

MEDIA ADVISORY

Unisa and DIRCO to hold a high-level roundtable on International Law, Diplomacy and Multilateralism for Peace amid Iran–Middle East conflict

For Public Release

Date: Wednesday, 01 April 2026

The University of South Africa (Unisa), in partnership with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), will host a high-level roundtable discussion on the theme: ***International Law, Diplomacy and Multilateralism for Peace in the Context of War: Iran and the Middle East***. The event will take place at the Senate Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria, on Wednesday, 08 April 2026.

The University is convening this roundtable to foster dialogue on international law, diplomacy, and multilateralism in the context of ongoing conflict. The discussion will bring together diplomats, academics, civil society representatives, humanitarian experts, and students to engage on these critical geopolitical developments.

The global peace and security order is facing significant challenges, with serious ramifications for the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), namely Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Development. As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, it faces not only severe financial constraints but is also reportedly under increasing strain, according to the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

There is growing concern that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is increasingly unable to provide solutions consistent with the spirit of the UN Charter and the principles of international law. These developments call for urgent and critical engagement to better understand their implications, particularly for South Africa.

Recent escalations involving Israel, the United States of America, and Iran have further intensified tensions in the Middle East. These developments highlight the need to assess their broader impact on global peace and security, as well as on multilateral cooperation.

In response, Prof Puleng LenkaBula, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa, in collaboration with DIRCO, is convening this roundtable to deliberate on these developments and explore possible pathways towards peace.

Details of the roundtable are as follows:

Date : Wednesday, 08 April 2026

Time : 09:00 – 12:00

Venue : Senate Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, UNISA Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria

–Ends–



For RSVPs and interview requests please contact Senior Media Officers: Media Relations Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/ humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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