

## Agbiz submits comments on Climate Change Bill

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### Background

Agbiz submitted its comments on the Climate Change Bill to the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries on 26 May 2022.

The purpose of the Climate Change Bill is to craft and implement an effective national climate change response, including mitigation and adaptation actions, which represents the Republic's fair contribution to the global climate change response. Its main objective is to enable the development of an effective climate change response and the long term, just transition to a climate-resilient and a lower-carbon economy and society.

### Main points in Agbiz submission

In its submission, Agbiz stresses the following main points:

- Agricultural value chains both contribute to climate change and are affected by climate change. According to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2017), the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector accounts for 52 Mt of emissions, accounting for nearly 10% of South Africa's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions making it the fourth largest contributor in the economy. However, it also sequesters approximately 30 Mt annually, thereby offsetting 60% of its emissions through carbon sinks. Aside from AFOLU, agro-processing accounts for roughly 25% of South Africa's manufacturing output.
- Whilst the sector does have some mitigation potential, the impression should not be created that it has an unlimited mitigation potential as a ceiling will be reached after which the only way to continue reducing GHG emissions will be by shrinking down the sector.
- There are also vast areas of South Africa where extensive livestock grazing is the only viable land use. This needs to be taken into account when looking at the sector's emissions.
- Climate change will have significant impacts on agriculture in South Africa and mitigation will be costly.
- Agbiz acknowledges that there is a need to find cost-effective ways to address agricultural emissions. This needs to be done in a way that does not compromise other objectives, such as food security, competitiveness and poverty alleviation.
- Business investment, know-how and technology will be essential to effectively respond to the challenge of adapting to climate change.
- There should be transparency regarding the criteria applied to set carbon budgets.
- Not all economic sectors have the same inherent mitigation potential, therefore it is important to ensure a measure of equality and fairness between economic sectors when sectoral emission targets are calculated.

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