

11TH AFRICA UNITY FOR RENAISSANCE

2026 Conference

Democratic Renewal in Africa?

Constitutional development, Political Pluralism and Electoral Integrity

30 years of the adoption of the South African Constitution

Thursday, 19 November 2026

Programme directors: Prof Nicasius Achu Check – HSRC & Dr Palesa Sekhejane – WS

Session Coordinator: Dr Mokhantšo Makoae – HSRC

Venue: ICC, KuGompo City

Programme

08:00–08:30	**Arrival and registration** All participants
08:30-08:40	**Opening remarks** **Prof Charles Hongoro** Human Sciences Research Council
08:40-09:00	**Welcome Address** **Prof Thandi Mgwebi** Vice-Chancellor and Principal – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu **Prof Sarah Mosoetsa** Chief Executive Officer – Human Sciences Research Council
09:00-09:15	**The Importance of Constitutionalism in Africa** **Hon. Ibrahim Barrie** Member of Parliament, Sierra Leone
09:15-09:35	**Objectives and Reflections on the conference** **Prof Sarah Mosoetsa** Chief Executive Officer – Human Sciences Research Council / **Prof Thandi Mgwebi** Vice-Chancellor and Principal – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu
09:35-10:25	**Keynote Address** **Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, SC** Acting Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Chair of iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Council
10:25-10:40	**Tea and networking** All participants

10:40-11:50	**High-level panel I – Wither Democratic renewal in Africa** **Moderator: Prof Sanjay Balkaran,** Executive Dean (Acting), Faculty of Management and Public Administration, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu. **ProfThabisani Ndlovu** – Executive Dean – Faculty of Law, Humanities, and Social Sciences, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu **Prof Bhaso Ndzendze** – Senior Director: Division for Global Engagement and Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of Johannesburg. **Prof Ibrahim Mouiche** – Professor of Political Sciences and International Relations, University of Yaounde **Prof Steve Okoth,** Professor of Law, Tanganza University, Kenya **Prof Kedibone Phago** – Executive Dean, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, University of Mpumalanga
11:50-13:00	**High-level Panel II – Constitutional Development in Africa** **Moderator: Dr Pauline Ngimwa** – Senior Programme Manager, PASGR, Kenya **Dr Jongi Joseph Klaas** – Executive Director & Founder: Thandazwe Heritage and Namangile Enterprise **Dr Naledi Modise** – Senior Lecturer – Politics and International Relations, Northwest University, South Africa **Prof Frank Lekaba** – Associate Professor of Political Sciences and International Relations, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, Unisa **Prof Kabelo Matlosa** – Professor of Politics, National University of Lesotho. **Mr Kgame Molope** – Chairperson of the South African chapter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Academic Group (SA-IORAG), Lecturer of African Politics and International Relations, NWU.
13:00-14:00	**Lunch** All participants
14:00-15:30	**Parallel I – Thirty years of South Africa's Constitution: lessons for Constitutional Democracy** **Moderator: Dr. Ntombizodumo Mkwanazi** **Venue:** TBC Constructing Unemployment as a Human Rights Violation in a Constitutional Democracy: A Critical Discourse Analysis of South Africa **Awam Mavimbela** – University of Mpumalanga South Africa's 30 Years of Constitutional Democracy: Lessons for Africa **Sibulele Mosana** – African Minds for Applied Research Institute: Department of Politics and Governance Student-Worker Alliances and Democratic Renewal in South Africa: Contesting Institutional Power through #FeesMustFall **Siphamandla Maputuma** – University of the Western Cape

