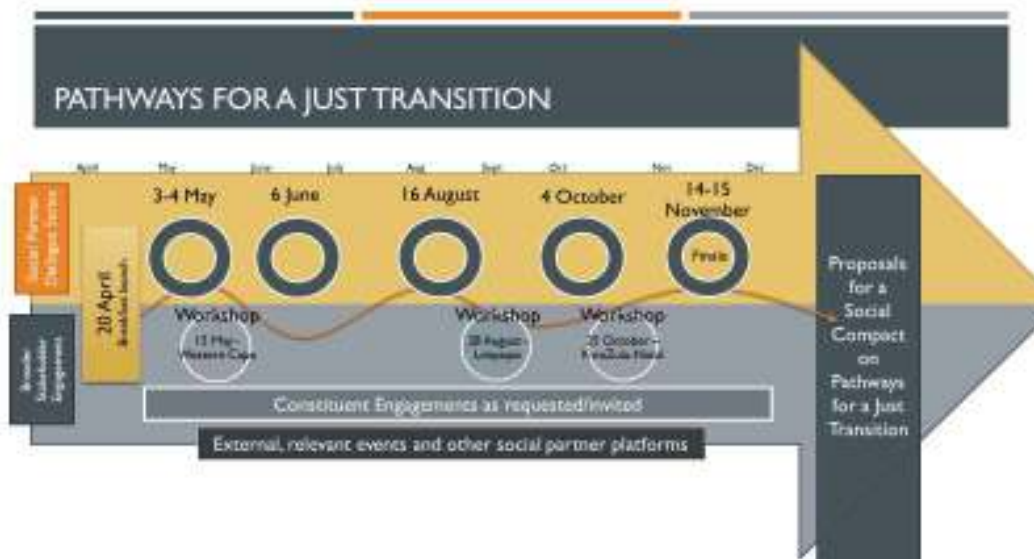


Figure 1: Pathways for a Just Transition Process Flow Chart (original)

What is a Just Transition?

Just Transition is a framework that has been developed by the trade union movement to encompass a range of social interventions needed to secure workers' jobs and livelihoods when economies are shifting to sustainable production, including avoiding climate change and protecting biodiversity, among other challenges.

It has been broadened beyond a focus on protecting the rights of the working class only but also encompasses wider society, especially the most vulnerable.

The first high-level Social Partner Dialogue offered several insights which resulted in a slight revision of the *Pathways for a Just Transition* process. In general, the initiative and process was supported however, there were two main concerns, one being that the scope was too broad; and secondly that the process planned for a limited amount of community engagement.

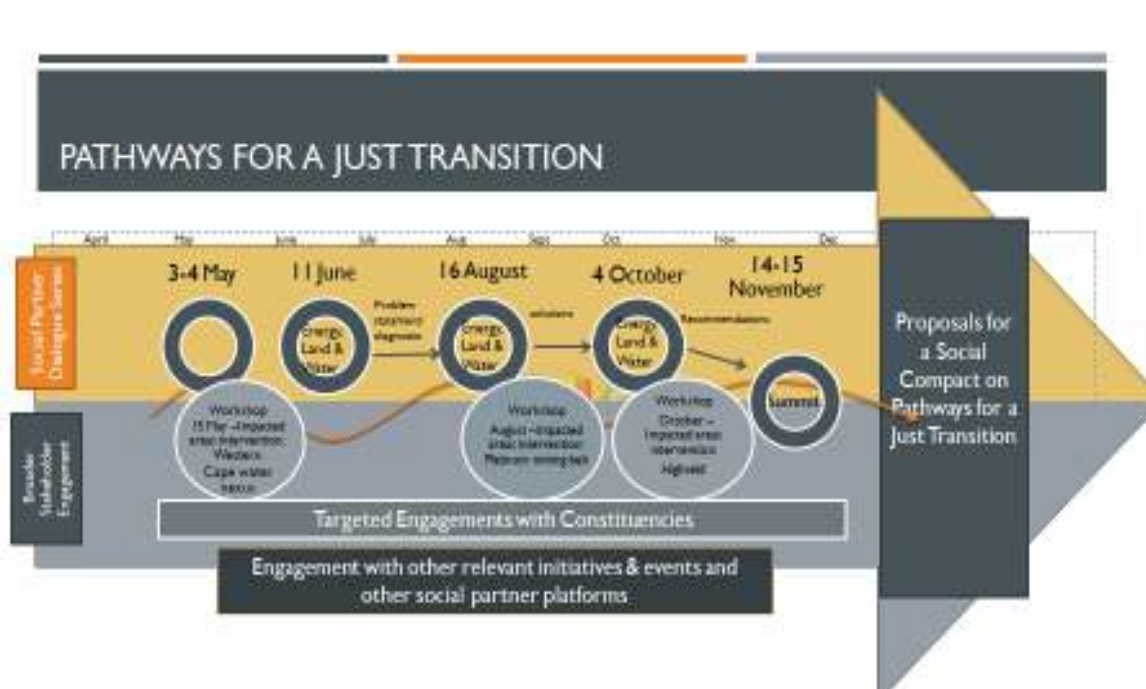
The point of a social compact is to take it out of the realm of government and into the hands of the people

