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Third Annual Social Justice Summit – 12 October 2021

“Social justice, economic equality and peace – A new socio-economic pathway for South Africa and the continent”

Concept note

The purpose of the Third Annual Social Justice Summit is to reflect on the state of social justice in South Africa, focusing on economic equality, the impact of Covid-19 regulatory responses, the adequacy of current policy frameworks for rebuilding better and restitution, as well as the impact of economic inequality on peace and the rule of law. The summit will also reflect on the factors behind the recent social unrest, future scenarios and ways through which the Musa Plan for Social Justice (Social Justice M-Plan) could be leveraged for rebuilding better together, focusing on the economy and social fabric in a manner that leverages inclusion for sustainable growth, development and peace. It will also review progress on the implementation of the *Social Justice Declaration* adopted at the Inaugural Summit and the *Social Justice M-Plan* and emerge with an agenda for the next phase to accelerate the progress on the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on advancing economic equality and ending poverty by 2030.

Venue: Hybrid. Registration link and link to digital platform will be shared with delegates.

Stakeholders: This event follows on *The International Conference on Law, Policy and Social Justice: Taking Economic Equality Seriously* and will bring together legislators and other policymakers, judicial officers, civil society, business and international stakeholders, lawyers, and academics.

Registration Cost: R350 per delegate. (Exemption for NGOs)

Objectives

The objective of the summit is to review progress on economic equality, factors behind identified challenges and emerge with a proposed civil society plan of action around adjusted pathways for the achievement of an equal economy in all municipalities, aligned with the Social Justice M-Plan key objectives and the SDGs.

Other objectives include:

- I. Presenting the preliminary findings of the Poverty and Inequality Mapping Pilot at Swartland and lessons learnt on social impact conscious policy and legislation

- design and explore the possibility of proposing a Social Justice Impact Assessment Framework to prevent the adoption of policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality.
2. Assessing the nature of economic inequality in South Africa and deepen our understanding of the underlying causal and influencing factors, including the impact of Covid-19 regulatory impact and current equality advancement laws and policies on the goal of building a socially just and sustainable economy.
 3. Reflecting on the economic equality provisions of the National Development Plan (NDP) in considering whether the NDP remains attuned to the national economic reality in light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and growing unemployment and food security and the adequacy of a social security policy with a focus on the Distress Grant and prospects for a Basic Income Grant (BIG).
 4. Reflecting on progress made on the implementation of the Social Justice Declaration and agreeing on a more fleshed out Social Justice M-Plan as a social compact with clear processes, outputs, outcomes and responsibilities and a monitoring and accountability framework, linked to South Africa's commitments to economic equality aspects of the UN SDGs.
 5. Deepening multi-stakeholder partnerships in the great reset by strengthening recovery and resilience through economic equality.

Benefits

- Learn from good practices demonstrated across the world
- Utilise this platform to disseminate and harness ideas generated at the *International Conference on Law Policy and Social Justice: Taking Economic Equality Seriously*
- Meet other stakeholders engaged in social justice endeavours to share what works and what does not and identify synergies and ways of working together
- Be part of key social justice policy development that feeds into concrete recommendations for action
- Offer a programme of activities allowing open dialogue, constructive critique and self-reflection and connection to an emerging global social justice movement.
- Gain information on developments in social justice research, policy reform and tools for using population profile disaggregated data for social impact conscious economic policy design and implementation

Background

The Social Justice Chair (CSJ) is a social justice hub that promotes social justice scholarship, consciousness, public policy design skills, and collaboration around social justice issues and community access to social justice resources, to accelerate social justice reform in academia and society. The Third Annual Social Justice Summit will be preceded by the International Social Justice Conference. The Summit seeks to reaffirm stakeholders' commitment made by government, business, civil society, and academia to join hands in implementing the Social Justice M-Plan at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit and International Conference, held in August 2019.

