

# SYMPOSIUM REPORT

 **SOCIAL SECURITY  
SYMPOSIUM**  
summer 2023

Thursday Friday  
**09 10**  
**November 2023**

 @SPI\_Officialza

 [www.spi.net.za](http://www.spi.net.za)



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SOCIAL  
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**STIFTUNG**  
South Africa

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## About Social Policy Initiative (SPI)

The Social Policy Initiative (SPI) is a feminist research think- and do- tank. Our vision is a prosperous and fair society, embracing just mitigation and adaptation, where people live active and productive lives, have access to land and assets and a sufficient and dignified lives.

In 2006, we registered Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute. This was an act of faith, with the wisdom of experience, possibly rather reckless given the reduction in funding to NGOs at the time. However, we were drawn together around SPII's core mission because we all felt that something very wrong was happening around levels of poverty and inequality in South Africa. But at the same time, we knew that without data we could not begin to understand this thing in and of itself, and without understanding the nature of the problem, we could not contribute to finding solutions. At this stage, South Africa did not have any measurement of poverty like the three national poverty lines we have now, which to an extent were a response to SPII's early work.

Our model of being a not for profit research think tank provides us with the freedom to explore our own research questions within a human rights and social justice framing, but this freedom does come at a price, and that is the need to constantly raise resources to attract and retain researchers of quality. This year we are seeking to forge multi-year partnerships with funders that see our work as an investment in a fair, stable and prosperous South Africa where the potential of all is unleashed, located in a real empathy for the humanity of all.



## FES South Africa Support

The Social Policy Initiative's (SPI) unwavering commitment to advancing Universal Basic Income (UBI) for all received a substantial boost thanks to the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung South Africa's (FES) generous support. This Social Security Symposium, a testament to FES South Africa's dedication to social justice and economic equality, brought together thought leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore the transformative potential of UBI.

FES South Africa, a non-profit German foundation dedicated to fostering social democracy and democracy worldwide, recognized the significance of SPI's efforts to promote UBI and provided invaluable funding to make this Social Security Symposium a reality. This symposium served as a critical platform for in-depth discussions on UBI's potential to address pressing social and economic challenges, particularly in South Africa.

UBI, a policy proposal that advocates for the government to provide a regular, unconditional payment to all citizens, has gained increasing traction due to its compelling benefits. Numerous studies have demonstrated UBI's effectiveness in reducing poverty and inequality, enhancing health and well-being, and stimulating economic growth.

## Background

South Africa has the largest social security system in South Africa but this system is characterized by a complexity of policy challenges. The right to social security is of central important in guaranteeing human dignity for all persons, particularly when they are faced with circumstances that deprive them of their capacity to fully realize their human rights. The right to social security encompasses the right to income security and to maintain benefits without discrimination in order to secure protection from various risks. Social Security plays an important role in reducing and alleviating poverty, preventing social exclusion, and promoting social inclusion. Even beyond this, social security has an economic role to play by acting as an economic stimulus with multiplier effects. The Social Policy Initiative (SPI) together with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) hosted a two-day symposium on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. The theme of the symposium was **The role of social security in South Africa's Just Transition.**

South Africa faces extremely high levels of unemployment and a shrinking economy. The Constitution also guarantees an unconditional and justiciable right to social security. South Africa also sits with the legacy need for transitional post-Apartheid redistributive justice. Despite this economy wide challenges facing South Africa the country needs to transition into a low carbon economy by 2050. This transitioning into a low carbon economy has given birth to the term Just Transition which means leaving no one behind in the decoupling of the economy.

The Just Transition requires an economy-wide process of plans, policies and investments that lead to a sustainable future, with full employment, decent standard of living and adequate social security. Mitigation and Adaptation Climate Change policies will have a significant impact on people's lives, jobs, incomes, and communities with the poor communities significantly impacted through extreme weather by floods and other disasters as seen with the Kwa Zulu Natal floods or through mine closures resulting in loss of incomes and jobs and community centers previously funded by mining companies. An adequate social security policy is an essential component of a Just Transition for South Africa and needs to be clearly articulated in all Just Transition Policies in the country.



South Africa has a sophisticated financial sector infrastructure and a well-established tax collection system.

The twin arms of social security of social insurance and social assistance have both developed highly independently of each other in South Africa. The social (public and private) insurance arm runs billions of rands in funds, while the means- tested social assistance system continues to be stretched to meet the overwhelming basic needs of people in South Africa's endemic structural poverty.

The appropriate design of a fiscal policy that progressively raises and progressively spends revenue is crucial in a country characterized by absolute inequality.



