

MUSA PLAN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Musa Plan

The Centre for Social Justice

COMPENDIUM of outcomes of documents of previous **Social Justice Summits** and **International Conferences on Social Justice**



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**ANNUAL
SOCIAL JUSTICE
SUMMIT OUTCOMES**

Inaugural Social Justice Summit Declaration adopted at Hazendal Wine Estate, 2019

We, the participants at the inaugural Social Justice Summit gathered here at Hazendal Wine Estate, among us stakeholders from government, business, the community, 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 social, economic and psychological impact of apartheid and that 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; and
- 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 SDGs in a manner that redresses 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; and
- **agree** to the proposed Social Justice M-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; and
 - resource mobilisation from society and international friends to fund accelerated social change.



Boschendal Declaration on Mainstreaming Social Justice in Economic Policy Design and Law Reform

Adopted on 12 October 2021 at the Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, at the 3rd Annual Social Justice Summit titled Social Justice, Economic Equality and Peace – A new socio-economic pathway for South Africa and the Continent. Hosted by the Law Trust Chair on Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and the Council of Social Justice Champions.

We, the participants of the 3rd annual Social Justice Summit, gathered at the Boschendal Conference Centre and drawn from stakeholders representing legislators and other policymakers, judicial officers, civil society, business, lawyers, academics and international stakeholders from various continents:

- **Reaffirm** our commitment to our shared humanity as anchored in the Constitution and its vision on healing the divisions of the past and establishing an egalitarian society that is based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights by discarding the legacy of colonialism, apartheid, patriarchy, xenophobia, heteronormativity and related injustices of the past and emerging injustices.
- **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 that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has cost millions of lives, particularly those of the poorest in the world, has exposed the unconscionable scale of social and economic disparities and left certain groups in societies severely exposed to heightened social and economic hardships, including food security disruptions,
- **Believe** the freedom to thrive socially and economically, in equality with others, is the birth right of every man, woman or person in the continent and the broader world, yet many remain bound in chains of poverty, inequality, hunger, unemployment and various forms of social exclusion, including education and digital exclusion,
- **Are convinced** that deepening poverty, hunger and inequality pose a threat to social cohesion, peace, stability and the rule of law, while undermining sustainable development and resilient economic growth and that there is an urgent need to make meaningful progress in addressing these disparities in line with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's),
- **Reaffirm** our commitment to the resolutions of the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference which took place at the Hazendal Conference Centre in 2019, among them the endorsement of the Musa Plan for Social Justice (Social Justice M-Plan), a Marshall Plan like initiative dedicated to advancing social justice in South Africa; acknowledgement of the threat that social injustice poses to sustainable development, social cohesion, peace and stability; and seizing the catalytic opportunity presented by the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG) Agenda for Change and the opportunities

available for multidisciplinary academic research to catalyse progress towards breaking the back of structural inequality and end poverty by 2030,

- **Further reaffirm** the link between social justice, human rights and peace and specifically the grounding of social justice in international and regional human rights treaties, such as the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), African Charter for Human Rights, Maputo Protocol and subsidiary human rights and social change instruments,
- **Encouraged and Inspired** by the concrete social justice commitments and Programme of Action in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995, the SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, advance equality, foster resilient communities, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the Continent's Agenda 2063 and the progress the country has made on the social justice imperatives that emerge from these and the Constitution,
- **Affirm** that the Constitution imposes a duty on the Government to advance equality with a focus on equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms including the right to equality in all aspects of the economy, and the collective responsibility of all sections of society to advance social justice, particularly regarding social and economic parity while being mindful of the interconnectedness and indivisibility of human rights and freedoms,
- **Are encouraged** by progress made since the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, including experimental research and development work aimed at ensuring equality conscious law reform and policy design, which includes the Social Justice Impact Assessment Matrix (SIAM) that is being piloted at Swartland Municipality in South Africa with a view to assisting governments, businesses and courts, to mainstream social justice impact considerations at the design stage to ensure planned legislation, policies and programmes are attuned to diversity and do not have a disparate impact on disadvantaged groups and make informed policy choices that eschew any unintended impacts that exacerbate poverty and inequality.
- **But note** that insufficient progress has not been made with regard to mainstreaming poverty impact considerations in the design of policies, a reality that has been exposed very clearly by the regulatory responses to COVID-19, which although well intended, had a disparate impact on the poor and other disadvantaged groups and communities, including women, young people, small business and township and village socio-economic systems,
- **Note** that not enough attention has been paid to the relationship between economic policy design and wellbeing, including human development, environmental justice and mental health,
- **Note** further that many of the COVID-19 fiscal relief packages were insufficiently designed to meet the needs of diverse affected groups in society, while in parts of the continent, arbitrary and unduly excessive measures were employed in the enforcement of laws and other measures aimed at containing the COVID-19 pandemic, with poor and other disadvantaged groups bearing the brunt of such executive exercise,

- **Encouraged** by the ubuntu shown by ordinary people, organisations such as the Solidarity Fund, Gift of the Givers, the corporate sector and government agencies in responding to many of the humanitarian needs arising from either COVID-19 or the regulatory impact thereof,
- **Encouraged** by government's willingness to collaborate in piloting social justice impact foresight research that seeks to assist governments, businesses and courts to leverage sufficiently disaggregated data to predict the likely impact of planned legislation, policies and programmes on diverse groups in society and make informed policy choices that eschew any unintended impacts that exacerbate poverty and inequality.

