

SAIIA AGM Report 2023

INTRODUCTION

Over a most turbulent year in international relations, we were able to host eight speaker events, most at our new event location, The Athenaeum, and to participate with our members in two others, one with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Naledi Pandor, in which the Branch partnered with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in a roundtable discussion at Kelvin Grove, just ahead of the Minister's Budget speech in Parliament; and a second, on UCT's Middle Campus, where the School of Economics joined us in hosting the IMF's Africa team in launching their latest Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa. The Interschool Quiz, and a Careers Exhibition, rounded out our programme for the year.

Particular thanks are due to our Branch Coordinator, Pippa Segall, who, as always, played the key role in ensuring that the Branch events ran smoothly, and to our team of volunteers who engaged with members and guests, ensured that the facilities were in good order, and served the drinks that made the evenings more convivial.

EVENTS

The first event, in February, was an address by R.W. (Bill) Johnson on *The International Implications of the ANC Party-State*. The second address, in March, was by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Hain PC on *South Africa, Global Turbulence and Threats to Democracy*. The third, in April, saw Prof. Abel Esterhuyse of the Department of Strategic Studies (Mil) at Stellenbosch University, come in from Saldanha Bay to speak on *The War in Ukraine, Geopolitics and South Africa's Search for Meaning*. In May, Mallory Stewart, the Assistant Secretary for Arms Verification and Control at the U.S. State Department, who was visiting South Africa, spoke at our fourth speaker event on *The Responsible Use of Emerging Artificial Intelligence Technology and Lethal Autonomous Weapons*.

Participants in the DIRCO-SAIIA seminar on *South Africa's Role in the Current Geopolitical Environment at Kelvin Grove* in May included Luanda Mpungose, Outreach and Partnership Manager of SAIIA, Prof. Siphamandla Zondi on the University of Johannesburg and Dr. Philani Mthembu of the Institute for Global Dialogue. The Vice-Chairperson of SAIIA Western Cape, Sheila Camerer, joined Minister Naledi Pandor at her table. The seminar was streamed live on DIRCO's social media platforms (Facebook, DIRCOza; Twitter, @DIRCO_ZA) and Ubuntu Radio (ubunturadio.com).

At the fifth SAIIA speaker event in May, H.E Gjermund Sæther, Ambassador of Norway in South Africa addressed members on *Multilateralism and World Order – International Cooperation in an Era of Increased Geopolitical Tensions*. This was followed by the sixth SAIIA address in August, by the Ambassador of Poland, H.E. Professor Adam Burakowski on *Poland in a Globalising World*. The presence of a number of members of Polish descent in the audience made for spirited exchanges.

National Office Bearers

Chairman: Fred Phaswana • Deputy Chairman: Moeletsi Mbeki • Chief Executive: Elizabeth Sidiropoulos
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On 24 August, the 31st SAIIA Interschool Quiz on International Affairs, with 208 learners participating, was held at Bishops Diocesan College.

In September, for our seventh SAIIA event, Clem Sunter travelled from Somerset West to address members on *The World and South Africa Beyond 2023: The Latest Flags, Scenarios and Probabilities*. In his usual entertaining and insightful way, he discussed both global and South African scenarios, and significant indicators of the emergence of each.

On 18 September, staff organised a successful *Careers' Exhibition – Building Your Career in an Age of Polycrisis* – our seventh event – in association with the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung, in the RW James Building of the University of Cape Town. Dr Holger Dix, Head of the KAS Regional Programme: *Political Dialogue Sub-Saharan Africa*, and SAIIA'S Romy Chevallier, spoke on the KAS-SAIIA Scholarship Programme, and Heather Sonn, Cynthia Chigwenya, Dr Athambile Masola, and Sean Cleary shared insights into their careers with the students present. The discussions continued well after the scheduled end of the meeting, which Romy Chevallier had moderated skilfully. Special thanks are due to the KAS-SAIIA scholars, Kuhle Zondeka, on the SAIIA Futures Programme and Adrian Joseph, on the Climate Change and Natural Resource Governance Programme, for their extraordinary efforts in arranging and managing the exhibition, with, as always, great support from Pippa Segall.

October saw two events:

On 26 October, joined by the UCT School of Economics, we hosted the Deputy Director of the African Department at the International Monetary Fund, Catherine Patillo; the IMF's Director of Regional Studies Luc Eyraud; and Tatania Mossot, IMF Senior Communications Officer, at UCT, for a briefing on the IMF's *Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa*, released at the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund in Marrakech between 9-15 October.