There are ongoing big questions about the design and roll out of a national social security system, and much research has been commissioned by Department of Social Development (DSD) and through NEDLAC, the National Economic and Development Labour Council The Department of Social Development has published a Green Paper (2021) for comment on a radically new design of a social security regime in South Africa built around a National Social Security Fund. That paper is currently being revised to address some contemporaneous concerns, but the seeds of the thinking are drawn directly from the 2002 Final Report of the Committee of Enquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System for South Africa (the Taylor Committee).


The technical support of the ILO and other UN agencies (including UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women) is important to these debates. Independent researchers have also published extensively on a range of matters from design and implementation to financing and governance.

The symposium is made up of the following discussion and presentation sessions:

- The effects of Social Security in the Just Transition for South Africa: towards definition of a new social compact;
- What makes the Just Transition Just? Definition of the minimum Decent Standard of Living for all South Africans;
- Universalism vs Targeting;
- UBI as a Macroeconomic stimulus towards a Just Transition Social Security Net;
- Impact of Climate Change on communities; and
- Social Security Policy responses to challenges of the informal economy.

## Symposium Programme

			
<b>Day One: 09 November 2023</b>			
09:30 10:00	Registrations		
10:00 10:20	Welcome and introductions by the Executive Director of the Social Policy Initiative	Welcome of all partners and participants. Introduction of SPI and the objective of the two day symposium.	Isobel Frye (SPI)
10:20 10:45	Address by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Social Development	Address on gender mainstreaming and addressing the realities and transformative aspirations of a Just Transition.	Mrs Brenda Sibeko (DSD)
10:45 11:45	A Decent Path   Documentary Screening		
<b>Session 1</b>			
12:00 13:00	The effects of Social Security in the Just Transition for South Africa: towards definition of a new social compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global overview of trends and learnings;</li> <li>• Universalism;</li> <li>• The necessity of social security for economic transformation and economic development in SA.</li> </ul>	Jocelina Papa (ILO) Seeraj Mohamed
13:00 14:00	Lunch		
<b>Session 2</b>			
14:00 15:00	What makes the Just Transition Just? Definition of the minimum Decent Standard of Living for all South Africans	Presentation and setting the tone	Nomahubi Jakuja (SPI)
	Define the floor of what a minimum Decent Standard of Living should be for every South African in the Just Transition	Respondents	Jaczi Kinsky (EJ) Mastiera Sadan (NPC)
<b>Session 3</b>			
15:00 15:45	Universalism vs Targeting	Definition of concepts - explanation of gaps and merits of each	Reinhard Huss (ULB Lab Leeds)
	Evolution of Social Security	Respondents	Isabel Ortiz (Global Social Justice) Isobel Frye (SPI)
15:45 16:00	Tea		
<b>Session 4</b>			
16:00 17:00	UBI as a Macroeconomic stimulus towards a Just Transition Social Security Net	Framing of UBI in South Africa and how it should be financed. UBI as a macroeconomic policy	Nomahubi Jakuja (SPI) Duma Gqubule Agha Adelzadeh (ADRS) Seeraj Mohamed

			
<b>Day Two: 10 November 2023</b>			
<b>Session 1</b>			
09:00 10:00	Impact of Climate Change on communities	How communities perceive the impacts of climate change	Pedro Mzeleni (University of Free State) Francisca de Gaspars (SAFCEI) Pearl Pillay (YouthLab)
10:00 10:30	Plenary Discussion		
10:30 10:45	Tea Break		
<b>Session 2</b>			
10:45 12:00	Social Security Policy responses to realities of the informal economy	What measures can be put in place to protect and promote communities and informal workers	Juliane Hoss (TRI Facts) Nicola Yon (NSSA)
12:00 13:00	Plenary Discussion		
13:00 13:30	Closing remarks and commitments	High level summation of key outcomes and key actions that were elaborated through the two day symposium	Isobel Frye (SPI)
13:30 13:35	Vote of thanks	Vote of thanks and appreciation to the FES	Sisa Njikelana
13:35	Lunch and departure.		

# Thematic Areas and Summary of Discussions

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



Ms Isobel Frye, the Executive Director of the Social Policy Initiative (SPI) welcomed all the participants who were physically and those virtually in attendance to the symposium. The welcome session emphasized that social security in South Africa should fit the architecture of the new global realities and models of welfare approaches should fit the needs of the developing markets. Approaches should also include how to measure progressive realization of socio-economic rights as enshrined in the South African constitution. Links should be tested between social security and just transitions, which is a central theme of the symposium. International comparisons should also be made to determine what the long term outcomes could be and for lessons that could be learnt, especially from the Nordic model of social security.

