

# BUIRC

11th BOTHO UNIVERSITY  
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
CONFERENCE 2025

## BUIRC SPEAKERS 2025

### CONFERENCE THEME:

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES  
THROUGH RESEARCH, INNOVATIONS,  
STRATEGIES & PARTNERSHIPS

Conference dates: 12th – 13th June 2025

**BOTHO**  
UNIVERSITY

VIBRANCE • INNOVATION • IMPACT





## Honourable Dr Stephen Modise - Minister of Health

Dr Stephen Modise is the current Minister of Health of Botswana. Dr Modise who is a Specially Elected Member of Parliament of Botswana, was appointed Minister of Health in November 2024, after the historic 2024 general election in Botswana that saw the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) taking over state power.

As Minister of Health, Dr Modise is responsible for the provision of health services to the people of Botswana at all levels of care. Since taking over as Minister of Health, Dr Modise has been emphasizing on strengthening the primary health care approach to health and has also started stakeholder engagements on the introduction of the National Health Insurance scheme (NHI), which was one of his party's key election pledges. Dr Modise is also spearheading some reforms in the health sector that will see more Botswana being able to access quality health services. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Health aspires to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all Botswana and residents of the country, regardless of who they are, or their socio-economic status.

Dr Modise is an experienced medical doctor and academic, who has practised and done consultancy work across Africa and the Caribbean. His academic credentials include a Doctor of Medicine degree, Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree, Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Education and a Master of Health Professions Education (MHPE) degree.





## **Anushka Bogdanov – Executive Chairperson, Risk Insights | ESG Pioneer | AI & Data Science Advocate | International Speaker**

Anushka Bogdanov – Executive Chairperson, Risk Insights | ESG Pioneer | AI & Data Science Advocate | International Speaker Anushka Bogdanov is a pioneering force in ESG, risk analytics, and sustainable finance across Africa. She is the Founder and Executive Chairperson of Risk Insights, the first female-founded data science company in Africa using AI to drive ESG innovation for capital markets. She is the creator of ESG GPS, an award-winning ratings model that has been adopted by several major stock exchanges including the Botswana Stock Exchange to support sustainability-driven investments and corporate transparency.

With over three decades of experience across banking, capital markets, and development finance, Anushka has held senior leadership roles including Deputy Chief Risk Officer at Absa Capital, Group Executive at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), and Head of Value Analytics at Nedbank, where she developed South Africa's first Basel-approved retail mortgage lending models. She also served as Director and Senior Credit Analyst at Fitch International, where she was responsible for the credit ratings of sovereigns, state-owned enterprises, corporates, and banks across emerging markets.

A globally respected academic and thought leader, Anushka lectures on ESG and governance to board members and C-suite executives at INSEAD Business School and is an Advanced Corporate Director and Harvard Alumna one of only a handful of African leaders to hold this prestigious certification. She is also a visiting professional at Nelson Mandela University, where she has lectured and supervised postgraduate students in Development Finance.

Anushka is committed to advancing ESG education on the continent. She co-developed and teaches the Senior Leadership Development Program on ESG in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, and has delivered public lectures, academic modules, and keynote addresses across Africa and internationally. Her podcast, "ESG Matters with Risk Insights", is a platform for progressive dialogue on governance, sustainability, climate resilience, and inclusive growth.

She is a Board Member of the World Economic Forum's New Champions, an internationally sought-after speaker, and a contributing author and researcher in the fields of sustainable finance, AI ethics, and climate risk. Her contributions have earned her numerous awards for ESG innovation and global risk leadership.

Anushka earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science, later advancing into postgraduate and doctoral research focused on the ethical application of data and AI for social and environmental impact. She has chaired several risk committees, served on multiple boards, and continues to champion Africa's leadership in the global ESG agenda.

She is also the first African company leader to collaborate with the London School of Economics' Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, helping to shape and mentor young global leaders, Master's, and Doctoral students at LSE through strategic engagements and the Africa Summit platform.

Anushka is a devoted wife to Andrey Bogdanov, mother to Shari, a Master's student in Sustainable Finance and Leadership at the University of Manchester, and the proud companion to two beloved fur babies bringing the same passion and purpose to her personal life as she does to reshaping Africa's sustainable future.





## **Sabine Moebs - Professor for Business Information Systems at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW), Germany**

Sabine Moebs is a professor for Business Information Systems at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW), Germany. There she established the AuReLiA lab, the lab for Augmented Reality Learning and Accessibility, now including her lab at the DHBW Heidenheim location and colleagues at DHBW Stuttgart and DHBW Mannheim. She currently serves as the Equality Commissioner at DHBW, chairing the equality committee, which combines all approx. 35 local equality officers across all 9 locations of DHBW.

Her special interest is EU-Africa research collaboration in the area of digitization and sustainability. In spring 2020 she initiated FIRE, the interdisciplinary network for Female International Research, which has grown from initially 20 members to currently 45 members; professors, senior researchers, VCs and center directors from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Rwanda and Tanzania. More recently FIRE YA (Young Academics) has evolved to a group of approx. 80 junior researchers.

