



2nd Annual

African Futures Conference

21-22 OCTOBER 2025

Insight • **Imagination** • **Action**

African Futures Conference



Day 1 – Tuesday, 21 October 2025

13:30 – 14:00

Arrival & Registration

14:00 – 14:10

Welcome

- Moderator: **Ms Alize le Roux**, Acting Head, African Futures & Innovation Programme, ISS
- Remarks: **Dr Fonteh Akum**, Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

14:10 – 14:25

Opening Address

H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD
"The Africa We Want in 2063: Turning Vision into Action"

14:25 – 15:45

Keynotes: Insight, Imagination, Action

- Insight: **Dr Jakkie Cilliers**, Chairperson of the Board and Founder, ISS – *Africa in 2043: Generating Evidence for Africa's Future*
- Imagination: **Dr Steven Lichty**, Co-Director, Resilience Futures Collective & **Ms Wanjiku Waibochi**, Futures Storyteller – *Imagination Unlocked: Story, Culture and Healing as Engines of Africa's Future*
- Action: **Prof Olugbenga Adesida**, Acting Chair, Africa Leadership Institute – *Using Foresight in Africa's Decision-Making Landscape: Lessons from Previous Decades*

15:45 – 16:30

Foresight Dialogue

Moderator: **Ms Michelle van Rooyen**, Researcher, African Futures & Innovation Programme, ISS

Panelists:

- **Dr Njeri Mwagiru**, Senior Researcher, Futures Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
- **Prof André Roux**, Associate Professor, University of Stellenbosch Business School
- **Dr Marvellous Ngundu**, Researcher, African Futures & Innovation Programme, ISS

16:30 – 17:00

Networking Reception

Light snacks and refreshments.

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Day 2 – Wednesday, 22 October 2025

09:00 – 09:30

Session 1: Plenary

Welcome & Housekeeping:

- **Mr David Willima**, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies

Ms Adivhaho Ramaite, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies

Lightning Talks:

- **Ms Nandi Mtethwa**, Engagement Manager at the Research Institute for Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS) – *From Challenge to Change: Foresight-Driven Innovation for Africa's EO Future*
- **Mr Luke Boyle**, PhD candidate, Innovation in Global Development, Urban Researcher – *Imagining a Smart Otherwise: African Futurism and Urban Transformation*
- **Ms Gladys Emmanuel Esq.**, Human Rights Lawyer and Gender Advocate – *Embedding Gender-Sensitive Foresight in African Policy*

09:30 – 11:00

Session 2: Insight – Grounding African Futures in Evidence and Analysis

Session 2A: Modelling Futures: Tools, Trends and Transformation

Chair: **Dr Patrick Noack** Dubai Future Foundation, Executive Director Dubai Future Institute

Speakers:

- **Dr Alex Mugala**, Experienced educator, researcher, and development practitioner
- **Dr Bertrand Baldet**, Sociologist, Director of Programmes, SeeD
- **Dr Blessing Chipanda**, Researcher, African Futures & Innovation Programme, ISS
- **Ms Kiito Shilongo**, Researcher, Lead Data Governance in Africa Research Fund
- **Ms Mardiya Siba Yahaya**, Feminist Researcher. Grantee partner, Mozilla Data Governance

Session 2B: The Data Dilemma – Generating, Validating & Using African Data

- Chair: **Ms Lanice C. Williams**, Director of Advocacy, Communications, & Partnerships at Data2XX
- Speakers:

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Day 2 – Wednesday, 22 October 2025

- **Dr David McNair**, Executive Director ONE.org
- **Mr Preston Govindasamy**, Population scientist, Afrobarometer
- **Ms Camilla Rocca**, Director of Research at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- **Ms Liliana Suchodolska**, Policy analyst in PARIS21
- **Ms Amina Nzinga**, Gender and Development professional, Local Development Research Institute (LDRI)

11:15 – 12:30

Session 3: Imagination – Envisioning Africa's Future

Chair: **Ms Bronwyn Williams**, Partner & Trend Analyst, FluxTrends

Moderators: **Mr Lindile Ndube**, Founder and Partner Afrofutures 2050 and **Ms Caroline Dama**, Director of Green world Campaign Kenya

Speakers:

Ms Ayoyemi Oladipo, Content producer, Storyteller and Creative Strategist – Reimagining African Futures Through Storytelling

Top 5 Young Changemakers:

- **Mr Mashudu Molefe**. Africa 2050: The Continent That Rewrote Tomorrow (South Africa)
- **Mr Justin Mulindwa**. Reclaiming the Future: A Young Changemaker's Vision for Africa. (DRC)
- **Mr Aggrey Kulaba**. The Day the Sky Wrote Back. (Video) (Uganda)
- **Mr Ali Baba Osman**. From the Margins to the Map: A Youth-Led Africa in 2050 (Ghana)
- **Ms Bisrat Woldu**. My Vision for Africa 2050: Empowering Youth to Build Decent Work and Thrive at Home (Ethiopia)

12:45 – 14:15

Session 4: Action – From Foresight to Policy, Partnerships and Practice

Session 4A: Governments in Action – Embedding Foresight in National Planning

Chair: **Ms Pamla Gopaul**, Senior Advisor, AUDA-NEPAD

Speakers:

- **Dr Bukola Ogunyemi**, Communications strategist, World Bank Group
- **Dr Steven Lichty**, Director of Frontline Futures
- **Dr Baboloki Semela**, Policy researcher, gender specialist, foresight advocate. Founder of the Global Africa Nexus
- **Mr Suwilanji Sinyangwe**, Researcher, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)
- **Ms Chiugo Aghaji**, Sustainability and governance professional

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Day 2 – Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Session 4B – Co-Designing the Africa Foresight Network: Building a Community of Practice for Impact

Chair: **Prof Geci Karuri-Sebina**, Director: Southern Africa Node of the Millennium Project

Speakers:

Dr Olugbenga Adesida, Director: Africa Innovation Summit, Cabo Verde

Ms Passy Amayo, Programme Officer: Society for International Development (SID)

Facilitators:

Ms Sophia Bazile, Project Coordinator: Africa Foresight Network

Mr Koffi M. Kouakou, Sessional Lecturer and Foresight Strategist: Wits University, South Africa

14:30 – 16:45

Session 5: FuturesLab 2025 – From Insight to Impact

Hands-on practical labs with rotating sessions.

Lab 1: **Ms Taylor Hanna**, Research Analyst, Pardee Center for International Futures (University of Denver), *Generating Foresight Insight*

Lab 2: **Ms Bronwyn Williams**, Partner & Trend Analyst, FluxTrends, *Building Imagination: Exploring Alternative Futures*

Lab 3: **Prof André Roux**, Associate Professor, University of Stellenbosch Business School, *Strategic Foresight in Action*

16:45 – 17:00

Closing Remarks

Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Chairperson of the Board and Founder, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)



Government of the Netherlands