14:00-15:30	**Parallel Session II – Constitutional development and consolidation of democratic traditions in Africa** **Moderator: Prof Sone Enongene** – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu **Venue:** TBC Constitutional Resilience without Social Consolidation? Thirty Years of South Africa's Constitution and Lessons for African Democracy **Dr Sakhile Hadebe** – University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Constitutional Meta-Governance and Political Maldevelopment: Theorizing the Spectrum of Constitutionalism and Constitutionality in African Postcoloniality **Prof Nene Lomotey Kuditchar** – University of Ghana Guardians or Gatekeepers? The Role of Constitutional Courts and Electoral Bodies in Checking Self-Serving Constitutional Amendments **Salwa Mukoda** – Victoria University, Kampala, Uganda.
15:20-15:30	**Tea and networking** All participants
15:35-17:15	**Parallel Session III – Democratic Regression, Political Opportunism, and Popular nationalism in Africa** **Moderator: Dr Mokhantšo Makoae** – HSRC **Venue:** TBC Regular elections and democratization processes: Between electoral integrity and electoral autocracy **Dr Sakah Bernard Nsaidzedze** – Heritage University Cameroon From Consolidation to Backsliding: Democratic Regression, Political Opportunism and Popular Nationalism in Contemporary Africa: Comparative Analysis of Sub-Saharan Africa **Arnold Mugwagwa** – Rhodes University Problematics of Presidential Term Limits and Constitutional Mutilations in Africa **Peter Otieno Mitenga** – Laikipia University, Kenya
15:35-17:15	**Parallel Session IV – Democratic Regression, Political Opportunism, and Popular nationalism in Africa** **Moderator: Prof Yolisa Madolo** (iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu) **Venue:** TBC Constitutional supremacy and democratic contestation in South Africa: A case study of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party's proposal for Parliamentary supremacy **Boikanyo Nkwatle** – North-West University From Anti-Coupism to Anti-Capture Constitutionalism: Reimagining the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance at the Threshold of Twenty Years **Prof Dejo Olowu** – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Unconstitutional Amendments and the Erosion of Democratic Institutions in Africa: A Case Study of Uganda **Dr Allawi Ssemanda** – Uganda Rural University
19:00-21:00	**Dinner** All Participants

Friday, 20 November 2026

Session Coordinator: Prof Phumudzo Munyai (Deputy Executive Dean – Faculty of Humanities, Law and Social Sciences) iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu

Venue: ICC, KuGompo

08:00-08:30	**Arrival and registration** All participants
08:30-08:40	**Welcome Remarks and Day 1 Reflection** **Dr Vuyo Mjimba** Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
08:40-09:10	**Constitutional Development in South Africa: Challenges and Prospects** **Prof Malefetsane Mofolo** Head of Department, Public Management and Governance, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu, South Africa
09:10-09:40	**Consolidating democratic gains in South Africa: Thirty years after** **Prof Ricky Mukonza** Associate Professor of Public Management and the Academic Manager for the Faculty of Humanities (Tshwane University of Technology)
09:40-10:25	**Keynote Address | Democracy as a Civic Right** **Dr Eileen Carter** South African Human Rights Commission, Eastern Cape Provincial Manager
10:25-10:40	**Tea and networking** All participants
10:40-11:50	**High-level panel III** – Thirty years of South Africa's democracy: What next **Moderator: Prof Steve Okoth** – Professor of Law, Tangaza University, Kenya **Prof Piet Croucamp** – Associate Professor of Political Studies, North-West University, South Africa. **Prof Tlou Ramoroka** – Professor of Development, Planning and Management, University of Limpopo **Dr Moraka Shopola** – Senior Lecturer, Public Administration, North-West University **Dr Sakhile Hadebe** – Lecturer in Political Science and International Relations, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11:50-13:00	**High-level panel IV – Democratic Consolidation in Africa** **Moderator: Mr Kgame Molope** – North-West University **Prof Richard Iroanya** – Professor of Security and Strategic Studies, University of Namibia **Dr Ndubuisi Nwokolo** – Politics and security expert, Nextier, Nigeria **Dr Christophe Dongmo** – Barclays Bank Africa **Prof Nene Lomotey Kuditchar** – University of Ghana

