

# CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

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## Independent Evaluation Stakeholders' Workshop

### Thematic Evaluation of NDB Financing and Activities in the Energy Sector in South Africa

NOVEMBER 21, 2025 • JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



# Thematic Evaluation of NDB Financing and Activities in the Energy Sector in South Africa

Organised by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the New Development Bank (NDB)

Johannesburg, South Africa



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**JOHANNESBURG, 21 NOVEMBER 2025**

#### **Background**

1. In 2025, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the New Development Bank (NDB) completed a thematic evaluation on *NDB Financing and Activities in the Energy Sector in South Africa*. The main evaluation objectives were to: (i) assess the results of NDB-financed operations and activities in the energy sector in South Africa; and (ii) generate lessons and recommendations for the way forward.
2. As part of the evaluation process, IEO is organising a stakeholders' workshop on 21 November, 2025, to discuss the findings, lessons and recommendations from the evaluation. This concept note outlines the focus, objectives, process, audience and agenda for the workshop.

#### **Expected focus of the workshop**

3. The broad focus of the workshop will be around the sustainable and inclusive development of the energy sector in South Africa, and how NDB's financing and activities have contributed to the sector and brought development impact. The final evaluation report, which includes the NDB Management Response to the evaluation, will constitute the basis for discussion during the workshop; and participants will consider some of the key points from the evaluation that require further reflection and discussion.
4. In addition, the workshop also discusses how NDB sought to address systemic barriers or enabled a catalytical impact on the energy sector in South Africa. With emerging policy reforms and regulatory changes occurring in the country, the workshop will also consider the opportunities and challenges ahead, and role of the private sector and stakeholder collaboration in achieving lasting development results.

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### Objectives

5. The main objectives of the workshop are to:
  - (i) Discuss the findings, lessons and recommendations from the energy sector thematic evaluation report;
  - (ii) Reflect on key issues and explore opportunities for enhancing NDB's and its partners' capacities and engagement for future operations in energy sector in South Africa; and
  - (iii) Promote cross-fertilisation of experiences, good practices, lessons and dialogue on topics of mutual interest with a variety of stakeholders.

### Venue and date

6. The workshop will take place at the [Radisson Blu Hotel](#) in Sandton, Johannesburg, on Friday 21 November 2025, from 10:00 to 13:00. Lunch for all participants will follow the session.

### Audience

7. Approximately 60 people are expected to take part in the workshop, including representatives from the Government of South Africa, embassies from NDB member countries and BRICS partners in South Africa, borrowers, peer multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international organisations, key evaluation partners and organisations, NDB staff, and others.

### Documentation

8. Background documentation will be made available electronically to the participants ahead of the workshop, including the final evaluation report (including the NDB Management Response), the two-page summary Evaluation Lens, the evaluation infographic, and others.

### Communication and media

9. NDB will issue a press release about the workshop on the day of the event. In addition, media representatives will be invited to observe and capture content from the workshop to promote visibility and coverage of the salient points discussed. IEO will announce the workshop on the "events" section of its webpages and afterwards will post key meeting documentation, presentations, and the event *communiqué* there too.

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## AGENDA

November 21, 2025

|   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 09:30 – 10:00   | REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING COFFEE   | WARM-UP VIDEO |
| OPENING STATEMENTS  |  |               |
| 10:00 – 10:05   | Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, Director General, IEO, NDB  |               |
| 10:05 – 10:10   | Ms. Wanga Cibi, Chief Director, Liability Management, National Treasury and Alternative Director of South Africa on the NDB Board of Directors   |               |
| 10:10 – 10:15   | Adv. Melanchton Makobe, Acting Director General, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa   |               |
| 10:15 – 10:25   | GROUP PHOTO  |               |
| 10:25 – 10:30   | IEO: explainer video   |               |
| PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE IEO THEMATIC EVALUATION REPORT   |  |               |
| 10:30 – 11:00   | Main findings and recommendations from the thematic evaluation of NDB Financing and Activities in the Energy Sector in South Africa by IEO, NDB  |               |
| 11:00 – 12:00   | Plenary discussions and questions and answers on the evaluation findings   |               |
| OPEN PLENARY DISCUSSION: EMERGING REFORMS IN ENERGY SECTOR AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCING AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION |  |               |
| 12:00 – 13:00   | <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Godfrey Mashamba</b>, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Ms Lungile L. Tom</b>, Head of the Project Finance, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)</p> <p><b>Mr. Thembisile Salman</b>, Senior Professional, Africa Regional Centre, New Development Bank</p> <p><b>Ms. Ruse Moleshe</b>, Energy Expert</p> <p><b>Dr Thabo Hlalele</b>, Head of the Energy Centre, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</p> |               |
| 13:00   | Closing session and next steps by Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, Director General, IEO, NDB  |               |
| Lunch   |  |               |

