



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
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6th International Social Justice Conference

15 - 16 October 2025

Cape Town International
Convention Centre (CTICC)

CONFERENCE THEME

Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World:

Advancing **Food Justice** and **Climate Resilience** in pursuit
of **Equality**, **Solidarity** and **Sustainable Development**

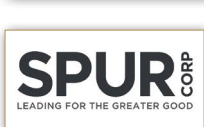
2 ZERO
HUNGER



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



OUR PARTNERS:



The **6th Annual Social Justice Conference** is presented by the
Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch
University, in partnership with **United Nations South Africa**.

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FOREWORD

It is a treasured honour and privilege to welcome you to the **6th International Social Justice Conference (ICSJ)**, hosted by the **Centre for Social Justice** at Stellenbosch University in collaboration with the **Council of Social Justice Champions** and a host of national and international collaborators.

An Irish famine monument in Cambridge near Harvard Square proclaims: *"Never again should a people starve in a world of plenty"*. Yet, according to UNICEF, close to 800 million people faced hunger in 2024 while 2.6 billion could not afford a healthy diet. This is despite progress made under global quests such as implementing the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995) and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015). Transforming the world into one that is fair or just to all with no social group languishing below a dignity floor fit for human wellbeing remains a compelling social justice and human rights quest.

According to the World Food Organisation (WFO), about 70% of those facing famine are in fragile conflict-affected countries. Conflict and war anywhere is a threat to the global food systems, while injustice anywhere, including food injustice, is an impediment to peace. While war, conflict and climate change threaten food systems everywhere, it is vulnerable nations and groups that suffer most. Yet when the (social) justice of eating eludes some, none can experience holistic and sustainable progress or peace.

It is for these reasons that the 2025 ICSJ theme is: **Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World: Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience in Pursuit of Equality, Solidarity and Sustainable Development**.

The dialogue builds on two years of research and engagements on the nexus between hunger, the right to food and social justice. It seeks to leverage data and knowledge gathered and opportunities within the G20, SDG and Social Development Conference dialogues to catalyze meaningful collective action that can end hunger and nutrition insecurity by 2030.

The ICSJ will provide an interdisciplinary platform for interrogating food security implications of the interplay between law, human rights frameworks and policy outcomes in agriculture, commerce, environmental regulation and global peace. Informed by systems thinking, the participants and research insights will interweave all sectors with implications for food security, including the production, quality, including cultural resonance, flow, cost of and control over food in a world where a parochial nationalist paradigm is rising.

Key conference objectives are:

1. *Deepening legal and policy analysis on food justice, climate resilience and equality.*
2. *Foster interdisciplinary research that bridges law, economics, environment and society. Strengthening advocacy that places hunger eradication at the centre of social justice agendas.*
3. *Advancing global partnerships, especially in the Global South, that move us from isolation to solidarity.*
4. *Contributing to South Africa's G20 Presidency and the forthcoming World Summit on Social Development, ensuring that voices from this conference shape global governance.*

While the moral compass informing the conference is the Constitution of South Africa, which calls for healing the divisions of the past and establishing a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights while improving the quality of life of all citizens and freeing the potential of each person, we consider a socially just and human rights undergirded world to be a shared aspiration of all human beings. It is also our considered view, as world leaders apparently did in 1919, 1945 and 1995, that as long as there is injustice somewhere there cannot be sustainable peace anywhere.

We are particularly grateful to the government of South Africa, including HE President Cyril Ramaphosa and HE Premier Allan Winde together with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr Nelson Muffuh, for stepping up to embrace this collective quest on food security as a human rights and social justice matter that is inextricably intertwined with peace and sustainability.

Together let us make this a positive transformative moment that will demonstrably turn the tide to ensure that no people starve in our world of plenty while ensuring the sustainability of food and nutrition abundance everywhere with no one left behind. Let us seize the opportunity to quell our turbulent times through a shared humanity vision undergirded by policies, laws and actions that bend the arc of history toward justice while assuring sustainable socio-economic progress and peace for all. We are leaders demanded by our troubled times.

Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela

Director, Centre for Social Justice and Law Faculty Trust Chair Professor at Stellenbosch University

15 October 2025

National Anthem of the Republic of South Africa

Nkosi sikelel' Afrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo
Yizwa imithandazo yethu
Nkosi sikelela thina lusapho lwayo
Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho
O se boloke o se boloke setjhaba sa
heso
Setjhaba sa South Africa, South Africa
Uit die blou van onse hemel
Uit die diepte van ons see
Oor ons ewige gebergtes
Waar die kranse antwoord gee
Sounds the call to come together
And united we shall stand
Let us live and strive for freedom
In South Africa our land

African Union Anthem

Let us all unite and celebrate together
The victories won for our liberation
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity
O sons and daughters of Africa
Flesh of the suns and flesh of the sky
Let us make Africa the tree of life
Let us all unite and sing together
To uphold the bonds that frame our des-
tiny
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on earth
O sons and daughters of Africa
Flesh of the suns and flesh of the sky
Let us make Africa the tree of life
Let us all unite and toil together
To give the best we have to Africa
The cradle of mankind and fount of cul-
ture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.
O sons and daughters of Africa
Flesh of the suns and flesh of the sky
Let us make Africa the tree of life

Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

English

We, the people of South Africa, Recognise the injustices of our past; Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and **believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity**. We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, **adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic** so as to **heal the divisions of the past** and **establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights**;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and **every citizen is equally protected by law**; **Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person**; and **build a united and democratic South Africa** able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations. May God protect our people. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso. God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa. Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

isiXhosa

Thina, bantu baseMzantsi-Afrika, Siyaziqonda iintswela-bulungisa zexesha elidlulileyo; Sibothulel' umnqwazi abo baye bev' ubunzima ukuze kubekho ubulungisa nenkululeko elizweni lethu; Siyabahlonela abo baye basebenzela ukwakha nokuphucula ilizwe lethu; kwaye **Sikholelwa kwelokuba uMzantsi-Afrika ngowabo bonke abahlala kuwo, bemanene nangona bengafani**. Ngoko ke, ngabameli bethu abanyulwe ngokukhululekileyo, **samkela lo Mgaqo-siseko njengo-mthetho owongamileyo weRiphabliki** ukuze — **Kungcibeke imisantsa yexesha elidlulileyo**, kwakheke noluntu lwentando yesininzi, **ubulungisa basentlalweni namalunge-lo oluntu asisiseko**; Kwandlalwe iziseko zoluntu lwentando yesininzi nolukhululekileyo apho urhulumente engowentando yabantu kwaye **ummi ngamnye ekhuselwe ngumthetho ngokulinga- nayo nabanye**; **Kuphuculwe umgangatho wobomi wabo bonke abemi, kukhululwe nomntu ngamnye afikelele kwelona nqanaba anokufikelela kulo lobuchule bakhe**; kananjalo **Kwakhiwe uMzantsi-Afrika omanyeneyo** wentando yesininzi okwaziyo ukuthabatha indawo yawo onelungelo layo njengelizwe elizimeleyo kusapho phakathi kwamanye amazwe. Ngamana uThixo angabakhusela abantu bakowethu. Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso. God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa. Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

Afrikaans

Ons, die mense van Suid-Afrika, **Erken die ongeregtighede van ons verlede**; **Huldig diegene wat vir geregtigheid en vryheid in ons land gely het**; **Respekteer diegene wat hul beywer het om ons land op te bou en te ontwikkel**; en **Glo dat Suid-Afrika behoort aan almal wat daarin woon, verenig in ons verskeidenheid**. Daarom neem ons, deur ons vryverkose verteenwoordigers, **hierdie Grondwet aan as die hoogste reg van die Republiek ten einde – Die verdeeldheid van die verlede te heel** en 'n samelewing gegrond op demokratiese waardes, **maatskaplike geregtigheid** en **basiese menseregte te skep**; Die grondslag te lê vir 'n demokratiese en oop samelewing waarin regering gegondwes is op die **wil van die bevolking en elke burger gelyk deur die reg beskerm word**; **Die lewensgehalte van alle burgers te verhoog en die potensiaal van elke mens te ontsluit**; en 'n **Verenigde en demokratiese Suid-Afrika te bou** wat sy regmatige plek as 'n soewereine staat in die gemeenskap van nasies kan inneem. Mag God ons mense beskerm. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso. God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa. Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their family, including **food**, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control.

CESCR General Comment No. 12: The Right to Adequate Food (Art. 11)

Adopted at the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 12 May 1999 (Contained in Document E/C.12/1999/5)

Introduction and basic premises

1. The human right to adequate **food** is recognized in several instruments under international law. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights deals more comprehensively than any other instrument with this right. Pursuant to article 11.1 of the Covenant, States parties recognize "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate **food**, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions", while pursuant to article 11.2 they recognize that more immediate and urgent steps may be needed to ensure "the fundamental right to freedom from hunger and malnutrition". The human right to adequate **food** is of crucial importance for the enjoyment of all rights. It applies to everyone; thus the reference in article 11.1 to "himself and his family" does not imply any limitation upon the applicability of this right to individuals or to female-headed households.

PROGRAMME

The 6th International Social Justice Conference

Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World: Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience in pursuit of Equality, Solidarity and Sustainable Development

15 – 16 October 2025 | CTICC | Cape Town, South Africa

Programme Director: **Ms Catherine Constantinides** (International climate activist and Human Rights defender)

Co-Programme Director: **Dr Mshai Mwangola** (Vice-President, the Transitional Council of the Society of International Development)

08:00 - 09:00	Arrival and Registration of Delegates Musa Plan Video Musical Item: Ithemba Youth Choir
09:00 – 11:00	OPENING PLENARY
09:00 - 09:05	Remarks by Programme Director: Ms Catherine Constantinides
09:05 – 09:20	Singing of the National Anthem (2 mins) Singing of the African Union Anthem (2 mins) Reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (10 mins) English Version: Mr Liam Gillesen (Social Justice Ambassador, Centre for Social Justice) IsiXhosa Version: Ms Ngazibini Tsitywa (Intern, Centre for Social Justice) Afrikaans Version: Ms Thina Gabavana (Intern, Centre for Social Justice)
09:20 – 09:40	Welcome Remarks: Ms Wahida Parker (CEO and MD, Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company and Deputy Chairperson, Cape Town Tourism) (5 mins) Message of Support from the Council of Social Justice Champions (COSOC): Prof Wim De Villiers (Chairperson, COSOC and Former Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University) (5 mins) Message of support from Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law: Prof Theo Broodryk (Acting Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation and Head: Stellenbosch University Law Clinic) (5 mins) Message of support from UN South Africa: Mr Nelson Muffuh (Head of United Nations South Africa and Resident Coordinator) (5 mins)
09:40 – 10:05	Opening Address: Prof Sibusiso Moyo (Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Innovation, Research and Postgraduate Studies, Stellenbosch University) (15 mins) Message of support from the International Labour Organisation (ILO): Madame Sana de Courcelles (Head of the Global Coalition for Social Justice (GCSJ) Unit) (10 mins)
10:05– 10:45	KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: “Anchoring Food Security in Law: Legal Accountability for Equality, Peace and Climate Resilience” Keynote Address 1: Deputy Minister Andries Nel (Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development) (20 mins) Keynote Address 2: Madame Maryam Bukar Hassan (UN Global Advocate for Peace and Security) (20 mins)

PROGRAMME - 15 Oct.

10:45– 11:05

Concluding Observations: Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela

(Law Faculty Trust Chair, Professor of Social Justice and Director, Centre for Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University) (20 mins)

Rapporteur: Dr Victoria Banke Olagbegi-Oloba (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University)

11:05 – 11:35

TEA BREAK | GROUP PHOTO | MEDIA BRIEFING (30 mins)

11:35 – 13:30

KEYNOTE PLENARY: “Anchoring Food Security in Law: Legal Accountability for Equality, Peace and Climate Resilience”

Moderator: Dr Mshai Mwangola (Vice-President, the Transitional Council of the Society of International Development)

Rapporteur: Prof Armand Bam (Head of Social Impact, Stellenbosch Business School)

ANCHOR PANELIST:

Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela (Law Faculty Trust Chair, Professor of Social Justice and Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University) **“Social Justice, Food Security and Peace: How Useful is the Law”** (15 mins)

Presenters:

- **Adv Philile Ntuli** (Commissioner of South African Human Rights) (10 mins)
- **Judge Thando Mankge** (Judge of the High Court, Mpumalanga) **“Children with Learning Disabilities”** (10 mins) online
- **Prof Murilo Vieira Komniski** (Deputy Head of Mission and Minister Counselor to Brazil) **“Brazil’s Intersectional Approach to Food Justice and Climate Resilience”** (10 mins) online
- **H.E. Mr Shimizu Fumio** (Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of South Africa) **“International Cooperation for Food Justice, Peace, Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience: Global Practices and Diplomatic Perspectives”** (10 mins)
- **H.E. Ms Maria del Rosario Mina Rojas** (Ambassador of Colombia to South Africa and Non-Resident Ambassador to several African countries) **“International Cooperation for Food Justice, Peace, Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience: Global Practices and Diplomatic Perspectives”** (10 mins) online
- **Mr Timothy Fish Hodgson** (Senior Legal Advisor, International Commission of Jurists) (10 mins) online

Q & A 40 mins

Panelists
have 10 mins
each

13:30 - 14:30

LUNCH

14:30 - 16:00

PLENARY I – II (PRESENTATION OF CONFERENCE PAPERS)**PLENARY I: HUNGER, POVERTY, ECONOMY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: ANALYSING SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES IN FOOD ACCESS**

Moderator: Dr Mshai Mwangola (Vice-President, the Transitional Council of the Society of International Development)

Rapporteur: Prof Nic Olivier (Extraordinary Professor in the Faculty of Law, North-West University)

Anchor Panellist: Prof Stephen Devereux (DPhil Oxon) (Professorial Fellow, Rural Futures Cluster; Co-Director, Centre for Social Protection; Co-Founder, Food Equity Centre; Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Brighton, United Kingdom) (10 mins)

PROGRAMME - 15 Oct.

