



The District Development Model / Inter-Governmental Relations as Catalysts for Achieving SDGs and Social Justice

Programme



08:00 - 17:00



Coetzenburg Centre, Stellenbosch University



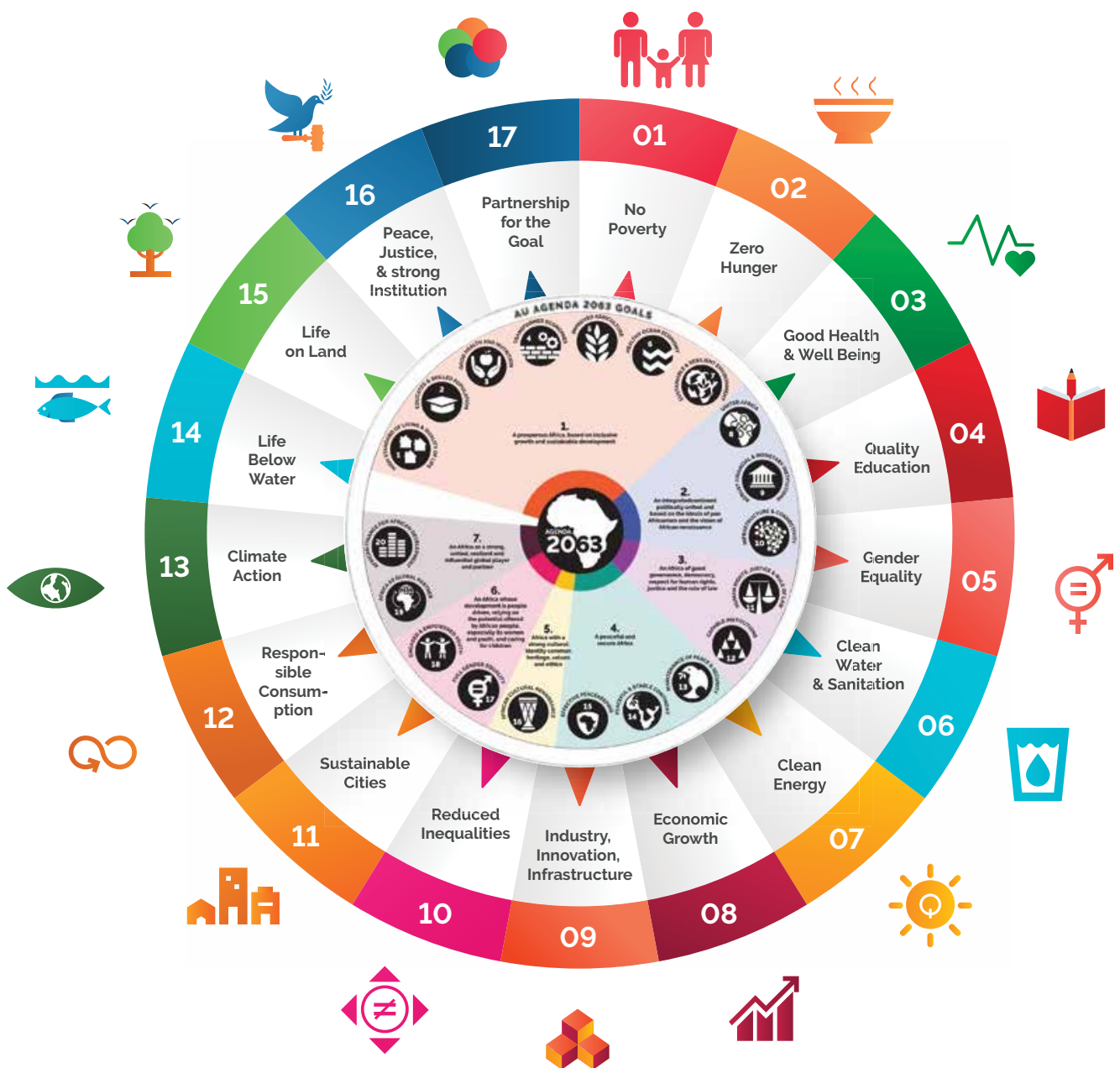
12 & 13 October 2026



PRESENTED BY:

Centre for Social Justice,
Stellenbosch University
and partners





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FOREWORD



The realisation of South Africa's post-apartheid democracy hopes, at the core of which lies the progressive entrenchment of social justice, democratisation of all social institutions and institutionalisation of a human rights culture while fostering sustainable development, depends on competent constitutionally attuned governance at all levels of government, including local governance.

Yet local government, despite being elevated to constitutional status at the dawn of democracy, has emerged as one of the country's weakest links. The challenge transcends maladministration, ethical governance lapses and corruption and includes deficits regarding the constitutional role of municipal structures in transformative constitutional governance to dismantle inherited structural inequalities, poverty and barriers to common wellbeing. There is also no clarity on the role and responsibilities regarding the attainment of the country's development goals in collaboration with other spheres

of government and civil society. These shared wellbeing ideals are impossible to attain if any sphere of government does not pull its weight. With local government being at the coalface of delivering services that are central to human wellbeing while controlling common resources such as water, electricity, land and infrastructure such as recreational facilities and libraries, among others, its failure to deliver these efficiently, responsively and reparatively is a major social justice determinant. The advancement of justice for all, including social justice, is not an elective endeavour. It is a clear constitutional commitment.

This was spelt out by the Constitutional Court in *Government of the Republic of South Africa v Grootboom*, where Justice Zak Yacoob observed that "The people of South Africa are committed to the attainment of social justice and the improvement of the quality of life for everyone". The Preamble to our Constitution records these commitments. Indeed, the Preamble proclaims the Constitution as the blueprint for establishing a new society that is based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights where every citizen's life is improved and every person's potential is freed. It is common cause that social justice thrives where social institutions distribute the benefits and burdens of social coexistence and cooperation fairly. However, fairness to all is impossible where structural inequality regarding access to opportunities, resources, benefits and privileges unduly constrains some. Yet in South Africa this is the reality inherited at the dawn of democracy three decades ago after years of predominantly race-based deprivation, dispossession, exclusion and suppression of the majority. This not only undermines fairness to all, as justice, including social and gender justice among others, dictates, but it also makes the constitutional promise of equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms hollow.

The 8th Social Justice Summit focuses on the District Development Model and broader intergovernmental relations as undergirded by the cooperative government guardrails in Chapter 3 of the Constitution as a possible catalyst for the transformative constitutional governance needed to reposition local government as a key driver of social-justice-based sustainable development. This is grounded on an appreciation of the fact that justice and injustice occur where everyday lived realities of communities unfold, including encounters with government and social institutions structured by government action. Municipalities are where access to water, sanitation, infrastructure, safe environments and opportunities for economic participation give tangible meaning to human dignity. They are also where failures of governance intersect with inherited disadvantage, imposing disproportionate burdens on those already excluded from the fair enjoyment of the fruits of social cooperation.

South Africa's transformative Constitution provides an unambiguous framework for transformative governance. As the Constitutional Court proclaimed in *S v Makwanyane*, social justice is also a

dimension of Ubuntu, a shared-humanity value system. This aligns perfectly with an understanding that while social justice integrates substantive equality, its anchoring in justice as fairness to all includes considerations of human solidarity and reparatory action in appropriate circumstances. This is why the act of giving effect to this commitment requires conscious attention to the distributive consequences of laws, policies, budgets and administrative decisions. Where starting points are unequal, identical treatment can entrench inequality. Transformative governance must therefore be responsive to differences in need, historical exclusion and the obstacles that prevent people from enjoying rights and opportunities on an equal basis.

Following seven landmark iterations, the 8th Social Justice Summit under the theme "The District Development Model/ Inter-Governmental Relations as Catalysts for Achieving SDGs and Social Justice", turns its focus to the institutional architecture that will determine whether the country's development and social justice promise can be honoured at scale.

It takes place as South Africa marks thirty years since the adoption of its Constitution and approaches the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals. These milestones invite an assessment of the distance between the society we have constitutionally committed to establish and the conditions in which many of our people continue to live.

The District Development Model offers an institutional framework through which this distance may be narrowed. Grounded in cooperative governance, its "One District, One Plan" approach seeks to align planning and implementation across the three spheres of government. Its social-justice potential lies in bringing interdependent responsibilities and resources into a coherent response to the circumstances of particular communities.

Fragmented governance has distributive consequences: when institutions plan separately, responsibilities become disconnected and gaps in implementation frequently fall upon people least able to compensate for them. Yet integration, by itself, does not guarantee justice. The critical question is what is being integrated, for whose benefit and with what consequences. A coordinated development plan can reproduce inherited patterns of exclusion if its priorities, investment decisions and measures of success are insufficiently attentive to structural inequality.

The DDM's transformative value must therefore be assessed against its contribution to equitable access, meaningful participation and improved life opportunities, particularly for those historically relegated to the margins of development. The programme accordingly traverses service delivery, fiscal capacity, cooperative governance, health and wellbeing, economic development, poverty, inequality and spatial transformation. Underlying these deliberations is the question of whether available resources and institutional capabilities are being mobilised to achieve constitutional transformation. The youth and multiparty roundtables further affirm that communities must participate in shaping development priorities and that the pursuit of social justice requires commitments capable of enduring beyond electoral competition.

The envisaged Summit Declaration, municipality-disaggregated SDG dashboard, Plan of Action for 2026–2030, occasional papers and policy brief seek to connect dialogue with action and implementation. Disaggregated evidence is particularly important to distributive justice: aggregate progress may conceal persistent deprivation among particular communities. Our task is to make these disparities visible and translate that knowledge into accountable action.

We extend profound gratitude to our partners and sponsors which include Stellenbosch University Rectorate, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency, the United Nations in South Africa, SALGA, SACGRA, BGI, goGOGOgo and Kagiso Trust, among others.

Advancing social justice requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. Ultimately, fixing municipalities means strengthening their capacity to give practical effect to the constitutional promise. Our success must be measured by whether public resources are tailored for all and designed to be transformative

From the point of view of freeing the potential of all persons, this calls for redeveloping historically deprived economies to foster enterprising communities that are self-sufficient, integrate families with sources of livelihoods and have restored capabilities for sustainable development. This is particularly so in the face of the globally rising cost of living, food security challenges and the spectre of disasters, including the El Niño effect already under way.

In this lies the possibility of a more just, peaceful and sustainable South Africa, grounded in Ubuntu.



Professor Thuli (Thulisile) N. Madonsela

Director: Centre for Social Justice and Law Trust Research Chair on
Social Justice, Stellenbosch University.

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 sons 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 destiny
Let us dedicate our lives to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on earth

O sons and daughters of Africa
Flesh of the sons 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 culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.

O sons and daughters of Africa
Flesh of the sons 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 have 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** 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, bemaneyene nangona bengafani. Ngoko ke, ngabameli bethu abanyulwe ngokukhululekileyo, samkela lo Mgaqosiseko njengomthetho owongamileyo weRiphabliki ukuze—Kungcibekwe imisantsa yexesha elidlulileyo, kwakheke noluntu lwentando yesininzi, ubulungisa basentlalweni namalungelo oluntu asisiseko; Kwandlalwe iziseko zoluntu lwentando yesininzi nolukhululekileyo apho urhulumente engowentando yabantu kwaye ummi ngamnye ekhuselwe ngumthetho ngokulinganayo nabanye; Kuphuculwe umgangatho wobomi wabo bonke abemi, kukhululwe nomntu ngamnye afikelele kwelona nqanaba anokufikelela kulo lobuchele bakhe; kananjalo Kwakhiwe uMzantsi-Afrika omanyeneyo wentando yesininzi okwaziyo ukuthabatha indawo yawo onelungelolayonjengelizweelizimeleyo kusapho phakathi kwamanye amazwe. Ngamana uThixo angabakhusele 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 gegrondves 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.

PROGRAMME

8th Social Justice Summit

“The District Development Model / Inter-Governmental Relations as catalysts for achieving
SDGs and Social Justice”

Programme Directors:

Ms Cathy Mohlahlana (Award-winning South African broadcast journalist and radio talk show host)
Mr Aldrin Sampear (Media Liaison Officer, Department of Tourism)

Day 1: Monday, 12 October 2026

07:30 – 09:00 Arrival and Registration
Musa Plan Video
Exhibitions

09:00 – 11:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Remarks by the Programme Directors

Singing of the African Union Anthem
Singing of the National Anthem
Reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of South Africa,
1996

English Version:

Ms Etuna Emvula (Grade 12 Learner,
Luckhoff High School)

IsiXhosa Version:

Mr James Qama (Grade 10 Learner,
Makupula High School)

Afrikaans Version:

Ms Kiara Cupido (Grade 11 Learner,
Cloeteville high school)

Opening Address:

Prof Deresh Ramjugernath (Rector and
Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University)

Statement of Commitment:

Mr Nelson Muffuh (Resident Coordinator,
United Nations South Africa)

Statement of Commitment:

Mr Thamsanqa Maqubela (CEO, South
African Council for Graduates)

Statement of Commitment:

Hon. Andries Nel, MP (Department of
Justice and Constitutional Development)

Anchor and Framing
Address:

Prof Thuli Madonsela (Director, Centre for
Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Keynote Address:

Hon. SP Mashatile, MP (Deputy
President of the Republic of South
Africa) represented by **Dr Namane
Dickson Masemola** (Deputy Minister of
Cooperative Governance)

Musical Item

PLENARY SESSIONS

11:00 – 12:00 PLENARY SESSION 1: THE FUTURE OF SERVICE DELIVERY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Purpose of the Session: This session will confront the brutal facts of service-delivery, name the elephant in the room but also highlight promising practices in what is working and some actions that can take South Africa forward.

