



Summary Report on

**The International Conference**

**on Law, Policy and Social Justice:**

**Taking Economic Equality Seriously**

Held at The Retreat at Boschendal, Franschhoek,

on 11 October 2021

## **Introduction**

The Second Annual International Conference on Social Justice was hosted at the Retreat at Boschendal on Monday, 11 October 2021, by Professor Thuli Madonsela, in her capacity as the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University, and the Council of Social Justice Champions.

The hybrid conference, which was followed by the Third Annual Social Justice Summit on Tuesday, 12 October 2021, was attended by academics, lawyers, legislators and other policymakers, judicial officers, diplomats, civil society, business and international stakeholders from five continents. They recommitted themselves to scaling up efforts at advancing equality and ending poverty as an investment in social cohesion and peace.

The golden thread of the conference was Taking Economic Equality Seriously. The conference looked at the adverse impact economic inequality has on social justice, especially in a country such as South Africa, which has one of the largest inequality rates in the world.

## **Background**

The Social Justice Chair (CSJ) is a social justice hub that promotes scholarship, consciousness, public policy design skills, collaboration and community access to resources to accelerate the achievement of social justice in academia and society.

To ensure the realisation of these goals, this conference seeks to deepen social justice scholarship focused on identifying, discussing and engaging socio-economic theory which prioritises social justice and inclusive economic sustainability as a prerequisite for the achievement of peace and for reducing poverty and inequality in South Africa and on the African continent.

The conference further seeks to evaluate the African continent's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on poverty and inequality in the continent, incorporating food security and income security.

## **Purpose**

Delegates from around the world gathered for two days of discussions on 11 and 12 October under the auspices of the Musa Plan for Social Justice (Social Justice M-Plan) which was adopted by a multi-stakeholder summit in 2019.

The conference, a global platform that brought together social justice researchers and stakeholders reflected on advancing equality, and ending poverty in economies globally, focusing on the progress, shortfalls and prospects regarding law and policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the African continent.

The event reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Social Justice M-Plan and focussed specifically on fostering economic parity.

The conference further explored the role of economic equality in sustaining peace, stability, and the rule of law in emerging democracies.

Most of the speakers touched on the devastation COVID-19 had wrought, taking millions of lives, especially in the poorest countries in the world. The delegates declared unequivocally: “We ignore systemic and chronic inequality and poverty at our peril.”

### **Reflections by the Founder of the International Conference and the Summit, Professor Thuli Madonsela, Law Trust Chair in Social Justice at Stellenbosch University**

The events gave us an important opportunity to take stock of the progress we have made since the inaugural Conference and Summit in 2019, where we unanimously adopted a declaration that commits us to implement a Marshall Plan-styled Social Justice M-Plan.

On day one, the Conference focused on an emerging academic scholarship and innovative technologies seeking to advance social justice.

It succeeded in providing a platform for sharing ideas on leveraging academic scholarship for social impact research, innovation and training to help governments and corporate decision-makers to integrate social justice considerations in their policy design and product development to accelerate progress toward economic parity and inclusion.

On day two, the Summit discussions reflected on progress achieved since the adoption of the Social Justice Declaration at the inaugural summit regarding the advancement of equality and the elimination of poverty through leveraging the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2019.

I am overjoyed at the number and innovativeness of the practical ideas that were generated on how to accelerate progress on economic parity, particularly on issues such as financial inclusion, economic modelling, transformative constitutionalism and citizen empowerment.

One of the key outcomes I am excited about is an agreement to advocate for a law, or clause in existing legislation, that makes it mandatory for government to certify that a law or policy it intends to pass will advance equality and diminish poverty and not exacerbate the situation on these two social justice imperatives. We further agreed to design and promote a model law as well as collaborate to design tools for predictive impact assessment of laws and policies.

Having rooted social justice in international treaties such as the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, I pointed delegates to the preamble of the South African Constitution which outlines the three pillars on which South African society is to be built: democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights. This lays the foundation for social democracy.

This means that every policy and every law should give meaning to these three pillars and be validated based on the extent of their alignment with them.

