

Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) 2020

Closing Plenary Session

Friday 11 December 2020, 11:00 – 13:00

Igniting conversations about science... and social justice

- 11:00 – 12:15 Special plenary debate with the South Africa Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Technology governance to disrupt inequality
- 12:15 – 13:00 Reflections by SFSA 2020 rapporteurs and closing address by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation: Mr Buti Manamela

Programme Director: Ms Gcino Mlaba (Department of Science and Innovation)

Special plenary debate: technology governance to disrupt inequality

The disruptive technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) offer immense potential to accelerate economic growth and social development. They also, however, have the potential to significantly - the widen inequalities in our society, if deployed in manners, which are insensitive to values such as sustainability, inclusivity and social justice. Developing appropriate technology governance frameworks, through a public-private partnership of co-creation, to effectively harness the 4IR to address South Africa's triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty, is the mission of the South African Affiliate of the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (the CSIR) is hosting the Affiliate, the South African Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (<https://www.c4ir-sa.co.za/>). The debate will interrogate emerging technology governance challenges, related to the global imperative to promote economic recovery and reconstruction responding to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The debate will focus on opportunities for the South African Affiliate Centre to contribute in 2021 to developing enabling technology governance frameworks which will support equitable and sustainable economic recovery, within the South African, as well as regional African and international contexts.

Programme

11:00 Welcome

Ms Gcino Mlaba, Programme Director

11:05 Scene-setting presentation: A critique of the common conceptualization of the Fourth Industrial Revolution: An alternative vision of our digital futures

Prof Alison Gillwald, Executive Director: Research ICT Africa; Adjunct Professor University of Cape Town, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance

11:20 Keynote presentation: Introducing the South African Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and opportunities for partnership

Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, Executive Manager for the NextGen Enterprises and Institutions cluster, CSIR

11:40 View from partners and stakeholders

Mr Imraan Patel, Deputy Director-General, Socio-Economic Innovation Partnerships at the Department of Science and Innovation

Mr Aphiwe Adams, CEO of the Youth ICT Council

Mr Aphrodice Mutangana, COO at Digital Africa

Mr Marc Van Pelt, Managing Director at Pepperl+Fuchs

Ms Grace Legodi, Country Manager at Plug and Play

Ms Jeshika Ramchand, Next Einstein Forum Ambassador

12:05 Comments and response

Prof Gillwald and Dr Nelwamondo

12:15 Reflections on SFSA 2020 highlights by rapporteurs

Dr Rachel Adams, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on the sessions presented by the HSRC Radical Reason Consortium

Ms Lidia Afonso Gallegos, Delegation of the European Union in South Africa on the sessions presented by "Team Europe"

Mr Modikoe Patjane, Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) on the African partnership and science diplomacy sessions presented by the DSI

12:45 SFSA 2020 Closing Address by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training, Science and Innovation, Mr Buti Manamela

13:00 Conclusion of SFSA 2020

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