

DRAFT PROGRAMME

28-29 July 2026 | Johannesburg, South Africa

DAY 1 TIMES

8:30 AM - 4:45 PM

DAY 2 TIMES

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

FORMAT

Plenaries, facilitated small group discussions & short insight inputs

DAY 1 • 28 JULY 2026

Setting the Stage - Think Tanks in SADC

Theme: Exploring Think Tank Contributions in Southern Africa

08:30-09:00	Arrival, Registration & Networking: Welcome and Introductions
09:00-09:30	Understanding who is in the room
09:30-09:45	Opening Plenary: Objectives, Expectations, and Framing Discussion
09:45-10:30	Think Tanks in SADC? Do they exist? What do they do?
10:30-10:45	Sense Making: Towards a Consensus on What We Mean by Think Tanks
10:45-11:30	What Are Think Tanks Doing in SADC? • Think Tanks and Mineral Value • Think Tanks and the Land Question • Lessons from East Africa - the role of advocacy-focused think tanks
11:30-11:45	Comfort Break
11:45-12:15	• Think Tanks and Improving Elections - the Afrobarometer Story • Does Advocacy have a Future?
12:15-13:00	Parallel Group Discussions: Groups formed based on themes/issues emerging in the sessions prior to the tea break
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Parallel Group Discussions Continue
15:30-16:15	What Is Emerging from the Discussions?
16:15-16:45	Reflections and Close of Day 1

DAY 2 • 29 JULY 2026

Building the Practice & Community

Theme: Reimagining Think Tanks: Sustainability, Practice & Collaboration. What Can We Change?

08:30-09:00	Arrival and Registration
09:00-09:30	Recap of Day 1 (participant reflections)
09:30-10:30	The Exchange • Participants share information about their work, areas of possible collaboration, and gaps where they need support • Participants are invited to bring business cards, posters, handouts, and any communications material to share with other participants.
10:30-10:45	Think Tanks and Bridging Policy Support
10:45-11:15	Reimagining Our Futures • What needs to shift? • How or where do Think Tanks/CSOs begin?
11:15-11:30	Comfort Break
11:30-12:00	What does the Future non-profit look like? • Do we have Models of Sustainability? • Leadership Models within Think Tanks
12:00-12:45	Plenary Discussion: How are we dealing with short- and long-term sustainability?
12:45-13:15	Moving Ahead: What shall we do next? Priorities, Commitments, Next Steps.
13:15-13:30	Official Close of Meeting
13:30-14:30	Lunch-End of Meeting & Networking