

FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 2026

CLIMATE CHANGE POSITION STATEMENT



**MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA**

Minerals Council South Africa (Minerals Council) is a mining industry employers' organisation that supports and promotes the South African mining sector. Our Members, including three Associations, mine diverse mineral resources that represent over 90% of South African mineral production by value.

The mining sector plays a dual role in addressing climate change, reducing emissions from its own operations while supplying the minerals essential to global decarbonisation and the transition to a more resilient and lower-carbon economy. Responsibly produced minerals underpin electrification, renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure, while also supporting South Africa's energy security, industrial development and economic growth, with coal remaining an important part of the country's energy and industrial base as the transition progresses. As new low-carbon and critical minerals value chains emerge, effective climate change management will be increasingly important to strengthening the sector's competitiveness, attracting investment and enabling sustainable long-term growth.

MINERALS COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE POSITION

In 2023, the Minerals Council reaffirmed its support for the Paris Agreement and a pragmatic, people-centred just energy transition through its Board-approved Climate Change Position Statement, which set out seven recognition statements and six Member commitments to guide the industry's approach to climate change.

Since then, a rapidly evolving domestic and global landscape has underscored the need for the industry's position to remain credible, responsive to South Africa's realities and supportive of the competitiveness, investment and growth needed for a sustainable mining sector.

In 2026, the Minerals Council Board approved an updated Climate Change Position to replace the 2023 statement. It reflects Members' commitment to responsible climate management and mineral production, supporting global decarbonisation while strengthening the resilience of host communities and South Africa through the transition to a net zero economy.

The 2026 Position complements, rather than replaces, individual Member climate strategies and targets, providing a common industry framework to support Members' approaches to climate change management.



Minerals Council supports the responsible production and use of South Africa's abundant domestic mineral resources, including coal, recognising the important socio-economic benefits of these commodities.

In 2025, the South African mining sector employed over 469,000 people, contributing over R439 billion (~6%) to gross domestic product and R31 billion in taxes.



Minerals Council recognises that mining is an energy intensive industry and global action is needed to reduce GHG emissions to help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and adapt to them.

In 2025, the South African mining sector's direct (scope 1) climate footprint was 1 – 2 % of South Africa's national GHG inventory - modest relative to the sector's socio-economic contribution and critical role in energy security.

This factsheet sets out the updated recognition statements and Member commitments that underpin the 2026 Climate Change Position.

2026 CLIMATE CHANGE RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

Minerals Council South Africa and its Members support the Paris Agreement and a responsible transition towards a net zero carbon economy that strengthens sector resilience, competitiveness and investment attractiveness, while enabling sustained growth, infrastructure development and social impact. This transition recognises climate change as a material economic and operational risk requiring practical, cost-effective and sequenced implementation within the South African context, while also recognising the operational diversity and range of climate-related capabilities of our Members.

Climate change addressed in line with national, sectoral and investment realities

Climate change remains a material global and national challenge addressed in line with South Africa's development priorities and key national frameworks, including the Climate Change Act, Nationally Determined Contribution and Just Transition processes. Recognising climate change risks and opportunities, there is a need for predictable, coherent and well-sequenced policy frameworks that support mitigation, adaptation and resilience, while enabling investment in the mining sector and a just and economically viable transition.

Mining as an enabler of the transition and growth through critical minerals

The transition towards a more electrified and diverse industrial economy depends on reliable supplies of critical minerals, lower-carbon energy and stable baseload power across mining, extraction and processing. South Africa's mining sector is positioned to meaningfully contribute towards global value chains, while supporting national development and energy security priorities by leveraging its natural resource endowments, including coal. This is contingent on the sector remaining resilient and competitive given evolving climate-related risks, regulatory requirements and market expectations.

Mining as a socio-economic foundation for South Africa's future

Mining underpins South Africa's GDP, employment and infrastructure investment, particularly in host communities and regions with limited alternative economic activity. The sector also plays a dual role in managing emissions, while being a critical enabler of decarbonisation globally by supplying the minerals required for electrification, renewable energy systems and low-carbon technologies. This necessitates a transition that responsibly reduces emissions and supports increased mining production through enabling policy, sustained investment and growth. At the same time, mining operations and communities are increasingly exposed to climate-related risks, including impacts on water, energy and infrastructure. The mining sector acknowledges its critical role in sustainable management of water for our operations and communities. A credible transition is required that aligns with South Africa's Just Transition objectives to ensure that economic development, social outcomes and climate resilience are simultaneously advanced.

Collective industry action to unlock scale, execution and investment

Effective emissions reduction and growth at scale requires collective industry action and coordinated engagement with government, financiers and technology partners. This includes strengthening alignment with national policy frameworks and mobilising investment for implementation. This collaboration is essential to deliver credible transition outcomes and sustained growth, enhance resilience and meet evolving investor and disclosure expectations. This is further contingent on the availability of reliable and affordable energy, enabling infrastructure, cost effective mitigation, enabling policies and financial support mechanisms.

