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Alison Gillwald is the Executive Director of *Research ICT Africa*, an 18 African-country ICT policy and regulatory research network which is based in Cape Town. She has been responsible for raising funds and directing this multi-million rand project with the purpose of developing the data and analysis necessary for evidence-based ICT policy and effective regulation in Africa. The programme, now in its ninth year, covers countries in North, South, East and West Africa.

She is also Adjunct Professor at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business Management of Infrastructure Reform and Regulation (MIR) programme, where she convenes a professional development programme for regulators, customized training, such as for Parliamentarians, and supervises doctoral students in the area of ICT policy and regulation.

Prior to this 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. From the initial start up of the programme with an executive professional certificate, the Centre is now responsible for a full Masters in ICT Policy and Regulation at the Graduate School of Public & Development Management at Witwatersrand University and has trained hundreds of policy makers, regulators and operators across the continent.

Before joining Wits she was appointed by President Mandela on the recommendation of Parliament to serve on the founding Council of the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA). 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 was responsible for establishing the Policy Department in the first independent broadcasting regulator, the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Her time there was spent primarily on coordinating and writing the report of the Triple Inquiry into the viability of public broadcasting, local content and cross media ownership.

In 1994 she was 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 2005 she was appointed by the President through a public nomination process overseen by Parliament to the board of the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and was reappointed to serve in 2008 and served until 2009.

She has provided technical assistance to the South African converged regulator, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) on local content and under-serviced area telecommunications licensing. She has also provided technical assistance to the Competition Commission on anti-competitive practice disputes and on mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications sector. She was responsible for the 10-year review of economic regulation of the telecommunications sector commissioned by the Presidency and has conducted research for 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. On the request of the National Planning Commission she has proposed a strategy for the ICT sector for the next 15 years.

Gillwald was nominated to and 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 an international team to conduct a gap analysis of ICT policy and regulatory capacity, training and technical expertise in the African Pacific and Caribbean (APC) for infoDev. 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. The Mauritian Government recently engaged her through the African Development Bank, to conduct the review of their national e-strategy and propose a renewal strategy for Mauritius for the next three years and in 2010 commissioned her to prepare a Handbook for Parliamentarians responsible for ICTs.,

She was the founding editor of the *Southern African Journal of Information and Communication*, a Department of Education accredited journal, until 2009 and is published in the areas of telecommunications and broadcasting policy and regulation, gender and politics more broadly.

Gillwald has a Masters degree in Politics from the University of Natal, which examined democratic media policy for South Africa and a doctorate from the University of Witwatersrand on a decade of telecommunication reform. She also has a post-graduate certificate in Economics and Public Finance from the University of South Africa.