13:00-14:00	**Lunch** All Participants
14:00-15:10	**High Level Panel V – Beyond the Ballot: Can Africa Renew its Democratic Promise?** **Moderator: Dr Alfred Thutloa** – Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) **Prof Nicasius Achu Check** – Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) **Prof Frank Lekaba** – Associate Professor of Political Sciences and International Relations, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs **Prof Ricky Mukonza** – Associate Professor of Public Management and the Academic Manager for the Faculty of Humanities (Tshwane University of Technology) **Mr Mogale Mashiapata** – Programme Manager: Political Parties and Elections Support, Democracy Works Foundation.
15:10-16:30	**Parallel Session v – Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Integrity in Africa's Democratic Renewal** **Moderator: Ms Auriel Niemack** – Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) **Venue:** TBC Beyond Representation: Women's Leadership, Institutional Integrity, and the Constitutional Meaning of Democratic Renewal in Africa's Constitutional Democracies **Prince Kudakwa Kahar**i – GALZ, Zimbabwe Reimagining Ethical Leadership Education for Democratic Renewal: An Ubuntu-Centred Framework for Institutional Integrity in South Africa **Sive Zintle Mbangiswano** – Central University of Technology, South Africa Language, Democratic Renewal, and the Politics of Equality: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Presidential Speeches in Kenya **Naftal Nyakundi** – Botho University, Botswana Policing the Police in Kenya: The Role of the Independent Policing Oversight Authority in Police Accountability and Constitutional Governance **Esther Nyaboke Kenyanya** – Independence Policing Oversight Authority, Kenya

15:10-16:30	**Parallel Session VI – Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Integrity in Africa's Democratic Renewal II** **Moderator:** Prof Emeka Obioha (iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu) **Venue:** TBC Africa's Development Paradox: Policy Abundance, Governance Deficits, and the Challenge of Implementation **Prof Malefetsane Mofolo** – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Governing climate-induced disasters in South Africa: Institutional accountability, state capacity and democratic governance **Prof Bernard Hlalele** – Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Thinking About African Democracy **Prof Khabele Matlosa** – National University of Lesotho
16:35-17:55	**Parallel Session VII – Civil society organizations and the challenges of monitoring elections in Africa** **Moderator:** Prof Beatrice Ekanjume (iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu) **Venue:** TBC Eyes Without Teeth? Appraising the Effectiveness of SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs) in Safeguarding Zimbabwe's Electoral Integrity **Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu** – University of Free State, South Africa Invisible Infrastructure Under Siege: Civil Society, Relational Trust, and the Hidden Labor of Election Monitoring in Receding Civic Spaces **Nwabisa Kondile** – Forvis Mazars, South Africa Electoral Fraud, Pre and Post-Election Violence and Constitutional Dilemmas in Kenya **Patrick Michael Ogeto** – Laikipia University, Kenya The Impact of Judicialisation on Nigerian Politics: 2015–2023 **Prof Richard Iroanya** – University of Namibia

16:35-17:55	**Parallel Session VIII – Civil society organizations and the challenges of monitoring elections in Africa II** **Moderator:** Prof. Simon Kangethe (iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu) **Venue:** TBC Civil Society, Legal Restrictions, and Electoral Integrity in Africa **Herbert Mncedisi Moyo** – Intelwatch, South Africa Beyond Electoral Pacification: From Election Observation to Enforceable Electoral Integrity in Southern Africa **Vuyokazi Yokwe** – NACOSA, Yokwe Attorneys, South Africa. Election Management Bodies, Electoral Integrity and Digital Reform in Africa: South Africa in Comparative Perspective **Prof Sanjay Balkaran** – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu, South Africa Democratization, Electoral Politics, and Electoral Systems in Africa **Dr William Asante** – Simon Diedong Dombo University, Ghana
18:00-18:20	**Closing Plenary** **Moderator** – Prof Charles Hongoro, HSRC
18:00-18:10	**Vote of Thanks** **Dr Palesa Sekhejane** – iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu
18:10-18:20	**Closing Remarks** **Prof Charles Hongoro** – DE, DCES with ABGS, HSRC
19:00-21:00	**Gala Dinner** **Coordinator** – Dr Palesa Sekhejane – Senior Director (Acting), Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagements, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Principal, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu All Participants