

**Universities and Governments: Five Securities and Economic  
Development to 2030**  
**AAUN Australia Forum 27-28 October 2022**

**Participants Biographies**

**Session 1 – Teamwork Time: Universities and Governments in Development to 2030**

**Professor John Hearn**

***University of New South Wales, Sydney; Exec Co-Chair AAUN***

John Hearn is Founding Executive Co-Chair of the Australia Africa Universities Network (2012); Professor (Ad), Institute for Global Development, University of New South Wales; and Professor of Physiology (Em) at the University of Sydney. Born in India, raised in UK and East Africa, he received his BSc, MSc and hon DSc from University College Dublin, and PhD from the Australian National University. He served 7 years each in leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU, and Sydney. He was VP (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and VP (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He teaches science and medicine and has published 220 research papers and six edited books in reproduction, fertility, and stem-cell science, now researching in stem-cell policy and higher education reform. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. A committed international citizen, he works globally in research capacity development, including 30 years in projects with Africa. He is an adviser to the Australian Government, WHO, British Council, and OECD. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization and founding Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute. He played representative level rugby and boxing.

**Professor Tawana Kupe**

***Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria; Co-Chair AAUN Africa***

Professor Tawana Kupe is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria. He holds a BA honours degree and a master's in English from the University of Zimbabwe, as well as a DPhil in Media Studies from the University of Oslo in Norway. He holds honorary Doctorates from Michigan State University in December 2019 and the University of Montpellier.

He was the founding Head of the Media Studies Department at Wits University.

He has a notable publication record, having authored journal articles, books and book chapters in his main discipline, Media Studies and Journalism. He edited the book *Broadcasting Policy and Regulation in Africa*, as well as *Go Home or Die Here* with two Wits University academics, Eric Worby and Shireen Hassim.

He is also Managing Editor of the *African Journal for Communication and Information*. In 2020, he was elected to the International Council of the International Association for Media and Communication Research.

He is Chairman of the Board of amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism and, Chairman of the Board of Media Monitoring Africa. He is also the board Campaign for Free Expression, which focuses on protecting and enabling free expression for all.

**Professor Sally Wheeler OBE MRIA FAcSS FAAL**

***Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International & Corporate), Australian National University***

Professor Wheeler ensures that the Australian National University's international and corporate divisions, processes and systems to support the achievement of the University's strategic objectives.

The DVCIC portfolio brings together Service Divisions with an extensive and diverse range of responsibilities and expertise. This includes coordination of the University's budget, resource allocation and strategic planning process, as well as the delivery of finance, human resources and infrastructure support services.

Professor Wheeler is also responsible for the development and implementation of the University's academically-led international strategy. Sally chairs the ANU International Group and represents the University on international committees and formal engagements

Professor Wheeler joined the University as the Dean of the ANU College of Law in early 2018. In 2020, she was named the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International Strategy), a role she held concurrently with her position as Dean. In 2022, Sally took up the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International & Corporate).

Prior to taking up these positions at ANU, Sally was a Professor and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen's University Belfast. In the 2017 New Years' Honours list, Sally was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in Northern Ireland.

**Ms Alison Chartres**

***Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia***

Ms Alison Chartres is a senior career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She is currently Assistant Secretary of the Africa Branch.

Ms Chartres was Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya with accreditation to Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Somalia from 2017 to 2020. She has also served in the Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York, and in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Ms Chartres has experience in development policy, peace building and state building, and humanitarian response. She was also a former Chief of Staff in the Australian Civil-Military Centre.

Ms Chartres holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours in Environmental Science) from Murdoch University in Western Australia.

**HE Ms Dorcas Makgato**

***High Commissioner, the Republic of Botswana***

Her Excellency Ms. Dorcas Makgato was appointed to the role of High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to the Commonwealth of Australia in February 2020. Her jurisdiction in the Pacific Region covers accreditation to New Zealand, the Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Fiji, Solomon Islands and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea on a non-residential basis.

Ms. Makgato has extensive experience both the public and private sector in Botswana. During her political career prior to her recent appointment in the diplomatic service, she served in several Ministerial Portfolios as Minister of Transport and Communications, Minister of Immigration and Gender Affairs, Minister of Health and Wellness and as Minister of Trade, Investment and Industry. Her Excellency held senior executive positions in the private sector in areas such Investment Promotion and Export Development, Banking and Financial Services, Mining and Aviation.

Her Excellency Ms. Makgato has a rich global experience having attended a wide range of international conferences including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), ACP/EEC Ministerial and Summit meetings, SADC-EPA with the European Union Negotiations Committee as Chairperson, Commonwealth Ministerial and Summit Meetings, African Union (AU) Ministerial and Summit Meetings and the South African Development Community (SADC) Ministerial and Summit Meetings.

Ms. Makgato is a strong believer in professional development and education and is an alumni of Sheffield University in the United Kingdom. She is currently pursuing a MBA at the University of Wales. She has attended professional courses at the Universities of Yale and Harvard.

Her Excellency Ms. Makgato is a visionary leader and strategic thinker who is result driven in execution of her assignments. In her leisure time she enjoys reading, intensive physical exercise and has passion for business excellence and perfection.

