STIMULATING DIALOGUE, INSIGHT AND ACTION TO SHAPE A 4IR RESPONSE FOR SOUTH AFRICA

www.4irsa.org
There is sometimes debate whether the term 4IR is a particular partisan perspective or passing phase and that one could equally locate the process around different models, for example Japan’s “Society 5.0”, or perhaps “Digitalisation”, another common term used to describe the process of dramatic change to the nature and conduct of business and its impact in the market and society. Most contributors, however, would concur that the term 4IR has significant currency at the moment and that it is an established concept which provides for a departure point of shared understanding and meaning. The 4IRSA Partnership has therefore decided to use the term 4IR as the initial descriptor of our departure point.

4IRSA’s approach is:

- Human-centered (not tech-centered)
- Inclusive and diverse
- Fact-based
- Strives for progressive coherence and convergence
- Open
- Supported
- Facilitated and curated
- Structured
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The 4IRSA Partnership was founded in June 2018 in response to a public call to action by the CEO of the Telkom Group, Mr Sipho Maseko, who was then challenged by the President to take the process forward.

The vice-chancellors of the universities of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and Fort Hare responded to the call and with Telkom, formed the initial 4IRSA partnership.

Subsequently, the South African Government, represented through the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), has become an integral part of the partnership.

Deloitte has come on board as a partner and discussions are ongoing with several other industry players to become involved.

Dear Sirs,

Last year, I met with each of you to discuss the fourth industrial revolution. This week we were informed that our economy shrunk more than 2% in the first quarter of 2018, the worst decline in almost a decade. This should jolt us into action. One way of doing this is to release spectrum to unlock value and set the country on a trajectory to participate in the fourth industrial revolution.

Like the rest of the world, South Africa is changing before our very eyes. New devices, solutions and apps are introduced almost daily. This requires new skills and businesses, and impacts on how we interact with friends and family. This trend is irreversible.

The digital economy brings unparalleled efficiencies to the agriculture, manufacturing, retail and mining sectors globally. It demands investment in high-value skills, matching technology, abundant and advanced ICT infrastructure. The digital economy is now a major contributor to the gross domestic products of advanced economies.

The question is: what should South Africa do to participate in this economy and avoid the long-term adverse effect of exclusion?

We must urgently discuss the digital economy so that we develop and distribute available resources to unlock benefit for all South Africans. Resources like spectrum, which is a high impact, finite and scarce national resource, are at the heart of unlocking value across all sectors in the digital economy. We need to use it and other resources at our disposal, to ensure that we enable long-term economic growth.

Let's have a national conversation for the benefit of South Africa.

Kind Regards

Sipho Maseko

Group CEO
Our Commitments

4IRSA is committed to helping to shape a **coherent, national response** to 4IR in South Africa. This has to be a coherent response so that the manifold and diverse elements of the response, executed by diverse role-players, are mutually supportive, complementary and non-duplicative. Coherence requires that it therefore has to be a national response, failing which the response will be incomplete, and given the interconnectedness of impacts of 4IR, unlikely to achieve positive sustainable outcomes. And finally it needs to be a response, not merely a plan. The plan needs to be put into action, with progress and outcomes measured against the plan, with the emphasis on action, not just ideation.

Cabinet Statement
Dated 15 February 2019

The global move towards technology inspired by the 4IR brings with it new opportunities to build our society and economy. To remain at the forefront of new technological trends, the country will host the Digital Economy Summit in 2019.

The Summit is convened under the banner of 4IR South Africa (4IRSA), a partnership between the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Telkom, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Johannesburg and the University of Fort Hare.

The 4IRSA aims to address the challenges facing South Africa in the Digital Age so as to find a coherent and collective response for the country.
Our Governance Structure

A steering committee comprising of the vice-chancellors of the universities and senior representatives of each of the six partners meets regularly to shape the agenda and framework. It provides direction to an operational committee which includes members drawn from the partner institutions and from external entities where specialist skills are required. A Secretariat has been established to give effect to the 4IRSA strategy and objectives and consideration is being given to the institutionalisation, capacitation and organisational structure of the Secretariat.

Our Purpose

4IRSA serves to stimulate and facilitate an inclusive dialogue to shape a coherent national response to the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) in South Africa. It aims to complement and support other national activities relating to 4IR, most notably the Presidential Commission on the 4IR.

