



An independent public policy  
think tank advancing a well  
governed, peaceful, economically  
sustainable and globally  
engaged Africa.



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# About SAIIA

Founded in 1934, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) is South Africa's premier research institute on international issues. As an independent, non-governmental think tank, we have a long and proud history of providing thought leadership in Africa. We are both a centre for research excellence and a home for stimulating public discussion.

SAIIA runs a membership programme, providing members with a portfolio of services in return for their financial support. Our membership base comprises private sector companies, diplomatic missions, institutions, students and individuals who have an interest in international affairs.

SAIIA produces the quarterly South African Journal of International Affairs, a fully peer-reviewed journal of academically rigorous policy-oriented articles.

SAIIA was awarded a five-star ranking by the Transparify NGO which rates think tanks according to the degree of transparency of their funding sources. SAIIA has been consistently ranked among the top foreign policy and international relations think tanks in the world in the University of Pennsylvania 'Go-To' Think Tank Index.



Image: Getty, MICHAEL TEWELDE / Contributor

## Our research agenda

SAIIA provides local and regional decision-makers with independent, evidence-based policy research on Africa's future economic and political development.

We seek to respond to the growing demand for innovative policy solutions in Africa, while drawing on 'best fit' practices globally. We coordinate thematic research networks in the region and cooperate with institutions across the world.

Our research outputs are the result of in-depth field work and comparative case studies and involve the perspectives of government and non-government stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society thereby ensuring that any policy advice offered is evidence-based, robust, forward-looking and relevant.



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## Economic Diplomacy

SAIIA's work explores both global and regional processes. At the global level it focuses on the G20 and Africa, and developments at the WTO. Regionally, the programme analyses regional and bilateral trade negotiations (such as the EU partnership agreements, the AfCFTA and AGOA), regional value chains, and infrastructure financing, all linked to Africa's economic sustainability against the backdrop of the fourth industrial revolution. The programme also explores the role of new development finance institutions such as the New Development Bank in Africa.



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## Foreign Policy

Our research on foreign policy focuses on regional peace and security, South Africa's foreign policy, and how Africa engages with key global players, such as the US, Europe, and rising powers with particular emphasis on China-Africa relations. The programme produces research that assists policymakers, the business community and civil society in South Africa and Africa to advance regional peace and security, development and economic growth.

## Governance

This programme focuses on Africa's emerging Governance Architecture, especially through the lens of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the continent's innovative governance monitoring and promotion instrument. SAIIA works with civil society organisations to strengthen their interest and meaningful participation in the APRM and related processes. The programme aims to improve the APRM's ability to contribute to governance reforms, institutions and processes. SAIIA is widely seen as the leading independent authority on the APRM.

## Resource Governance

This programme provides advisory and research support to governments and other stakeholders on governing Africa's natural resources to maximise their sustainable development contributions in the three focal areas of mining and development; energy and the green economy; and the governance of ecosystems and commons resources (including fisheries and forestry). It has developed significant expertise on the blue economy. Increasingly acknowledged as an influential African voice on resource governance, the programme works closely with local, regional and other international partners.



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## Regional Observatory

Our Regional Observatory is a futures-orientated initiative created to anticipate emerging disruptors that will have a major impact on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) over 10 - 30 years. By examining the potential impact of such disruptors through an inter-disciplinary, complex systems scenario-building approach, we hope to contribute to an anticipatory approach to regional policymaking.

## Africa Portal

The Africa Portal ([www.africaportal.org](http://www.africaportal.org)) is a joint undertaking by SAIIA and the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Canada, offering open access to a digital research library on African policy issues with content from 85 content partners. It also contains a commentary and analysis hub where experts share their perspectives on African affairs and topical issues.

## Youth Development

Youth@SAIIA provides a forum where young people and educators from various backgrounds meet to identify issues of local and global importance and work towards creating solutions. Through resources and tutoring, our activities develop students' research and leadership skills, and inspire them to take an interest in international affairs.



For further information contact SAIIA's  
Head Office: +27 (0)11 339 2021 |  
[info@saiia.org.za](mailto:info@saiia.org.za) or visit our website:  
[www.saiia.org.za](http://www.saiia.org.za)

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