#### **HE Mrs Marie Claire Jeanne Monty, Dip Ed / BA / M Ed**

##### ***High Commissioner, Mauritius***

Her Excellency was appointed as High Commissioner to Australia in December 2019, she joined the Diplomatic Corps in March 2020 and presented her Credentials to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 7 April 2020.

Before her appointment, Mrs. Monty has been Member of Parliament (2014-2019) and has served as Private Parliamentary Secretary, having as responsibility, to look after infrastructure in to Constituencies of her country.

During her mandate as Member of Parliament, Her Excellency, has also served as Member of the PAN African Parliament where she was elected as Vice- Chair of the Committee on Education, Tourism and Culture and was also Member of the Committee on Gender. Mrs. Monty has been one of the founder Members of the First Parliamentary Gender Caucus instituted in 2017 in Mauritius.

High Commissioner Monty has had a long career in Secondary Education for Girls before joining politics and has been French language teacher, Chief Examiner and Director of Catholic College for Boys.

Her Excellency has also been serving as voluntary social worker for quite a number of years in her country and is the proud mother of three accomplished children, two daughters and one son.

#### **HE Marthinus van Schalkwyk**

##### ***South African High Commissioner***

His Excellency Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk assumed the post of High Commissioner for the Republic of South Africa to Australia on 20 May 2019, having previously served as Ambassador to Greece.

Born in 1959, Mr Van Schalkwyk studied Matric at Hoërskool Pietersburg, in Polokwane. He has a B PROC (Law) (1983); a BA Hons (Political Science, Cum Laude) (1984) and an MA (Political Science) (1990), all from Rand Afrikaans University.

A political appointee, Mr Van Schalkwyk is a former Premier of the Western Cape (2002-2004), Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (2004-2009) and Minister of Tourism (2009–2014). He served as a Member of Parliament for 25 years and was Leader of the Official Opposition from 1996-1999.

He has been a Member of the Executive Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and a Chairperson of the Aviation, Travel and Tourism Industry Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Mr Van Schalkwyk is married to Suzette van Schalkwyk. They have two children.

**Session 2: University Challenges: Climate, Energy, Pandemics, Democracy, Development**  
**Chair: Mr Aditya Malkani; Co-Chair: Dr Annette McLaren**

### **Mr Aditya Malkani**

#### ***Regional Director Membership – Asia Pacific, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)***

Aditya Malkani is Regional Director Membership – Asia Pacific at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), where he leads on engagement with the ACU's members and partners in the region. Established in 1913, the ACU is the world's first and oldest international university network, with 500+ members in over 50 Commonwealth countries, including more than 250 members across the Asia Pacific region.

Prior to joining the ACU, Aditya was India Country Head for King's College London, responsible for implementing the university's strategy in India. While at King's Aditya supported the development of the King's India Summer Schools, which provided exposure to Indian students to short courses taught in-person by King's academics, delivered at partner institutions in Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore.

Aditya has been an education sector professional for over a decade, and speaks regularly on issues relating to higher education and international collaboration at conferences & roundtables, both nationally and internationally.

Aditya pursued his Bachelors in Accounting & Finance and Masters in Management from the University of Mumbai, and has pursued short courses at the University of California – Berkeley. He is an avid reader of biographies, and is based in Mumbai, where he lives with his family.

### **A/Prof Umar Kakumba**

#### ***DVC and Vice-President (Academic Affairs), Makerere University, Uganda***

Umar Kakumba (PhD) is Associate Professor of Public Sector Management and the Deputy Vice Chancellor/ Vice President (Academic Affairs) at Makerere University. He is the immediate former Dean of Faculty at School of Business and Management at Makerere, a position he held for eight years. He previously served as Head, Department of Management Studies at Makerere.

He is an alumnus and visiting research fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, where he completed a Post-Doctoral program in 2014. He holds a PhD in Public Affairs from the Faculty of Economic & Management Science, University of Pretoria; a Master's of Public

Administration & Management; a BA (Social Sciences) from Makerere University; and a Diploma in Business Administration.

He serves and chairs committees of Governing Boards and Councils of reputable institutions and organs, including: Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB); Chairperson, Buganda Lukiiko (Parliament) Committee on Finance, Planning & Investments; Board of Trustees, Makerere Endowment Fund (MakeEF); Buganda Royal Institute of Business & Technical Education (BRIBTE); the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), Makerere; Makerere Joint Aids Program (MJAP); Kawempe Muslim Secondary School; Kibuli Secondary School; and Kira Junior School. He is a member of Makerere University Senate and Council. In July 2022, he was honoured by his Alma-mater to serve on the Advisory Board of the School of Public Management & Administration in the Faculty of Economic & Management Science of the University of Pretoria.

He has researched and consulted extensively in the broader realm of Public Sector, Development Administration & Management. He has published numerous articles in internationally accredited journals and has presented papers locally and internationally.

Umar is external examiner and visiting professor at The University of Fort Hare; University of Pretoria, University of Kwa Zulu Natal, University of Rwanda, Nelson Mandela University, and Uganda Management Institute.

#### **Professor Pal Ahluwalia**

##### ***Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of the South Pacific***

Pal is the Vice-Chancellor and President for The University of the South Pacific (USP). He commenced on 1 January 2019 and is in charge of steering and leading one of the biggest regional universities in the world. USP has 12 member countries and 14 campuses.

