PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY OF WILLEM FOURIE

Willem Fourie is an Associate Professor at the University of Pretoria. In this role, he has published peer-reviewed research in a range of disciplines, provided high-level development policy advice on national and continental levels and he has managed complex multi-stakeholder projects successfully.

As researcher, Professor Fourie has a proven multidisciplinary research competence. He has published close to 30 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the leadership, policies and non-state input needed to accelerate Africa’s development. His research has appeared in leading international journals on sustainability, leadership, development, religious studies, business management and human rights. He has also published a monograph on the philosophical underpinnings of the ultimate objectives of development, which received favourable reviews in prominent journals. Professor Fourie has received numerous research grants and awards, notably an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship. He has been a visiting researcher at the Humboldt University in Berlin, and earlier at the University of Bamberg and the University of Tübingen.

As project manager, Professor Fourie has designed and managed several high-level projects. Most recently, he founded the South African SDG Hub, a national facility aimed at promoting SDG evidence-informed policymaking in South Africa. It is hosted by the University of Pretoria and supported by South Africa’s Department of Science and Innovation. He also acts as founding Programme Director of the newly established Master’s

8 More information on the South African SDG Hub is available at http://sasdghub.up.ac.za.
in Development Practice. From 2013 to 2014 he was requested by the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union NEPAD Agency (now known as the African Union Development Agency) to design the African Union Transformative Leadership Programme. This project built on his chairpersonship of the AU-NEPAD Transformative Leadership Dialogues in 2012. In 2013, Professor Fourie was the project lead for the Leadership for Africa research project conducted in collaboration with UONGOZI Institute in Tanzania and funded by the government of Finland.

As policy advisor, Professor Fourie has a track record of working with both national and continental policymakers. In 2019, he was the lead author of South Africa’s SDG Country Report. In 2019 he was also commissioned by the European Commission to draft a report on how the SDGs could be used to frame the EU’s partnership dialogue with South Africa in preparation for the post-2020 funding cycle. Professor Fourie has also been requested to assist with representation and negotiation at high-level meetings. In 2018, he was a member of the official South African delegation to the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Dakar and the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum in New York. In 2016, he was a member of the official African Union negotiation team to the Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Nairobi. Also in 2016, he drafted the Africa Action Plan on Development Effectiveness for the African Union.

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