

Australia Africa Universities Network: The Just Energy Transition

Perth, Australia, 1-3 September 2024

Participants Biographies

Session 1 – Just Energy Transition, Security and Development: Insights from Australia and Africa

Chair: Prof John Hearn, Exec. Co-Chair AAUN Australia

Professor John Hearn

***Founding Co-Chairman, Australia Africa Universities Network;
Adjunct Professor, UNSW; Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney;***

Prof John Hearn is the Founding Co-Chairman of the Australia Africa Universities Network (2012); Adjunct Professor, Institute for Global Development, University of New South Wales; and Emeritus Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney. Born in India, raised in England and East Africa, he received his BSc (1st hon), MSc and DSc (hc) from University College Dublin, and PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). 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 DVC (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and DVC (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He mentors students in biomedicine and published 220 research papers and six edited books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell biology, and education. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. A committed international citizen, he works globally in research capacity development. He is an adviser to the Australian Government, WHO, British Council, and OECD. He lived in Kenya and Uganda, working with WHO on human and animal fertility; and playing representative rugby and boxing. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization and founding Board Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute.

Professor Aldo Stroebe

***DVC Research, Innovation and Internationalisation, University of Mpumalanga, SA;
AAUN Africa Co-Chairman***

Professor Aldo Stroebe is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Internationalisation at the University of Mpumalanga, South Africa, and former Executive Director at the National Research Foundation (NRF). He serves as Board Member of South Africa's Water Research Commission, and as Co-Chairperson of the Australia-Africa Universities Network. He is an Honorary Scholar at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria, 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). He is a recognised scholar in sustainable agriculture, and acknowledged as a leader in the internationalisation of Higher Education, and research and innovation management. He is the 2022 recipient of the SARIMA Research Management Excellence Award.

Prof Barnabas Nawangwe***Vice Chancellor of Makerere University***

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe holds a PhD in Architecture from the Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture and is a professor of architecture at Makerere University with interest in research in vernacular architecture. He has been the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, one of the oldest and premier universities in Africa, since August 2017. Prof Nawangwe has been at the Centre of the transformation of Makerere into a research intensive, collegiate University. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Australia Africa Universities Network, Member and the immediate past Chairman of the Board of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for African Partnerships (AAP), Member of the Board of Trustees of RUFORUM, Member of the Board of the Worldwide Universities Network, and Council Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Prof Nawangwe is passionate about African universities' role in transforming the African society through research and innovation and is leading Makerere University's drive to total decolonization of the curriculum at the University.

Associate Professor David Mickler***Dean Global, Africa, Curtin University; AAUN Deputy Co-Chair (Western Australia)***

Associate Professor David Mickler is Dean Global, Africa & Founding Director, Centre for Australia-Africa Relations at Curtin University, where is also Associate Professor in International Relations in the Faculty of Humanities. He serves as AAUN Deputy Co-Chair (WA) and as Australian Representative to the Indian Ocean Rim Association Academic Group (IORAG). He is a Future Africa Visiting Fellow at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). He coordinates the AAUN Emerging Leaders in Australia-Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD) Program and delivers the Australia-Africa Literacy program for the DFAT Diplomatic Academy. A/Prof. Mickler's research sits at the intersection of International Relations and African Studies. His books include *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Towards Africa* (2013), *The African Union: Addressing the Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (2016), and *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2020). His current research projects are *Australia-Africa Science Diplomacy: Collaborative Research, Policy Impact and International Cooperation* and the Australian Research Council Discovery Project *African Impact in Australia* (2023-26), which examines the political and economic agency of the Africa diaspora in Australia.

HE Mr Joe Tapera Mhishi***Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe***

His Excellency, Ambassador J. T. Mhishi is a career diplomat having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992 soon after graduating from university.

The Ambassador is a holder of a Master of Science in Economics and a Master of Science in International Relations. The Ambassador has had experience working at Head Office in Harare in various Departments during which exposure he rose through the ranks to his current position of Ambassador.