Chair of the session: **Dr. Anusha Naidoo** (Acting Deputy Director-General for Human Resources Management and Development (HRMD), Department of Public Service and Administration)

Panellists:

Mr Risenga Maluleke (Statistician General and Head of Statistics South Africa)

Ms Bongji Ngoma CA(SA) (Deputy Auditor-General at the Auditor-General of South Africa)

Mr Wayne Duvenage (CEO, OUTA)

Ms Vanessa Naicker (Vice President of Social Impact, Anglo American South Africa)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

12:00 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION 2: FISCAL CAPACITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (FINANCING CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION)

Purpose of the session: To examine whether South Africa's fiscal framework adequately supports constitutional transformation and to explore innovative approaches to financing inclusive development and the commitment to social justice.

Chair of the session: **Mr Sabelo Chalufu** (Founder & Director, Better Governance Initiative NPC)

Panellists:

Dr Nombeko Mbava (Independent Public Finance Expert)

Mr Nkululeko Dunga (MEC: Finance and Economic Development, Gauteng Province)

Ms Nosisa Gwama (Senior Researcher, Financial and Fiscal Commission)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 PLENARY SESSION 3: SHOWCASING THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Purpose of the session: To showcase and map the successes of the DDM. The contributors will share practical examples from the piloted municipalities.

Chair of the session: **Mr Bongumuza Zondo** (Director, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality)

Panellists:

Mr Tebogo Matlou (Senior Manager: International & Stakeholder Relations, SALGA)

Advocate Hanlie Linde (Ms) (Municipal Manager, Bergrivier Municipality)

Ms Darby Gounden, (Manager for International Relations, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality)

Mr Preciousstone Raputsoa (Waterberg District Municipality)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

15:00 – 16:00 **PLENARY SESSION 4: COOPERATIVE, CO-GOVERNANCE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

Purpose of the session: To explore how stronger relationships between municipalities, communities and other stakeholders can support accountable institutions and collaborative action. The discussion will draw on practical experience in small-town regeneration, municipal/community engagement and partnerships.

Chair of the session: **Mr Paul Smith** (Local Governance Support Head, Kagiso Trust)

Panellists:

Mr Michael Chauke (Specialist: Inclusive Governance and Councillor Welfare)

Ms Istell Orton- Nightingale (CitePlan- Small Town Regeneration Strategy)

Ms Vanessa Naicker (Vice President of Social Impact, Anglo American South Africa)

Mr Jeremy Maarman (The Initiative for Community Advancement: Community Empowerment)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

16:00 – 17:00 **PLENARY SESSION 5: ACHIEVING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

Purpose of the session: To holistically examine the advancement of social justice through health and wellbeing including environmental sustainability and resilience.

Chair of the session: **Prof Thuli Madonsela** (Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Panellists:

Prof Nomafrench Mbombo (Member of Provincial Legislature, Honorary Professor at UWC and former Minister of Health and Wellbeing, Western Cape)

Dr Gareth Haysom (Urban food systems researcher, the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)

Ms Elize Lombard (CEO & Founder, Usapho Foundation)

Miss Amanda Wilde (Deputy Director: Public-Private Initiatives within Clinical Service Improvement, Department of Health and Wellness, Western Cape)

Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka (Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Town)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

End of Day 1

Programme Director:
Ms Catherine Constantinides (Climate Activist and Human Rights Defender)

Day 2: Tuesday, 13 October 2026

07:30 – 09:00 **Arrival and Registration**
Musa Plan Video
Exhibitions

09:00 – 10:00 OPENING OF DAY 2

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening Addresses:**

Prof Juanita Pienaar (Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University)

Adv Lloyd Lotz (Acting Deputy Director-General: Constitutional Development,
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development)

Statement of Commitment:

Mr Bheke Stofile (President, SALGA)

09:30 – 10:00 **Keynote Address:**

Adv Kholeka Gcaleka (Public Protector, South Africa)

10:00 – 10:45 ROUNDTABLE 1: YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

Purpose of the Roundtable: To centre young people's perspectives on the future of local government, with attention to employment, education and the participation of young people in the economy.

Co-Chair: Ms Okuhle Qasana (Social Justice Ambassador)

Co-Chair: Mr Liam Gillesen (Social Justice Ambassador)

Panellists:

Kgosana Dr Koketso Rakhudu (Kgosana of the Royal Bafokeng)

Mr Lucky Sele (National Chairperson of the SALGA Youth Commission and Executive Mayor of Mogale City)

Dr Sunshine Myende (Executive Chairperson, NYDA)

Ms Mishalan Davids (One Young World Ambassador)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

10:45 – 11:45 PLENARY SESSION 6: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS AN ENGINE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of the session: To connect local government to employment, education and economic participation, and consider how local systems can create conditions for economic opportunity.

Chair of the session: Mr Thamsanqa Maqubela (CEO, South African Council for Graduates)

Panellists:

Ms Phelisa Nkomo (Development Economist and Co-Founder of Women's Economic Assembly)

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

Adv. Sankie Morata (CEO, Sanlam Trust)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

11:45 – 12:45 **PLENARY SESSION 7: ZERO POVERTY AND REDUCED INEQUALITY**

Purpose of the session: To connect poverty and inequality to the broader social-justice agenda and invite evidence-based reflection on what integrated local actions are needed to end poverty and inequality.

Chair of the session: **Ms Ziyanda Ngoma** (Partnerships and Development Officer, United Nations in South Africa)

Panellists:

Prof Thuli Madonsela (Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Ms Rose Molokoane (Coordinator of the South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP))

Ms Cynthia Ramulifho (Chief Deputy Commissioner: Remand Detention, Department of Correctional Services)

Mr Thabo Makhosane (Chief Director: Frontline Monitoring and Support, DPME)

Mr Ashley Losch (Director Inter-Government Relations (IGR), COGTA)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

12:45 – 13:45 **LUNCH**

13:45 – 14:45 **PLENARY SESSION 8: CONFRONTING SPATIAL INJUSTICE AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP THROUGH DISTRICT-LED DELIVERY**

Purpose of the session: Examines how district-led delivery, anchored in the DDM, can help confront the spatial injustice that still shapes South African towns and cities, and the infrastructure gap that sustains it.

Chair: **Mr Mxolisi Mchunu** (Acting Portfolio Head: Economic Development & Investments, SALGA)

Panellists:

Dr Lungelwa Kaywood (Research Fellow, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University)

Mr Joe Paradza (Director of Infrastructure Asset Management Africa & Former President of SAAMA)

Mr Mthobeli Kolisa (Chief Officer: Infrastructure Delivery, Spatial Transformation and Inclusive Communities, SALGA)

Dr Neil Klug (Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture and Planning, Wits University)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

14:45 – 15:30 **ROUNDTABLE 2: MULTIPARTY ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Purpose of the Roundtable: To bring different political perspectives into a structured conversation on the future of local government and their commitments ahead of local government elections.

Chair of the session: Prof Thuli Madonsela (Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng (Mayoral Candidate: City of Johannesburg, Economic Freedom Fighters)

Mr Songezo Zibi (National Leader, Rise Mzansi)

Mr Jan Naude de Villiers (National Spokesperson, Democratic Alliance)

Ms Lerato Ngobeni (Spokesperson, ActionSA)

Mr Brett Herron (GOOD Party, Secretary-General and Mayoral Candidate for Cape Town)

Audience Engagement (20-30mins)

15:30 – 16:00 **CLOSING CEREMONY**

Adoption of Summit Outcomes and Commitments Statement:

Prof Thuli Madonsela (Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

Mr Godfrey Mashamba (Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Monitoring)

And Summit Partners

Vote of Thanks:

Mr Thembaletu Seyisi (Head: Law Reform, Advocacy and Institutional Partnerships, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University)

END

SPEAKER PROFILES



H.E. Deputy President Paul Mashatile
Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa

Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile has been Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa since March 2023. His delegated responsibilities include chairing the Inter-Ministerial Committees on Service Delivery and on Land Reform and Agriculture, the South African National AIDS Council and the Human Resource Development Council, supporting the rollout of the District Development Model, and serving as Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

Born in 1961, he was a leading anti-apartheid activist who co-founded the Alexandra Youth Congress and served as General Secretary of the UDF in the Southern Transvaal; he was detained without trial from 1985 to 1989. After 1994 he held a series of Gauteng portfolios, including Housing and Finance and Economic Affairs, and became Premier of Gauteng in 2008. As Minister of Arts and Culture from 2010, he introduced the Mzansi Golden Economy Strategy. He later chaired Parliament's Appropriations Committee and was elected ANC Treasurer-General in 2017 and ANC Deputy President in 2022.

His career spans more than four decades of activism and public service, with a consistent focus on inclusive development, effective governance and social cohesion.



Prof Thuli Madonsela
Director, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

Prof Thuli (Thulisile) Nomkhosi Madonsela is Director of the Centre for Social Justice in the Faculty of Law at Stellenbosch University, where she holds the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice Studies. She teaches Constitutional Law, Social Justice, Administrative Law, Constitutional Governance and Ethical Leadership, and is an advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

A former Public Protector of South Africa and full-time Commissioner in the South African Law Reform Commission, she was one of the 11 technical experts who helped draft the South African Constitution. She is a co-architect of several constitutionally mandated laws, including the Equality Act, the Employment Equity Act and the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act.

She chairs Cities Alliance and is a member of the African Academy of Sciences, the Scottish WS Society, the UN Scientific Advisory Board, the coordinating structure of the International Anti-Corruption Conference and the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS). She holds two law degrees, eight honorary law doctorates and a Harvard Advanced Leadership Certificate, and is a sought-after keynote speaker who has written and published on these subjects for decades.



Dr Namane Masemola
Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Dr Namane Dickson Masemola is the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and a Member of Parliament, with more than three decades in governance, political leadership and community development. His public service began in the anti-apartheid youth movements of the 1980s, and he is a member of the ANC National Executive Committee.

In the Limpopo Provincial Government he served as MEC for Education, Public Works, Social Development, and Transport and Community Safety, and as MEC in the Premier's Office for Policy and Governance, acting as Premier on several occasions. As founding Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, he championed rural development and integrated governance. He has served SALGA as Deputy Secretary General and Limpopo Chairperson, and has represented South Africa on local governance in more than 30 countries, including through United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

He holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Limpopo and a Master's in Public Management, along with executive qualifications from Wits Business School and the University of Pretoria.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Hon. Andries Nel
Deputy Minister

The Honourable Andries Nel, MP, is the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Born in New Orleans while his father served as South Africa's Consul, he grew up across continents and developed an early passion for justice and human rights. He studied law at the University of Pretoria, where he was active in the anti-apartheid movement. He began his career with Lawyers for Human Rights, co-ordinating its Capital Punishment and Penal Reform Project before being elected as a Member of Parliament for the African National Congress in 1994.

During 1994 - 1996 he was involved in writing our Constitution as a member of the Constitutional Assembly.

Over three decades, he has served as Whip, Deputy and Acting Chief Whip, House Chairperson of the National Assembly, and Deputy Minister in both Justice and Constitutional Development, and Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs.

After working at the ANC's headquarters as co-ordinator of its National Executive and National Working Committees between 2019 and 2024, he was re-elected as a Member of Parliament in 2024 and appointed as Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In addition to his duties as a public representative, he is a research fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Johannesburg and a director of the Mapungubwe Institute of Strategic Reflection (MISTRA).

Throughout, his career has reflected a deep commitment to constitutional democracy, human rights, and expanding access to justice for all South Africans.



Prof Deresh Ramjugernath
Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University

Prof Deresh Ramjugernath became the 13th Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University on 1 April 2025. He was previously Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Pro Vice-Chancellor: Innovation, Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and has extensive board and governance experience.

A pre-eminent chemical engineer specialising in chemical thermodynamics and separation technology, he became the youngest full professor in his field in Africa at the age of 31, and held the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Fluorine Process Engineering and Separation Technology until 2018. He has graduated more than 130 master's and PhD students, supervised more than 20 postdoctoral fellows, published over 350 peer-reviewed journal papers and presented at least 300 papers at international conferences.

He holds a BSc Eng (Chemical) and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He lives in Stellenbosch with his wife, Prof Prathieka Naidoo, and their three daughters, and plays tennis, padel and golf.



Adv Kholeka Gcaleka
Public Protector of the Republic of South Africa

Adv Kholeka Gcaleka is the Public Protector of the Republic of South Africa. A jurist and public servant, she has built a career defined by a commitment to justice, accountability and the fight against corruption, with more than two decades of service across the criminal justice system, government and oversight institutions.

She began her career as an aspirant prosecutor in 2004 and rose to Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions at the National Prosecuting Authority. There she led prosecutions in the South Gauteng division and specialised in crimes that often intersect with corruption and abuse of power, including human trafficking, gender-based violence, drug trafficking and organised crime. She also facilitated anti-corruption training for prosecutors across the continent.

This work earned her a reputation as a principled and courageous defender of vulnerable people and a firm advocate for ethical justice.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mr Nelson Muffuh
United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa

Nelson Muffuh has served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa since December 2022 and is Head of the United Nations in South Africa. An experienced leader in international development and diplomacy, he leads the UN Country Team in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His work focuses on building inclusive partnerships and supporting the Government of South Africa to achieve its national development priorities, with an emphasis on equity, sustainability and leaving no one behind.



Prof Juanita Pienaar
Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University

Prof Juanita Pienaar is Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law at Stellenbosch University, a Professor in the University's Department of Private Law and an extraordinary professor at North-West University. She was the Faculty of Law's inaugural Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation.

She teaches Customary Law, Property Law and Advanced Property Law. Her research focuses on property law, particularly land reform, and culminated in her comprehensive book *Land Reform* (Juta, 2014), part of the *Juta Property Law Library*.



Mr Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General of South Africa, Statistics South Africa

Risenga Maluleke has been Statistician-General of South Africa since November 2017, the second person to hold the office, and has spent 30 years at Statistics South Africa. Before his appointment he was Deputy Director-General for Statistical Collections and Outreach, responsible for provincial data collection for censuses and sample surveys, international statistical development and communications.

He has represented South Africa on many occasions and has extensive experience in international and diplomatic matters, including managing Stats SA's participation in the UN Statistical Commission.

He holds a BSc in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Limpopo and a Master's in Urban and Regional Science from Stellenbosch University, and has completed senior executive programmes at the University of the Witwatersrand and Harvard Business School.