Just energy transition linked to growth, skills and future economic participation

Minerals Council supports collaboration with organised labour, communities, civil society and government to protect mining employment and skills, while positioning mining regions and workforces to participate in future value chains through a just and inclusive transition. This includes strengthening the resilience of communities and regional economies to climate-related risks. Achieving this requires predictable and enabling policies, aligned with South Africa's Just Transition objectives, that enable skills investment, infrastructure and resilience.

Energy security as a foundation for competitiveness, sovereignty and investment

Reliable and affordable energy is fundamental to sustaining mining operations and industrial competitiveness. This includes managing the continued role of existing energy sources like coal, recognising its importance for socio-economic development, industrial stability and investment and growth, while supporting a progressive transition to lower-carbon energy systems. The transition must be nationally determined, technology neutral and aligned with national development priorities, energy security imperatives and natural resource endowments, and supported by predictable and enabling policy frameworks to ensure a just and economically viable transition.

A portfolio approach to mitigation supported by enabling policy, with climate action as an enabler of capital, market access and growth

Emission reductions require a portfolio approach that considers direct mitigation levers, policy and technology innovation, circularity solutions and market-based mechanisms, aligned with long-term decarbonisation. Evolving climate policies and disclosure requirements shape access to capital and export markets and must therefore combine credible regulatory signals with incentives and flexibility mechanisms to strengthen resilience and enable low-carbon investment, sectoral growth and social impact, while safeguarding market access.

2026 CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER COMMITMENTS

 Long-term net zero ambition delivered through nationally aligned, investable pathways	<p>Maintain a long-term ambition towards a net zero carbon economy in line with South Africa's nationally determined climate objectives. This should be implemented through company-specific, investable transition pathways that reflect operational realities and energy security imperatives, while contributing to national development priorities.</p> <p>Pathways should identify near- and medium-term actions, paced by technology readiness, availability and cost, and supported by enabling policy frameworks. Emission reduction initiatives are prioritised, recognising the role of market mechanisms for hard to abate emissions, nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation, and the role of the circular economy. These actions should strengthen resilience to climate-related risks, while sustaining competitiveness, sectoral investment and growth.</p>
 Integrated mitigation, adaptation and operational resilience	<p>Identify climate-related risks and opportunities as material financial and operational considerations, aligning with evolving disclosure frameworks and integrating into governance, strategy and risk management processes where possible. Mitigation and adaptation should be integrated into operations to strengthen resilience to physical climate risks, ensure continuity of production and position the industry to participate in critical minerals and future value chains.</p>
 Embed climate considerations into strategy, governance and risk management	<p>Build capacity to integrate climate-related risks and opportunities as material financial and operational considerations into governance, strategy, risk management and capital allocation processes, aligned with disclosure frameworks to support informed investment decisions and ensure that emissions reduction, resilience and sustainable growth objectives can be simultaneously addressed.</p>
 Value-chain collaboration to enable resilience, growth and critical minerals opportunity	<p>Engage with suppliers, customers, energy providers and logistics partners to strengthen resilient, transparent and competitive value chains, recognising the importance of climate-related risks and opportunities across the value chain. This collaboration supports emissions reduction, enhances data quality in line with evolving disclosure requirements, safeguards market access and enables participation in reconfigured and strategic global critical minerals supply chains.</p>
 Transparent, decision-useful and assurance-ready climate disclosure	<p>Continuously improve the quality, reliability and transparency of climate-related disclosures, aligning with evolving disclosure standards and recognising climate-related risks and opportunities as material financial and operational considerations to support regulatory compliance, investor confidence, capital and market access.</p>
 Climate action that sustains social value, development and future opportunity	<p>Support livelihoods, skills development, safe employment and economic diversification in mining regions, while strengthening resilience to climate-related risks affecting communities and regional economies. Continue delivering social and economic value through mining operations, employment, infrastructure development and fiscal contribution, aligned with South Africa's Just Transition objectives. This includes positioning workers and communities to participate in future low-carbon and critical minerals value chains through a just, inclusive and economically viable transition.</p>

CONCLUSION

The Minerals Council and its Members are committed to a responsible and orderly transition that recognises South Africa's socio-economic realities and development priorities, while supporting global efforts to reduce GHG emissions and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change. The 2026 Climate Change Position provides a credible, nationally grounded framework for the mining industry, recognising the strategic and socio-economic importance of the country's mineral resources and the role that coal continues to play in maintaining energy security and supporting industrialisation during the transition. At the same time, it advances mitigation and adaptation through a just energy transition and positions climate action as an enabler of competitiveness, investment and sustainable growth.



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