



Africa in the G20: Advancing Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability

AFSA 2025 Programme 25-27 November 2025

Science Stadium, University of the Witwatersrand

DAY 1- Tuesday 25 November, 2025

Registration: 08:00- 09:00

Programme Director: Mr Patrick Kulati, Chief Executive Officer, Good Governance Africa, South Africa

Opening Remarks: 09:00-09:30

- Dr Bob Wekesa, Director, African Centre for the Study of the US, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Prof Jacqueline De Matos Ala, Head of Discipline, Department of International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Keynote Address: 9:30-10:20

- Mr Brian Kagoro, Managing Director, Programmes, Open Society Foundations, South Africa

Plenary Session: 10:30-11:30

Technology & Critical Minerals

Paving the way for Value-Addition of Critical Minerals- Assessing Challenges and Opportunities (Panel by Southern Africa Resource Watch, South Africa)

Moderator: Dr Claude Kabemba, Executive Director, Southern Africa Resource Watch, South Africa

- Prof Mahlanyane Kenneth "Mkhulu" Mathe, Distinguished Professor and the Head of the Institute for Catalysis and Energy Solutions (ICES), University of South Africa (UNISA)
- Mr Deprose Muchena, Director, Resources Futures, Open Society Foundations, South Africa
- Ms Lauren Hermanus, Founding Director, Southern Transitions, South Africa
- Dr Davie Malungisa, Senior Advisor, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Southern Africa Resource Watch, South Africa

Tea/Coffee Break- 11:30-11:40

Plenary Session: 11:45- 12:45

Africa and the World (Global Relations & Partnerships)

Foreign Influence, Disinformation, and Democratic Resilience in West Africa: Rethinking African Agency in the Age of Global Contestation (Panel by Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)

Moderator: Mr Rabiou Alhassan, Executive Director, FactSpace West Africa, Ghana

- Mr Moussa Kondo, Executive Director, Sahel Institute, Mali
- Ms Kessy Ekomo Soignet, Director, Peace and Development Watch, Central African Republic
- Mr Paul Osei Kuffour, Coordinator, WADEMOS Network, Ghana
- Mr Ibrahima Kane, Governance Expert and Advisor to the Special Envoy of the President of Senegal, Senegal

Lunch Break: 12:50- 13:30

Plenary Session: 13:35- 14:35

High-Level Panel on Financing for Sustainable Development

Reimagining Partnerships and Financing Models for Africa's Sustainable Future

Moderator: Mr Charles Makunja, Governance Expert, Wits School of Governance Affiliate, South Africa

- Dr George Kararach, African Development Bank, South Africa
- Mr Lwandle Fakazi, Associate Partner, Africa International Advisors, South Africa

Plenary Session: 14:40- 15:40

Technology, AI & Critical Minerals

Inverting the AI Stack: African Agency, Critical Minerals and the AI Supply Chain (Panel Proposed Institute for Advanced Study, USA)

Moderator: Prof Alondra Nelson, Institute for Advanced Study, USA

- Dr Tatiana Carayannis, Global Affairs and Technology Advisor, Institute for Advanced Study, USA
- Ms Marie-Therese Png, Research Scholar, Institute for Advanced Study, USA
- Mr Christian Geraud Neema, Africa Editor, China-Global South Project, USA

Tea/coffee break 15:40-15.55

Plenary Session: 16:00- 17:00

Africa and the World (Global Relations & Partnerships)

Africa and the G20: Lessons and Forward-thinking: Reflections on South Africa's G20 Presidency (T20 Panel by Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa)

Moderator: Ms Sanusha Naidu, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa

- Mr Mikatekiso Kubayi, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa
- Dr Siphumelele Duma, Senior Research Fellow: Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, South Africa

Discussant: Dr Arina Muresan, Post-Doctoral Fellow, UNISA, South Africa

Tea/Coffee: End of Day 1

DAY 2- Wednesday 26 November 2025

Opening Remarks: 08:40-08:45

Keynote: 08:45-09:00

- Mr Russell Rensburg, Executive Director, Rural Health Advocacy Project, South Africa

Parallel Sessions: 09:05- 10:05

African Agency – Africa and the G20

Moderator: Ms Michelle Ndiaye, Director, Transformative Peace, Africa program, Open Society Foundations, South Africa.