14:30 – 16:00

PLENARY I – II (PRESENTATION OF CONFERENCE PAPERS) *Cont.*Panelists have
10 mins each

Presenters:

- 1. Dr Isaac Kabelenga** (Lecturer for Social Protection, Social Policy, Human Rights, Governance and Development, Monitoring and Evaluation and Research Methods in the Social Sciences, University of Zambia (UNZA)) *"Innovative Social Protection Interventions Used by the Government of Zambia to Promote Food Justice Among the Poor but Viable Older People and Persons with Disabilities in Rural Zambia during the 2023/2024 National Drought Crisis"* (10 mins) online
- 2. Ms Kelly-Anne Cleophas** (Admitted Attorney of the High Court, South Africa) *"International Human Rights and Domestic Legal Frameworks Regulating the Right to Food and Adequate Nutrition."* (10 mins) online
- 3. Mr V Ravindran** (Assistant Professor of Law at Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), Tiruchirappalli. *"Hunger, Poverty, and the Law: Reimagining India's Right to Food Through the Lens of Social Justice and Economic Equality"* (10 mins) online
- 4. Dr Precious Nonhlanhla Ndlovu** (Senior Lecture and Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape. *"Ensuring Food Security Through Fair Markets: An Analysis of Competition Law and the Right to Food in South Africa."* (10 mins)
- 5. Ms Pamela Baloyi** (Law Student, University of Witwatersrand) *"Food Security Begins with Legal Security: Informal Workers and the Architecture of Inclusion"* (10 mins) online

Q & A: 30 mins

16:00 – 17:30

PLENARY II: WAR, VIOLENCE (INCLUDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN) AND ACCESS TO FOOD

Panelists
have 10 mins
each

Moderator: Ms Catherine Constantinides (International climate activist and Human Rights defender)

Rapporteur: Ms Claire Naidoo (UNICEF SA and Founding Director LiveMoya)

Anchor Panellist: Prof Jan Marie Fritz (Clinical Sociologist, Professor, University of Cincinnati and Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg) (10 mins) online

Presenters:

- 1. Prof Tameshnie Deane** (Vice-Dean: Research, Postgraduate Studies & Internationalisation, Office of the Dean: Law Faculty, University of Free State) *"Starvation as a Weapon: International Law, Humanitarian Norms, and the Right to Food in Conflict Zones"* (10 mins)
- 2. Mr Londani Magau** (Legal Scholar, Complaints Officer at the Consumer Goods and Services Ombud Satellite Office, University of Venda Law Clinic) *"Echoes of War, Pangs of Hunger: The Russo-Ukrainian War on the Right of Access to Sufficient Food in South Africa"* (10 mins) online
- 3. Ms Dieketseng Damane** (Lecturer, University of the Witwatersrand) *"Financial Prejudice Faced by Complainants Seeking Protection Orders in Domestic Violence Disputes"* (10 mins) online
- 4. Mr Sandile Tshabalala** (Master of African Philanthropy Candidate: Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment) *"The Role of Corporate Philanthropy in enhancing the African Union Peace Fund"* (10 mins)
- 5. Mr Zitha Thabiso** (Researcher, University of South Africa) *"Examining the Impact of Gender-Based Violence on Rural Women's Access to Food in South Africa."* (10 mins)

Q & A: 30 mins

17:30 – 17:35

ADJOURNMENT DAY 1

DAY 2 - PROGRAMME - 16 Oct.

Programme Director: **Dr Katlego Letlonkane** (Senior Programme Manager: Diversity Capacity Development, Human Resources: Employment Equity and the Promotion of Diversity, Stellenbosch University)

Co-Programme Director: **Dr Mshai Mwangola** (Vice-President, the Transitional Council of the Society of International Development)

08:00 - 08:30 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

08:30 - 08:35 **Remarks by Programme Director:** **Dr Katlego Letlonkane** (Senior Programme Manager: Diversity Capacity Development, Human Resources: Employment Equity and the Promotion of Diversity, Stellenbosch University)

08:35 - 08:50 **Opening and reflections from Day 1:** **Dr Kefiloe Masiteng** (Head of United Nations Resident Coordinator) (15 mins)

08:50 - 09:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: "Legal Pathways to Food Justice: Bridging Constitutional and Global Duties for Equality, Peace and Sustainable Development"**

Keynote Address 1: **Prof Nico Koopman** (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel, Stellenbosch University) (20 mins)

Keynote Address 2: **Prof Dr Helen Keller** LL.M (Professor of Law, University of Zurich, Judge, Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Membre Associé, Institut de Droit International) (20 mins)

09:30 - 11:00 **PLENARY III: CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Moderator: **Prof Linley Chiwona-Karltun** (Associate Professor in Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry)

Rapporteur: **Mr Akhona Sandaza** (Lecturer, Rosebank College)

Anchor Panellist: **Prof Daniel Kuwali** (Commandant of the National Defence College in Malawi; Extraordinary Professor of International Law, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Visiting Professor at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund University; Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; and a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Army War College. *"From Precipice to Policy Reform: Rethinking Malawi's Approach to Climate Justice"* (10 mins)

Presenters:

1. Mr Mlondolozzi Mvikweni (Master of Laws, Walter Sisulu University) *"Reimagining Private Law as a Tool for Food Security and Climate Justice: Aligning South African Legal Frameworks with the UN Sustainable Development Goals"* (10 mins) online

2. Adv Chris Chinyati (LLD Doctor of Laws Candidate) *"Gender Deconstruction and Empowered Communities: Advancing Climate-Resilient Food Systems for Justice and Sustainability"* (10 mins)

3. Ms Nkopane Thandolwethu (Junior Research Fellow at the Land and Accountability Research Centre, University of Cape Town) *"Green Transitions, Unequal Burdens: Customary land rights and Tenure Insecurity in South Africa's Energy Transition"* (10 mins)

4. Mr Pacharo Kayira (Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland), *"Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience: The Role and Impact of the UN Special Procedure Mechanisms"* (10 mins) online

5. Ms Kim Lamont-Mbawuli (Admitted Attorney, Lecturer, Stadio) *"Renewable Energy in South Africa: Regulatory Evolution, Procurement Pathways, and the Rule of Law in a Just Energy Transition"* (10 mins)

Panelists
have 10 mins
each

Q & A: 30 mins

DAY 2 - PROGRAMME - 16 Oct.

11:00 – 11:30

TEA BREAK | GROUP PHOTO| MEDIA BRIEFING (30 mins)

11:30 - 12:30

PLENARY IV: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND THE LAND-FOOD-AND-ECONOMY-NEXUS

Panelists
have 10 mins
each

Moderator: **Prof Scott Drimie** (Southern Africa Food Lab Director, Stellenbosch University)
Rapporteur: **Dr Mshai Mwangola** (Vice-President, the Transitional Council of the Society of International Development)
Anchor Panellist: **Dr Marlene Roefs** (Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Wageningen University, Netherlands) (10 mins)

Presenters

- 1. Dr Atse Kambo Martial** (General Coordinator of Pan-African Think Do African Network of Young Researchers) *"Food Sovereignty and the Link Between Land, Food and the Economy: The Case of Côte D'Ivoire"* (10 mins) online
- 2. Mrs Oyamangaye Soga** (Senior Manager of the Convergence (HoC), Nelson Mandela University) *"From Margins to Agency: Co-constructing Food Systems Through Land, Economy, Livelihoods and Community Voice"* (10 mins)
- 3. Dr William Manga Mokofe** (Senior lecturer, Chair of Research and Higher Degrees, Walter Sisulu University, Admitted Advocate of the High Court, South Africa, *"Food Sovereignty and Social Justice: Reimagining Law for Transformative Food Systems in South Africa and Beyond"* (10 mins) online

Q & A 20 mins

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH

13:30 – 14:40

PLENARY V: LAND RIGHTS, AGRICULTURE AND ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION

Panelists
have 10 mins
each

Moderator: **Ms Nolundi Luwaya** (Director, Land and Accountability Research Centre, University of Cape Town)
Rapporteur: **Dr Qinisani Qwabe** (Lecturer: Department of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Science, Nelson Mandela University)
Anchor Panellist: **Judge Elmien du Plessis** (Gauteng High Court) (10 mins) online

Presenters:

- 1. Prof Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel** (Professor of Law, Stellenbosch University) *"The potential Impact of the New Expropriation Act on Food Security: Is there Cause for Concern?"* (10 mins)
- 2. Ms Tatenda P Mushaikwa** (Academic Associate, Multidisciplinary Human Rights, LLM Candidate (UP)): *"Customary Land Tenure Insecurity and the Right to Food: A Social Justice Analysis in Zimbabwe and Tanzania"* (10 mins)
- 3. Prof Magnus Killander** (Academic Coordinator: LLM/MPhil Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria) *"Reforming Animal Welfare Legislation and Enforcement to Protect Farm Animals, Food Security and the Environment"* (10 mins) online

Q & A 30 mins

PROGRAMME - 16 Oct.

14:40 - 15:20

Report Back Plenary by Rapporteurs (8 mins each)

15:20 - 16:00

Summation and Adoption of Conference Statement (40 mins)

Judge Dennis Davis (South African Legal Academic, Jurist and Former Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court)

16:00 - 16:30

Closing Ceremony: Certificates of Appreciation to Speakers (30 mins)

Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela (Law Faculty Trust Chair, Professor of Social Justice and Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University);

Ms Ziyanda Ngoma (Head of Partnerships and Development Finance, United Nations)

Dr Marna Lourens (Project Manager and Researcher, Centre for Social Justice, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University)

16:30 - 16:45

CLOSING ADDRESS AND VOTE OF THANKS

Advocate Melanchton Makobe (Acting Director-General of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation)

LINK TO ABSTRACTS

Please find herewith a link to the presenter abstracts on our website:

<https://socialjustice.sun.ac.za/conference-2025/>



ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE PLENARY

Social Justice, Food Security, and Peace: How Useful is the Law

Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela

The paper and presentation will examine food security and its interplay with human rights law, environmental justice and peace through a social justice lens. This will include a brief introduction into key challenges regarding peace, the environment and sustainable development, and the interplay between these and equitable enjoyment of the right to food as a social justice matter; contrasting this reality with the promise entailed in international human rights law and other global guardrails regarding the universal right to food; factoring in a number of acclaimed domestic constitutions, such as South Africa's that commit to both the right to food and social justice and raising questions regarding explanations for the gap and opportunities for transcending it, taking into account the impending SDG deadline and booster initiatives such as the G20 agenda and the Pact of the Future. The methodology will be entirely based on doctrinal research, largely leveraging research observations of the Law Faculty Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University in the last 7 years.

Keywords: law, environmental justice, food security, international law, human rights: peace, social justice

Brazil's Intersectional Approach to Food Justice and Climate Resilience

Prof Murilo Vieira Komniski

Brazil exemplifies the complex interplay of social justice, food security, and climate action. Domestically, policies like the National Food and Nutrition Security Law (2006) and Belo Horizonte's food-as-a-right programmes reduced infant mortality by 90% (1993–2006), lifting Brazil off the UN Hunger Map by 2014. However, institutional dismantling (e.g., abolishing the National Council for Food Security (CONSEA) in 2019) and austerity measures reversed this progress, resulting in food insecurity surging from 7.8% (2013) to 30.7% (2022), disproportionately affecting Black, Indigenous, and rural communities. The reinstatements of CONSEA and the Brazil Without Hunger Plan have reduced severe food insecurity by 24.4 million in 2023, though structural racism and regional inequalities persist.

Globally, Brazil champions solidarity-driven frameworks. As G20 president (2024), it launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty to redirect financial resources toward SDGs, critiquing global military spending (\$2.4 trillion) while advancing South-South cooperation via agroecology knowledge-sharing.

Regionally, it leverages the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to promote climate-resilient food systems, countering deforestation-driven agriculture.

Critical challenges remain, including:

- Climate-food nexus: Droughts disrupt agriculture while 61 million face water insecurity, projected to rise to 74 million by 2035.
- Economic volatility: Food inflation (37.5% in 2019–2022) strained low-income households, especially in the Northeast.
- Governance fragility: Policy continuity remains vulnerable to political shifts.

Brazil's experience underscores four imperatives:

1. Inclusive governance (e.g., CONSEA's civil society participation).
2. Targeted equity measures addressing gender, race, and geography.
3. Climate-adaptive investments (e.g., R\$71.6 billion for family farm agroecology in 2023).
4. Global resource redistribution via alliances like the G20.

Food sovereignty and climate justice require embedding social justice – dismantling structural inequities through solidarity at local and international levels.

Keywords: food sovereignty, CONSEA, agroecology, G20, climate resilience

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PLENARY I: HUNGER, POVERTY, ECONOMY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: ANALYSING SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES IN FOOD ACCESS

Socially Unjust World for Children With Learning Disabilities or Learners With Special Needs

Judge Thando Mankge

This paper aims to spark critical dialogue and calls for an inclusive approach that seeks to pay intentional reverence to the rights of children with learning disabilities ("CWLD") or learners with special needs within the South African education system. The paper also seeks to demonstrate that the current matric qualification (National Senior Certificate), which is the standard set to measure basic qualification in South Africa, indirectly excludes CWLDs from economic opportunities and threatens their constitutional right to adequate food and inherent dignity in their adulthood. The paper demonstrates that this is also a major driver for child crime.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1976, section 27(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, (which guarantees everyone the right to access to sufficient food and water) serves as the framework of this paper. Moreover, the South African open labour market (enthused by the education system) is still using the National Senior Certificate as a foundational phase achievement. The paper therefore demonstrates that CWLDs and neurodiverse children are unable to achieve this standard, resulting in them ultimately experiencing food scarcity in their adulthood.

The writer, having worked in South African courts of law for more than 22 years, has interacted with both child and young adult offenders, and it is this interaction that inspired this paper.

After the introduction of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, offenders without a Grade 12 qualification were arrested and brought to courts in numbers. This prompted an inquiry into the root cause of their criminal behaviours and how they perceive their failure to attain Grade 12 qualifications as influencing their decision-making in committing crimes.

The inquiry adopted a social constructionism approach, guiding the writer to listen and attempt to understand each participant's perceived realities on their reasons for committing a crime. The participants were able to narrate their stories, and they attributed their criminal behaviours to their inability to achieve a matric qualification. The paper shows that the typical response from the participants established that they find themselves struggling for food and resorting to crime to provide for themselves and their families. Statistics from the Department of Basic Education reveal that about 40% of learners who enrol in Grade 1 do not progress to Grade 12. The paper appeals for the tracing of this group of individuals, so that they may be supported in accessing economic opportunities and alleviating poverty caused by the system. This will achieve a fair balance and ensure the fair distribution of resources and opportunities within society.

