



1st GIB Meeting

23-25 Feb 2025

G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy Feb 2025 Administrative Note

**University of the Free State, Bloemfontein,
Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality,
Free State Province, South Africa**

www.g20.org

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ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE

G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy

ABOUT

This Administrative Note is designed to provide all delegates with essential information regarding logistical and administrative arrangements for the meeting.

Updates on this document will be communicated to delegates via email.

1. Introduction and the Venues

The South African G20 Presidency welcomes you to the City of Roses, Bloemfontein, Mangaung Metropolitan, Free State Province, South Africa.

The 1st 2025 G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy will be held in Bloemfontein from Sunday, 23 – Wednesday, 25 February 2025 at the University of the Free State (UFS), the official venue for this meeting. This prestigious institution is known for its state-of-the-art facilities and significant role in South Africa's historical and educational landscape.

Bloemfontein, the judicial capital of South Africa and the capital city of the Free State Province, is steeped in history and tradition. With its renowned academic and judicial institutions, as well as its rich cultural heritage, the city provides an ideal setting for the meetings.

The University, founded in 1904, is one of the country's oldest and most respected institutions of higher learning, with a rich history of academic excellence and social transformation. Over the years, UFS has evolved into a multi-campus institution known for its commitment to inclusivity and community engagement.

With a proud reputation for promoting innovation, social justice, and academic rigor, the university is an ideal location for hosting global leaders and experts in research, policy, and international cooperation. During the G20 meetings, delegates will experience the university's world-class infrastructure, including advanced conference facilities, cutting-edge research centres, and a notable commitment to sustainable development, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Proposed Programme

DAY 1 - SUNDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2025

Joint Research Innovation Working Group (RIWG)/ G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB) Side Events

Venue: Education Auditorium, University of the Free State

09:00 – 12:00 **Group Tours of the African Medicines Innovations and Technology Development Platform**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:00 **Opening and Welcome**

Mr Daan Du Toit, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

Welcome Remarks

Professor Vasu Reddy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, University of the Free State

14:00 – 15:00 **Session 1.1 – RIWG/GIB Dialogue with Youth**

15:00 – 15:15 **Tea break**

15:15 – 16:15 **Session 1.2 – RIWG/GIB Dialogue with Indigenous Knowledge holders**

16:15 – 17:15 **Session 1.3 – RIWG/GIB Dialogue with Bio-economy Researchers**

17:15 – 17:30 **Closing Remarks**

Prof Joyce Tsoka-Gwagweni, Vice Dean Health Sciences, University of the Free State

17:30 – 19:00 **Group tours of the African Traditional Medicines Innovations and Technology Platform**

Entertainment

19:00 – 21:00 **UFS Sponsored Welcome Cocktail at Centenary Building, University of the Free State**

DAY 2 - MON, 24 FEB 2025

Venue: Odeion Auditorium, University of the Free State

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening Session**

Programme Director: **Mr Daan Du Toit**, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

- Remarks by Minister Bonginkosi Nzimande, South African Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
- Remarks by Ms Maqueen Letsoha-Mathae, Premier of the Free State
- Remarks by Professor Hester Klopper, Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Free State

Break into two groups (GIB and RIWG)

10:00 – 10:30 **Tea break**

10:30 – 11:00 **Presentation of the GIB Issue Note**

It is recommended that delegates focus on the importance of continuing the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, and their evaluation of the elements of the Issue Note.

11:00 – 12:30	Interventions by delegates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Troika comments (3 min each) - G20 members (2 min each) - Knowledge partners comments (1.5 min each)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:15	Bioeconomy Development in the Global South: A Focus on Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction b. Climate change and impacts/ predictions for bioeconomy development c. Context for developing bioeconomies in Africa d. Skills, resources and science infrastructure
15:15 – 15:30	Questions
15:30 – 16:00	Tea Break
16:00 – 17:00	Interventions by delegates
17:00 – 17:30	Participants travel to the Odeion Auditorium
17:30 – 19:00	Cocktail, dinner and play, “Retracing South African History”