As a result of this, the NPC revised the process to focus on three primary sectors: energy, land-use and water. While it was acknowledged that these issues are related, and correspond with a wide variety of challenges, the sector focus would provide some structure from which important intersections could be identified, discussed and addressed.

Given that some communities, and in particular high impact communities from the mining regions, particularly coal mining towns, will be disproportionately impacted, it was decided to focus the engagement with these communities. Figure 2 describes the updated flow chart following these changes in the process. The process will now culminate in a Summit leading to a roadmap and/or a declaration on a Just Transition for South Africa.

How are people being involved in energy decisions that impact their daily lives?

We don't have a plan and we need a PLAN!

Figure 2: *Pathways for a Just Transition Process Flow Chart (updated)*

Plenary Discussion

Following the presentation, Commissioner Essop opened the floor for discussions and questions, clarifying that although we are using Chapter 5 of the National Development Plan and have a draft process for the project outlined, that the input from stakeholders has no bounds. Therefore, now is the time to discuss any important issues in terms of understanding, defining and moving forward with a Just Transition in South Africa. The discussion was an organic process and the feedback and discussion below is captured thematically.

Public Participation

Many comments focused on the importance and necessity of a thorough and explicit public participation process. Frustration was expressed about government in general particularly in relation to energy decisions that impact on workers in various industries whose jobs are in peril in the coal, mining and manufacturing sectors. The NPC was encouraged to invest resources to ensure that local communities are engaged beyond just the voices of civil society organisations. Offers were made from participants to assist with facilitating discussion and/or raising money to be used to facilitate greater engagement.

A low carbon transition will inherently damage some businesses and industries and put people out of jobs. It is critical that South Africans foster a deep solidarity with those who will lose their jobs. It was proposed that a task team be set up to look at this particular aspect. To consider when a particular power plant will be closed and how we are dealing with retrenchment? What is the retrenchment package? How will we enable workers to start their own business or enter new jobs? This process may be able to build from NEDLAC who is starting to have a conversation about these issues.

Project Scope



There was some concern expressed that narrowing the scope to water, land, and energy might constrain discussions specifically in relation to sustainability and social justice.

Clarification was provided that although there has been a decision to focus on three sectors, this should not be a limiting factor to the discussions. Furthermore, the terms should be understood broadly. The nexus between them and their relationship with the country's triple challenge of unemployment, poverty, and inequality are key elements in

defining and implementing a Just Transition.

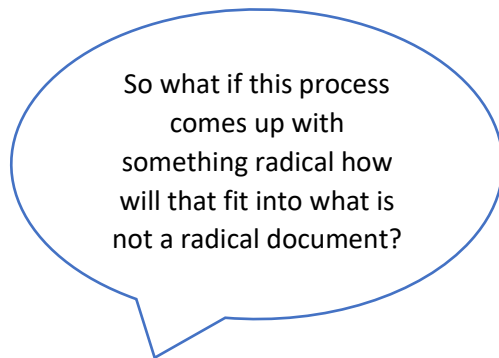
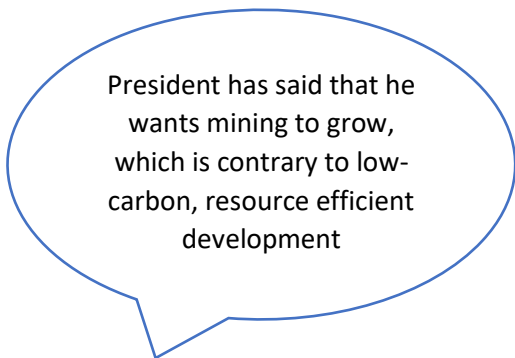
A question was posed in terms of the underpinning philosophy and development model that will guide the Just Transition process - a growth model or a state model or something different? A further question related to the economy and how it is understood within such a framework.