At the Inaugural Summit, delegates approved a Social Justice Declaration adopting the Social Justice M-Plan and committing to join hands to accelerate progress on poverty and inequality. The International Conference that followed, further adopted a resolution that committed the academic community, civil society, and business community to join hands with government to drive the eradication of poverty and inequality in pursuit of social justice.

The Second Annual Social Justice Summit (2020) called for “[a]ll hands on deck to leave no one behind in the post- Covid-19 recovery agenda”, drawing attention to social justice issues and inequalities in all sectors of the national recovery strategy. The Summit furthered national and international collaboration under the Social Justice M-Plan, established a Council of Social Justice Champions and succeeded in emerging with a decade plan of action, aligned with the Social Justice M-Plan key objectives and the SDGs, focussed on leveraging data analytics for social justice impact sensitive policy design and review, for addressing those policies that are indifferent to the differences in our society.

To ensure the realisation of these goals, the Summit seeks to deepen the appreciation of social justice imperatives and challenges South Africa faces while identifying, discussing and engaging on viable socio-economic theories that prioritise social justice and inclusive economic sustainability as a prerequisite for the achievement of peace and reduce poverty and inequality in and between all South African municipalities and wards. The Summit further seeks to evaluate the country’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on poverty and inequality plus food security and income security.

The backdrop of the conference will be an appreciation of the fact that there is no gainsaying the fact that, in the absence of meaningful progress on the social justice dimensions of economic equality and poverty, sustainable peace remains a pipedream in the country. This is evident in the growth of extremism through the mining, by demagogues, of poverty, inequality and related grievances of communities and groups that feel left behind regarding economic equality. It is further evident that the Covid-19 pandemic and 4IR disruptions have worsened poverty and inequality, particularly economic inequality, and food security. The Summit will also reflect on and foster agreement on the BIG.

Key Themes

1. Land reform, property rights and distribution of assets
2. Business ownership
3. Financial inclusion
4. Wealth and income distribution
5. Social security and the BIG
6. Agriculture and food security
7. Digital inclusion
8. Social justice resonant economic theories including indices for measuring economic growth
9. Emerging tools for social impact conscious economic planning

Discussions will include the impact of current transformation laws and policies.

Draft Programme

08:45-11:20	Opening Plenary Session: Setting the Tone
08:45 - 09:00	National Anthem and reading of the Preamble of the Constitution
09:00 - 09:15	Welcoming and setting the tone Prof Wim de Villiers (Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University) (TBC)
09:15 – 09:25	Social Justice M-Plan Video
09:25 – 10:00	Keynote address President Cyril Ramaphosa (President of South Africa) (TBC) Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (United States secretary of the treasury) (TBC)
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote plenary (2 speakers) Minister Enoch Godongwana (Minister of Finances) (TBC) Prof Mark Swilling (Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development in the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, Co-Director of the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST) (TBC) Dr Nthabiseng Moleko (Lecturer in Economics and Statistics, Stellenbosch University Business School and Deputy Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)) (TBC)
10:30 – 11:00	Q&A Program director with Prof Thuli Madonsela (Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University and M-Plan Convenor)
11:00 – 11:25	Concluding Remarks and Summit Photo Prof Nicola Smit (Dean of Law, Stellenbosch University) (TBC)
11:25 – 11:45	20 min break
11:45 – 13:00	Plenary Session 2 The Role of the Law and Policy design in advancing social justice, economic equality and peace Prof Thuli Madonsela (Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Law Faculty, Stellenbosch University and M-Plan Convenor) Prof Bonang Mohale (Chancellor of the University of the Free State and professor of Practice in the Johannesburg Business School (JBS) College of Business and Economics, and Chairman of the Bidvest Group Limited) Council of Social Justice Champions panellist 1 Council of Social Justice Champions panellist 2