- Dr Kebepetsa Lotshwao, Head of Department, Political and Administrative Studies, University of Botswana (Africa and G20: Amplifying agency or transforming African countries into neoliberal states?)
- Dr Scott Timcke, Research ICT Africa, South Africa (The role of AI and Capitalist Autocracy in US Imperialism)
- Dr Mutinda Mutisya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Diplomacy and International Relations, University of Nairobi, Kenya (Reclaiming the Future: The Role of AI and Digital Innovation in Advancing African Agency in Diplomacy and International Relations)
- Mr Ashraf Patel, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Global Dialogue (G20 Brazil 2024 to South Africa in 2025: Unpacking the Digital Economy themes - comparisons and (dis)continuities)

Geopolitics – Critical Minerals & Energy

Moderator: Ms. Caroline Obure, Senior Government Communications Lead, Mining Indaba, South Africa

- Dr Paul Mukoki, Finance Manager, Advancement Division, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (Climate justice and climate finance: Leveraging the G20 platform for Africa's sustainable future)
- Dr Kennedy Manduna, Post-doctoral Fellow, UNISA, South Africa (African countries should leverage South Africa's G20 Presidency in Critical Mineral Megamining to Assert African Agency: Extractive Imperialism, Geopolitics and Resource Nationalism)
- Dr Siviwe Odwa Malongweni, Researcher, Centre for Global Change, Sol Plaatje University, South Africa (Soil Carbon Dynamics and Climate Resilience in Semi-Arid Africa: Pathways for Global Sustainability)
- Dr Enoch Sithole, Executive Director, Institute for Climate Change Communication, South Africa (Climate overshoot reality: Why Africa must pivot to adaptation and resilience)

Plenary Session: 10:10- 11:10

African Agency – Africa in Global Politics

Towards an African Sustainability Charter: Uniting Standards, Empowering Continents: Aligning Regional and Global Sustainability Norms (Panel by African Academy of International Law practice, France)

Moderator: Mr Jean-Baptist Harelimana, Trinity International AARP, France

- Dr Nassim Oulmane, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Chief of Natural Resources, Green & Blue Economy Section, Ethiopia
- Stéphan Brabant, Senior Partner, Trinity International AARPI, France
- Mr Mutuso Dhliwayo, Lawyer and Executive Director, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Organisation (ZELO), Zimbabwe

Tea/Coffee Break- 11:10-11:25

Plenary Session: 11:30- 12:30

African Agency- Health Research

Research for Impact: Strengthening Africa’s Capacity (Panel by Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa- CARTA, Kenya)

Moderator: Prof Sharon Fonn, founding and co-director, CARTA, South Africa

- Prof Nomfundo Moroe, Assistant Dean: Postgraduate Affairs, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Prof Admire Chikandiwa, Visiting Senior Researcher, Wits Infectious Diseases & Oncology Research Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Prof. Jude Igumbor, Academic Coordinator, Interdisciplinary PhD Programme, Public and Population Health, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Dr Nkosiyazi Dube, Head of Social Work Department, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Plenary Session: 12:35- 13:35

Communication, Media & Culture

Communicating African Agency in the Digital Age: A Consultation on ACHPR Resolution 630 (Panel by Media Monitoring Africa rebranding to Moxii Africa)

Moderator: Ms Lister Namumba-Rikotso, Programmes Manager, Monitoring, Research & Analysis, Moxii Africa, South Africa

Lunch Break: 13:35- 14:25

Plenary Session: 14:30- 15:30

Communicating African Agency

Communicating African Agency: Radical Transparency and Circular Design as Policy Lever (Panel by Confluence, South Africa)

Moderator: Ms Dominique Dix-Peek, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Confluence, South Africa

- Mr Diddi Mayanda, Owner of Fada Kreativz Art, Upcycled clothes that move you
- Mr Tlotlo Mothwane, Founder, Kidhood, South Africa
- Ms Thando Dlamini, Founder, Afrikkul Lifestyle, South Africa
- Ms Michele Sohn, Director of Strategy, Confluence, South Africa

Plenary Session: 15:35- 16:35

Africa and the World (Global Relations & Partnerships)

The African Union's External Relations Architecture and Mechanisms: Fit for Purpose or Due for Rethinking?