4IRSA recognises that there are several 4IR-related processes and dialogues underway in the public and private sectors, academia, labour and society at large. However, these are in the main, fragmented, eclectic and divergent, with a high level of unawareness between these entities and processes. 4IRSA aims to provide a common platform to connect these entities and processes through shared conversations, thereby facilitating progressive coherence towards complementarity on a 4IR strategy for South Africa.
The 4IR will impact on every part of the economy and society and it is therefore essential for all constituencies to be part of the dialogue that will formulate South Africa’s collective response.

Our Partners

4IR will impact on every part of the economy and society, and it is therefore vital for all constituencies to be part of the dialogue in formulating South Africa’s response. Specifically, 4IRSA has sought, and continues to seek, active participation from:

- government (a broad cross section of departments and institutions),
- industry (key players and representative associations and professional bodies),
- small businesses and entrepreneurs,
- labour,
- academia,
- civil society,
- relevant international entities like the World Economic Forum and the International Labour Organization, and
- the media.
Our Difference

4IRSA recognises that many of the debates relating to 4IR are not sufficiently fact-based, frequently anecdotal and often emotional. The 4IRSA Partnership, underpinned by the participation of the universities, aspires to provide a strong research foundation based on facts, rooted in the South African context, around which the complex discourses of a response to the 4IR can develop.

Why 4IR?

There is sometimes debate whether the term 4IR is a particular partisan perspective or passing phase and that one could equally locate the process around different models, for example Japan’s “Society 5.0”, or perhaps “Digitalisation”, another common term used to describe the process of dramatic change to the nature and conduct of business and its impact in the market and society. Most contributors, however, would concur that the term 4IR has significant currency at the moment and that it is an established concept which provides for a departure point of shared understanding and meaning. The 4IRSA Partnership has therefore decided to use the term 4IR as the initial descriptor of our departure point.
Our Themes

In order to facilitate a coherent dialogue, 4IRSA has adopted a thematic framework comprising of the following elements:

**Competitiveness, Concentration and Inequality**

One of the key objectives of a response to the 4IR is to ensure that South Africa enhances its competitiveness in the global digital economy. This entails dissolving apparent contradictions, in simultaneously creating South African “superstar firms”, ensuring intense domestic competition and creating opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), especially those from previously excluded parts of our economy.

Furthermore, evidence suggests that digitalisation is also associated with increased concentration, which consequently also threatens to manifest in increased inequality. The dialogue and our response therefore needs to pursue simultaneous goals of enhancing South Africa’s national and industrial competitiveness, in a fair and inclusive manner which also addresses the high levels of inequality already present in our society. It is imperative that the opportunities inherent in the 4IR are fully grasped by government, industry and other social actors, but also that it ultimately benefits broader society.

**Employment and the Future of Work**

A particular opportunity and challenge associated with technological disruption, is the impact on the nature of work, changing skills requirements and changing employment patterns and models. Our response to the 4IR needs to be based on a better understanding of the potential (positive and negative) impacts of automation in South Africa, to frame relevant skills development and migration strategies, a focus on job-creating segments, and inform mechanisms to mitigate possible negative employment impacts.

**Society, State and Citizen**

The 4IR, with the blurring of the so-called cyber-physical boundaries, has the potential to radically reshape the way society, state and citizen interact. This applies equally to the businesses within that society and their employees (their “business citizens”). Early signals of increased polarisation, alienation and digital anti-social behaviour can already be seen globally and moral and political questions relating to the emergence of so-called social-scoring need to be explored. New frontiers in ethics, legal frameworks and regulation are already being exposed. It is vital that the South African response acknowledges these shifts and proactively positions South Africa “ahead of the game”, rather than being reactive and lethargic.
The 4IR holds the promise of enabling emerging economies to “leapfrog” hurdles to accelerated development. It is critical that this promise is realised through identifying credible high impact opportunities for South Africa and developing ambitious but realistic responses to these proposals.

These include export growth opportunities; identifying and participating in emerging future global growth segments; developing platforms to include SMEs in national and global value chains; transforming healthcare; transforming education; and increasing domestic contribution to 4IR markets and ecosystems, while reducing dependency on global digital-economy participants.