Role of Government

Government at all levels plays an important role in the Just Transition process, however, disjuncture's remain in terms of national guidance and well as national, provincial and municipal capacity. In its current form, Chapter 5 only provides a framework, but the country doesn't have the plan it needs to move forward with a low-carbon transition. What comes out of this engagement will have to be framed within the broader National Development Plan. This is important if this process comes up with something radical that it is then incorporated within the overall plan.

How does the NDP influence municipal policy? How will the social compact developed filter down into policy and approach? A perspective is that decentralisation will be a focus- is that correct and what does that mean?

Furthermore, implementation for much of the necessary changes is within the mandate of local municipalities, most of which significantly lack capacity. It was noted that the future of our economy and social wellbeing is placed in the responsibility of struggling government institutions.



Project Process

Following the overview of the project process, outlined in the flow chart, interest was expressed in a better understanding of who the participants of the high-level Social Partner Dialogues and the wider stakeholder engagement workshops are, as well as how these people were chosen. The NPC agreed to share the names of the Social Partners and any other information regarding the proceedings of the process.

It was noted that the high-level Social Partner Dialogue process was modeled with the intention of taking it through a NEDLAC process. Four constituencies (government, labour, business and civil society) were invited to be part of the high-level dialogues. Labour and government were not well represented at the first Dialogue, which has largely been attributed to recent political challenges, including the cabinet re-shuffle.

Implementation

Following the establishment of a roadmap for a Just Transition, which this project seeks to achieve, several participants had questions in regards to its implementation. Inadequacies in regard to on the ground implementation have plagued South Africa's development attempts in the past. There are power dynamics and political forces in effect that impact implementation at various levels. To what extent are we looking at what is currently hampering implementation? How can we ensure that implementation becomes the responsibility of the right people and departments?

It was broadly agreed that this is a challenge and Commissioner Essop recognised that difficult discussions must be had to address these challenges. The NPC aims for the Just Transition discussion to be elevated on the agenda and for the plan to be passed by Cabinet.

We need a shared vision of what we want and then we will work towards it by identifying a plan with milestones and governance.

Suggestions

In order to bolster community engagement, there was a suggestion for the project, as well as other organisations working on the issues of sustainable development to apply for funding from the Global Climate Fund so that more workshops can be held. Commissioner Essop reiterated her commitment and interest in accessing additional funds.

Breakout Session

Vision 2050: What should South Africa Transition Towards

The group was sectioned into three groups, each having a facilitator and scribe assigned. The groups were instructed to address the following questions:

1. Where should South Africa be in 2050?
2. How do we get there? How do we implement this vision? What needs to change?
3. How do we protect the poor?

Group 1

There were four key points - energy, building social power, locking in decisions and plans, and resilience. Two main approaches emerged from the discussion. One approach includes the development of an adaptable plan that is agile flexible enough to address emerging issues and the other is to establish a set of guidelines and targets and stick with them despite changes over time.

It was generally agreed that South Africa needs a mix of models to suit individuals' needs. However, existing policy barriers to adopting a mixed model need to be identified and addressed.

Many people lack information on climate change and various issues that impact them and, even if they have the information, they lack the capacity to address them. In addition, not all local governments are capable of effectively addressing complex challenges. Therefore, how do we shift resources to those that need it to build capacity where necessary? How do we utilise existing structures (e.g. ward councils) to the benefit of the people? How do we fight short-termism in government and business to promote long-term thinking and planning? Are there ways to lock in (via policy etc.) things that are very important for social and environmental wellbeing?



Resilience is key to sustainability. We need to look at resilience in environmental and economic terms and develop strategies to advance resilience in various dimensions.