His special interest is to promote a culture of strong research and innovation with continuous improvement in the volume, quality and impact of research and enterprise outputs and partnerships.

He holds a Bachelor and Master of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan, and completed his PhD at Flinders University. He was subsequently at Adelaide University for 14 years, finishing as Professor of the Politics Department. Professor Ahluwalia has previously been a Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley and Professor with the Goldsmiths College at the University of London, where he was also Director of the Centre for Postcolonial Studies. He was also a Professor at UC San Diego.

Pal is a prolific publisher, both in terms of volume and prestige. He is the sole author of four books, Politics and Post-colonial Theory: African Inflections; Post-colonialism and the Politics of Kenya; and Plantations and the Politics of Sugar in Uganda. His fourth book titled Out Of Africa: Post-structuralism's Colonial Roots was published in 2010. He has been editor or co-editor of a number of journals, including three Routledge journals, Social Identities, African Identities and Sikh Formations which are "A" ranked Journals.

#### **Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC FAA FRS**

##### ***Vice-Chancellor and President, The Australian National University***

##### ***2011 Nobel Laureate Physics***

Professor Brian P. Schmidt was appointed Vice-Chancellor and President of The Australian National University (ANU) in January 2016.

Professor Schmidt is the 12th Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University (ANU). Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics, Professor Schmidt was an astrophysicist at the ANU Mount Stromlo Observatory and Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics before becoming Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Schmidt received undergraduate degrees in Astronomy and Physics from the University of Arizona in 1989, and completed his Astronomy Master's degree (1992) and PhD

(1993) from Harvard University. Under his leadership, in 1998, the High-Z Supernova Search team made the startling discovery that the expansion rate of the Universe is accelerating. Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, The United States Academy of Science, and the Royal Society, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2013.

**Session 3: Higher Education, Employment, Economic Development**

**Chair: Prof Prem Ramburuth; Co-Chair: Prof Thandi Mgwebi**

**Professor Prem Ramburuth**

***UNSW Sydney***

Prem Ramburuth is Emeritus Professor in the School of Business, UNSW Sydney. Her former leadership positions at UNSW and its Business School include Immediate Past President of the Academic Board, Associate Dean Education, Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs, Head of School of Management, Foundation Director of the Business School Academic Development Centre, Deputy Director of the UNSW Learning Centre, and Director of Overseas English Language Programs at the UNSW Institute of Languages. Her research, teaching and engagement has focused on International Business and Emerging Economies, China's Global Growth in Africa, Diversity and Inclusion in Business and Society, Gender Equity, the Internationalization of Higher Education and Quality Assurance. She holds research grants with global teams across these areas and is a member of several editorial boards including the Journal for Multicultural Education, International Journal of Emerging Markets and Chinese Management Studies. She is a member of UN Women Australia, Women on Boards, and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

Prem is the Academic Lead for Africa at the UNSW Institute for Global Development. She oversees transformative development programs in Africa that include capacity building and training for academic staff, the establishment of formal University teaching qualifications for staff (in Uganda), research, and PhD Training. She is a PLuS Alliance Fellow and the Academic Lead for the PLuS Africa Project that seeks to establish PhD Institutes in Engineering in Africa. Prem is also the Immediate Past Chair of the Academic Board, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA); is on the Panel of Experts for the Australian Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA); and was a Higher Education Program Assessor for the Fiji National Higher Education Commission. She is currently Visiting Professor at Gulu University (Uganda) and has been Visiting Professor at VNU Hanoi Business School (Vietnam), Visiting Scholar at the Uni of Colorado (Denver) and University Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia). She is the recipient of four national and international teaching awards, and the Dean's Distinguished Leadership Award in the UNSW Business School.

**Mr Scott Morriss**

***Trade Commissioner for Africa, Austrade***

Scott Morriss is Trade Commissioner for Africa, working for the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade). Austrade is the Australian Government's trade and investment agency and is responsible for advancing Australia's international trade, investment, and education interests.

Scott oversees Austrade's trade and investment promotion and facilitation work across Africa – assisting Australian businesses access the world's fastest growing and most dynamic market place. He leads a team of eight highly qualified and experienced

Business Development Managers (BDMs) based in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Morocco. Scott and the Austrade Team in Africa have a particular focus on resources, METS and energy related opportunities as well as Education, Food and Agribusiness and Health technology and services.

Scott arrived in Africa in May 2021, having spent the last four years in Tokyo Japan as a Trade Commissioner. He and his Japan team were responsible then for Advanced Technology, Services, Education, Defence Industry and Advanced Manufacturing sectors.

Scott joined Austrade in 2017 after a long career in the Australian Navy during which he served overseas in the Middle East and National level agencies in advisory roles and represented Australia to Japan as Assistant Defence Attaché from 2012 to 2015. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Communications from the University of Canberra and is married to Anna.