Let us agree that establishing a society based on these three pillars entails establishing a society of equals.

We should ask ourselves – what does a South Africa look like in which everyone is equal, and one in which everyone counts?

### **Conference themes**

Speakers and attendees debated, disagreed and agreed on what economic equality meant, especially in the parallel sessions on land reform, property rights, and the distribution of assets; business ownership; financial inclusion; wealth and income distribution; social security and the basic income grant; agriculture and food security; education and digital inclusion; social justice resonant economic theories including indices for measuring economic growth; emerging tools for social impact conscious economic planning; and the role of law reform and judicial activism in advancing economic parity and SDG goals.

The purpose of the different plenary groups was to interrogate the various aspects of inequality and the participants agreed on a resolution that outlined the next steps forward to addressing inequality.

### **Welcome**

***Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, Stellenbosch University Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching***

Professor Ramjugernath said he was proud that the Law Faculty of Stellenbosch University is home to the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, promotes social justice scholarship, consciousness, public policy, design skills and collaboration around social justice issues, and community access to social justice resources, which is envisioned to accelerate social justice reform in academia and society.

He is just as proud that Stellenbosch University, as part of their Vision 2040, is keeping with its strategic theme of a transformative student experience.

He linked this to the work of the University of Stellenbosch, which is about placing human dignity at the centre of all it is doing, while correcting the unjust legacy of our past, and responding to all other injustices and inequality that beset this nation and this continent.

***Professor Wim de Villiers Stellenbosch, University Rector and Vice-Chancellor and co-chair of the Council of Social Justice Champions***

Professor de Villiers spoke about the link between peace and justice, warning that sustainable peace will remain a pipe dream if we do not make meaningful progress on economic equality.

He said part of this conference's aim was to evaluate the African continent's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on poverty and inequality on the continent, incorporating food security and income security.

"Stellenbosch University strives to be relevant to the people of our country, continent and the rest of the world, making meaningful contributions that will take humanity forward."

Stellenbosch University has made a commitment to be a force for good in the transformation of South Africa into a place of opportunity for all, a place of shared prosperity and a place where there's sustainable, peaceful coexistence.

"If there's no meaningful progress on the social justice dimensions of economic equality and poverty, sustainable peace remains a pipedream in the continent and globally."

### **Keynote address**

*Dr Sharlene Swartz, Division Executive of the Inclusive Economic Development Research Programme at the Human Sciences Research Council. Redistribution Strategies and Approaches to Drive Transformation and Social Justice in South Africa*

Dr Swartz presented grafts and research showing the stark reality between black and white people when it came to wealth. Social cohesion depends on socio-economic rights, and eliminating discrimination depends on active citizenship.

Swartz said inequality and levels of violence globally are linked and associated statistically and they are the enemy of social cohesion. Some of them are obvious, she said, like more employment initiatives.

"The wealth tax and the universal basic income grant are important and urgent. [As is] a national youth service programme, that not just employs young people, but helps young people to know each other across these divides and racial mistrust lines. Those are obvious. But [we] also [need] technological solutions to efficiencies. Public education campaigns around the gains that we have made. Non-violent strategies for change."

### **Keynote address**

*Judge Dunstan Mlambo, Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa, Chairperson of Legal Aid South Africa, and Trustee of the Legal Resources Centre's Public Interest Law Clinic*

### **The role of the judiciary and emphasising the importance of anchoring everything in the Constitution.**

Judge Mlambo spoke about the effects of apartheid, particularly on black people, who were stripped of their dignity and the opportunity to improve their socio-economic conditions. His main theme was accessing the legal and court system, which is prohibitively expensive.

“No one can deny that the inferior living conditions imposed on South Africans by the discredited system of apartheid had severe socio-economic consequences on their lives.

“It stripped the majority of their human dignity and deprived them of their basic human rights.

“It consigned the majority of South Africans, mainly blacks, to growing social inequalities, social dislocation under the influx control laws and destitution on a massive scale. I have to mention this, lest we forget because it is where we should look to when we try and craft solutions going forward.

