



# Zimbabwe

## Combined Agenda 2063 scenario

Jakkie Cilliers

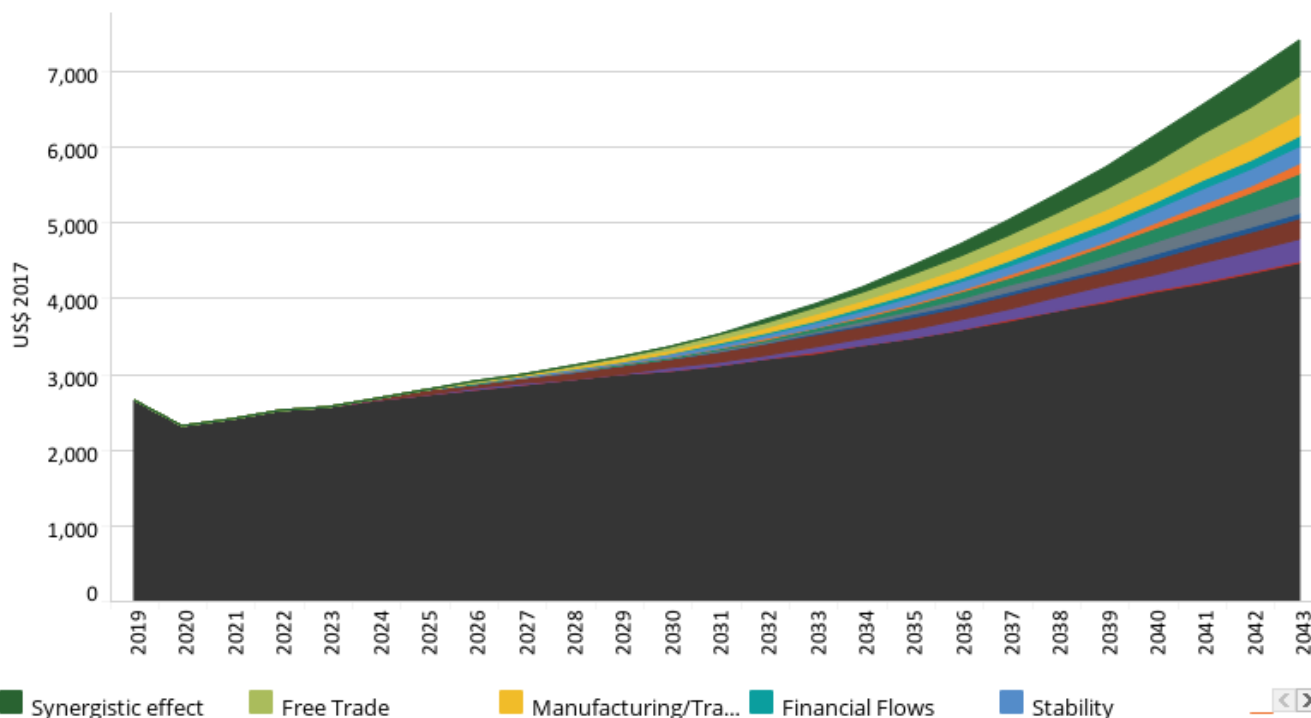
Last updated 13 December 2023 using IFs v7.63

## Chart 55: GDP per capita in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Additional GDP per capita per scenario, purchasing power parity



Zimbabwe



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario consists of the combination of all 11 sectoral scenarios presented above, namely the Stability, Demographic, Health/WaSH, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing/Transfers, Leapfrogging, Free Trade, Financial Flows, Infrastructure and Governance scenarios. The cumulative impact of better education, health, infrastructure, etc. means that countries get an additional benefit in the integrated IFs forecasting platform that we refer to as the synergistic effect. Chart 55 presents the contribution of each of these 12 components to GDP per capita in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario as a stacked area graph.

Each scenario explored thus far impacts average incomes in Zimbabwe to different degrees. Of all of the scenarios, Free Trade increases GDP per capita the most dramatically, raising average incomes by approximately US\$500 in 2043. In the Stability scenario, incomes also grow substantially more quickly than on the Current Path.