**Dr David Mickler**

***Dean Global, Africa, Office of the DVC Global, Curtin University***

Dr David Mickler is Dean Global, Africa, Office of the DVC Global, and a Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Curtin University, Perth. He is a Board Member of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) and serves as the Australian Representative to the Academic Group of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Previously, Dr Mickler was the Founding Director of the Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) at the University of Western Australia and the inaugural Co-Chair of the Global Africa Group within the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). Dr Mickler is a Political Scientist whose research and teaching sit at the intersection of International Relations and African Studies. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the University of Pretoria, Addis Ababa University and the Africa Union Commission. His books include *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Towards Africa* (2013); *The African Union: Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (2016); and *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2020). Dr Mickler is a CI on the new Australian Research Council Discovery Project *The Political and Economic Agency of Africans in Australia*. Dr Mickler is also convening the new Curtin University-AAUN program *Emerging Leaders in Australia-Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD)*.

**Associate Professor Grace Flanagan (Liu) PhD**

***General Manager, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)***

Dr Grace Flanagan is General Manager of the Australia Africa Universities Network. She manages the partnerships and research development of AAUN, links with Chinese universities and Higher Education organisations. She works with the AAUN Executive Chairman and the Secretariat, developing high-level relationships with universities, governments and business. Previously, Grace was Research Development Manager for the Worldwide Universities Network from 2015-18.

Grace was awarded her PhD in Chinese Ancient Literature and Bibliography from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing (CASS). She was a researcher and lecturer in Chinese Universities with undergraduate and master's students in Chinese traditional literature and bibliography. She received academic awards from the Provincial government and Education Department for her research achievements, with university promotions to Associate Professor.

In addition, Grace has an appointment with the University of New South Wales, doing research and teaching in Chinese ancient literature, culture and language. Her recent research explores the relevance of traditional Chinese values to contemporary

international relations. Her co-authored book *The Annotation of HaiHe-YinGao* will be published soon by China Ocean University Press. She is currently completing her book on the influence of leading aristocratic families (the Han and Wei Dynasties) on the style of Chinese Medieval Literature.

**Session 4. Environment, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition**

**Chair: Dr Aldo Stroebe; Co-Chair: Prof Kadambot Siddique**

**Dr Aldo Stroebe**

***Executive Director, National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa***

Dr Aldo Stroebe is Executive Director Strategic Partnerships, and Acting Group Executive for Strategy, Planning and Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. He serves as South Africa's National Contact Point for the European Research Council, as Board Member of the Water Research Commission, and as the co-chairperson of the Executive Support Group of the Global Research Council. He is a Foreign Fellow of the Ugandan National Academy of Science, a Senior Fellow of the Pan-African Scientific Council, and a founding member of the SA Young Academy of Science (SAYAS). Education credentials: University of Pretoria (BSc- and Hons-degrees); University of Ghent, Belgium (Masters in International Agricultural Development); University of the Free State and Cornell University, USA (PhD); Postdoctoral research at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. He is a recognised scholar in sustainable agriculture, and acknowledged as a leader in the internationalisation of Higher Education, and research and innovation management.

**Prof Lindiwe Sibanda**

***Director of ARUA CoE in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS)***

***The University of Pretoria***

Prof Lindiwe Majele Sibanda is a recognised leader, practising farmer and esteemed policy advisor with a career spanning 30 years. She currently serves as Director and Chair of the African Research Universities Alliance - Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS) at the University of Pretoria. Prof. Sibanda is also the incoming Research Chair for Sustainable Food Systems at the Future Africa Institute, University of Pretoria. She is also hosted by the University's Centre of Advancement of Scholarship as a Senior Research Fellow.

Prof Sibanda is an SDG12.3 Champion on Reducing Food Loss and Waste and sits on multiple international boards including: Nestlé SA, World Vegetable Centre and the One CGIAR System Board. In previous roles, Prof. Sibanda has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Diplomatic Mission, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and vice-President at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

**Dr Julianne Biddle**

***Director, Multilateral Engagement, ACIAR***

Dr Julianne Biddle is Director, Multilateral Engagement at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). In this role she manages partnerships with multilaterals such as the CGIAR, CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International), The Pacific Community (SPC), World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg), the



Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), and other types of global research collaborations.

Dr Biddle holds an honorary position with the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the University of Queensland and has over 20 years' experience in plant science, with expertise in conservation biology, plant-pathogen interactions, ecology, plant physiology and germplasm conservation.

Dr Biddle grew up on a cattle farm in Northern Australia and has a Bachelor of Science with Advanced Studies in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biological Sciences, Honours in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Genetics.

### **Professor Hettie Schönfeldt**

#### ***University of Pretoria; Co-director, ARUA CoE Sustainable Food Systems***

Prof Schönfeldt is an advocate for nutrition research, promoting excellence through the creation, translation and dissemination of science-based information into policies and training programs both nationally, and internationally. She serves as scientific advisor to AFROFOODS, a network on the African continent, forming part of IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force. She is a co- director of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems and holds a South African Department of Science and Innovation /National Research Foundation Research Chairs Initiative in Nutrition and Food Security. Her group's research focuses on linking nutrient quantity and quality of foods to sustainable food systems for attaining nutrition and food security for all.