Group 2

The group shared a common vision for a just and environmentally sustainable future. The role of government is key to creating an enabling environment for Just Transitions. This can be done by embracing true democracy and supporting active citizenry. The government should be facilitating the creation of jobs by creating an enabling environment for business and investment and skills development. There is also a role in government for decentralising competencies for water and energy. Government planning and operations need to be democratic and transparent so that corruption and mismanaged funds do not hamper successful implementation. Government should also support education and investment in research. Research and development would lead to innovation that can be used to create new skills, create new industries and promote new types of jobs. Finally, questions need to be addressed in terms of financing the vision South Africa determines as it's way forward to a low-carbon Just Transition.

We are robbing people of their own agency"

Group 3

This group envisaged a resilient and adaptable economy built on the creation of small business and a localised economy that creates jobs, with increased local investment from corporate South Africa through Corporate Social Investment. Individuals and communities should take responsibility to identify models of effective service delivery and access to clean energy, water, and education. In addition, citizens should be made aware of and live within the available resources. Governance challenges would need to be resolved and innovative educational models to improve education should be developed and implemented.

Plenary Summary

Despite the three different groups having different conversations, some themes came through strongly, from which a shared vision for 2050 can be built. Localisation, accountability and a democratisation of public processes was a recurrent theme in all the groups. In addition, the economy was a common theme, particularly in terms of how the economy is structured and how to create jobs. Also topical in all three groups was the important mandate of national, provincial and local government in ensuring quality services and creating jobs.

What Does This Mean for Energy, Water, and Land?

Parallel breakout groups were conducted on the three sectoral issues of water, energy, and land.

Land Reform Questions

Chair: Simon Nicks, CNdV Africa

The key questions below framed the discussion:

- How can / does and reform contribute to sustainable ecosystems and water resources, food security, and livelihoods?
- What institutional arrangements are needed to underpin sustainable land reform, climate resilience and development?
- How can land reform ensure achieve social justice and resource sustainability?
- What is required to reach our vision 2050?
- What needs to change and who needs to change?

Policy and Legislation

There is a lack of understanding about current legislation, with a new land act with new definitions. What is the current legislation saying about the use and ownership of land in terms of labour and in terms of mineral extraction? Work needs to be undertaken to gain a deeper understanding of the legislation in order to move forward. Ownership remains a very contested subject.

Intersectionality of Land, Water, Agriculture, and Livelihoods

How do we secure water, food, and land in an urban environment? The massive amount of informal settlements, particularly in wetlands, is resulting in people living in an unhealthy environment as municipalities are unable to provide services in these areas, together with the natural environment

and the services that they provide, being destroyed. How are the cities gearing up to manage the rapid urbanisation and informality?

Furthermore, how can land be better used to secure access to water (catchment areas are limited) in order to sustain and build economies and thus ensure livelihoods are not threatened. A substantial number of jobs could be created if urban agriculture is supported through access to fertile land in cities.

Supply chains are critical and provide further opportunity for job creation. Government can support growth in this area by encouraging large retail companies to purchase items from local providers rather than large distribution centers. This can create a win-win situation where the public may be offered lower prices, jobs are created and farmers have better profit margins.

Role of Government

A highly debated issue was the role of government in land-use, control and ownership. The participants varied widely in their opinions of the best approach. Some felt that government has not adequately dealt with the issues and does not have capacity or know-how to do so. Those who shared this view largely advocated for alternative mechanisms via the market or other mechanisms to facilitate equitable ownership, use and control. Alternatively, several people felt strongly that government should play a key role in managing land-use and that government should be the sole owner of land to ensure appropriate distribution.

Institutional Arrangements for Land-use

It was broadly agreed that the current institutional arrangements were not adequately managing the complex and central issue of land-use in the country. There is a need to have holistic focus when dealing with the complex issues and that institutions need to work collaboratively. There are currently fragmentations of the work happening between and within the various levels of government. Only once the multi-level governance issues are resolved can we address sustainable land-use in terms of ecosystems services and protection of water and food.

Ownership

Land ownership continues to be a contentious issue. While some thought that land ownership should be mandated for its most productive use but owned through market mechanisms, others felt very strongly that only government should own land.