We thereby resolve to: Recommit ourselves to the Social Justice M-Plan and to scale and fast-track its key result areas (1. *Social Justice-resonant policies and law*: Empower policy- and law-makers to leverage data analytics to catalyse social justice and SDG responsive law and policy reform; 2. *Social accountability and social cohesion*: Foster social accountability and social cohesion through legal, human rights and democracy awareness and empowerment initiatives; 3. *Resource Mobilization*: Mobilise societal, corporate and international support and resources towards accelerated reduction of poverty and inequality by 2030; and 4. *Strengthened Democracy*: Encourage ethical and democracy attuned leadership among all and contribute to building a strong capable state) and the **Programme Of Action** adopted at this summit;

1. **Collaborate** in conducting research that helps government, businesses and societal institutions as well as communities to seize the opportunity created by COVID-19 rebuilding endeavours, to deepen social justice research, innovation and teaching, strengthen collaboration across disciplines and sectors between academic institutions, broader civil society, business and government, including combining law making with design thinking, engineering and data science,
2. **Scale efforts** aimed at advancing social justice through incorporating design thinking and systems thinking in law reform, policy design as well as the design of services and products in a manner that meets all groups and communities where they are while consciously advancing economic and other forms of equality and working towards ending poverty by 2030 and assisting government, business and courts to mainstream social justice through impact foresight tools such as the SIAM,
3. **Promote greater** constitutional accountability for socio-economic inclusion and participatory democracy as well as social accountability through actions that include conducting constitutional literacy, legal literacy and economic literacy, while promoting greater transparency in government economic policy design processes and enhanced access to justice through courts and other forums,
4. **Collaborate** on a Model Equality Duty Law to assisting governments to adopt a law or integrate in existing law, a requirement for the certification of compliance with the social justice or equality duty, before any law, policy or programme is passed and assist with a model law to facilitate this process taking into account the lessons from and continued responsibility to advance gender mainstreaming and children's rights, while mindful of all intersectional inequalities,

5. **Collaborate** to support a COVID-19 rebuilding better together agenda in the continent that transcends the binary focus on health and the economy and includes social wellbeing imperatives such as education, mental health, food security, climate change and digital inclusion while fostering a deliberate implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with all hands-on-deck in fostering resilient communities, shared prosperity and peace in the constituent countries and the continent,

6. **Collaborate** in fostering a climate of friendship and culture of shared humanity through embracing social justice, respect for human dignity, embracing diversity and fostering social cohesion and peace in the continent,

7. **Collaborate** to assist the government to place investment in people and value to society at the centre of all investment policies and endeavours and constantly monitor the country's Gini-co-efficient and the impact of all policies on South Africa's position on the Human Development Index and periodic progress on Agenda 2063 targets and the SDGs,

8. **Engage** in interdisciplinary collaboration to design and implement research and capacity building programs aimed at reinforcing state capacity for ethical leadership, good governance, anti-corruption in order to improve responsiveness, accountability and broader checks-and- balances,

9. **Promote** the prioritisation of the realisation of social justice through economic redistribution and economic parity, ensuring active public participation in budgetary processes to achieve a constitutionally resonant budget that is informed by mainstreaming gender and intersectionality considerations, such as GBV, child abuse and child marriage / adoption, to remove social barriers to women and young people's economic participation.

Issued by the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice,
Stellenbosch University
December 2021



Boschendal Statement on Restitution: 4th Annual Social Justice Summit

*Adopted on 12 October 2022 at Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, at the **4th Annual Social Justice Summit** titled "Restitution". Hosted by the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and the Council of Social Justice Champions.*

The 4th Annual Social Justice Summit took place at the Boschendal Conference Centre close to Stellenbosch on Wednesday 12 October 2022. National leaders drawn from academia, government, business, civil society, NGOs, faith communities, and experts from various scientific fields came together to deliberate on restitution.

The 2022 summit was conceived as a platform for difficult conversations on dimensions of restitution that seem to have eluded public discourse in the last 28 years of South Africa's democracy and over seven decades since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights at a global level. The social and economic impact of centuries of racist and patriarchal laws and policies was examined, and the adequacy of state restitutive measures was assessed. The engagement also considered previous agreements reflected in Summit and Conference Resolutions and Declarations. These included consensus reached in the inaugural summit that the past will continue to poison the present, including social cohesion efforts, until its claims regarding justice are addressed earnestly and decisively. The gathering was anchored in the shared conviction that shame and complicity in unjust conditions must be acknowledged and confronted for us to address the continuing consequences of our problematic past. Parallel breakaway sessions covered the topics of Wealth, Income and Economic Justice; Health and Well-being, Family and Social Life; Land, Housing and Spatial Equality; the Impact of Digitalisation and Innovation on the Media, Education and Epistemology; and Public Governance, Democratic Leadership, and Access to Justice.

Confluent themes from the International Conference (held on 11 October) and Summit included the challenges and inadequacies of responses to historical dispossession, the importance of acknowledgment and accountability in the process of restitution, the role of educational institutions in creating meaningful change, and the imbalance and intersectionality of the effects of injustice. The event also reiterated the importance of the Social Justice Musa Plan, an accelerator programme for social justice named after Palesa Musa, who was imprisoned as a 12-year-old by the Apartheid regime, and who spoke at the Summit. The backdrop to the summit and conference in 2022 was the story of Krotoa, a Khoisan woman who was part of the first encounters in 1652 and ended up in Robben Island. Today Krotoa's name adorns the main administration building at Stellenbosch University as an outcome of the University's visual redress in pursuit of its Restitution Statement of 2018.

General Observations

1. Insights from the keynote public hearing and plenary sessions at the summit confirmed that difficult conversations do not generally happen organically or spontaneously.
2. The summit noted that wrongdoings and the ways we have either been victimised by it or benefitted from it is valuable in laying the foundation for open, honest dialogue and future relationships.
3. The summit further noted that shame and complicity in unjust conditions have not been fully acknowledged and confronted.
4. The summit also noted that mental health in restitution is a crucial consideration as we deal with collective and intergenerational trauma and unhealed emotional wounds.

5. The summit further observed that restitution and transformation are two sides of the same coin of social justice. Building a better future rooted in social justice principles is the best way to restore what was lost and honour those who sacrificed their lives in the fight for equality.
6. Participants observed that a lack of indigenous knowledge creates a barrier to restitution.
7. The summit further observed that in terms of economic restitution, pre-conceived notions around basic income support and South Africa's social grant system persist.
8. The summit further noted that recognition, representation and restitution for people living with disabilities are not prioritised in national policy-making efforts.

The summit called for the following remedies:

- 1) Create platforms and opportunities where South Africans can have transformative and courageous conversations about race, privilege, and historic injustices.
- 2) Constantly interrogate our notions of restitution and social justice as new challenges arise. Our imagination on restitution will have to move beyond the merely human as we face climate change and extinction of other life forms. We will need to articulate human values and restoration in the context of the survival of our shared habitat.
- 3) In order for restitution to take place fully, indigenous knowledge must be explored and restored.
- 4) Restitution must be both symbolic and practical. Restitution should not be for the few but should be afforded to all who suffered harm. South Africans should be seeking to develop interdependent webs of mutuality, in which everyone has something to give, everyone has something to learn, and everyone has something to receive.
- 5) Acknowledge and confront shame and complicity in unjust conditions in order to address the continuing consequences of past injustices. Shame must be constructive and could be translated into a kind of restitutional responsibility. It must inform solidarity with victims of past injustices and involve a process of truthful reckoning, apology and atonement. The process also requires substantial representation of marginalised voices.
- 6) Prioritise people living with disabilities in the national discourse.
- 7) Interrogate the broader need for state subsidies.