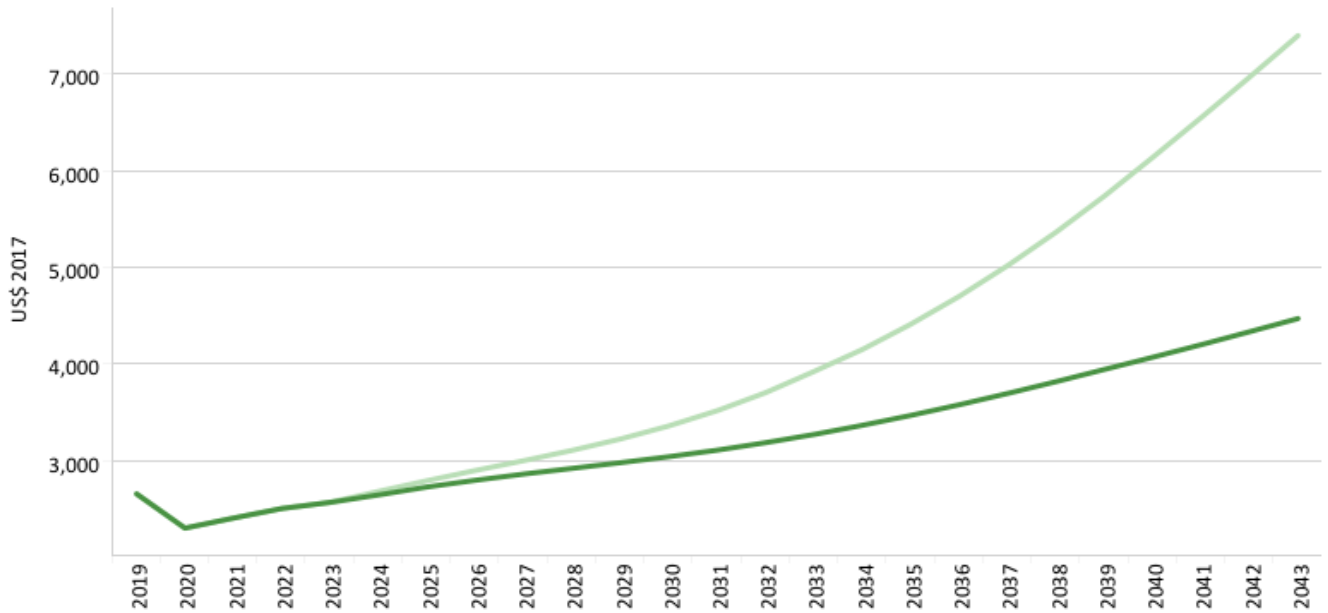
As is to be expected, the aggregate impact of all the scenarios together is dramatically greater than each of the scenarios individually. Additionally, the synergistic effect of the combined scenarios is projected to add an additional US\$112 to the average Zimbabwean's income in 2035 and US\$470 in 2043. This finding speaks to the beneficial effect of concerted, cross-cutting government approaches to seemingly intractable problems such as extreme poverty.

### Chart 56: GDP per capita in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043

Purchasing power parity



Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe, Current Path  
 Zimbabwe, Agenda 2063

Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Whereas Chart 55 presents a stacked area graph on the contribution of each scenario to GDP per capita as well as the additional benefit or synergistic effect, Chart 56 presents only the GDP per capita in the Current Path forecast and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario.

Average incomes increase dramatically in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, whereas they grow fairly slowly on the Current Path. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, average incomes in Zimbabwe increase to US\$3 358 by 2030, representing an improvement of more than US\$300 over the Current Path forecast for that year.

