



**KNOWLEDGE AND TRANSFORMATION:**  
**Social and human  
sciences in Africa**

[www.hsrc.ac.za/knowledgeandtransformation](http://www.hsrc.ac.za/knowledgeandtransformation)

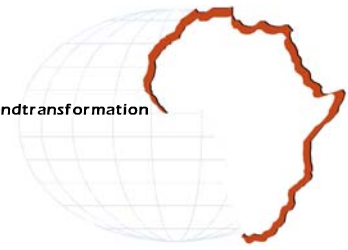
26 September 2008

The HSRC and its alliance partners, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) are honoured to collaborate with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH) in convening a prestigious gathering of scholars for the assemblies of these two councils and a high-level scientific symposium on *Knowledge and Transformation: Social and Human Sciences in Africa*

When we first discussed the symposium with our alliance partners, and before committing to it, it seemed a very far-fetched event for the North-South to collaborate on. However, because we have a Ministry of Science and Technology that believes in us, this has been possible and we are grateful to DST for that.

We are also indebted to the ISSC Secretary-General, Dr Heide Hackmann, whose vision of bringing together new networks, new ideas, new synergies and new understandings of the diversity of social and human science knowledge production systems propelled her to sell this idea to the ISSC, CIPSH, UNESCO and ourselves. Great outcomes of this coming together between international councils and the ones in Africa are expected given that the objectives are as follows:

- showcase the intellectual contributions of Africa to the humanities and social sciences;
- encourage vibrant engagement between South African and continental scholars;
- mobilise South African researchers;
- respond to pressing social situations;
- promote the social and human sciences and highlight how they make South Africa a better place;
- Acknowledge the lives and work of the late Professors Joseph Ki-Zerbo and Archie Mafeje in recognition of the quality of their scholarship, the trans-disciplinary discourses in which they engaged, the ways in which they influenced our collective imaginations, their commitment to social transformation, and their immense and lasting contributions to human and social science in Africa.



We therefore wish to take this opportunity to welcome all of you. We hope that this symposium will enable the social and human sciences to be given the stature they deserve by our governments in solving all the development challenges they are experiencing.

With warm regards,

Conference organisers