## KEY-NOTE ADDRESS



The key-note address was delivered by Mr. Anthony Makwiramiti from the Department of Social Development as follows:

*Thank you for inviting the Department of Social Development to the Social Security Symposium Summer 2023 with the focus areas on (i) The Role of Social Security in the Just Transition: Defining a New Social Compact and (ii) the Impact of Climate Change on Communities and the Informal Sector.*

*This an important programme that brings various stakeholders together to deliberate on important issues that affect individuals, households, communities, and ultimately all of us as a nation. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on issues that are currently affecting us, as we look into the future.*

*South Africa has the largest social security system in Africa (in terms of expenditure and coverage). This is one of the effective ways implemented by government in addressing the poverty challenge. Our social security interventions continue be recognized internationally, for example, South Africa received the Prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award Africa 2023 on the gradual extension of the Child Support Grant (CSG).*

*Our social assistance programme reaches vulnerable children, the elderly and persons*

*with disabilities, and those in distress. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a temporary Social Relief of Distress (SRD) R350 grant was extended to unemployed adults (aged 18 – 59) for the first time.*

*As a country, we continue to be confronted by extremely high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequalities with an economy growing at a sluggish rate. Disasters like floods, drought, as well as some social ills such as Gender Based Violence and Femicide are prevalent.*

*Therefore, as we gather here over the next two days, we must underline that as a country, we must address our societal challenges in the context of our deep-rooted social, economic, and political history as a nation. For instance, we must understand the multi-dimensional impact of poverty, and the need for multi-dimensional interventions to address it.*

*Interventions by various speakers here will enlighten us on various dimensions of the subject of this Summer 2023 Social Security Symposium, “The Role of Social Security in South Africa’s Just Transition”.*

*As a reminder, South Africa’s Constitution guarantees an unconditional and justiciable right*

*to social security for all in South Africa as part of the transitional post-Apartheid redistributive justice commitment. The right to access social security is underlined in the Constitution.*

*An adequate social protection policy is an essential component of a Just Transition for South Africa and needs to be clearly articulated.*

*The Just Transition requires an economy-wide process that produces plans, policies and investments that will lead to a sustainable future, with full employment, decent standard of living and adequate social protection.*

*As it has been pointed out, South Africa needs to transition into a low carbon economy by 2050 centered around Just Transitions, meaning that “no one should be left behind” in the decoupling of the economy.*

*As we have noted, domestically and internationally, extreme events, changing weather patterns and natural disasters mainly impact poor communities by tightening the poverty grip. Mitigation and Adaptation Climate Change policies will have a significant impact on people’s lives, jobs, incomes to counter the Climate Change impacts. (Women are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change).*

*The traditional arms of social security, being social insurance and social assistance have both developed highly independent of each other in South Africa. The social (public and private) insurance arm runs billions of rands in funds, while the means- tested social assistance system continues to be stretched to meet the overwhelming basic needs of people in South Africa’s endemic structural poverty.*

*As a Gender issue: Women remain the most vulnerable people in South Africa, and black women in particular. They are 98% of the caregivers of children receiving the Child Support Grant (CSG). More women are unemployed in South Africa than men, and women headed households are poorer than male headed households.*

*A true national social compact in South Africa needs to begin and end with a concrete commitment to a decent life for all by ensuring universal social security that reaches everyone, with the most vulnerable first. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that everyone is vulnerable – and social security is an important intervention, including the institutions that implement the interventions.*

*In conclusion:*

- *An inclusive, decent social security system has a special role to play in the Just Transition given that a large beneficiary of social income are women and that women will be adversely impacted by the effects of climate change.*
- *A comprehensive social security system is required to cushion members of our society in the times of life cycle risks (and crisis);*
- *We hope the symposium will open key areas of research and amplify the role of social security in the Just Transition discourse; and*
- *The Department remains committed to supporting the work of SPI through the Decent Standard of Living Research and the Symposium.*

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## THEMATIC AREAS

### 1. The effects of social security in the just transition for South Africa-towards definition of a new social compact

The first discussion was delivered by **Jasmina Papa** and was themed *“Social protection at the crossroads: toward a new social contract”*.



Social security/protection is at the crossroads towards a “high road” leading to universalism. This is due to policy responses and a policy window that opened due to a COVID-19 pandemic where it was a stabilizer in protection of peoples’ health, jobs and income. Universal social protection is at the core of human-centered recovery ensuring adequate and comprehensive social protection for all. Investment in social protection has been overwhelmingly positive although the extension of effective coverage has lagged significantly. South Africa has been a frontrunner in having an integrated approach towards social security.

Social protection for children remains low, with an average national Gross Domestic Product expenditure on social protection for children at 1.1% depicting that the current stimulate are not particularly child sensitive. although it is critical for unleashing their full potential. Ensuring income security in the working age is also crucial, including provision of income security in the old age. The aforementioned point to an underinvestment in social security but leading to case for acceleration of progress towards universal social protection to reduce poverty and vulnerability.