Moderator: Dr Thokozani Chilenga-Butao, Lecturer, Department of Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

- Prof Gilbert Khadiagala (Emeritus), Department of International Relations/ African Centre for the Study of the US, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Mr Jeggan Grey Johnson, Advocacy Advisor, Open Society Foundations, South Africa
- Ms Sanusha Naidu, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa

Tea/Coffee: END OF DAY 2

DAY 3- Thursday 27 November 2025

Opening Remarks & Keynotes- 08:35-08:55

- Prof Themba Maseko, Head, Wits School of Governance

Plenary Session: 09:00- 10:00

Africa and the World (Global Relations & Partnerships)

Centering African Agency: Rethinking Relations with the Gulf (Panel by Centre for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient- CARPO, Germany)

Moderators: Ms Desiree Custers, Project Manager, CARPO, Belgium, and Mr Jan Hanrath, CEO, CARPO, Germany

- Dr Aziz Alghashian, Lecturer of International Relations, Naif Arab University for Security Studies, Saudi Arabia
- Dr Damyana Bakardzhieva, Senior Research Fellow, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Dr Hubert Kinkoh, Senior Researcher at CARPO, United Kingdom/Kenya
- Dr Sebastian Sons, Senior Researcher, CARPO, Germany

Plenary Session: 10:05- 11:05

Africa and the World (Global Relations & Partnerships)

Africa's external relations- Africa-China; Africa-US; Africa-Brazil

Moderator: Mr Jeggan Grey Johnson, Advocacy Advisor, Open Society Foundations, South Africa

- Mr Chris Kabwato, Partnerships & Fundraising Coordinator, Wits Centre for Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (Africa-China in a Shifting World Order)
- Dr Westen Shilaho Kwatamba, Lecturer, International Relations Department, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (Africa, US & the G20)
- Dr Steven Chiun-Yi Kuo, Senior Lecturer, International Relations Department, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (G20 & Africa-China)
- Dr Camila Cristina de Oliveira Alves, Brazil-Africa Research Support Center, University of São Paulo, Brazil (Geopolitics of Knowledge: Critical Education Brazil-Africa and the Reconfiguration of Power Relations in the International System)

Tea/Coffee Break- 11:05-11:15

Parallel Sessions: 11:20- 12:20

Communicating African Agency – Voices on the Global Stage

Moderator: Prof Admire Mare, Head of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Johannesburg

- Dr Joyce Omwoha, Lecturer, Department of Creative Arts & Media, Technical University of Kenya & Prof Jacob Mwathi Mati, Deputy Director, Centre for Philanthropy & Social Investments, Wits Business School, South Africa (Media, youth resistance, and the future of solidarity in Africa's multi-lateral engagement)
- Ms Lynn Obwoye, Data Journalist, Rafiki Afrik & Ms Dorcas Omole, Communications Specialist, Rafiki Afrik, Kenya (Harnessing African Media for Global Impact: Media's Role in Advancing Agency)
- Dr Kimberly Tyson, Director of the Office of International Affairs, North Carolina A&T State University, USA (Shared Legacies, Shared Futures: Building Africa and HBCU Academic Bridges)

African Agency – Africa in Global Politics

Moderator: Dr Ekeminiabasi Eyita-Okon, Senior Lecturer, Wits School of Governance, South Africa

- Dr Gabriel Ngujil, Lecturer, Cameroonian Institute of Diplomatic and Strategic Studies (ICEDIS), Cameroon (ECCAS in the New Great Game: Positioning Central Africa as a Catalyst for African Sovereignty in a Multipolar World)
- Prof Jonathan J. Makuwira, Professor of Development Studies, Malawi University of Science and Technology, Malawi ('Trumpism', Global Geopolitical Reconfiguration and Africa's Agenda 2063)
- Prof Gabriel Ukertor Moti, Dean, Department of Public Administration, University of Abuja, Nigeria (African Agency, African Problems and Solutions: Balancing Equality and Influence with Interests of Super and Emerging Powers).

Plenary Session: 12:25- 13:25

Communication, Media & Culture

M20: The Role of African Media in Amplifying African Voices in the G20 (Panel by Media Monitoring Africa rebranding to Moxii Africa)

Moderator: Ms Liezel Wilson, News Anchor, Newzroom Africa, South Africa

- Mr William Bird, Executive Director, Moxii Africa, South Africa
- Mr Sbu Ngalwa, Chairperson, South Africa National Editors Forum (SANEF), South Africa
- Ms Khadija Patel, Head of Programmes, International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPIM), South Africa
- Mr Churchill Otieno, President, The African Editors Forum, Kenya

Lunch Break: 13:30-14:15

Closing Session: 14:20- 15:00