



IMPLEMENTING STATE CAPTURE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

CONFERENCE

A follow-up conference on the Zondo Commission
and steps taken to address state capture

25-26 October 2023

“Implementing the State Capture Commission Recommendations”

Follow-up Conference on the Zondo Commission and Steps Taken to Address State Capture,
25 and 26 October 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture (Zondo Commission) concluded its work just over a year ago, with Chief Justice Raymond Zondo handing the final report of the Commission to the President on 22 June 2022. The work of the Commission provides strong evidence of state capture, and detailed insight into how state capture was organised, facilitated and effected. The Commission’s Report contains several recommendations about how to hold the perpetrators of state capture accountable as well as broader recommendations on how to reform state institutions to prevent the recurrence of state capture in future.

Shortly thereafter, in September 2022, PARI and CASAC hosted a two-day conference to review and assess the Commission’s findings and recommendations. Entitled, “Understanding the findings and recommendations of the Zondo Commission”, the conference was attended primarily by civil society representatives and included scholars, civil servants, and journalists, and generated lively debate and some strong recommendations to support the fight against state capture.

PARI and CASAC are now planning a follow-up conference on the Zondo Commission – to take place in October 2023. Participants will again include civil society – including the Civil Society Working Group on State Capture – as well as scholars, state reformers, and journalists. The aim of the conference is to keep the Commission’s work alive in the public imagination, to review how reforms or interventions might be progressing, to discuss how civil society might support these initiatives, and to discuss strategies for holding the Executive, Parliament, and private sector actors accountable to the commitments they have made to tackle corruption and state capture.

In October 2022 the President submitted his response to the Zondo Commission to Parliament, and in November 2022, the National Assembly adopted an implementation plan to respond to the State Capture Report. We thus aim to shift the discussion from focusing solely on the Zondo Commission’s recommendations, to a substantial examination of the Executive, Parliament, and the corporate sector’s responses to the Commission’s findings.

The conference will cover a number of themes, including:

- Strengthening institutions of governance and oversight, including Parliament.
- South Africa’s anti-corruption architecture: ensuring this is independent and fit-for-purpose.
- Supporting and encouraging whistle-blowing.
- Professionalising the civil service, including appointment reform.
- SOE governance reform: working for development not private interests.
- Public procurement transparency and integrity.

- Tackling corporate corruption.

Last year's conference was structured around a series of panel discussions; this year the conference format will shift to a 'workshop' style engagement in which there is more time provided for discussion amongst participants. A keynote speaker will kickstart discussion on a topic, followed by well-facilitated group discussions. The conference will be hosted in a hybrid format – with space for in-person and online participation.

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