On 31 October, we are following the Annual General Meeting of the Branch held today with the approval of SAIIA's National Executive Committee and of members present, with the launch in Cape Town, of *Rich State, Poor State*, the latest book by Dr Greg Mills, Director of the Brenthurst Foundation, and a former Director of SAIIA. Dr Mills' address – in our eighth speaker event in 2023 – on the underlying causes of state success and failure will be introduced by Mr John Steenhuisen, Leader of the Democratic Alliance, elaborated by Dr Mills, and discussed by Professor (emeritus) Anthony Black of UCT's School of Economics. A lively exchange with those present is sure to follow.

The Annual Report includes a full list of our events.

Schedule of Events 2023

	Date	Title	Speaker(s)	Venue	#
1	13 February	The international implications of the decline of the ANC party-state	RW Johnson	The Athenaeum	65

2	9 March	South Africa, Global Turbulence and Threats to Democracy	Lord Peter Hain	The Athenaeum	63
3	4 April	The War in Ukraine, Geopolitics and South Africa's Search for Meaning	Professor Abel Esterhuyse	The Athenaeum	53
4	8 May	The Responsible Use of Emerging Artificial Intelligence Technology and Lethal Autonomous Weapons	United States Assistant Secretary for Arms Verification and Control, Mallory Stewart	The Athenaeum	48
5	9 May	The Current Geopolitical Environment and SA's role therein	hosted by Dr Naledi Pandor, DIRCO	Kelvin Grove	100
6	18 May	Multilateralism and World Order – International Cooperation in an Era of Increased Geopolitical Tensions	Ambassador Gjermund Sæther, Embassy of Norway in South Africa	The Athenaeum	50
7	24 August	31 st SAIIA Interschool Quiz		Bishops	208 learners

8	30 August	Poland in a Globalising World	Professor Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of South Africa	The Athenaeum	38
9	7 September	The World and South Africa Beyond 2023: The Latest Flags, Scenarios and Probabilities	Clem Sunter	The Athenaeum	61
10	18 September	Building Your Career in the Age of Polycrisis	Holger Dix, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; Romy Chevallier, South African Institute of International Affairs Heather Sonn, Gamiro Investments Cynthia Chigwenya, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Athambile Masola, University of Cape Town Sean Cleary, FutureWorld Foundation	University of Cape Town, RW James Lecture Room 4B	45
10	26 October	Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa, October 2023	Catherine Patillo (Deputy Director: Africa Department, IMF) Luc Eyraud (Director of Regional Studies, IMF)	UCT Middle Campus	
11	31 October	SAIIA Western Cape AGM and Presentation by Greg Mills	Greg Mills with John Steenhuisen, Leader of the DA, and Professor (Emeritus) Anthony Black	The Athenaeum	

MEMBERSHIP

In this financial year, the Executive Committee decided to increase the membership fees by 10 percent. Our membership numbers remain steady. It is difficult to bring in the younger membership, students and learners, despite sending notices of events to the administrative heads of all the Politics Departments at all the universities in the Western Cape, and to the schools that take part in our quiz. Adrian Joseph has, however, got the word out to UCT students, and has even transported students to branch events himself.

The attendance numbers at our events have slowly increased over the year. We appeal to even more members to attend these events and to engage more actively with the activities of the Branch.

We also have reached out to the Consular Corps and the Cape Chamber of Commerce to encourage Consular officials, and members of the Chamber, to join as SALLA Branch members.

Donor Members

The membership category “Donor Member” was revived in 2021 as a result of donations to the Branch’s Sustainability Fund. Article 8 of the Branch Constitution describes Donor Members as:

“Individuals who pay membership fees in excess of the normal individual membership fee by an amount acceptable to the Executive Committee shall be regarded as donor members.”

In 2020/2021 there were three donor members; in 2021/2022, there were nine who donated a total of R2,650. In 2022/2023, there 16 donor members who donated a total of R7,150.

Membership Table

Nominal figures for Members of Parliament [44] and Schools [50 schools] are not included in the overall membership total.

The revenue producing categories [Diplomatic; Institutional; Member+1/Family; Individual; and Student] are shown in bold type.

