



**“SADC’s readiness to take up 4IR opportunities”
Presented by SADC Secretariat and SAIIA Futures
Wednesday, 31 March 2021
Time: 10:00 – 13:00
Virtual Webinar**

Background

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) or ‘Industry 4.0’ has become a catch-all term to describe imminent changes to global business, labour and education models. These advancements may appear less immediately relevant to emerging economies on the African continent that are still grappling with the challenges of the second and third industrial revolutions. However, African countries cannot afford to fall further behind the technological frontier, or to exacerbate the existing digital divides within their borders.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat’s Directorate of Industrial Development and Trade, in partnership with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) will be co-hosting a stakeholder webinar on the 4IR on Wednesday, 31 March 2021. The aim of the event is to engage regional stakeholders on SADC readiness to take advantage of 4IR to map a regional response and programme on 4IR and the Digital Economy.

SAIIA’s as a knowledge partner and independent public policy institution will contribute to the event in the areas of digital connectivity, skills, governance and roles for SADC policymakers within the 4IR and digital economy, with a particular focus on the value of anticipatory governance and futures thinking.

The SAIIA [Futures programme](#) builds African foresight and innovation capacity to anticipate and prepare for major political, economic, social, security, technological and environmental disruptors facing the SADC region by discovering new possibilities for systemic innovation and anticipatory governance. SAIIA Futures aims to contribute to an anticipatory approach to regional policymaking in the sectors that will be most affected and to enable pro-active and collaborative public-private action across the region through anticipatory and pro-active policy responses.

Facilitators: Anneline Morgan (SADC Secretariat) and Dr Deon Cloete (SAIIA)

Time slot	Topic	Name and Designation
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome and Introduction	Ms Anneline Morgan, Senior Programme Officer: Science, Technology and Innovation - SADC Secretariat Dr Deon Cloete, Head: Futures Programme, SAIIA
10:15-10:30	Implications of COVID-19 on Education – Digital Technologies and opportunities for Open and Distance Learning	Ms Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo, Head of Education Programme – UNESCO Regional Office for Africa
10:30-10:45	South African World Economic Forum (WEF) Affiliate Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution(C4IR SA) – opportunities for SADC region	Dr Ntsibane Ntlatlapa, Centre Head – Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution
10:45-11:00	The role of futures literacy and anticipatory governance in proactive policymaking	Dr Deon Cloete, Head: Futures Programme, SAIIA
11:00-11:15	Resource Governance in the 4IR and Digital Economy	Alex Benkenstein, Head: Governance of Africa's Resources Programme
11:15-11:30	4IR and water-smart agriculture in Southern Africa: A watch list of key technological advances	Mari-Lise du Preez
11:30-11:45	Digital Disruption in Africa: Mapping Innovations for the AfCFTA in Post-COVID Times	Michelle Chivunga
11:45-12:00	Digital Governance in Africa with a focus on SADC	Yarik Turianskyi, Deputy Head: African Governance and Diplomacy Programme
12:00-12:15	Women in STEM and their role in 4IR – UNESCO Science Report 2020	Dr Munamati Muchaneta, UNESCO Regional Office for Africa
12:15-12:15	Harnessing the 4IR in SADC: Roles for policymakers (Chelsea Markowitz)	Anneline Morgan, & Dr Deon Cloete
12:15-12:30	Uptake of 4IR opportunities, experiences of Botswana	Dr Tshiamo Motshegwa, University of Botswana
12:30-12:45	Towards development of a Regional Strategy/Framework on 4IR and Digital Economy	Anneline Morgan, SADC Secretariat

12:45-13:00

Discussions and Comments

All

13:00 End of Session and Closing