“In our expensive court system, without funds or legal aid, it is impossible for lower-income groups and the poor to enforce their rights. There is no doubt that addressing economic inequalities, joblessness and redistribution is critical to alleviating the plight of the poor.”

“It is correct that there are gaps that exist in the delivery of civil legal aid to the indigent and the poor so that they can approach the courts to ensure that the state promotes, fulfils and protects the rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

“Where this avenue is not available to people to have their issues heard in an open court, such people out of frustration resort to violent protests of the kind we have witnessed in service delivery protests across the townships.

“I say, let us work together to make the Constitution a living document in the lives of all people, regardless of race, gender and class. The Constitution and the welfare of the people it serves are bigger than all of us put together. Let us join hands across the racial divide, between the haves and the have-nots, to root out the cancer of corruption, greed and self-aggrandisement that has crippled our democracy.”

**Concluding remarks in the opening session were made by Professor Thuli Madonsela, the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, Law Faculty at the Stellenbosch University, and convener of the M-Plan**

“We’ve heard an amazing galaxy of leaders addressing us at the conference today, which is essentially building on work that started four years ago. The work started with the social justice roundtable in 2018, then the first summit in 2019, the second summit in 2020 and this year. After the initial summit on social justice, we also had this international conference that we are having today.”

In summarising the morning’s discussion, Madonsela said that while the discussions were primarily focused on South Africa it could be used as a case study.

“We invite you, wherever you are, to take South Africa as narration and use it to look at peace and justice in Mozambique, peace and justice in Angola, peace and justice in Kenya, and peace and justice in Somalia, and all over the world.

“Ask yourself: Can we truly progress on social cohesion and peace when justice is not realised? Can we truly make progress on social cohesion and peace when democracy does not work because there’s corruption?”

“What happened before today was magical. As I said when we started this morning, changing society, changing views and changing the way we do things is an enormous task. It is like climbing mountains. You take it, like the Japanese say, kaizen, one little hill at a time.”

### **Plenary sessions**

There were two plenary sessions in the morning. The first dealt with: “The role of transformative law reform and policymaking in achieving economic parity.”

The second dealt with: “The role of universities and civil society organisations in integrating social justice, economic equality and peace in economic planning and monitoring and evaluation.”

Panellists for the first plenary session were Professor Thuli Madonsela, Professor Haroon Borat, Professor Tshepo Madlingozi and Judge Dennis Davis.

The panellists for the second plenary session were Professor Dan Kgwadi, Assistant Professor Kayum Ahmed, Dr Leslie van Rooi, Dr Choice Makhetha and Mark Heywood.

***Professor Haroon Borat**, Economics and Director of the Development Policy Research Unit, University of Cape Town.*

### **The role of the law and the role of legislation in attaching itself to both households and firms in the equality-inequality debate**

Professor Borat, looking through an economic lens, focused his address on “forced bedfellows” - growth, poverty and inequality. Economic growth is needed to see a reduction in inequality and poverty. He warns that SA, which has the highest Gini coefficient in the world, needs high levels of economic growth in an era where inequality has risen.

“A high-inequality society like ours is not going to see any reduction in inequality levels if we do not have economic growth. Likewise, if we kickstart our growth trajectory, hopefully with some of the changes that we may or may not see in the next few months on the policy front, growth may increase.”

Low levels of economic growth, irrespective of everything else, will do very little to both poverty and inequality. Often the lack of enforcement can undermine legislation that has just been passed.

“The legislation is there, but enforcement is not effectively implemented. Often the lack of enforcement can undermine the very process of the legislation that has just been undertaken.”

***Professor Tshepo Madlingozi**, Director for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies Wits University*

### **Litigation, successes and limits in terms of economic parity**

Professor Madlingozi dedicated his talk to the memory of the 354 people who died during the July 2021 unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

He said the question of why the protest happened, should be whether economic inequality and normalised social injustice were at the heart of the unrest.