Ms Darby Gounden
Manager: International Relations, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality

Darby Gounden has been Manager for International Relations at Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality since 2008, having previously served as the municipality's Communications Manager. Through this work she has secured several multi-million-rand projects for the city with partners in the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, China and Germany.

She holds a Bachelor of Development Studies and International Relations, a Bachelor of Communications and a Diploma in Tourism Management, and is completing an MBA in International Relations.

She is passionate about human rights, the environment and human development, and believes that hard work and perseverance make the impossible possible. Her interests include archaeology and ancient civilisations, the arts and culture, and she has been a member of the East London Guild Theatre for almost ten years.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Hon. Songezo Zibi
National Leader, RISE Mzansi; Chairperson, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Songezo Zibi is the National Leader of RISE Mzansi, which launched as a political party at Constitution Hill on 19 April 2023. Born in Mqanduli in the Eastern Cape, he previously chaired the Rivonia Circle NPC, an activist think tank that works to deepen democratic participation and develop political alternatives at local and national level.

After the 2024 national and provincial elections, in which RISE Mzansi won three seats, he became a Member of Parliament and was elected Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), which oversees the audit and financial reports of all government departments, entities and organs of state to protect the public purse.

He is a former editor of Business Day (2014 to 2016) and spent 23 years in the private sector, including executive roles at Absa Group, Xstrata and Volkswagen South Africa, while serving on philanthropic and think tank boards. He is the author of two books published by Pan Macmillan: *Raising the Bar: Hope and Renewal in South Africa* (2015) and *Manifesto: A New Vision for South Africa* (2022).



Ms Rose Molokoane
National Coordinator, South African Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDUP)

Rose Molokoane is National Coordinator of the South African Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDUP) and a co-founder of Slum Dwellers International (SDI), a global network spanning 22 countries. A veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, she is an internationally recognised grassroots activist working on land tenure and housing.

FEDUP has helped more than 250,000 slum dwellers, most of them women, pool their savings and improve their lives, and reaches more than a million households through data collection. Together with SDI, it has built strong partnerships with government and influenced a number of land and housing policies. She has initiated federations of savings schemes across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

She has served on the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE), and as Co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign and of the Grassroots Constituency Group of the General Assembly of Partners. In 2005 she received the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour for her work to bring land and homes to the poor.



Mr Brett Herron
Secretary-General, GOOD Party; Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament

Brett Herron is Secretary-General of the GOOD Party, which he co-founded with Patricia de Lille, and a Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, re-elected in May 2024. He serves on the Standing Committees for Infrastructure, Mobility, and Premier and Constitutional Matters, and represents GOOD on the Clearing House, the Government of National Unity's dispute-resolution body.

As a Mayoral Committee Member in Cape Town from 2010 to 2018, holding the Community Services, Transport, and Transport and Urban Development portfolios, he led the rollout of the MyCiTi Bus Rapid Transit system. He resigned from the DA, the Mayoral Committee and Council after the party blocked affordable housing projects he had initiated on well-located public land. He served in the National Assembly from 2022, including on the Section 194 Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Protector.

He holds an LLB and a BA in Sociology and Legal Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and an MSc (Cities) from the London School of Economics, where he was a Bloomberg Scholar for Public Service.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Cllr Bheke Stofile

President, South African Local Government Association (SALGA); Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments

Cllr Bheke Stofile has been President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) since March 2022, having served on its National Executive Committee since the 2016 local government elections. In October 2022 he was elected one of five Co-Presidents of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

He brings more than 26 years of leadership experience in the private and public sectors. He joined local government in 2011, serving as Speaker of Matjhabeng Local Municipality and later as Mayor for several terms. Working across local, provincial and national government, he has led on cooperative governance matters for government associations, including input and debate on the Municipal Structures and Municipal Systems Amendments and on municipal audit and performance.

He holds numerous diplomas and certificates, including from the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS).



Dr Louise Van Rhyn

Founder, Symphonia; Designer, Partners for Possibility

Dr Louise Van Rhyn is a leadership and organisation development consultant known for her commitment to sustainable social change in South Africa and beyond. She is the founder of Symphonia and designed Partners for Possibility (PfP), which pairs business leaders with school principals to transform under-resourced schools. PfP has been recognised as one of the world's leading social-change initiatives, including by WISE (the World Innovation Summit for Education).

She holds a doctorate in complex systems from the University of Hertfordshire, completed under Professor Ralph Stacey, and has deep expertise in understanding organisations as dynamic, responsive processes of relating. She has applied this to lead large-scale systemic change, combining academic rigour with practical experience.

Passionate about leadership as a force for social transformation, she draws on neuroscience, psychology and human-centred approaches to create environments where people can flourish. An inspiring speaker, mentor and community builder, she works to advance a more equitable South Africa rooted in purpose, partnership and possibility.



Mr François Davel

Senior Project Lead: Institutional Partnerships, Stellenbosch University

François Davel is Senior Project Lead: Institutional Partnerships in Stellenbosch University's Advancement, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications (ASEC) division, which he joined in March 2026. His focus is building a strategic partnerships capability that strengthens the University's engagement with government and other key partners and advances its institutional priorities.

His career spans the private sector, government and higher education. After nineteen years in the private sector, he joined the Department of Science and Technology in 2005. He spent almost a decade supporting the Office of the Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, and organised the first four editions of Science Forum South Africa, a platform showcasing South African and pan-African science, technology and innovation. In 2019 he was appointed Director: Development Partnerships, leading collaboration with international partners on national and regional development assistance programmes and projects.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Hon. Nkululeko Dunga
MEC for Finance, Gauteng Provincial Government

Hon. Nkululeko Dunga is the MEC for Finance in the Gauteng Provincial Government, responsible for Public-Private Partnerships and a provincial budget of R179.2 billion. Born in Soweto in 1988 and raised between Soweto and Vosloorus, he was shaped by working-class communities and a lifelong commitment to economic justice.

He joined the Economic Freedom Fighters in 2016, rising from branch chairperson to Provincial Chairperson in Gauteng in 2022. After the 2021 local government elections he led the EFF caucus in the City of Ekurhuleni and chaired its Municipal Public Accounts Committee. As MMC for Finance from 2022, he grew the city's cash reserves from about R350 million to R2.1 billion, recovered some R350 million through a revenue campaign, insourced security guards and cleaners, and extended indigent relief to about 500,000 households. The city received two SALGA awards in 2023/24 for reducing unauthorised, irregular and wasteful expenditure.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Management from Regenesys, with further qualifications in Public Finance Management and Public Governance, and is completing an LLB through UNISA.



Ms Vanessa Naicker
Vice President: Social Impact, Anglo American South Africa

Vanessa Naicker is Vice President of Social Impact at Anglo American South Africa, where she leads partnerships and programmes that position mining as a catalyst for inclusive growth. Her portfolio covers education and future skills, youth and women's participation, jobs and livelihoods, municipal capability, regional economic diversification and just transitions.

A registered Professional Engineer and Certified Director, she has worked across the petrochemical, heavy engineering and mining sectors in operational, technical, business development, skills development and social impact roles, spanning multiple commodities and geographies.

She serves on several boards and advisory bodies in mining, energy, education and skills development, and works closely with business, government, academia and communities to build the systems, partnerships and talent pipelines needed to turn South Africa's mineral wealth into innovation, competitiveness and broad-based prosperity.



Mr Wayne Duvenage
Co-founder, OUTA

Having spent three decades in the tourism and transport industry, in 2012 Wayne Duvenage left the corporate world and co-founded OUTA, a civil action organisation that initially set out to challenge government's eToll decision in Gauteng.

OUTA expanded its mandate in 2016 to tackle corruption, maladministration and irrational policies in government. To date the organisation has taken on more than 360 projects and is regarded as a formidable civil activist organisation, employing a professional team of around 35 people who have saved the country several billion rand from corrupt networks.

Wayne was schooled in KwaZulu-Natal and holds a BSc from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Prof NomaFrench Mbombo

Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; Honorary Professor, University of the Western Cape

Prof NomaFrench Mbombo is a Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and an Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences at the University of the Western Cape, with more than three decades of experience across academia, public service and the legislature. She represents South African women parliamentarians in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's international and Africa structures, championing women's economic empowerment and gender-responsive budgeting.

She served two terms as Western Cape Provincial Minister of Health and Wellness, the first woman, Black African and health professional to hold the post, leading the department through crises including the COVID-19 pandemic. A licensed clinician and public health fellow, she was formerly an Associate Professor in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and still teaches at UWC, Stellenbosch and UCT. She advises bodies including the UN, NEPAD and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

She holds a PhD in Gender and Human Rights from UWC, a Master's in Maternal and Child Health from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Fort Hare. Her awards include a Lifetime Achievement Award for Health Excellence in Africa.



Mr Godfrey Mashamba

Deputy Director-General: Evaluation, Evidence and Knowledge Systems, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Godfrey Mashamba is Deputy Director-General: Evaluation, Evidence and Knowledge Systems in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, where he oversees evaluation, data integration and analytics for evidence-informed decision-making.

He has led major system-wide assessments, including the Government's 30-Year Review Report (1994 to 2024), South Africa's COVID-19 Country Report and the annual Development Indicators Report, which tracks progress towards the National Development Plan 2030.



Adv. Hanlie Linde

Municipal Manager, Bergrivier Municipality

Adv Hanlie Linde has been Municipal Manager of Bergrivier Municipality on the West Coast of the Western Cape since December 2012. Under her leadership Bergrivier has ranked among South Africa's top ten municipalities for 11 years, with 11 consecutive unqualified audit opinions and 9 consecutive clean audits.

She previously spent 15 years at Stellenbosch Municipality, joining in 1997 as a labour law specialist, becoming Chief Legal Services in 2001 and Executive Director: Social Development Services in 2005. She was admitted to the Cape Bar as an advocate in 2001, qualified as an international commercial mediator in 2015, and is a certified executive and business coach.

She holds a BA in Law and an Honours degree in Political Science from Stellenbosch University, an Honours in Labour Law, an LLB and a Master's in Business Leadership, with further programmes at the University of Cambridge and UCT. In 2012 CEO Magazine recognised her among the Most Influential Women in Business and Government. A keen hiker and cyclist, she has visited 73 countries and wrote a book on her study tour of municipalities in China, Japan and North America.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mr Aldrin Sampear
Spokesperson to the Minister of Tourism, Department of Tourism

Aldrin Sampear is a South African broadcast journalist and Master of Ceremonies who currently serves as Spokesperson to Minister Patricia de Lille at the Department of Tourism. With a background in political journalism and more than a decade in media, he brings professionalism, clarity and credibility to the events he hosts.

Equally at home in high-level corporate settings and more relaxed environments, he is in demand for conferences, panel discussions and awards evenings, where his strong connection with audiences and polished delivery make him a trusted host.



Mr Sabelo Chalufu
Founder and Director, Better Governance Initiative NPC

Sabelo Chalufu is the Founder and Director of the Better Governance Initiative NPC (BGI), an independent, non-partisan civic organisation that strengthens democracy by equipping residents to engage government, shape policy and hold leaders accountable. Since its launch in November 2025, BGI has had a visible impact on policy. Its Survey on Fixing Municipalities informed COGTA's review of the White Paper on Local Government, and its petition against the DTIC's draft National Credit Act regulations drew almost 190,000 signatories in a week, leading to their withdrawal. He has also led BGI's Parliamentary submissions on the 2026/27 Budget and the constitutional review, and its campaign against Eskom's 8.83% electricity price increase application.

He brings more than thirteen years of public service and political experience, including senior roles at the City of Johannesburg as Director for Executive Support in Economic Development and Strategic Advisor in Corporate Services, and service in South Africa's criminal justice system from 2012 to 2019. He is completing his legal studies and holds certificates in Financial Management, Business Communication and Corrections Services.



Dr Sunshine Myende
Executive Chairperson, National Youth Development Agency

Dr Sunshine Minenhle Myende is the Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 1 August 2025. She is an academic, researcher and senior public servant with more than a decade of experience in public administration, policy coordination, programme management and stakeholder engagement.

Born and raised in uMzinto, KwaZulu-Natal, she has held senior roles in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and the NYDA. She is committed to advancing young women, including young people in rural and marginalised communities, and expanding equitable access to digital skills as a route to economic participation.

She holds a PhD in Criminology and Forensic Studies from the University of Zululand, where her research focused on restorative justice and non-punitive approaches to school-based violence, along with degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management from Wits. She has published on school-based, gender-based and intergenerational violence.



Marlene Ogawa
Senior Director, Synergos – based in South Africa

Marlene Ogawa is Senior Director at Synergos, based in South Africa, where she advances systems transformation through Bridging Leadership, Inner Work for Outer Action, and collaborative approaches to equity, justice and belonging. With over twenty years of experience across government, civil society, academia and philanthropy, she works with leaders and diverse stakeholders to strengthen self-awareness, trust and belonging as foundations for collective leadership and sustainable systemic change. Her work spans co-created design and facilitation with government, philanthropy, NGOs and the private sector, including current efforts to support the regeneration of South Africa's towns and cities through collaborative governance.

Marlene brings this practice into global philanthropic and learning networks, helping funders, governments and practitioners explore how inner transformation can enable more effective collective action and systems change. She contributes to dialogues and knowledge on wellbeing, inclusive development, belonging and collaborative leadership, and serves on local and global networks including the Belonging Forum, University of the Free State Centre For Gender And Africa Studies Advisory Board, the WHO Stakeholder Group to the UN Commission on Social Connection, the Global Initiative on Loneliness & Connection, The Wellbeing Project Stewardship Council, and the Taos Institute. Her work reflects a core conviction: outer change is more sustainable when grounded in inner transformation, stronger relationships and a deeper sense of shared purpose.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Greg Munro
Director, Cities Alliance

Dr Greg Munro is Director of Cities Alliance and a public health physician with extensive experience strengthening primary healthcare through local government in post-apartheid South Africa.

He served on the advisory committee to the Ministers of Health and led research and reform on health-sector parity and decentralisation. He also developed South Africa's first local government strategy for responding to the HIV pandemic.



