Alison Gillwald is the Executive Director of *Research ICT Africa*, a Cape Town based think-tank which hosts an 18 African-country ICT policy and regulatory research network. She has been responsible for raising funds and directing this multi-million rand project for over a decade with the purpose of developing the data and analysis necessary for evidence-based ICT policy and effective regulation in Africa.

She also holds an adjunct professorship at the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Development, Policy and Practice where she supervises PhD candidates focusing on ICT policy and regulation.

Prior to this Dr Gillwald was Associate Professor at the Witwatersrand University Graduate School of Public and Development Management, where she founded the *Learning Information Networking and Knowledge (LINK) Centre* in 1999 with the purposes of fast tracking ICT policy and regulatory training in Southern Africa.

Before joining Wits she was appointed to serve on the founding Council of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) by President Nelson Mandela, on the advice of Parliament. The body was responsible for the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which introduced a dedicated sector regulator in South Africa and opened up the mobile telecommunications market. Before that she established the Policy Department in the first independent broadcasting regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority where she was responsible for coordinating the Triple Inquiry into the viability of public broadcasting, local content and cross media ownership.

The was preceded by her appointed to the Advisory Board of the Independent Media Commission, which was responsible for ensuring equitable coverage of political parties by the media in the first democratic elections. In 2000 she was appointed to the African Communication Ministers' Advisory Group headed by the then South African Minister of Communications and in 2002 she was appointed by the Minister to chair the South African Digital Broadcasting Advisory Body. In 2004 she was appointed to the board of the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and was reappointed to serve in 2008 and served until 2009, when the board was disbanded.

She has provided technical assistance, been commissioned and consulted for the South African regulator, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Competition Commission, the South African Presidency, the Department of Finance (Treasury) on regulated prices in infrastructure industries. She has collaborated with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on the preparation of the South African position for World Trade Organisation meetings. She was central to the strategy for the ICT sector for the next 15 years in the National Develop Plan on the basis of the Diagnostic Report and to the Ministry of Communications' National Broadband Policy and Plan: *SA Connect*.

Dr Gillwald served on the founding Task Force on Gender Issues of the International Telecommunications Union and was commissioned by the ITU to contribute to an international study on broadband. She also developed and delivered training programmes for telecommunications regulators for the ITU together with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

She has conducted research on improving the participation of developing countries in international fora for the UK Department of International Development and for the South African Department of Trade and Industry for World Trade Organisation (WTO) telecommunications negotiations. Over the last decade she has presented papers at international meetings in these organisations and at the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO). She also led several international projects for infoDev, World Bank and the African Development Bank.

She has served as scientific advisor to UNDESA for the Pan African Parliament meeting on the Role of Parliamentarians in the Development of an Equitable Information Society, in Kigali, Rwanda and prepared a Handbook for Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Communications. She was the technical advisor to the ITU on the Harmonisation of ICT Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa (HIPSSA) for the SADC region. She assisted the Mauritian Government with the review of their national e-strategy and renewal of their broadband strategy, i-Mauritius in 2010.

Alison is published in the areas of telecommunications and broadcasting policy and regulation, gender and politics more broadly. Most recently the South African chapter she wrote together with Nico Cloete in *Reconceptualising Development in the Global Information Age* edited by Manuel Castells and Pikka Hinamen was published by OUP. She contributes to the major ICT encyclopedias and is published in Telecommunications Policy and Information Technology and International Development (ITID) and was the founding editor of the *African Journal of Information and Communication*, a Department of Education accredited journal, which she edited for a decade. She sits on the review panels of several international journals and major conferences, including TPRC and ICTD. She is guest editor of the *Info* Africa special issue 2010, 2012, and 2013.

In 2013 she was appointed to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) President's Strategy Panel on Multistakeholder Innovation. She serves on the Western Cape Broadband Task, the board of the Digital Foundation and the Western Cape Education council

Dr. Gillwald has a doctorate from the University of Witwatersrand on a decade of telecommunication reform and a Masters degree in Politics from the University of Natal. She also has a post-graduate certificate in Economics and Public Finance from UNISA.

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