

# Accelerating Financial Solutions for Sustainable Manufacturing

## Driving Africa's Industrial Transformation

**Johannesburg, 26 June 2023** - In a bold effort to drive Africa's industrial transformation and promote sustainable manufacturing practices, key stakeholders from the financial sector and manufacturing industry, are coming together to unpack and explore how to accelerate financial solutions tailored to the needs of sustainable manufacturing. Recognising the critical role of finance in enabling the transition to sustainable manufacturing, this important topic will form part of the conference discussions at the upcoming Manufacturing Indaba taking place on the 24 – 26 October 2023 in Sandton, Johannesburg. The conference aims to unlock financial resources, foster innovation and facilitate the adoption of environmentally and socially responsible practices across Africa.

**The pressing need for sustainable manufacturing solutions:** Africa's manufacturing sector is poised for significant growth, presenting vast opportunities for economic development and job creation. However, this growth must be accompanied by a commitment to sustainable practices that mitigate environmental impact, enhance resource efficiency and ensure positive social outcomes. To achieve this, manufacturers require access to adequate financial resources and innovative financial instruments that support the transition to sustainable manufacturing models.

### **Key objectives of accelerating financial solutions for sustainable manufacturing:**

**Mobilising Capital:** The conference seeks explore how to mobilise capital from public and private sources to support sustainable manufacturing projects across Africa. By fostering partnerships between financial institutions, development finance institutions (DFIs), impact investors and manufacturing enterprises, the conference looks to unlock investments that drive sustainable manufacturing practices. This includes investments in energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy integration, waste management solutions and sustainable supply chain practices.

**Innovative Financial Instruments:** To address the unique financial challenges faced by manufacturers transitioning to sustainable practices, the need exists to develop innovative financial instruments. This includes green financing mechanisms, sustainability-linked loans, and impact investment models that provide favourable terms and incentives for manufacturers committed to sustainable manufacturing.

**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** There is a definite need to enhance knowledge and capacity within the manufacturing sector. Discussions will focus on providing technical assistance and capacity-building programs. This includes how to access financial literacy training, sustainability advisory services and access to expertise in sustainable manufacturing practices. By empowering manufacturers with the necessary skills and knowledge, this will facilitate the integration of sustainability principles into their operations and decision-making processes.

**Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** Fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among financial institutions, manufacturers, sustainability organisations and relevant stakeholders is key to developing African Manufacturing. This includes establishing further platforms for dialogue, sharing best practices, and facilitating knowledge exchange. Through collaboration, stakeholders can collectively address challenges, identify opportunities, and develop strategies that promote sustainable manufacturing across Africa.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The importance of monitoring and reporting progress towards sustainable manufacturing goals seeks to develop standardized metrics and reporting frameworks to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts of sustainable manufacturing practices. This enables stakeholders to track their progress, demonstrate transparency, and drive continuous improvement.

By accelerating financial solutions for sustainable manufacturing, Africa can unleash its manufacturing potential while ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future. The Manufacturing Indaba conference provides a platform to discuss and align financial resources, innovation and expertise towards fostering sustainable manufacturing practices across the continent.

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