Many expressed concerns that accurate information is difficult to access, and people are often provided conflicting information regarding land ownership and land-use rights, disempowering communities.

Land-use and Urbanisation

The historical context has led to a very complex system that has specific power dimensions which are influenced by class and race. Current policies encourage urbanisation in a way that constrains, and sometimes breaches, available infrastructure, water, jobs and other resources. How is the city conducting spatial planning and how is that being communicated to citizens? How do we decentralise economic opportunities so that there are jobs in the other areas of the country where land and infrastructure is more available to support people to live productive, healthy and safe lives?

In terms of low carbon development, we need to promote local food options. Local food is fresher and healthier and requires less transportation resulting in a smaller carbon footprint. It was stated that urban farm areas are available, unfortunately, the city doesn't have an urban agriculture policy and institutional arrangements need to fit this new paradigm to promote this concept. Once we understand what land can be used for then we ask how the land can be used to promote equity. This requires radical approach and a radical redistribution of land. This is imperative for sustainable development. There was strong support to promote small-scale agriculture through a ministry of small farmers who can then bring together all of the issues from policy, supply chain, training and other needs.

All decisions about land-use should be checked against:

- is this going to make us more resilient to climate change?
- is this being done in a low carbon manner?

How can research be done that shows what is really happening about the land and can the public have access to accurate information?

Rural Land-use

In the rural areas, there aren't title deeds. Furthermore, people need information on how to best use the land. These issues have been persisting for decades, and a different system is required to facilitate a change to alleviate these challenges so that land management practices become just and sustainable.

Land-use and Mining

The country's mineral wealth has only benefitted a few and has been at the expense of others and the environment. Mining companies are in pursuit of profit only, resulting in no mine rehabilitation of environmental practices. Historically land was offered to large, mostly foreign, corporations to extract minerals from the Earth, with little beneficiation or the creation of a significant manufacturing sector or skilled labour force.

Global model

Models exist around the world that South Africa can look to when addressing its land-use and land ownership issues. Examples from Brazil, India, and Singapore were highlighted, each of which took different approaches. These various models can lead to identifying or adapting a strategy that could work in the South African context. Demonstration projects could be implemented and tested.



Energy:

Chair: Sandra van Niekerk, One Million Climate Jobs

The key questions that framed the discussion were:

- What are the key entry points for a Just Transition to a sustainable energy future? What is the justification for these, rather than other, entry points?
- What would an optimised energy system look like that could meet national and local climate change commitments whilst ensuring security of supply, access and equity and at the same time enable growth?
- How should electricity generation, transmission and distribution be organised?
- How should electricity be priced and regulated?
- What is required to reach our vision 2050?
- What needs to change and who needs to change?

Three areas were focused on during the discussion:

Energy poverty and access

Energy poverty, which is the lack of access to affordable energy is on the rise throughout the country. While the national electrification programme has connected the majority of people, a quarter of the population does not have access to grid electricity, and about half of those that do cannot afford to buy electricity. Increasing electricity prices do not help the situation, and many poor households are not cushioned from these high prices.

To compound the problem, middle to high-income households are starting to install solar PV and become energy efficient. While this is good for the planet, this is having a negative effect on the municipalities who distribute electricity, as their ability to cross-subsidise electricity, water and rates tariffs for indigent households is decreasing as a result of decreasing revenue from electricity sales. The energy sector is disrupting the status quo, batteries, electric cars and renewable energy generation is in the near future, and the sector is resisting resulting in policy lagging behind the technology.

Jobs

The big concern as a result of renewable energy is the loss of jobs from coal mine closures (although in reality the closure of coal mines is mainly attributed to the end of lifespan rather than renewable energy). These mines are located in the north of the country, mainly Mpumalanga, while renewable energy farms are decentralised with many concentrated in the Northern and Eastern Cape. Therefore

whole communities/towns will dwindle. At the moment, government has no plan to deal with the looming job losses, although this has been on the cards for some time.

There are opportunities to create millions of jobs in sustainable agriculture

It is important that we make workers aware of their realities in terms of the term expectancy of their work (coal workers), and what alternative options are available/possible. In this way, we empower them to make decisions about their own employment and how to upskill and improve their position. We need to push for skills transfer in mining concentrated areas such as Mpumalanga before they lose their jobs/while there is still time.