The Ambassador has previously served at postings in Berlin, Germany and Jakarta, Indonesia where he served as Deputy Head of Mission. He was appointed Ambassador in July 2019 under Zimbabwe's 2nd Republic before being deployed to Australia in September 2019. The Ambassador is accredited to both Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Ahmadou Aly MBAYE

Rector (Vice-Chancellor) of Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD Senegal)

Ahmadou Aly Mbaye is Professor of Economics and Public Policies at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD – Senegal). He currently holds the position of Rector (Vice-Chancellor) of UCAD. He is also the current President of the General Advisory Committee of CAMES (Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur – 19 African countries), the President of the Advisory Board of West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) doctoral program, and Vice-President of the Board of Directors of AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie). Previously, he has served as the Dean of the School of Economics and Management at Cheikh Anta Diop University and Chair of the Francophone Research Network in Economics. He has been a consultant for many regional and international organizations. Pr Mbaye is the author of several publications in the field of Development in Africa. His publications cover a large spectrum of topics, including youth employment, the informal economy, economic growth, climate adaptation, climate-induced conflict and migration in the Sahel. He is a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Center for Global Development, in Washington DC.

Honorary Prof Matthew Neuhaus

Australian National University

Matthew Neuhaus was appointed an Honorary Professor (International Law) at the Australian National University (ANU) College of Law on his retirement from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2023.

He was Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands from August 2018 to October 2022.

Mr Neuhaus previously served as Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe (2011-15) and High Commissioner to Nigeria (1997-2000). He has also held senior positions in DFAT and PMC, covering Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, United Nations, and international law. He had earlier postings at the United Nations in New York, Port Moresby and Nairobi.

Mr Neuhaus was Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London 2002-2008.

Mr Neuhaus has a B.A. (Hons) LLB from the University of Sydney and a Master of Philosophy (International Relations) from the University of Cambridge. He is married with one daughter.

He is President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) in Canberra, Senior Adviser to the Australian African Universities Network (AAUN) and on the Council of the UN Association of Australia (UNAA) in Canberra.

Session 2: The Science of the Energy Transition

Chair: Prof Frans Swanepoel, Future Africa, University of Pretoria

Professor Frans Swanepoel

Future Africa Research Chair, University of Pretoria

Prof Frans Swanepoel is the Future Africa Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where he coordinates inter- and transdisciplinary food systems research across the university and beyond. With over 35 years of experience in agricultural research and leadership, he is a renowned expert in sustainable food systems in Africa. He is the Interim Director of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS), a network of 20 African research-intensive universities committed to addressing sustainability challenges

on the continent. He co-leads the Africa-Europe Clusters of Research Excellence (CoRE) in Sustainable Food Systems, a strategic partnership between ARUA and the European University Association (EUA). His mission is to foster collaboration, innovation, and capacity development in sustainable food systems research, policy, and practice in Africa and globally. He serves or has served on a number of African boards and committees, incl. FANRPAN, AWARD, FARA and RUFORUM. Prof Swanepoel is the immediate past Co-Chair of the Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN).

Assoc Prof Martin Anda

Harry Butler Institute, Murdoch University

Martin Anda is Chair of Environmental Engineering, Theme Leader Circular Economy at the Harry Butler Institute, Fellow of the Indo-Pacific Research Centre and Associate Researcher of the Ngangk Yira Institute for Change, Murdoch University. His research focuses on development of sustainable energy, water and materials of construction for climate resilience across urban, rural and Indigenous Homeland communities. His work in Indigenous education and Indigenous community-based research commencing at Murdoch University in 1988 and Pundulmurra Aboriginal College, South Hedland in 1991 spans more than 30 years. Since 2018 Martin has been working in Collie, the coal power generation centre of Western Australia, on the Just Transition in development of new industries including low carbon concrete from the waste flyash. This led to development of Collicrete that is now being commercialised through an IP Agreement struck with Suvo Strategic Minerals Ltd and production trials have commenced at Permacast, the States' largest precast concrete manufacturer.