Keywords: children with learning disabilities, human rights, Grade 12 qualification, food scarcity, inclusive education, social injustice

Innovative Social Protection Interventions Used by the Government of Zambia to Promote Food Justice Among the Poor but Viable Older People and Persons With Disabilities in Rural Zambia During the 2023/2024 National Drought Crisis

Dr Isaac Kabelenga

Zambia, like many other countries in Southern Africa, experienced the worst drought during the 2023/2024 farming season. This resulted in food crises, food poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, among other effects. Among the worst-affected people were older persons and persons with disabilities in rural Zambia. However, in scientific knowledge, little is known about the social protection interventions that the Government of Zambia innovated to promote food justice among the poor but viable older persons and persons with disabilities in rural Zambia. This paper addresses three key questions: (1) What emergency social protection interventions did the Government of Zambia innovate to promote food justice among the poor but viable older people and persons with disabilities in rural Zambia during the 2023/2024 national drought crisis? (2) Which policy, legal, and administrative frameworks guide the promotion of food justice among the poor but viable older persons and persons with disabilities? (3) How did the innovations promote food justice among the poor but viable older people and persons with disabilities?

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To address the research questions raised by this study, a desk review and primary qualitative data collection from key stakeholders were undertaken.

Keywords: drought crisis, food poverty, hunger, poor but viable older persons and persons with disabilities, innovative social protection, food justice, rural Zambia

International Human Rights and Domestic Legal Frameworks Regulating the Right to Food and Adequate Nutrition

Ms Kelly-Anne Cleophas

"Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of justice."¹ The right to food is the foundation upon which all human development is based, and without which no other right can be enjoyed. This paper explores how the right to food has been interpreted within international human rights law and, in particular, how states, like South Africa, have fulfilled their obligations (or not). The paper draws directly on the work of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Within the African human rights context, the paper examines the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which has suggested that, although the right to food does not expressly appear in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, it is implicit because it is inextricably linked to human dignity.

What becomes clear during this exploration is an echoing of the sentiments of the United Nations that "If food insecurity and malnutrition are not randomized conditions, but rather are the results of social and economic systemic inequalities from local to global levels."² In South Africa, systemic inequality has a significant impact on who has access to enough nutritious food and how well social services like grants can help those in need. Although social safety nets, particularly the Social Relief of Distress grant, were created to help those who faced hunger, they frequently fall short of reaching the most vulnerable or offer Jacques Diou, Director-General of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization from January 1994 to 31 December 2011 insufficient assistance due to enduring structural problems like poverty, unemployment, geographic adversity, and rising food prices.

As a result, there is a pattern where food insecurity and malnutrition follow the lines of social inequality rather than occurring at random. The unequal distribution or inaccessibility of social aid exacerbates these disparities. Recent court cases demonstrate how South Africa's grant administration practices might exclude qualified applicants by creating administrative obstacles. As a result, there is a pattern where food insecurity and malnutrition follow the lines of social inequality rather than occurring at random.

The discriminatory distribution or inaccessibility of social assistance directly compounds these inequities. A recent court case painfully demonstrates that South Africa's grant administration can exclude eligible individuals due to bureaucratic hurdles or gaps in outreach, reinforcing hunger among the country's poorest and most vulnerable. Only when social assistance actively bridges these gaps and addresses systemic disadvantage—rather than sustaining it via inadequacy or inaccessibility—is it truly just.

Hunger, Poverty, and the Law: Reimagining India's Right to Food Through the Lens of Social Justice and Economic Equality

Mr V Ravindran

With its diverse population, India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. It has made significant efforts in ensuring economic and social development for all. Yet the persistence of hunger and malnutrition presents a sobering paradox in the country. According to the Global Hunger Index 2024, India ranks 105th out of 127 countries, with a score of 27.3, categorised as a "serious level of hunger." Various indicators like 13.7% of the undernourished population, 35.5% of the children under five having stunted growth, and 18.7% are wasted, which is the highest rate across the globe, reflect the seriousness of this issue. Additionally, over 195 people are undernourished, and 57% of women and 67% of children are anaemic.

This research paper argues that food insecurity in India cannot be understood solely through an economic lens but must be recognised as a cause of deeper legal, institutional, and social exclusions. It critically evaluates the National Food Security Act, 2013, the public distribution system, and the newly introduced One Nation One Ration and other related schemes, analysing their performance in upholding the constitutional guarantee of the Right to Food under article 21 of the Constitution of India.

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While these legal frameworks establish the rights of individuals, their implementation is frequently undermined by systemic inefficiencies, decentralised corruption, and inadequate grievance redressal mechanisms.

Further, this paper examines the jurisprudential evolution of the Right to Food, particularly in light of the Supreme Court of India's intervention in *PUCL v Union of India*, 2001. It is very evident from the data available on hunger and poverty in India that the apex court's welfare-oriented approach, though very progressive in intent, has fallen short in addressing access to food due to structural barriers in the country. Marginalised communities like Dalits, Tribes, Women, and Informal Workers face many issues like digital exclusion due to Aadhaar-linked rationing, non-justiciability of nutrition rights, and weak accountability structures, which hinder Access to Justice.

The paper calls for a rights-based framework that places legal accountability, social equity, and distributive justice at the centre of food security governance. By reimagining hunger as a form of structural injustice rather than mere economic deprivation, this study seeks to further the constitutional values of equality, dignity, and social justice in India's ongoing struggle against poverty and hunger.

Keywords: hunger, food security, right to food, structural injustice, social equity

Ensuring Food Security Through Fair Markets: An Analysis of Competition Law and the Right to Food in South Africa

Dr Precious Nonhlanhla Ndlovu

South African competition law, as outlined in the Competition Act 89 of 1998, aims to promote economic efficiency, consumer welfare, and address anti-competitive activities that affect the domestic economy. In promoting free and fair markets, the Act also emphasises equity goals such as employment, socio-economic welfare, participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the inclusion of historically disadvantaged persons (HDPs) in the economy. As with all law, the Act must align with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and South Africa's international obligations, and, where relevant, to ensure the realisation of fundamental rights like the right to food, which is linked to other rights such as dignity, life, health, water, education, work, and social security. These fundamental rights are applicable when evaluating anti-competitive practices by private entities, such as firms, because the Bill of Rights also applies horizontally.

In 2021, the Constitutional Court ruled that consumers' socio-economic rights can be impacted by anti-competitive practices, as prohibited by the Competition Act. This is because the entire food supply chain is subject to competition restraints, from production to consumption. Therefore, the competition authorities, namely, the Competition Commission, Competition Tribunal, and Competition Appeal Court, have a constitutional obligation to apply the Act's enforcement and remedial framework to address anti-competitive practices in the food supply chain, in ways that improve food security and related human rights.

Consequently, the Competition Commission, as the principal investigator, has identified aspects of the food supply chain as one of its priority areas of enforcement.

This paper makes four main recommendations, which centre around this prioritisation. First, the Commission must employ its newly introduced remedial powers under market inquiries to craft remedies that directly improve food security when investigating food supply chain markets. Second, the competition authorities must prioritise food security when applying equity objectives in the evaluation of mergers and anti-competitive practices by dominant firms, to support SMEs and HDPs in the food supply chain. Third, the granting of exemptions under the Act must also promote innovation and investment in agriculture through incentives for research and development, as this can contribute to improved food production and distribution. Finally, targeted collaboration between the Commission and sector regulators involved in the food supply chain.

Food Security Begins with Legal Security: Informal Workers and the Architecture of Inclusion

Ms Pamela Baloyi

In a world marked by economic turbulence, political unrest, and deepening inequality, the struggle for food security cannot be separated from the struggle for social justice. The story of Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian street vendor whose self-immolation sparked the Arab Spring, reveals a powerful truth: hunger is not

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only a condition of poverty, but of exclusion.

Around the globe, millions of street vendors disproportionately women, migrants, are systemically denied legal recognition, secure trading spaces, and economic rights. They occupy the frontlines of food access and play a distinctive and indispensable role in ensuring affordable, culturally appropriate, and proximate food for urban and peri-urban populations. Yet, despite their centrality to local food systems, they are routinely excluded from legal protection, denied trading rights, and displaced from public spaces through punitive bylaws and spatial planning regimes.

This paper argues that advancing food security requires reimagining it as not only a question of production and distribution, but also one of legal and institutional inclusion. Informal traders are not merely economic actors but vital agents of food justice whose ability to operate safely and sustainably determines whether millions can access nutritious food daily. The paper draws on comparative insights from the Global South, including *Makwicana v eThekweni Municipality*, to show how legal exclusion undermines constitutional values of dignity, equality, and livelihood security.

To address these systemic barriers, the paper proposes targeted reforms such as, but not limited to, municipal bylaws that recognise trading as a legitimate livelihood and prohibit arbitrary confiscations; inclusive spatial planning that allocates secure, serviced, and accessible trading sites within urban design; simplified licensing and registration systems that promote compliance without erecting barriers to entry; and proportionate hygiene and safety standards co-designed with traders to protect public health while sustaining livelihoods.

By embedding these reforms within rights-based frameworks, municipalities can transform informal trading from a site of conflict into a cornerstone of resilient, equitable, and community-rooted food systems. Recognising informal traders as partners in achieving food security is not only a matter of policy efficiency, but also an imperative of social justice and constitutional transformation.

PLENARY II: WAR, VIOLENCE (INCLUDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN) AND ACCESS TO FOOD.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's Continuing Guidance Regarding Food Security for the Protection of Girls Before, During, and After Armed Conflict

Dr Jan Marie Fritz

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted by 189 governments in 1995. The document has been called "the world's most comprehensive, visionary plan ever created to achieve the equal rights of ALL women and girls," and it is now 30 years since it was put in place. The Declaration contains 36 basic points, and the Platform for Action focuses on 12 critical areas of concern. Food security is mentioned 28 times in the document. After discussing the current situation of children in armed conflict, the advice on food security is critically analysed. The final section of the paper discusses the ongoing guidance provided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as potential additions.

Starvation as a Weapon: International Law, Humanitarian Norms, and the Right to Food in Conflict Zones

Prof Tameshnie Deane

In protracted armed conflicts, hunger is increasingly weaponised against civilians, particularly women and children, transforming food deprivation into a deliberate tactic of war. This paper argues that while international legal frameworks, such as the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute, recognise starvation as a war crime, they remain insufficient in addressing the systemic violence inherent in the weaponisation of hunger.

By critically examining the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the paper advocates for a multi-layered legal approach to the right to food, extending beyond criminal prosecution to encompass reparations, structural injunctions, and community-based resilience initiatives. Drawing on African jurisprudence, it highlights landmark decisions by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and South Africa's Constitutional Court, which affirm the right to food as central to human dignity and equality.

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Using qualitative case studies from Yemen, South Sudan, and Gaza, the paper demonstrates how starvation operates not merely as a by-product of conflict but as a targeted instrument of violence. It critiques the limitations of retributive justice and proposes a framework for accountability that integrates legal enforcement with humanitarian interventions. Further, the study interrogates the gendered dimensions of starvation tactics by combining gender-sensitive legal analysis with insights from humanitarian policy. It underscores the need for gender-responsive programming and community-led efforts to restore dignity and agency to those most affected.

By framing starvation as both a legal violation and a social justice crisis, the paper charts actionable pathways toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Ultimately, it calls for the full integration of the right to food into conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery processes.

Keywords: weaponised starvation, international humanitarian law, right to food, armed conflicts, gender-sensitive humanitarian aid, food insecurity in conflict zones

Echoes of War, Pangs of Hunger: The Russo-Ukrainian War on the Right of Access to Sufficient Food in South Africa

Mr L Magau & Dr TM Sikhitha

This paper examines the effect of the Russo-Ukrainian war, beginning in February 2022, on South Africa's right of access to sufficient food, highlighting vulnerabilities in the country's food security. It analyses how disruptions to global supplies of key imports, especially wheat and sunflower oil, essential for staples like bread, have caused prices to rise by over 35% between 2022 and 2024. Given South Africa's reliance on imports for about 30% of its food, including approximately 34% of wheat from Russia and Ukraine combined and 4% of sunflower oil from Ukraine, the paper explores how increased transportation costs and inflation exacerbate food insecurity. This study assesses how existing legal and policy frameworks, shaped by liberal market principles, have unintentionally hindered local food production and left the country vulnerable to international supply shocks. Using a doctrinal methodology, the paper evaluates the "reasonableness" of government measures as required by section 27(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, which obliges the state to take reasonable steps to realise the right to food. Finally, it proposes legal and policy reforms aimed at promoting food self-sufficiency to better protect this right during global conflicts such as the Russo-Ukrainian war.

Keywords: war, right of access to sufficient food

Financial Prejudice Faced by Complainants Seeking Protection Orders in Domestic Violence Disputes

Ms Dieketseng Damane, Ms Kim Lamont-Mbawuli & Ms Katlego Booysen

While South Africa's Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998 (DVA) provides a vital legal mechanism for survivors of domestic violence through the issuance of protection orders, the process of seeking such relief often results in unintended economic consequences for complainants. Despite its protective aims, the DVA does not guarantee mandatory financial support for survivors, offering only discretionary maintenance orders under section 7(2)(c), which are inconsistently applied. As a result, survivors – particularly women in low-income households and rural areas – are often left economically vulnerable after engaging the justice system.

Empirical evidence supports this systemic failure. A 2020 report by the Heinrich Böll Foundation revealed that survivors frequently suffer economic retaliation, including eviction from shared residences, withdrawal of financial support, and coercive pressure to abandon protection orders in exchange for material security. These findings are echoed in the South African Law Reform Commission's Discussion Paper 100, which highlights persistent structural barriers to justice, including limited access to legal aid, lack of emergency housing, and poor interdepartmental coordination.

This reality stands in tension with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, particularly section 9 (equality), section 10 (human dignity), section 12 (1)(c) (freedom from private violence), and sections 26 and 27, which guarantee the rights to adequate housing and social security. It also undermines South Africa's obligations under international law, including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women General Recommendation 19, which recognises economic abuse as a form

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of gender-based violence (GBV), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). GBV often leads directly to food insecurity as survivors lose access to income, housing, and control over household resources. In contexts where women rely financially on their abusers, leaving an abusive relationship can result in immediate deprivation of basic needs, particularly for those with dependents. This intersection of GBV and food insecurity is especially prevalent in female-headed households, which are statistically more vulnerable to poverty and hunger.

This abstract provides that the legal framework inadequately protects complainants from material insecurity and inadvertently deters survivors from pursuing justice. Ultimately, this paper contends that recognising and remedying economic vulnerability is essential to fulfilling South Africa's constitutional and international commitments, and to ensuring the law serves as a true instrument of protection rather than a trigger for further harm.