Critical success factors will need to be delivered. These need to be identified, prioritised, quantified and planned, and the attainment thereof needs to be monitored and assured. These would include:

- Getting “the basics right” including policy and regulatory certainty, capable regulation; great macro-factors like savings rates and inflation, policy execution effectiveness and delivery; sector level (non-digital) productivity growth; sector level competitive intensity; and SMB participation share,

- Critical infrastructure development including digital, financial, physical, innovation and knowledge infrastructures,

- Skills: what skills are required in the next two decades, how they should be taught, the role of online education, how do we deliver the correct primary, secondary and tertiary education and skills development outcomes,

- Learning from other emerging countries.
Our Roadmap
The Summits are the Milestones in the 4IRSA Journey

Get Started
- Form the partnership
- Establish the secretariat
- Formulate framework
- Start research agenda
- Government involvement

Broaden Participation
- Sector workshops:
  - Government
  - ICT
  - Financial and business services ecosystem
  - Commodities, manufacturing and heavy infrastructure ecosystem
  - Food, agriculture and retail related ecosystem
- Industry key players and associations, relevant government departments, labour, academia, civil society, global organisations
- Workshops and individual engagement
- Research and position papers
- Establish discussion platform

Digital Economy Summit
- Share sector workshop outputs
- Build alignment
- Elevate profile
- Agree on critical focus and further discussion areas
- Agree on framework for further work and roadmap to future summit
Elaboration

- Develop strategy and policy responses
- Enhance research base
- Continue to broaden inputs
- Start converging positions
- Formulate draft declarations

Summit of Declarations

- Consolidate workstreams into a coherent national response
- Commit to declarations
- Agree on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Agree on future pathways

Towards Execution

- Execution, facilitation and measurement
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Ongoing research
- Ongoing dialogues
Our Sector Workshops

In the lead up to the Digital Economy Summit, several sectoral workshops were held to:

- expose different collective 4IR-related activities within the sector,
- share the 4IRSA partnership framework, process and aspirations,
- explore sectoral disruption narratives to develop shared insight into modes of disruption and possible industry impacts,
- initiate dialogue and to obtain first level inputs across the five themes, with specific reference to sector-specific issues, and
- discuss follow-up strategies and the roadmap to the Digital Economy Summit.

Participation in these workshops included leading establishments and experts from the public and private sectors, academia, labour and civil society. It also included promising newcomers and disruptors, regulators, industry associations and 4IRSA representatives.

These workshops covered sectors which collectively generate more than 70% of the total output of the South African economy, 96% of exports, and more than two-thirds of total employment. 4IRSA recognises that other critical sectors still need to be engaged, for example representatives in the education, healthcare, safety and security sectors and the media.

Public Sector

A public sector workshop was held on 16 November 2018 to surface different initiatives in various government departments and state institutions and to explore the feasibility, desirability and mechanisms for aligning these processes.

Participants included senior representatives from the:

- Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services,
- Department of Science and Technology,
- Department of Trade and Industry,
- Department of Public Service and Administration,
- South African Reserve Bank,
- Human Sciences Research Council,
- Innovation Hub,
- World Economic Forum, and the
- 4IRSA Partnership.
The workshop concluded with high levels of engagement and willingness to share processes more widely and to seek better coherence between the various 4IR initiatives across the public sector.

**ICT Sector**

An ICT sector workshop was held on 24 January 2019 and included key representatives from:

- fixed and wireless telecommunications companies;
- IT system integrators and service providers;
- industry associations;
- original equipment manufacturers;
- global digital companies;
- Over The Top service providers;
- local entrepreneurs;
- regulators and the
- Department of Communications, Telecommunications and Postal Services.

**Agriculture, Foodstuffs and Related Retail Services**

An agriculture, foodstuffs and related retail services workshop was held on 19 March 2019 and included leading public and private representatives from the following sectors:

- agriculture,
- food and beverage,
- manufacturing and distribution
- water, and
- wholesale and retail services.

**Heavy Industry, Mining, Infrastructure and Manufacturing**

A workshop that included representatives from the Heavy Industry, Mining, Infrastructure and Manufacturing sectors was held on 26 March 2019. It welcomed delegates from the following sectors:

- mining, minerals beneficiation and processing,
- energy,
- bulk transport,
- manufacturing and distribution,
- wholesale and retail trade,
- research and development, and
- engineering and technical activities.

**Financial and Business Services**

The Financial and Business Services Workshop was held on 2 April 2019 and included delegates from the following sectors:

- banking,
- insurance,
- real estate,
- legal,
- accounting and professional services,
- general business services, and
- wholesale and intermediation services.
EACH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HAS MULTIPLE UNITS AND PROGRAMMES THAT INTERFACE WITH 4IR, MANY OF WHICH ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES.
Various government departments and agencies were invited to provide an account of their work relating to their readiness and planning for 4IR.