- 13:00 – 13:30** **Lunch**
- 13:30 – 14:30** **Plenary Session 3 The role of universities in integrating social justice, economic equality and peace in economic planning and monitoring and evaluation**
Keynote address
 Ms Thembi Siweya (Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation) (TBC)
Panellists
 Partner Universities
- 14:30 – 16:00** **Parallel sessions** (*Presentations of 10 mins each to be presented by three presenters per breakaway on the thematic areas, followed by 60 mins discussions*)
 Introduction by the facilitator: 5 min
 Resource person: 5 – 10 min
 Respondent: 5 – 10 min
 Q&A 60 mins
- Themes:** 1) land reform, property rights, and the distribution of assets; 2) business ownership; 3) financial inclusion; 4) wealth and income distribution; 5) social security and the basic income grant; 6) agriculture and food security; 7) digital inclusion; 8) social justice resonant economic theories including indices for measuring economic growth; and 9) emerging tools for social impact conscious economic planning.
- 16:00 – 16:20** **20 min break**
- 16:20 – 17:20** **Feedback from parallel sessions and adoption of a Summit Declaration**
- 17:20 – 17:30** **Closing remarks**
Member of Social Justice Council of Champions

Inaugural Social Justice Summit Declaration

29 August 2019
 Hazendal

We the participants at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit gathered here at Hazendal Wine Estate, among us stakeholders from government, business, the community, the legal profession, academia and the media:

- Reaffirm our commitment to the Constitution and the vision it has for South Africa to emerge from the ashes of colonialism, apartheid, patriarchy, xenophobia and related injustices of the past.

- Believe that South Africa belongs to all its people and that the country has enough room and resources for all to rise to the level of great potential of all persons and improved quality of life in a society based on human dignity, the achievement of equality and expanded frontiers of freedom for all without discrimination on any of the grounds in the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, among others.
- Note with deep concern chronic levels of poverty and inequality marked by patterns of socio-economic exclusion for many and extreme racial, gender and age disparities in socio-economic opportunities in South Africa, primarily along the contours of the unjust laws and policies that sought to create a system of white privilege and black disadvantage under colonialism and apartheid.
- Further note the persistent gap regarding equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by women, compounded by the intersection of gender and factors such as disability, age, urban-rural divide, township-suburb divide, nationality, sexual orientation and other forms of human diversity that have been historically leveraged to oppress and exclude on the basis of difference.
- Further note the escalation of fractured relationships and deterioration in social cohesion, particularly on grounds of race and class as well as ceaseless patterns of violence, particularly against women, children and older persons mostly in isolated rural residences such as villages and farms.
- Further note that the TRC did great work in exposing physical and psychological abuses in the security sector but did not deal with the social, economic and psychological impact of apartheid and other efforts since then have not adequately addressed the systemic impact of past injustices.
- Believe that as long as there is injustice somewhere there can't be sustainable peace anywhere.
- Further, believe that the Constitution offers a transformative framework for healing the divisions of the past by redressing power and resource imbalances in society and promoting social cohesion.
- Further believe that there is a need for a more accelerated pace in advancing social justice leveraging opportunities created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, focusing on poverty and inequality and that this requires a social compact on social justice with all hands on deck between government, business, society and the international community.
- Are convinced that an integrated action plan that seeks to provide a systems approach to change, focusing on policy reform, public participation in strengthening democracy, including eradicating corruption, sharing resources and promoting social cohesion and resources mobilisation, is needed.

We, thus hereby

- Commit ourselves to join hands in advancing the constitutional promise, human rights and Sustainable Development Goals in a manner that redressed imbalances of the past while ending poverty and ensuring no one is left behind with regard to full participation in all aspects of the economy and social life.

- Commit to reverse racialised, gendered and other inherited and emerging disparities in the economy, education, health, science, environment, technology, infrastructure and all areas of life.

- Agree to the proposed Musa Plan to accelerate change focusing on:
 - policy reform through data analytics to ensure inclusive social impact
 - mobilising society towards social accountability and social cohesion
 - everybody showing leadership and contributing to a capable state
 - resource mobilisation from society and international friends to fund accelerated social change