

Draft Agenda: Financing Bioeconomies, 2nd SA GIB meeting, 26 – 27 May

Financing The Bioeconomy and the Case for Action

The bioeconomy is a rapidly evolving economic paradigm that is globally recognised as a key driver for sustainable development, reducing dependence on fossil resources and promoting the use of biomass alternatives and a circular approach across a range of sectors, as well as promoting biodiversity conservation. In this way, it presents a set of viable economic opportunities for a just transition.

Proposed Focus Areas for G20 Members

1. Finance and Investment Mobilisation

Scaling bioeconomy initiatives requires innovative financial instruments that can bridge funding gaps, reduce risks, and attract private investments.

- **Ask:** We want to encourage GIB members to use this day and a half finance day session to exchange knowledge and experience in leveraging traditional and green finance to scale the bioeconomy, as well as present suggestions for ways to collectively tackle financing and trade barriers and create incentives to scale the bioeconomy.
- **Outcome:** Overcome funding barriers, promote sustainable resource management, and achieve global climate and biodiversity goals.

2. Enabling Policy and Regulation

Unlocking and growing this transformative sector requires robust enabling policies that foster innovation, equitable resource management, and international cooperation.

- **Ask:** We would like to hear from G20 members what enabling policy and regulatory frameworks have supported the development of their bioeconomies and what challenges there have been and how these were overcome.
- **Outcome:** Understand and replicate effective policy strategies and overcome shared barriers.

3. Knowledge Exchange and International Cooperation

In the face of global challenges such as climate change, health emergencies, food insecurity, and biodiversity loss, the need for collaborative solutions has never been more urgent. As representatives of the world's largest economies, as well as its largest emitters, G20 members hold the power to drive transformative change through knowledge exchange and international cooperation.

- **Ask:** We encourage the G20 members to prioritise knowledge sharing and exchange as a cornerstone of international cooperation.

- **Outcome:** By committing to the knowledge sharing and capacity building, we can catalyse meaningful progress toward addressing shared challenges while fostering equitable development worldwide.

4. Private Sector Engagement and Innovation

The bioeconomy presents a unique opportunity to drive sustainable growth, reduce environmental impact, and create resilient industries. However, scaling bioeconomy initiatives requires innovative financial instruments that address funding gaps and de-risk investments.

- **Ask:** We encourage private sector actors and financial institutions to champion innovative financial instruments that will unlock the bioeconomy's potential.
- **Outcome:** By investing in this sector, the private sector and banking industry contribute not only to sustainable development but also to creating resilient industries that align with global climate and biodiversity goals.

Key Objectives of the Session

1. **Raise awareness** among G20 members on the critical need for and challenges associated with scaling finance to support a thriving bioeconomy.
2. **Introduce Solutions** to catalyse finance for a thriving sustainable bioeconomy across four key pillars:
 - Pipeline Development (including projects and financial instruments)
 - Policy
 - Capacity Development
 - Data and Metrics
3. **Unveil and discuss a concrete initiative** aimed at addressing these challenges comprehensively and catalysing financing for a bioeconomy within the African context: The African Bioeconomy Finance Hub.
4. **Creating mechanisms to implement High-Level Principle 7:** Benefit from robust and coherent policy frameworks that foster trade for bioeconomy products and services, market conditions, sustainable business models, decent jobs, local value creation and private sector and civil society participation; and **High-Level Principle 9:** Be fostered by international collaboration and cooperation that addresses global challenges, leverages complementary strengths, innovation and entrepreneurship and promotes financing, capacity building and sharing of best practices.

Pre-reading materials:

1. *Growth potential, opportunities and resilience within an advancing bioeconomy across Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries*: pre-reading resource for **Session 1: The Importance of Financing the Bioeconomy**
2. *Mapping finance solutions and instruments across the three bioeconomy types*: pre-reading resource for **Session 2: Existing and emerging financial instruments: Obtain a holistic understanding of financing options and gaps for different bioeconomy sectors**
3. *Concept Note: Bioeconomy Finance Hub for Africa*: pre-reading resource for **Session 5: Introducing the Bioeconomy Financing Hub: Feedback and endorsement discussion for the GIB members on the proposed Bioeconomy Finance Hub**