Prof Schönfeldt has been a member of 4 Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN) projects, and is a team member of the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP). BFAP provides a yearly Agricultural Outlook (currently 2014 – 2023) on African Food Systems. In 2013 she was invited by the United Nations Systems Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) to perform a descriptive review of food and agricultural policies in South Africa encouraging the advancement of the discussion on nutrition-sensitive agriculture towards informing the ICN2 (Nov 2014).

### **Dr Colin Chartres**

#### ***CEO of the Crawford Fund***

Dr Colin Chartres is the CEO of the Crawford Fund. The Fund operates nationally in Australia and supports training in international agricultural development and increased public awareness of the benefits arising from Australia's investment in international agricultural research. Colin is a soil scientist and has worked with UNSW and CSIRO on soil development, acidification and structural decline. Internationally, he has worked on agricultural development projects in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria and Somalia. He has also held senior management roles at CSIRO, Geosciences Australia, the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) and the National Water Commission (NWC) as well as that of Director General of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), based in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2007-12. IWMI also had regional offices in 10 other African and Asian countries. At IWMI, he played a leadership role in integrating environmental, economic and social issues into water and agricultural research and contributed to the development of the CGIAR's strategic plan. His role at the BRS and NWC led to the development of a strong understanding of the relationship between science and public policy. He is passionate about global food and nutritional security

and the role of water in development. He is widely published and has presented his work at many international conferences and to Australian, UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and the UN.

#### *Session 5: Security: migration, terrorism, corruption, defense*

##### *Chair:*

##### **Associate Professor Kathryn Sturman**

###### ***Principal Research Fellow, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland***

Associate Professor Kathryn Sturman is a principal research fellow of the Sustainable Minerals Institute at the University of Queensland, Australia. She has a doctorate in International Relations from Macquarie University and a Masters degree from the University of Cape Town. Kathryn Sturman's research interests focus on mining and resource governance, geopolitics of critical minerals and sustainability standards for responsible mining. She has twenty years' experience in political governance and applied policy research in Africa, Australia and South East Asia. She has supervised six international doctoral candidates at UQ, including from Nigeria and Zambia. Prior to joining SMI in 2012, Kathryn Sturman was Head of the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs. She is a board member of the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN).

##### **Prof Christopher Isike PhD**

###### ***Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria (UP)***

###### ***Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, UP (ACSUS-UP)***

Christopher Afoke Isike PhD, is a Professor of African Politics and International Relations in the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria and Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria (ACSUS-UP). He is also the current President of the African Association of Political Science (AAPS) and a Board Member of the Global Development Network (GDN). Professor Isike conducts research from an Africanist lens, and teaches international relations theory, strategic and security studies, and security theory at the University of Pretoria. His research interests include African soft power politics, women, peace and conflict studies, women and political representation in Africa, rethinking state formation in Africa, politics in a digital era, higher education studies in South Africa and African immigration to South Africa. A C2 rated researcher by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, Professor Isike has over 60 publications in top national and international peer-reviewed journals including chapters in books published by reputable publishing houses globally. He is Editor-in-Chief of Africa's foremost political science journal, *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies* (2020 to 2024). He also serves on the editorial board of several reputable international journals, such as *International Political Science Abstracts*. Professor Isike consults for the UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government on gender equality and women empowerment issues in the South Africa. He is also a Social Cohesion Advocate of South Africa (2020 – 2024) appointed by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture.

##### **Dr Katja Theodorakis**

###### ***Head of Counterterrorism, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)***

Katja Theodorakis is Head of Counterterrorism at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). She has an extensive background in extremism and terrorism

research, with academic, policy-relevant and international experience, as well as a sustained interest in fostering close engagement with like-minded partners.

Katja has researched and taught on terrorism, propaganda, Middle East politics, Islam and International Terrorism - at ANU, CSU and UNSW (at the Australian Defence Force Academy) –also as member of their Future Operations Research Group and co-founder of the associated Women In Future Operations platform.

Her formative years and experiences span across Germany, The Netherlands, US and Latin America, as well as the Middle East (Syria) where she engaged in educational projects and NGO work during the early years of Bashar al-Assad’s presidency.

Katja has studied at the University of Amsterdam and holds a First-Class Honours degree in International Development from ANU, was recipient of several scholarships including an Australian Government PhD Research Scholarship and has been awarded the 2016 ANU Media and Outreach Award for her commendable media output and performance as a young researcher. Before joining ASPI, she was Senior Program Coordinator for Research and Analysis in Foreign/Security Policy at the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation’s Australia Office.

### **Vice Admiral (Ret’d) Professor Paul Maddison**

#### ***Director, UNSW Defence Research Institute, Canberra***

Vice Admiral (Ret’d) Professor Paul Maddison is Director of the UNSW Defence Research Institute. Paul is responsible for enabling, facilitating, and integrating UNSW’s ground-breaking defence research capacity across the whole of the University in both Sydney and Canberra. With a mandate to build deeper relationships and increased collaboration with Commonwealth, State, industry and international partners, the Defence Research Institute aims to strengthen UNSW’s position as Australia’s leading defence university, and to play a defining role in accelerating the delivery of capability for the Australian Defence Force.

