Biography: Ilse Karg

Ilse Karg has been serving the government for more than 35 years, mainly in National Treasury and public finance. Ms Karg was responsible for programme and project financing, national budgets, legal work, institutional reviews, governance and compliance, as well as government policy reviews and evaluations in the areas of trade, industry, innovation, state-owned enterprises, science, technology, education, environmental affairs and tourism.

Her economics qualification and her experience have prepared her for establishing a new 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) chief directorate in the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. She has been appointed to ministerial task teams, steering committees, boards and councils, such as the Ministerial Task Team on 4IR for Post-School Education and Training and the Intsimbi Future Production Technologies board, among others. She has participated in international forums such as the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Advisory Group (4IR) and the World Economic Forum's Advanced Manufacturing and Value Chains.

Ms Karg's current work is focused on developing the South African digital manufacturing policy and strategy. Her work also involves building industrial capacity and skills for the industrial internet; identifying and enabling technological change and capabilities, knowledge diffusion and data governance; and promoting innovation and knowledge intensification in the South African manufacturing sector.