Ms Catherine Constantinides
Climate Activist and Human Rights Defender

Catherine Constantinides is an international climate activist and human rights defender, committed to social change from local communities to global platforms, including the United Nations. She is a 2013 Archbishop Tutu African Oxford Fellow and a 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow.

Her recent work includes advocating for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and she engages with political leaders across Africa and the world. She has spoken at major forums including the inaugural Obama Summit and the World Youth Forum in Egypt, and uses media and speaking engagements to inspire positive change and hope.



Mr Tebogo Matlou
Senior Manager: International and Stakeholder Relations, SALGA

Tebogo Matlou is Senior Manager: International and Stakeholder Relations at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), where he leads partnerships on SDG localisation, climate resilience, municipal asset management and international cooperation. An SDG Champion, he has supported municipalities and cities to produce Voluntary Local Reviews (10 in 2024, 7 in 2025 and 30 in 2026) and SALGA's first Voluntary Subnational Review in 2024. He chairs the sectoral working group for SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15 in the 2027 SDG Country Report process.

He managed the Building Inclusive Green Municipalities project in the Eastern Cape, funded by Global Affairs Canada, and has contributed to UNDP COVID-19 relief, municipal waste management with VVSG and the UK High Commission's Urban Resilience Programme. He previously served as Learnership and Project Manager at Mopani FET College.

He holds qualifications in social science, commerce and law, including a BCom Law, BCom Honours and BBA Honours, and is pursuing an MCom in Programme Management on the role of IDPs in implementing the SDGs.



Hon. Lerato Ngobeni
Member of Parliament; Parliamentary Chief Whip and National Spokesperson, ActionSA

Hon. Lerato M. Ngobeni is a Member of Parliament for ActionSA and the party's Parliamentary Chief Whip and National Spokesperson. She is a public affairs and communications strategist whose career spans strategic communications, stakeholder engagement, government relations and public policy.

In Parliament she serves on the Portfolio Committees for Home Affairs, Defence and Military Veterans, Small Business Development and Basic Education, playing an active oversight role on border security, immigration reform, service delivery, education outcomes and the protection of vulnerable communities.

Beyond Parliament, she is a public commentator on governance, social justice, leadership and nation-building. A multilingual communicator and advocate for women's empowerment, she is committed to developing a new generation of leaders and to policies that promote economic inclusion, dignity and opportunity. She is an Inaugural Cohort Fellow of the African Academy for Women in Political Leadership.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Adv. Lloyd Lotz
Acting Deputy Director-General: Constitutional Development, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

Adv Lloyd Lotz is the Acting Deputy Director-General: Constitutional Development in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, where he leads the Branch's work to promote constitutional democracy and respect for human rights. An Advocate of the High Court of South Africa with an LLM from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, he has spent more than two decades advancing constitutional literacy, human rights and public interest law.

Before joining the Department, he was Provincial Head of the South African Human Rights Commission in KwaZulu-Natal and an Evidence Leader in the Commission's National Hearing on the July 2021 Unrest. He previously lectured human rights, medical law and other subjects at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and directed Street Law South Africa's operations in the province. He is also a published author of legal education resources, including the Street Law Manual and the Democracy For All manuals.



Ms. Istell Orton- Nightingale
CitePlan- Small Town Regeneration Strategy

Istell Orton-Nightingale is a SACPLAN-registered Professional Planner and Director of Strategic Spatial Planning at CITEPLAN, with 29 years of experience working alongside municipalities, communities and partners across South Africa. She served as Technical Lead for the National Small-Town Regeneration Strategy and as Implementing Agent for its rollout in the pilot municipalities of Bergrivier, Setsoto and Modimolle-Mookgophong, where she developed the governance arrangements and guidelines for national roll-out. Her practice is built on participatory planning and asset-based, citizen-led development, bringing local government, residents and stakeholders into shared action. She is a member of the ABCD Africa Association and has presented on small-town regeneration at the Karoo Small-Town Regeneration Conference.



Mr Paul Smith
Local Governance Support Head, Kagiso Trust

Paul Smith is a seasoned Local Governance Specialist with more than 20 years of experience in strengthening municipal governance systems across South Africa. As Head of the Local Governance Support Programme at Kagiso Trust, he leads the organisation's consultancy work and drives sustainability-focused governance strategies.

Paul is widely recognised for his leadership in collaborative governance, including his pivotal role in establishing the Makana Circle of Unity, a nationally referenced model of civic-government collaboration. He has also led partnerships with SALGA and CSIR to scale inclusive governance practices and develop practical toolkits for municipalities.

He is a Business Leadership Coach, a P2 Project Management Practitioner, and an alumnus of executive programmes from GIBS and the SAID-Oxford University partnership. Paul's work reflects a deep commitment to accountability, community empowerment, and systemic change in local governance.



Mr Michael Chauke
Specialist: Inclusive Governance and Councillor Welfare

Michael Chauke is a governance specialist at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), where he leads initiatives focused on democratic accountability, ethical leadership, anti-corruption, collaborative governance and councillor capacity-building. With a strong background in public administration and development policy, he has worked extensively across South Africa to support municipalities in strengthening governance systems and improving service delivery.

He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Pretoria and a Master of Development Policy and Practice from the University of Cape Town. He is a Doctoral Candidate in Public Affairs, with research focused on financial governance, financial misconduct, and consequence management in local government. He is also completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Law (Local Government) at the University of the Western Cape.

His previous roles include Chief Specialist: Programme Evaluation at the City of Ekurhuleni, Senior Advisor at SALGA Mpumalanga and North West, and Assistant Director at Gauteng CoGTA. He regularly represents local government in intergovernmental forums and advocates for professionalised, ethical, and inclusive governance practices that promote participatory democracy.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Lungelwa Kaywood
Research Fellow, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University

Dr Lungelwa (Lungi) Kaywood is Acting Director of Corporate Services at Stellenbosch Municipality. She brings more than two decades of experience in South African municipal governance, including senior roles at the City of uMhlathuze, SALGA and Treasury. She is also a part-time lecturer at Stellenbosch University's School of Public Leadership. Her research focuses on local government law, spatial justice, climate governance and constitutional accountability, and she has co-edited Juta publications on local government reform. She holds a doctorate in Law and Development and a postgraduate diploma from the University of Chile, took part in the LoGov H2020 programme, and speaks regularly at academic and policy conferences.



Mr Lucky Sele
National Chairperson of the SALGA Youth Commission and Executive Mayor of Mogale City

Cllr Lucky Sele is the executive Mayor of Mogale City, since 2024. He became a PR Councillor of Mogale City in 2021, and was then elected as Council Speaker in 2023, becoming the youngest to assume this position. He is the National Chairperson of the SALGA Youth Commission. Before joining local government, he served as Assistant Director in the Gauteng Office of the premier, under the Tshepo 1 Million program- aimed at empowering youth skills development, job placement and entrepreneurship.

He is a leader and activist and demonstrated this in various roles, from the student movement in COSAS, SASCO and is currently the ANCLY Chairperson of West Rand Region and Deputy Chairperson of the ANC in the West Rand Region.

He believes in collective and inclusive leadership, grounded in good governance and ethics.



Dr. Anusha Naidoo
Acting Deputy Director-General for Human Resources Management and Development (HRMD), Department of Public Service and Administration

How can the institutions we shape today expand people's opportunities tomorrow? This question captures the spirit of discovery that Dr Anusha Naidoo brings to public leadership, guided by exacting standards and a clear sense of public purpose. As Acting Deputy Director General for Human Resource Management and Development at the Department of Public Service and Administration, she brings 35 years of public sector experience. Her expertise encompasses strategic leadership, policy formulation and the development of people and institutions. Dr Naidoo's work positions professionalisation as a foundation for state capability. Central to her outlook is the conviction that government's effectiveness depends on the people it appoints, the judgement they exercise and the institutional conditions that enable them to serve. Dr Naidoo champions rigorous accountability and decisive action against maladministration. She regards political and administrative power as a responsibility to serve the public good, and its abuse as a breach of public trust. At the 8th Social Justice Summit, Dr Naidoo will chair the panel on "The Future of Service Delivery for Social Justice". She brings a perspective on the leadership, skills and cooperation needed to translate the District Development Model and intergovernmental coordination into effective local delivery. A central concern for Dr Naidoo is how public institutions can make the Sustainable Development Goals tangible in people's everyday lives. She advocates green and inclusive public service delivery that advances social justice, upholds human dignity and connects equitable access with responsible stewardship of natural resources.



Mr Bongumuza Zondo
Director, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

Mr Zondo is a strategic planning and urban development leader with a strong focus on driving integrated, data-driven transformation within metropolitan governance. Currently serving as Director for Strategy & Integrated Development Planning at eThekweni Municipality, he leads the alignment of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), District Development Model (DDM), and cross-sector partnerships to deliver sustainable, inclusive growth. He is experienced in shaping and implementing city-wide strategies across infrastructure planning, human settlements, digital transformation, and resilience building—anchored in global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mr Joe Paradza
Director of Infrastructure Asset Management Africa & Former President of SAAMA

Johannes Paradza (Joe) is the Director at Infrastructure Asset Management Africa. He has led Infrastructure Asset Management assignments in Provincial Government; Municipalities; and sectors such as Water, Power, Oil & Gas, Mining, Health, and Manufacturing industries in South Africa, multiple African countries, and the Middle East.

Joe holds an MBA, MSc in Engineering (Industrial), and a BSc Engineering Honours (Mechanical). He is a Certified Asset Management Assessor (CAMA) and served as the Southern Africa Asset Management Association (SAAMA) Deputy President for 2018/2019 and as President for the 2019/21. In 2023, Joe was awarded honorary membership of SAAMA.

Joe has lectured on a part-time basis at various tertiary institutions in Southern Africa on Operations and Infrastructure Asset Management related topics.



Ms Ziyanda Ngoma
Partnerships and Development Officer, United Nations in South Africa

How can the institutions we shape today expand people's opportunities tomorrow? This question captures the spirit of discovery that Dr Anusha Naidoo brings to public leadership, guided by exacting standards and a clear sense of public purpose. As Acting Deputy Director General for Human Resource Management and Development at the Department of Public Service and Administration, she brings 35 years of public sector experience. Her expertise encompasses strategic leadership, policy formulation and the development of people and institutions. Dr Naidoo's work positions professionalisation as a foundation for state capability. Central to her outlook is the conviction that government's effectiveness depends on the people it appoints, the judgement they exercise and the institutional conditions that enable them to serve. Dr Naidoo champions rigorous accountability and decisive action against maladministration.



Ms Topsy Musi
Director: Public Education and Liaison Services, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

Topsy Musi is Director: Public Education and Liaison Services (PELS) at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, where she leads initiatives on public education, constitutional awareness, access to justice and stakeholder engagement. She is a senior public sector communications and stakeholder engagement professional with 25 years of experience in government, in roles spanning administration, project coordination and communication.

Throughout her career she has contributed to and coordinated major government programmes and public engagement initiatives on constitutional awareness, human rights, access to justice and other justice-sector priorities, as well as national and international events.

She is passionate about development communication and believes that strategic, inclusive and people-centred communication can empower communities, strengthen public participation, improve access to government services and help build responsive, accountable and citizen-centred institutions.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ms Diane Gahiza
Project Coordinator, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

Diane Gahiza is Project Coordinator at the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University, where she oversees a range of projects, including short courses. She works with stakeholders, mentors interns and coordinates events, strengthening the Centre's work to promote social justice, equality and social impact.



Mr Sandile Hlayisi
Business Development Manager, South African Council for Graduates (SACGRA)

Sandile Hlayisi is a social impact and youth leadership practitioner and Business Development Manager at the South African Council for Graduates (SACGRA), where he connects young people with education, skills development and opportunities for economic participation. He has more than eight years of experience directing social impact initiatives across Africa, focused on human rights education, social justice, youth development, ethical governance and social cohesion.

He has participated in national, continental and multilateral platforms, including the G20 Interfaith Forum and Y20 South Africa, contributing to discussions on meaningful youth engagement, human rights, multilateralism and inclusive governance.

A 2025 graduate of the Harvard Aspire Leaders Program, he has studied and trained in paralegal practice, international law, global governance, global diplomacy and project management. His work centres on building practical partnerships between civil society, government, educational institutions and community organisations to advance social justice, inclusive development and human dignity.



Mr Preciousstone Raputsoa
Waterberg District Municipality

Mr. Preciousstone Raputsoa is an accomplished municipal leader with more than 20 years' experience in South African local government. As Municipal Manager of Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo, he brings a strong record in development planning, strategy, senior management, and municipal turnaround initiatives.

His leadership is grounded in a commitment to capable, ethical and people-centred local government that improves community livelihoods and responds meaningfully to developmental priorities. Having served as a professional planner and strategist across municipalities in four provinces, he combines practical insight into municipal performance with a reform-oriented approach to planning and governance.

Mr. Raputsoa is known as a pragmatic technocrat who promotes accountable, inclusive and collaborative leadership. He advocates for social compacts that align government, communities and stakeholders around shared development outcomes, with an emphasis on building effective developmental municipalities.

He holds an MSc in Development Planning from the University of the Witwatersrand, supported by postgraduate and professional qualifications.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mr Jeremy Maarman
The Initiative for Community Advancement: Community Empowerment

Jeremy Maarman is a community philanthropy practitioner, founder and former executive director of the Initiative for Community Advancement, a South African community foundation. Through his consultancy, he supports community foundation development across Africa.



Ms Amanda Wilde
Deputy Director: Public-Private Initiatives within Clinical Service Improvement, Department of Health and Wellness, Western Cape

Amanda Wilde is Deputy Director: Public-Private Initiatives within Clinical Service Improvement at the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness. With close to four decades of healthcare experience in the United Kingdom and South Africa, Amanda's work focuses on translating Universal Health Coverage and social-justice ambitions into locally grounded implementation through public-private collaboration, districts as incubators and multi-stakeholder co-creation. Amanda is particularly interested in the space between strategy and implementation, including how trust, stewardship, shared purpose, and the alignment of individual and collective interests can enable diverse stakeholders to work together for the common good.



