



Democracy
IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Road Ahead

29 August 2019

UCT's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance and Kofi Annan Foundation to host democracy conference

4-5 September 2019 | UCT Graduate School of Business Conference Centre

In honour of the values shared by former president Nelson Mandela and former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance and the Kofi Annan Foundation are partnering to host the "Democracy in central and southern Africa - The Road Ahead" conference.

Strategic partners include [The Elders](#), [The United Nations Democracy Fund](#) and [the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa](#).

The aim of the conference is to provide a platform for governments and civil society leaders to take stock of the state of democracy in central and southern Africa and to reaffirm their commitment to deepening democracy in the interest of peace, development and the respect of human rights. The conference will also present solutions to the challenges that threaten democracy in central and southern Africa.

Objectives of the conference include: Taking stock of democratic development in the region; Identifying key obstacles and drivers of democratisation in the region through panel discussions; Equipping democratic forces with ideas and tools to reinforce and/or deepen democracy in their respective countries; Identify virtuous circles of democratic power that may lie within or outside the state (institutions holding the line of accountability and rule of law – eg Public Protector's Office in South Africa or the Constitutional Court; the potential role of the private sector/civil society to promote democratic principles and values that work alongside government-led policies and practices);

Speakers include:

- Ms Graça Machel (Chancellor, UCT), who will deliver the keynote address;
- Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng (Vice-Chancellor, UCT), who will deliver an official welcome;
- Mr Alan Doss (President, The Kofi Annan Foundation);

- Professor Faizel Ismail (Director, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance);
- Mr Sebastien Brack (Head of Programme-Democracy and Elections, The Kofi Annan Foundation);
- Professor Alison Gillwald (Expert, Digital Governance in Africa);
- Dr Christopher Fomunyoh (Senior Associate for Africa and Regional Director, National Democratic Institute);
- Ms Chipokota Mwanawasa (Zambian lawyer and political strategist).

Details of the event are as follows:

Wednesday, 4 September 2019

Time: 08:00 to 17:30

Thursday, 5 September 2019

Time: 07:00 to 18:30

For media RSVPs please contact Nombuso Shabalala on nombuso.shabalala@uct.ac.za or 021 650 4190 by Monday, 2 September 2019.

For enquiries about the conference please contact Mabel Sithole on mabel.sithole@uct.ac.za or 021 650 5239.

ENDS

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