

## Modus Operandi

The National Economic and Labour Council (Nedlac) is a key institution in post – apartheid South Africa. Alongside other institutions, it seeks to entrench participatory democracy in our country. Nedlac celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005.

Nedlac is the product of one of the pieces of legislation promulgated by the newly elected democratic government in September 1994. (Act No. 35 of 1994). It was launched on the 18 February to bring together representatives from government, Labour, business and the community to play a role in the formulation of labour, social and economic policy.

Nedlac's origins lie in the struggle against apartheid, unilateral government decision – making and in the calls from all sectors of society for decisions to be taken in a more inclusive and transparent manner. It's existence recognises the importance of seeking consensus on major economic, social and development policies to ensure their legitimacy and hence their success.

### The Nedlac Act requires the institution to:

- Strive to promote the goals of economic growth, participate in economic decision – making and social equity;
- Seek to reach consensus and conclude agreements on matters pertaining to social and economic policy;
- Consider all proposed labour legislation relating to labour market policy before it is introduced in Parliament;
- Encourage and promote the foundation of co-ordinated policy on social and economic matters; and
- Consider all significant changes to social and economic policy before it is implemented or introduced in Parliament.

## Role of the secretariat

### The Nedlac secretariat is responsible for:

- Providing the logistical support for engagement between Nedlac constituencies.
- Facilitating agreement making processes including chairing and deal making.
- Providing relevant and accessible research into key issues.
- Communicating the outcomes of the Nedlac process to the public and key decision – makers.
- Ensuring agreement is reached on legislation and policy that is referred to Nedlac.
- Achieving a wider recognition in society for the value that Nedlac adds.
- Informing the broader society of issues being dealt with in Nedlac.
- Tracking and monitoring the passage of Nedlac agreements in Parliament.