Professor David Norris

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana

Professor David Norris holds a PhD Degree in Quantitative Genetics and Animal Breeding from the Michigan State University. He read for his MSc in Animal Science at the University of Reading. He holds a BSc - Biology & Physics obtained from the University of Botswana. He has attended a number of leadership and professional programmes including Strategic Leadership; Multi Stakeholder Strategies and Processes; Change and Process Management; Gender Mainstreaming. His competencies include: Innovative Teaching & Learning; Research Development and Innovation; Higher Education Administration and Management.

David Norris has been serving as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana since 1st November 2017. He is an experienced leader, researcher and lecturer, having served in different capacities in Botswana, USA and South Africa. Prior to joining the University of Botswana, he was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for Research and Innovation at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST). Before serving at BIUST, he was Director of the School of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at the University of Limpopo, South Africa. He has also served as Assistant Professor at Austin Peay State University, USA and worked for the Government of Botswana's Department of Agricultural Research as Senior Research Officer.

Session 4: The Economics of the Energy Transition

Chair: Dr Janet Dzator, Director CARE-P, University of Newcastle; AAUN Deputy Chair (Eastern Australia)

Dr Janet Dzator

Director, Centre of African Research, Engagement and Partnerships, University of Newcastle AAUN Deputy Co-Chair (Eastern Australia)

Janet Dzator holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Queensland, Australia. She obtained her Bachelor of Science (Honours) and Master of Philosophy in Agriculture (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Ghana.

Janet works currently as an applied economist at the Newcastle Business School, University of Newcastle (UON), Australia. Her teaching and research interests are in macroeconomics, public policy, development economics and sustainability. She has won prestigious grants from the Australian Research Council, the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council among others to support her illustrious work and her publications have appeared in top ranking peer reviewed journals including Energy Economics, Applied Economics, Social Indicators Research and Journal of Policy Modelling. She is a dedicated Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student supervisor with over 15 HDR completions. Janet is the current Director for the Centre of African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P) and the Deputy Co-Chair of Australia Africa Universities Network's Australian Eastern State Universities. Janet has also served in other leadership roles including Head of Discipline for Economics, Politics and International Relations (EPIR), Deputy Head Discipline for Business Analytics, Economics and Politics (BAEP), Student Academic Conduct Officer (SACO), Program Convenor for Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business/Commerce programs, and a member of the Academic Senate.

Before joining the UON, Janet was a teaching and a research fellow at the Social and Public Health Economics Research Unit (SPHERE), University of Curtin, Perth Australia. She was a member of the Western Australia Drug Evaluation Panel (WADEP) a subsidiary of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Perth, Australia. She worked briefly at a World Health Organisation supported Health Research Centre at the Institute of Social, Statistical and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Ghana in the 1990s where she established a Health Economic program, built extensive experience in the design and conduct of socioeconomic research, survey design, fieldwork, research project leadership and project evaluation. She is an inclusive leader and known for providing robust and evidence-based insights for decision making.

Professor Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu,

Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, University of Pretoria

Professor Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu is the Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria. She was previously the Director of the School for Public Management and Administration in the Faculty. Before she joined the University of Pretoria, she was the Executive Director of Economic Performance and Development at the Human Sciences Research Council.

Prof Chitiga-Mabugu obtained a PhD in Economics at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. She conducts research on economic developmental issues and is mainly interested in analysing the impact of policies on society and the economy at large.

She is a member of the Stockholm Environment Institute Science Advisory Council as well as a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. She is co-chair of the International Technical Group of the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative and is also a member and scientific advisor of the Partnership for Economic Policy network.

