



Email: enquiries@nstf.org.za | <https://www.nstf.org.za/>



Discussion Forum Invitation

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Science and disaster management for social justice

NSTF Discussion Forum at the 2022 World Science Forum

5-6 December 2022, Cape Town



The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) Discussion Forum on [Science and disaster management for social justice](#) is a hybrid side event at the [World Science Forum \(WSF\)](#) on 5-6 December 2022 in Cape Town. The WSF is proudly hosted by the South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The main topic, subtopics and speakers were planned by the NSTF representatives of the [Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector](#).



Background: During disasters, work based on science helps to guide decision making, from evacuation planning, search and rescue, health and safety monitoring, to basic resource provision and environmental restoration. Science is also used in systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters to reduce the risk of (re)occurrence. It is important to communicate clearly and promote awareness among the population, including rural, remote and township communities. Making sure that everyone is included in communication, emergency measures, and prevention of disasters, is critical for the success of disaster management. Without preventing, managing and mitigating disasters, there can be no social justice for the marginalised.

Science for Social Justice: The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) of South Africa (SA) is the host of the prestigious 2022 WSF organised in partnership with leading global science organisations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Science Council (ISC), and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), amongst others. The WSF is one of the most influential global platforms to interrogate the role science should play in society. In 2022, this event will take place for the first time in Africa, convened under the theme of 'Science for Social Justice'. NSTF is proud of its ongoing collaboration with the DSI.

Purpose: The NSTF in SA brings together various stakeholders in science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation. For the past two years the representatives in the Forum addressed issues relating to the pandemic. To continue the NSTF conversations around the [SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the lessons learnt](#) from this disaster in a broader context, it was decided to address disasters as a subject and to host this event on the side lines of the WSF. This discussion forum provides a platform to share knowledge and insights on the connections between disaster management, science and related issues of social justice.

Themes: Scientists and related professionals from various disciplines and stakeholders are invited to participate in discussing the following questions:

- How does/can SET and innovation contribute to early warning systems?
- How can disaster awareness be promoted among the public based on evidence and science?
- How can science be applied to maintain and restore environmental balance?
- How can science be used to improve the livelihoods of survivors in affected areas?
- How should disaster management and social justice be taught at school?
- How can science contribute to the reduction of specific types of disasters, such as water-, fire-, built environment and health-related disasters?

Outcomes: We aim to answer the question: How can science support the reduction of disaster impacts in terms of management, precautionary measures, social justice and public awareness?

We aim to formulate recommendations on how to:

- Promote public awareness on disasters
- Recover from the effects of disasters
- Prepare for disasters

Outputs: As is usual for [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) the following outputs will be made available on the [event page](#):

- Media release
- Speakers' presentations (subject to speakers' permission)
- [Video clips of presentations](#)

- Comprehensive proceedings
- Social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#)).

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

**NSTF Discussion Forum:
Science and disaster management for social justice**

Date: 5-6 December 2022

Time: 09:00-12:00

Register (hybrid event): You have the option to participate in-person at the venue in Cape Town or online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email confirming the details of the event (venue details or Zoom link). Click here to [register](#).

#WSF2022 #disastermanagement #socialjustice

Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested – both for the in-person and online events. Space at the in-person event is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. (Note: Accommodation and travel for in-person attendance are for your own expense.)

Please note that if you do not RSVP, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.

The WSF: The World Science Forum is an international event that South Africa is honoured to host this year. It is an opportunity for learning, exploring and discussing the science-society interface, and how social justice relates to it. For the WSF event as a whole, there will be a host of exhibitors (which includes the NSTF) and a variety of sessions, see the [programme](#).

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation community in South Africa. The [membership](#) consists of 120 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF engages with policy issues across various government departments and promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and put forward recommendations for government and relevant authorities.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page provides information on available bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

STEMulator.org attracts learners and students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It provides a virtual world full of stimulating content to excite and inform the youth, including STEM career guidance. Established under the auspices of the NSTF proSET membership sector (Professionals in science, engineering and technology).

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

For more information

www.nstf.org.za

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Tel: [+27 12 841 3987](tel:+27128413987) (Currently not in use due to NSTF staff working from home)

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