



Celebrating 30 years!

10-12 September 2017

Inkosi Albert Luthuli International
Convention Centre, Durban

www.irf-conference.co.za
or www.irf.org.za

Concept document for IRFA Conference

To be used when conceptualising: Conference topics and speakers

Promotional material
Best Practices Awards programme at conference
Master of Ceremonies speeches and facilitation
at conference
Press and media releases

The overarching theme:

Social Development: Partnering for change

Some usable quotes

"We need to develop and disseminate an entirely new paradigm and practice of collaboration that supersedes the traditional silos that have divided governments, philanthropies and private enterprises for decades and replace it with networks of partnerships working together to create a globally prosperous society."

Simon Mainwaring: Philanthropist and Thought Leader

"It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness."

Karl Marx: A contribution to the Critique of Political Economy

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future

John F Kennedy

The argument:

Three key concepts fall within the scope of this year's conference theme, **i.e. the principles of partnership, change and societal development.**

Bringing these principles together in practice it could be argued that constructive partnership between all the role players in any industry should lead to innovation and change for the better, thus contributing significantly to the wellbeing of society at large.

How would this practice apply to the retirement industry and what role does the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa play in ensuring the necessary collaboration between key role players?

Social advocates often hold that social contribution and responsibility starts and ends with the provision of a sustainable and equitable lifestyle for workers and their families across the board.

These advocates reason that, although this responsibility includes job creation and the development of both functional and entrepreneurial skills, it also extends to ensuring that the financial needs of workers and their dependents are met into old age and beyond.

Furthermore the sustainable provision of adequate retirement benefits for the employed and society at large contributes significantly to the wellbeing of society at large and the alleviation of fiscal burden on the state.

The practical application of the ideas set out above is manifest in the ongoing debate around the provision of a basic level of benefits for all who live in South Africa. Section 27 of the Constitution makes this a societal goal government is compelled to pursue. Aiming for more is also the aspiration of multiple social partners. The role of the private and public sector must be thrashed out and create an innovative and transformational partnership in reaching this goal.

This places the emphasis firmly on the compliance, performance and innovation of the retirement industry in ensuring these needs are met and it does not take a broad leap of the imagination to acknowledge the impact which an inclusive and optimally functioning retirement industry can play in influencing social development and societal wellbeing.

As an industry body the Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) seeks to surface and promote best practices in the governance, stakeholder engagement, trustee development, investment practices and financial reporting standards for the benefit of African retirement funds, service providers and industry stakeholders.

It advocates sound and ethical practices in the industry and lobbies with government and fiduciary bodies in the interests of its members and to the ultimate benefit of the members of retirement funds themselves.

It provides legal and technical advisory services, acknowledges and shares best practices and provides information, knowledge forums and educational services aimed at raising the game in order to benefit society at large.

In so doing it starts conversations, brings together key role players, and actively endorses innovation, transformation and positive change. In partnering for this change it recognizes the role played by a broad spectrum of role players, and 2017 sees special recognition of the role played by women in the industry.

Partnering for change, 30 Years of the IRFA and our societal contribution



For our 30th birthday year we need to be a Janus looking back at our contributions, reflecting on the good and the bad, so that the way forward is informed by lessons from our past. Our ability to “think” the future will guide us to focus our energies on the necessary partnerships, innovation and change.

Key messages:

- **Recognition**
 - Of industry contribution and the role it can play
- **Contribution**
 - Of IRFA to broader industry understanding and performance
- **Collaboration**
 - Between all role players, government, social architects, regulators, industry body (IRFA), retirement funds, service providers, educators, media in achieving a sustainable, inclusive retirement industry)
- **Aspiration**
 - Of government, legislators and the industry to enhance the human condition
 - Of the workforce to a better quality of life, from employment to retirement

- **Responsibility**
 - o Of the industry in terms of core values and behavior
 - o Of society to plan and engage in ensuring their own retirement provision
- **Engagement**
 - o Conversation
 - o Information
 - o Communication
 - o Education of industry and retirement fund members
- **Change and Growth**
 - o Of individual and societal wealth
 - o Of self-sufficiency into and beyond retirement