Paul is a graduate of Canada’s Royal Military College and served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 37 years. He commanded at all levels, both at sea and ashore, and retired in 2013 from his appointment as Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Paul returned to public service in 2015 and served until 2019 as High Commissioner of Canada to Australia, with accreditation to seven Pacific island countries. In this role, Paul was tireless in his pursuit of strengthened bilateral relations between Australia and Canada, with a focus on collaboration in the public policy, trade, social and security sectors.

An Australian citizen since 2020, Paul is an (ice) hockey (Toronto) and Aussie Rules (Essendon) fan, who also enjoys running (slowly), hiking, gardening, and reading. His Aussie wife Fay grew up in Darwin and was the strength behind his uniform in Canada for over 25 years.

## **Abstracts of Presentations**

### **Australia, Africa, Indo-Pacific priorities 2022-2030**

#### ***HE Mrs Marie Claire Jeanne Monty, High Commissioner, Mauritius***

In 2020, Mauritius and Australia celebrated the golden jubilee of the establishment of their diplomatic relations under the overarching theme of ‘Partners in the Indian Ocean’. It could not have been a better theme since partnership and the Indian Ocean are two immutable foundations of our relationship which is countries-old.

Australia is home to one the largest Mauritian diasporas. It is gratifying that this diaspora has been making important contributions to the economic development of both Australia and Mauritius across many sectors.

These enduring people-to-people links, the deep attachment of Commonwealth values and democratic like-mindedness form the bedrock of the Mauritius-Australia connection, one which is yet to reap its full potential.

Education is certainly one of the areas where this potential has been most promising, in particular through our highly valued collaboration with the Australia Africa University Network. Australia remains one of the most preferred destinations for Mauritian students. Transnational education partnerships are also expanding with the first Australian university campus (Curtin Mauritius) opened in Mauritius in May 2018.

Mauritius wants to reinforce and leverage this collaboration to establish greater synergies for elevating sustainable and human development.

Beyond education, Australia and Mauritius are developing linkages in areas of financial services, including Fintech, and research in different fields including health, sugarcane, coastal zone management.

We are hopeful that in an era of intense strategic competition amongst major global players, Mauritius and Australia will reassess their common interests and values with a view to promoting a modern relationship with a new and transformative bilateral agenda for enhancing linkages in a new generation of development cooperation issues linked to the SDGs, digital technology, and climate-resilient development pathways and our shared vision for a free, safe and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

On the one hand, the wealth of Australia's longstanding experience in development partnership with Pacific Island nations and in the structural vulnerabilities of the latter and, on the other hand, the multidimensional advantages that the appurtenance of Mauritius to the African Continent, the new frontier of global growth, offer to Australia, will be key in forging such a mutually beneficial relationship, anchored in continued sustained bilateral engagements.

### **Towards university engagement with global challenges: perspective from the global South**

***Prof Tawana Kupe, VC and Principal, University of Pretoria, SA and Co-Chair AAUN***

Following the COVID-19 pandemic globally there has been, and remains, a profound and long-lasting deep uncertainty about the future of higher education. Perhaps its greatest disruptive influence has been to exacerbate the deep-seated problems that have for some time caused academics to question their future. Similarly, the challenges for academic leadership has been significant, requiring pioneering reimagining of the future of higher education globally. This presentation will address these challenges in the context of Africa. The presentation would focus on relevance and impact. "Relevance" and "Impact" are widely used in international academic collaboration. However, the true practical meaning of both relevance and impact remain vague. Who determines what is relevant? How is impact assessed? What underpins the notion of relevance and impact in different contexts? This has direct implications for the future of global university rankings. These are some of the questions that emphasize the difficulty in having a shared understanding of relevance and impact in academic collaboration.

### **The Elephant and the Kangaroo**

***Professor John Hearn, UNSW, Sydney; Exec Co-Chair AAUN***

As emblems of Africa and Australia, we can learn from these animals' exquisite adaptation to their environments. AAUN learns from its equal research and education partnerships addressing global challenges, noting the SDG's and AU Agenda 2063. Applications are to research capacity, mobility, and leadership. Programs are in environment and climate,

agriculture and food, health and nutrition, education and employment, innovation, and economic development. All require deep cultural understanding and active engagement. I list a few highlights for discussion, from 10 years of AAUN and 50 years since my PhD from ANU. I work globally since - with over 500 universities, 10 governments, and 20 agencies. First, in education and employment, I argue that academic and student centric universities are essential; STEM, social sciences and humanities are essential; and partnerships between business and industry require balance. Second, for universities, there are risks in being distinct - versus the rankings ladder; while realities of geopolitics and administration can diminish the academy and freedoms; and wise leadership will champion quality, culture, and collegiality. Loss of talent is tragic waste. Third, Networks can bring new ways for equal partnerships; development of international citizens and leaders; and fluid, flexible, and focused innovation. I finish on a personal note, having studied unique attributes of the elephant and the kangaroo, with life changing consequences.