Madlingozi raised four barriers to the law transforming society to eradicate social injustice – state capacity, corruption, hollowing-out of state institutions during the many years of state capture, and neoliberalism, which should be spoken about as a capitalist framework.

While the court often ruled in favour of the people against the government, implementation of the rulings was seriously lacking he said.

The Professor was absolutely clear that education led to social mobility which was critical to achieving economic prosperity. He spoke about the link between social equality and the provision of services where it was most needed – for people who live in poverty.

Madlingozi said nothing would change unless people in government acknowledged and fixed their shortcomings.

The most recent auditor general's report shows a staggering 70% of municipalities are dysfunctional. The source of the decay is decision-makers.

*“As CALS (Centre for Applied Legal Studies) we have a case in Limpopo in Sekhukhune where we are representing about ten villages, and about 5 000 households to access water. We won the case about seven years ago. Today, their water has not been rolled out. There has not been an implementation of that court order. We have been able to get two contempt of court decisions, but still, there's no implementation of that court order. This is because of (a lack of) state capacity.*

*“People who are supposed to make decisions are either incompetent, lack the necessary qualifications or are fighting internal party factionalism. The most recent auditor-general's report shows municipalities are dysfunctional. We cannot talk about social justice in the context where institutions have collapsed.*

*“If we are honest with ourselves, we can say that none of those cases and none of the litigation that we have been doing for the past more than 20 years have contributed towards economic redistribution. Let us be very, very clear about that. None of these cases has really helped us to dismantle economic apartheid and economic colonialism. Why is that?”*

***Judge Dennis Davis, Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court of Cape Town Transformative Constitutionalism***

Judge Davis' argued that a democratic society would not be possible, even over a long period of time, even the rudimentary one that is battled through at the moment, if the disparate high inequality continues.

“A 2020 paper produced by the Wits University Southern Centre for Inequality Studies and the World Inequality Lab, notes that the top 10% of South Africans earn 86% of the aggregate wealth - 0.1%, that is 3 500 individuals, earn[ing] close to a third. “I probably think it is more, given the work that I have been doing at SARS recently.”

“The second figure, if we have unemployment of over 40%; it is completely unsustainable, given those figures, to actually have a constitution which proclaims to be transformative and actually means anything. They are just unsustainable, and it is a disgrace that 25 years into democracy we are still there.

Reconsider the budget, the economic policy, rethink competition law, rethink tax.

“The Constitution which we passed, whatever its demerits, etc., if you read it in a particular way, it does in a sense represent some form of commitment to transform society. That is if you take seriously the idea of a society based on freedom, dignity and equality for all. I do think that it also helps to assist us in the conceptual understanding of where law fits into the grander scheme of things.”

*Professor Thuli Madonsela, Law Trust Chair at Stellenbosch University*

### **Exploring the possibility of introducing design thinking and systems thinking in the practice of law reform.**

Professor Madonsela’s presentation was based on the work at Stellenbosch University, including a pilot they are undertaking at Swartland municipality.

Some of the work began while she was still Public Protector, with all the information consolidated during a year she spent at Harvard University in 2017.

“We have come up with a team that brings in data scientists from our data science school here at Stellenbosch University, mathematical scientists from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, and also lawyers and statisticians, including the former statistician general, to use disaggregated data, just like a business does, to predict how any policy we are planning is going to impact on different groups in society with two ideas in mind. Will it advance equality and reduce poverty? Will it at least not exacerbate it?

“Why are we doing that? It is because we believe that there is a social justice duty.

“Whoever designed BEE, was there design thinking that said, what does society look like at the end of BEE? Who it's going to benefit? Who is not going to benefit? How is it that Royal Bafokeng ends up being whiter than a 100% white company in terms of the application of BEE? This is no joke.

“There was a year when Royal Bafokeng found itself having a lower BEE score than Anglo American. Design thinking.

“What is social justice? It is really just simply fairness to all. No group in society should have a better chance at everything, to get it easier than everyone. And no group should find it more difficult to exist. John Rawls really talked about a fair distribution of societal goods and burdens, and this was in 1971.”

