



Dr Saul Levin is the Executive Director of TIPS (Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies), a not-for-profit economic research institute, and since 2014 co-course director of APORDE. He has previously worked as a Chief Director in the Economic Development Department (EDD), with oversight of the Development Finance Institutions reporting to EDD. Prior to that Saul spent two years as a senior manager at Standard Bank, working as a Business Operations Manager in the Corporate Affairs Unit. Previously he worked as the Chief of Staff for the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry and for the Minister of Minerals and Energy, as well as an economist at the Department of Trade and Industry. Saul has a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Johannesburg.



Professor Fiona Tregenna is Director at United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and Chair of the APORDE Scientific Committee. She previously held the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, leading a centre focused on research, capacity-building, and policy engagement. Her research focuses on structural change, industrialisation and deindustrialisation, and innovation and technological upgrading. Professor Tregenna has published widely, led major research projects, and serves on several international editorial boards. She has served on bodies including the African Continental Free Trade Area Advisory Council, the South African Presidential Economic Advisory Council, and the G20 Africa Panel. She is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge.



Zukiswa Kimani is the Chief Director in the Sectors Branch of the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. She coordinated, managed, evaluated and developed various iterations of South Africa's Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and worked on the Reimagined Industrial Strategy and its associated Master Plans. She is a sector manager for Marine Manufacturing, Aerospace and Defence. She also manages research and industrial policy capacity building programmes such as APORDE. She holds a Master's Degree in International and Development Economics from the Australian National University.



Emeritus **Professor Faizel Ismail** was the Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town (2019-2025). He served as the Ambassador Permanent Representative of South Africa to the World Trade Organization (WTO) (2010-2014) and as South Africa's Special Envoy on the South Africa-United States AGOA negotiations between January 2015 and June 2016. He is the author of three books on the WTO, including WTO Reform and the crisis of multilateralism. A Developing Country Perspective (2020) [click here](#). He has also published a book on the African Continental Free Trade Area: The AfCFTA and Developmental Regionalism. A Handbook. (2021) [click here](#). He has published more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, working papers and policy briefs on trade policy, industrialisation, global governance, climate change and economic development issues.

Keynote Speaker

SESSION *One*

MODERATOR



Dr Rex Asiamah is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the DSI/NRF SARCHI Industrial Development programme at the University of Johannesburg. He holds a PhD in Economics from the same institution. His research focuses on industrial policy, technology upgrading, development economics, and energy economics, with a broader interest in sustainable development and economic transformation. He has extensive professional experience as an academic, lecturer and research consultant, having collaborated with institutions such as UNIDO, UNICEF, Ashesi University, SOAS University of London, the University of Environment and Sustainable Development, Accra Metropolitan University, University of Professional Studies, and the Central University in Ghana. His work has been published in leading journals, including Energy Policy, Water Policy, Cogent Economics & Finance, and Global Environmental Change Advances.



Elvis Korku Avenyo is an Associate Professor at the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARCHI-Industrial Development), University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa. Before joining SARCHI-Industrial Development, Elvis was a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development at UJ and a Research Officer on the Inclusive Digital Model (IDMODEL) Project at the Technology and Management Centre for Development, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford. Elvis has a PhD in Economics of Innovation, Policy Studies of Technical Change and Governance from the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT)/Maastricht University, The Netherlands. He researches broadly on development economics with interests in industrial development, innovation, technical change, labour markets and firm behaviour, with a focus on developing countries. He has published in academic journals and has worked and co-authored background papers for several international organisations.

Link to website: <https://sites.google.com/view/elvis-korku-avenyo/home>



Lloyd Nedohe is a strategist, scholar, and author working at the intersection of global capital markets, extractive industries, and African governance. He leads the Centre for African Mineral Value Chains CAMVaC and ESG Frontiers, platforms dedicated to reframing mineral policy and industrial transformation across the continent. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance and a Master's degree in Information and Communication Technology Policy, alongside advanced qualifications in investment analysis and stakeholder engagement. His doctoral research introduces the Critical Conversion Gap, Beneficiation Paralysis, and GVC Body Language as original contributions to global value chain theory, grounded in a South African manganese case study. With senior experience at BHP Billiton, Development Bank of Southern Africa, and Rio Tinto, Lloyd combines corporate, policy, and academic perspectives to design producer-centred methodologies for mineral strategy.



Dr Anushka Bogdanov is an expert in ESG (environmental, social, and governance), sustainable finance, and risk governance, with more than three decades as a banking executive, board leader, and entrepreneur. She began her career in banking and risk, holding senior executive roles in investment, retail banking and development finance institutions. She was a regional executive at Fitch Ratings, where she gained insight into sovereign and institutional credit, global risk standards, and the nexus between ratings and capital access. As the Founder of Risk Insights almost 18 years ago, she pioneered Africa's first AI-powered ESG and climate risk data platform, now used in nine African stock exchanges. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management, a Master's in Business Administration (International Finance) and a Doctorate in Business Administration, with a focus on ESG ratings and market capitalisation of JSE-listed firms. She has authored chapters in books, published research articles, and lectured and supervised postgraduate students in sustainable finance, board ethics, and risk management.