However, not only does this plan need to include absorbing job losses but it must also create jobs, particularly for low and semi-skilled positions (the unemployment rate is high and continues to grow). The One Million Climate Jobs Campaign is currently investigating options. There are successful global case studies of how government and mines have worked together to absorb job losses. For example, in Australia, the mining companies helped employees find jobs with other mining companies and in other sectors by providing training for them for new jobs. The energy sector needs to adapt to e.g. the communications industry was disrupted by mobile phones, but Telkom was able to survive by diversifying and altering its services.

Several avenues were identified where jobs could be absorbed/created, such as mine rehabilitation (currently only 1 of the 7000 mines closed in the country has been rehabilitated), manufacture of local renewable energy technology components such as the proposed Atlantis Greentech SEZ, environmental jobs etc.

Economic empowerment and ownership of renewable energy projects

Ownership of renewable energy is also an issue, as there are challenges with communities owning and benefitting from renewable energy projects under the REIPPP. Public participation processes for these projects are lacking or insufficient and often the communities are not aware of or have insufficient information and knowledge to be able to feed into the processes. Government should look into supporting worker cooperatives through policy, funding and capacity development so that communities can pull together to establish small-scale renewable energy projects.

There is no plan to support accredited training institutions to re-skill people on new and emerging technologies.

What will Eskom's role be in future? There was a consensus that the national electricity grid and a system operator is still needed, hence there is still a role for Eskom if it unbundles its services and decarbonises through renewable energy. However, there needs to be a shift in how the country views Eskom and the energy sector. At the moment, the energy sector is Eskom i.e. a monopoly, however, what needs to happen is that Eskom needs to find a way of integrating into the energy sector, not vice versa. However, all of this cannot be achieved if there are vested interests and a corrupt government.

Health

The health implications of coal-powered generation is not being factored into the equation. Communities near these plants are severely health problems as a result of air pollution. Approximately 2000 people die every year from coal power plant related health issues, and this is not taken into account adequately when we look at the economy.

Water:

Chair: Tomani Manungufala, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation

- What are the main channels through which South Africa’s water crises impacts various constituencies?
- What are the key entry points for a Just Transition to a sustainable water future? What is the justification for these, rather than other, entry points?
- What is required to reach our vision 2050?
- What needs to change and who needs to change?
- What will the new normal look like?

Environmental damage and impacted sectors

Research shows that wastewater treatments plants in SA do not have the capability of removing numerous chemicals that are endocrine disrupting, thus causing havoc on fish populations, including edible fish and mussels. In addition to a potential collapse of the fisheries sector, this is a health hazard for humans

There is no political will to look at each of these issues holistically. The government does not have an integrated plan which considers the human impact on the environment, and the long-term effects of this damage on economic sectors, and human lives. For instance, water pollution has severely impacted the fisheries sector resulting in unprofitable and unsustainable operations, and health of consumers. The approach is rather to act symptomatically rather than systematically, in a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder consultative method taking into consideration social and environmental factors. Further, we need to look beyond using GDP as a measure of success.

Governance

Government is reluctant to densify cities although there will be huge reductions in infrastructure costs. Housing must be built in water efficient ways in the same way that energy efficiency was integrated into house building in the past. There are no regulations to ensure that this happens in both new builds and retrofits.

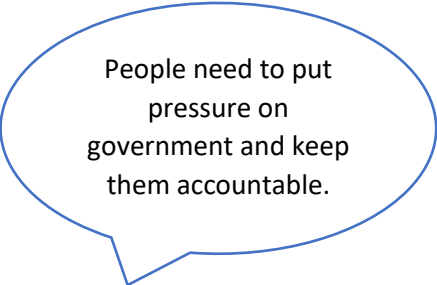
Rainwater tanks are an obvious solution to droughts, however, there are also no regulations on the safe storage of rainwater tanks, which will have disastrous impacts on health. For example, one child has already died in Cape Town as a result of drowning in a bucket of water. Pressure needs to be placed on SABS and government to develop policies and standards. There was a call for better quality and access to data to allow for better informed and holistic decision-making. Governance and frameworks need to be addressed and updated so that alternative water collection is encouraged and supported through various financial mechanisms.