The Role of Corporate Philanthropy in enhancing the African Union Peace Fund

Abstract: The African Union Peace Fund in advancing food security for children in armed conflict: the case of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr Sandile Tshabalala

This study explores the role of corporate philanthropy in enhancing the operational capacity of the African Union Peace Fund. It aims to accelerate the Fund's efforts towards food security interventions as a means to safeguard the rights of children against armed conflict in Africa. To achieve this objective, the study focuses on corporate philanthropy as an alternative resource mobilisation route for the African Union Peace Fund, particularly in relation to child protection and access to food, nutrition, and psychosocial support. The presence of the M23 rebels in Goma, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has displaced many children, disrupted social stability, and increased vulnerability to disease, homelessness, and lack of access to social services, education, healthcare, and sanitation. As a result, children in humanitarian camps are at high risk of malnutrition due to limited access to food security and nutritious meals.

In Karisimbi, many children under the age of five suffer from severe acute malnutrition, while pregnant or breastfeeding women are also at risk. Armed conflict reduces the availability of health and nutrition services, as evident in Goma, primarily affecting children and thus infringing on their inherent human dignity. Drawing from qualitative methods using semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis, the study specifically examines the following objectives: investigating how the African Union Peace Fund can develop strategic partnerships with the private sector and high-net-worth individuals.

This study is significant in its focus on food security and nutrition in humanitarian camps, an area of study often overlooked, particularly regarding how children die of malnutrition due to their inability to access food. The African Union Peace Fund can prioritise its interventions, with support from corporate philanthropy in Africa, to eliminate the deaths of children in armed conflict from acute malnutrition, lack of diet diversification, and chronic undernutrition. The study aims to contribute to understanding how partnerships and tax incentives can strengthen child protection initiatives in armed conflict communities by establishing secure safe corridors for food security supply and aid delivery, ensuring timeliness to protect the best interests of the child in Goma, DRC.

Keywords: food security, nutrition, corporate philanthropy, African Union Peace Fund, children's rights

Examining the Impact of Gender-Based Violence on Rural Women's Access to Food in South Africa

Mr Zitha Thabiso

South Africa continues to record high levels of gender-based violence (GBV), with rural areas and townships carrying a disproportionate burden due to entrenched poverty, patriarchal norms, and systemic inequality. This paper explores the intersection of GBV and women's economic disempowerment within local food systems, demonstrating how violence undermines the realisation of constitutionally protected rights to equality, dignity, and access to sufficient food. South Africa's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) establish a clear legal imperative to address GBV as both a human rights violation and a structural

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barrier to food security. Using a qualitative approach, this study draws on existing literature to understand the lived experiences of women affected by both food insecurity and GBV, with case material from different provinces.

Findings suggest the multiple ways in which women's access to land, agricultural production, and sustainable incomes is cut by violence in the household, the community, and institutional settings. Research suggests that many women are compelled into precarious survival strategies, including exploitative labour arrangements and transactional relationships, to provide food for their families. These practices not only perpetuate cycles of poverty and dependency but also erode women's agency and ability to participate in local economies on equitable terms.

The paper situates these findings within South Africa's broader social justice mandate, which calls for transformation, equity, and inclusion in addressing historical and structural disadvantage. It contends that food security cannot be meaningfully advanced without tackling the everyday and structural violence that impedes women's autonomy and economic participation.

In response, the paper proposes a range of legal and policy reforms: the enforcement of constitutional rights through stronger accountability mechanisms; the expansion of protective legislation that explicitly links GBV prevention with economic and food security measures; the prioritisation of women's access to land through land reform and redistribution initiatives; and the development of community-driven support structures that integrate social protection, counselling, and livelihood programmes.

Notably, the paper argues that this is also an opportunity for traditional leaders and local government to intervene, by using their authority to protect women, facilitate equitable land access, and support community-driven initiatives that link safety with food security. Subsequently, by linking GBV, food insecurity, and constitutional rights within a justice-oriented framework, this study contributes to debates on how South Africa can move beyond rhetorical commitments to substantive equality and transformation. It concludes that reducing GBV and securing women's economic justice must be treated as central components of achieving national food security, rather than as parallel or secondary policy concerns.

Keywords: gender-based violence, food insecurity, women's economic disempowerment, rural areas, inequality

PLENARY III: CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

From Precipice to Policy Reform: Rethinking Malawi's Approach to Climate Justice

Prof Dan Kuwali

Malawi's economic policy framework is constrained by entrenched structural and institutional weaknesses that undermine the realisation of constitutionally guaranteed socio-economic rights. The existing fiscal and sectoral policies prioritise macroeconomic stability and elite interests, often at the expense of inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and human security. Despite constitutional mandates for health, environmental protection, and development, Malawi's economic governance has failed to systematically integrate climate resilience, food security, and equitable resource distribution into its core policy objectives. Climate change, which exacerbates poverty, food insecurity, and forced displacement, remains insufficiently addressed within key policy sectors, including agriculture, energy, and land use. The country's reliance on rain-fed subsistence agriculture and extractive industries leaves both rural and urban populations acutely vulnerable to climate-induced shocks. Policy incoherence, especially in agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development, further erodes pathways to sustainable development, intergenerational equity, and human security. The paper highlights that Malawi has not fully leveraged emerging climate finance mechanisms such as carbon credits, which offer both environmental and economic benefits.

Properly regulated carbon credit schemes – particularly those linked to afforestation, conservation agriculture, and clean energy transitions – can serve as critical tools for climate mitigation and revenue generation. However, the current regulatory vacuum, lack of technical capacity, and limited institutional coordination risk turning carbon markets into vehicles for elite capture rather than inclusive development. The failure to embed carbon market policy within a constitutional framework of transparency, equity, and public participation reflects broader governance challenges. This paper interrogates the constitutionality and efficacy of Malawi's economic policy frameworks in mitigating climate change and safeguarding human security, including food security.

Using doctrinal and analytical methods, it assesses the alignment of current policies with constitutional

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provisions such as section 7 (people-centred governance), section 8 (inclusive policymaking), and section 13 (n) (balanced economic development and environmental stewardship).

The paper concludes that climate-responsive, participatory, and rights-based economic governance – including a constitutional approach to carbon credit policy – is essential to fulfilling Malawi's development and climate justice obligations.

Keywords: carbon credits, climate change, human security, food security, constitutional governance, economic justice, climate finance, public participation, policy reform

Reimagining Private Law as a Tool for Food Security and Climate Justice: Aligning South African Legal Frameworks with the UN SDGs

Mr Mlondolazi Mvikweni

This study reimagines South African private law as a transformative tool for advancing food security and climate justice, aligning domestic legal frameworks with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It critically examines private law doctrines, including contractual clauses, tort liability, and fiduciary duties, and how they can either facilitate or obstruct socio-environmental justice. The analysis explicitly situates private law reforms within South Africa's broader social justice mandate, emphasising constitutional rights such as the right to food, equality, and human dignity, underpinned by principles of equity, transformation, and inclusion.

Using doctrinal and critical legal methodologies, the study interrogates the capacity of private law to address vulnerability and enhance resilience in food systems amid climate change. It foregrounds the role of private law in mitigating environmental harm, ensuring fair and inclusive contractual relations, and imposing fiduciary responsibilities on powerful actors affecting food security and environmental sustainability. The anticipated findings demonstrate that private law can catalyse meaningful progress on climate justice and food security if reformed to integrate constitutional values and international commitments, recognising property rights as socio-economic entitlements bound by justice and inclusion. This interdisciplinary approach broadens the discourse beyond conventional public law, positioning private law as a critical vehicle for implementing justice-oriented policy and legal reforms to improve food access and environmental stewardship.

Keywords: private law; food security; climate justice; social justice; sustainable development goals

Gender Deconstruction and Empowered Communities: Advancing Climate-Resilient Food Systems for Justice and Sustainability

Adv Chris Chinyati

In many African contexts, climate change and gender inequality function as compound-ing threat multipliers within already inequitable food systems. This paper critically examines the intersection of gender, climate change, and food governance, advocating for a paradigm shift towards inclusive and climate-resilient food systems shaped by empowered communities. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of environmental shocks due to entrenched structural inequalities in access to information, decision-making power, and economic resources. The aftermath of climate-related disasters frequently exacerbates cycles of poverty, exclusion, and food insecurity among marginalised populations.

Methodologically, this study employs normative legal analysis, comparative African policy review, and community-level practices – including women-led seed banks, informal markets, and cooperatives – to illustrate how gender-responsive governance frameworks can enhance resilience.

Anchored in the social justice mandate of the International Social Justice Commission, the analysis is situated within constitutional guarantees of the right to food, equality, and dignity, applying social justice principles of equity, transformation, and inclusion. Furthermore, it examines states' obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Maputo Protocol, and Sustainable Development Goal 5, demonstrating how these frameworks obligate governments to eradicate discrimination and secure women's rights to food, land, and sustainable development.

The paper proposes a tripartite policy framework that (i) strengthens citizen participation and civil society voices in food governance; (ii) promotes agro-biodiversity and local food systems; and (iii) supports infor-

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mal markets as critical anchors for community resilience. By linking grassroots practices with legal and policy frameworks, the study demonstrates that dismantling gendered power structures is essential not only for equity but also for sustainable and actionable responses to climate change and food insecurity, offering concrete pathways for policy and practice.

Green Transitions, Unequal Burdens: Customary land rights and Tenure Insecurity in South Africa's Energy Transition

Ms Nkopane Thandolwethu

The global push to combat climate change is centred on transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Meeting net-zero targets by 2050 will require a sixfold increase in the supply of critical minerals, framed as an opportunity for industrial growth, job creation, and economic expansion. In South Africa, exploration budgets have increased, particularly for transition metals such as copper, nickel, and lithium, which raises the potential for intensified mining activities. However, South Africa's mining history is marred by dispossession and the impoverishment of rural communities.

While several policies have been adopted to facilitate the energy transition, there is limited engagement on how this transition will affect tenure security, particularly for customary communities whose land rights are considered informal, frequently unrecorded, and vulnerable to encroachment. Tenure security provides individuals and communities with legal protection against arbitrary evictions and land dispossession. Secure tenure also enhances investment in land, enhancing food productivity and investments.

Its inclusion in Sustainable Development Goal 1, as an enabler for poverty reduction, situates a secure tenure as a sine qua non for economic development, equality, and poverty reduction. The African Union also requires states involved in large-scale land-based investment to respect and protect customary land rights. Nonetheless, South Africa's legal framework does not adequately safeguard customary land rights. The persistent disregard for the provisions of the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act 31 of 1996 (IPILRA) in mining projects, especially the failure to secure free, prior, and informed consent, is likely to be exacerbated under the current trajectory, deepening tenure insecurity.

This paper critically analyses South Africa's energy transition framework, arguing that without a distributive justice, it risks reproducing colonial patterns and relegating rural areas to sacrifice zones. This reflects the logic of "green extractivism," where the framing of the transition as a climate solution obscures its socio-environmental costs. Through a review of legal instruments such as the Expropriation Act 13 of 2024 and the amended Mineral Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 (MRDA), the paper demonstrates how current laws consolidate power among elites while marginalising rural communities and threatening their constitutional right to a secure tenure.

Keywords: green extractivism, customary law, tenure security, energy transition, critical minerals

Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience: The Role and Impact of the UN Special Procedure Mechanisms

Mr Pacharo Kayira

The pursuit of equality, solidarity, and sustainable development requires systemic legislative and policy reforms, supported by robust, efficient, and effective human rights mechanisms to advocate, monitor, and set standards for global measures. The Special Procedures (SPs) are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The system is an integral element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights. SPs such as Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food, on Human Rights and the Environment, on Climate Change, and on Extreme Poverty, along with the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, have highlighted food sustainability, environmental degradation, climate change effects, and the social justice and human rights aspects of food sustainability. This has been achieved within the Human Rights Council framework by shaping global standards on these matters, with a reinforced focus on achieving the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals 2, 13, and 16.

This paper presents case-based illustrations of how the SPs have influenced state practice, domestic, and regional litigation in deploying national food strategies, recognition of clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. Further, I examine how international and regional instruments have applied the emerging standards not only regarding SDGs, but also due to the influence of the SPs.

ABSTRACTS

The Energy Transition in South Africa: Regulatory Evolution, Procurement Pathways, and the Rule of Law in a Just Energy Transition

Dr Kim Lamont-Mbawuli, Ms Dieketseng Damane & Ms Rumbidzai Kamurai

In a world where access to energy intersects with socio-economic rights, environmental justice, and industrial policy, how do we reconcile rapid decarbonisation with a legally sound, inclusive, and equitable transition? South Africa's energy transition, which includes a diversified energy mix of renewables, low-carbon emitting alternatives, and residual fossil fuels, presents a significant opportunity to restructure the power sector. However, this transition must involve more than just shifting the energy mix; it must meaningfully address historical inequalities, energy poverty, and food insecurity, thereby advancing substantive social justice.

As South Africa confronts an unprecedented energy crisis amidst global climate imperatives, its pivot to renewable energy reveals a complex web of legal, regulatory, and institutional challenges. At the heart of this inquiry lies the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), an internationally lauded model for attracting private investment into renewable energy. Despite its successes, the REIPPPP faces mounting obstacles, including transmission infrastructure bottlenecks, delays in project rollouts, and concerns over transparency, scalability, and inclusive development. While the recent amendments to Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act 4 of 2006 (ERA) removed licensing thresholds for embedded generation, marking a significant regulatory milestone, questions persist about whether this liberalisation adequately ensures access, affordability, and fairness across diverse socio-economic groups. Beyond regulatory reform, the energy transition must be grounded in constitutional values, notably dignity, equality, and access to socio-economic rights under sections 26 and 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Food insecurity is directly exacerbated by energy deprivation and poverty in a manner that reveals a cyclical relationship between economic exclusion and gendered harm. This is evidenced by the fact that in rural and peri-urban areas, where informal energy usage remains prevalent, the lack of equitable energy infrastructure development risks perpetuating spatial and economic marginalisation.

This paper critically examines the constitutional implications of municipal procurement autonomy in light of embedded generation reforms and the liberalisation objectives of the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill. It considers whether the existing legal and institutional frameworks are adequate to support a just and equitable electricity market, consistent with the constitutional principles of equality, administrative justice, and cooperative governance. It argues that without the integration of food and energy justice into the legal framework, the transition risks entrenching socio-economic disparities under the guise of environmental reform. A truly transformative energy law must prioritise redistribution, universal access, and participatory governance to fulfil the Constitution's mandate of substantive equality and social justice.