**Dr David Mickler**

***Dean Global, Africa, Office of the DVC Global, Curtin University***

**Emerging Leaders in Australia-Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD) program** is a new initiative of Curtin University for the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN). The pilot online program will run from November 2022 to June 2023. It aims to a) create a diverse cohort and ongoing network of emerging leaders in Australia-Africa diplomatic relations from among postgraduate university students and junior diplomats across Australia and the African continent; b) provide an opportunity for this cohort to develop expert knowledge and professional skills in Australia-Africa relations through a customised and facilitated annual online program engaging with leading scholars and experts, journalists, senior diplomats and other policy practitioners; and c) draw on the collective knowledge, expertise and ideas of this cohort to generate innovative policy ideas and meaningful socio-cultural exchanges for enhancing international relations between the African continent and Australia, including to develop collaborative solutions to global challenges. The ELAAD program and call for applications was launched at the AAUN Perth Forum on 29 August 2022 and the inaugural cohort of ELAAD Fellows will be announced at the AAUN Annual Forum in Canberra on 27 October 2022.

**Reimagining Sustainable Food Systems Dialogues**

***Prof Lindiwe Sibanda, The University of Pretoria***

Our food systems touch every aspect of human existence and all five security areas. When they function well, food systems have the power to bring us together. Today our food systems face multiple challenges. The groups of stakeholders within them often have differing perspectives on how these challenges are best analysed and tackled. The UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues have created profound engagements on an unprecedented scale around the ways that food systems do and do not work for people and planet.

Whilst the standardised method of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues were intended to facilitate highly participatory dialogue and debate among small groups of diverse participants who would not usually have the chance to interact; it is evident that other types of interaction, which are often important to express feelings and perspectives, were not captured.

There is significant value in appreciating the strengths (and weaknesses) of other forms of dialogue such as music, storytelling, singing, and dance. In many parts of the world,

including in Africa, there is a strong tradition of using these methods to solve complex problems. The future of progress to achieving the Global Goals depends on driving innovation and human ingenuity in new ways to solve stubborn problems. Can we explore ways to enrich methods used for food system dialogues so no one is left behind?

### **ACIAR-Africa Partnerships for Environment, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition**

***Dr Julianne Biddle, Director Multilateral Engagement ACIAR***

The Australian Centre for International Agriculture (ACIAR) has partnerships in Eastern and Southern Africa that fill a niche not addressed by many other funders of agricultural research-for-development. The focus is aimed at reducing poverty and increasing food security through an agriculture-led integrated framework for development. The ACIAR regional strategy focuses on promoting regional collaboration while helping create new opportunities, particularly for Africa's smallholder farmers. ACIAR has a long history of working in partnership with organisations in Africa. ACIAR-Africa partnerships have been delivering impacts for over 30 years.

Current ACIAR research priorities for Eastern and Southern Africa include:

- Sharing irrigated farming systems and science-related research from learnings from Australian drylands.
- Increasing investment in innovation to unlock the potential of smallholder agriculture.
- Addressing the impacts of climate change, improving sustainable crop and livestock systems and plant biosecurity, in order to stimulate commercial options for smallholder farmers.
- Continuing to co-invest with other development partners, notably global partners the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC) and Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA), and core support of multilateral partners like the CGIAR, WorldVeg and CABI, that conduct important agricultural research in the region.

### **Role of higher education institutions in developing sustainable food systems and strengthening capacity in Africa**

***Prof Hettie Schönfeldt and Dr Beulah Pretorius, University of Pretoria***

An African Vice-Chancellors' Regional Food Systems Dialogue was held as part of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 Dialogues under the auspice of the ARUA-SFS GCRF/UKRI CaBFoodS-Africa project. The dialogue brought together various stakeholders from different sectors, to discuss future pathways for sustainable food systems in Africa. Identification of the constraints facing the shift towards sustainable food systems is the first key step in understanding the role higher education may have on this shift. Constraints such as incoherent linkages between stakeholders and ministries, information and student skills gaps, insufficient funding and unsustainable resource management. The next step involves identifying opportunities for higher education to overcome such constraints and advance the shift towards sustainable food systems. Such opportunities include improved stakeholder engagement and collaboration, and partnerships between various key stakeholders, such as educational institutions, government, businesses, producers and consumers at local, regional and international levels. Higher education institutions can have a direct impact through skills development, providing opportunity and funding for research,

bridging the gap between university research and the communities that implement the research. Both research and consumer communities will benefit from the transformation of African agriculture towards sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food systems.

The most recent PRDF project between Murdoch University, University of Ibadan, and the University of Pretoria highlighted the importance of country-specific food composition data. Products in the processed meat category vary from simply putting a muscle into a casing and cooking it, to extended products in lower-income countries such as South Africa, which contains almost no meat. During COVID-19 the plight of migrant populations was exposed within weeks, with a total lack of food and total food insecurity. Migration is a worldwide phenomenon and warrants further investigation.

### **Meeting food security challenges over the next 20 years**

#### ***Dr Colin Chartres, CEO of the Crawford Fund***

The three Cs, Covid-19, climate change and conflict are shifting geopolitical focus on to food security. Agricultural public good research expenditure, which benefits poorer countries has been declining or stationary for 25 years and yet agriculture is expected to feed nearly 2 billion more mouths by 2050.

We have at our disposal many tools that can be applied to increase food production, fight environmental degradation, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately lead to a more sustainable future. Specific recent innovations having great potential include GM crops, yield gap analyses, developments in irrigation technologies, and water and waste reuse. The problem is that scientific innovations are often inaccessible in many countries, and that measures to increase agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability are applied in a piecemeal, uncoordinated fashion, often in environments lacking a coordinated policy framework.