Mr Liam Gillesen
Social Justice Ambassador

Liam Gillesen is a final-year BAccLLB student at Stellenbosch University. He serves as a Social Justice Ambassador for the Centre for Social Justice and as a Student Leadership Ambassador for the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute. He is also a legal research officer for the Imbadu Group, an NGO that helps township entrepreneurs grow successful businesses.



Kgosana Dr Koketso Rakhudu
Kgosana of the Royal Bafokeng

Kgosana Dr Koketso Rakhudu Goodwill is a practicing Traditional Leader of Tsitsing, Kgotla Ya Rakhudu in the Royal Bafokeng Nation, and a Mandela Washington Fellow trained in Public Management and Corporate Governance at Georgia State University. He leads from a principle of service — turning every seat of authority into active stewardship — bridging customary legitimacy with modern public policy to translate global ideas into practical solutions for rural communities. He serves as Chairperson of Hakem Energies driving renewable energy and SMME creation, and as Deputy Chairperson of the North West Provincial Council on AIDS (Private Sector), ensuring rural health programs reach the most vulnerable.

The Office of Kgosana Koketso Rakhudu is honoured to announce his prestigious 3-year appointment as Research Associate in the Department of Public Health, School of Health Care Sciences at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) [1 September 2026 – 31 August 2029]. This is more than a personal achievement; it is a historic convergence of Traditional Leadership and Academic Excellence. As Deputy Chairperson of BMMISHO (Bafokeng Health & Demographic Surveillance System) — the seventh and newest research node of the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN), launched on 27 November 2024 — and now as Research Associate, he will drive cutting-edge research, teaching, and community-based health innovation, embodying our Plan 2035 vision of a self-sufficient, knowledge-driven, and healthy Tsitsing.

A specialist in Community Mineral Succession and Social Impact ESG, Kgosana Rakhudu protects communities during mining transfers by enforcing MPRDA/DMRE compliance, auditing SLP and EMP obligations, conducting transaction due diligence, and structuring community trusts and procurement to lock in lasting benefits. His vision is clear and resolute: building Tsitsing Kgotla Ya Rakhudu from compliance into community wealth by integrating land stewardship, renewable energy, health, education and enterprise through transparent governance, enforceable agreements, and evidence-based impact measurement.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ms Mishalan Davids
Sports for Development Practitioner; One Young World Ambassador

Mishalan Davids is a Sports for Development practitioner and a One Young World Ambassador.



Mr Thamsanqa Maqubela
CEO, South African Council for Graduates

Maqubela cares about youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa & the world. He is a renowned global advocate for student workplace training and is the founding President of the World Council for Graduates and President of the Africa Graduate Council since 2020. He is the former Chairman of the SA Council for Graduates (SACGRA) in 2013-2022. -authored two books : South Africa at 20: For Better or For Worse and Let Us Pray - Prayer Solutions for A Professional Like You. He represented the SACGRA at the 2018 Presidential Jobs Summit and presented solutions for youth employment.

In 2015-2019 he served as the chairperson of the Presidential Youth Working Group to advise the President of the Republic of South Africa on strategies to boost youth employment and entrepreneurship. He served as the board member and CEO of the South African Graduate Development Association in 2005 and November 2010 to October 2015 respectively. His dream of full employment for graduates in South Africa has propelled him to take the reigns at SAGDA, where he worked full time for 16 months with no salary, while growing the organizational revenue from high levels of indebtedness in 2010 to over R80 million in 2013.

He is a business turnaround specialist, an internationally recognized marketer and scholar with local and international awards in his field. Maqubela was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015 by the World Association of Cooperative Education. In 2011, he was awarded a Platinum Award as a Top 10 entrepreneurs in South Africa by the SA Youth Chamber of Commerce. Mail & Guardian rated Maqubela as one of the Top 100 South Africans to shape the Education of the Nation and Top 100 Young Leaders (rating 55) in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Maqubela is a graduate of Vaal University of Technology (marketing national diploma, cum laude 1996); Charles Sturt University in Australia, marketing exchange student 1995 and Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy & Management, MBA in Strategy & Global Management 2002. He is a recipient of the Global Ambassador Fellowship 2002 from South Korea. He has served higher education for 25 years as HoD International Relations (VUT 1996-2003); CEO, UNITECH (MACE 2003-2006) and Chairman, Qhubela Holdings (2006-current) and



Ms Phelisa Nkomo
Development Economist and Co-Founder of Women's Economic

Ms Phelisa Nkomo is Development Economist, Gender Equity, Industrial Economist and Economic inclusion expert. She has worked as an economic adviser for eight years. Her work experience spans across various sectors - legislative development, human rights, worker's right and economic public policy as Ministers advisor for eight years.

Ms Nkomo is a Co-Founder and Lead Economist for Women's Economic Assembly (WECONA) and is part of Development Economist that developed alternative economic policy for South Africa. She is a Media analyst on global economic issues, Structural Reforms and microeconomic issues in Africa.

Ms Nkomo is involved in several catalytic projects in Africa through African Union Committees : Finance Monetary and Planning that looks political economy of public procurement-led industrialisation, mineral policy and debt issues.

Another project is Pan African Wealth Fund which is legacy of G20.

She is currently working with South African Presidency on G20 Legacy Project in Africa as well as a team of international experts on cross-border value chain Africa and sovereign wealth fund.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ms Okuhle Qasana
Social Justice Ambassador

Okuhle Qasana is an LLB candidate at Stellenbosch University with a strong academic and leadership background focused on governance, social justice, constitutionalism, and public leadership. She is a Golden Key Honours Society member, ranked among the top 15% of students in the Faculty of Law. She currently serves as a Social Justice Ambassador at Stellenbosch University's Centre for Social Justice, working under the leadership of Professor Thuli Madonsela. In this role, she contributes to research, public engagement initiatives, social media strategy, and major events featuring leaders from government, academia, and civil society. She has also represented Stellenbosch University in international social justice and democracy dialogues and has been interviewed on SAfm on issues at the intersection of law and social justice.

She also has a special interest in media & communications, particularly around how we tell our stories (as brands and as people), the substance of our stories (exploring identity) and how others receive and engage with our stories. Her online community of over 6 000 followers has been instrumental in shaping her journey in this aspect.

Okuhle's experience in facilitation, moderation, leadership, and public discourse spans several years. She has facilitated panel discussions involving judges, advocates and attorneys, hosted governance-focused engagements, chaired conferences, coordinated dialogues involving participants from across Africa and led teams in academic and civic initiatives. A published writer and researcher, her work has appeared through the African Leadership Academy and governance-focused platforms, where she has explored topics including African leadership, governance, education, and public policy. She is passionate about creating thoughtful conversations that bridge generations, disciplines, and lived experiences, with a particular interest in leadership, ethics, social justice and Africa's future.



Mr Mxolisi Mchunu
Acting Portfolio Head: Economic Development & Investments, SALGA

Mxolisi is an accomplished Development practitioner with an impressive track record spanning over fifteen (15) years in the field of local government. Throughout his distinguished career, he has demonstrated exceptional versatility and expertise by serving in a range of management roles, including those related to Development Planning, Human Settlements, and Local Economic Development.

His educational background underscores his commitment to excellence, with an Honours degree in Spatial Planning and a Masters in Urban & Regional Planning, showcasing his dedication to advancing his knowledge and skills in the domain of urban development and regional planning.

Mxolisi's professional journey has been enriched by his tenure at both local and District municipalities, where he gained invaluable insights into the intricate mechanisms and dynamics of local government operations. These experiences have been instrumental in shaping his profound understanding of the complexities and challenges inherent to this sector. Currently, Mxolisi serves as the Acting Portfolio Head: Economic Development and Investments at SALGA, where he continues to leverage his extensive expertise and knowledge to contribute to the advancement of economic development within the local government sphere.



Sanele Sibisi
Research Assistant, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

Sanele Sibisi is an LLB graduate of the University of the Free State and a Research Assistant at the Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Adv. Sankie Morata
CEO, Sanlam Trust

Adv Sankie Morata CFP® is the Chief Executive Officer of Sanlam Trust, part of the Capital Legacy Group, and a leading authority on estate planning and trusts. He previously held executive roles at Nedgroup Trust and BOE Fiduciary Services.

He chaired the Board of the Financial Planning Institute (FPI) from 2014 to 2017 and serves as a director on the Financial Planning Standards Board, contributing to the advancement and standardisation of financial planning practice globally. Committed to ethical governance and fiduciary responsibility, he has chaired several beneficiary fund boards, including the Sanlam Trust Beneficiary Fund.

He holds LLB and LLM degrees from the University of the Free State, with postgraduate studies in Financial Planning (Stellenbosch University), Compliance Management (University of Johannesburg) and Business Turnaround and Corporate Renewal (Wits), and leadership programmes through the UCT Graduate School of Business and Harvard University. He serves on the advisory committees of the University of the Free State Faculty of Law and the Department of Applied Legal Studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.



Mr Thabo Makhosane
Chief Director: Frontline Monitoring and Support, DPME

Mohlalefi (Thabo) Makhosane (Honours Degree in Spatial Planning) is a Chief Director: Frontline Monitoring & Support in Department of Planning Monitoring & Evaluation. I am an Urban Planning Professional who has worked extensively in development planning and community development areas involving Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E), Frontline Monitoring & Support, Executive Monitoring Support (Presidential Special Projects, Imbizo's and Outreach Programmes), Project Management, Township and Neighbourhood Revitalization (Urban Renewal), and Spatial Planning. I am a well-rounded multitasking, self-motivated and trustworthy individual, who's passionate enthusiastic, dynamic, versatile and confident person, who is honest and hard working. Of the 25 years of work experience, twelve (12) years are in senior management positions or level.



Mr Thembaletu Seyisi
Head: Law Reform, Advocacy and Institutional Partnerships, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University

Thembaletu Seyisi is an Admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa and Head: Law Reform, Advocacy and Institutional Partnerships at the Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University, where he works on social justice reform in academia and beyond.

From 2018 to July 2021 he served on the board of Salesian Life Choices, a non-profit organisation that tackles inequality through youth empowerment, where he ensured good governance and accountability. In 2020 he co-founded the Black Lawyers Association Stellenbosch University Student Chapter (BLASC), which works to transform legal education, improve the student experience and advance human rights.

He is also a Director of Academic Inclusion Drive (AID), a non-profit organisation supporting the #Action4Inclusion campaign, a Stellenbosch University crowdfunding initiative to relieve student debt for "missing middle" students. His leadership showed early, when he was Head Prefect at Oaklands High School.



Mr Alulutho Njongi

Alulutho Njongi is currently a 3rd year student in the Diploma in Sustainable Development at Stellenbosch University and a social justice ambassador at the Centre for Social Justice.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Nombeko Patience Mbava
Independent Public Finance Expert

Dr Nombeko Mbava is an independent public finance expert with more than 25 years of experience in public finance, governance, evaluation and business. Her work focuses on how money moves between national, provincial and local government, and whether it reaches the communities it is meant to serve.

From 2021 to 2026, she was the full-time Chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC). The FFC is the Chapter 13 institution that makes recommendations to Parliament, provincial legislatures and the national executive on the equitable division of nationally raised revenue and other financial and fiscal matters. Under her leadership, the Commission received clean audits in 2022/23 and again in 2025/26.

She is a Council Member of the Council for Medical Schemes. She reviews country programme evaluations for the Independent Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She has lectured in public policy at the University of Cape Town, and her research on evaluation methods for African settings is cited by scholars around the world. She is a regular budget analyst on SABC News, Newzroom Afrika and eNCA.

Before public service, she spent more than 12 years in the oil industry. She began her career as an internal auditor at BP Southern Africa. She was then a business planning analyst at Chevron South Africa (formerly Caltex), and a senior business performance analyst and retail specialist at Sasol Oil. In these roles she did business analysis and shaped retail fuel strategy. She also worked as an SME business banker at Standard Bank. At the South African National Space Agency (SANSA), she led strategy and planning and contributed to the National Space Strategy. She then led planning, risk and evaluation at the Technology Innovation Agency.

Dr Mbava holds a PhD in Public and Development Management and an MBA, both from Stellenbosch University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Smith College in the United States. She is completing a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Economics at the University of Cape Town. She is a proud Brand Ambassador for the Stellenbosch Business School Alumni Association Future Fund.



Ms Cynthia Ramulifho
Chief Deputy Commissioner: Remand Detention, Department of Correctional Services

Cynthia Ramulifho is Chief Deputy Commissioner: Remand Detention in the National Department of Correctional Services, a post at the level of Lieutenant General and Deputy Director-General. A Master Human Resources Professional, she has extensive senior management experience in national and local government, particularly in policy, governance and strategic management.

She previously served in the Department of Defence as Director: Governance, Risk and Compliance. She is a gender activist who champions women's empowerment and emancipation.

Since 2024 she has been a doctoral candidate in Public Affairs at the Tshwane University of Technology.



Mr Ashley Losch
Director Inter-Government Relations (IGR), COGTA

Mr Ashley Losch is Director: Intergovernmental Coordination in the Office of the Deputy Director-General responsible for Local Government Operations and Support at the national Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). He works to strengthen intergovernmental relations in South Africa through institutional and governance reforms that promote policy coherence and coordinated implementation, with a particular focus on institutionalising and implementing the District Development Model (DDM). Before joining COGTA, he served for nearly 12 years as a Senior Governance Advisor in the Governance Support Programme of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). With 25 years of experience dedicated to local government, he brings extensive knowledge of cooperative governance and intergovernmental development planning, particularly from a municipal perspective.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Banke Olagbegi-Oloba
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

She is a legal practitioner, mediator, arbitrator, law lecturer, and researcher with extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution and access to justice. She holds a doctorate in law from Stellenbosch University, where her doctoral research comparatively examined court-connected ADR and the dispensation of civil justice in Nigeria, South Africa and the United States. Her current research inter-alia explores Ubuntu-informed mediation as a pathway for strengthening access to justice in housing and land disputes affecting indigent and low-income communities in Nigeria and South Africa. Her broader interests include mediation systems design, social justice, dispute resolution reform, and legal education.