Each government department has multiple units and programmes that interface with 4IR, many of which are in the planning stages.

Government departments have strong collaborations with global partners on 4IR, such as the World Economic Forum, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Labour Organization.

There is a need for collaboration within and across government departments, to ensure lack of duplication of efforts, the strengthening of local and international partnerships and the development of a central suite of policies that speaks to 4IR.

Many of the interactions duplicate efforts in government. For example, the Department of Trade and Industry is establishing a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services is developing partnerships with the ITU to institute South Africa’s Digital Transformation Centre whilst the Department of Science and Technology has entrenched 4IR in the new draft white paper on science and technology.
**Report: ICT Sector Workshop**

**REDACTED FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSIONS BY THEMATIC AREA**

**Competitiveness, Concentration, Fairness and Equality**

- South Africa should develop policies that incentivise organisations to explore emerging technologies and encourage them to be localised. Our economy should encourage the development of new digitally enabled services, which should be recognised as new sub-sectors – for example, e-waste management, chatbots and robotics.

- South Africa should encourage the development of “superstar firms” to attract new advanced digital talent from across Africa and position the country as the African hub for digitally savvy ICT talent. The existence of Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and Google in the country is a good start.

- The country is in need of clear and flexible, proactive policies that will accelerate the development of a conducive environment to enable South Africa to grow the skills needed for 4IR in adequate measure.

- Government should strive for adaptive regulations that encourage investment in progressive ICT infrastructure like 5G, IoT, fibre, data centres and data sciences.

- Industry should look at diversifying markets in the face of competition, by building “superstar firms”, embracing disruptive technology to tackle competition, and to position South Africa as the silicon valley of the continent and a global 4IR player.

**Employment and the Future of Work**

- The ICT sector must be ready to attract and embrace new talent and ideas, expose communities to the technology and the problems that they can solve with it, and also rethink how they recruit, retain and upskill talent.

- Learning institutes must change their teaching methods by leveraging what is already in existence and gamify teaching methods to align with the global 4IR.

- Internships and scholarships should be reviewed through addressing the employability problem, understanding the critical enablers in the workplace and reviewing the next wave of skills required for 4IR.

- A change in the country’s policies is urgently needed, taking into account that people can learn and work virtually, in non-traditional workplaces.

- Organisations are implored to empower employees with new, relevant skills to address 4IR both in South Africa and beyond.

- Education systems must introduce new digital learning elements in schools and universities to support the digital transition into the workplace.
Society, State and Citizen

- Government, industry and in particular the business and ICT sectors, including entrepreneurs must work collectively to harmonise various infrastructures. The state should democratise services by building a centralised, standardised platform of services in various departments such as health, education and home affairs that are accessible by all citizens, in order to bridge the gap of information poverty.

- There is a need to improve policy-making procedures to speed up the adoption of technology and to accelerate standardisation and innovation, whilst ensuring that these are accessible to all.

- All citizens must be empowered to embrace 4IR and to reduce the burden on the state to secure critical services.

Learning Institutes must change their teaching methods by leveraging what is already in existence and gamify teaching methods to align with the global 4IR.
South Africa’s quality of food is globally competitive as the country has the right climate, arable soil and natural conditions for growth. For example, South Africa is one of three countries that are black-spot free. South Africa’s standards bodies are mature and help the country maintain a high quality of produce.

- The country’s positioning gives us better access to global markets than other African countries.
- Opportunities lie in “farming 365” whereby 4IR can help farmers to operate farms around the world from within our borders and vice-versa.
- It must be recognised that 4IR has helped South Africa to amplify its strengths in agriculture and related sectors. For example, artificial intelligence can be used to improve the predictability of decisions; machine learning and augmented reality can be used to improve the training of farmers and workers; Blockchain technology can be used to improve traceability and trust in South African food; and drone and satellite technologies, coupled with the Internet of Things can be used to enhance environmental sustainability.

A shift in the education and continuous upskilling of workers in this industry will result in more independent workers who are better equipped at performing their roles. This could also result in workers specialising in certain areas and being able to work on multiple farms where this specialty skill is needed.
• There needs to be a shift in the relationship between workers, workers’ unions, and executive management in companies and organisations, and better collaboration between these social actors in order to work towards a shared set of values and common goals pertaining to 4IR.

• Adequate and meaningful collaboration between large industry players and smaller entrepreneurs is essential to build an inclusive community.