We aren’t changing our institutional arrangements to suit the current needs

There is a huge disconnect between government departments which deal with built infrastructure and those concerned with the environment. Better coordination among government needs to happen.

We need longer-term strategies and planning but with shorter decision-making processes, however, this problem is exacerbated by the public financing system and its cycles which require budgets to be used up annually or it is forfeited.

Devolving responsibilities of water service provision to local government can be much more effective.



People need to put pressure on government and keep them accountable.

How can government regulate the water efficiency business sector in order to prevent exploitative profiteering during times of crises? For example, the cost of rainwater tanks skyrocketed as day zero approached in Cape Town.

Government is still struggling to maintain water infrastructure and does not react fast enough to burst water pipes and sewage overflows. Most of the country still behaves as though resources are unlimited. Some cities have water losses

of 30% or more. Cape Town's losses are much lower, and lower than international best practice, however, even this is now considered too high. What are the different roles of the public and private sector in water conservation?

Water rights and usage

Who owns the water and how do we use it equitably and efficiently? How do we address shared water resources through transboundary water basins? A huge proportion of water is used by the agriculture sector, particularly large-scale commercial farmers. How do we set timeframes for them to reduce their usage? How can small-scale farmers be assisted? Small-scale farmers don't have water rights and may not have knowledge or resources to farm very efficiently. Need to look at economic modalities and the ecological limitations.

Communal supply options—can we move beyond me and my house in terms of public goods? In some areas, this may work but in others it may be difficult to ensure it is maintained and equitably distributed. An example is a water supply community scheme where the community cleaned out the river or water source.

Wrap Up

To summarise, Peta Wolpe identified clear themes that emerged from all the groups. Political will and institutional reform were discussed in each group, albeit sometimes in different ways. For example, while water and energy talked about decentralisation, the group discussing land had a focus around government ownership.

In terms of institutional reform, it was largely agreed that the current state structures are inadequate. Although consensus was not reached in terms of what this restructuring should look like there was broad agreement that there is an existing misalignment between departments as well as widespread corruption and inefficiencies.

Closing

Commissioner Essop closed by thanking everybody for their participation, noting that the collective knowledge in the room was vast and deeply appreciated.

She acknowledged the tension created by a shared vision and that the change that is needed will not occur within the existing institutional and economic structure. While these issues can seem overwhelming there is a commitment through this process to determine practical strategies and tactics to address the real issues that accompany a Just Transition.



End.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pathways for a Just Transition

The National Development Plan (NDP) envisages that, by 2030, South Africa will have made headway in transitioning to a society that is just, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Chapter Five of the NDP sets out a framework and guiding principles to ensure that by 2030 South Africa's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable economy and society will be well under way.

Transitioning to a sustainable and resilient economy and society will require systemic and structural changes that should also see the use of South Africa's natural resources, including water and energy, resulting in appropriate economic and social development that addresses our country's triple challenges, namely, inequality, poverty and unemployment.

The National Planning Commission's (NPC) work is now in its second phase, which intends to ensure the implementation of the Plan through engaging relevant stakeholders. In its plan for ensuring the implementation of Chapter 5 of the NDP, the NPC has designed a process to facilitate a series of dialogues culminating in a social compact – an agreement on what the best pathway for a Just Transition to a sustainable society would be as well as agreements on the modalities for implementation.

The dialogues include building consensus on a vision for an equitable and sustainable South Africa in 2050, as well as determining the best pathway for a Just Transition towards that vision. The discourse will also consider, and address current crises impacting on our ability to ensure a Just Transition, such as energy sector job losses and the growing water crisis, amongst others.

The vision for 2050 will be built through an iterative process of engagements and will be presented at a final national summit in April 2019.

The current political discourse frames this process and the implementation of the Plan. President Ramaphosa in the State of the Nation Address 2018 highlighted the need for South Africans to work together *“by getting social partners in our country to collaborate in building a social compact on which we will create drivers of economic recovery”*. He further stated that *“Our country has entered a period of change. While change can produce uncertainty, even anxiety, it also offers great opportunities for renewal and revitalisation, and for progress”*.