

# **Reflections on mitigation efforts in South Africa**

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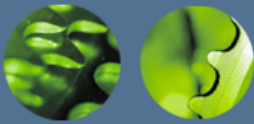
04 March 2009

Climate Change Summit - Midrand



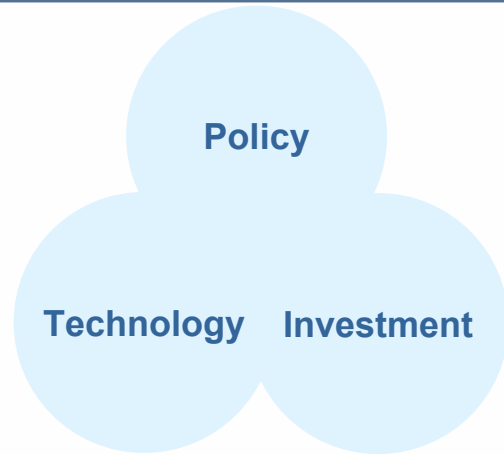
science  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## Brief

- Reflect on [mitigation] efforts underway in the [energy] sector
- Highlight key issues that will engage participants in a robust discussion

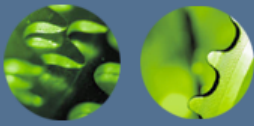


**“[Ensuring GHG emissions peak between 2020 and 2025] will be possible...if technology, policy and investment are identified as key planks in our strategic framework, and brought together into a coherent strategy,” - President Motlanthe, 3 March 2009**

I have been asked to reflect on efforts underway in the energy sector, and to highlight key issues that will engage participants in a robust discussion. To tackle the brief, the President’s statement yesterday provided a good context to shape the presentation, the discussion to follow, and the mitigation strategy to be developed.

The presentation answers this brief by highlighting some of the key questions that need to be considered.

As stated by the President, for any mitigation strategy to have a chance of success, it would need to be developed with policy, technology and investment as its pillars.



## Carbon mitigation strategy\*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Carbon Intensity} & \text{Expensive and slow} & \text{Cheap and fast} \\ & \text{Fuel Mix} & \text{Energy Intensity} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \frac{\text{CO}_2}{\text{GDP}} & = & \frac{\text{CO}_2}{\text{Energy}} \times \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{GDP}} \end{array}$$

\*Carbon capture and storage is also necessary

To reduce the country's carbon intensity, South Africa can do either of three things: start reducing the role of coal in the fuel mix, reduce the energy intensity of economic activity, or bet on the successful commercialization of CCS. Of the three, reduction of energy intensity is the most cost-effective and quickest intervention that can be pursued. This parameter needs to be brought down to the lowest possible level.



## ***Some key questions for consideration***

- Are government policies adequate to stimulate innovation and adoption of low carbon technologies?
- Is public funding for low carbon technologies sufficient? Is it balanced?
- Is there a transparent, overarching strategy with clear criteria for deciding which technologies to prioritise?
- Is there sufficient capacity to evaluate and learn from technology programmes?



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**Thank you**