

Dear Delegate

The Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) together with the Gauteng Growth Development Agency (GGDA) welcome you to the Gauteng Business Consultative Forum (GBCF). This initiative is one of the deliverables that has been created to support the Gauteng Provincial Government's agenda to Transform, Modernize and Re-industrialize the Gauteng City Region.

The main objective of the GBCF is to create an environment for private sector executives to critically deliberate and build trust with the public sector. This forum in particular focuses on the United Kingdom (UK) and amongst other things – will tackle and unpack the impact of BREXIT on the bilateral relationship between South Africa and the UK.

The UK is an important diplomatic, trade and investment partner to South Africa. However, the BREXIT vote has resulted in a shift in foreign policy positions and the impact of this on trade and investment. These shifts are said to result in an increasing focus on strengthening the bilateral partnership and increasing opportunities for both South African and UK companies.

This increased focus also requires a more granular and nuanced understanding of the local operating context and specifically the impact of revised BBBEE legislation on trade and investment from the UK.

We encourage robust discussions within this forum to enable us to critically engage each other, and also together come up with solutions.

A special task team will be constituted at the end of the session constituted by one public sector representative and a nominated private sector representative who will jointly be responsible for developing an action plan aimed at finding resolutions to some of the issues raised during the discussions.

We thank you once again for taking the time from your busy schedule to engage us on matters that are key to the growth and development of our economy.

Regards,

The GBCF Steering Committee