To give effect to the above commitments, we adopt the following programme of action, based on the outcomes of the parallel sessions:

1. Wealth, income and economic justice.

- The business community has a principal role in restitution as many of the injustices of the past, including slavery, apartheid and colonisation were perpetuated by and for economic interests.
- Corruption, state capture and lawlessness pose obstacles to economic redress and undermine restitution in South Africa.
- A fresh approach to economic justice should be considered in the form of stakeholder capitalism through which profit sharing, training, internships and alignment of risks and rewards take centre stage.
- Micro-enterprises provide millions of jobs in South Africa. Government should channel significant capital into these enterprises annually.
- A cultural shift towards collectivism is necessary for the effective redistribution of wealth.
- Instituting wealth tax, mandating a living wage and limiting for-profit home ownership should be explored as pathways to economic justice.
- Advantaged communities should remember that they have not only financial resources, but the resources of social and educational capital as well.

2. Health and well-being, family and social life.

- A path to restitution should acknowledge that victims of historical injustice did not only lose or sacrifice material things but often also their dignity, family ties, memories, and dreams.
- The humanities should be used as a vehicle for re-humanising and validating memory and restitution. People's sense of self must be restored.
- There should be more efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into education with a strong focus on African history and intergenerational discussions.
- Spaces and platforms for storytelling should be established where people can share their experiences of harm and how it impacted their lives.
- There should be continued dialogues and workshops to define an understanding of what restitution means to South Africans.
- The difference between restitution and charity should be highlighted – the beneficiaries of injustices should recognise they are not giving out of magnanimity, but that people continue to suffer because of actions and policies from which they benefitted.

3. Land, housing and spatial equality.

- Land restitution should not only be seen as a property transaction but as an essential mechanism that benefits broader society.
- Apartheid spatial planning should be reversed by integrating social housing with a densification policy.
- The role of small-scale farmers and peri-urban land is key to addressing spatial inequality and food security. Sustainable food production should be a key consideration in land reform.
- South Africa needs to transition from colonial agriculture to regenerative agriculture where farmers have a holistic approach partnering with nature.
- Farming is a generational endeavour. There needs to be comprehensive skills transference to enable full and proper utilisation of agricultural land.
- Large corporations that enjoy the benefits of historical inequality need to be involved in housing solutions.
- Successful land restitution depends on the government's ability to provide infrastructure.
- The way in which land is utilised needs to be broadened to include innovative and sustainable use.

4. Impact of digitisation and innovation on the media, education and epistemology.

- It is not possible to pay someone back for lost education and culture, but you can change the status quo by educating people and by being sincere and honest in recognising the injustices of the past. We need everyone's buy in.
- Government should be more involved in the process of cultural restitution and monitor progress. It is only by understanding our past that we are able to move forward.
- Innovation and data will be integral for restitution. Giving ordinary people access to digital infrastructure (as producers, not only as consumers) and addressing technical inequality is paramount in terms of social redress.
- The restitution of African heritage, artifacts and human remains is one of the vital social justice issues of our times. It is about recognising centuries of devastation of the African continent and taking a step towards social, historical and cultural repair for Africans themselves. Restitution through digitisation is important to safeguard the history of Africans.
- A review of institutional culture at schools and universities should be done to ensure transformation of exclusionary practices.
- We need to build literal and figurative bridges as the current environment is not conducive to quality education. The overcrowding of schools needs to be addressed with urgency.

- Restitution is not one deed; it should be a continuous way of life. We must embrace technology in restitution and restore the dignity of people.

5. Public governance, democratic leadership, and access to justice.

- Restitution should not feel like a gift handed down as a favour by the government to loyal citizens.
- Citizen-led approach to restitution has to start with raising awareness and petitioning those in power. Every citizen without the limitations of economic status, education, location should be able to have a voice.
- South Africa needs the power of people coming together to create change and leveraging technology in a decentralized structure of public participation.
- Restorative justice should be a fundamental re-conceptualisation of what justice is. The concept of restitution implies striving for some ideal state.
- There is no action plan to implement and support restorative justice. The National Policy Framework should be revisited, and the Integrated Crime Prevention Strategy should be reviewed and implemented.
- It is problematic that the South African Human Rights Commission's decisions are not legally binding.
- The disconnect between what is being said at policy level and what people experience should be urgently addressed. For example, people who enforce the law should understand the Criminal Procedure Act.
- The Constitutional Court should hold government accountable through structural indictment.
- Entities such as universities preach transformation but are not prepared to let go of their legacies and the people that contributed to past injustices.
- We all have a fundamental responsibility to notice injustice and to be attentive to suffering.



Cape Town Statement on The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice

Adopted at the 5th Social Justice Summit titled "The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice" held at Artscape Centre, Cape Town, South Africa on 12 October 2023

We, the participants of the 5th Social Justice Summit, representatives from business, broader civil society, including academic and government representatives, gathered at the Artscape Centre in Cape Town to share research findings and deliberate on "The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice, hereby adopt this Statement as a declaration of our commitment to play a significant role to accelerate the advancement of social justice for greater progress by 2030.

Recognise and accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, Copenhagen Declaration of 1995, and previous Social Justice declarations, notably the Hazendal Declaration of 2019 and Boschendal Declaration of 2021.

Believe that social justice, which is essentially about equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by all and anchored in shared humanity or ubuntu, considering human diversity, is about rights, privileges, and responsibilities of everyone in society and between society.

Accept that business and broader civil society have a role in advancing social justice, which includes a legal duty to refrain from discrimination and other violations of the law and to comply with legally prescribed positive measures to accommodate difference and remedy historical disparities, while pursuing equity and inclusion as a recognition of shared humanity and ecosystem investment.