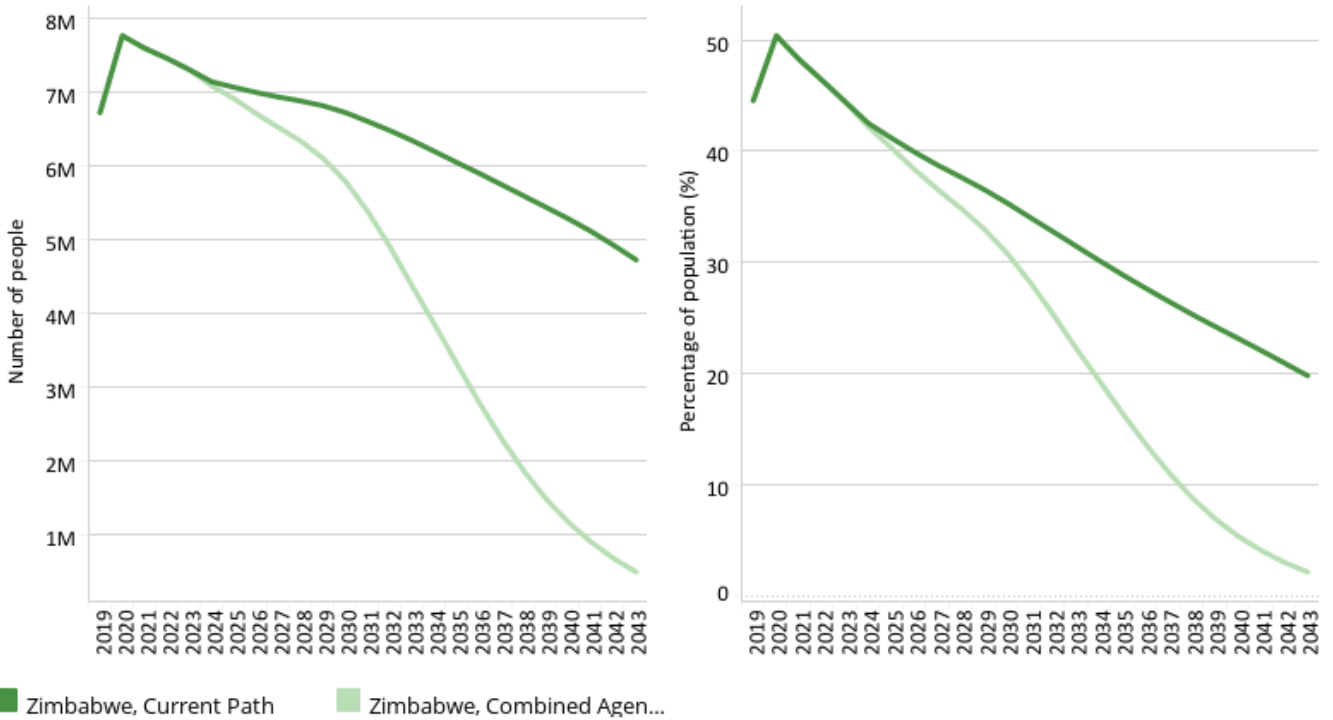
By 2043, average incomes reach US\$7 397 — a 66% increase over the Current Path forecast for that year.

Such a dramatic improvement in average incomes in Zimbabwe would transform livelihoods and the quality of life of people across the country.

**Chart 57: Poverty in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043**  
Millions of people and % of total population



Zimbabwe \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and DevPalNat World Bank data