Category	2022 – 2023	2021 – 2022	2020 - 2021	2019 – 2020
Corporate nominees for JSH	4	4	5	5
Diplomatic	8	10	9	9
Institutional	3	3	5	4
School	Nominal	Nominal	Nominal	Nominal
Member+1/Family [recorded as 2 people per membership]	74	72	88	92
Fellow/ Complimentary	1	3 [adjusted]	10	10
Honorary	7	7	10	12
Individual	51	53	60	56
Members of Parliament	Nominal	Nominal	Nominal	Nominal
Students	13	9	17	13
TOTAL	161	161	204	201

TOTAL: REVENUE PRODUCING	153	147	179	174
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FINANCIAL REPORT

The SAIIA Western Cape Branch financial results may be summarised as follows:

Year ended	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	R	R	R	R
Operating surplus (deficit) i.e. income less expenses	2,338	(9,315)	1,054	18,064
Capital inflows - donations received	7,266	2,650	-	5,000
Net surplus (deficit)	9,604	(6,665)	1,054	23,064

The operating result for the year reflects a small surplus of R2,338 compared to a R9,315 deficit for the previous year. The main reasons for this substantial improvement were:

- an increase in subscriptions received from R23,878 in the prior year to R28,420 in the current year
- an increase in the contribution from SAIIA Head Office from R16,000 in the prior year to R21,000 in the current year
- an increase in investment returns from R6,590 in the prior year to R13,128 in the current year

There has also been a generous increase in the voluntary donations towards the branch sustainability fund from R2,650 in the prior year to R7,266 in the current year.

The audited financial statements [attached] provide details of the income and expenditure and the balance sheet, including the movements on the Quiz Fund.

We are most grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for the continued sponsorship of the Interschool Quiz Event in the amount of R158,000 (In the year ended 30 June 2022, this was R150,000).

We appreciate the support of our loyal membership for the continued funding from subscriptions. We remain enthusiastic that in person functions will continue to restore and expand our membership base.

For persons making individual donations of over R1,000, we are able to arrange with SAIIA National to provide these donors with corresponding Section 18A certificates that enable related income tax deductions to be claimed in their personal tax returns.

I wish to thank our branch coordinator, Pippa Segall, our honorary Treasurer, Richard Morris, and our honorary auditor, Johan Hauser, for maintaining and authenticating the branch financial records and accounts.

Engagement with the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In October, enabled by EXCO member Jeremy Wiley, the Branch engaged more actively with the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the invitation of the Chief Executive Officer, John Lawson. Invitations were sent to the Executive and members of the Chamber for the IMF Briefing on the Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa, and the book launch of Dr Greg Mills' book, *Rich State, Poor State*, both of which will be of interest to the Chamber's members.

SAIIA's Development, Economic Diplomacy and Futures' programmes and its research in these and related fields are potentially of considerable value to the Chamber and its members, and we have agreed to work together to define areas of fruitful collaboration.

My thanks go to Jeremy Wiley for enabling this productive conversation.

Annual Interschool Quiz

The 31st Annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz on International Affairs took place at Bishops (Diocesan School for Boys) on 24 August 2023. SACS came first and second, with the Oracle Academy taking third place. The first ten places were as follows*:

- 1st - SACS (Diplomats)
- 2nd - SACS (Ambassadors)
- 3rd - The Oracle Academy (Diplomats)
- 4th - San Souci Girls High School (Diplomats)
- 5th - Springfield Convent (Ambassadors)
- 5th - The Oracle Academy (Ambassadors)
- 7th - Garlandale High School (Diplomats)
- 8th - Cedar House
- 9th - Darul Arqam Islamic High School (Ambassadors)
- 9th - DF Malan High School (Ambassadors), who also received the Most Improved Trophy

* Where a school sent two teams, they were referred to as 'Ambassadors' or 'Diplomats'. After the first three places, teams are noted as tied.

The quiz is crafted to attract learners from all backgrounds from schools surrounding Cape Town and to motivate them to read and discuss world news and analyses of South Africa's international affairs. According to programme alumni, the quiz has influenced numerous generations of high school learners, many of whom go on to study or work in the field of international affairs. Since 1993, nearly 4 000 learners have taken part from over 90 schools, with some schools participating every year since the quiz started. A workshop for new and developing schools exposes learners to previous quiz winners in the Youth@SAIIA programme allowing them to discuss international affairs, fake news and other topical developments, and to glean advice on preparing for the quiz.

Participants are tested on their reading of ten days of online articles from media outlets in the two weeks before the quiz night. The questions this year ranged across Ukraine, the BRICS Summit, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, and a range of environmental and energy issues.

The questions were set by international affairs specialists from academia, policy institutes, the diplomatic corps and the private sector. The spirited responses from the audience testified to the strong engagement of both teachers and parents in preparing the learners. Three tie-breaker questions were needed to identify the winning teams.

