



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CeSTII
Centre for Science, Technology
& Innovation Indicators

Policy Forum State of innovation in South Africa



Image credit: CSIR

28 August 2020 | 09h00-13h00

RSVP required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/115688745151>

Zoom link to be supplied on receipt of RSVP

 Livestream on Facebook at the Department of Science and Innovation page

WHY THIS EVENT, NOW?

The eruption of the global COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has resulted in rapid pivoting across government, business and civil society, as actors adapt to the plethora of new threats, risks, and opportunities. As the outbreak deepens in South Africa, the role of innovation cannot be overstated in evidence-led planning for the country's economic recovery. South Africa's White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation, published in 2019, articulates a clear role for innovation in promoting sustainable and inclusive development in a changing world. It is therefore vital to interrogate the evidence we have on innovation, in order to inform the optimal policy mixes, which are fast-changing in relation to the urgencies presented by national and global, but also sectoral, COVID-19 responses.

This high-level policy forum will bring together high-level actors in a virtual setting to:

- ▶ Launch the 2020 South African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators report produced by the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)
- ▶ Present the latest reviews of the National Research and Development Strategy (NRDS) and the Ten Year Innovation Plan recently conducted by NACI
- ▶ Share on new data sets produced by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation, including the Business Innovation Survey, 2014-2016, the Agricultural Business Innovation Survey, 2016-2018, and the Baseline Survey of Innovation in the Informal Economy 2018
- ▶ Reflect on the role of indicators in monitoring the state of the National System of Innovation (NSI), by drawing in key perspectives from business, government, civil society and universities, and explore using evidence how South Africa's NSI is geared towards inclusive and sustainable development



In 2020, we invite thought leaders and decision-makers from business, government, higher education, industry and civil society to consider their experiences and challenges, to highlight critical issues for measurement and policy-making going forward.

KEY QUESTIONS

- ▶ What role can and should innovation play in South Africa's recovery post-COVID?
- ▶ What adaptations to current policy mixes should be explored, based on new evidence?
- ▶ Do we have the right kinds of innovation measures appropriate to the South African context?
- ▶ What have we learned about innovation from the experience of pivoting to the changes brought by COVID, across business, civil society, universities and government?

EVENT CONTACTS

Rudzani Maila rudzani.maila@dst.gov.za

Gerard Ralphs gralphs@hsrc.ac.za

PROGRAMME

► Programme Director – Dr Mlungisi Cele, Acting CEO: National Advisory Council on Innovation

START

09h00

WELCOME:

Dr Shadrack Moephuli, Acting Chairperson, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Agricultural Research Council

09h15

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Hon. Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

09h45

PRESENTATION:

Findings of the 2020 South African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Report, Dhesigen Naidoo, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Water Research Commission

10h20

BREAK

10h30

PRESENTATION:

Review of the National Research and Development Strategy and the 10-year Innovation Plan, Prof. Johann Mouton, Director, Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology & DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence for Scientometrics and STI Policy

11h00

PRESENTATION:

New Data Sets to Support Innovation Policy: Agricultural Business Innovation Survey and Survey on Innovation in the Informal Economy, Dr Glenda Kruss, Executive Head, Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators, Human Sciences Research Council

11h30

BREAK

11h40

PANEL DISCUSSION – ROLE OF INNOVATION IN THE POST-COVID CRISIS:

Panel Facilitator:

- Dr Thulani Dlamini, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Panel Members:

- Dr Phil Mjwara, Director-General, Department of Science & Innovation
- Dr Cas Coovadia, CEO, Business Unity South Africa
- Hamedata Deedat, Acting Executive Director, National Labour & Economic Development Institute
- Prof. Ahmed Bawa, CEO, Universities South Africa

12h40

SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

Prof. Crain Soudien, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Human Sciences Research Council

13h00

END

SPEAKERS



- ▶ **Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation**

Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel “Blade” Nzimande is Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. He was Minister of Transport from 2018 to 2019, and Minister for Higher Education and Training from 2009 to 2017.



- ▶ **Dr Phil Mjwara, Director-General, Department of Science and Innovation**

Dr Phil Mjwara has served as the Director-General of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) since April 2006. He has published and presented numerous papers on physics, technology analysis and foresighting related topics.



- ▶ **Dr Shadrack Moephuli, Acting Chairperson, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Agricultural Research Council**

Dr Shadrack Moephuli has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa, since 2006. Prior to joining the ARC, he served as Acting Deputy Director-General responsible for production and natural resource management in the Department of Agriculture, South Africa.



- ▶ **Prof. Crain Soudien, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Human Sciences Research Council**

Professor Crain Soudien is the Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council. He is formerly a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town, and a joint professor in Education and African Studies.



- ▶ **Dhesigen Naidoo, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Water Research Commission**

Dhesigen Naidoo is Chief Executive Officer of the Water Research Commission, South Africa's only dedicated water research steering and funding institution. He also served as an official in South African Government between 1996 and 2007.



- ▶ **Dr Mlungisi Cele, Acting CEO, National Advisory Council on Innovation**

Dr Mlungisi Cele holds a PhD in Higher Education Studies from the University of the Western Cape and an MPhil in Science and Technology Studies from Stellenbosch University. He joined the then Department of Science and Technology in 2005 and has been involved in various assignments related to science, technology and innovation policy, human capital development and strategy and planning and reviews.



- ▶ **Prof. Johann Mouton, Director, Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology & DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence for Scientometrics and STI Policy**

Professor Johann Mouton is professor in, and director of the Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology at Stellenbosch University and the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence for Scientometrics and STI Policy. In 2012 he was elected to the Council of the Academy of Science of South Africa.



- ▶ **Dr Glenda Kruss, Executive Head, Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators, Human Sciences Research Council**

Dr Glenda Kruss is the Executive Head of the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators at the Human Sciences Research Council. Her research is oriented towards more contextually appropriate measures of science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa.



► **Dr Cas Coovadia, CEO, Business Unity South Africa**

Cas Coovadia started as CEO of BUSA on 1 April 2020 after retiring as Managing Director of The Banking Association SA (BASA) after spending 15 years there. He is the Chairperson of the National Business Initiative, on the Council of Wits University, on the board of the Centre for Development and Enterprise, amongst others.



► **Hameda Deedat, Acting Executive Director, National Labour & Economic Development Institute**

Hameda has been the Acting Executive Director of NALEDI, the research arm for the Congress of South African Trade Unions, since 2016. She is also a senior researcher in the organisation, researching key issues that impact labor and the working class in South Africa and internationally, including climate change and the fourth industrial revolution with specific focuses on: energy, the national minimum wage, global value chains, labor organising, and the gendered impact of formalising the informal economy.



► **Prof. Ahmed Bawa, CEO, Universities South Africa**

Ahmed Bawa is the CEO of Universities South Africa. Until 2016, he was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Durban University of Technology. He also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Durban Centre of the University of Natal (later to be the University of KwaZulu-Natal). He is Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa as well as the Academy of Science of South Africa.



► **Dr Thulani Dlamini, Council Member, National Advisory Council on Innovation & CEO, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research**

Dr Thulani Dlamini has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Industrial and Scientific Research (CSIR) since February 2017. He joined the CSIR in 2005 as the head of the National Laser Centre and in 2008, he was appointed in the position of Group Executive: Research and Development, a position he held until 2011 when he left the CSIR to join Sasol. At Sasol, he was the Executive Manager: Research and Development and later became Vice-President for Strategic Research and Technology.