



Thabo Mbeki
FOUNDATION

Dedicated to Africa's Renaissance

**PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR FUNMI OLONISAKIN: THE 11TH THABO
MBEKI AFRICA DAY LECTURE.**

18 May 2021

The Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs (TM-School), a joint initiative of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation (TMF) and the University of South Africa (UNISA), has the pleasure to announce that Professor Funmi Olonisakin will be delivering the extraordinary presentation at the 11th Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture on 25 May 2021. You are cordially invited to participate in this auspicious occasion.

Professor Olonisakin is the Vice-President and Vice-Principal of International matters, as well as Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College, London, United Kingdom. She is also a founding member of the African Leadership Centre, which aims to build the next generation of African scholars who must generate cutting edge knowledge for security, peace and development in Africa.

From 2003 to 2013, she served as the Director of the Conflict, Security and Development Group (CSDG) at King's College. Prior to this, she worked in the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.

In 2015, Professor Olonisakin was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. She was also appointed in 2016 as a member of the Advisory Group of Experts for the United Nations Progress Study on 'Youth, peace and security'. She serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and Chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

The University of Pretoria appointed 'Funmi as an Extra-Ordinary Professor in the Department of Political Sciences in 2016. In 2018, the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) invited her to join the Council of the United Nations University.

The overarching aim of this year's lecture is to discuss and draw some strategic and tactical conclusions from a great variety of developments which currently define the status of the African continent. Among the challenges confronting our continent are questions relating to the quality of our leadership, the worsening security, under development, illusive peace and lack of a clear strategic vision and voice about Africa's place in the world.

The lecture will be held on **Tuesday, 25 May2021**. In line with the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic the lecture will be hosted online. <https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/ThaboMbeki>

Members of the media who are interested in covering the lecture are encouraged to contact:

-Ends-

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