*Professor Dan Kgwadi, Vice-chancellor of the North-West University*

**The role of universities and civil society organisations in integrating social justice, economic equality and peace in economic planning and monitoring and evaluation**

Professor Kgwadi's address was based on closing the gap and providing education as a means to reach equality. He used the University as an example.

The historically black University of Bophuthatswana, and the University of Potchefstroom. Potchefstroom University was predominantly Afrikaner and the University of North-West was predominantly black, with all its historical disadvantages.

Universities have another role to play, as transformation agents, to transform the mindsets of students.

"Universities must not be places where you can find social injustice at all. We at the North-West University have committed ourselves to social justice. Social justice forms the fulcrum of whatever we do."

*Assistant Professor Kayum Ahmed, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC)*

**The American university offers a US-based perspective on the role of the university in its engagement with social justice and economic equality, "perhaps as an example of what not to do at universities across South Africa".**

Professor Ahmed debated the role of wealthy, mainly white, universities, in the USA and how they rebranded themselves since the murder of George Floyd.

They now see themselves as anti-racist, socially just entities that embrace the Black Lives Matter movement. How do we ensure that the university lives up to its social justice mission rather than succumbing to the corporatisation of education? I suggest that the paradoxical position of the university stems from its position, often on top of a hill, as an authorised site of knowledge production. I want to somewhat disagree with Prof Dan Kgwadi about the university being a centre of knowledge production and transformation. I think that is part of the problem.

Ahmed supports universities becoming sites of epistemic disobedience rather than being seen as an authorised centre of knowledge production. He says this is a way to undo structural racism, patriarchy and class linked to capitalism and Western modernity. "Only then can they play a meaningful role in advancing socio-economic justice."

*Dr Leslie van Rooj, Stellenbosch University Senior Director Social Impact and Transformation*

### **Where we come from and where universities are heading**

Dr Van Rooi based his debate on the lessons learned from the broader Fees Must Fall era, COVID-19, and the university context.

“Throughout the pandemic, it was quite clear that universities are seen in a very different way as anchor institutions, the institutions that can bring together, that can voice, that can lobby stronger, that can partner.

Universities are regarded as more neutral and, of course, one can ask questions about that. Indeed, institutions of higher learning have been regarded and pushed to have fewer boundaries and to address some of the most immediate challenges caused by the pandemic.”

*Dr Choice Makhetha, Senior Director: Student Affairs at Stellenbosch University*

### **The role of universities and civil society in integrating social justice**

Dr Makhetha took a broad look at education, going down to the root to determine how the system should change.

She touched on politics, civil society and the government’s role. Universities are very affected by the decrees that flow from the government to the Department of Higher Education and Training, to the Department of Basic Education. All of which affect what happens at universities.

“It is critical that we focus on the quality of education right from entry-level. We have to basically overhaul our system to make sure that the quality of education we give at the basic level, at primary and secondary, is of the quality that we will be impressed with. “The business sector has to start thinking about pathways of students coming into the economy at different levels, learning on the job. Because many students finish their degrees and they don’t have experience, where should the students get experience? We need to encourage our students to be entrepreneurs, but there will still be those who go into the job market, and they should be able to access the space.”

*Mark Heywood, editor: Maverick Citizen*

### **The role of universities and civil society organisations in integrating social justice, economic equality and peace in economic planning and monitoring and evaluation**

Mr Heywood’s summation was that inequality, between the rich and the poor will increase in coming years, as the technological revolution and global warming increase their march.

The connection between social justice and the economy has to be taken seriously for change to happen.

He pointed fingers at civil society, and himself, for not changing their paradigm and concentrating on the economy.

Heywood concentrated on the question of economics and social justice, what it means for civil society organisations, for activism going forward and for activist strategies. And what is to be done.

It is the economy and not the government that is shaping rights.

Heywood said the Constitution is not supreme, it is the economy that is supreme. It should not be the case and it need not be the case.

But [this will not happen] until we establish the principle that rights should shape the economy in practice. I guess what I am saying for civil society is that activists have to begin to address this question constantly and squarely and not treat it as if it is some esoteric discipline that is on the edges of activism, that is best left to specialist economics organisations.