Society, State and Citizen

• Initiatives that ensure that no one is left behind should be developed, which includes empowering agricultural communities with digital literacy skills.

• The empowerment of citizens through secure, reliable and interoperable digital identities is essential as well as lowering the cost of data.

• Businesses should work for people through developing e-portals that generate transparency in the value chain, whilst ensuring data privacy laws.

• There is a need to use reliable data to inform food regulatory policies and standards in order to ensure that regulation stays apace with advancements in food and agriculture technology.

OPPORTUNITIES LIE IN “FARMING 365” WHEREBY 4IR CAN HELP FARMERS TO OPERATE FARMS AROUND THE WORLD FROM WITHIN OUR BORDERS AND VICE-VERSA.
• South Africa’s 4IR levers for competitiveness include increasing utilisation of the Internet of Things, machine learning, automation, and digital trade to drive productivity, improve strategic decision-making and build industries that support product and service provision of these key technologies to mining and manufacturing sectors.

• This requires a conscious effort towards developing an innovative and entrepreneurial approach, technical and ICT skills, as well secure, safe, affordable energy. This is ultimately unpinned by the will of political leaders to drive 4IR through collaboration and a coherent supportive policy framework.

Employment and the Future of Work

• Some of the expected labour shifts include the increased requirements for artisanal and technically abled people, as well as specialist capabilities, both linked to increased production and the utilisation of new technologies.

• ICT skills development should be more broad-based and inclusive, requiring workforce ecosystem structures to move quickly, so that no person is left behind.

• The automation of manual work is expected to result in a potential reduction in repetitive and heavily manual tasks. A focus is required on supplementary job creation in other parts of the value chain.
exist. The transition of people from the jobs of today to the jobs of tomorrow must be deliberately enabled by targeted skills development, with appropriate safety nets for those who cannot be transitioned to new roles.

**Society, State and Citizen**

- These sectors seek to embrace the shared goal for developing a sustainable and trusting society that leaves no person behind. There is a need to enhance community exposure to 4IR, to provide access to opportunities, and to work towards developing technologies that enhance socio-economic development.

- Whilst the role of higher education is essential in moving South Africa forward in terms of 4IR, there is a need to develop technology-based skills development across the education spectrum. The use of technology should fast track connecting people who want work, with opportunities that exist, and not to limit these opportunities to the formal construct of full time jobs.

**SOME OF THE EXPECTED LABOUR SHIFTS INCLUDE THE INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTISANAL AND TECHNICALLY ABLED PEOPLE, AS WELL AS SPECIALIST CAPABILITIES, BOTH LINKED TO INCREASED PRODUCTION AND THE UTILISATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.**
South African financial institutions are early adopters of digital technology and regulators in the country are open to 4IR initiatives.

The current oligopoly of banks can be displaced with smaller fintech players. Digital services are helping to simplify the “Know Your Customer” process and are defining new payment trails. They are also helping to improve the benefits of peer to peer lending.

There is an opportunity for South Africa to differentiate its financial offering using digital services. It can appeal to different market segments with African-specific constraints like the need for access to credit. This could serve as a competitive advantage that would establish South Africa as an African hub for digital financial services.

The roles of many people in financial services roles are in decline like back office roles, first line credit managers and knowledge workers and there is a need to change employee and employer approaches to better understand the implications of 4IR.
There is also a need to develop skills and to retrain affected workers. At the same time, this presents an opportunity to rethink how financial services are offered in the country by tapping into new models for financial advisory services.

State, Society and Citizen

- There are three main principles that should be adopted: “Leave no person behind”, “Make business work for people” and “Build new rules for a new game”.

- One of the most prevalent reasons for people being excluded from financial systems is the stringency of FICA requirements and in particular the need for proof of a physical address. 4IR provides opportunities to leverage available technology like Blockchain or geotagging to resolve this problem.

- The current financial system needs to embrace the principle of “Segment of 1”, providing mass customisation to better meet the needs of customers, tailored to their individuals needs and preferences, using a rule-based system to help customers make informed choices.

- South Africa is fertile ground for innovative solutions in the sector. However, there is a need to adapt and to help scale and commercialise these opportunities in order to ensure that business and service practices talk to the unique South African cultural norms like Ubuntu.