SESSION *Two*



MODERATOR

Nokwanda Maseko is a Senior Economist at TIPS (Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies). Her work at TIPS is at the intersection of industrial policy, gender and the just transition. Her recent publications include an analysis of the petroleum-based transport value chain for the Sector Jobs Resilience Plans and technical reports for the Presidential Climate Change Commission on gender and inequality in the just transition.



Daniel Ludiwa is a Development Economist working to reshape the African economic landscape. His background is in applied economics, but he has recently expanded his focus into data analytics and environmental, social, and governance (ESG). His goal is to merge these disciplines beyond traditional narratives and use data-driven insights to build more transparent, sustainable, and inclusive industrial paths for the continent.



Abel Gaiya is the Chief Research Officer at Clean Technology Hub. He holds a Master of Science in Development Economics from SOAS, University of London, and has over six years of research experience in the development and energy sectors. He has written more than 60 papers, industry reports/briefs, case studies, book chapters, articles and conference papers and has worked on over 40 projects supported by international partners, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and others, and has published in academic journals. His research interests are in industrial policy, political settlements analysis, energy transition, international political economy, history of economic ideas and development history.



Lodrina Masiyazi is a Director at Technology Transfer, Licensing and Commercialisation Centre, Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), overseeing activity at the HIT Innovation Hub. She is also an engineer with the Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers. With more than 15 years' experience, she has been involved in promoting design thinking, innovation, technology and the adoption of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) for women and girls. She is a business and intellectual property consultant and mentor for early stage start-ups and micro and small to medium enterprises. She has earned a number of awards and appointments including the National Women in Science, Technology, and Innovation Leadership Award, the International Visitor Leadership Program Award (United States), the TechWomen USA Emerging Leader Award in Green Technology (Silicon Valley, United States), the Zimbabwe Ambassadorship for Women and Men in Environment & Artificial Intelligence, and the Zimbabwe ICT Conference Award for Best ICT leading woman and girl child motivator.



Adesoji Farayibi is a Development Economist and Policy Analyst. He is the head of Economic Development and Research at a regional policy think-tank in Southwest Nigeria. He also co-leads FirstFord Africa, a research community focused on evidence-based and impact-driven policy research, and Chairs the Nigeria Alumni of the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE). His research and consulting expertise span contemporary topics in development economics and public policy, including governance, sustainable finance, climate change, entrepreneurship, labour, and energy issues.

SESSION *Three*

MODERATOR



Baba-Tamana Gqubule leads the Skills Portfolio of the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP) in the Just Energy Transition Project Management Unit (JET PMU) within the Presidency of South Africa. Prior to joining the JET PMU, Baba was a development economist in the Presidential Climate Finance Task Team (PCFTT). Prior to joining the PCFTT, Baba was a Senior Economist at TIPS (Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies). She has a Master's in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and a Bachelor of Economics Honours degree from Rhodes University.



Itumeleng Mokoena is a Senior Economist at the National Treasury of South Africa, where he works on industrial policy and international trade. Prior to joining the National Treasury, he worked as an economist at DNA Economics and TIPS. Over the course of his career, Itumeleng has advised on industrial policy and economic development issues across manufacturing, mining, and financial services. Currently, Itumeleng is a PhD candidate in Applied Development Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand. He holds a Master of Philosophy in Industrial Policy and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Johannesburg, as well as a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Cape Town.



Zeinab Camara is an expert in public policy, strategy, and geopolitics as applied to Africa's development. She serves as Country Director for the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change in Togo, providing strategic advisory support to government. Her public service career in Guinea, as a Member of Parliament and Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, saw her lead major institutional reforms, particularly in human capital development, territorial financing for development, and the modernisation of public institutions. Prior to this, she worked with the multinational Rio Tinto as Senior Manager for Communities and Social Performance, where she developed expertise in critical value chains, the geo-economic dimensions of natural resources, and the complex interplay between corporations, regions, and economic sovereignty. She is a founder of Women in Mining Guinea and The Extractive Hub, and a member of the Tutu Fellowship. She holds a Master's degree in Strategic Public Management from Leicester Business School in the United Kingdom, and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations with a specialisation in economic diplomacy.



Dr Adeyemi Dipeolu is a diplomat, economist, and public administrator. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town; a Fellow of the Development Leadership Dialogue Institute of SOAS, University of London; a Faculty Member of the AfDB PFMA/MEMA Policy Lab Unit; and a Member of the Scientific Committee of APORDE. He also serves on the AfCFTA Trade and Industrial Policy Advisory Council and the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration. Until May 2023, Dr Dipeolu was Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters in Nigeria after a ten year stint at the Economic Commission for Africa working on trade and industrial policy, fiscal policy reforms, and development planning. Prior to this he was in the Nigerian Foreign Service during which he served in Caracas, Addis Ababa, Pretoria and Geneva.