Note that business has played a key role in the establishment of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which has played an essential role in defining normative standards that foster social justice in the workplace and that civil society has always played a major role in advancing social wellbeing thus contributing to social justice, including during the height of COVID-19 and other social emergencies.

Are concerned that although much has been achieved in overcoming some dimensions of poverty and inequality since the dawn of democracy, the 2022 Census statistics reveal that structural inequality persists and is even growing along contours of past unjust laws while more groups are affected by hunger, poverty, and inequality.

Are similarly concerned that limited progress has been made in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and National Development Plan (NDP) objectives and that business and broader society appear not to be fully seized with implementation of the sustainable development agenda beyond workplace and climate change initiatives.

Are perturbed that social fracture is growing despite the constitutional commitment to heal the divisions of the past and believe that injustice continuities and perceptions of such drive social fracture while creating a fertile climate for violent protest.

Are convinced that the slow progress in advancing social justice through dismantling structural inequality and ending poverty is not simply a matter of historical wrongs but also an outcome of constitutionally misaligned policy choices, governance lapses, corruption and weakening institutions, particularly at local government levels and SOEs.

Are further convinced that purpose driven, consolidated as well as scaled business and civil society action anchored in SDGs and the Social Justice Musa Plan can turn the trajectory and pace of advancing equality and ending poverty while overcoming hunger and climate change plus fostering peace.

Welcome and applaud the decision of 130 CEOs to join hands with government to help fix energy security, transport-logistic and crime and corruption believing that mindfully executed in an equity impact conscious way, this initiative will not only solve the targeted problems but will also have multiplying effects that reduce poverty, inequality while fostering climate change reversal and social cohesion.

Further welcome and applaud workplace equity initiatives in compliance with the law and various corporate and civil society initiatives that seek to level the playing field in education, particularly ECDC support, tertiary funding, social infrastructure, disaster services, food security, voluntary land redistribution, deracialising and dismantling gendered exclusion in business ownership through intentionally supporting startups in townships, villages and similar endeavours involving historically disadvantaged groups as well as addressing period poverty.

Believe there is a need for strengthening synergies, acting with more intentionality in fidelity to the egalitarian constitutional vision of society, which entails rethinking some activities, ensuring all communities and groups are met where they are and that the impact of activities demonstrably reduces poverty and inequality.

Further believe that SDGs, Covid recovery and the Musa Plan initiative offer an opportunity for a turnaround moment.

Therefore, resolve to act collaboratively as business and civil society to accelerate social change with a view to advancing social justice while making accelerated progress on SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality Within and Among Countries), 1 (No Poverty), 1 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Action) and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution):

1. Join hands to end **HUNGER** as an initial **Musa Plan Key Focus Area** through research, strengthening of synergies and breaking new ground;
2. Scale up social upliftment partnerships anchored in SDGs and Musa Plan and tripartite collaboration between business, society (including academia) and government;
3. Initiate integrated Social Justice Education anchored in Constitutional and Legal Literacy plus peace building;
4. Support the CEO initiative on fixing selected national challenges;
5. Systematise Data Science for Social Policy Research and Social Policy Integration in Data Science to prevent social injustice through the SIAM and related initiatives;
6. Support inclusive economic growth and integrate same in social responsibility and corporate/organisational strategies;
7. Support voluntary redistribution initiatives in land and other areas of life; 8. Support local governance as a primary engine for social change by contributing to building capacity for good governance, including ethical leadership and sustainable development management;
9. Strengthen social accountability initiatives aimed at pushing back against corruption and ending impunity; and
10. Implement the Hazendal and Boschendal Declarations and Programme of Action.

Issued by the Centre for Social Justice,
Stellenbosch University – 17 October 2023



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE OUTCOMES

Resolution adopted by the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference 2019, Hazendal Wine Estate

Leveraging the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Human Rights Agenda to Advance Social Justice

The Participants,

- **Mindful** of the reality that as long as there is injustice somewhere there cannot be sustainable peace and that the greatest imperative of our time is social justice as a basis for sustainable peace, whilst acknowledging the inherent worth, value and dignity of the national environment,
- **Recognising** the constitutional responsibility to advance equality, human dignity, freedom and social justice,
- **Concerned** about the systemic disparities that continue to pervade society and the resulting deterioration in social cohesion and environmental sustainability,
- **Note** that socio- economic disparities is primarily as a result of the intersecting grounds of race, gender and class, as well as ceaseless patterns of violence and environmental abuse, and within a common understanding of the psychological and emotional trauma of a large majority of our people,
- **Acknowledge** the important role of academia and civil society in advancing the Global Agenda for Social Justice,
- **Welcoming** the initiative of the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, in leveraging the SDGs as a catalyst for social justice change,

1. **Decide** to give life to the constitutional promise of social justice and to draw on the lived experiences of the people,

2. **Encouraged** by the commitment and willingness of participants to join hands to continue with research and dialogue, even where we disagree, to ensure that the constitutional and universal declaration's promises of equal enjoyment of all human rights for all, is realised for all,

3. **Invite academia** and civil society to expand our common understanding on how to reduce poverty and inequality so that we can move the social justice discourse forward in a manner that is in line with the constitutional objectives of a united South Africa anchored in shared humanity and prosperity,

4. **Agree to:**

- explore the pathways available to address social injustices globally;
- leverage opportunities presented by the SDGs, national constitutions and development plans in national and international contexts;
- share information on research that is undertaken;
- source information for the Social Justice hub at Stellenbosch University;
- form a coalition of universities, researchers and civil society that works in a coordinated way to advance social justice;
- focus on a multi-sectoral approach for a cohesive future; and
- endorse the Social Justice M-Plan.

5. **Request** the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Stellenbosch University, to convene yearly social justice conferences.

**1st Plenary meeting
31 August 2019**

Boschendal Resolution on Mainstreaming Social Justice and Economic Policy Design and Law Reform

*The Boschendal Resolution on Mainstreaming Social Justice in Economic Policy Design and Law Reform was adopted at the **Second International Social Justice Conference** on 11 October 2021 at Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa.*

The conference, titled 'Taking Economic Equality Seriously', was hosted by the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and the Council of Social Justice Champions.

