

Dr Mlungisi Cele
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Cele, who has a PhD in Higher Education Studies from the University of the Western Cape and an MPhil in Science and Technology Studies from Stellenbosch University, has many years of experience in science, technology and innovation (STI) and policy development.

He made substantial contributions to the development of the 2023 New Strategic Management Model for STI and the STI Decadal Plan, the South African Foresight Exercise for STI 2030 and the 2020 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the South African System of Innovation. He also played an important role in reviews of the 2002 National Research and Development Strategy, the Ten-Year Innovation Plan (2008-2018) and the 1996 White Paper on Science and Technology.

He represents South Africa at various multilateral STI forums, such as meetings of the G20 Science Advisors, the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy, and STI-related BRICS conferences.

Dr Cele served as a member of the Ministerial High-Level Panel on Higher Education, Science and Innovation, and is a member of the Council and Senate of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Before joining the National Advisory Council on Innovation, he worked at the Department of Science and Innovation (formerly Science and Technology) and as a researcher at both the University of Durban-Westville (now part of the University of KwaZulu-Natal) and the University of the Western Cape.