PLENARY IV: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND THE LAND-FOOD-AND-ECONOMY-NEXUS

Food Sovereignty and the Link Between Land, Food, and the Economy: The Case of Côte D'Ivoire

Dr Atse Kambo Martial

Although Côte d'Ivoire is a recognised agricultural powerhouse, it faces a paradox: it remains dependent on imports to feed its population. This imbalance stems from the priority given to cash crops (cocoa, rubber, oil palm) at the expense of food crops. Land issues, access to land, growing food dependency, and low local processing capacity limit the country's food sovereignty. A strategic reorientation is necessary to ensure the sustainable, inclusive, and resilient autonomy of its food system.

Structural food dependency is measured by imports of more than 1.5 million tons of rice, fish, milk, wheat, and oils, representing more than US\$ 3.33 billion. Côte d'Ivoire imports 60% of its food needs, even though the country has 80% of arable land that has not been exploited for decades, leading to the decline of certain local food crops and the devaluation of local knowledge. There is low economic value placed on food production, with little financial support for smallholder farming (less than 5% of the national budget), poorly structured food value chains, and low local processing. Food production is seen as subsistence farming rather than a driver of growth. Food sovereignty requires subsidies for food inputs and financing for local production, the creation of a national fund for food sovereignty, and the integration of food sovereignty into economic and trade policies. Food sovereignty is a strategic pillar for Côte d'Ivoire's resilience and economic independence. It requires equitable land policies, strong support for food agriculture, and structural transformation of food systems. It is time to make land and food the drivers of a sovereign national economy.

ABSTRACTS

From Margins to Agency: Co-constructing Food Systems Through Land, Economy, Livelihoods and Community Voice.

Ms Oyamangaye Soga, Mr Bongani Gocina, Ms Amy de Raedt, Mr Pushetji Leshilo & Dr Bruce Damons

This paper explores the co-construction of a sustainable South African food systems framework through a participatory action learning and action research (PALAR) methodology, foregrounding the lived experiences of historically marginalised communities. Anchored in Ericksen's food systems framework, Ellen, Harris, and Parks' articulation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and Food Regime Theory, the study critically interrogates the intersections of land, food, livelihoods, and economy. South Africa's legacies of dispossession and structural inequality continue to shape contemporary food systems, restricting access to adequate nutrition for over 16 million people, while climate shocks and globalised food regimes further undermine local economies.

Methodologically, the paper positions PALAR not only as a participatory tool but as an analytical framework that enables reflexive cycles of inquiry and action across multistakeholder platforms. This approach illuminates the socio-political, ecological, and economic drivers that constrain food accessibility and sovereignty, while foregrounding community voice as a site of epistemic justice. Emerging findings demonstrate that transdisciplinary and co-produced food governance rooted in contextual realities and inclusive knowledge systems has the potential to strengthen resilience and equity. Indigenous food practices and cultural knowledge, frequently marginalised in policy discourse, are shown to be central to advancing sustainable livelihoods and ecological balance.

The paper argues that achieving food sovereignty demands more than remedial interventions. It requires structural transformation that redistributes land, resources, and decision-making power. Embedding local knowledge into food system design, supporting ecological farming practices, and democratising governance processes are proposed as pathways toward decolonised and socially just food futures. In doing so, the study contributes to methodological and theoretical debates on participatory, context-responsive approaches to food system transformation.

Food Sovereignty and Social Justice: Reimagining Law for Transformative Food Systems in South Africa and Beyond

Dr William Manga Mokofe & Prof Evance Kalula

Food sovereignty has emerged as a critical paradigm for confronting the structural injustices that perpetuate hunger, dispossession, and inequality across the Global South and North. In South Africa, the struggle for food sovereignty is deeply intertwined with constitutional rights to dignity, equality, and access to food, as well as broader imperatives of social and economic transformation. Despite progressive policy frameworks such as the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, systemic exclusion persists. Historical land dispossession continues to intersect with contemporary forces of market liberalisation and crop commodification, undermining smallholder livelihoods and weakening community resilience. Landmark Constitutional Court decisions, including *Grootboom* and *Mazibuko*, illustrate the limits of socio-economic rights litigation when deeper structural barriers remain intact.

Through a comparative lens, the paper engages with Kenya's constitutional right to food, India's National Food Security Act, Malawi's Farm Input Subsidy Programme, and the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. These examples reveal both the potential and shortcomings of current legal frameworks, particularly in how subsidies, tenure systems, and water rights often entrench corporate concentration and marginalisation. Situating this analysis within international and regional instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, the paper underscores the urgency of embedding food sovereignty into binding commitments.

The central argument is that genuine food justice requires more than piecemeal reforms: it demands a transformative reimagining of law as an initiative-taking tool for equity, inclusion, sustainability, and participatory democracy. By positioning food as a fundamental entitlement rather than a market commodity, legal systems can reconcile the physical and economic dimensions of access with broader commitments to redress and transformation. In doing so, the paper advances the social justice mandate of the conference, highlighting how food sovereignty offers a pathway for constitutional rights, social justice principles,

and international commitments to converge in shaping inclusive, justice-oriented legal and policy reforms. Ultimately, the paper calls for a transformative approach to law, one that repositions food as a fundamental entitlement rather than a market commodity. Such an approach must reconcile the physical and economic dimensions of access with broader commitments to redress and inclusion. By foregrounding food sovereignty within the social justice mandate of the conference, the paper contributes to the urgent task of building inclusive, justice-oriented legal and policy frameworks that reflect the lived realities of marginalised communities.

Keywords: food sovereignty; social justice; constitutional rights; transformative law; participatory democracy.

PLENARY V: LAND RIGHTS, AGRICULTURE AND ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Potential Impact of the New Expropriation Act on Food Security: Is There Cause for Concern?

Prof Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel

The potential impact of the new Expropriation Act on food security: Is there cause for concern? In line with the aims and objectives of this conference, this paper investigates the potential implications of the new Expropriation Act 13 of 2024 on food security. More specifically, the paper assesses whether the current provisions of the Act that allow for expropriation at nil compensation impact productive land, which could potentially affect food security. The enquiry focuses on the following question: Is there cause for concern that the provisions of the Act will impact food security? The underlying assumption of the paper is that the instances of nil compensation are limited, and the provisions of the Expropriation Act, as they stand, do not per se envisage the expropriation of commercial or productive land. Nonetheless, expropriating productive commercial farms in favour of beneficiaries who lack the means to ensure continued production could have potentially severe consequences for food security. The lack of capital, investment, and access to adequate support for small and rural landholders could also lead to agricultural production dropping significantly. These factors emphasise the importance of ensuring suitable criteria for identifying appropriate land for expropriation, as it has far-reaching implications not only for the current landowner and the recipient but also for the (food) systems currently in place. The importance of post-settlement support in expropriations cannot be overemphasised to ensure that the fear of compromised food security does not take place. We need to ensure that resilience is strengthened in the expropriation process so that beneficiaries of land reform are empowered to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the enterprise post-settlement. It will be determined whether the proposed Act advances or inhibits this endeavour.

The Role of Customary Tenure Insecurity in Undermining the Right to Food: A Case Study of Zimbabwe and Tanzania

Ms Tatenda P Mushaikwa

Dispossession of land disrupts access to seed systems, grazing areas, and livestock, which are crucial for food production and livelihood in rural communities. This paper examines how state-sanctioned displacements rooted in insecure customary and indigenous land tenure systems amount to violations of the right to food and other fundamental human rights in Zimbabwe and Tanzania. Such evictions undermine human dignity, equality, adequate housing, and cultural rights, reinforcing social injustice.

In both countries, communal or village land is vested in the State or the President. This legal framework often prioritises government-endorsed investment or conservation initiatives over the subsistence needs of local communities. The framework is inherently exclusionary, preserves elitism in land use, and undermines social justice principles such as inclusion and structural transformation. Using a qualitative desktop methodology, the study analyses two cases: the proposed relocation of Zimbabwe's Chilonga community to make way for a lucerne grass project, and the violent displacement of Tanzania's Maasai people for wildlife conservation. These cases reveal structural weaknesses in the legal recognition and protection of customary tenure, exposing communities to forced displacements and violations of the right to food. Drawing from statutory instruments, court records, media reports, academic literature, and legal framework, the paper uses content analysis to demonstrate how insecure tenure can systematically undermine the right to food. The paper concludes with a call to reposition the right to food as central to land governance frameworks. It argues for a food rights-based approach as a guiding principle for tenure security and social justice.

Reforming animal welfare legislation and enforcement to protect farm animals, humans, and the environment**Prof Magnus Killander**

This paper examines the efficacy of South Africa's Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 (APA) in regulating the animal-industrial complex, with a specific focus on factory farming, and questions whether new legislation is necessary to address the prevalent animal abuse within this sector. Despite growing scientific understanding of animal sentience and the Constitutional Court's recognition of animals' intrinsic value, South African law and regulation have lagged, with the APA being over half a century old and lacking supporting regulations.

Intensive factory farming, while providing cheap food, leads to short, brutish lives for animals. It contributes to the spread of zoonotic diseases like avian and swine flu and has a considerable environmental impact, particularly through methane emissions from cattle. The paper details the historical and philosophical approaches to animal welfare, noting the limited concern in international law. While South African National Standards and industry guidelines exist for certain farm animals, their voluntary nature and often vague provisions undermine their effectiveness.

Ultimately, the paper argues for a revision of the APA and the adoption of concrete regulations and enforcement mechanisms to improve animal welfare. It acknowledges the challenge of balancing animal welfare with socio-economic rights in an unequal country like South Africa. However, it suggests that improving animal welfare, even with slightly higher prices, is a more sustainable path than current practices or reducing meat consumption through additional taxation. This reform is critical not only for animal well-being but also for human health and environmental sustainability, aligning with the "One Health" approach that recognises the interdependence of human, animal, and ecosystem health. The proposed reforms would contribute to more sustainable agricultural practices, addressing critical issues of food insecurity and environmental impact within the broader conference theme.

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The 6th Social Justice Conference

Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World:

Advancing **Food Justice** and **Climate Resilience** in pursuit of
Equality, Solidarity and **Sustainable Development**

"[T]he right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and is also inseparable from social justice"

– **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, "General Comment No 12: The Right to Adequate Food (Art 11 of the Covenant)" (12 May 1999) UN Doc E/C.12/1999/5 para 8.

Introduction and Background

The 6th International Social Justice Conference (ISJC), themed *Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World: Advancing Food Justice and Climate Resilience in pursuit of Equality, Solidarity and Sustainable Development*, builds on the legacy of five prior conferences that have shaped global discourse on social justice. Previous ISJCs have convened scholars, legal practitioners, policymakers and civil society to address systemic inequalities, producing actionable frameworks for human rights, constitutional protections and policy reform. Insights from past conferences, including robust discussions on the right to food, have underscored the interconnectedness of inequality, poverty and hunger as social justice imperatives. These efforts have informed regional and global advocacy, including the Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger—an initiative launched in 2024 under Brazil's G20 Presidency, as a flagship initiative to advance sustainable development goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger).¹

In 2025, the ISJC seeks to leverage the final lap of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, South Africa's G20 Presidency under the theme *Fostering Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability*, and the Copenhagen Declaration review, to reflect on the critical nexus of hunger, poverty, equality, solidarity and sustainability. The ISJC will deepen these discussions by fostering transformative dialogue among academics, legal professionals, judges, policymakers and civil society researchers. Hosted in the vibrant city of Cape Town at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 15-16 October 2025, the two-day hybrid event—held in partnership with United Nations South Africa—will facilitate global participation, both in-person and online, to advance interdisciplinary solutions for a socially just world. The 6th ISJC will also align with the upcoming World Summit on Social Development by convening diverse stakeholders to advance actionable recommendations on key themes such as equity, inclusive economies, climate justice and human rights—ensuring that grassroots insights shape global policy and that social justice remains central to sustainable development efforts.

¹ Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty <https://globalallianceagainsthungerandpoverty.org/> (accessed 10-06-

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According to the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council between 2021 and 2023, up to 20 million South Africans are severely food insecure, while 63% of households experience food insecurity and 17% face critical undernourishment.² This data reveals a disquieting reality that South Africa is confronting a deepening food insecurity crisis. Global hunger continues to be a critical issue, with approximately 733 million people facing hunger worldwide.³ Projections indicate that by 2030, approximately 582 million individuals will remain chronically undernourished, more than half of them on the African continent.⁴ Alarming, over two billion individuals globally, lack consistent access to adequate nutrition, with devastating consequences for children: 148 million under five years of age experience stunted growth, while another 45 million suffer from severe hunger.⁵ The numbers tell a heartbreaking story. Hunger is not just about empty stomachs; it's about stolen potential, dignity and futures. Yet, in the face of such suffering, there is hope, communities sharing the little they have, volunteers running soup kitchens, and ordinary people fighting for change.⁶ The question isn't just how we solve hunger, but whether we can look away when so many are suffering.

Food security is central to social justice as it intersects with human rights, economic justice, and environmental sustainability. Despite international frameworks such as the SDGs offering pathways to address hunger and climate challenges, disparities persist due to systemic inequalities.

² Simelane, Thokozani. Mutanga, Shingirirai. Hongoro, Charles. Parker, Whadi-ah. Mjimba, Vuyo. Zuma, Khangelani. Kajombo, Richard. Ngidi, Mjabuliseni. Masamha, Blessing. Mokhele, Tholang. Managa, Rodney. Ngungu, Mercy. Sinyolo, Sikhulumile. Tshililo, Fhulufhelo. Ubisi, Nomcebo. Skhosana, Felix. Ndinda, Catherine. Sithole, Moses. Muthige, Mavhung. Lunga, Wilfred. Tshitangano, Fredrick. Dukhi, Natasha. Sewpaul, Ronel. Mkhongi, Aphiwe. Marinda, Edmore. Food Security "National Food and Nutrition Security Survey: National Report" (2023) *Food Security* <https://foodsecurity.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/National-Report-compressed.pdf> (accessed 25-03-2025).

³ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to End Hunger, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in all its Forms*. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en> (accessed 25-03-2025); See also M Wiemers, M Bachmeier, A Hanano, R Ní Chéilleachair, A Vaughan, C Foley, H Mann, D Weller, K Radtke & H Fritschel 2024 *Global Hunger Index: How Gender Justice Can Advance Climate Resilience and Zero Hunger* (2024)) <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2024.pdf> (accessed 10-06-2025).

⁴ Wiemers et al 2024 *Global Hunger Index 8*; FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024* 151.

⁵ Wiemers et al 2024 *Global Hunger Index 8*.