We, the participants at the Second International Social Justice Conference, gathered at the Boschendal Conference Centre, drawn from diverse disciplinary backgrounds from all South African provinces, various parts of the African continent and beyond:

1. **Note with deep concern** that the Covid-19 pandemic, which has cost millions of lives, particularly those of the poorest in the world, has exposed the scale of social and economic imbalances and left certain groups of societies severely exposed to heightened social and economic hardships, including food security disruptions,
2. **Believe the freedom** to thrive socially and economically, in equality with others, is the birth right of every man, woman or person on the continent and in the broader world, yet many remain bound in chains of poverty, inequality, hunger and various forms of social exclusion, including education and digital exclusion,
3. **Are convinced** that deepening poverty, hunger and inequality pose a threat to social cohesion, peace, stability and the rule of law, while undermining sustainable development and resilient economic growth, and that there is an urgent need to make meaningful progress in addressing these disparities in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
4. **Reaffirm our commitment** to the Resolution of the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, which took place at Hazendal Wine Estate in 2019, among them the endorsement of the Musa Plan for Social Justice (Social Justice M-Plan), a Marshall Plan-like initiative dedicated to advancing social justice in South Africa; the acknowledgement of the threat that social injustice poses to sustainable development, social cohesion, peace and stability; and the seizing of the catalytic opportunity presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the opportunities available for multi-disciplinary academic research to catalyse progress towards breaking the back of structural inequality and ending poverty,
5. **Further reaffirm** the link between social justice and human rights and, specifically, the grounding of social justice in international and regional human rights treaties such as the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol, and subsidiary human rights and social change instruments,
6. **Encouraged and inspired** by the concrete social justice commitments and program of action in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995, the SDGs adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, advance equality, foster resilient communities, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want,

which is a shared vision and strategic framework for achieving a peaceful Africa that works for all,

7. **Acknowledge the duty** of African governments and the collective responsibility of all sections of society to advance social justice, particularly regarding social and economic parity, while being mindful of the interconnectedness and indivisibility of human rights and freedoms,

8. **Note progress** made since the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, particularly regarding research and exploring good practice in the use of prospective social impact tools that leverage systems and design thinking, using disaggregated data to predict the social justice impact of planned laws and policies focusing on economic equality and other sub-issues,

9. **Note that the regulatory responses** to Covid-19, although well intended, had a disparate impact on the poor and other vulnerable groups,

10. **Note that not enough attention** has been paid to the relationship between economic policy design and social well-being, including human development, environmental justice and mental health,

11. **Note further** that many of the Covid-19 fiscal relief packages were insufficiently designed to meet the differentiated needs of diverse affected groups in society while, in parts of the continent, arbitrary and unduly excessive measures were employed in the enforcement of laws and other measures aimed at containing the Covid-19 pandemic, with poor and other disadvantaged groups bearing the brunt of such executive exercise, and

12. **Are encouraged** by progress made since the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, including experimental research and development work aimed at designing prospective social impact assessments, which includes the Social Justice Impact Assessment Matrix (SIAM) that is being piloted at Swartland Municipality in South Africa with a view to assisting governments, businesses and courts, to mainstream social justice impact considerations at the design stage to ensure planned legislation, policies and programmes are attuned to diversity and do not have a disparate impact on disadvantaged groups and make informed policy choices that eschew any unintended impacts that exacerbate poverty and inequality.

We thereby resolve to:

1. **Recommit** ourselves to seize the opportunity created by Covid-19 rebuilding endeavours, including those presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, to deepen social justice research, innovation and teaching, strengthen collaboration across disciplines and sectors between academic institutions, broader civil society, business and government, as well as across the continent, including combining law making with design thinking, engineering and data science;

2. **Commit** ourselves to increase efforts aimed at advancing social justice through impact foresight anchored in systems thinking, design thinking to aligning policy design reform with social justice obligations focusing on poverty and inequality collaboratively with other stakeholders, together with educating civil society on social justice as well as engaging businesses and government to attune their policies;

3. **Promote** greater accountability for socio-economic inclusion and participatory democracy as well as social accountability through actions that include fostering constitutional literacy, legal literacy and economic literacy, while promoting greater transparency in government economic policy design processes and enhanced access to justice through courts and other forums;

4. **Collaborate** on a Model Law on Equality Duty initiative to assist governments to adopt a law or integrate in existing law a requirement for the certification of compliance with the social justice or equality duty before any law, policy or programme is passed and assist with a model law to facilitate this process, taking into account the lessons from and continued responsibility to advancing gender mainstreaming and children's rights, while remaining mindful of all intersectional inequalities;
5. **Collaborate** to support a Covid-19 rebuilding better together agenda on the continent that transcends the binary focus on health and the economy and includes social well-being imperatives such as education, mental health, food security, climate change and digital inclusion, while fostering a deliberate implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with all hands on deck in fostering resilient communities, shared prosperity and peace in the constituent countries and the continent;
6. **Collaborate** in fostering a climate of friendship and a culture of shared humanity through embracing social justice, respect for human dignity, embracing diversity and fostering social cohesion and peace on the continent;
7. **Collaborate** towards assisting African governments to invest in people, particularly young people, and improve their position in the Human Development Index so as to foster an ecosystem that is conducive to peace and stability for all, and effective implementation of the AfCFTA agreement;
8. **Reinforce** the role courts serve in supporting democracy through purposive and contextual interpretation of the Constitution in a manner that is anchored in a commitment to the realisation of social justice, combating corruption, and fostering good governance, accountability and the rule of law in a manner that fundamentally transforms economic relations for marginalised groups, in line with the African Charter and international human rights treaties;
9. **Engage** in interdisciplinary research collaboration to design and implement research and capacity-building programs aimed at reinforcing state capacity for ethical leadership, good governance, and anti-corruption in order to improve responsiveness, accountability and broader checks and balances; and
10. **Promote** the prioritisation of the realisation of social justice through economic redistribution and economic parity, ensuring active public participation in budgetary processes to achieve human rights resonant budgets that are informed by mainstreaming gender and intersectionality considerations such as GBV, child abuse and child marriage/adoption to remove social barriers to women and young peoples' economic participation.



Boschendal Conference Statement on Restitution

*Adopted on 11 October 2022 at Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, at the **Third International Social Justice Conference** titled 'Restitution'. Hosted by the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and the Council of Social Justice Champions.*

As academic experts and leaders drawn from government, community experts, business and the diplomatic community from diverse disciplinary backgrounds from all South African provinces, various parts of the African continent and beyond, we met on 11 October 2022 at the Boschendal Retreat close to Stellenbosch under the auspices of the third International Social Justice Conference to deliberate on restitution. This was a follow up to the second International Social Justice Conference which focussed on economic parity. One of the conclusions was that many of the inequalities and poverty challenges in South Africa, the African continent and the world, are a legacy of unremedied past injustices that can be traced to odious human rights violations such as slavery, human trafficking, colonialism, apartheid and patriarchy¹.

The conference's focus was on what happened in the past that can be regarded as unjust and how that continues to shape the present patterns of inequality and poverty within and between nations. The deliberations, which benefited from speeches and research papers took place under five themes. The conference themes on past wrongs and restitution were:

1. Wealth, income and economic justice.
2. Health and well-being, family and social life
3. Land, housing and spatial equality
4. Impact of digitisation and innovation on the media, education and epistemology
5. Public governance, democratic leadership, and access to justice

General Observations

1. The conference papers and deliberations confirmed that though there has been acknowledgment of past human rights violations and crimes against humanity such as war crimes and the holocaust and affected communities received some restitution for such wrongs, the same has not been the case regarding racially motivated human rights violations such as slavery, and the colonisation and pillaging of resources from the African continent. These set back the continent and its people within and in the diaspora by centuries regarding economic development and human wellbeing.

¹ Daniels v Scribante (CCT50/16) [2017] ZACC 13. The first and second judgments remind us all – and remind white people in particular, people like me, lawyers who grew up with the benefits, both accumulated and immediate, of their skin colour in a society that deliberately set out to privilege them, white people who are still the majority in the profession and probably still the majority readers of these reports – that the past is not done with us; that it is not past; that it will not leave us in peace until we have reckoned with its claims to justice."

2. The conference further noted that not only have racially motivated wrongs not been unacknowledged but the lack of acknowledgement has also limited accountability and left affected victims, be they original or descendants, with perennial trauma, socio-psychological challenges and economic disadvantages in comparison to those that benefited from the past injustices. Participants further noted that aspects of intersectional disparities or pathologies such as gender-based violence, xenophobia and toxic nationalism, can be traced to unremedied past human rights violations.

3. The conference further noted the torture and disappearance of democracy and anti-corruption activists in various countries and that many of these remain unaccounted. In this regard, the conference noted the failure to prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations in South Africa and other transitional democracies and apparent unwillingness of governments to expedite judicial accountability.

4. The conference further noted the role of business in engineering some of the policies and laws that anchored slavery, colonialism, apartheid, extreme patriarchy, systematic social and political diminution and other ideological underpinnings of the human rights violations whose impact continues to inform the current skewed distribution of resources between and within societies.

5. The conference also noted that business has not acknowledged its role, taken accountability or made amends to the victims or descendants of the odious atrocities and the legacy.

6. The conference further observed that the lack of acknowledgement of past wrongs also distorts conversations about the present and the future thus limiting the proficiency of policy choices. This leaves persons and communities with continuing social, psychological and economic challenges that can be traced to the unacknowledged and unremedied past injustices.

7. Participants further acknowledged that the unacknowledged and unremedied injustices of the past underpin stark racial, gender and regional inequalities in economic and social life within and between societies thus undermining social justice. This was further said to undermine trust in democracy and democratic institutions thus encouraging polarisation, extremist tendencies that weaken the rule of law and peace

8. Participants noted that apartheid was declared by the United Nations a crime against humanity and that since then there is at least one prosecution under way in which apartheid as a crime against humanity is a count. They further noted renewed UN calls for intensified efforts aimed at combatting racism and advancing social justice, particularly regarding economic and social parity across colour, ethnicity, and between states or continents.

Acknowledgement and Restitution Acts by Governments

Conference participants were encouraged by emerging trends among governments of acknowledgement of and restitution for past racist motivated human rights violations, including slavery, torture, human degradation, economic deprivation and their legacy. These include:

- 1) New Zealand's acknowledgment of past injustices against the indigenous communities and entry into restitutive treaties and incorporating indigenous practices in mainstream policies

- 2) The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa (TRC) and other TRCs, which though having not tackled economic dimensions of past human rights wrongs though did not deal with economic impact
- 3) Land restitution programmes in South Africa and other parts of the world though incomplete and not incorporating the social and economic impact of land dispossession that continues to define many of the affected communities
- 4) Kenya UK and Namibia Germany efforts at acknowledging past atrocities though this was viewed as inadequate
- 5) Return of some of the artifacts and human remains of Africans by various former Western Colonial powers, including remain of African leaders and South Africa's Sarah Baartman
- 6) Rwanda restorative justice following the genocide, which includes leveraging indigenous justice systems of inquisitorial and restorative justice and ensuring that all learners take a trip to the genocide museum

Acknowledgement and Restitution Acts by Private Actors

The Conference further noted encouraging acts of acknowledgement of past human rights violations and/or complicity by private actors. These included the following:

1. Georgetown student initiative on restitution to descendants of slaves that were sold to save the university when it was in financial distress;
2. Stellenbosch University's restitution statement, whose implementation has included visual redress such as renaming a key administration building, the Krotoa Building after Krotoa, a Khoi woman that was part of the first encounters between the Khoi, which was one of the indigenous groups and the Dutch settler community that arrived in 1652;

The conference noted with concern that although business drove the process of adopting the policies and laws that led to past atrocities whose impact continues to undermine equality and antipoverty efforts today, it is one group that has not shown any contrition or restitution gestures. It was further noted that business lobbying for policies that exacerbate inequalities, poverty and hunger, in violation of human rights and undermine progress on SDG goals, including climate justice, continues unabated, in the absence of transparency regarding and the regulation of lobbying.

The conference acknowledged that the failure to acknowledge and remedy past human rights and social justice wrongs undermines compliance with international treaty obligations, including regional human rights treaties, such as the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol, and subsidiary or social change instruments such as the Durban Declaration on the World Conference Against Racial Discrimination the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

The conference called for the following remedies

- 1) **Establish a restitution fund** to help with closing the economic gap that continues to exist between the beneficiaries of past human rights violation with economic implications and fund education about the past.