“The problem that we face in our democracies is that economics is treated as if it is a matter that is above democracy, that is above public engagement.”

## **Parallel sessions**

### **Education and digital inclusion**

*Facilitator **Professor Jonathan Jansen**, Distinguished Professor of Education at Stellenbosch University and President of the Academy of Science Africa*

This being South Africa, you can imagine that we had quite a bit of discussion on the realities of who gets access to the digital world.

Of course, the pandemic lockdown showed us very clearly that the former white schools, middle-class, upper-middle-class schools, public and private, tend to have an uninterrupted education process, lockdown and to this day. Whereas those without data and devices and the technological infrastructures around them do not, which is the majority of our children.

Solutions include building digital infrastructures now for pandemics as they occur and will recur into the future to give us any chance of having some measure of equality across the digital divide.

### **Land reform, property rights and the distribution of assets**

*Facilitator **Constance Mogale**, national coordinator of the Alliance for Rural Democracy*

Short and long-term solutions were presented in this session. Among the short-term solution is legislation such as the Interim Protection of Land Rights Act, which does not really give real ownership rights but protects the land and the boundaries from being infiltrated; as well as the recently passed ULTRA (Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act) and the lack of a redistribution act.

One of the long-term solutions is to develop a land administration system that can record rights, such as rights of access, use and control, to make sure that people's tenure rights are protected and people do not have to call for a title deed, which is an apartheid system which was excluding other rights. The legislation needs to create rights and restitution of lost rights due to apartheid and it is calling for a new comprehensive redistribution act, and that land reform must happen.

## **Business Ownership**

*Facilitator **Nicky Newton-King**, former CEO of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange*

There was recognition that business has a critical role to play in achieving the social and economic justice needed in the country. Notwithstanding the willingness that many businesses are showing, there is a way to go before that is mainstreamed.

The discussion focused on what needed to happen to change the way business regarded its role in social and economic justice.

The first was to realise that we cannot afford to fail, but to recognise that the scale of the issue is so big that really big system thinking is needed beyond one's own. There needs to be recognition that there is an interconnectivity between businesses, between business and government, and between business, government and other social role players, and to actually be prepared to be moved out of one's comfort zone in regard to how things are in order to be prepared to make real differences.

Newton-King ended the report back asking if business should disclose how they implemented their spending on SDGs to enable research and to be able to pull out best practices and use statistical information to show how they are embracing sustainability and that the SDGs does not mean a trade-off for shareholders between performance and sustainability. "There's more than enough international research starting to be developed here. It would be very good for us to have some South African research in that regard." Newton-King said.

## **Financial inclusion**

*Facilitator **Phelisa Nkomo**, Development Economist at the Department of Economic Development*

A broad theme was how there had always been a focus on the bankability of citizens instead of looking at financial inclusion as an enabler to make sure that citizens actually participate in the economy.

Participants highlighted the nexus between economic exclusion and financial inclusion and that the nature of the economy really defines the type of economic inclusion that any economy experiences.

Financial literacy and stokvel were huge discussion points.

Financial inclusion, in fact, by design should be able to provide the poor, in this context people from working-class communities and women, access to affordable, sustainable and good-quality financial products.

Key proposals that actually had come up are that, firstly, we need to propose financial literacy and education that should be integrated within the education curriculum. Mathematics is a very important subject.

The discussion further focused on the insurance industry and the need to demystify the issue of owning or having an insurance or funeral policy as part of financial inclusion.

Finally, at the family level, there needs to be a conversation, also around public education.

### **Wealth and income distribution**

*Facilitator Dr Mshai Mwangola, Founder of the Department of PEACE, Harvard University, Author, Musician, Oratorist and Founding Director, the Orature Collectio, Chair, Board of Trustees, Uraia Trust, Adjunct Faculty, African Leadership*

For young people to fit in and thrive in the economy, attention must be paid to the education system. The root cause of poverty and inequality needs to be addressed.

