
Promoting Social Cohesion in an Unequal Society: findings from South Africa

Cape Town, 8th February 2018

In October 2016, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) and the University of Cape Town (UCT)'s Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII) commenced working on a research project which aimed to address the following questions:

- What is the relationship between **social cohesion** and **economic inequality**?
- What kinds of institutional change do we need in order to promote social cohesion and reduce inequality?
- How do we bridge the growing inter-generational divide?

At this event, the key findings of this collaborative research project will be presented, in addition to an engagement with key stakeholders on issues related to social cohesion and inequality.

The event will take place at the MTN Solutions Space in **Philippi Village, Cape Town, on 8 February 2018**, from 09h00 to 13h30.

PROGRAMME

- 08h30 – 09h00** Coffee and Registration
- 09h00 - 09h10:** Welcome and Introductions
Chair: Pippa Green
Laurent Amar, French Consul, Cape Town, and **Martha Stein-Sochas**, Southern Africa Regional Director, AFD, to welcome participants and introduce the day.
- 09h10 - 09h25:** Social Cohesion in South Africa – why does it matter and why now
Elnari Potgieter, Project Leader, IJR
- 09h25 – 09h55:** Presentation of the findings of the AFD-UCT Research Programme
Justine Burns, Professor, UCT, and **Anda David**, Research Officer, AFD, to present key findings of the research project.



09h55 – 10h25:

Q & A Session

Chair: **Pippa Green**, Communications Manager, UCT.

10h25 – 10h40:

Tea

10h40 – 11h40:

Parallel Working Group Sessions

Chair: Kenneth Lukuko, Senior Project Leader, IJR

These discussions are structured around 2-3 key questions linked to the results of our study and to the 6 dimensions identified as important for the social cohesion index. These are as follows:

1. Belonging
Facilitator: **Stanley Henkeman**
2. Cooperation/civic participation
Facilitator: **Zackie Achmat**
3. Institutional trust
Facilitator: **Mills Soko (tbc)**
4. Social relationships (interpersonal trust, intergroup contact)
Facilitator: **Bonita Bennett**
5. Identity
Facilitator: **Melissa Steyn**
6. (Perceptions of) inequality
Facilitator: **Ayabonga Cawe**

11h40 – 12h25:

Lunch

12h25 – 13h15:

Panel Discussion: Building Social Cohesion in an Unequal Society

Panelists:

Zackie Achmat, South African activist

Ayabonga Cawe, Development Economist and Radio Host

Stanley Henkeman, Executive Director, IJR

Prof Mills Soko, Director, Graduate School of Business, UCT (tbc)

Bonita Bennett, Director, District Six Museum

Melissa Steyn, Professor, Wits Centre for Diversity Studies

Chair: Kenneth Lukuko

13h15 – 13h30:

Closing and Announcement of the Launch of Two New Research Programmes on Inequalities

Murray Leibbrandt, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Poverty and Inequality and Director, SALDRU, UCT and **Hélène Djoufelkit**, Deputy Head of Research, AFD