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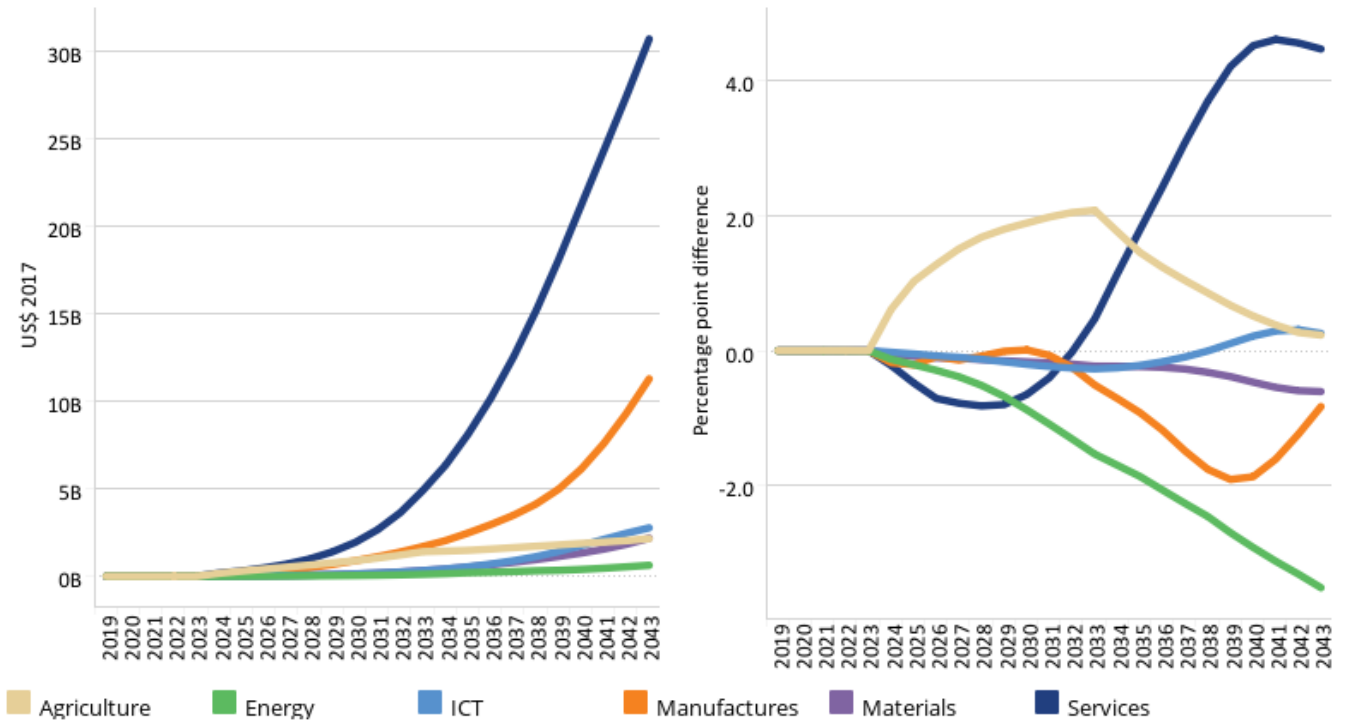
Roughly two out of five Zimbabweans (6.7 million people) lived on less than US\$3.20, the extreme poverty line for lower middle-income countries, in 2019. Although this poverty rate of nearly 45% is projected to decline to 20% by 2043, 4.7 million Zimbabweans will be living in extreme poverty by 2040 on the Current Path.

Conversely, poverty reduces dramatically in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, evidencing the profound impact of cross-sectoral, whole-of-government solutions to problems as complex as poverty. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, Zimbabwe’s poverty rate falls below 3% by the early-2040s. From a different perspective — there would be more than 4 million fewer Zimbabweans living in poverty in 2043 in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario combined to the Current Path forecast.

**Chart 58: Value added by sector in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043**  
 Absolute and % point difference GDP



Zimbabwe



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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See [Chart 8](#) to view the Current Path forecast of the sectoral composition of the economy.

The value added of the sectors of Zimbabwe’s economy varies between the Current Path and the Combined Agenda 2063 scenarios. The two primary methods of measuring differences in sectors’ contribution to GDP are in 1) percentage points and 2) absolute value (dollars).

From the perspective of percentage points, agriculture experiences the greatest increase over the medium term, while services jumps substantially by over four percentage points over the forecast horizon. In absolute terms, services experience the greatest increase, contributing an additional US\$31 billion in 2043 to the Zimbabwean economy compared to the Current Path. Conversely, the contributions of the energy, manufactures, and materials sectors in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario decline over the forecast horizon when compared to the Current Path.

