

About SAIIA

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) is an independent public policy think tank advancing a well-governed, peaceful, economically sustainable and globally engaged Africa.

Our work spans foreign policy, governance, the environment, economic policy and social development, linking local experiences with global debates. Our African-generated knowledge provides local and regional decision-makers with autonomous, evidence-based options for Africa's future development.

We provide an open platform for the public to engage with global and African policy issues. Join our Western Cape branch to be part of these regular, topical discussions.

Become a member today!

Membership Benefits

Free entry to speakers' events, and the opportunity to participate in Q&A sessions after the address.
Invitations to in-person conferences convened in the region as well as hybrid/remote events.
Invitations to attend the Interschools Quiz.
Receive complimentary copies of SAIIA's publications and books.
Access to the online version of the SAIIA Journal of International Affairs at a reduced rate.



Scan for more information about Western Cape branch membership.

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Do you have a keen interest in international relations and Africa's role in the global system?

Then you are in good company with SAIIA.



SAIIA's Research Themes



Governance: Our governance research focuses on policy options that promote stability and accountability on the continent through the lens of key African governance mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the African Union; global good governance initiatives, and civil society participation.



Economic Diplomacy: Our research explores how to boost regional integration, trade and economic sustainability in Africa, against the backdrop of the fourth industrial revolution, de-industrialisation and urbanisation.



Foreign Policy: We focus on regional peace and security, South Africa's own foreign policy, and how Africa engages with the rest of the world, with particular emphasis on China-Africa and Russia-Africa relations.



Climate Change: Our research focuses on policy options that promote climate change resilience, agricultural productivity and socio-economic development.



Natural Resources: We explore ways of strengthening the governance of natural resources to ensure inclusive, sustainable and equitable development in Africa. Our research covers mining and development; energy and the green economy; ecosystems governance; oceans economy; and forestry.



Development: We cover international and sustainable development, with an emphasis on South-South Cooperation, new sources of development finance and global partnerships, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Foresight: Our research explores alternative African futures through futures-thinking methodologies. By anticipating the key emerging disruptors that will have a major impact on African states over a 10- to 30-year horizon, we aim to help improve long-term decision-making or policymakers, industry and civil society.

The Western Cape Branch

Established in 1934, SAIIA Western Cape works in Cape Town and surrounding areas to broaden the reach of the Institute's activities. Through public meetings, panel discussions and a schools' programme, the Western Cape branch fosters greater debate on international issues among civil society in the city that is the historic home of the nation's National Parliament.

The branch is managed by an Executive Committee that is elected by members every year at an Annual General Meeting.



Interschools Quiz

Since 1993, we have hosted an annual Interschools Quiz to cultivate awareness and interest in foreign affairs among high school students in the Western Cape region. Approximately 50 schools participate, making this an annual highlight for students, teachers, parents – and SAIIA members too.

Speakers' Meetings

The Western Cape branch regularly hosts local and international experts, foreign diplomats, media and esteemed public figures who speak on contemporary, relevant matters pertaining to diplomacy, governance and other policy issues that impact our lives and the world around us.

Previous speakers include South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Naledi Pandor; the Assistant Secretary for Arms Control at the U.S. State Department, Mallory Stewart, and Lord Peter Hain, former anti-apartheid activist and British parliamentarian.