Dr Nomonde Lindelani Avuyile Khiva
Public Finance Professional

Dr Nomonde Lindelani Avuyile Khiva is a public finance professional specialising in municipal fiscal policy, revenue management, governance, and financial sustainability. She holds a Doctor of Public Administration, an MBA, and a BCom in Accounting, complemented by qualifications in real estate, project management, and municipal financial management.

Dr Khiva currently works for Specialist: the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), where her work focuses on municipal revenue enhancement, fiscal sustainability, policy advocacy, and targeted support to municipalities. Her professional experience spans national and local government, public-sector property management, academia, and advisory services.

Her doctoral research focused on developing a framework for effective revenue management in municipalities, reflecting her commitment to strengthening municipal finances and contributing to sustainable and responsive local government in South Africa



Ms Lerato Ramatshella
Communications Specialist

Ms. Lerato Ramatshella is a Communications Specialist in the public sector, she brings with her 13 years of experience within the communications and stakeholder management field. She has worked in all the 3 spheres of government and her latest role is at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, under the Communications Management Chief Directorates which is responsible for coordinating significant government programmes and public engagement initiatives.

Ms. Ramatshella has special interest in Stakeholder Relations Management, she believes that solid stakeholder relations are fundamental to project and organisational success. When stakeholders feel engaged and valued, they are more likely to support your goals. Healthy relations can build and strengthen bridges which will improve project outcomes, reduce operational risks and build long term organisational trust.



Ms Morakane Segopolo
Deputy Director and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Capacity Development Specialist at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME).

She has extensive experience in public-sector M&E, capacity development, institutional strengthening and stakeholder engagement across national, provincial and local government. Her work focuses on strengthening the application of planning, monitoring and evaluation evidence to improve public-sector performance and service delivery.

She contributes to national platforms and partnerships that promote learning, accountability, professionalisation and evidence-informed decision-making. Morakane holds a Master's Degree in Administration (Research) and a postgraduate qualification in Monitoring and Evaluation, and also serves as the project coordinator for the DPME-Stellenbosch University partnership agreement.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Ms Cathy Mohlahlana
Anchor, The National Briefing, SAfm

Cathy Mohlahlana is an award-winning South African broadcast journalist and radio talk show host who leads conversations on the issues shaping Africa's political, economic and social landscape. She anchors The National Briefing, SAfm's flagship breakfast current affairs programme, on weekdays from 06h00 to 09h00, where she sets the national agenda, brings clarity to complex issues and creates a platform for informed public conversation. She has been named the National Press Club's Radio Journalist of the Year. Beyond broadcasting, she is a sought-after moderator, master of ceremonies, facilitator and panel chairperson, guiding high-level conversations across corporate, policy and multilateral platforms in South Africa and internationally.



Ms Bongzi Ngoma CA(SA)
Deputy Auditor-General, Auditor-General of South Africa

Bongzi Ngoma CA(SA) is the Deputy Auditor-General of South Africa. A chartered accountant by profession and a multi-award winner, she was the first public sector leader to be named CFO of the Year by CFO South Africa, in 2021.

That same year, African Women Chartered Accountants recognised her as Public Sector CFO of the Year, and the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA) named her Executive of the Year. In 2025, Finance Africa named her one of seventeen women empowering Africa's financial future.

Raised in a village, she benefited from opportunities created by others who paid it forward, and she has made mentoring central to her leadership. She guides young and aspiring leaders and is committed to passing on the values of excellence, accountability and ethics.



Dr Gareth Haysom
Senior Researcher, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

Dr Gareth Haysom is a Senior Researcher at the University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities, where he co-leads the Urban Food Systems Research Cluster. His research uses food as a lens on urbanisation in cities of the Global South, particularly in Africa.

With more than 20 years of experience in urban food-system transitions and governance, he advises municipalities, development organisations and UN bodies, including the FAO and UN-Habitat, on integrating food systems into urban planning.



Ms Elize Lombard
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Usapho Foundation

Elize Lombard is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Usapho Foundation, which she has led since 2013. She brings more than 20 years of social work experience across government, private healthcare and the non-profit sector.

She began her career with the Department of Correctional Services, then worked as a social worker at the Cape Town Society for the Blind and Boys Town, and as Principal Social Worker at Tenterden Place of Safety from 1995 to 2001. She then spent a decade managing a paediatric medical practice before founding Usapho. She holds a BA in Social Work from the University of the Western Cape and an MBA from Henley Business School Africa. She is a qualified ETD SETA assessor and a trainer in child development and positive parenting, with further training in counselling in the context of intimate partner violence. Her work is guided by the belief that people matter and that everyone deserves to be part of a great family.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr Neil Klug

Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand

Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Neil Klug is an urban planner and designer and a Senior Lecturer in the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Architecture and Planning, where he has more than 24 years of teaching experience. He holds Master's degrees in urban planning and urban design and a PhD in urban planning.

He has also worked as a planning consultant for more than 35 years and, since 1999, has undertaken more than 100 consulting projects across South Africa and several other Southern African countries. His areas of specialisation include housing policy and governance, particularly informal settlement upgrading, as well as land use planning and land tenure arrangements. He has published articles in local and international journals and book chapters, and in 2023 he co-edited *Housing in African Cities: A Lens on Urban Governance*.



Prof Armand Bam

Head: Social Impact, Stellenbosch Business School

Prof Armand Bam is an Associate Professor at Stellenbosch Business School, where he is Head of Social Impact and Academic Head of the Small Business Academy. An academic, social innovator and leader, he has more than 20 years of experience in the private and non-profit sectors.

His teaching fosters critical consciousness and challenges conventional educational models, promoting inclusivity, social justice and democratic values within and beyond the classroom to cultivate a new generation of socially responsible leaders.

Through his leadership roles he shapes community engagement and social innovation locally and internationally. He is the first Business School recipient of the Stellenbosch University Individual Award for Social Impact, the University's highest honour in this field.



Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka

Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cape Town

The Most Reverend Sithembele Sipuka is the Catholic Archbishop of Cape Town. Born in Dutywa in the Eastern Cape on 27 April 1960, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Queenstown on 17 December 1988.

He was appointed Bishop of Mthatha on 8 February 2008 and ordained a bishop on 3 May 2008. On 9 January 2026 it was announced that Pope Leo XIV had appointed him Archbishop of Cape Town, and he was installed on 14 March 2026.



Ms Nosisa Gwama

Senior Researcher, Financial and Fiscal Commission

Nosisa Gwama is a Senior Researcher at the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), where she undertakes research and policy analysis on intergovernmental fiscal relations and provides evidence-based research on fiscal matters. The FFC is an independent constitutional institution that makes recommendations to Parliament, provincial legislatures, organised local government and other organs of state on the equitable division of revenue among the three spheres of government.

An economist with extensive experience in economic and revenue analysis, she previously worked as a Research Specialist in the education sector, researching the sector's priority projects.

She holds a master's degree in development finance and has a particular interest in the connections between fiscal policy, local government development and education inequality.

Concept Document

"We have seen the value of government working as one through the District Development Model. The DDM seeks to eliminate silos between government departments and the three spheres of government. It further aims to strengthen integrated planning and coordination, improving service delivery, eliminating fragmentation and ensuring inclusive, people centred development"

President Cyril Ramaphosa, State of the Nation Address Cape Town City Hall, 12 February 2026.

Executive Summary

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) in the Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, incorporating the Law Faculty Trust Chair In Social Justice in partnership with the Council of Social Justice Champions, the United Nations in South Africa, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) among other partners presents the 8th Social Justice Summit (the Summit).

Taking place on 12 and 13 October in Coetzenburg Centre, the summit has become South Africa's foremost multi-stakeholder platform for translating constitutional commitments on social justice into concrete policy and law reform outcomes. The 2026 Summit convenes at a pivotal national and global juncture: with local government elections imminent, the 2030 SDG deadline approaching, and the country taking stock of thirty years of constitutional democracy, under a constitution that recognises local government in its own right amid persisting challenges of apartheid mirroring structural inequality, poverty and food insecurity and periodic unrests.

The 2026 Summit's theme, "The District Development Model/ Inter-Governmental Relations as Catalysts for Achieving SDGs and Social Justice," positions South Africa's District Development Model (DDM) / Inter-Governmental Relations as the primary institutional mechanism through which multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be simultaneously advanced. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently trailing at approximately 2% SDG attainment against a required trajectory of roughly 70%, an alarming gap that demands urgent, coordinated intervention, particularly at the local government level.

The Summit will produce five principal outputs: a landmark Summit Declaration anchoring South Africa's DDM-SDG commitments to 2030; a publicly accessible National SDG Dashboard disaggregated by municipality; a time-bound Plan of Action 2026–2030; Six Occasional Papers across the six SDG commission themes; and a Policy Brief on constitutional governance for the achievement of the SDGs. The Summit convenes government at all three spheres of government: The Executive, Parliament and the judiciary, including traditional and religious leaders, civil society, the private sector and youth formations — making it a genuinely whole-of-society convening with the authority and reach to drive national policy change.

1. Introduction

The 8th Social Justice Summit arrives at a moment where South Africa celebrates profound democratic milestones: 50 years since the Soweto Youth Uprising of 16 June 1976, which highlighted the disparities in apartheid education; 70 years since the historic Women's March of 9 August 1956, when more than 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings to defy unjust pass laws; 30 years since the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996, which promises a society based on social justice, democratization of everything and equal enjoyment of all fundamental human rights where every citizen's life is improved and every person's potential freed.

Despite the country's exceptionally transformative constitutional blueprint the structural disparities deliberately created by colonial and apartheid laws remain a stubborn definer of life opportunities with the situation exacerbated by poor service delivery particularly in the very communities that were relegated to underdevelopment under apartheid. The summit also convenes just four years before the 2030 deadline for the United Nations Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), a deadline that, by most assessments, requires a profound acceleration of action begging the question regarding the role of local government in the transformative governance required to achieve inclusive sustainable development mindful that at the centre of such governance should be the dismantling the colonial and apartheid legacies while improving the quality of life of all citizens and freeing the potential of all.

Local governance is an important level of government which is at the heart of everyday service delivery to South Africans. The Constitution directs that local governments must provide services to the people in a sustainable manner and promote social and economic development. 1 Sustainable development, the kind that houses people, puts food on the tables, clean water in taps and dignity in communities, does not happen at the level of national and provincial governance only, but it predominantly happens at the level of local government, where the state is closest to its people. As Prof Thuli Madonsela asserted recently, **"if we do not fix municipalities, South Africa will not be fixed."**

Now in its 8th iteration, the Social Justice Summit will bring together policymakers, legislators, political party leaders, members of the judiciary, traditional and religious leaders, civil society, academia, and development partners on the 12 and 13 of October 2026 to interrogate the progress of municipalities in bringing about social justice. The focus will be on critically examining the role of South Africa's ambitious District Development Model (DDM) and the extent to which it is attuned to the SDGs and transformative constitutional governance.

The summit will also include examining the extent to which, through the DDM, local government can foster the process of embracing the multicultural texture of local communities and leverage such for inclusive governance and translating cultural assets into wealth and levers of social cohesion.

2. Background and Context

2.1 The District Development Model

The District Development Model (DDM) was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2019 as South Africa's most ambitious attempt to move from fragmented, siloed governance of municipalities towards a more coordinated and collaborative effort through the development of "One District, One Plan, One Budget" framework across all 44 district and 8 metropolitan municipalities of the country. 2 The DDM was a direct response to the observed pattern of incoherence in planning and implementation that made monitoring and oversight of government programmes difficult as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Eastern Cape DDM Review 2023 noted. 3

The model is grounded in the Constitution's vision of cooperative governance found in Chapter 3 and the developmental mandate of local government in Section 152. These constitutional clauses demand of municipalities to provide democratic and accountable governance, ensure service delivery, and promote social and economic development. 4 The DDM is therefore the most powerful mechanism to the South African state for advancing social justice, and to the people to see to that the constitutional vision of a government that works for the people is realised. However, its effectiveness must be rigorously interrogated and, where necessary, recalibrated. 5

2.2 The SDG Crisis and the 2030 Deadline

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 as a global commitment towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promoting sustainable development. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently tracking at approximately 2% SDG attainment against a required trajectory of roughly 70% at this stage of the timeline an alarming gap. For South Africa, across key indicators including food security, clean water, quality education, reduced inequality, climate action, and responsive institutions, the distance between constitutional commitment and lived reality remains vast. 6

Applying the Pareto principle as a guide, the Summit will therefore focus on identifying the 20% of interventions likely to generate 80% of the required progress, those that are most impactful, most scalable, and most aligned with the DDM's mandate. The Summit will produce a disaggregated National SDG Dashboard mapping South Africa's performance in municipalities to provide the clearest picture yet of where the country stands, and the progress needed thereof. 7

2.3 The Social Justice Summit Legacy

The Social Justice Summit series, hosted by the CSJ under the leadership of by Professor Thuli Madonsela, has established itself as South Africa's foremost platform for translating constitutional commitments into policy outcomes. Previous summits have addressed hunger (2024), food security and peace (2025), and have forged partnerships with the United Nations in South Africa and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The 7th Summit in October 2025 addressed by his Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, produced a landmark Declaration on Social Justice, Food Security and Peace and saw President Ramaphosa agreeing to championing food security as a key outcome for his presidency.⁸

The 8th Summit aims to build decisively on this legacy not merely as a high-quality convening, but as a landmark policy moment cited in parliamentary debates, government planning documents, and international development circles for years to come. It seeks to extend the implementation partners to include SALGA and Cities Alliance in interrogating the DDM as a basis for policy work in local governance.

