



# AFRICA WEEK 2023

The role of research and innovation in  
accelerating the implementation of the  
AfCFTA

Venue: Future Africa Campus, University of Pretoria  
Date: 22 May 2023  
Time: 10:00 - 12:00

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## Programme

10:00 – 10:10

Opening Remarks

Facilitator: Dr Palesa Sekhejane  
Director: Executive Head (interim), African  
Institute of South Africa, Human Sciences  
Research Council

Mr Daan du Toit  
Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and  
Resources  
Department of Science and Innovation

### Keynote Address

10:10 – 10:20

Creating enable research and innovation  
ecosystems in Africa

Dr. Hendrina Doroba  
Divisional Manager, Education and Skills Development,  
African Development Bank (TBC)

### Expert panel discussions

10:20 – 11:10

Panel discussion

*Unpacking the AfCFTA and its implications*  
Claudia Furriel  
Director: NEPAD/AU  
Trade Policy, Negotiations and Cooperation Branch (TBC)

*Strengthening the knowledge enterprise for trade synergies*  
Prof Fiona Tregenna  
SARChI Chair Holder in Industrial Development and  
Professor at the School of Economics  
University of Johannesburg

*Science and innovation: investment and trade*  
Palesa Rachidi  
Director: Trade and Investment Promotion  
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

*The African innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and  
the AfCFTA*  
Ms Mahlatse Tolamo  
Ecosystem at 22 On Sloane and Global Entrepreneurship  
Network (GEN) South Africa Managing Director

11:10 – 11:25

### Questions & Answer Session

11:25 – 11:45

Closing interventions: The African  
innovation and entrepreneurship  
ecosystem and the AfCFTA.

Dr. Vuyo Mjimba  
Director: African Institute of South Africa, Human Sciences  
Research Council

11:45 – 12:00

Closure and vote of thanks

Ms Mmampei Chaba, Chief Director: Multilateral  
Cooperation and Africa