

# UN HLPF VNR JULY 2024

JCOR SDG Lab

SDG Goal 13 in South Africa

Climate Action

This goal requires urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

It focuses on strengthening resilience, integrating climate change measures into policies, and mobilizing financial resources for climate action.

# SA's 2024 VNR Report acknowledges:

- ▶ **Historic reliance on few critical sectors in country's economy: gold, diamond + coal mining, agriculture + farming;**
- ▶ **This exposes SA to external shocks (eg gold + commodity price fluctuations);**
- ▶ **BUT Govt is committed to diversify economy, incorporating small and medium enterprises;**
- ▶ **Persistent high unemployment**  
**(32.9% in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024, 59.7% of youth between ages 15 and 24).**

# THE 2024 VNR REPORT FROM SA also ACKNOWLEDGES:

- ➔ Impact of Covid19 pandemic.
- ➔ The impact of different prevailing political ideologies (resulting in violence);
- ➔ Widespread corruption, political patronage, and ineffective state-owned operations (e.g. transport, water + electricity supply,
- ➔ Localization of the SDGs.



# CHALLENGES:

- Persistent socio-economic inequalities;
- Skills mismatch between education and industry;
- Infrastructure inefficiencies;
- Slow uptake on sustainable practices;
- Increase in violent crime especially violence against women and children;
- Rising electricity costs;
- Parallel public and private health systems...
- Commitment to renewable energy and reduction of carbon emissions.

# **SDG 13 Connected to**

**SDG 4 – Quality (relevant) Education**

**SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation**

**SDG 7- Affordable and clean energy**

**SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

**SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities**

**SDG 14 – Life below water**

**SDG 15 – Life on land**

**SDG 17 – Partnerships to implement SDG GOALS**

**Connections not made in SA 2024 report!**



## My experience of SDG 13 aligns with the SA 2024 report :

- SLOW progress in transition to low-carbon economy;
- Various Frameworks for monitoring and evaluating progress approved at Cabinet level;

NB: General election of May 2024 produced a

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY ....?**

- SA currently experiencing devastating impacts of climate change ... droughts, floods, fires and extreme weather'
- Current legislation is inadequate ... 2030 targets will not be reached.
- **Many South Africans have not integrated climate resilience into their personal or business-related lives.**





## **MY EXPERIENCE AND THE REPORT:**

**I did not experience any  
conflict with the report...  
although I am not in a  
position to verify the  
impact of various pieces of  
legislation cited in it.**

**HOWEVER.....**



**DISCOURSE ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
REGARDED AS A  
MIDDLE-CLASS INTEREST**

—

**Those struggling for  
survival in townships,  
informal settlements  
and rural areas are  
engaged in a struggle  
for survival**

**➡ NB SDGs 1 and 2)**





## SOME INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for information, recommendations, plans to be accessible to people on the ground including

### Engagement with social media

- In the FIVE mechanisms proposed in the report, TWO of which addressed SDG 13, no reference to the need for popular education.
- In the recent political elections, numerous political parties, old and new, contested for votes **BUT**

**NONE of the election manifestos referred to urgency to address climate change for the sake of the planet's future.**



# Recommendations continued:

Report addresses the reduction of fuel powered vehicles.

- Much of SA's daily transport uses KOMBI Taxis, contributing to carbon emission. Government subsidies needed to transform to electric-powered vehicles - 5-year plan needed...