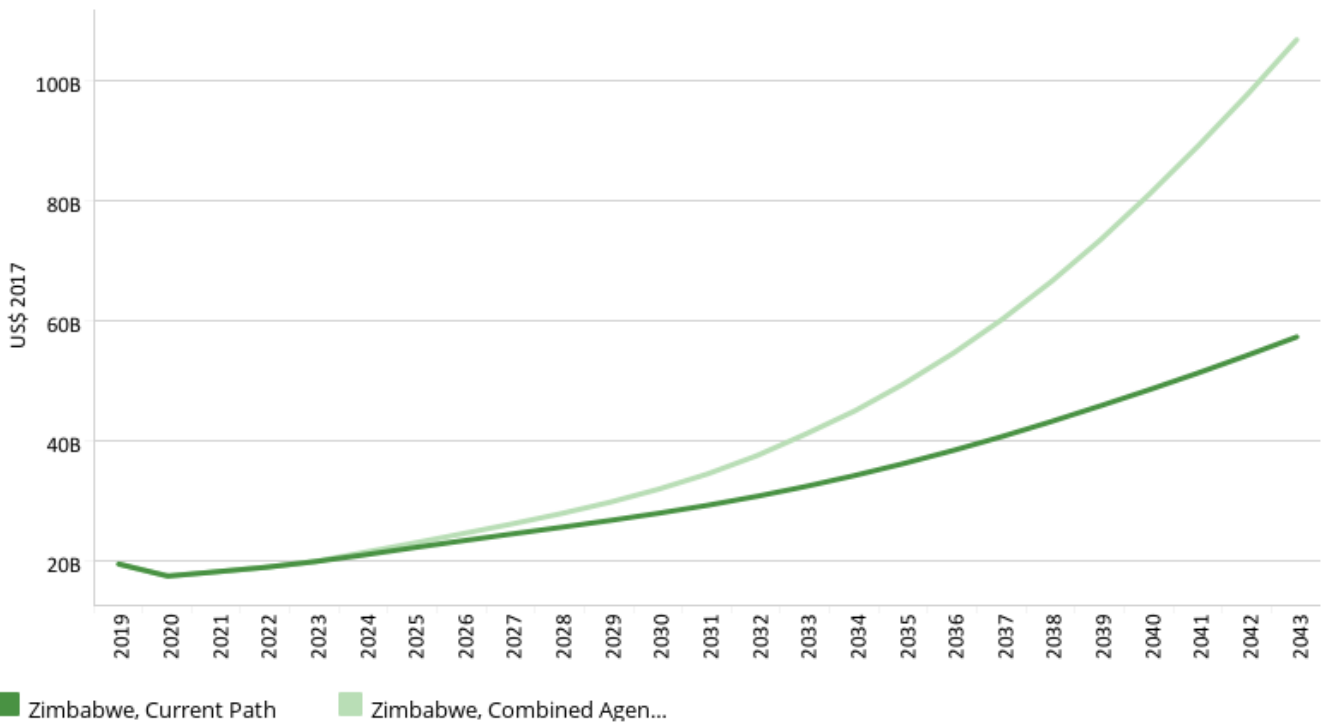
In absolute terms, all sectors increase in size in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario compared to the Current Path.