The starting point is looking at the legacy of apartheid, and the gendered nature of poverty and inclusion. Women and girls are often the ones who are left out the most.

Government has to be turned upside down so that government is accountable to the family.

Making government officers and officials directly responsible to the human beings that they serve so that we think of development from the grassroots.

### **Wealth and income distribution**

*Facilitator Ashraf Garda, Media Host, Radio Presenter and Founder of Champion*

The Disaster Management Act that is currently in place existed before COVID-19. It should have been there to help now and even beyond COVID-19.

The elephant in the room was corruption and how it ensured the perpetuation of the wealth gap. Therefore social-economic justice remains elusive.

COVID-19 resulted in the lockdown which meant a staggering 70% of children were denied access to a good quality education because of a lack of access to Wi-Fi, which is particularly important.

Corruption was described as those who carried buckets to collect money while important pipelines went unnoticed. Raising an issue discussed in previous discussions and talks, a once-off 10% wealth tax could be imposed.

### **Social justice resonant economic theories including indices for measuring economic growth**

*Facilitator **Deprose Muchena**, Regional Director - East and southern Africa - Amnesty International*

Unbundle inequality and poverty. Are they two terrible problems that should be fixed at the same time? Could it not be that if you unbundle them, you have a better chance of succeeding in addressing them?

So far, the evidence is that we have not been able to reduce inequality and poverty together. Could we unbundle them?

A key component to what is missing in economic growth, social justice and outcomes that society is looking at is governance.

An important question was to what extent governance is a blocker of facilitating the proceeds of growth to reducing inequality and poverty.

Silos need to be broken so that all sectors of leadership can become interdisciplinary. What can be done to reduce silos? What can we do to have a consensus on a definition so that the problem is shared and understood by all?

### **Emerging tools for social impact conscious economic planning**

*Facilitator **Professor Bruce Bassett**, Senior Resident Researcher and Head of the Cosmology Group, AIMS South Africa and Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Cape Town*

Visualising COVID-19 health data to see hotspots in real-time and the development of gender-based violence tools should be used as examples of how there can be a two-way flow of information.

The question of what is needed for tools to work was a high point. Implementation is often lacking if it is stuck in a box, or if no one knows how to use them. Leadership was identified as key to making tools work.

This could be done with leaders engaging those who make and offer the tools. It is up to leaders to clear the way for sharing data. COVID-19 is a great example. If the data is not shared, then people with the algorithms or the tools cannot actually work.

That takes leaders who understand the importance of clearing the way.

### **Litigation's successes and limits in terms of economic parity**

*Facilitator Professor Tshepo Madlingozi, Director - Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand*

There was agreement among participants in this session that judicial activism is very necessary for economic equality in three ways.

Some preconditions for judicial activism are that there must be access to justice. Transformative, an adjudicative culture, and progressive legal culture.

What is the role of Parliament and law reform in achieving economic equality? Here there was a consensus from participants that you can have a very good constitution, you can have an active bench, but if the legislative framework is still having a lot of lacunae, and gaps, or if it is not progressive, then you will have a problem.

Their recommendation was that judges should be trained in budgeting, macroeconomics and so forth, and civil society must be trained in lobbying.

They must be able to lobby, just like big business, for progressive law reform.

### **Household Food Security Specialist Agriculture and food security**

*[Stand in] facilitator Zukisa Tyson Mangaliso for Dr Lloyd Chigowe*

Migration from rural to urban cities necessitates urban agriculture is needed to promote food security, especially in townships such as Khayelitsha and Soweto.

Another solution is to adopt agricultural extensions to support both smallholder farmers and subsistence farmers.

The country needs to have legislation to promote food security to end poverty and hunger.

### **Some of the key declarations**

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

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

# Are encouraged by the progress made since the Inaugural International Social Justice Conference, including experimental research and development work aimed at designing prospective social impact assessments, which includes the Social Justice Impact Assessment Matrix (SIAM).

### **Some of the resolutions**

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

# Collaborate to support a COVID-19 rebuilding better together agenda on the continent that transcends the binary focus on health and the economy and includes social 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.