



High-Level Dialogue

Theme: Re-imagining Democracy in Africa: Comparative Experiences from the Global South.

Event Program

Celebrating 30 Years of Supporting Democracy
Worldwide

Event Program

 Date 19 th – 20 th June 2025	 Time 09:00 – 17:00	 Location Department of International Relations and Cooperations (DIRCO), Conference Centre Pretoria, South Africa.
 Directors of Ceremony	Ms. Nthabiseng Malefane, Acting Chief Director, Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs	Dr Winluck Wahi, Senior Advisor for Constitution Building Processes, Africa and West Asia Region, International IDEA

Day One 19th June 2025

Session One Opening Session 09:30 – 10:15

Speakers

- H.E Mirko Manzoni, Switzerland’s Ambassador to South Africa
- Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General, International IDEA
- Dr Chukuemeka Eze, Director, Democratic Futures in Africa, Open Society Foundations
- Ms Nardos Bekele- Thomas, Chief Executive Officer AUDA-NEPAD Agency (TBC)
- Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa (TBC)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS Moderator: Peter Ndoro, Broadcast Journalist	H.E Dr Abdalla Hamdok, former Prime Minister of Sudan; and former Deputy Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	
10:30 – 10:45 Group Photo 10:45 – 11:00 Tea Break		

Session Two Democracy retrenchment and new forms of democracy in the Global South. 11:00 – 12:30

Speakers

Lead Speaker: Professor Retselisitsoe Phooko, Faculty of Law, University of Fort Hare

- Professor Bruno P.W. Reis, Federal University of Minas Gerais and President of the Brazilian Political Science Association.
- Dr. Norshahril Saat, Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore)
- Ikram Ben Said, Tunisian feminist, Co-Founder and Co-President of New Visions
- Professor Nkata Murungi, Director, The Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Moderator: Dr Roba D Sharamo, Regional Director, Africa and West Asia, International IDEA

Session Three Democracy and Development: Lessons from the Global South

12:30 – 14:00

Speakers

- Ms Nardos Bekele- Thomas, Chief Executive Officer AUDA-NEPAD Agency (TBC)
- Dr Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, Director, Department of Social Inclusion, Organization of American States (OAS)
- Amb Diar Nurbintoro, Director, Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (SSTC)
- Dr. Sithembile Mbete, Executive Director, Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria

Moderator: Professor Kula Ishmael Theletsane, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Affairs, SADC

14:00 – 15:20 Lunch Break

Session Four Comparative Experiences on the Quality of Institutional Representation (Supra-national, national and locally)

15:20 – 16:50

Speakers

- Honourable Thoko Didiza, Speaker of the National Assembly, South Africa
- Ms. Indira Rana, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Federal Parliament of Nepal
- Chief Fortune Charumbira, President, Pan-African Parliament (PAP)
- Dr. Rasheed Draman, Executive Director, African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA)

Moderator: Honourable Dithapelo Lefoko Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly, Botswana (TBC)

END OF DAY ONE

Day Two 20th June 2025

Session Five Reclaiming the Social Contract: Civic Participation, Development Justice, and Democratic Renewal 09:30 – 10:30

Speakers

- Kholood Khair, Women Rights Activist Sudan, Founder of Confluence Advisory
- Marisol García Apagüeño, President, President, Federation of Kichwa Indigenous Peoples of Chazuta Amazonas (Fepikecha), Member of the Board of Directors of the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle (AIDSEP), Peru
- Gift Ostallos Siziba, Alumni and co-facilitator for the Obama Foundations for Africa 2020-25 cohort; Alumnus of the Mandela Washington Fellowship; and former Member of Parliament in Zimbabwe
- Sandun Thudugala, Head of Programs, Law and Society Trust, Sri Lanka

Moderator: Dr Hesphina Rukato, Africa Director, Crisis Action; former Deputy CEO for NEPAD; former Deputy Chief of Staff of the AUC; Author of Future Africa: Prospects for Democracy and Development

10:30 – 10:45 Tea Break

Session Six Comparative Experiences on Strengthening Electoral Democracy 10:45 – 12:15

Speakers

- Mr Mosotho Moepya, Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa
- Hon Justice Robert Limo, Judiciary Elections Committee (Kenya)
- Norma Irene De La Cruz Magaña, Councillor, El Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) Mexico
- Mbali Ntuli, former politician and Executive Director of Mbali, Cape Town, South Africa
- Robert Gerenge, Regional Advisor, Elections, UNDP Bureau for Africa

Moderator: Olufunto Akinduro, Senior Adviser, Electoral Processes, Africa and West Asia, International IDEA

Session Seven Comparative Experiences on Democratic Transitions in the Global South 12:15 – 13:20

Speakers

- Professor Flávia Biroli, Institute of Political Science, University of Brasília
- Professor Ursula van Beek, Director of the Centre for Research on Democracy at Stellenbosch University
- Ikhtisad Ahmed, Managing Director, Netra News, Bangladesh
- Dr Thomas Ouedraogo, Executive Director, Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique, Burkina Faso.

Moderator: Cynthia Chigwenya, former Africa Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP)

13:20 – 14:20 Lunch Break

Speakers

- Dr Marit Kitaw, former Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), currently in charge of the minerals' portfolio at UN-ECA
- Ann Makena Kobia, Climate Change Expert, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- Mr Ousmane Maiga, Spécialiste Renforcement Capacités & Innovations, Association des jeunes pour la citoyenneté active et la démocratie (AJCAD) Mali
- Samson Itodo, Executive Director, Yiaga Africa, Member of IDEA Board of Advisors and Member of the AU Advisory Group on AI

Moderator: Gram Matenga, Regional Head of Programmes, Africa and West Asia, International IDEA

Session Nine:

Pretoria Consensus: Reading of the of the communique: Ms Mpule Kgets, African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP), Southern Africa Region

15:45 – 16:30

SESSION Ten: Closing Ceremony



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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Moderator: Ms. Nthabiseng Malefane, Acting Chief Director, Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs

18:00 – 21:00

Dinner Event for International IDEA 30th Anniversary Commemoration at Capital Hotel, Menlyn Maine (a separate programme enclosed).