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Key outputs of this discussion are as follows

- Social protection/security policies should be reinforced;
- Adequate protection must be extended to all, including workers in all types of employment; and
- Social protection is essential to support a just transition to a green economy.

A second discussion was themed *“the necessity of social security for economic transformation and development is South Africa”* and was delivered by **Dr Seeraj Mohamed**. It was posited that Government should be held accountable for provision of adequate social security which is a necessity for economic development and transformation. The South African economy requires a structural transformation and a shift in power relations within the economy towards enhancement of wellbeing of its people. The notion of development, industrialization and developmental state was eroded in South Africa due to neoliberal thinking. Financialisation of the economy has led to anti-social role of finance, which is highly ignored. The government has through adoption of neoliberal policies, its monetary and fiscal policies allowed continuation of an extractive economy driven by the private sector and particularly, the Mineral Economic Complex. As a results, the Socio-economic rights have not been



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achieved whereas the courts have interpreted that such rights should be progressively realized.

Key outputs of this discussion are as follows

- Reforms that have been implemented by Government has led to maintenance of the status quo of Continued minerals extraction by large and powerful corporations using their market power;
- The impact of climate change and other crises will continue to worsen;
- State allocation of development through the Development Finance Institutions should play a huge role in economic development and transformation;
- A reversal of economic financialization is needed for the economy to grow;
- Provision of services and grants that enhance the resilience of households must be enhanced; and
- Service delivery improvements that matches the standards of just transition goals must be performed.

## 2. What makes the just transition just? – definition of the minimum Decent Standard of Living for all South Africans

The first discussion set the tone for this thematic area by *“exploring the Universal Basic Income (UBI) as a basis for a just transition in South Africa”* was delivered by **Nomahlubi Jakuja**. The central argument is that both the implicit and explicit meaning of just transition in South Africa is that no one should be left behind however, a clear standard of what this means has not been defined. South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, thus no one should be left behind in its transition towards net zero by 2050. The South Africa just transition should attempt to address socio-economic ills.

The role of social security in just transitions is clear in cushioning of the vulnerable against the direct impacts of the transition, especially those related to job losses, loss and damage to property due to extreme events, among others.

The second discussion, themed *“the role of social security in South Africa’s just transition”* delivered by **Jezri Krinsky** provided a response and focused on the evolving definition of just transitions in terms of its scope and depth. Social provision that was supposed to occur did not as capital did not build a sufficient political will to ensure adequate transition. The transition is slowed down not by attempts to make it just, but due to attempts to retain unequal power over resources.

The just transition should occur as an economic wide transition from a principle point of view and for a transition to occur, it should be just, taking the principles of justice into account. In the Just Energy Transition Partnership, that encapsulated funding for the transition, no funding is devoted to communities that will be affected by closure of fossil fuels value chains.

A third discussion was themed *“definition of a floor of a minimum Decent Standard of Living in a transition”* and was delivered by **Mastoera Sadan**. An argument was made for definition of a social



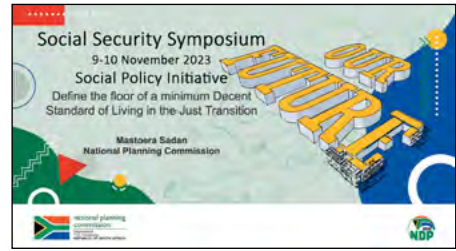
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protection floor and what the Decent Standard of Living should be from a human rights perspective. The discussion was premised on the provisions of a National Development Plan: Vision 2030, which provides for environmental sustainability and an equitable transition to a low carbon economy. Transition to a low carbon economy requires strengthening of economic and social resilience therefore, intersections with social policy is key for human capital development and building sustainable economies. In an approach towards change, the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 builds on the notion of key capabilities being; political freedoms and human rights, social opportunities including social security and safety nets.



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Social floor is therefore a standard according to which no households are to live below it and provide a decent standard of living below which no one should fall. Elements of the Social Protection Floor, identified by the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 are social grants, access to free basic services by the poor households, national housing programme and free primary healthcare.

Key output of this session is as follow

Finalisation of the Social Protection Floor has become more urgent due to the declining real Gross Domestic Product per Capita.

### 3. Universalism vs targeting



The first discussion, themed, *“framing, financing, delivering a green basic income for a just transition”* delivered by **Reinhard Huss** commenced with a definition of basic income as a social security floor for all, which is universal, unconditional, periodic and permanent, among other descriptors. There is a misleading framing as it relates to basic income, from a cost, affordability and feasibility perspectives. Just transition is about compensation to the society for slavery, colonialism and extraction. The past and present is made up of a degenerative economy, characterized by those who utilize the common public resources but do not pay for them. Just transitions is about movement to the future made up of circular regenerative economy characterized by assets and fees being contributed towards common wealth funds earmarked for payment of utilisation of common public resources.