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# SESSION BRIEF: OPEN PLENARY DISCUSSION

## Emerging Reforms in Energy Sector and Opportunities for Financing and Private Sector Participation

### Background

South Africa's energy sector is crucial for the country's economic development. The Government of South Africa has embarked on a journey of structural reforms aimed at fundamentally reshaping the energy landscape. Key initiatives include the unbundling of Eskom and the promotion of renewable energy through the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). These reforms are designed to liberalise the market, enhance competition and, crucially, unlock unprecedented opportunities for private sector investment and innovation. The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) also presents the government's strategic framework for planning South Africa's energy supply.

### Objective

Starting from the findings and recommendations of the IEO thematic evaluation of *NDB Financing and Activities in the Energy Sector in South Africa*, the panel will provide a multi-stakeholder perspective on the evolution of the energy sector in South Africa. The panel will explore the emerging reforms, assess their progress and impact, and identify the concrete opportunities they present for private companies—from large multinationals to small, local businesses—across the energy value chain. It will: provide clarity on the regulatory and policy landscape; identify high-potential opportunities for private sector participation in energy generation, transmission and distribution; highlight new technologies; and bring together key stakeholders from the government and the private and finance sectors to address challenges and collaboratively build a sustainable energy future.

### Key questions

Some of the broad questions that will be addressed during the session include:

- The transmission grid is a critical bottleneck. What specific roles can the private sector play in financing, building and maintaining grid infrastructure? What is the opportunity for private sector participation in the ITP?
- How can private sector participation be structured to actively support a "Just Transition" ensuring that communities and workers affected are not left behind?
- Beyond solar and wind, where are the future opportunities in technologies like battery energy storage, green hydrogen, biogas, gas-to-power, etc., especially with the new IRP 2025?
- In the new IRP, what funding opportunities and financing tools would be needed to the energy sector in the country?
- What innovative financing models or partnerships can DBSA leverage to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure in underserved communities?

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- How does DBSA work with governments and other stakeholders to address barriers to private sector investment in the energy sector?
- What role should MDBs play in financing energy sector in South Africa, and what is the value-added from MDBs financing?
- As renewable financing from private banks is becoming a very competitive market, how should MDBs participate in this sector in the country.

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# ANNEX – PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## 1. Government of the Republic of South Africa

- National Treasury, South Africa
- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), DEE
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA)
- Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme Office
- South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)

## 2. Borrowers, sub-borrowers, project implementation agencies

- Eskom
- Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd. (IDC)
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

## 3. Commercial Banks and private sector energy corporations

- Standard Bank
- NedBank
- ABSA Bank
- FirstRand Bank
- Capitec Bank
- Independent Power Producers

## 4. Peer MDBs and international organisations

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) Southern Africa Regional Office
- European Investment Bank in the Republic of South Africa
- African Development Bank Group (AfDB) Southern Africa Regional Office
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

## 5. Evaluation associations and academia

- South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA)
- DBSA evaluation office

## 6. NDB member country embassy representatives in South Africa

- Brazil

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- Russia
- India
- China
- Bangladesh
- Algeria
- Egypt
- United Arab Emirates
- Uruguay
- Others (all BRICS and BRICS partner countries)

## 7. NDB staff

- Mr. Ashwani K. Muthoo, *Director General*, IEO
- Ms. Tshepiso Moahloli, *Director General*, ARC
- Ms. Zenda Ofir, *Transformation-Focused Strategy, Evaluation and Futures Specialist*, Member of NDB IEO High-level International Evaluation Advisory Committee
- Ms. Jin Zhao, *Evaluation Specialist*, IEO
- Ms. Linda Madelen Danielsson, *Communication Specialist*, IEO
- Ms. Rita Frezza, *Communication Specialist*, IEO
- Representatives of the Africa Regional Centre