

## **MINDS Leadership Roundtable Discussion 2025**

### **Current Geopolitical Events: What next for Africa?**

#### ***The perspectives of future Pan-African leaders - MINDS Scholars***

#### **Context**

In his second term, President Trump has made his mantra “Making America Great Again-MAGA”. On the face of it, this aspiration cannot be faulted. President Trump was elected by Americans so he could make their lives better. The choices involved in improving the welfare of a country’s population can often appear as insensitive to another country’s population. For as long as the world is structured along the lines of different Nation States, this ‘contestation’ framework or architecture is inevitable. The way this contestation is presented can either be soft or blunt, but the actual substance is pretty well the same.

It can be argued that the blunt version is better than the soft version because in the blunt version, there is no risk of misunderstanding where you stand. Conversely, one could argue that the soft version is simply meant to deceive so that the adversaries do not really comprehend the contest, and so do not put much effort into the contest, and as a result, the other side wins through devious means.

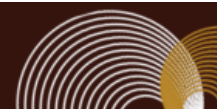
Many Africans think that the continent has been a recipient of a lot of aid since the dawn of independence. Yet studies on capital flows show that there is net capital outflows from Africa to the Western or Developed world, e.g. Former President Thabo Mbeki’s AU high-level panel on illicit financial flows.

In the wake of President Trump’s re-election, USAID’s activities have been abruptly halted. This as we know includes USAID’s interventions in the African health sector. At the same time President Trump has revealed that a lot, if not all of USAID’s humanitarian activities were just cover ups for more nefarious interventions in the affairs of other countries, mostly to do with CIA regime change covert operations.

#### **Objective**

The questions we seek to explore are:-

1. Are the current geopolitical events good or bad for Africa?
2. What does Africa need to do to turn the current events to advantage?



Two senior members of MINDS, with extensive knowledge and experience on the subject matter, will guide the scholars in a dynamic and interactive conversation. The roundtable will be structured to foster open dialogue and the exchange of diverse perspectives.

1. Dr Nkosana Moyo is the founder and CEO of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies. He has held key positions within the public and private sectors on aspects of political and economic development. Among his several titles and duties, Dr Moyo encourages young people to take up leadership positions within the continent for positive change.
2. Adebayo Olukoshi is a seasoned expert with over 35 years of experience in international relations, governance, and human rights, encompassing both academia and intergovernmental institutions. His extensive work on issues affecting the continent's development and his profound knowledge of the continent's position in relation to the Western world make him an excellent choice for this crucial discussion.

- **Proposed Date**

Thursday 17 April 2025

- **Time**

11 am SAST (1hr 30 minutes)

- **Venue**

Zoom