⁶ As the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa's (SERI) recent report documents, grassroots groups such as the Inner-City Federation and Slovo Park Community Development Forum are stepping in where the state falls short, filling critical gaps in food access through mutual aid and volunteer-led food distribution efforts. These acts of everyday justice illustrate the resilience and collective power of communities confronting systemic hunger and poverty in profoundly unequal settings. Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa *Food for Thought: Reflections on Food (In)Security* (June 2025) SERI 16–18 <<https://seri-sa.org>> (accessed 10-06-2025).

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Guided by the valuable insights from global reports such as the Global Hunger Index⁷ and the United Nations Report on the SDGs,⁸ the conference will critically and meaningfully examine and engage with these challenges.

Furthermore, South Africa's role in regional food security within the Southern African Development Community highlights the importance of addressing hunger through inclusive policies and governance mechanisms.⁹ This conference will explore how legal frameworks, international trade policies, climate adaptation strategies and local governance can collectively advance food justice. It will also analyse power dynamics in global food systems and the role of human rights litigation in securing equitable food access.

Key Conference Objectives

The ISJC aims to:

1. **Deepen legal and policy analysis.**
 - a) Assess the effectiveness of human rights-based food security and climate justice approaches.
 - b) Explore intersections between environmental law, trade agreements and food security policies.
 - c) Evaluate international frameworks such as the World Trade Organisation's regulations in shaping equitable food systems.
2. **Advance interdisciplinary research.**
 - a) Facilitate collaboration among legal scholars, economists, sociologists, agricultural and environmental experts.
 - b) Develop theoretical frameworks integrating social justice as a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development goals.
 - c) Highlight innovative research on hunger eradication and climate resilience.
3. **Strengthen advocacy for food justice.**
 - a) Examine case law on enforcing the right to food globally.
 - b) Discuss strategic litigation as a tool for advancing food security in vulnerable communities.
 - c) Promote constitutional protections for food access across jurisdictions.

⁷ See n3 above.

⁸ United Nations *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023* (2023) <<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>> (10-06-2025).

⁹ J van Rooyen "Regional food security and agricultural policy in southern Africa: A challenge of policy conversion in diverse settings" (2000) 17 *Development Southern Africa* 7-22.

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4. Foster global partnerships.

- a) Encourage collaboration between governments, academia, civil society organisations and businesses.
- b) Share best practices in policy implementation for hunger alleviation and climate adaptation.
- c) Enhance regional cooperation within the Global South to address transnational challenges effectively.

5. Support South Africa's G20 Agenda.

- a) Provide evidence-based recommendations for inclusive growth and sustainable development policies.
- b) Contribute scholarly insights into global governance discussions on food security and climate resilience.

Key Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

- 1. A peer-reviewed academic publication.
- 2. Policy recommendations for strengthening food security frameworks.
- 3. Comparative research report highlighting best practices across jurisdictions.
- 4. A special issue summary report on the key findings from the conference.

Outcomes:

- 1. Enhanced academic contributions to global policy development on food security.
- 2. Strengthened international networks among scholars advocating for social justice.
- 3. Increased alignment between academic research and practical policy implementation.
- 4. Media engagement to increase public awareness of hunger eradication efforts.

Conference Themes and Format

The ICSJ will feature plenary sessions exploring these themes and subthemes:

1. Hunger, poverty, the economy and social justice: Analysing systemic inequalities in food access.

- a) The legal framework, access to justice and global social justice jurisprudence.
- b) International human rights and domestic legal frameworks regulating the right to food and adequate nutrition.
- c) The nexus between access to justice and the right to food.
- d) Jurisprudence on equality and the right to access to food and adequate nutrition.
- e) The regulation of the right to nutritious food and food safety.
- f) Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) for equitable policy design.

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2. **War, violence (including gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children) and access to food.**
 - a) Conflict, displacement and food insecurity.
 - b) International Law, humanitarian norms, and the right to food in conflict zones.
 - c) Gender-based violence and economic disempowerment in food systems.
 - d) Child rights, war, and hunger.
 - e) Post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and food security.
3. **Climate justice and equitable, sustainable food systems.**
 - a) Equality considerations in the Just Energy Transition.
 - b) The justice implications of laws restricting the use of Indigenous seeds.
4. **Food sovereignty and the land-food-and-economy-nexus.**
 - a) The role of AI in shaping food sovereignty, agricultural innovation and economic parity.
 - b) Food sovereignty and the physical and economic dimensions of access to food.
 - c) Social security and solidarity.
5. **Land rights, agriculture and access to adequate food and nutrition.**
 - a) Land rights and the right to food.
 - b) Sustainable agricultural practices and food (in)security.
 - c) Indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices in advancing food security.
 - d) Agriculture beyond commercial production: pathways toward improved food access and inclusive, sustainable food systems.

Submission and Acceptance of Abstracts

Academics, legal professionals, judges, policymakers and civil society researchers interested in presenting at the ISJC are invited to submit an abstract of 250–300 words (in English) by **30 July 2025** to socialjustice@sun.ac.za. Submissions should engage with the conference's core themes by examining the intersections of social justice with food security, equality, solidarity, sustainable development and climate justice. Abstracts must demonstrate how the proposed paper contributes to advancing these priorities in today's turbulent global context.

1. You are required to:
 - a) Indicate the **stream** most relevant to your research.
 - b) Choose an appropriate **sub-stream** (refer to the conference themes).
2. **Notification of abstract acceptance** will be sent by **19 August 2025**.
3. If accepted, you must submit your draft paper by **10 October 2025**.
4. Accepted authors will present their papers at the ISJC on **15 or 16 October 2025**. The conference will be **hybrid**; presenters may participate in person in Cape Town or online.
5. Selected papers may be published in the official conference proceedings.
6. All submissions must be in **MS Word format** and adhere to academic writing standards.
7. Conference slides must be submitted to the conference organisers by **13 October 2025**.

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Abstract Review Committee

1. Prof Thuli Madonsela (Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)
2. Prof Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel (Professor of Law, Stellenbosch University)
3. Prof Nic Olivier (Senior International Consultant and Advisor and Extraordinary Professor, North-West University)
4. Dr Qinisani Qwabe (Lecturer, Nelson Mandela University)
5. Dr Marna Lourens (Project Manager and Researcher, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)
6. Mr Akhona Sandaza (Lecturer, Rosebank College)
7. Mr Thembaletu Seyisi (Research Officer: Law Reform, Data Interface and Outreach, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Conference Project Implementation Process

Phase 1: Determination of and Consultations on Theme for the International Conference on Social Justice (ISJC) (November 2024 – January 2025)

Phase 2: Save the Date and Project Implementation Plan (January 2025 – May 2025)

Phase 3: Publication of Call for Abstracts (27 June 2025 – 30 July 2025)

Phase 4: Consideration and Acceptance of Abstracts (1 August 2025 – 19 August 2025 and Finalising Partnerships, Including Media Partner(s).

Phase 5: Conference Marketing and Announcement of Speakers and Key Partners (1 July 2025 – 14 October 2025)

Phase 6: 6th International Conference on Social Justice (15 – 16 October 2025)

Phase 7: Publication of Conference Resolutions and Summary Report of Conference and Presented Papers (November 2025 – 15 December 2025)

Phase 8: Preparation and Publication of Special Academic Journal Issue on Refined and Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers (November 2025 – July 2026)

The Project Team

Project Manager: Dr Marna Lourens: mlourens@sun.ac.za

Project Sponsor: Prof Thuli Madonsela

Conference Organising Committee Members: Representatives of partnering departments and institutions.

Media Team and Partner(s): To be finalised.

Conclusion

The 6th ISJC aims to catalyse meaningful progress toward achieving SDG 2, while addressing broader issues of equality, solidarity and sustainable development amid global turbulence. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and actionable advocacy strategies, the conference seeks to advance a transformative agenda for social justice that prioritises food security as a fundamental human right intertwined with climate resilience and the SDGs.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Prof Thuli Madonsela**

(Law Faculty Trust Chair, Professor of Social Justice Studies, Director of the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University) She is a prominent advocate for constitutional rights and social justice, recognised globally for her contributions to human rights. She is a former Public Protector and drafter of South Africa's Constitution.

**Ms Catherine Constantinides**

(International climate activist and human rights defender) She was an Archbishop Tutu African Oxford Fellow (2013) and Mandela Washington Fellow (2016). Advocates for Western Sahara self-determination. Keynote speaker at Obama Summit, World Youth Forum. Champions positive change globally.

**Dr Mshai Mwangola**

(Vice-President, Transitional Council of the Society of International Development) She is a performance scholar and activist using culture for research and advocacy. Chair, Uraia Trust Board. Founding member, Orature Collective. Bridges academia, activism and arts for social development.

**Mr Andries Nel**

(Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development.) He is a senior South African politician and long-serving member of the African National Congress (ANC). A human rights lawyer and anti-apartheid activist, he has served in Parliament since 1994, holding senior roles in both the legislature and executive.

**Ms Wahida Parker**

(Managing Director, Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company.) She is the Chair of the CTICC Social and Ethics Committee with more than 17 years experience in corporate governance and business transformation. Internationally accredited mediator championing sustainable tourism balancing economic success with environmental responsibility.

**Prof Sibusiso Moyo**

(Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, Stellenbosch University) She holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Natal and is a published differential equations researcher. Former DUT executive leader. Editorial board member, Higher Education journals. DHET Entrepreneurial Development award recipient.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Prof Wim de Villiers**

(Former Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University, 2015-2025)
He is a Gastroenterologist with a DPhil in Immunology (Oxford) and a master's in health care management from Harvard University. Currently Fundraising and Strategic Projects Lead, SU's Medical Sciences.

**Prof Nico Koopman**

(Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel, Stellenbosch University)
He is Professor of Public Theology and Ethics and a former Faculty of Theology Dean. Global Network for Public Theology founding member. Princeton Institute for Theological Inquiry Fellow.

**Ms Maryam Bukar Hassan**

(First UN Global Advocate for Peace, known as Alhanislam) She is a performance poet and storyteller named among 100 Most Reputable Africans 2025. Founder, True My Voice (UN SDG Finalist). Summit of Future, COP 28 participant. Bridges art and activism, amplifying African voices globally.

**Mr Nelson Muffuh**

(United Nations Resident Coordinator, South Africa since December 2022)
He leads the UN Country Team advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Cameroonian national with two decades international development experience. Educated Freie Berlin, University of Sussex.

**Dr Kefloe Masiteng**

(Head, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, South Africa) She is a Former Secretary of Planning in the National Planning Commission. Deputy Director-General, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Expert in statistics, evidence-based development planning and policy implementation.

**Ms Sana de Courcelles**

(Secretariat Leader of the Global Coalition for Social Justice) She is a specialist in public governance and innovation with twenty years' experience in France and Geneva. Former Sciences Po Executive Director. Certified corporate board director. Master's in public management, teaches at the University of Geneva.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ambassador Shimizu Fumio
(Japan's Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa) He is a Japanese career diplomat with thirty-five years of foreign affairs experience. Currently Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini since November 2024. Former Ambassador to African Union, Deputy Chief of Mission Afghanistan and China. University of Tokyo Law graduate.



Prof Murilo Vieira Komniski
(Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Brazil in South Africa) He is a Brazilian career diplomat and human rights and multilateral cooperation specialist. Former UNESCO Chief of Staff, ABC/MRE advisor. Master's Diplomacy, Multilateral Affairs. BRICS Academic Forum member.



Commissioner Philile Ntuli
(Commissioner of the South African Human Rights Commission) She is a gender, governance and justice expert examining women-state relationships. Master's Social Science, Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute graduate. Focus areas: climate justice, land reform, feminist leadership, regenerative economics.



Judge Elmien du Plessis
(Judge of the South African High Court) She is currently a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria and a land reform and constitutional property specialist. Presidential Panel on Land Reform expert advisor. NRF Thuthuka Grant recipient. Max Planck Institute, Oxford researcher.



Judge Thando Mankge
(Judge of the South African High Court) She is a former magistrate and Pretoria Society of Advocates member. Accredited mediator, mining tax law certificate holder. Educational outreach advocate teaching human rights to children. Advocates for Transformation former General Secretary.



Judge Dennis Davis
(Judge of the South African High Court) He is the Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court and an Honorary Professor, University of Cape Town. Constitutional Assembly Technical Advisor. Former Future Imperfect TV host. Cambridge, Harvard visiting professor. Commercial law, constitutional law specialist.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Prof Helen Keller**

(Professor of Law at the University of Zurich) She is a former European Court of Human Rights Judge (2011-2020). UN Human Rights Committee member (2008-2011). Constitutional Court Bosnia-Herzegovina Judge since 2020. Robert Kennedy Prize recipient, Grand Walther Hug Prize winner 2025.

**Dr Jan Marie Fritz**

(Certified clinical sociologist, University of Cincinnati Professor) She is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg and the ISA's lead representative to the UN. Universities Network for Protection of Children in Armed Conflict Executive Board Member. Stockholm University Visiting Researcher.

**Prof Stephen Devereux**

(Extraordinary Professor, Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape) He is a developmental economist who holds a PhD from the University of Oxford. Sussex University Professor, Centre for Social Protection co-Director. NRF research chair holder in Social Protection for Food Security.

**Advocate Melanchton**

Makobe (Acting Director-General of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Deputy Director-General: State-Owned Enterprises.) A seasoned public-sector leader, he previously held senior roles at the Department of Public Enterprises and the South African Reserve Bank. He holds an LLB and LLM,

**Prof Linley Chiwona-Karlton**

(Associate Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) She is a Malawian-born expert in African agriculture, food security and gender equity. Co-founder, Chinangwa ndi Mbatata Roots and Tubers Enterprise. AWARD programme mentor. Malawi Lifetime Achievement Award recipient 2022.

**Mr Timothy Fish Hodgson**

(Senior Legal Adviser, International Commission of Jurists) He is a specialist in global social and economic rights and disability rights. Former Constitutional Court clerk to Justice Yacoob. Oxford Master's International Human Rights Law (Distinction), Michigan LLM.

SPEAKER PROFILES


Brigadier General Prof Dan Kuwali

(Commandant of the National Defence College, Malawi) He is a former Malawi Defence Force Judge Advocate General. International Law doctorate, Lund University. Harvard Kennedy School Fellow. Author, Corruption-Proofing in Africa.


Prof Nic Olivier

(Extraordinary Professor, Faculty of Law, North-West University) He is a senior international constitutional, governance, policy and legal advisor. Sustainable development, food security, land and agriculture consultant. Expert in public administration and constitutional governance.


