



**small business
development**

Department:
Small Business Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REFLECTIONS AND ROAD AHEAD

STARTUP20 MIDTERM ENGAGEMENT

22 JULY 2025

BIRCHWOOD HOTEL AND OR TAMBO CONFERENCE CENTRE

SOUTH AFRICA

Programme Director

SU20 Chairperson: Mr Vuyani Jarana

Member of the SU20 International Board

Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the SU20 Taskforces and Members of the SU20

Ecosystem Partners

Senior Government Officials

Entrepreneurs

Distinguished guest,

Ladies and gentlemen.

The theme for South Africa's G20 Presidency is "Solidarity, equality and sustainability". It reflects a collective commitment to address global challenges through unity, fairness and long-term resilience.

- **Solidarity** signifies a unified effort and mutual support among member nations. It is the recognition that in an interconnected world, the challenges faced by one nation can have ripple effects globally. This principle emphasises cooperation, empathy, and collective action, ensuring that no country is left behind, especially in times of crisis
- **Equality** refers to ensuring fair treatment, opportunities and advancement for all individuals and nations, irrespective of their economic status, gender, race, geographic location, or other characteristics. It underscores the need to address systemic disparities and promote social justice on a global scale.
- **Sustainability** is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It integrates economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, ensuring long-term health and stability of all people and our planet champions responsible development that protects the planet while advancing economic and social well-being for future generations.

Startup20 brings together representatives from the entrepreneurship ecosystem from G20 countries, selected invited countries and international organisations to discuss

better ways to support the start and scale of startups, micro, small and medium enterprises.

- Engaging on how G20 nations can create a conducive support ecosystem for startups and MSMEs to thrive;
- Create network opportunities providing startups and MSMEs with opportunities to connect with investors, mentors and partners; and
- Enable platforms for knowledge sharing encouraging collaboration amongst nations and industries to share best practices.

When we took over the baton from our Brazilian colleagues, we initially identified 3 priority areas, i.e. Foundation and Alliance, Finance and Investment and Inclusion and Sustainability but through deliberations with ecosystem role players we agreed to add Trade and Market Access and Township and Rural Entrepreneurship. Task Forces were formed and at the inception meeting hosted on 19 June, the different taskforces provided a strategic overview of their respective task forces and identified initial opportunities and initial actionable recommendations for interventions.

Over the last month the different task forces met to clearly define problem statements and develop draft policy papers on their respective priority areas. The objective of the Midterm Engagement meeting is for the different Task Forces to present their draft policy directives and recommendations – this work commenced yesterday when different Task forces met to review the draft policy papers and continue to develop and consolidate their substantive inputs in preparation for the Pre-Summit meeting that will be hosted in October. During this morning's synergy mapping session areas of overlap amongst the intervention areas in the different Task Forces was discussed to ensure policy effectiveness through the alignment of intervention aimed at similar challenges from multiple angles to foster a coherent and integrated policy landscape.

The pre-Summit meeting will allow for a further opportunity to refine policy papers and to prepare a draft policy Communique. At the summit a final draft policy communique will be presented to allow for further deliberation by Task Force members. Close door consensus meeting will be held to arrive at the final agreed upon version of the Communique to be presented to leaders at the G20 Summit in November.

We are committed to harmonise the global startup ecosystem through a collaborative and forward-looking approach by providing a common platform for startups from G20

member countries to come together and develop actionable guidance and interventions to promote the growth of startups. Before passing the baton to the US we want to ensure that we deliver tangible outcomes as a legacy of South Africa's G20 Presidency.

I thank you.