DAY 3 - TUE, 25 FEB 2025

09:00 – 11:00	Effective Opportunities for Bioeconomy Development in the Global South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agro-processing for Bio-mass Value Addition b. Indigenous Knowledge Valorisation c. Bioprocessing d. Biorefineries
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	e. Bioenergy
	f. Carbon Capture
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break
11:30 – 11:45	Questions
11:45 – 12:30	Interventions by delegates
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:45	Cost Effective Intervention Programmes for Supporting Bioeconomy Development in Africa and the Global South
	a. Agriculture Bio-innovation Partnership Programme
	b. Bio-innovate Africa
	c. Incubation of Science-based SMMEs
	d. Centralised Platforms for Catalysing Science-based Technology Development
14:45 – 15:00	Questions
15:00 – 15:30	Tea Break
15:30 – 16:30	Delegates comments and suggestions on cost effective programme characteristics for Global South/ Africa
16:30 – 17:00	Concluding comments and next steps
18:00	Travel to Naval Hill Planetarium
19:00 – 22:00	Cocktail and d – “Braai under the African sky”

3. Accommodation



Southern Sun Hotel

Contact: +27 51 444 1253

Location: Nelson Mandela Drive, 120 Melville, Bloemfontein, 9301

Site: <https://www.southernsun.com/southern-sun- Bloemfontein>

Star rating: 4.4

Prices per night: 118.61 USD ~ 2045 ZAR

Distance from the University: 2.1 km ~ 5 minute drive



Protea Hotel Bloemfontein, Willow Lake

Contact: +27 51 412 5400

Location: 101 Henry St, Willows, Bloemfontein, 9301

Site: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bfnwi-protea-hotel-bloemfontein-willow-lake/overview/>

Star rating: 4.3

Prices per night: 100 USD ~ 1717 ZAR

Distance from the University: 2.5 km ~ 6 minute drive



City Lodge Bloemfontein

Contact: +27 51 444 2974

Location: Parfitt Ave, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301

Site: <https://citylodgehotels.com/hotels/105/City-Lodge-Hotel-Bloemfontein>

Star rating: 3

Prices per night: 95 USD ~ 1623 ZAR

Distance from the University: 3.6 km ~ 8 minute drive



Protea Hotel Bloemfontein

Contact: +27 51 444 4321

Location: 202 Nelson Mandela Drive, Brandwag, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 9301

Site: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bfnbf-protea-hotel-bloemfontein/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

Star rating:4

Prices per night: 91 USD ~ 1564 ZAR

Distance from the University: 300 m ~ 5 minute drive

4. Airport Transfers

South African authorities will expedite immigration procedures for all foreign delegates attending the G20 meetings in 2025.

The South African Government will provide appropriate transport in Bloemfontein from the airport to the hotels and return for all delegation as per the registration and accreditation allowance.

Bloemfontein is served by Bram Fischer International Airport (BFN), with direct flights to major cities within South Africa, including Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. Delegates arriving internationally will first enter the country through OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (JNB) or Cape Town International Airport (CPT), both of which serve as key international gateways with connections to major global cities such as London, New York, Dubai, and Frankfurt.

Please Note:

- OR Tambo International Airport and Cape Town International Airport may experience longer waiting times due to increased international passenger traffic. It is recommended that delegates allow extra time for connecting flights to Bloemfontein.
- If you are connecting via another city in South Africa, you must collect your luggage at the first port of entry for customs clearance. After clearing customs, you will need to re-check your luggage for your domestic flight to Bloemfontein.

Shuttle services will be provided for delegates from Bram Fischer International Airport to the designated hotels and the University of the Free State, the official venue for G20 meetings.

For additional information, consult the South African Department of Home Affairs or your nearest South African consulate.

5. Accreditation

Participation at the first G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy meeting is strictly for registered delegates only. The registration and accreditation process for all official G20 events hosted in South Africa will be done on an online platform (**www.g20.org**). More information on Accreditation will be provided in early January 2025.

6. Immigration

Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports

Passports of guests should be valid for at least 30 days beyond the expected date of arrival and departure from South Africa and should have at least two unused pages when presented for endorsements.

A valid visa (if applicable) should be obtained from the nearest South African Embassy or High Commission in each country. **NO** visas will be issued upon arrival in the Republic of South Africa.

For more information on visa requirements and exemptions, visit the Department of Home affairs- <https://www.dha.gov.za/>

7. Places of Interest

The Naval Hill Planetarium

Located at the base of Naval Hill, the Naval Hill Planetarium is the first digital planetarium in sub-Saharan Africa. It provides state-of-the-art astronomy presentations and is a hub for education and outreach in the fields of space science and technology. Visitors can experience immersive digital shows and learn about cutting-edge developments in astronomy and astrophysics.