SOUTH AFRICAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE EARLY ADOPTERS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORS IN THE COUNTRY ARE OPEN TO 4IR INITIATIVES.
Emerging Questions in the lead up to the Digital Economy Summit

Overarching Questions

- What can South Africa learn from the superstar firms built to date? How can the country enable pockets of excellence to thrive and leverage 4IR? How can South Africa connect into value chains and evolving ecosystems?

- What special incentives and structures can South Africa create to drive the adoption of 4IR and new technologies? How will suitable zones be selected?

- How can South Africa leverage on the work undertaken by other research entities like the Human Sciences Research Council’s “Skills Plan” or the CSIR’s “Future of Work” reports in concert with industry-specific demands to transition workforces for 4IR?

- How can legislation reform be driven to respond to the future of work, with the changing nature of workplaces, contracting and work?

ICT

- How is South Africa positioned to compete against global counterparts in the gig economy? How far should the country go to protect and/or cultivate the gig economy? How can South Africa position its successes regionally and globally?

- How can 4IR technologies help to accelerate public consultation processes and improve the adoption of 4IR initiatives?

- Which services create the greatest tension for citizens? How can 4IR change the way in which they are delivered?

- Which are the critical areas of infrastructure to standardise? Where is there a need to build bridges and to connect citizens to the state and society through 4IR?

Agriculture, Foodstuffs and Related Retail Services

- How does South Africa build knowledge systems to leverage the institutional knowledge, for example, from climate change, of South Africa’s farming and distribution community, to better enable the country to respond to changes effected by 4IR?

- What are the local consumption behaviour trends for the future to better inform production strategies that can be supported locally in a sustainable manner?

- What are some of the strategies or enablers to identify opportunities to improve food retail supply chains to reduce the cost of logistics and wastage?
Heavy Materials, Mining, Infrastructure and Manufacturing

- What are the opportunities to promote plant modernisation and exploration in manufacturing and mining respectively?
- How does South Africa ensure a sustainable demand for one of its key resources like pure gold mining?
- How does South Africa ensure growth of the automotive sector and build smart cities amidst a potential, disruptive change towards electric and autonomous vehicles?
- How is South Africa able to attract investment in new manufacturing facilities and digital trade platforms that embrace more connected interaction models between consumers and manufacturers?

Finance and Business

- What are some of the important characteristics of the Fintech sandbox we would like to create to help grow new businesses?
- What data exists to support better use of AI in the sector and how should they be governed?
- How do we gain a deeper understanding of the trust people place in financial products/solutions and how can this be fostered to encourage more responsible financial behaviour to be supported by alternative solutions?
Towards the Summit of Principles and the Summit of Declarations

The Summit of Principles, now titled, the Digital Economy Summit, is scheduled to take place on 27 and 28 June 2019. This Summit will include representatives from all the key sectors highlighted above and relevant social actors in the 4IR space.

The objectives of the Summit of Principles are to:

- build alignment, participation and momentum for the 4IRSA process,
- share sector workshop outputs,
- agree on key areas for further research and deliberation, and
- agree on a framework for further action and the roadmap towards the Summit of Declarations.

The finalisation of the agenda for the Digital Economy Summit is underway.

Summit of Declarations

A second summit, currently termed the Summit of Declarations, will be held about one year after the first Digital Economy Summit. The objectives of the Summit of Declarations are to:

- consolidate all work stream reports into a comprehensive national response to 4IR,
- ensure that all relevant stakeholders and social actors are represented and that they commit to a short-, medium-, and long-term response to 4IR in the form of a declaration for their respective sector,
- agree on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the 4IR process, and
- pursue further areas of dialogue and research.

It is anticipated that the 4IRSA process will extend beyond the Summit of Declarations but the nature of the ongoing work will need to be shaped by the process up to that point.

Digital Economy Summit

South Africa’s Digital Economy Summit, endorsed by the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa, will take place on 27 and 28 June 2019. Details: www.4irs.org
“SOUTH AFRICA HAS CHOSEN TO BE A COUNTRY OF THE FUTURE AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS CHANGING AT A PACE AND IN A MANNER THAT IS UNPRECEDENTED IN HUMAN HISTORY. REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY WEREreshaping the way people work and live.

UNLESS WE ADAPT, UNLESS WE UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE PROFOUND CHANGE THAT IS RESHAPING OUR WORLD, AND UNLESS WE READILY EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES IT PRESENTS, THE PROMISE OF OUR NATION’S BIRTH WILL FOREVER REMAIN UNFULFILLED.”

President of the Republic of South Africa
The Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa