

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

ON

COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

BETWEEN

THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AND

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

1. The Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany

- underline the role of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of South Africa in the international community,
- acknowledge the high standards of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and in particular the ongoing collaborative projects in the fields of environmental science and sustainable technologies,
- note the global challenges as outlined, for example, in the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the effects of current patterns of climate change, other environmental changes, resources management and energy consumption as well as their consequences on global development in all areas of human life and natural habitats,
- reaffirm the importance of the South African and German national strategies on innovation and sustainable development as guidelines in all fields of national policy,
- reiterate their support of the G8+5 call for an internationally coordinated research agenda as part of the Heiligendamm Dialogue Process and in accordance with the results of the G8 Strategy Meeting on Africa's Science & Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which took place in Berlin on 18 and 19 October 2007 and
- stress that the contribution of research is a key element of future sustainable development in both states and plays a major role in meeting the current global challenges.

2. For this reason, both sides declare their intention – taking the above-mentioned points into consideration within the bounds of their legal, financial and actual capabilities – of embarking on a research policy dialogue between stakeholders from government, public and private institutions as well as the business sector in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of South Africa with the aim of strengthening collaboration between the two countries at a programme level.

3. Both sides share the view that this dialogue process should have the following aims:

- the definition of joint interfaces of future science and research programming,
- the identification of long-term mitigation strategies and adaptation strategies to respond to national, regional and global challenges, especially climate change and
- the implementation of sustainable research solutions and ecological innovations.

4. Both sides declare their willingness to create the conditions necessary in order to facilitate and promote this dialogue process in the years 2008 and 2009.

5. Finally, both sides declare their intention


- to discuss the results of this dialogue process at the German-South African scientific and technological cooperation meetings and at the Binational Committee meetings,

- to reassess their cooperation regularly in the light of this Joint Declaration of Intent and in view of the results of this dialogue process and, if necessary,
- to revise, modify or amend this Joint Declaration of Intent should this prove to be advisable.

Done at on in duplicate in the German and English languages.

On behalf of the Ministry of Science
and Technology of the Republic of
South Africa

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of
Science and Research of the Federal
Republic of Germany



MR MOSIBUDI MANGENA
MINISTER



DR ANNETTE SCHAVAN
FEDERAL MINISTER