



Inclusive Society Institute NEWSLETTER

February 2026 & March 2026

Message from the CEO

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In the media

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Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the combined months of February and March 2026, I am struck by the steady momentum that continues to build around the Inclusive Society Institute's work. These past two months have reaffirmed the importance of evidence-based dialogue, principled engagement and long-term thinking in a world marked by uncertainty, polarization and rapid global change.

During this period, ISI remained deeply engaged in national conversations on South Africa's social fabric. Our contribution to discussions on social cohesion underscored a core message that has long guided our work: that cohesion is not a "soft" ideal, but a form of national infrastructure, essential to stability, growth and democratic resilience. Encouragingly, recent evidence suggests fragile, but real improvements, even as deep structural challenges persist.

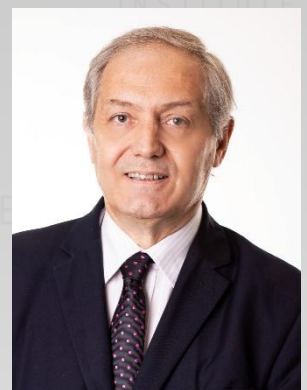
March also saw ISI extend its convening role internationally through a high-level EU-Africa consultative engagement hosted in Cape Town. These discussions reinforced the urgency of rethinking partnerships in a changing global order, towards relationships grounded in equity, co-development and shared leadership. From trade and industrialisation to migration and global governance reform, the message was clear: Africa's voice and agency must be central to shaping the future.

What links all of this work is our abiding commitment to inclusion, across race, class, geography and ideology. Whether engaging policymakers, civil society, business or international partners, ISI's role remains to create credible spaces for rigorous dialogue, informed by data and grounded in social justice.

I would like to thank our partners, supporters and colleagues for their continued trust and collaboration. As we move into the second quarter of 2026, we remain committed to strengthening the intellectual foundations of a more cohesive, fair and democratic society.

Warm regards,

Daryl Swanepoel



Activities

Mar 4, 2026

Inclusive Society Institute presents South Africa Social Cohesion Index at the National Planning Commission Roundtable

The Inclusive Society Institute presented the 2025 South African Social Cohesion Index at the National Planning Commission's roundtable. The Index reports moderate, but improving cohesion, with a national score of 56, while highlighting persistent weaknesses in fairness, diversity acceptance and social trust, informing national dialogue and policy on cohesion development.



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Mar 29, 2026

EU-Africa Consultative Meeting: Rethinking the partnership in a changing world

The Inclusive Society Institute co-hosted a high-level EU–Africa Consultative Meeting in Cape Town to reassess the partnership amid global change. Policymakers and experts examined trade, green industrialisation, migration, multilateral reform and peace, calling for a more balanced, equitable and strategic relationship rooted in co-development and shared global leadership.

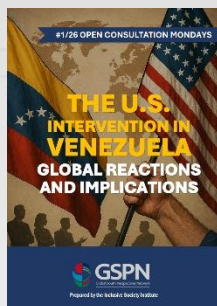


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Publication releases

Feb 3, 2026

#1/26 Open Consultation Mondays: The U.S. intervention in Venezuela: Global reactions and implications



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Feb 11, 2026

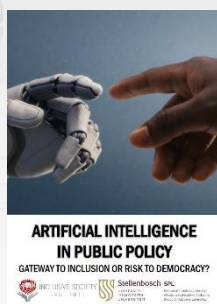
#2/26 Open Consultation Mondays: What is the future of the G20 in a fragmenting world?



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Managed Fragmentation: Global power shifts, parallel governance and the cost of non-alignment

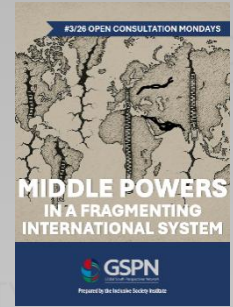
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Mar 16, 2026

#3/26 Open Consultation Mondays: Middle powers in a fragmenting international system

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In the media

Feb 5, 2026		Daily Maverick	The quiet innovation that could unlock mother-tongue education in SA
Feb 11, 2026		Springer Nature Link	Early childhood and early adolescent predictors of internalising symptoms in adolescents: findings from a longitudinal study in a high-risk South African environment
Feb 16, 2026		Daily Maverick	AI can deepen democracy, or destroy it — the choice is ours
Feb 19, 2026		Netwerk24	Roelof Botha: Wysig dié beleid en skep só werk
Feb 21, 2026		Netwerk24	Kan een skool meer as een taalgemeenskap huisves?
Feb 21, 2026		Sunday Times	Economists call for an overhaul of Reserve Bank's MPC
Mar 9, 2026		Daily Maverick	Economists call for an overhaul of Reserve Bank's MPC
Mar 18, 2026		The Citizen	South Africans want unity but doubt it is possible
Mar 26, 2026		Tech Financials	Our Pride In Being South African Is The Glue That Holds Us Together
Mar 27, 2026		Netwerk24	Hou by die feite in debatte oor minderhede in die land
Mar 30, 2026		Daily Maverick	Europe, Africa face moment of reckoning as global shifts expose limits of unequal partnership
Mar 30, 2026		All Africa	Europe, Africa face moment of reckoning as global shifts expose limits of unequal partnership
Mar 31, 2026		TISCH Global Jumbos	SSARG in South Africa: Undoing a Legacy of 300 Years in 30 Years