

SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS TO BUILD A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY

27 February 2026

The National Planning Commission (NPC) will be hosting a two-day social cohesion roundtable discussion on 3-4 March 2026 at the Premier Hotel in Pretoria. The workshop aims to explore the origins of the divisions experienced in South Africa, the contemporary manifestations of the challenges to achieving social cohesion, and possible strategies to address them.

The agenda was designed by taking into account the fundamentals of social cohesion and centring it on African ways of knowing and being, and includes concepts such as *Ubuntu*, *Botho*, *Otho*, *Seriti*, *Ujamaa*, *Abusua*. Participants will be urged to draw on dignity, ancestry, collectivity, and responsibility and a deeper sense of co-existence so that South Africans can live together, even in disagreement, through justice. The strategy part of the roundtable will look at long-term socio-economic and governance solutions, the role and power of the concept of apology, the role and meaning of national symbols, and the political barriers to social cohesion

In addition, the NPC has partnered with the Inclusive Society Institute to launch *The South Africa Social Cohesion Index: Measuring the Well-Being of a Society - 2025 Update*. This publication, which was sponsored by Telkom, has been published annually for the past five years. Copies of the report will be available at www.inclusivesociety.org.za after the launch.

The NPC was appointed by the President to oversee the implementation of the NDP and to mobilise the whole of society to support its objectives. The Commission, which comprises independent experts, has affirmed the importance of long-term planning and taking a holistic approach to structuring a better future for all South Africans. This approach is evident in the manner in which the discussions about social cohesion have been configured.

For media inquiries or to receive a copy of the agenda and a link to cover the event, kindly contact Dr Sandisiwe Mapine at Sandisiwe.Mapine@dpme.gov.za or +27 71 3701048 or Ms Dakalo Netswera at Dakalo@dpme.gov.za or +27 72 71 330 7504.

For information about *The South Africa Social Cohesion Index*, contact Mrs Berenice Marks at admin2@inclusivesociety.org.za or 081 352 6202

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