Session 5: Launch of AAUN ECR Group: Building Future Australia-Africa Research

Leaders

Chair: Dr Priscilla Mensah, Nelson Mandela University

Dr Qinisani Qwabe

Lecturer, Nelson Mandela University; Chair of AAUN Africa ECR Group

Qinisani Qwabe is a lecturer at Nelson Mandela University and serves as the AAUN Africa ECR Chair. He holds an undergraduate degree in Agriculture, specializing in Rural Development and Extension, an MSc in Agriculture, a Master's in Organisational Leadership, and a PhD in Sustainable Agriculture. His research focuses on agroecology, food security, agricultural development, and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS). Qwabe is an active member of the Agroecology Knowledge Network (AKN). At Nelson Mandela University, Qwabe leads fresh produce initiatives, collaborating with the Food Systems Department to develop food gardens aimed at ending student hunger on campus. He has also mentored postgraduate students at the honours, master's, and PhD levels. Recognized for his contributions to higher education and food security, Qwabe represented South Africa at the 2020 BRICS Young Scientists Conclave in Russia and was named one of the Mail and Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans. In 2021, he was honored for advancing food and nutrition security for refugees at the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban. Additionally, Qwabe worked with the United Nations Development Programme to enhance Rwanda's rural economy and contributed to a cluster development project with Friedrich Schiller University Jena in Germany.

Dr Sussy Munialo

AAUN Africa Secretariat; Co-chair, AAUN-Early Career Researchers

Sussy Munialo has a PhD in Agricultural Resource Management from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Her research interest is in sustainable food systems, indigenous crops, economic modelling, climate change, gender, and monitoring impacts of projects. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow with ARUA Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS) and her current research focusses on Unleashing the Potential of Indigenous Crops. She is the Secretariat of Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) and the co-chair AAUN-Earlier Career Researchers Initiative.

Her previous research focused on understanding the causes of large yield gaps on smallholder farms and improving the nutritional and economic well-being of smallholder women farmers through utilisation of African Leafy Vegetables. She has also worked at the capacity of researcher, consultant, and technical expert with institutions such as the World Food Programme, World Agroforestry Centre, University of Nairobi, ETC East Africa, USAID, DFID and RUFORUM. Her accomplishments include several published papers and technical reports. She is inspired by a society that is food secure, productive, and independent and her future inspiration is to become a global transformative leader in Sustainable Food Systems. Sussy is versatile and has great teamwork and people management skills. She loves reading scientific and inspirational books, gardening, cooking, walking, and meeting people.

Closing Session: Conclusions and PRDF Announcement

Chairs: Prof Aldo Stroebel and Prof John Hearn

Associate Professor Kayihura Muganga Didas

Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda

Associate Professor Kayihura Muganga Didas is an experienced Practitioner of Law, an Associate Professor of Business Law, and a Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the research industry and academia, Arbitration and Public Speaking. Strong education professional with a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) focused on International Business/Trade/Commerce from Utrecht University. He has strong managerial skills both in academia and in practice of Law, but also on-Board membership. He is a Certified trainer in Mediation, Arbitration, Negotiation and Legal practice, and has also a strong experience in Business transactions.

Dr Vathi Papu-Zamxaka

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Innovation&Engagement

Tshwane University of Technology, SA

Dr Vathi Papu-Zamxaka is a research and innovation leader currently serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement at Tshwane University of Technology. She holds a PhD degree in Public Health from London South Bank University in the United Kingdom and a Master of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Umeå in Sweden. She has recently been awarded a certificate of completion for the Leading in Artificial Intelligence: Exploring Technology and Policy Program at Harvard University in the United States of America. She worked at the Medical Research Council as a Senior Scientist, and as a Project Director for Microbicide Trials Network at Perinatal HIV Research Unit. She later joined the National Research Foundation as a Director for Applied Research & Innovation Grants and subsequently took a position of Director for Reviews & Evaluation. She then moved to a multinational research company, Synexus Clinical Research, where she served as the Country Director, overseeing South Africa, Uganda & Tanzania.

Whilst in private sector, she served as the Board member for the National Research Foundation and for Sci-Bono Discovery Centre. She is currently serving as a Board member for Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines, a Pharmaceutical company, based in Cape Town. As a passionate Scientist, she has been featured on a number of magazines and has been interviewed by a number of radio & TV stations on Science matters. She conceptualised and produced a TV show, profiling Scientists in the country, which she hosted on DSTV, channel 265.

She joined TUT as the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagement in November 2020.