Prof Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel

(Professor of Law, Stellenbosch University) She specialises in Property Law, Constitutional Property Law and Property Theory. Doctoral degree at 25. NRF C1-rated researcher. Henry Arthur Holland Scholarship in Law from the University of Cambridge, London (2009).


Ms Claire Naidoo

(Social and behaviour change professional) She specialises in nutrition, early childhood development and public health. Fix My Food coalition coordinator supporting youth food system advocacy. UNICEF consultant. PhD candidate, Wits University, researching place-behaviour relationships.


Dr Olagbegi-Oloba Victoria Banke

(Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Social Justice, SU) She is a lawyer called to the Nigerian Bar and American Bar Association Diversity Officer. International Bar Association commissioner. Weinstein JAMS International Fellow. Mediator, arbitrator specialising human rights.


Ms Nolundi Luwaya

(Director Land and Accountability Research Centre) She is a Senior Researcher at the University of Cape Town and customary land rights specialist teaching Advanced Customary Law. BA LLB, LLM UCT. Expert in legal pluralism, holistic land reform.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Prof Scott Drimie**

(Extraordinary Professor, Stellenbosch University Human Nutrition Division) He is a food systems expert and Southern Africa Food Lab Director since 2013. Cambridge PhD, IPC lead academic consultant. Former IFPRI researcher specialising HIV-food security interactions.

**Dr Qinisani Qwabe**

(Lecturer, Nelson Mandela University Agricultural Sciences Department) He is Co-Chair of the Africa Early Career Researcher Network. PhD Sustainable Agriculture specialist in agroecology, food security, indigenous knowledge systems. Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans. Campus food garden champion.

**Prof Theo Broodryk**

(Professor of Law, SU) He is the Acting Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation and Head of SU's Law Clinic. Y1 NRF-rated researcher, Rules Board member. Drafted landmark Uniform Rule 11A for class action certification. Stanford visiting scholar, Humboldt Fellowship recipient.

**Dr Isaac Kabelenga**

(University of Zambia lecturer, Southern African Think Tank for Ageing Research coordinator) He holds a PhD in Social Sciences from Lapin University in Finland. London School of Economics MSc graduate. UNZA School of Humanities overall best student.

**Prof Armand Bam**

(Head of Social Impact at the University of Stellenbosch Business School) He is Academic Head of the Small Business Academy. First Business School recipient, Stellenbosch University Individual Award for Social Impact. Expert in inclusion, belonging, social innovation, transformative leadership.

**Dr Katlego Lentlokane**

(Programme Manager, Diversity Capacity Development, Stellenbosch University) She is a recent LLD graduate researching the CCMA's social justice mandate. Advocates Ubuntu-centred framework for labour dispute resolution, promoting workplace fairness and equity through transformative commissioner approaches.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ms Kelly-Anne Cleophas
(Attorney of the High Court of South Africa) She is a human rights lawyer with an LLM in International Children's Rights (cum laude) from UWC. Former South African Human Rights Commission Senior Legal Officer. University of Missouri LLM Alternative Dispute Resolution. Oxford Bonavero Institute participant.



Prof V. Ravindran
(Assistant Professor of Law, Tamil Nadu National Law University) He is a PhD candidate at NALSAR University of Law, researching sanitation workers' legal rationalisation. TISS Mumbai LLM Access to Justice graduate (Institute Silver Medal). Specialises human rights, labour law, marginalised community empowerment.



Dr Precious Nonhlanhla Ndlovu
(Senior Lecturer and Researcher at the University of the Western Cape) She holds a doctorate in competition law. Competition Commission South Africa non-governmental expert advisor. Academic Society for Competition Law member. Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition research grant recipient.



Ms Pamela Baloyi
(Wits University third-year law student) She is a BCom Graduate majoring in Insurance and Risk Management. Miss David Webster Pageant 2nd Princess 2025. Former Wits Moot Society Treasurer, residence student assistant. Merges pageantry with social justice advocacy.



Prof Tameshnie Deane
(Deputy Dean of Law: Research, Postgraduate Studies & Internationalisation at the University of the Free State) She is an admitted Advocate of the High Court of South Africa, and currently serves as an Acting Judge. Expert in human rights, gender-based violence, child justice. UN High Commissioner for Refugees collaborator.



Mr Magau Londani
(Complaints Officer, Consumer Goods and Services Ombud, University of Venda Law Clinic) He teaches part-time in the Department of Private and Mercantile Law at the University of Venda. LLB and Master's Human Rights Law graduate. Currently pursuing PhD Public Law.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Mr Sandile Tshabalala**

(Manager: Special Projects, National Youth Development Agency) He is co-founder of Huruma Bantfu social enterprise. Chairperson Scout Board South Africa. Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans 2023. News24 100 Young Mandelas recipient 2023, humanitarianism category.

**Mr Thabiso Zitha**

(Aspiring researcher, University of South Africa) He has a postgraduate focus on law, justice and land. Project Leader, "Communal Land v Individual Rights" community engagement initiative. Advocates labour law, land access and rights protection.

**Mr Mlondolozzi Mvikweni**

(Master of Law Candidate at Walter Sisulu University) He is a Private Law Tutor teaching Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law and Access to Justice. Former Student Parliament Speaker. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Stirling School 2025 cohort member.

**Advocate Chris Chinyati**

(Regional Director for Africa with Athletes in Action Global) He has 17 years' experience in human rights law, food security and humanitarian leadership. Doctor of Laws candidate studying supranational food safety governance. Mental health advisor for conflict-affected regions. Rwanda post-genocide reconciliation specialist.

**Ms Thandolwethu Nkopane**

(Junior Research Fellow at the Land and Accountability Research Centre, University of Cape Town) She is pursuing a Master's in the Law of Minerals, Petroleum Extraction and Use. Holds Master's International Law UCT. Land law specialist.

**Mr Pacharo Kayira**

(Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations in Geneva) He is a former Chief State Advocate and Human Rights Section Head. Lund University Master's International Human Rights Law. Author The Right to Fair Trial in Malawi.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Dr Kim Lamont-Mbawuli**

(Legal Professional, Lecturer and Intellectual Property Specialist) She is an intellectual property specialist and attorney of the High Court of South Africa. PhD Medicine, MPhil IP Law UCT. Legal lecturer Stadio, research methodology Tshwane University of Technology. Cyrus R. Vance Center consultant, advocate for equitable innovation.

**Ms Dieketseng Damane**

(Legal Clinician, Head Labour Unit, Wits Law Clinic) She is a University of the Witwatersrand lecturer teaching Civil Procedure and practical legal training. LLB University of Johannesburg, LLM Tax Law UNISA. Currently pursuing PhD Labour Law.

**Dr Atse Kambo Martial**

(General Coordinator, Pan-African Think Do Network of Young Researchers) He has a PhD in Governance and Regional Integration and is a Pan-African University Multilingual researcher from the Ivory Coast. Presents scientific research at national and international events. Pan-African Think Tank specialist.

**Dr William Manga Mokofe**

(Senior Lecturer Walter Sisulu University, Advocate of the High Court of South Africa) He is Chair of the WSU Research and Higher Degrees Committee. Private law, labour law, constitutional governance specialist. ILO Centenary contributor, African Labour Law Society member.

**Mrs Oyama Soga**

(Senior Manager Hubs of Convergence, Acting Director Engagement and Transformation, Nelson Mandela University) She is a PhD candidate in Development Studies, focusing on the co-construction of a sustainable South African food systems framework. Maritime Studies specialist. Researched the livelihoods of artisan fishers.

**Ms Tatenda Mushaikwa**

(Academic Associate, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria) She holds an LLB from UNISA and an LLM in Multidisciplinary Human Rights from UP. Founder community-based food parcel distribution initiative for vulnerable households. Research focus: food systems, advancing right to food.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Mr Akhona Sandaza**

(Law lecturer, Stellenbosch University) He holds an LLB and LLM (by research) in Mercantile Law from Stellenbosch University. Employment Law specialist teaching Principles of Employment Law. Former corporate legal practitioner with litigation, contract law expertise. Committed to pro bono work.

**Ms Ngazibini Tsitywa**

(Legal Research Assistant Intern, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University) She graduated from Walter Sisulu University with an Honours degree in Social Sciences majoring in Psychology. Supports legal research, coordinates social justice projects promoting equity and human rights advancement.

**Ms Siyonela Thina Gabavana**

(Education Activist and Social Justice Advocate) She holds a BSocSci in Politics & Governance and Sociology from UCT. Make A Difference Leadership Foundation Fellow. Equal Education facilitator, Facilitator Board member. Research and Governance Intern, Centre for Social Justice, SU.

**Mr Liam Gillesen**

(Social Justice Ambassador, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University) He focuses on ending student hunger and consolidating food insecurity initiatives. Legal Research Officer, Imbadu Group NGO supporting township entrepreneurs and business development.

**Prof Magnus Killander**

(Professor of Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria) He is Executive Secretary of the Association of Human Rights Institutes. LLM/ MPhil HRDA Academic Coordinator. Editor-in-chief African Human Rights Law Reports. International human rights, comparative constitutional law specialist.

**Dr Marlene Roefs**

(Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation expert at Wageningen University) She holds a PhD in social psychology and is co-founder of the South African Evaluation Association. CGIAR Evaluation Reference Group member. Specialises agri-food systems, adaptive management, capacity development.

SPEAKER PROFILES

**Dr Marna Lourens**

(Project Manager and Senior Researcher at the Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University) An admitted attorney, she specialises in gender and the law, intersectionality, mediation and sex work. Her doctoral research explored transformative justice for sex workers. She is also an artist exploring women's histories.

**Ziyanda Ngoma**

(Partnerships and Development Finance at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in South Africa) She is a social development professional and creative thought leader who fosters collaboration between the UN, government, business, and partners to advance the SDGs. She holds degrees from SOAS, University of London, and the University of Cape Town.

**Ms Diane Gahiza**

(Project Coordinator at the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University) She leads impactful initiatives by overseeing diverse projects including shortcourses. She interfaces with stakeholders, mentors interns and coordinates events, strengthening the Centre's influence to promote social justice, equality and social impact.

MUSA PLAN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice Musa Plan

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

COMPENDIUM of outcomes of
previous **Social Justice Conferences**



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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 22 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.

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

Cape Town Statement and Pledges

(Statement and Pledges on Social Justice and Sustainable Development Goal 2 [Zero Hunger], adopted at the 5th International Social Justice Conference, Artscape Theatre Centre, Cape Town, South Africa on 17 October 2024)

We the participants, drawn from international and local academics, lawyers, judges, civil society, diplomats, development agencies and state-based researchers who are involved in research on the intersection between hunger, social justice and human rights:

1. Affirm our commitment to the Global Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs" / "Global Goals"), key for the purposes of this Statement being SDG 2: Zero Hunger ("End hunger, food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"), noting that:
 - a. Hunger remains a global crisis, with the United Nations ("UN") noting that only a fraction of UN Member States are on course to end hunger, while around 733 million people faced hunger in 2023, equivalent to one in 11 people globally and one in five in Africa;
 - b. Hunger is a pressing problem in Africa, with growing food insecurity in many parts of the continent, especially among those affected by crises such as political instability, violent conflict, and the impact of climate change;
 - c. Hunger is an impediment to all aspects of development, including economic and social development, while being anathema to social cohesion, the rule of law and peace, in line with the Copenhagen Declaration (1995) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Believe that the right to food and adequate nutrition is a human right, as articulated in:
 - a. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) and Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1996);
 - b. the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' Resolution on the Right to Food and Nutrition in Africa (2019)
3. Accept that hunger is a social justice issue in that it is primarily a reality of the economically and socially deprived social classes, recognising that hunger is not about the insufficiency of nutritious food in the world, but rather about the unjust distribution of resources, resulting in the exclusion of some people from enjoying the same right to sufficient food and adequate nutrition as every other human being.
4. Reaffirm our belief that social justice – in terms of the equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms in general, and in particular the right to food and adequate nutrition – is essential for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.
5. Further reaffirm our enduring commitment to:
 - a. the Hazendal Resolution (2019);
 - b. the Boschendal Resolution (2021);
 - c. the Boschendal Statement (2022); and
 - d. the Cape Town Declaration (2023),
 noting that our deliberations on hunger at this Conference indeed demonstrate the range of ways in which the crisis of hunger in the world today manifests the concerns expressed in these documents.

6. Register our deep concern that, despite the articulated commitment by global leaders to Zero Hunger by 2030, as per the 2023 report of the UN Secretary-General assessing progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, the world is currently lagging in its progress towards the realisation of that goal.
7. Express our specific distress at the large numbers of people globally – especially children and senior citizens, people with disabilities and refugees – still suffering hunger and its dire consequences; noting contemporary atrocities and indignities, the legacies of historic injustices, and persisting structural inequalities that complicate efforts to guarantee accessibility, affordability and adequacy of nutrition to every human being.
8. Note with appreciation the investments and commitments that many different actors in society – including civil society, academia, business, governments and multilateral institutions at different levels – are making towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.
9. Are encouraged and inspired by the wealth of innovative ideas, research, strategies, models and opportunities that have already been articulated, tried and tested in a range of conditions and contexts. We believe it is imperative that these efforts be recognised, scaled up and disseminated widely.
10. Appreciate the importance of embracing the following principles in the different initiatives being undertaken to achieve Zero Hunger:
 - a. Poly-dimensionality: understanding that:**
 - i. Hunger and related food insecurity result from disruptions in the food security systems, including availability; access and accessibility; utilisation; and stability/sustainability;
 - ii. Hunger cannot be dealt with in isolation from other SDGs and other social justice issues;
 - iii. Hunger is inextricably underpinned by a range of factors such as disruptions to agriculture due to climate change, land disparities, conflict, disruptions to peace, as well as non-agricultural factors such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, corruption, systemic government failure and food wastage.
 - b. Intersectionality: understanding that:**
 - i. Hunger affects different constituencies of people differently.
 - ii. A range of factors – class, gender, age, geo-social location, disabilities – influence and determine who has agency and ability to sustainably access sufficient food and adequate nutrition.
 - c. Subsidiarity: understanding that:**
 - i. Complementarity rather than competition is the essential bedrock of leveraging the range and opportunities available to the diverse actors working on Hunger at different levels and in different spaces;
 - ii. No one actor or group of actors focusing on one level of action (international, regional, national, sub-national, local) can comprehensively deal with the complexity of the crisis of global hunger.
 - d. Vertical and horizontal equity: understanding that Zero Hunger:**
 - i. is not just about “people like us”, but humanity across the globe; and
 - ii. is not just about the “here and now”, but committing to delivering a legacy of food security to the generations that come after us.
11. While recognising that achieving Zero Hunger is possible, we understand that it will take hard work and the determination to work together to challenge the status quo by confronting elite power structures and dismantling structural frameworks of injustice, and cultivating a culture of collaboration undergirded by ubuntu or shared humanity grounded in the belief that our sustainable future as humanity depends on no one falling beneath a dignity floor of rights, key among which is the justice of eating.