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The second discussion was themed *“advancing social security in times of austerity”* was delivered by **Isabel Ortiz**. In terms of Article 22 of the United Nations, social security is a human right and is part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Data is showing that social security has progressively expanded across the world however, austerity has adversely impacted approximately 6,7 billion. Targeted social security programmes is also not a solution to the problem as it excludes the majority and punishes the working class, especially women. Universality in countries is achieved through a mix of public social insurance,



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financed from contributions and a floor of social assistance financed from the general budget. Generally, austerity policies have increased poverty and inequality, has undermined progress on human rights and sparked social conflict.

A third discussion delivered by **Isobel Frye** was themed, *“critical frontiers of social security policy development in South Africa”* premised on the factors that impacted on the Social Security policy in South Africa. Industrialisation which was extractive in nature led to high levels of poverty and inequalities. Democracy in South Africa has a number of competing class interests and reforms have never been easy due to a heterogeneous nature of the South African society. Institutions that could be instrumental in implementation of reforms and a functioning state were fragile without vigorous policy reform debates.

South Africa has however, benefitted a lot in international scholarship that advanced thinking on social security in the jurisprudence, scholarship and social movements. Some of the red flags is that policy makers are schooled in a minimalist targeted social security, thus targeted social security interventions are utilized.



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Key outputs of this session are as follows

- Fiscal space options exist even in the poorest countries through adoption of measures such as increase in progressive tax revenues; curbing illicit financial flows; restructuring of debt; and tapping into fiscal and foreign exchange reserves;
- Adoption of a social security accommodating macro-economic framework;
- Causal chains between economic and social failings and possible social security solutions in a developing societies needs to be understood; and
- How roll out of UBI and Public Works programme can be done while a grand design is developed and adopted.

#### 4. UBI as a macro-economic stimulus towards a just transition social security net

The session was themed, *“macroeconomic and developmental impacts of selected BIG pathways”* which introduced a model that quantified macroeconomic and development impacts of selected BIG scenarios and was delivered by **Dr Asghar Adelzadeh**. The model took several macroeconomic and social policy assumptions into account and presented various BIG scenarios. The low BIG pathway impact on the economy is that the poverty will decrease by 33%, with a debt to GDP ratio 73% at the year 2030. The medium ambition BIG pathway will result in an average GDP growth of 3,2%, debt to GDP ratio of 75% and poverty decreasing by 2.5 times higher than the low BIG pathway.

The high ambition BIG pathway will result in an average GDP growth of 3,5%, debt to GDP ratio of 75% and poverty decreasing at a rate that is 2.8 times higher than the rate of the low BIG pathway.



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The second discussion was delivered by **Duma Gqubule** and was themed *“a plan to achieve full employment in South Africa”* which depicted a sluggish growth of the South African economy since 1994 in comparison with other developing economies. South Africa is one of the most unequal societies as measured with income and wealth inequalities that are stubbornly high. The triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequalities are complex and multidimensional macro-economic policy matters and will require policy tools to address them in their multidimensional nature.



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BIG is one of the public policy instruments that can be an economic stimulus. A mandate of the central bank to be that which targets economic growth, employment and inflation is needed. Restructuring of the country’s balance sheet is required, which is a reduction of foreign reserves by 50% and a reduction of state debt to an amount of R790 million which will bring the debt to GDP ratio to 65% from 74%. Austerity measures will not grow the economy and the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequalities will remain.

**Key outputs of this session are as follows:**

- BIG has a tangible positive impact on poverty and inequality, including the economic growth and development; and
- BIG is an effective policy to reduce poverty and inequality;

**5. The impact of climate change on communities**



The first session was delivered by **Dr Pedro Mzileni** and themed *“rethinking social security, in context, for our troubled times”*. The central argument was that questions relating to social security should be framed differently as they emerge out of people’s decolonial struggles. Consistent intergenerational struggles are as a result of a core issues, which is landlessness and racial capitalism.



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The session was themed *“lessons from communities on climate change impacts”* delivered by **Francesca de Gasparis**.



Climate change is one of the global forces impacting on society and has triggered a number of extreme events in South Africa such as floods, heat waves and droughts. Cumulative climate change events have got long term repercussions on the ability of communities to access basic services such as food and clean water. Governance responses and interventions by have not been conducive in their responses to the impacts of climate change. Gender inequality is on the rise as compounded by climate change due to the burden that women carry in the expectation that they should care for their families.