On behalf of the Quiz Committee, we again thank the Abe Bailey Trust, our major funder for the 2023 quiz, as well as the many other donors who made the quiz possible. Martha Bridgman's outstanding leadership and Pippa Segall's excellent work in pulling all the details together, deserve special mention. Our MC, Africa Melane of Cape Talk Radio, and Quiz Master, Advocate Murray Bridgman, gave of their time generously in making the evening a great success. A big thanks again to Phil Court and Bishops for the provision of venues and technical support. Thank you to Jude Wells and Caleb Kay for facilitating and presenting the pre-quiz workshop that took place on 22 July, and in which some 100 learners took part.

A full report on the 2023 quiz has been posted on the SAIIA website.

CONCLUSION

It has been a demanding year in which the plates of the world order have begun to shift tectonically – from Asia-Pacific, through the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, to West Africa and the Sahel. Our multilateral institutions are under great stress, and some, including the UN Security Council, are clearly failing. In addition to a destructive war in Ukraine following Russia's invasion, and a second war in the Middle East triggered by Hamas' invasion of southern Israel, the risk of a potentially more dangerous conflict looms between the People's Republic of China and the United States. One is cheered by the prospect of a summit between Presidents Biden and Xi in November, as their meeting in Bali a year earlier, stabilised understandings between Beijing and Washington, but it will be difficult to [re-]configure a constructive relationship of the sort necessary for global stability.

Africa, the Arab world and Latin America, have become a fulcrum in this tectonic dislocation: The expansion of the BRICS to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the KSA, UAE and Iran, and the inclusion of the African Union in the G20; followed by Brazil's chairmanship of the G20 in 2024, and that of South Africa in 2025, will sustain this fractal momentum, while prioritising the role of the *global South*. These structural changes, while disruptive, are unlikely to enhance the efficiency or utility of either the BRICS or the G20 as instruments of transnational governance.

The process initiated in 2020, on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, led by 2021 to approval by the General Assembly of a report on *Our Common Agenda* by the UN Secretary General. That report, amplified by eleven Policy Briefs and the report of a *High Level Advisory Board on Effective and Inclusive Global Governance*, which proposed *six transformative changes*, will lead to a *UN Summit of the Future* in September 2023, and the adoption of an inter-governmental *Pact for the Future* at the Summit, which is intended to define a new global consensus *on the future that humanity desires, and what we can do today collectively, to secure it*.

Meanwhile, in part as a result of congressional turmoil in Washington and the U.S. refusal to fund the UN Green Climate Fund, COP 28 now seems unlikely to permit a coherent agreement on climate, even as we see a sharp increase in extreme weather conditions. This confluence risks more violent events

– both weather-related and political – in the region from the Sahel, though Sudan, to the Mashriq/Levant and South Asia – and a resulting increase in refugee movements.

The U.S. and the EU, seeking to counter the China's influence in the global South through the *Belt and Road Initiative*, the *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank* and the *New Development Bank*, have launched an *India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor* through the *G20's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment*, and a new trans-African railroad. France and Germany are recalibrating their relations with Africa; China is seeking to consolidate its gains there, the U.S. to regain influence, and Russia both to contain jihadism and leverage mercenaries to secure mineral rights and political influence. The UAE and other Middle Eastern actors are, of course, also engaged. The next several years will be greatly challenging.

May I thank the members of the Branch EXCO for their commitment and hard work? In addition to Richard Morris, our honorary Treasurer, and Johan Hauser, our honorary auditor, who enable our continued solvency; Martha Bridgman, assisted by Pippa Segall and now, Laura-Jane Watkins, not only ensures the success of the Interschool Quiz, but, together with my distinguished predecessor, Sheila Camerer, who is also our Diplomatic Liaison, contributes a wealth of knowledge and experience to the management of the Branch. Jeremy Wiley has reinvigorated our relationship with the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Roger Southall is re-engaging with the academic community in the Western Cape engaged in international affairs.

The membership of the EXCO was broadened and rejuvenated in 2023 by the addition of Laura-Jane Watkins, a Chevening Scholar and Attorney of the High Court, and founder of a Global Gender Equality Campaign *#inOurshoes*. In her professional life, she aims to dismantle barriers to equality, human dignity and freedom, and has taken over the Parliamentary Liaison portfolio from Sheila Camerer.

Our KAS-SAIIA scholars, Kuhle Zondeka and Adrian Joseph have provided invaluable support. The Branch could not function without our branch coordinator, Pippa Segall.

It remains only for me to thank all our members and our guests, for their loyal support and constructive feedback throughout the year.

Seán Cleary
Chair