### Chart 59: GDP in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043

Billions US\$ 2017, market exchange rates



Zimbabwe



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

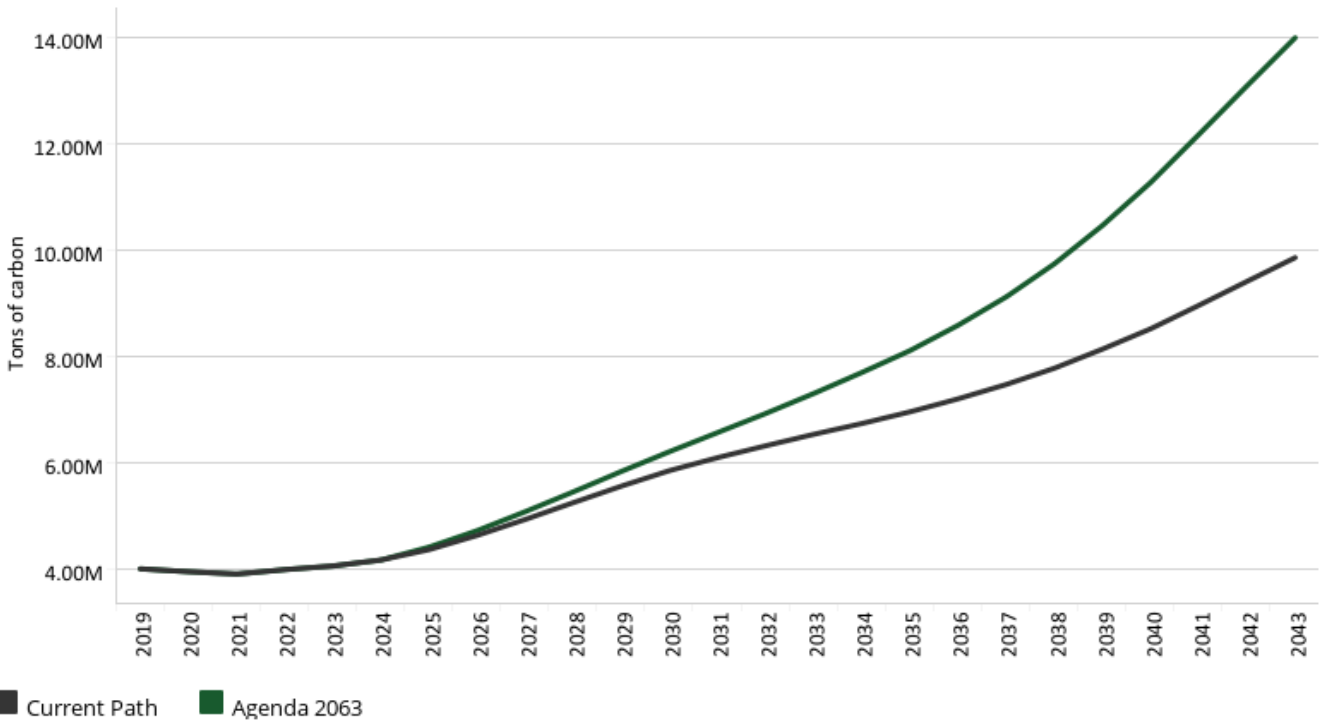
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After a series of prolonged economic crises, the Zimbabwean economy slowly recovered to an estimated US\$19.4 billion in size in 2019 and is projected to reach US\$57.3 billion by 2043. The Combined Agenda 2063 scenario paints a far more optimistic future: by 2030, GDP would be US\$4 billion greater than the Current Path forecast for that year; by 2043, approximately US\$50 billion greater. At that accelerated rate, Zimbabwe’s economy would overtake Zambia’s Current Path forecast by the early 2040s.

**Chart 60: Carbon emissions in CP and Combined scenario, 2019–2043**  
 Million tons of carbon (note, not CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)



Zimbabwe



Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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In 2019, Zimbabwe was the 13th largest carbon emitter in Africa, although its economy was only the 25th largest, reflecting its dependence on coal for much of its electricity generation and a carbon-inefficient economy.

On its current trajectory, Zimbabwe’s carbon emissions will more than double from the 2019 estimate of 4 million tons to 10 million tons in 2043. In the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, carbon emissions reach 14 million tons by 2043, marking a dramatic 40% increase over the Current Path forecast for that year and 350% increase over the 2019 estimate. While the improved economic activity and performance modelled in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario would bring about significant improvements in the livelihoods of most Zimbabweans, their impact on carbon emissions must be considered. That said, Zimbabwe’s emissions, even in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, remain a mere fraction of more developed countries. Neighbouring South Africa, for example, produced an estimated 135 million tons of carbon emissions in 2019. These disparities raise critical questions around environmental inequality and the responsibility of highly industrialised nations to compensate less developed countries for the devastating impacts of climate change.

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## About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director of the ISS. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the ISS. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

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