- 2) **Business to convene** under the UN Global Compact and reflect on its role in past racially motivated atrocities with a view to acknowledgement and making amends
- 3) **Leverage data science to quantify** the cost of past injustices and impact on stubborn inequalities and poverty that affects groups that were the subject of slavery, colonialism and apartheid, among others.
- 4) **Leverage data science to design** laws and policies that do not exacerbate existing inequalities and poverty.
- 5) **Support the South African Musa Plan** for Social Justice and consider similar initiatives in other nations where there is massive inequality
- 6) **Support the implementation of remedial international social instruments** such as the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995, the SDGs adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, advance equality, foster resilient communities, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, which is a shared vision and strategic framework for achieving a peaceful Africa that works for all,

To give effect to the above commitments, we adopt the following programme of action, based on the outcomes of the parallel sessions:

1. Wealth, income and economic justice.

- Urgent measures are required to re-engineer South Africa to be a society of equal opportunity. Key in this is the consideration of restitution to address historical inequalities that still stand in the way of economic justice.
- Restitution must be prioritised not only because it is a legal requirement in South Africa but also because it is imperative to social stability and the promotion of a resilient government.
- Social compacting about restitution must be grounded in knowledge of historical inequality. South Africans must embrace the Constitutional social justice vision to promote restitution amongst those who have historically benefitted.
- Collaborative efforts should be made to create an archive of past laws that caused inequality and create a simulation to demonstrate what the future would have looked like if those laws had not existed.
- Progressive labour regimes should be instituted by government. Minimum wage must be utilised as a restitutive measure as wage inequality is the biggest contributor to overall inequality.
- Corporate political action and lobbying should be regulated to ensure transparency, accountability, and justice.
- All social and public policies must be underpinned by the notion of universal access and emancipation and seek to liberate South Africans from the lingering impact of historical injustices.

2. Health and well-being, family and social life:

- There should be recognition of and an understanding of racial trauma, generational poverty, and harmful gender norms that necessitate restitution.
- Restitution must start within family life and address the way family structures have been dismantled by historic injustices and patriarchy. Change must be substantial, not superficial and government should provide sufficient resources.
- Reconciliation is the first step to redress. Sport can be used as a means to facilitate intercultural understanding, for example.

- Traditional knowledge systems are currently undervalued and can be relied upon for delivering sustainable and transformative reparations.
- Restitution programmes must consider all forms of systemic injustice and violence and include individual, community, and symbolic measures as well as material compensation and improved access to services.
- Victims' participation is crucial for ensuring that benefits of restitution are accessible, equitable and effective.
- Institutional structures should enable cross-sectoral dialogue that also includes marginalised voices that have historically been devalued.
- Current policies in the healthcare system should be reformed with input from communities and impacted individuals to prioritise restitution.
- Gender transformation requires feminist leadership informed by mainstreaming gender and intersectionality considerations.

3. Land, housing, and spatial equality:

- Land reform should proceed by different routes: redistribution with agricultural investment and production as a priority, and with the state drawing in commodity organisations and the private sector. Expanding urban housing and services remain central to the restitution process.
- Land restitution should involve poverty alleviation accomplished through compensation and skills development.
- Existing land claims should be prioritised by government. Recognised claims should be supported with legal, financial, and agricultural means.
- Land restitution should not only be focused on title deeds, but also on the restoration of the dignity, security and cultural identities lost through dispossession.
- Efforts should be made to increase participation from the claimants of dispossession. They should receive priority access to state resources and be given the opportunity to propose solutions to fast-track restitution efforts. Communities should be seen as co-producers of knowledge and solutions instead of passive subjects.
- Environmental considerations and climate change should be at the centre of debates on land.
- Segmentation between local and national government and other stakeholders which delays progress should be resolved.
- People who never owned land due to historic injustices, such as farm workers, should be accounted for. New models and solutions should be established for finding a middle ground between property owners and workers in terms of restitution.

4. Impact of digitisation and innovation on the media, education, and epistemology:

- Restitution in the African context is not only about material redress. It acts as a vector for possibilities of a broader epistemic, cultural, and spiritual restitution process and conversation about the extraction and destruction of the African continent through colonialism and apartheid.
- Restitution should be seen as more than the return of artifacts and heritage; it is an inroad to a conversation about Africa rebuilding itself through cultural significance and restoring lost dignity.
- The discourse around restitution tends to be dominated by non-Africans. The efforts of African scholars relating to redress must be promoted, recognised, and acknowledged.

- To make restitution meaningful, the focus should be on education programmes, media literacy, access to technology, working with young people to connect to history and developing new epistemic strategies for thinking about historical injustice, cultural heritage, and identity.
- Restitution efforts in South Africa should also be cognizant of groups that have been excluded from the discourse through stigmatisation, divisive media narratives and xenophobia. Restitution cannot be seen in a narrowly nationalistic way.
- Greater investment in public media infrastructure and access to technology is needed to promote participation in the public sphere and counter the distortions of commercial media and the failures of public media and education systems.

5. Public governance, democratic leadership, and access to justice:

Access to justice is curtailed by affordability and there is a failure by the state to provide legal aid as envisaged by the Constitution.

A solution should come from a consultative approach that includes the Department of Justice, the Legal Practitioners Council, Legal Aid South Africa, and private legal practitioners to discuss the following:

- Shortcomings in the provision of legal services;
- Systems to advance alternative dispute resolution and allocate funds for pro bono litigation expenses based on a model that provides funding to cases that warrant support;
- Procedures to better categorize disputes in private law for allocation of funds and boutique practitioners;
- Inform the public on democracy, public accountability, and legal education;
- Focus on vulnerable members of society (women, children, the LGBTQ+ community, people living with disabilities);
- Involve NGOs, civil society, youth structures, etc;
- Training for customary law practitioners.

Research is needed to understand how entities such as paralegal community offices, pro bono funding, legal expense insurance, and Legal Aid South Africa are working so that the best learnings can be used to provide solutions with impact.



Cape Town Declaration on The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice

Adopted at the 4th International Conference on Social Justice titled "The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice".

Hosted by the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and the Council of Social Justice Champions on 11 October 2023

We, the participants of the 4th International Conference on Social Justice, gathered at the Artscape Centre and drawn from stakeholders representing government actors, civil society, business, lawyers, academics, and international stakeholders from various continents:

Reaffirm our commitment to our shared humanity as anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Copenhagen Declaration, other international human rights, and social justice instruments together with relevant domestic constitutions.