3. Summit Theme and Objectives

The Summit seeks to achieve the following objectives

3.1 Evaluate the District Development Model

- » Assess the adequacy of the DDM's conceptual vision against SDG benchmarks and constitutional governance norms.
- » Examine the execution of the DDM across different district and metropolitan municipalities, drawing on evidence of each in achieving the goals of the DDM.
- » Interrogate whether district-level planning has reduced the multi-dimensional poverty index in pilot areas.
- » Identify systemic gaps between the model's stated intent and its delivery outcomes.

3.2 Present the National SDG Dashboard

- » Present a disaggregated National SDG Dashboard mapping South Africa's performance per province and per municipality.
- » Situate South Africa's progress within the global and Sub-Saharan African context using UN statistics.
- » Identify municipalities furthest behind and propose targeted intervention clusters using the Pareto principle.
- » Link district-level SDG data to the 2026–27 national planning calendar.

3.3 Advocate and Advance the Six SDG Pillars through Occasional Papers

The six SDGs most directly implicated by the DDM architecture constitute the six themes of the Summit which will drive the conversations to be had. These are:

- » **SDG 1 & 10 — Zero Poverty & Reduced Inequalities:** DDM explicitly aims for an accelerated initiative to promote zero hunger, poverty eradication, employment and equality. This aligns with SDG 1 & 10 which set a target goal of zero poverty and reduced inequality.
- » **SDG 3 — Good Health & Well-Being:** Access to health infrastructure remains uneven across districts against a target background of the DDM in investing and advancing plans for. This speaks to SDG 3 of ensuring good health for people, and just how it aligns the national health policy with local delivery.
- » **SDG 4 — Quality Education:** Education outcomes correlate strongly with district governance quality and this positions itself in how the DDM embeds school infrastructure and skills pipelines in its model. This aligns with SDG 4 which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

² <https://www.cogta.gov.za/ddm/index.php/about-us/>

³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2023, Eastern Cape District Development Model Review: Planning, Implementation and Oversight Assessment, UNDP South Africa, Pretoria.

⁴ Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996

⁵ Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) 2020, District Development Model: Integrated Urban-Rural Economy, Government Printer, Pretoria.

- » **SDG 5 — Gender Equality:** The DDM identifies the need to incorporate initiatives and interventions to deal with Gender-based violence and Femicide, even more so in the wake of GBV declared a national disaster in 2025, and how DDM structures can be mandated to include GBV response frameworks. This aligns with SDG 5 which calls for gender equality and women and girl child empowerment.
- » **SDG 16 — Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions:** The DDM affirms anti-corruption, transparent budgeting and community oversight mechanisms as foundations of the DDM's success. This aligns with SDG 16 which calls for the promotion of sustainable development and for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- » **SDG 13 & 15 — Climate Action and Environmental Conservation:** Spatial Development Frameworks within DDM invoke the SDG 13 and 15 framework as instruments for climate-resilient infrastructure planning and environmental conservation.

3.4 Call for Investment in Infrastructure and Partnership

Examine the DDM's capacity to attract and coordinate blended finance for infrastructure delivery, including water, sanitation, energy and digital connectivity, in alignment with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Assess the integration of bulk infrastructure master plans within the DDM's "One District, One Plan" framework, including the role of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), and the Infrastructure Fund in accelerating delivery.

3.5 Drive Private Sector and International Commitment

- » Move private sector, civil society, academia and government from conversation to co-commitment through signed partnership frameworks.
- » Draw on global best practice from Cities Alliance member cities and international development partners.
- » Position South Africa as a model for DDM-style SDG localisation across the African continent.

4. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

- **Summit Declaration:** A named and published declaration which is South Africa's anchoring social justice, DDM and SDG commitments to 2030 in one definitive document.
- **National SDG Dashboard:** A publicly accessible, municipality-disaggregated mapping of South Africa's SDG performance across all 52 districts and metropolitan municipalities.
- **Plan of Action 2026–2030:** A concrete, time-bound action plan identifying the highest- impact 20% interventions that will produce 80% of SDG impact.
- **Six Occasional Papers:** Published pre-Summit across the six SDG commission themes, generating academic and policy debate.
- **Policy Brief:** Evidence-based analysis of the DDM's alignment with constitutional governance and the SDGs, distributed to all spheres of government and Parliament.

⁶ United Nations 2024, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, United Nations Statistics Division, New York.

⁷ Koch, R 1999, The 80/20 Principle: The Secret of Achieving More with Less, Currency Doubleday, New York.

⁸ Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University 2025, Declaration on Social Justice, Food Security and Peace: 7th Social Justice Summit, CSJ, Stellenbosch.



Centre for Social Justice

**Compendium of outcomes of
previous Social Justice Summits**



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Hazendal Declaration

(Declaration on Leveraging the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Human Rights Agenda to Advance Social Justice, adopted at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit, Hazendal Estate, South Africa, 2019)

Boschendal Declaration

(Declaration on Mainstreaming Social Justice in Economic Policy Design and Law Reform, adopted at the 3rd Social Justice Summit, Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, 2021)

Boschendal Statement

(Statement on Restitution adopted at the 4th Social Justice Summit, Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, 2022)

Cape Town Statement

(Statement on The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice, adopted at the 5th Social Justice Summit, Artscape Theatre Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, 2023)

Cape Town Resolution

(Resolution on Social Justice and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), adopted at the 6th Social Justice Summit, Artscape Theatre Centre, Cape Town, South Africa on 18 October 2024)

CTICC Resolution

(7th Social Justice Summit Resolution, on Social Justice, Food Security and Peace in a Turbulent World: Pathways to Equality, Solidarity, Sustainability and Climate Resilience, adopted at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa, 17 October 2025)

Hazendal Declaration

(Declaration on Leveraging the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Human Rights Agenda to Advance Social Justice, adopted at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit, Hazendal Estate, South Africa, 2019)

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

Believe that South Africa belongs to all its people and that the country has enough room and resources for all to rise to the level of great potential of all persons and improved quality of life in a society based on human dignity, the achievement of equality and expanded frontiers of free-dom for all without discrimination on any of the grounds in the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, among others,

Note with deep concern chronic levels of poverty and inequality marked by patterns of socio-economic exclusion for many and extreme racial, gender and age disparities in socioeco-nomic opportunities in South Africa, primarily along the contours of the unjust laws and policies that sought to create a system of white privilege and black disadvantage under colonialism and apartheid,

Further note the persistent gap regarding equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by women, compounded by the intersection of gender and factors such as disability, age, urban-rural divide, township-suburb divide, nationality, sexual orientation and other forms of human diversity that have been historically leveraged to oppress and exclude on the basis of difference,

Further note the escalation of fractured relationships and deterioration in social cohesion, particularly on grounds of race and class, as well as ceaseless patterns of violence, particularly against women, children and older persons mostly in isolated rural residences such as villages and farms,

Further note that the TRC did great work in exposing physical and psychological abuses in the security sector, but did not deal with social, economic and psychological impact of apartheid and that other efforts since then have not adequately addressed the systemic impact of past injustices,

Believe that as long as there is injustice somewhere there can't be sustainable peace anywhere,

Further believe that the Constitution offers a transformative framework for healing the divisions of the past by redressing power and resource imbalances in society and promoting social cohesion,

(Declaration on Leveraging the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Human Rights Agenda to Advance Social Justice, adopted at the Inaugural Social Justice Summit, Hazendal Estate, South Africa, 2019)

Further believe that there is a need for a more accelerated pace in advancing social justice leveraging opportunities created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, focusing on poverty and inequality, and that this requires a social compact on social justice with all hands on deck between government, business, society and the international community,

Are convinced that an integrated action plan that seeks to provide a systems approach to change, focusing on policy reform, public participation in strengthening democracy, including eradicating corruption, sharing resources and promoting social cohesion and resources mobilisation, is needed, Further believe that there is a need for a more accelerated pace in advancing social justice leveraging opportunities created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, focusing on poverty and inequality, and that

this requires a social compact on social justice with all hands on deck between government, business, society and the international community,

Are convinced that an integrated action plan that seeks to provide a systems approach to change, focusing on policy reform, public participation in strengthening democracy, including eradicating corruption, sharing resources and promoting social cohesion and resources mobilisation, is needed.

We, thus hereby,

1. Commit ourselves to join hands in advancing the constitutional promise, human rights and SDGs in a manner that redresses imbalances of the past while ending poverty and ensuring no one is left behind with regard to full participation in all aspects of the economy and social life,
2. Commit to reverse racialised, gendered and other inherited and emerging disparities in the economy, education, health, science, environment, technology, infrastructure and all areas of life,
3. Agree to the proposed Social Justice M-Plan to accelerate change focusing on:
 - i. Policy reform through data analytics to ensure inclusive social impact;
 - ii. Mobilising society towards social accountability and social cohesion;
 - iii. Everybody showing leadership and contributing to a capable state; and
 - iv. Resource mobilisation from society and international friends to fund accelerated social change.

The Participants

“Reaffirm our commitment to our shared humanity as anchored in the Constitution and its vision on healing the divisions of the past and establishing an egalitarian society that is based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights by discarding the legacy of colonialism, apartheid, patriarchy, xenophobia, heteronormativity and related injustices of the past and emerging injustices,

Believe that South Africa belongs to all its people and that the country has enough room and resources for all to rise to the level of great potential of all persons and improved quality of life in a society based on human dignity, the achievement of equality and expanded frontiers of freedom for all without discrimination on any of the grounds in the Constitution, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, among others,

Note with deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has cost millions of lives, particularly those of the poorest in the world, has exposed the unconscionable scale of social and economic disparities and left certain groups in societies severely exposed to heightened social and economic hardships, including food security disruptions,

Believe the freedom to thrive socially and economically, in equality with others, is the birth right of every man, woman or person in the continent and the broader world, yet many remain bound in chains of poverty, inequality, hunger, unemployment and various forms of social exclusion, including education and digital exclusion,

Are convinced that deepening poverty, hunger and inequality pose a threat to social cohesion, peace, stability and the rule of law, while undermining sustainable development and resilient economic growth and that there is an urgent need to make meaningful progress in addressing these disparities in line with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (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 Musa Plan), a Marshall Plan-like initiative dedicated to advancing social justice in South Africa; and acknowledgement of the threat that social injustice poses to sustainable development, social cohesion, peace and stability; and seizing the catalytic opportunity presented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda for Change and the opportunities available for multidisciplinary academic research to catalyse progress towards breaking the back of structural inequality and end poverty by 2030,

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

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

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

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

But note that insufficient progress has not been made with regard to mainstreaming poverty impact considerations in the design of policies, a reality that has been exposed very clearly by the regulatory responses to COVID-19, which although well intended, had a disparate impact on the poor and other disadvantaged groups and communities, including women, young people, small business and township and village socio-economic systems,

Are encouraged by government's willingness to collaborate in piloting social justice impact foresight research that seeks to assist governments, businesses and courts to leverage sufficiently disaggregated data to predict the likely impact of planned legislation, policies and programmes on diverse groups in society and make informed policy choices that eschew any unintended impacts that exacerbate poverty and inequality.

We thereby resolve to recommit ourselves to the Social Justice Musa Plan and to scale and fast-track its key result areas,

1. Social justice-resonant policies and law: Empower policy- and lawmakers to leverage data analytics to catalyse social justice and SDG responsive law and policy reform;
2. Social accountability and social cohesion: Foster social accountability and social cohesion through legal, human rights and democracy awareness and empowerment initiatives;
3. Resource mobilization: Mobilise societal, corporate and international support and resources towards accelerated reduction of poverty and inequality by 2030;
4. Strengthened democracy: Encourage ethical and democracy attuned leadership among all and contribute to building a strong capable state) and the Programme Of Action adopted at this summit:
 - a. Collaborate in conducting research that helps government, businesses and societal institutions as well as communities to seize the opportunity created by COVID-19 rebuilding endeavours, to deepen social justice research, innovation and teaching, strengthen collaboration across disciplines and sectors between academic institutions, broader civil society, business and government, including combining law making with design thinking, engineering and data science,

- b. 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,
- c. Promote greater constitutional accountability for socio-economic inclusion and participatory democracy as well as social accountability through actions that include conducting constitutional literacy, legal literacy and economic literacy, while promoting greater transparency in overnment economic policy design processes and enhanced access to justice through courts and other forums,
- d. Collaborate on a Model Equality Duty Law to assisting governments to adopt a law or integrate in existing law, a requirement for the certification of compliance with the social justice or equality duty, before any law, policy or programme is passed and assist with a model law to facilitate this process taking into account the lessons from and continued responsibility to advance gender mainstreaming and children's rights, while mindful of all intersectional inequalities,
- e. Collaborate to support a COVID-19 rebuilding better together agenda in the continent that transcends the binary focus on health and the economy and includes social wellbeing imperatives such as education, mental health, food security, climate change and digital inclusion while fostering a deliberate implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with all hands-on-deck in fostering resilient communities, shared prosperity and peace in the constituent countries and the continent,
- f. Collaborate in fostering a climate of friendship and culture of shared humanity through embracing social justice, respect for human dignity, embracing diversity and fostering social cohesion and peace in the continent,
- g. Collaborate to assist the government to place investment in people and value to society at the centre of all investment policies and endeavours and constantly monitor the country's Gini-co-efficient and the impact of all policies on South Africa's position on the Human Development Index and periodic progress on Agenda 2063 targets and the SDGs,
- h. Engage in interdisciplinary collaboration to design and implement research and capacity building programs aimed at reinforcing state capacity for ethical leadership, good governance, anti-corruption in order to improve responsiveness, accountability and broader checks and balances,
- i. Promote the prioritisation of the realisation of social justice through economic redistribution and economic parity, ensuring active public participation in budgetary processes to achieve a constitutionally resonant budget that is informed by mainstreaming gender and intersectionality considerations, such as GBV, child abuse and child marriage/adoption, to remove social barriers to women and young people's economic participation.

Boschendal Statement

(Statement on Restitution adopted at the 4th Social Justice Summit, Boschendal Conference Centre, South Africa, 2022)

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

The 2022 summit was conceived as a platform for difficult conversations on dimensions of restitution that seem to have eluded public discourse in the last 28 years of South Africa's democracy and over seven decades since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights at a global level.