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Since 2019 she is a member of the DHBW Senate, the DHBW Central Steering Committee on Sustainability and Climate Protection and of the DHBW Research Committee.

She was awarded a PhD in the School of Electronic Engineering at Dublin City University. Her PhD research focused on Adaptive Multimedia E-Learning Systems. She earned an MSc (Res) in Computer Science from the National College of Ireland, Dublin with a thesis on Blended Learning in SMEs. She is trained as an assistant for environment and nature protection. Before moving into research and academia she was founding president and managing director of an IT-company, with the main office in Switzerland and sales offices in Spain, founder of an IT-company in the South of Germany and previously managing director of a consultancy in the area of sustainable regional development.



## Timothy Sipho Matsebula - Auditor General of Eswatini

Mr Timothy Sipho Matsebula is the Auditor-General of Eswatini since 2018, and the head of the Office of the Auditor General, which is the Supreme Audit Institution of the country.

His background as an Auditor and an Accountant spans more than 20 years, with experience in both the private and public sectors, and in areas as diverse as auditing, consulting, corporate advisory, development finance, investment management and skills development agencies.

He has served as a member of the COMESA Board of External Auditors as well as the Board of External Auditors for the African Union and SADC in various terms. He is currently a member of the Public Enterprise Disciplinary Tribunal as well as a Council Member for the Institute of Accountants of Eswatini.

He is the current Chairperson of the African Union Board of External Auditors (AU BoEA) as well as the AFROSAI-E Capacity Building Sub-Committee. His current role as Auditor-General entitles him a seat in the Public Accounts Committee.

His career is motivated by a passion to actively contribute towards upholding high standards of integrity, accountability, professionalising the auditing profession in the public sector as well as serving public interest.





## **Kaene Disepo - Youth Engagement Lead at the Office of the President of Botswana**

Kaene Disepo is a dynamic public sector strategist and nationally recognized changemaker, currently serving as the Youth Engagement Lead at the Office of the President of Botswana. With over eight years of experience in public affairs, governance, sustainability, and youth empowerment, Kaene is driving transformational change at the heart of Botswana's development agenda.

In his role, he leads inter-ministerial efforts to foster job creation and institutionalize mindset change among Botswana's youth—championing flagship programmes such as the Mindset Change Community Business Ideathon and the Ambassadors for Social Change initiative. His leadership has helped catalyze over 150 district-led enterprises and embed youth voices into national policymaking.

Kaene is the Founder of Change Africa, an award-winning social enterprise advancing thought leadership and driving Botswana's clean energy transition. Through Change Africa, he has spearheaded pioneering initiatives such as Debating Botswana and the National Renewable Energy Dialogue—the latter of which premiered at Botho University and was officiated by His Honour, the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana, Mr. Ndaba Gaolathe.

He is currently developing Botswana's first youth-led clean energy and green entrepreneurship hub, the Change Africa Renewable Energy Institute, aimed at equipping young people with future-forward skills in green technology. He also leads C-Suite Botswana, an executive networking platform connecting ethical leaders to champion inclusive economic transformation.

An alumnus of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Kaene holds an MSc in Development Management and a BSc in International Relations. His accolades include being named among the UK's Top 100 Leaders of African and Caribbean Descent, Botswana's first Best Youth in Academic Excellence awardee, and a Young African Scholar recipient at the African Youth Excellence Awards. He has also delivered a TEDx Talk in Germany on reframing academic excellence in the African context.

A bold policy advisor, social innovator, and generational leader, Kaene is redefining Botswana's narrative on youth agency, sustainability, and inclusive development—one bold idea at a time



## Alankar Malviya - UNAIDS Botswana Country Director

Mr Alankar Malviya, a graduate of London School of Economics, has over 25 years of diverse development sector experience, with government, private sector and with UN. He started his career with Civil Services in India and has worked with UN since 2005.

His portfolio of Senior Regional Advisor Fast Track for Eastern and Southern Africa, for UNAIDS regional office based in Johannesburg, where he has been instrumental in galvanizing partnerships on reinvigorating prevention and sustainable financing under SADC umbrella, leveraging Information Communication Technology for advancing SRHR services to youth amongst his other many achievements dates as way back as 2008.

He also was Director a.i. for the Regional Support Team of UNAIDS in East and South Africa (RST ESA) until April 2022. He is currently the UNAIDS Country Director and Representative in Botswana.

Before joining UNAIDS RST ESA, he worked as Country Director a.i. in Vietnam, as Senior Advisor in Ethiopia and as Advisor in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. He has delivered results in the areas of Strategic Information, Program Support, Policy and Strategy in his various roles. He has a long list of papers published in journals of repute, on issues ranging from HIV estimates, Gender and SRHR issues, governance and issues relating to Key Populations.

Mr Malviya is passionate about removing inequalities and working on gender issues. An Indian citizen, he joined by his wife Pallavi Verma and daughter Himani.



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