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Faith Based Organisations have made significant inputs in filling the gap left unfilled due to inadequate responses from localized government such as community project support, climate preparedness, effective early warning systems and sustainable seed banks among others.



Key outputs of this session are as follows:

Development of grassroots governance structures to empower communities in mitigation efforts; and Effective participation by rural communities.

## 6. Social security policy responses to the realities of the informal economy

The first session delivered by **Julianne Hoss** was themed, *“benefit packages, including best demonstrated practice for an insurance cover for entrepreneurs in the informal sector in South Africa”*.

This was necessitated by a need to build resilience to shocks by individuals working in the informal sector. Social insurance is a possible solution when any form of coverage against loss of income is seen as the most important benefit by far. Integration of informal sector into the national social security scheme is important to offer personal security and insurance.

A pilot is underway to include coverage of business assets as a contributory insurance scheme covering entrepreneurs in the informal economy.

The second session focused on the role of informal economy as an alternative policy narrative due to its contribution towards African economies and was delivered by **Nicola Yon**. Informal economy is viewed to be at an edge of high vulnerabilities to poverty, low earnings and irregular income. Factors impeding coverage of informal economy were discussed, such as legal barriers, institutional and governance constraints and lack of incentives, among others. The importance of informal economy lies in its social justice and human rights imperatives as everyone should benefit from the resources of their country and no one should be left behind.

Key outputs of this session are as follows

- Informal economy contributes to the country’s economic growth;
- Specific schemes on the informal economy that target specific groups and occupation types should be created to address their specific needs and barriers;
- Encourage social dialogue with informal entrepreneurs, create specific programmes and policy measures to their needs.



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## Conclusions and Possible Areas of Future Research

The symposium covered several aspects that are cross cutting and require further research and engagements. The theme of the symposium is a relatively new area to many and will need require effort in advocating for social security in the realm of Just Transitions.

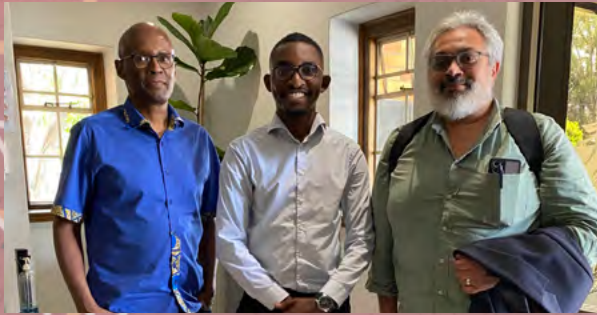
While the South African state has rolled out a minimalist social security system in the conventional liberal sense, it falls far short of the obligational standard required. There is also still a large amount of academic and intellectual engagement required about the question of multiplier and understanding amongst policy makers and advisors that demonstrates sufficient comprehension of the potential economic catalyst for growth and jobs that decent and universal social security income smoothing systems could create.

A new societal deal is required to foster a social compact that will clearly define a role for the government, business, civil and labour.

Possible areas of further research may be unpacked from areas that among others, include:

- The impact of Return on Investments for social security including greater study of the multiplier dynamic on social security spend. Location of practice and academia in defining social security and just transitions;
- Extending appropriate cover of social insurance and social assistance to working age adults, both employed and unemployed, formal and informal in South Africa.
- Establishment of a sovereign wealth fund for financing the Universal Basic Income; and
- Indigenous knowledge systems in understanding of social security and just transitions.







## ANNEXURE A: Biographies of Speakers



**NOMAHLUBI  
JAKUJA**

Nomahlubi Jakuja has worked on a variety of public policy programmes including developing a financial inclusion strategy for a leading African bank in 12 markets and the SADC Secretariat, Climate Change mitigation strategies in South Africa and the United Nations Sustainable Food Systems Programme (10YFP). Nomahlubi Jakuja has also worked as Economic Researcher and Policy Manager for the South African Federation of Trade Unions as well as consulting for the IFC/World Bank. Her most recent work was developing a gender mainstreaming policy for the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Nomahlubi was also named Mail and Guardian's leading woman in Governance in South Africa in 2019. She is also a member of the International Association for Feminist Economists.



**JEZRI  
KRINSKY**

Jezri is a junior researcher at the Institute for Economic Justice, in the Just Energy Transitions Team. Jezri has completed a Masters degree in Development Economics from Wits University. His research focuses on inequality in household carbon emissions. He has been a student activist, volunteering in leadership roles in the Inala Climate Justice and Food Sovereignty Student Forum, as well as in the Wits chapter of Rethinking Economics for Africa.



