

PROPOSED SCOPING WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change remains one of the most urgent global environmental challenges that countries have to grapple with. Globally, countries are in a race against time to reverse some of the inevitable adverse consequences that will affect our environment and strain our future generation. South Africa is developing policies and laws to enable the implementation of effective adaptation and mitigation measures to address climate change. South Africa recognises the need to create legal and policy frameworks that give the most affected and vulnerable sections of society the ability to adapt to climate change impacts, as well as benefit from innovative solutions to address these impacts, which promotes the standard of living and economic competitiveness of these sections of society.

This scoping workshop aims to unpack the implications of the legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that currently exist to address climate change concerns in South Africa. In doing so, this workshop will focus on renewable energy sources, implications of nuclear energy, use of natural gas, implications of carbon tax and the effect of all of these on South Africa's new growth path for a green economy. In particular, the Mandela Institute seeks to address the intersection of climate change, energy and environment in a context where South Africa is under pressure to fulfil socio-economic rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

In achieving these objectives, the Mandela Institute is inviting a number of representatives from different sectors including government, academia, and civil society to present and discuss emerging challenges, progress and solutions on climate change issues in South Africa. To aid the discussion, the Mandela Institute has prepared a concept note and background paper that will be tabled and will inform the discussion at the workshop. It is hoped that at the conclusion of the workshop, the Mandela Institute would have been able to identify points of convergence and divergence that will complement the work that is being done in various sectors with the common objective of safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of community groups in South Africa while addressing climate change.

Ultimately, the workshop aims to fill in gaps in knowledge by shaping the on-going policy discussion on climate change response mechanisms, assess the reception of the renewable energy procurement process by the regulated sector, and influence relevant government policy makers in reviewing relevant legislation and regulations on climate change and energy.