

2023 IAPSS Africa Chair Platform Statement

S Solomon

8.7832° S, 34.5085° E represents the geographic coordinates of one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse, picturesque, and awe-worthy continents- Africa. Home to 54 sovereign countries and 1,432,121,935 people- this magnificent continent boasts with over 3000 tribal (ethnic) groups, 2000 different languages and dialects, and a wide array of natural resources. Its' history remains incomparable and its' people truly resilient and kind. I am most fortunate and proud to be one of its descendants located in the beautiful Rainbow Nation, South Africa.

Allow me to introduce myself...I am Sanet (née Madonsela) Solomon. I am a doctoral student in the Centre for Gender and Africa studies at the University of the Free State (Bloemfontein) and a Lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences at the University of South Africa (Pretoria), South Africa. I currently serve as the Deputy Regional Chair of IAPSS Africa. Nationally, I serve on the Council of the South African Association of Political Studies. I am an internationally published author, double cum laude graduate, and member of the International Golden Key Honour Society. I have previously served as the IAPSS Africa Projects and Events Coordinator and the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the IAPSS scientific blog *A Different View*. I would like to request to serve one more mandate as IAPSS Africa Regional Chair.

As Regional Chairperson of IAPSS Africa, I would like to achieve the following:

- Maintain the networks that we have established and continue representing all our African countries.
- Continue building partnerships and collaborating with other national associations.
- Increase our visibility on the continent and create new platforms for interaction.
- Create a Guide- aligned with the IAPSS by-laws, that provides future teams with all the information they need to navigate their term in Office.
- Provide strategic vision to the African Team
- Increase the number of activities that we have and
- Recruit new members to the Association.

I believe that my experience and expertise make me eminently suitable for this position. The work that I have done in the region thus far has laid the foundation for what I would like to do going forward. To conclude, I would like to continue contributing towards the welcoming community that IAPSS provides. I would like to continue providing leaders with a platform to share their ideas and engage in pressing issues affecting their countries, region, and the world. I believe that IAPSS and IAPSS Africa provide environments that foster academic growth and professional development. I would be privileged to be part of these leaders' journeys.