Believe that social justice regarding the enjoyment of all rights and freedoms is essential for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

Further believe that the world has an abundance of resources that are sufficient for all to realise the full extent of their potential under a socially just and conducive environment through multi-sector partnerships involving state, business and civil society stakeholders, to yield improved quality of life in a society based on human dignity, 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 this conference takes place amid various human tragedies, including war, that the architects of the UN Charter, Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions, among others, thought were never to be experienced by humanity again, believing that an investment in justice, including social justice, through these multilateral cooperation and normative standard setting instruments, would reward humanity with peace and that war and its odious cruelties would be history.

Further concerned that 75 years into the implementation of the UDHR systemic and structural patterns of socio-economic disparities primarily on grounds such as race, gender, age, nationality, and class remain a reality and, in some cases, a worsening reality reflected in hunger, poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of resources and opportunities as well as lack of parity of esteem and cultures.

Further concerned over growing social fracture reflected in high levels of violence, including Gender Based Violence (GBV) in families and communities, violence, and armed conflict in other parts of the world, which has primarily claimed the lives of children and other vulnerable members of society.

Believe that business and civil society have a role and responsibility to advance social justice and that role has legal, and moral dimensions while being a pragmatic investment in an ecosystem that supports human wellbeing, sustainable environments, and business growth.

Note with appreciation that business and civil society actors have stepped up to play such role by complying with labour and employment laws, corporate regulations and general laws that prohibit exploitation and those that foster remedial justice while going beyond legal compliance to combat hunger, poverty, and various forms of inequality in areas such as education, health, business ownership, social infrastructure, sports, and arts.

Note that business and civil society have been particularly central in initiatives aimed at assisting vulnerable communities during COVID-19 and other moments of distress and advocacy for human rights on a shared humanity basis.

Are convinced that deepening poverty, hunger, and inequality pose a threat to social cohesion, peace, stability, and the rule of law, while undermining sustainable development and resilient economic growth and there is an urgent need to make meaningful progress in addressing these disparities in line with the SDGs.

Reaffirm our commitment to the resolutions of the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference which took place at the Hazendal Conference Centre in 2019, among them the endorsement of the Musa Plan for Social Justice (Social Justice M-Plan), a Marshall Plan like initiative dedicated to advancing social justice in South Africa; acknowledgement of the threat that social injustice poses to sustainable development, social cohesion, peace and stability; and seizing the catalytic opportunity presented by the SDGs Agenda for Change and the opportunities available for multidisciplinary academic research to catalyse progress towards breaking the back of structural inequality and ending poverty by 2030.

Further reaffirm the link between social justice, human rights and peace and specifically the grounding of social justice in international and regional human rights treaties, such as the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNHR), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), African Charter for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), Maputo Protocol and subsidiary human rights and social change instruments.

Encouraged and inspired by the concrete social justice commitments and Programme of Action in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995, the SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, advance equality, foster resilient communities, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the Continent's Agenda 2063 and the progress the country has made on the social justice imperatives that emerge from these and progressive domestic constitutions.

Affirm that the UDHR and related human rights normative instruments impose a duty on the Government to advance equality with a focus on equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms including the right to equality in all aspects of the economy, and the collective and respective responsibility of all sections of society to advance social justice, particularly regarding social and economic parity while being mindful of the interconnectedness and indivisibility of human rights and freedoms.

Are encouraged by progress made since the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, including experimental research and development work aimed at ensuring equality conscious law reform and policy design, leveraging disaggregated data for predictive impact of planned policies and laws and exploration of integration of social policy considerations on equity into data science, including AI.

But note that though it is natural that ending poverty and reducing inequality is a progressive enterprise that yields incremental progress, the direction and pace of social change in many societies, which includes the widening gap between the rich and poor and between developed and developing countries, is a major concern.

Are concerned that not enough attention has been paid to the relationship between economic policy design and wellbeing, human development, and environmental justice.

Encouraged that there is a growing acknowledgement in business and broader society that the improvement of the lives of all people, requires a private-public co-sharing relationship premised on the use of collective resources to achieve a socially just and equitable society.

Further encouraged by emerging partnerships between business, government and society that foster an environment in which business can thrive, advance SDG 10, 1, 2 and 13 and 16.

We thereby resolve to:

1. **Support the adoption** of holistic integrated Marshall Plan styled initiatives such as the Social Justice Musa Plan as a vehicle of collaboration to accelerate the advancement of social justice in all areas of life, including the family, economy, public governance, and parity of social esteem among all social groups, regardless of diversity.
2. **Collaborate** in accelerating progress on SDGs by intentionally drawing business and civil society together in their respective roles and ensuring business and civil society is committed and engaged, particularly with SDG 10 1, and 16.
3. **Scale efforts** aimed at advancing social justice through incorporating design thinking and systems thinking in law reform, policy design as well as the design of services and products in a manner that meets all groups and communities where they are while consciously advancing economic and other forms of equality and working towards ending poverty by 2030 and assisting government, business, and courts to mainstream social justice through impact foresight tools such as the SIAM.
4. **Promote greater fidelity** to human rights normative standards regarding socio-economic inclusion and participatory democracy as well as social accountability through actions that include conducting constitutional literacy, legal literacy, and economic literacy, while promoting greater transparency in government economic policy design processes and enhanced access to justice through courts and other forums.
5. **Collaborate** on research and other measures to strengthen synergy between social justice, economic growth, sustainable, development, democracy, and the rule of law.
6. **Collaborate** on assisting governments to place investment in the youth, women, rural or other marginalised communities in its SMME development, food security, social infrastructure, anti-crime measures and other interventions, particularly in the implementation of the SDG, Covid-Recovery and Just Transition agendas.
7. **Promote the realisation of social justice** through advocacy policy development directed at economic redistribution, land reform, ending corruption, promoting the rule of law, and strengthening democracy.
8. **Collaborate** on social justice research and the design of innovative tools to improve social justice responsiveness of all policy and societal actions.
9. **Initiate** integrated social justice education anchored in legal and human rights literacy plus peace building.
10. **Convene** interdisciplinary, intersectoral and transnational partnerships to work on corruption, and sustainable development and support tripartite collaboration between state, business, and civil society.



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