

# Preface

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In 2011, the longstanding debate about social and economic inclusion was fast-tracked to the top of the nation's agenda. As the global financial crisis deepened and citizens around the world took to the streets, the tragic and horrifying death of a South African protestor, Mr Andries Tatane – allegedly at the hands of the South African Police Service – reminded policy-makers that the time for merely talking about economic inclusion has come to an end.

Elsewhere in South Africa, strident rhetoric by factions of the youth culminated in a march for 'economic freedom' on the Union Buildings by thousands of angry young citizens demanding more effective measures to include them in mainstream society. The nationalisation debate also intensified as key social stakeholders engaged around the ways and means to upscale the state's role in creating a better life for its citizens at a more rapid pace than over the past 17 years.

However, economic growth and development cannot be the sole responsibility of policy-makers, or of development policy for that matter. It also needs to be driven by an engaged society, and particularly by those who have the means to do so. In South Africa, with its indefensibly high levels of poverty and inequality, there is an onus on affluent citizens and businesses to play a more substantive role in creating a more equitable society. The affluent – white and black – should know that their privileges will rest on increasingly tenuous grounds, in the absence of more direct engagement to counter the effects of a subdued economy on a society that is experiencing increasing financial strain.

Well-off white South Africans, in particular, who owe much of their privilege to the same source that accounts for the continued disadvantage of millions of black South Africans to this day, should play a more decisive role in this regard. Many have come to grips with this reality and are seeking ways to make a difference; yet, sadly, there are others who have

failed to contribute. In the latter part of the year, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu reminded well-to-do (mainly white) South Africans of their historical privilege and their duty to pay some form of restitution to those at whose expense their wealth came. Tutu went to great lengths to assure white South Africans that restitution – whatever form it takes – must not be seen in a punitive sense, but as a means of reconstruction and healing. Several predominantly white interest groups did not see it this way and castigated the archbishop for his 'attack' on white South Africans.

Given this domestic and global context, publications like the Transformation Audit become even more vital for us to get a sense of where we find ourselves and where we ought to go. It serves as confirmation of the IJR's firm belief that national reconciliation is possible if justice is understood not only in a political sense, but also as a deeply material matter. Over the next few years, the IJR, through its Inclusive Economies Project, will increase its involvement in this field and, in addition to this publication, will engage with the issue of equitable development here and elsewhere in Africa in relevant forums.

This year's Audit makes for particularly incisive reading, and looks decidedly different from its predecessors. The aim has been to ensure that its contents become more accessible to those who require high-level insights in the fast-paced world of policy development and implementation. I would like to congratulate the Inclusive Economies Project team for their efforts in creating this outstanding publication, and hope that its contribution to the critical challenge of creating a more inclusive economy has a bearing far and wide in circles where the question of inclusivity is pondered.

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