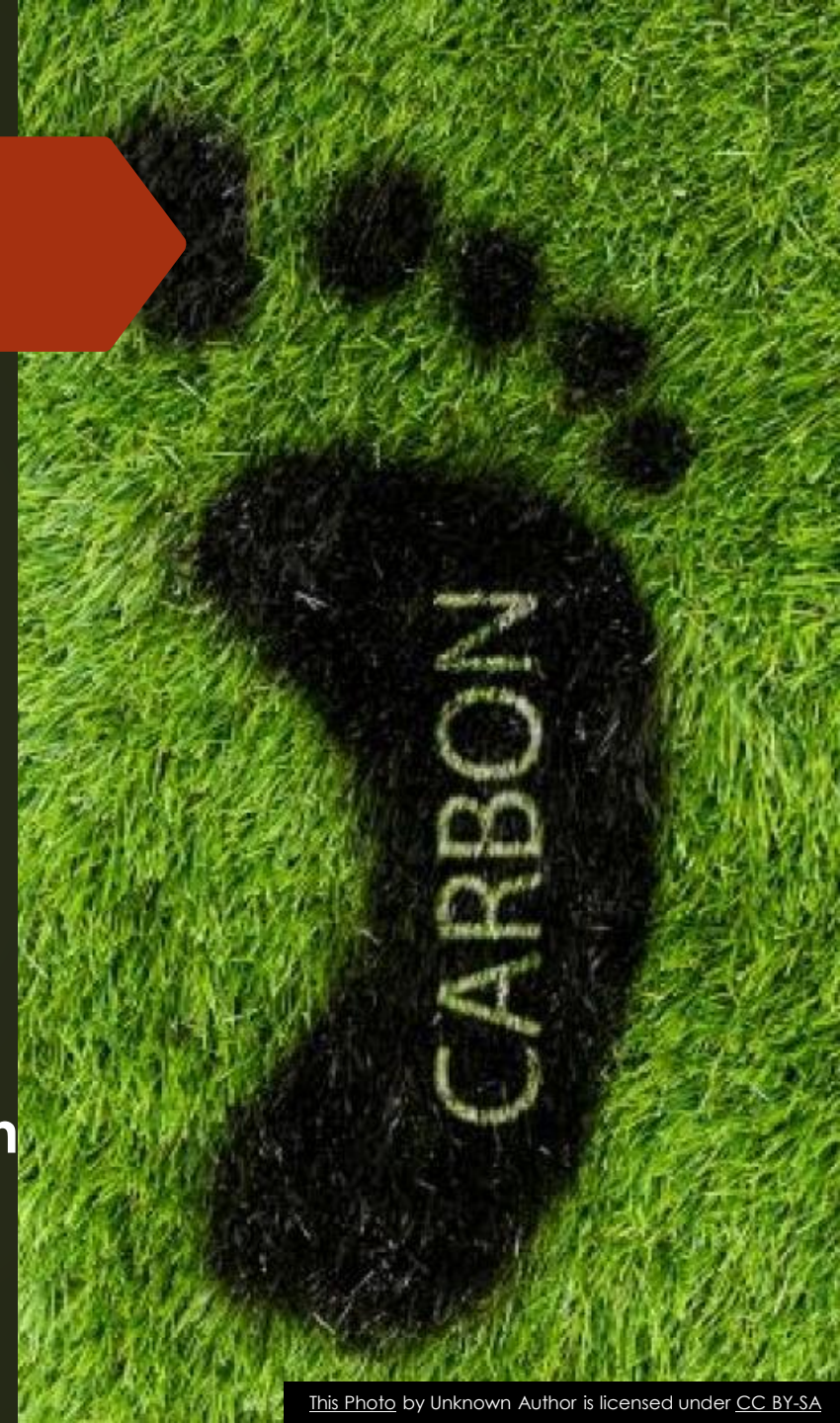
**BEGIN NOW.**

- SA a 'dumping ground for combustion engine cars that wouldn't pass emission tests in Europe'. Stricter controls to be put in place to monitor 'aged' vehicles in use in SA to radically decrease our carbon footprint.
- Cost of hybrid/ electric cars in SA puts them out of reach... negotiation with the motor industry needed... public – private partnerships!



## Recommendations continued:

- Information about Climate change, our carbon footprints etc, to become **major feature** in education programmes at all levels.
- Popular education **NOT ADDRESSED** in SA SDG report 2024.
  - Without popular ownership of the SDGs, 2030 goals won't be met.
- Enlist support and partnership of Faith-based and Community-based Organisations, with a long history in SA of socio-politico-economic engagement.





**SDGs only realizable  
if we work together!**

**South Africa, INVEST IN WOMEN ....  
AND YOUTH!**