**MASTOERA  
SADAN**

Mastoera is a social policy analyst with twenty-seven years professional experience. She has worked at a senior management level in the national government of South Africa for the past nineteen years, first in the Presidency and then in the National Planning Commission, in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). Her areas of expertise are in social policy (social assistance and early childhood development), poverty and inequality.

Currently she is the Chief Sector Expert: Social, in the National Planning Commission (NPC) Secretariat, DPME. Until 2018 she was the Programme Manager of the Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development (PSPPD II) in the DPME, a European Union funded programme. She successfully managed this research and capacity building programme over an eleven-year period from 2007 – 2018, where she managed R150m in funding. During this time, she also managed the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS), South Africa's national panel study from 2006 – 2018 in the DPME. Prior to the PSPPD she worked in the Policy Coordination and Advisory Services (PCAS) in the Presidency.

She has previously worked in the NGO and higher education sector, at the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) and at the University of the Western Cape.

She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Johannesburg, she holds a MSc in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics (LSE) and was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Oxford from 2002-2003.



**DUMA  
GQUBULE**

Duma has spent more than two decades as a financial journalist, analyst, researcher, and advisor on issues of economic development and transformation. He was educated at Waterford Kamhlaba School in Eswatini and Aberdeen University in Scotland where he studied economics. He first worked as a financial journalist for most of the country's leading publications. His work was recognised and he later worked for the Black Economic Empowerment Commission, chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. He was co-author of the commission's report in 2002, which paved the way for the current Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) laws and policies. He was editor of the book: "Making Mistakes, Righting Wrongs: Insights into Black Economic Empowerment," which reviewed the country's economic development and transformation policies during the first decade of democracy. He was co-author of the BEE commission's landmark report in 2002, which paved the way for the country's current Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) laws and policies. In 2022, the BEE Commission gave him a spearhead award for his work in this area. He was worked for numerous organisations in the public and private sector and done research on the transformation of the mining sector and international best practices on the governance of the sector. He served as a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions Panel of Progressive Economists and as a board member of Naledi, the COSATU think-tank. Recently, as part of Naledi he advised public sector unions during their wage negotiations with the government. A heterodox economist and part of the campaign for a basic income grant (BIG), he is a research associate at the Social Policy Initiative, Business Day and Mail and Guardian columnist, public speaker and commentator on issues related to economic development. He has written on the financing of the BIG and developed "Vision 2035: A Plan to achieve Full Employment in South Africa."



**DR ASGHAR  
ADELZADEH**

Dr Adelzadeh is a Director and Chief Economic Modeler at Applied Development Research Solutions (ADRS). He is also Director of Academics at Economic Modelling Academy (EMA). In his thirty years of experience in economic modelling, he has built economic models with user-friendly web interfaces for 65 countries to enable policymakers and analysts to design and assess the impact of policy choices and produce projections. He has built ADRS' macro, micro and linked macro-micro models of South Africa that are available on ADRS website. As Project Director at UNU-WIDER, Adelzadeh directed a major project on economic modelling for 10 African countries. He served as Senior Economic Modeler and Research Director at the National Institute for Economic Policy (NIEP), senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, and Senior Policy Advisor at UNDP South Africa. Adelzadeh was the principal author and coordinator of the UNDP's South African Human Development Report 2003 and has written extensively on macroeconomic, monetary, and fiscal policy issues, poverty eradication, employment creation and economic modelling.





**JASMINA  
PAPA**

Jasmina possess a total of 20 years of experience on issues of democratic governance, social development, political, social, cultural and economic empowerment. Out of 20 years: 7 years of experience in non-governmental sector; 3 years of experience as independent consultant, researcher and evaluator; 10 years of programme management in UNDP, including policy analysis preparation, implementation, implementation of area based development approaches and social policy advisory services to UNDP Country Offices in ECA Region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FRY Macedonia, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine).



**SEERAJ  
MOHAMED**

Seeraj is a Deputy Director for Economics in the South African Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO). He oversees the Economics Cluster of the PBO and its inputs into the PBO's advice and support to Parliament and its committees' oversight of the budget and other money bills related matters. He was Associate Professor of Economics at the University of the Western Cape and Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. While at Wits, he was Director of the Corporate Strategy and Industrial Development Research Programme from 2006 to 2014. He was also involved in developing and teaching the Global Labour University Masters and the Development Theory and Policy Masters (now renamed the Applied Economics Masters) programmes at Wits. He was part-time Special Advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry from 2009 to 2014. He served on the Board of the South African Labour Bulletin, the Board of Directors of the Development Fund of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and was a Council Member of the Human Resources Development Council of South Africa. He has worked on economic policy, development and macroeconomics since the early-1990s when he worked as trainee researcher in both the Industrial Strategy Project (ISP in 1992) and the Macroeconomic Research Group (MERG in 1993). His PhD in Economics is from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He co-edited the book *The Evolving Structure of South Africa's Economy: Faultlines and Futures*, which was published in September 2023, with Amuzweni Ngoma and Basani Baloyi.