We therefore commit and pledge ourselves to the following, and to reporting back at the 2025 ISJC on progress made between now and then on the following actions:

I: Members of academia present pledge to:

- a. Collaborate on research and other measures to continue to strengthen synergies between and amongst the range of disciplines, actors and networks working on hunger;
- b. Collaborate on the development of appropriate and innovative research tools and methodologies to engage the multi-dimensional range of questions and challenges related to hunger; including design thinking and anticipatory impact assessments through instruments such as the Social Justice Impact Assessment Matrix ("SIAM") and digital accountability enhancing technologies such as blockchain;
- c. Integrate, as an imperative in education systems at all levels, the human right to food and adequate nutrition through curricula, services offered at all educational institutions, and pedagogical gaming, in all sectors including business and government;
- d. Invest in the consistent use of inclusive language and accessible media, including social media, to proactively support the centring of diverse grassroots constituencies in all aspects of the work;
- e. Document, analyse, amplify and support the scaling-up of innovative and context-appropriate evidence-based models that have demonstrated success in facilitating progress towards Zero Hunger; and
- f. Invest in prospective research to help understand and mediate the consequences of interventions (policy, legislation and strategies) that might unintentionally exacerbate the experience and impact of hunger on some constituencies while benefitting others.

II: Members of civil society present pledge to:

- a. Adopt a social justice approach to engaging the challenge of hunger in the world; in particular, inculcating a mindset that characterises hunger as a human rights violation rather than an acceptable human condition;
- b. Catalyse, support and facilitate the development and implementation of people-centred policy, legislation and strategies; taking into account the inherent complexities of the poly-dimensional nature of hunger;
- c. Provide breakthrough research and innovative policymaking tools, including anticipatory impact tools that leverage granularly disaggregated (decoupled) data to catalyse, support and facilitate policy, legislation and programmes that make food sovereignty a reality for all people;
- d. Demand, facilitate and support inclusivity for all constituencies within the society in interventions addressing hunger, through ensuring meaningful access to adequate and relevant knowledge, programmes, resources and technology; and
- e. Collaborate across different sectors within civil society and with other partners, towards addressing the four pillars of the food system and related interventions aimed at combating food insecurity: availability; access and accessibility; utilisation; and stability/sustainability, undergirded by agency and related fostering of capabilities.

III: Members of the business community pledge to:

- a. Work proactively towards reducing wastage in the food industry to the bare minimum;
- b. Anchor business processes in fair play, characterised by fair remuneration of employees, as guided by the International Labour Organisation ("ILO") social justice guidelines, fair dealings with suppliers, and supporting social security and social assistance measures that ensure no one falls beneath a dignity floor that assures them a decent life;
- c. Invest in the complementary imperatives of eliminating hunger on one hand, and achieving food sovereignty on the other, through people-centred business strategies that foster the holistic well-being of all constituencies;

- d. Collaborate with other partners to support initiatives, policy and legislation that foster and sustain a peaceful environment for business to thrive, through engaging in tackling the persistence of food insecurity in the communities and area/s in which their businesses and/or markets are located and/or draw resources from; and
- e. Be mindful always of cultivating business practices that foster the social licence to operate in ways that are attuned to the SDGs, with special attention to Zero Hunger, and fostering self-sufficiency in communities that support the businesses.

IV. Representatives of government bodies present pledge to:

- a. Act in ways that show acceptance that governments bear the main responsibility for ensuring that no one is hungry and food-insecure in terms of their obligations under international human rights law and moral obligations under international social instruments such as the Copenhagen Declaration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Pact for the Future (2024);
- b. Mainstream social justice in food security and food sovereignty plans at all levels of government;
- c. Put people at the centre of all interventions addressing the experience and consequences of hunger, recognising and engaging the diversity of needs, priorities and contexts represented in the constituencies they serve;
- d. Adopt transformative policy and law reform initiatives, including anticipatory assessment tools that predict the likelihood of intended laws, policies and programmes that exacerbate hunger, poverty and inequality;
- e. Prioritise addressing the systemic causes of hunger in state interventions, as opposed to focusing on alleviating the symptoms, including identifying and mitigating inequalities relating to gender, age, disability, nationality, geographic disadvantages and climate change;
- f. Adopt a multi-sectoral approach to achieving SDG 2, recognising the complex web of relationships, issues, constituencies, levels and contexts that must be strategically integrated into food security and food sovereignty plans;
- g. Approach food insecurity as a multi-dimensional challenge that demands addressing the food security system: availability; access and accessibility; utilisation; stability/sustainability;
- h. Invest in the development, initiation, amplification and scaling-up of evidence-based, context-appropriate and people-centred strategies that facilitate sustainable progress towards achieving SDG 2;
- i. Collaborate with other partners to foster and sustain the holistic peace that is critical to the achievement of Zero Hunger by 2030 through policy, legislation, and funding programmes that foster expanded capabilities and social assistance;
- j. Integrate prospective thinking into the development and implementation of Zero Hunger initiatives, thus making anticipation and mediation of adverse consequences, especially on vulnerable constituencies, a norm in the planning and preparation of related strategies and approaches; and
- k. Dedicate adequate resources, including financial and human, to the achievement of Zero Hunger for the range of constituencies they serve.

V. Representatives of multilateral institutions and the international community present pledge to:

- a. Initiate, support, facilitate and amplify interventions such as policy, legislation and international conventions that work to create regional and global platforms of action on the range of systemic issues directly and indirectly related to hunger;
- b. Integrate prospective thinking into the development and implementation of all bilateral and multilateral strategies and initiatives designed to make Zero Hunger a reality by 2030, taking care to ensure that vulnerable communities do not inadvertently further suffer adverse consequences from initiatives that benefit others;

- c. Advocate for and support a poly-dimensional collaborative approach in making Zero Hunger a reality, working with the range of available partners to responsibly utilise available resources and impact as effectively and efficiently as possible;
- d. Champion Africa's peoples, needs, priorities, resources, actors and sovereignty in designing, supporting and implementing the range of initiatives necessary to the achievement of SDG 2 by 2030, given the still alarming current data on the levels and impact of hunger on the continent.

12. As peace-loving citizens of the world, recognising the imperative of taking personal responsibility for the achievement of SDG 2, each individual present undertakes to:

- a. Articulate a personal pledge towards a specific action to be implemented before the 2025 ISJC; and
- b. Account for the progress made towards completing this action at the 2025 ISJC.

13. We therefore authorise the CSJ to collect pledges from among us and others which affirm our acceptance that hunger is a social justice issue that we pledge to tackle urgently through action, undergirded by the belief that hunger is a threat to our shared humanity and everyone's responsibility. We therefore commit to take, scale and connect actions that will end hunger by 2030.

14. We further resolve to bequeath to our descendants, regardless of who they are and where they live in this world, a world where Zero Hunger is a reality and social justice thrives.

5th International Social Justice Conference
17 October 2024
Cape Town



Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

Our Vision

To be a partner of choice on social justice research, public policy design, training, education and monitoring and evaluation to advance social justice.

Our Values

- Excellence
- Compassion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Equity

Our Mission

A centre of excellence on research, innovative policy design tools, training and advocacy to promote social justice scholarship and consciousness, public policy design skills and collaboration in academia and society to accelerate social justice transformation.

What is Social Justice?

The work of **Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)** is undergirded by the understanding of **social justice** as justice concerned with embracing the humanity of all, through the equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by all, mindful of human diversity and disadvantage. This should be reflected in the just, equitable and fair distribution of all opportunities, resources, benefits, privileges and burdens in and between societies. Simply put, social justice is fairness to all social groups with none subjected to unfair disadvantage or unfairly advantaged. The CSJ leverages research, innovation, training and advocacy to accelerate the pace of advancing social justice focussing on rupturing structural inequality and ending poverty by 2030 in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AU Agenda 2063 and National Development Plan (NDP) objectives.

5 CORE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Social Justice Academic Scholarship

Anchor social justice as an academic discipline through research, teaching, and public policy skills development such that it is positioned as an internationally recognised thought leader in this space.

1. Research on Social Justice and Mainstreaming Social Justice in Law & Policy
2. Innovation – Data Science for Equity Attuned Social Policy Design, e.g Social Impact Assessment Matrix (SIAM) and Pedagogical Gaming
3. Teaching on Social Justice and the Law, Ethics, Administrative Law, Constitutional Governance and Leadership
4. Social Justice Conferences & Conference Papers (e.g annual International Conference on Social Justice)

Transformative Social impact in Higher Education

Support the achievement of a transformative student experience and of Stellenbosch University as an employer of choice.

5. Social Justice Cafés
6. Student Debt Fundraising Project - **#Action4Inclusion**. Advocacy and Advice on Transformation of Higher Education





Musa Plan for Catalytic Social Impact in Society

By way of an integrated Musa Plan for Social Justice (Musa Plan) aimed at catalysing social and economic inclusion through research for impact, integrating data science and purposeful partnerships.

- 7.** Advocacy on Law and Policy Reform Through Policy Briefs & Draft Legislation Submissions
- 8.** Foster Social Accountability and Social Cohesion Through Legal and Constitutional Literacy
- 9.** Cultivate Social Justice Attuned Leadership Through Advocacy, Summits, Dialogues and Social Justice Champion Awards
- 10.** Resource Mobilisation for Musa Plan to Foster Inclusion and Resilient Communities Anchored in SDGs/NDPs/Enterprising Communities Frameworks
- 11.** Coordinate Social Justice Musa Plan Leadership & Management Structure (SJMLPM)

Sustainability

- 12.** Mobilise Resources for CSJ Research and Innovation
- 13.** Institutional Development and Governance Plus Secretariat to the SGB

Collaboration, Coordination and Internationalisation

Facilitate collaboration around social justice issues and community access to social justice resources through a globally respected innovation centre on social justice.

- 14.** Coordinate Establishment and Maintenance of Social Justice Centres of Excellence
- 15.** Social Justice Hub (Open Access Resources), Fellowships and Partnerships

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) **Vision 2030**

Resource Mobilisation

Mobilise societal, corporate, and international support and resources towards accelerated reduction of poverty and inequality by 2030.

Law and Policy Reform

Foster law and policy resonance with social justice and constitutional objectives through advocacy on law and policy reform through policy briefs & draft legislation submissions and empowering policy- and lawmakers to leverage data science to catalyse social justice and SDG responsive law and policy reform.

Musa Plan Purpose

The **Musa Plan for Social Justice** (Musa Plan) is a Marshall Plan-styled social justice accelerator project that seeks to catalyse progress toward social justice, focusing on ending poverty and breaking the back of structural inequality by 2030 through a partnership for social justice in pursuit of the constitutional social justice commitment, relevant goals in the National Development Plan (NDP), Agenda 2063 and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Named after **Palesa Musa**, a former child activist who was detained and placed in solitary confinement during the 1976 June 16 student uprising and whose life when discovered in 2017 epitomised the chasm between the dreams that underpinned the anti-apartheid struggle and the reality of most despite the constitutional commitment to social justice.

Democracy Leadership and State Capacity

Cultivate social justice attuned leadership through advocacy, summits, dialogues and Social Justice Champion Awards to foster ethical and democracy attuned leadership among all and contribute to building a strong capable state.

Social Accountability and Social Cohesion

Foster social accountability and social cohesion through legal, human rights and democracy awareness and empowerment initiatives.

Council of Social Justice Champions

Coordinate work of the Council of Social Justice Champions, including the Social Justice Champion Awards.

Musa Plan for Social Justice (Musa Plan)

What is the problem?

With 30 years into democracy, South Africa has made significant strides to bring about tangible change to the state. Undoing the unjust laws and systems that plagued South Africa under Apartheid rule and worsening inequality is an extensive process.

Research shows that despite employment equity and black economic empowerment legislative interventions, inequality along the contours of past legislated racial and gender injustice remains structural and systemic in all areas of life. It also shows that the project of healing the divisions of the past is floundering, while economic growth remains hamstrung by the structural inefficiencies of having the bulk of the population left behind. It is further in recognition of the fact that as long as there is injustice somewhere there cannot be sustainable peace anywhere.

How is the Musa Plan contributing to social justice?

The **Musa Plan** seeks to catalyze the ending of poverty and breaking the back of structural inequality by 2030, in support of the National Development Plan (NDP), Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The **Musa Plan** is a Marshall-Plan-like social justice accelerator programme, aimed at fostering inclusive development and national unity to advance social justice while anchoring and safeguarding constitutional democracy.

Partner with us to implement the Musa Plan

We are asking potential donors to partner with the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) on the Musa Plan as we believe that the success of this plan will not only positively affect the microcosm of Stellenbosch, but also the greater South Africa. The Musa Plan has the potential to not only eradicate poverty but also lessen the gap of inequality, making life accessible and sustainable for all.

What are the priorities of the Musa Plan?

The **Musa Plan** has four key result areas:

- **Fostering Law and Policy Resonance with Social Justice and Constitutional Objectives:** Empower policy- and lawmakers to leverage data science to catalyse social justice and SDG responsive law and policy reform.
- **Cultivating Social Accountability and Social Cohesion:** Foster social accountability and social cohesion through legal, human rights and democracy awareness and empowerment initiatives.
- **Resource Mobilisation:** Mobilise societal, corporate, and international support and resources towards accelerated reduction of poverty and inequality by 2030.
- **Strengthened Democracy Leadership and State Capacity:** Encourage ethical and democracy attuned leadership among all and contribute to building a strong capable state.



Honouring Palesa Musa

The name **Musa Plan for Social Justice** is in honour of Palesa Musa, an anti-apartheid child activist who was part of the June 16 unrest in 1976. She was arrested, detained and tortured for challenging the apartheid government. Today, Musa serves as a reminder of how the shadow of the past influences the present.

She is one of millions of people in South Africa who feel that democracy has failed them in that the constitutional promise of freed potential and improved quality of life has not yet reached them.

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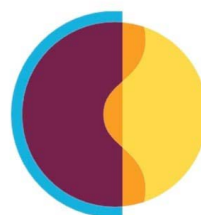
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