

MEDIA ADVISORY

Renowned Economist, Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs to headline the 2025 Unisa Founders' Lecture

Approved for Public Release

Date: Thursday, 13 November 2025

Renowned Economist, **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs** will headline the 2025 Unisa Founders' Lecture, to be hosted by the university's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Puleng LenkaBula** at the institution's main campus in Pretoria on Thursday, 20 November 2025.

Professor Sachs is a world-renowned economist and global leader in sustainable development. He serves as the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). He has been a Special Advisor to successive United Nations Secretaries-General on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is also a long-standing member of the World Economic Forum's network of global experts. He is widely recognised for his work on poverty alleviation, climate change and international economic cooperation.

He will deliver the lecture under the theme *"Solidarity, Social Justice and Reclaiming Futures: The Roles of Universities in Contested Geopolitics."*

Accomplished academic, social justice crusader and Commissioner of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), **Professor Tshepo Madlingozi** will be amongst the speakers at the event, providing context and input to the theme and the lecture delivered by Professor Sachs.

Since its inception in 2004, the Founders' Lecture has grown to become one of Unisa's premier intellectual events. Over the years, eminent scholars and leaders from across the continent and the world have graced this platform, firmly establishing it as a flagship event for intellectual and scientific engagement in Africa and beyond.

"As Unisa, we are elated that Professor Sachs has agreed to join us at this year's Founders' Lecture and share his wealth of knowledge and perspective on the chosen theme. It was our wish for him to address the university community on the occasion of our 150th anniversary two years ago, but he could not join us due to a busy schedule. We are truly fortunate that we will finally have the opportunity to drink from his cup of wisdom and knowledge", said Professor Lenkabula.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the lecture. The details are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 20 November 2025

Time: 18:00 for 18:30

Dress Code: Business Formal



Venue: ZK Matthews Great Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa
Muckleneuk Campus, City of Tshwane

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