**REINHARD  
HUSS**

Reinhard worked in the UK National Health Service as clinician and researcher after medical studies in Bonn and Nottingham. He moved to Zimbabwe in 1985 and worked for five years as a clinical medical officer with additional responsibilities in public health. This experience encouraged him to study for a Master degree in international public health at the University of Leeds, wherein he wrote a Master thesis on the topic of 'Economic Justice for Sustainable Health'. In his search for relevant literature, he came across Antonovsky's theory of Salutogenesis and his Sense of Coherence (SoC) concept. SoC includes three components which enable human beings to move towards the health (ease) end of the multi-dimensional health-disease continuum: 1) Comprehensibility - cognitive component, 2) Manageability - instrumental component 3) Meaning - motivational component. A conclusion he made was that Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an institution, can enable time autonomy and be an instrumental and motivational component of SoC.



**ISABEL ORTIZ**

Isabel is a Director of the Global Social Justice Program at Joseph Stiglitz's Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University. Earlier she was Director at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, and senior official at the United Nations DESA and at the Asian Development Bank, among other positions, working in more than 50 countries. She has an MSc and a PhD from the London School of Economics, and has written more than 90 publications translated in several languages



**ISOBEL FRYE**

Isobel is a founding Director of Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute in 2006 and has overseen the development and growth of SPII from its infancy till date. Her research focus is on poverty, socio-economic rights and social protection. She is a member of the CASAC Advisory Council, the Board of the Open Democracy Advice Centre and ASSAF, a Deputy Chair of the Board of the Southern African Social Policy Experts Network and is also a representative of the Financial Sector Campaigns Coalition in the NEDLAC Community Constituency. She has a BA LLb and a higher Diploma in Tax Law from the University of Cape Town. Previously, Isobel worked as a senior researcher in poverty eradication and socio-economic rights at National Agency of Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI) and also, as a National Advocacy Manager at the Black Sash. Prior to that, She practised as an attorney in commercial law.

She is a regular analyst and commentator in all forms of media on issues pertaining to poverty, inequality and socio-economic rights and has published in a variety of journals. She was a chief negotiator for Community Constituency in the recent three year NEDLAC negotiations on the National Minimum Wage under the auspices of then Deputy President Ramaphosa. She is currently heading the Community Constituency's negotiating team on Comprehensive Social Security.



**DR PEDRO  
MZILENI**

Pedro is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Free State. At this Department, he's heading the undergraduate 1st year programme where he teaches and develops courses that are earmarked to introduce students to decolonial sociology. Dr Mzileni is the recipient of the 2022/23 Emerging Researcher of the Year Finalist for the Humanities - awarded by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Universities South Africa (USAF).



**FRANSESCA  
DE GASPARIS**

Fransesca is an executive director of SAFCEI, the Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute. SAFCEI works on eco and climate justice issues with and on behalf of people of all faiths and none in South Africa and the region. SAFCEI took the government to court over its corrupt and illegal Trillion rand nuclear deal with Earthlife Africa Joburg in 2017.

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**JULIANE  
HOSS**

Juliane Hoss holds a Masters in Psychology from the University of Constance, Germany, and a Masters in Human Resources and Organisations from the Department of Management at the London School of Economics. Her career started as a management consultant with Bain & Company before she was asked to build a niche research and consulting company for Africa Check in South Africa. In this role, she led research project for leading international organisations, such as the UNDP or ILO as well as national departments with a focus on SMMEs, the informal sector, employment creation for young people as well as the digital economy and related digital skills requirements. She will be presenting the insights gained from a research project focusing on the need for a social insurance scheme in the informal sector and the possibilities of setting up a business asset insurance.

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**NICOLA YON**

Nicola is a social protection expert with 14 years of experience. She is currently a PhD student with the International Studies Group (ISG) at the University of the Free State where her research area is on women and social protection in Zimbabwe. She is also engaged as a research and statistics officer at the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) in Zimbabwe. Nicola is a member of the Advisory panel of the Southern Africa Social Security Experts Network (SASPEN), Member of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in South Africa (STIAS) project on Migration, vulnerability and access to social protection, Socialprotection.org member, Member of Young Scholars Initiative (YSI), Member of the Zimbabwe Mortality Working Group, National Social Security Authority (NSSA) Informal sector social security scheme technical committee coordinator, African Regional Labour Administrator Centre (ARLAC) Trainer, Author and a social protection consultant.

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