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INDALO INCLUSIVE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

**CREATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR ADAPTIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL
INNOVATIONS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY AND PROMOTION OF
AN INCLUSIVE, JUST AND RESILIENT ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA**



INDALO INCLUSIVE SOUTH AFRICA SYMPOSIUM

23 - 25 MARCH 2021 | ONLINE PLATFORM

CONCEPT NOTE

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About the Indalo Inclusive Symposium 2021

The physical, emotional, and economic scars of the COVID-19 pandemic will for a long time remain indelible in our minds and society. The pandemic came to our shores at a time when the world and South Africa was dealing with immense economic challenges and having gone through consecutive quarters of negative growth, credit downgrades and massive job losses in key economic sectors.

Governments, civil society organisations and the private sector are occupied in trying to find innovative solutions to save lives, jobs and to recover from the impact of the pandemic. The South African government in particular, together with its social partners, has developed and adopted the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (2020). Recognisable in this plan, is the commitment to include and spend a significant component and investments in green industries and technologies. The document further recognises that green technologies offer “a sustainable solution to climate vulnerability and driving economic competitiveness. Green industrialization also guarantees the security of energy, food, water and electricity supply” (ERRP,2020).

Intrinsically connected to the above is the fact that, climate change impact continues to expose the fault lines of vulnerability in society and the economy. For a number of years prior to the emergence of the covid-19 pandemic and following the Paris Agreement 2016, the world has among others been focused on finding solutions to help the vulnerable groups become adaptable and resilient to its impact.

The South African government has made considerable strides towards meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Perhaps the most notable is the adoption of the National Adaptation Strategy as well as the passing of the Climate Change Bill whose outcomes will contribute immensely to meeting South Africa 's commitments of the UNFCCC. One of the key objectives of the Climate Change Bill is to:

“...provide for the effective management of inevitable climate change impacts through enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to building social, economic, and environmental resilience and an adequate national adaptation response in the context of the global climate change response” (Climate Change Bill, 2018).

In addition to the efforts by the South African government to both respond to the challenges of climate change while ensuring a fair and just transition to a greener economy, Chapter 5 of the National Development Plan (NDP), commits to “Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and an Equitable Transition to a Low Carbon, Climate Resilient Economy and Society and further states that by 2030 South Africa will have transitioned to an environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, low-carbon economy and just society” (NDP 2012).

At the National Planning Commission’s (NPC) first High-Level Social Partner Dialogue on the Just Transition, delegates supported an economy-wide approach to planning for a Just Transition but also proposed a more strategic and prioritised approach. It was agreed that a focus on the 3 key areas of Land-use, Energy and Water would go a long way in laying a strong basis for a Just Transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society.

Indalo Inclusive South Africa (Indalo) is a not-for-profit company that works towards the identification, support of eco-inclusive entrepreneurship as well as promotion of responsible business practices. Indalo further facilitates dialogue and provide collaborative partnerships among stakeholders to build a conducive ecosystem for a thriving socially inclusive and green economy through entrepreneurship in South Africa.

Through the financial support of the Government of Flanders, Indalo is implementing the “Reaping the potential for eco- inclusive and climate-smart entrepreneurship for the green economy in South Africa” (ECSIGE) project. The ECSIGE project is anchored through the Global SEED Programme. SEED is a global partnership programme founded in South Africa by the United Nations Environment (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Indalo has been the South Africa hosting partner of SEED.

In addition, Indalo is supported by the European Commission through the Strategic Partnership for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA), a GIZ coordinated programme; to implement the Indalopreneur – Just Transition Enterprise Support Programme (JTEP) in coal mining communities of the Limpopo and the Mpumalanga Provinces of South Africa.

Considering these and many other initiatives, Indalo Inclusive South Africa will host a virtual symposium that builds upon the success of the previous SEED Symposium implemented in South Africa in recent years. The symposium has become a collaborative platform where entrepreneurs, government, private sectors, donors and investors convene to celebrate achievements, network and deliberate on strategies for increasing resilience and adaptive capacities for communities and entrepreneurs in response to climate change impacts.

The 2021 Indalo Inclusive Symposium will be hosted under the theme:

"Creating partnerships for adaptive entrepreneurial innovations for a green recovery and promotion of an inclusive, just and resilient economy in South Africa"

This theme covers the ethos of our work and cuts across our current projects and activities and in particular responds to the current narratives and discourse for a green recovery and a just transition towards a sustainable and inclusive economy. Among others, the symposium will further address various sub-themes that include the following:



The value and opportunities of eco-inclusive entrepreneurship for climate change adaptation in rural communities



Promotion and awareness of Just Transition Entrepreneurship in coal mining communities of South Africa



Climate Impacts of Alien Invasive plants and opportunities for entrepreneurship in the Biomass Sector for rural communities



The role of traditional leadership, indigenous knowledge systems and practices in the efforts of curbing climate change effects and the implementation of community-based adaptation strategies

Symposium Partners



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