The social and economic impact of centuries of racist and patriarchal laws and policies was examined, and the adequacy of state restitutive measures was assessed. The engagement also considered previous agreements reflected in Summit and Conference Resolutions and Declarations. These included consensus reached in the inaugural summit that the past will continue to poison the present, including social cohesion efforts, until its claims regarding justice are addressed earnestly and decisively. The gathering was anchored in the shared conviction that shame and complicity in unjust conditions must be acknowledged and confronted for us to address the continuing consequences of our problematic past. Parallel breakaway sessions covered the topics of Wealth, Income and Economic Justice; Health and Well-being, Family and Social Life; Land, Housing and Spatial Equality; the Impact of Digitalisation and Innovation on the Media, Education and Epistemology; and Public Governance, Democratic Leadership, and Access to Justice.

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

General Observations

1. Insights from the keynote public hearing and plenary sessions at the summit confirmed that difficult conversations do not generally happen organically or spontaneously,
2. The summit noted that wrongdoings and the ways we have either been victimised by it or benefited from it is valuable in laying the foundation for open, honest dialogue and future relationships,
3. The summit further noted that shame and complicity in unjust conditions have not been fully acknowledged and confronted,
4. The summit also noted that mental health in restitution is a crucial consideration as we deal with collective and intergenerational trauma and unhealed emotional wounds,
5. The summit further observed that restitution and transformation are two sides of the same coin of social justice. Building a better future rooted in social justice principles is the best way to restore what was lost and honour those who sacrificed their lives in the fight for equality,

6. Participants observed that a lack of indigenous knowledge creates a barrier to restitution,
7. The summit further observed that in terms of economic restitution, pre-conceived notions around basic income support and South Africa's social grant system persist,
8. The summit further noted that recognition, representation and restitution for people living with disabilities are not prioritised in national policy-making efforts.

The summit called for the following remedies:

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

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

Wealth, income and economic justice

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

Health and well-being, family and social life

- a) A path to restitution should acknowledge that victims of historical injustice did not only lose or sacrifice material things but often also their dignity, family ties, memories, and dreams,
- b) The humanities should be used as a vehicle for re-humanising and validating memory and restitution.

People's sense of self must be restored,

- c) There should be more efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into education with a strong focus on African history and intergenerational discussions,
- d) Spaces and platforms for storytelling should be established where people can share their experiences of harm and how it impacted their lives,
- e) There should be continued dialogues and workshops to define an understanding of what restitution means to South Africans,
- f) The difference between restitution and charity should be highlighted – the beneficiaries of injustices should recognise they are not giving out of magnanimity, but that people continue to suffer because of actions and policies from which they benefitted.

Land, housing and spatial equality

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

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

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

Public governance, democratic leadership, and access to justice

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

Cape Town Statement

(Statement on The Role of Business and Civil Society in Advancing Social Justice, adopted at the 5th Social Justice Summit, Artscape Theatre Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, 2023)

The Participants,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are further convinced that purpose-driven, consolidated as well as scaled business and civil society action anchored in SDGs and the Social Justice Musa Plan can turn the trajectory and pace of advancing equality and ending poverty while overcoming hunger and climate change plus fostering peace, Welcome and applaud the decision of 130 CEOs to join hands with government to help fix energy security, transport-logistic and crime and corruption believing that mindfully executed in an equity impact conscious way, this initiative will not only solve the targeted problems but will also have multiplying effects that reduce poverty, inequality while fostering climate change reversal and social cohesion,

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

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

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

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

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

Cape Town Resolution

(Resolution on Social Justice and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), adopted at the 6th Social Justice Summit, Artscape Theatre Centre, Cape Town, South Africa on 18 October 2024)

The participants, drawn from government, the judiciary, the diplomatic, legal, business, civil society and faith communities,

Recognise that hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition remain critical challenges in South Africa, despite constitutional and international commitments regarding human rights, social justice and sustainable development that seek to ensure access to adequate food and nutrition for all,

Accept that ending hunger is a constitutional and international law human rights obligation, flowing from sections 27 and 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966), and the African Charter for Human and People's Rights and its Proto-col on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) ("Maputo Protocol"),

Acknowledge that ending hunger is a sustainable development commitment, in terms of the Copenhagen Declaration (1995), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the AU Agenda 2063, and the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and its Addendum on Violence against Women (1997) ("SADC Gender Protocol") and the National Development Plan (NDP),

Are convinced that hunger is also a social justice matter, with legal and social obligations flowing from the country's constitutional and international law social justice commitments, ubuntu, and the acknowledgement that the majority of those trapped in hunger or at high risk of it tend to be social groups experiencing generational deprivation as an aftermath of patriarchy, apartheid and colonialism,

Believe that this obligation requires an integrated, multidimensional, multifocal, and intersectional approach, with all role players, including civil society, global governance, and international cooperations, playing their parts, mindful that governments bear the bulk of the responsibility for ending hunger and ensuring equal enjoyment of the right to food and adequate nutrition by all,

Are encouraged by efforts made to end hunger, among them an elaborate social security and social assistance system that includes social grants: Child Support Grant (CSG); Old Age Pension, Disability Grants; the National School Nutrition Programme; a Social Relief of Distress Grant; a Food For All Campaign; and Policies for Economic Inclusion and Parity such as Social Employment, Land Redistribution and Economic Advancement of the historically excluded,

Are saddened that despite such efforts, hunger persists, and more have been thrown into its dark pit by the multiple and concurrent crises of our time, exacerbated by corruption, maladministration in state affairs, and corporate greed, which includes unconscionable food price inflation, gentrification, and poor pay,

Believe that the Social Justice Musa Plan (Musa Plan) can catalyse the trajectory and pace of advancing equality and ending poverty while overcoming hunger and climate change, thus fostering sustainable development and peace,

Further believe that the purposeful design of policies and laws by and for all that centres around justice, food security and food sovereignty can ensure congruence with constitutional objectives and should, therefore, inform the design of all policies, laws and programmes.

We recognise that:

1. South Africa faces significant socio-economic inequalities,
2. Despite the constitutional right to food, national frameworks and international and African instruments, a large proportion of the population remains food insecure,
3. Gaps between constitutional, legal and policy commitments, as well as the lived realities of millions of South Africans persist, while some policies, laws and programmes unintentionally exacerbate inequality, poverty and hunger,
4. Lack of coordination among corporate, civil society organisations, government, and international partners in efforts to combat hunger has been a significant barrier to creating inclusive and sustainable change.

We agree that key challenges include:

1. Economic inequality and poverty
2. Access to nutritious food and the fostering of food sovereignty at all levels
3. The existence of an implementation gap
4. Impact of climate change and conflict, including war and displacement
5. Lack of proper nutrition for mothers and children
6. Impact on people living with disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as the deaf community and mental health disabilities
7. One-size-fits-all policies, laws and programmes whose unintended consequence is the exacerbation of inequality, poverty and hunger
8. High food inflation rates and food waste
9. Transversal coordination of hunger and related food security
10. Vulnerabilities related to rural communities, the homeless, students, children, refugees and the unemployed or early retired
11. Equitable access to Information and digital inclusion and the justice system
12. Competition between food and the rising prices of energy, transport, education, health, housing and the impact of legacy spatial inequalities.

We agree that the following principles guide this resolution:

1. Human dignity
2. Human rights and ubuntu
3. Multidimensionality of hunger
4. Focus on marginalised communities
5. Social justice impact-conscious policy reform
6. Individual and collective responsibility
7. Food education

We, thus, hereby agree to adopt the following programme of action to address these challenges individually and collectively, to align with SDG 2, and to scale and fast-track the Social Justice

Musa Plan and its key result areas:

1. Strengthen legal accountability for food security and food sovereignty, appreciating the interdependence of food systems
2. Support the Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant)
3. Promote sustainable agricultural practices
4. Address food distribution inefficiencies
5. Focus on nutrition and food quality
6. Encourage public-private partnerships
7. Execute anticipatory Social Justice Impact Assessments (SIAM)
8. Ensure inclusive communication

We Conclude:

- a) Hunger is not just a charity issue but a social justice, human rights and sustainable development issue.
- b) By focusing on the constitutional right to food, strengthening policy and legal accountability, promoting sustainable agriculture, agro-ecology and addressing systemic inequalities that cause a barrier to access to food, South Africa can make meaningful progress toward attaining SDG 2 by 2030.
- c) Collective action must include civil society stepping up more meaningfully in a collaborative, "all-hands-on-deck" partnership aimed at leaving no one and no community behind.
- d) Call for a renewed commitment to achieving Zero Hunger by addressing the root causes of food insecurity through a social justice framework.
- e) Hunger is not merely a technical problem but a profound social injustice that demands urgent and coordinated action across all sectors of society.
- f) We, therefore, pledge to lead by example, which will include tracking and mapping hunger and current solutions to it to strengthen collaboration to ensure that no one is left behind.
- g) We 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 everyone's responsibility and our commitment to take, scale and connect actions that will end hunger by 2030.

7th Social Justice Summit Resolution

We, the participants of the 7 th Social Justice Summit, convened under the theme "Pathways to Equity, Solidarity, Sustainability and Climate Resilience," guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1 and 2), the South African Constitution, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Affirm that food insecurity is one of the greatest social injustices of our time.
- Reaffirm our commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and its vision of a nation founded on human dignity, equality and freedom.
- Recognise that the right to food is not charity, but a fundamental human right that underpins human dignity, peace, and sustainable development.
- Meet at a critical moment in global history, when poverty, climate change, and violent conflict converge, recognising that hunger is not only a manifestation of how these threaten livelihoods, peace, and equality, but in itself exacerbates poverty, climate-related crises, and violent conflict.

We are cognisant that the privilege conferred on South Africa to preside over the G20 also comes with the responsibility to transform dialogue into action. In reiterating that food justice is an integral part of social justice, thus, we resolve to provide leadership in advancing the goal of Zero Hunger, not only in South Africa but globally. As President Cyril Ramaphosa has reminded us at this Summit, to do so, "is not only a measure of policy success but a test of our collective conscience and reaffirms our conviction".

We therefore;

- Acknowledge that food insecurity and hunger are inseparable, and that systemic inequalities which are exacerbated by inaction, maladministration and corruption, must be dismantled. The persistence of food insecurity in vulnerable constituencies, particularly among women and children-headed households, demands urgent structural transformation.
- Recognise that the right to food is a constitutional right under section 27 and 28 of the Constitution and a binding international obligation.
- Emphasise that hunger does not necessarily stem from the absence of food but often from the lack of access to opportunities to gain or further skills; or the ineffective and inefficient utilisation of resources, or communities' lack of agency in influencing and controlling the food systems that serve them.

Understanding that the right to food entails the respect, protection and fulfilment of every human being's right to live with dignity, we note the following:

1. Legal and policy frameworks often come upon as rigid and unresponsive to the current realities faced by many South Africans. Therefore, laws and policies must evolve from being largely symbolic to being truly transformative.
2. Environmental and land degradation through bad pesticide management and overexploitation of land use remain under-regulated and threaten both ecosystems and human life. Therefore, impunity for violations of the right to food and environmental harm cannot continue to persist.
3. Our food systems serve the interests of big food at the expense of small-scale farmers, traders and ordinary families, exacerbating wastage and inefficiencies. Therefore, all sectors must

work together in undergirding the food system with social justice, centering people as active participants and not mere beneficiaries of grants and programmes.

4. There is a deep need for evidence-based data and the equipping of appropriate skills to graduates so we can tackle this persistent problem. Academia should therefore serve and invest in communities through research, teaching and community programmes that transform the realities of ordinary citizens and their communities including, within the university themselves.
5. Civil society often works in silos disconnected from other actors and partners. Therefore, it should leverage its moral authority, deep connection to communities and nuanced understanding of complex issues in building common understanding and cohesive agendas.
6. In light of the current challenges, government efforts can seem inadequate and unsustainable. Therefore, all levels of government should work together and scale up existing initiatives and interventions, in partnership with civil society, academia, communities and the private sector, drawing from proven models at home and abroad.

We thereby resolve to recommit ourselves to:

1. End impunity for internal and international violations of the right to food.
2. Establish an Informal Commission on Food Justice to draft a Model Law on Food Security and Climate Resilience.
3. Integrate hunger and food security commitments into G20 policy dialogues and other regional frameworks such as SADC and the AU
4. Champion Africa's leadership in global sustainability and food systems reform under South Africa's G20 presidency.
5. Promote inclusive partnerships that strengthen financing, anti-corruption mechanisms, and accountability frameworks.
6. Advocate for data transparency and coordination between governments, NGOs, and international agencies to ensure that "no one is left behind."
7. Accompany law enactment with education, monitoring and enforcement measures to eradicate illegality and impunity.
8. Integrate climate justice into national budgets, policies, and intergenerational protections.
9. Enhance just access to land, energy, and agricultural opportunities, while ensuring that transitions to green economies do not compromise food rights or customary land security.
10. To promote capacity building and research that supports all other actors in achieving the vision of socially just, climate-resilient and people-centred food systems at home and abroad.

We therefore resolve that:

1. Food justice is an integral part of social justice.
2. Peace without food security is impossible.
3. Social justice is not a choice: it is the key to freedom from hunger and poverty.
4. Therefore, we call upon governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector and all South Africans to join hands in building a just, inclusive, and sustainable future, where every person, in every community, has the right, means, and enabling environment to enjoy the right to food in exercise of their right to human dignity.

Let this Resolution mark the beginning of a Partnership for Social Justice, Food Security, and Peace, guided by the vision of the MUSA Plan, to build a South Africa where hunger is history, equality is reality, and solidarity is our legacy.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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.

Musa Plan for Social Justice

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 is the solution?

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 feels that democracy has failed them in that the constitutional promise of freed potential and improved quality of life has not yet reached them.



Resource Mobilisation

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

Social Justice Vision

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.

Council of Social Justice Champions

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

Justice 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.

Social Accountability and Social Cohesion

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

Social Justice Champions

Work of the Council Champions, Social Justice Awards.

Notes

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SPONSORS AND PARTNERS





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