Contact details:

+ 27 51 401 9751

Address:

Naval Hill, Bloemfontein, 9301



The National Museum Bloemfontein

Located in the heart of Bloemfontein, the National Museum offers insights into South Africa's natural history, cultural heritage, and early human civilisations. Founded in 1877, the museum hosts exhibits on palaeontology, archaeology, and anthropology, making it a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts.



Contact details:

+27 51 447 9609

Address:

36 liwal St, Bloemfontein Central, Bloemfontein, 9301

8. Immunisation

South Africa is a signatory to the International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR, 2005) and is committed to safeguarding the health of both citizens and persons travelling to the country.

- To ensure compliance with the IHR 2005 policies and legislative prescripts, health measures will be applied to delegates entering the country.
- All travellers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials at the point of entry which will include temperature screening.
- Persons who, during screening, are found to have signs and symptoms consistent with communicable diseases, will be subjected to further assessment, which may include medical examination at the delegate's cost.
- This exercise is conducted as a preventative measure at the ports of entry against the spread of communicable diseases like yellow fever, hepatitis A and B, malaria, etc.
- Should a delegate experience any signs and symptoms consistent with a communicable disease while in South Africa, they are advised to seek medical attention and inform the medical practitioner of their travel history.
- In line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations, aircraft arriving from a yellow fever or malaria endemic area must be disinfected for the control of mosquito vectors.
- On arrival at the point of entry, proof of disinfection must be provided to the health specialists prior to disembarkation of delegates.

Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirements In South Africa

In line with the IHR 2005 and the country's Yellow Fever Policy, South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens over one year of age:

- travelling from a yellow fever-risk country
- having been in transit exceeding 12 hours through an airport of a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission.

Therefore, travellers arriving in the country from an area determined by the WHO to be at risk of yellow fever transmission are required to produce a valid International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever.

Travellers who are not in possession of a valid certificate of vaccination against yellow fever may be refused entry or placed under quarantine-surveillance for a period not exceeding six days or until their certificate becomes valid.

Travellers who, for medical reasons, cannot have a yellow fever vaccine, must be in possession of a signed, valid waiver letter from the travel health practitioner.

Travellers who are in possession of a waiver letter will be required to report any fever or other symptoms to a health practitioner and be placed under quarantine surveillance.

Malaria

The provinces of Gauteng and the Free State are malaria-free. However, malaria is endemic in some areas of South Africa, namely, northern-eastern KwaZulu-Natal, parts of Mpumalanga and Limpopo. If delegates plan further travels to any of these three provinces, they are advised to consult a doctor to prescribe the most appropriate malaria prophylaxis.

9. Environmental Health

- The tap water in South Africa is safe to drink.
- Food safety is a priority and all food supplies to the event will be monitored from preparation to distribution.
- Smoking policies with regard to public places are enforced.

10. On-site arrangements

The venue for the 1st G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy meeting will be at the Modular Building at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State Province. All the official sessions and welcome receptions will be held at the venue and close to the University. Access and participation are per delegates' accreditation.

11. General Information

Payment Methods and Currency

In South Africa, credit and debit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are widely accepted at most businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail stores. However, it is important to note that some smaller vendors, particularly at markets or rural areas, may only accept cash. It is advisable to carry South African Rand (ZAR) for such situations. Currency Exchange services are available at airports, major hotels, banks and dedicated currency exchange offices like Travelex and Western Union. These services offer cash exchange from various currencies into Rand. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are readily available throughout the country, making it easy to withdraw cash using international debit or credit cards.



Voltage and Power Sockets

South Africa operates on 230V electricity with a frequency of 50Hz. The power sockets used are primarily Type M (the large three-pin plug), although Type C (the standard European two-pin plug) is sometimes used. It is advisable for visitors to bring a universal adapter, as plug types may vary across regions and accommodation options.

For safety, many of South Africa's electrical sockets are recessed, requiring the plug to be fully inserted before connection is made. Portable voltage transformers are available if needed.



Climate

South Africa has a diverse climate, ranging from temperate in the interior regions to subtropical along the eastern coastline. In Bloemfontein, where the G20 meetings will be held, the climate is semi-arid. During the month of February, the temperature typically ranges from 10°C to 30°C, with warm days and cool nights. Delegates are advised to bring light clothing for the daytime and warmer layers for the evenings.