The Crawford Fund has a goal of facilitating training of agricultural scientists, managers and policy makers across the spectrum of strategic analysis, leadership, multidisciplinary interaction, program and project management, linkages to market chains and extension and adoption and impact of research outputs.

It is our view that fundamental to successful agricultural research and development outcomes are the need for adequate problem definition, understanding of the context and externalities involved, the policy framework operating and who are the key participants and stakeholders. Only then can adequate theories of change be developed.

### **Co-operation or competition? Finding a win-win critical minerals strategy for Australia and Africa**

#### ***Kathryn Sturman, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland***

Rising geopolitical tensions in Europe and Asia Pacific have seen growing securitisation of critical minerals, with severe energy shortages arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The resulting uncertainty is affecting global markets at precisely the time when international cooperation and free, fair trade in mineral commodities is most needed to address climate change. The perennial problems of securing reliable, renewable energy access for people of the Global South have been compounded by recent trends in the Northern Hemisphere. Co-operation makes more sense than competition for Australia and Africa in this context.

Competition to explore, produce and trade in critical minerals is increasingly fierce as commodity prices rise. For example, Australia's Critical Minerals Strategy (2022) proposes marketing the country's minerals as better regulated than in other jurisdictions. This implies that Australia has higher environmental, social and governance standards than other countries producing minerals such as cobalt, copper, lithium and nickel. This discourse is short sighted for several reasons when considering Australia's diplomatic interests and objectives. First, there is more than enough demand for critical minerals to keep all the mining economies, including across Africa and Australia, in business for many years to come. Second, many Australian mining companies are invested in mining exploration, production and services in Africa and stand to benefit from improved ESG performance in both regions. Finally, co-operation and shared learning between Australian and African mining sectors reinforces broader alliances and enables both regions to pursue their energy security and mitigate the climate crisis.

### **Explaining security and insecurity in Africa: the case for governance security as an element of the human security paradigm**

***Prof Christopher Isike PhD***

***Director of the African Centre for the Study of the United States, UP (ACSUS-UP)***

This presentation shall argue for governance security as the eighth element of the human security paradigm using the case of the insurgency in the Northern province of Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. This is meant to be spark a debate for contributing toward a non-western understanding security and insecurity in Africa as it has been marginalised in its contributions to security literature. Apart from teasing out an understanding of security based on African realities, the argument shall also be based on the logic of good governance as foundational to realizing existing seven elements of human security. The presentation shall therefore examine the governance challenges in Mozambique and its impact on human security. The idea is to test the proposition that governance challenges in Mozambique led to instability with consequence for the increased levels of traditional and human insecurity in the country. In Africa, this will not be peculiar to Mozambique.

### **Towards a New Strategic Calculus**

***Dr Katja Theodorakis, Head of Counterterrorism, ASPI***

Our national and international security environment is said to be more complex than ever - a shifting landscape of cascading, interlinked crises. This presents increasing challenges to international peace and security, requiring broader, more innovative cooperation efforts at various levels - regional, sub-regional and multilateral.

It's also become almost a colloquialism that meeting these future challenges requires more integrated and strategic responses. Yet, what does this actually mean, also given Australia's security debates are seen as predominantly focused on hard power and the risk of war?

Former US Secretary of Defence James Schlesinger admonished in his 1992's "Quest for a Post-Cold War Foreign Policy," that "without goalposts, our policies will be determined by impulse and image." This compels us to ensure that we have the right questions, principles and sharply defined outcomes driving our research, analysis and policy decision-making.

The botched US withdrawal from Afghanistan can be seen as the culmination of strategic miscalculations and short-sightedness over the last two decades' 'War on Terror'. It



revealed the absence of overarching strategic, principled direction, with dire long-term consequences for regional stability, the future of Afghanistan and its people.

If we take the tragic images from Kabul Airport as a necessary wake-up call, we have to ask specifically what new parameters we need for a different future.

This presentation offers alternative understandings of national power and makes the case for a more comprehensively-focused strategic orientation. Recognizing security – whether national, regional or global – as a complex, interconnected system of resilience can change our strategic calculus and direction.

**Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Professor Paul Maddison**

***Director, UNSW Defence Research Institute, Canberra***

The global system is under enormous strain on many fronts. This is the consequential decade – the 2020s. Totalitarian regimes in China, Russia and elsewhere are moving to undermine the rules-based international order and reshape it in ways that favour autocracy. The right of individuals to make free choices in shaping the arcs of their lives, and to engage with one another fairly, transparently, and with a view to a common global good, is being sharply eroded. Climate change, the transformative effects of disruptive technologies, the decline of effective governance in western democracies, the corruption of emerging democracies by totalitarian states such as China, and the return of great power competition have all combined to make armed conflict in the Indo-Pacific more probable now than in the decades since WWII. All nations that value freedom and human rights must come together now in ways that will influence positive changes of strategic behaviour in capitals like Beijing, Moscow and Tehran. Concurrently we must accelerate our efforts to be prepared to successfully respond to illegal acts of armed aggression, alongside like-minded allies and partners. A free and open world for our grandchildren is literally on the line.