IRC Conf 2026 Speaker Bio's

Leigh Roberts - IRC of SA

Leigh is the CEO of the Integrated Reporting Committee (IRC) of South Africa and the Chair of its technical Working Group. She has been deeply involved in the development and practice of integrated reporting in South Africa and internationally since its emergence in 2010. She worked on the development of the Integrated Reporting Framework (International <IR> Framework) released in 2013 and updated in 2021. She has authored three books and contributed to numerous publications on integrated reporting, corporate governance and sustainable value creation. She has adjudicated integrated reporting awards locally and internationally. Leigh is a CA(SA).

Prof Mervyn King - IRC of SA

Mervyn King is the Chair of the Integrated Reporting Committee (IRC) of South Africa, Chair emeritus of the King Committee on Corporate Governance in South Africa and Chair emeritus of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). He is Professor Extraordinaire at the University of South Africa on Corporate Citizenship, Honorary Professor at the Universities of Pretoria and Cape Town and a Visiting Professor at Rhodes, and a Professor of Corporate Governance and Sustainability at Wits University. His previous positions include Chair emeritus of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), a member of the Private Sector Advisory Group to the World Bank on Corporate Governance, Chair of the United Nations Committee on Governance and Oversight, and President of the Advertising Standards Authority. Mervyn is a Senior Counsel and former Judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa. He has received many awards, including the ICGN and Finance for the Future Lifetime Achievement Award for promoting quality corporate governance globally, and in 2025 Wits University honoured him by establishing the Mervyn King Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability. He is the author of many books on governance, sustainability and reporting, the latest being "The Healthy Company: The power of integrated thinking".

Prof Suresh Kana - IRC of SA

Suresh is an experienced corporate governance and reporting leader with extensive South African and international experience. He is currently Lead Independent Director of Valterra Platinum Limited and Nutun Limited, Deputy Chair of the Integrated Reporting Committee of South Africa, and a Trustee of the Constitutional Court Trust. He is a former Chair of the King Committee on Corporate Governance, former Trustee of the IFRS Foundation, and former Lead Independent Director of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Earlier in his career, he served as CEO of PwC Africa, Chair of SAICA, Deputy Chair of IRBA, and held senior international roles with IFAC and the United Nations World Food Programme.

Karin Ireton - Non-executive director

Karin a non-executive director who has served on the boards of listed international and national companies, NGOs and state-owned entities. She recently retired off the Exxaro Resources Board, where she also served on the Social and Ethics Committee and the Risk and Business Resilience Committees. She currently serves on the FSCA's Social and Ethics Committee and Camco Clean Energy's Investment and Sustainable Business Committees. She is an international specialist in sustainability strategy, issues management and reporting, with executive experience in multi-national blue-chip companies. She has a passion for developing a deeper understanding in business leaders and emerging talent of the interconnectedness of economic, ethical, environmentally and socially sustainable business. Karin is a member of the IRC Working Group.

Tina Playne - Trialogue

Tina brings over 30 years of business experience across multiple sectors in blue chip and multi-national organisations. She has over 20 years of consulting experience across the continent and globally. She spent ten years at Absa Group where she was a managing executive in non-banking financial services, Customer Value Management, Business Banking, Private Banking, Wealth Management and Enterprise Development. She leads the Trialogue Sustainability advisory and reporting team. Tina is a member of the IRC Working Group.

Alfred Visagie - Nedbank Group

Alfred is Executive Head: Investor Relations at Nedbank Group, with more than 20 years' experience in financial services. He began his financial-markets career in 1998 as an investment analyst at ABN AMRO and joined Nedbank in 2000. He later established the Group's strategy function, contributing to its turnaround, corporate strategy, business planning and cultural transformation before moving into investor relations. Under his leadership, Nedbank has earned more than 40 reporting awards and placed among the top two in the EY Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards for nine consecutive years, securing the overall title seven times. Alfred is a qualified mechanical engineer, holds an MCom in Business Management, and has completed executive programmes at INSEAD, Stanford University, the University of Cambridge and Wharton. He represented South Africa in athletics at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Lesley Baerveldt - Redefine Properties

Lesley is the head of corporate finance and investor relations. She joined Redefine Properties in 2010, was promoted to head of finance in 2015 and became head of corporate finance and investor relations in 2019. She plays a pivotal role in identifying and pursuing value-add opportunities to enhance the sustainable financial performance of the company. Lesley serves as a member of the Redefine Executive and Management Committees. Among many others, her core responsibilities include the production and coordination of interim and year-end financial statements, integrated reports and other reports for the company and its subsidiaries, ensuring strict compliance with IFRS and Johannesburg Stock Exchange requirements. Since launching her career as an Audit manager at Grant Thornton Johannesburg in 2007, Lesley has honed her senior leadership skills through leading the supervision of financial managers within the company and property management finance areas.

Ntobeko Nyawo - Redefine Properties

Ntobeko is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Redefine. He is a Chartered Accountant with over 15 years' of business experience spanning across the financial services industry and was previously Stanlib's COO. In his capacity as Redefine's CFO, Ntobeko is responsible for sourcing capital and overseeing the finance and technology functions across the company. A seasoned executive who is leading the transformation of the group's funding platform and is part of the executive committee that supports the CEO in driving the execution of the strategy.

JP Davids - Vodacom Group

JP is Managing Executive: Group Insights and Investor Relations at Vodacom Group. In addition to leading investor relations and engagement with global capital markets, he oversees Vodacom's Group Insights function, including data governance, analytics and performance reporting. Prior to joining Vodacom in 2020, JP spent more than a decade in equity research across the telecommunications, media and technology sectors, holding senior positions at J.P. Morgan and Barclays. JP is a Chartered Accountant (SA), a CFA Charterholder and holds a BCom (Honours) degree from the University of Cape Town.

Lelanie Hohls - GreymatterFinch

Lelanie is a CA(SA) and a technical expert on the Integrated Reporting Framework. She participated in the IIRC's International <IR> Framework pilot programme from 2011 to 2014, served on the IIRC's Specialist Panel from 2018 to 2020, and was a member of SAICA's Integrated Thinking Project Group in 2015. She has been a member of the IRC Working Group since 2014 and is part of the layering of sustainability reporting workstream of the National Adoption Roadmap Working Group on Sustainability Reporting. Having led an award-winning reporting team and facilitated reporting discussions in South Africa, the Netherlands, Moscow and Mumbai, she joined GreymatterFinch as a Reporting Strategist in 2014. Since then, she has worked with local and international companies to develop fit-for-purpose reporting strategies and systematically enhance their interim and annual reporting disclosures.

David Goldsworthy - Standard Bank Group

David is Climate Risk Head at Standard Bank Group and a member of the Group Sustainability Team. He leads the developments of the Group's approach to climate risk and supports its broader transition response, connecting climate strategy, risk management, portfolio insight and business action across its banking, asset management and insurance businesses. David brings extensive Standard Bank experience spanning credit risk, portfolio oversight, risk appetite, governance and executive reporting.

Ntebalang Molewa - Exxaro Resources

Ntebaleng is Group Manager: Reporting & Strategy at Exxaro Resources, with over 15 years of experience in sustainability, environmental management and regulatory compliance. She leads the Group's integrated reporting and ESG disclosure processes, with responsibilities spanning BBBEE compliance, sustainability performance reporting, reporting assurance and strategic alignment. Her career across the mining, energy and cement sectors has provided her with a broad understanding of sustainability management and its integration into business strategy, governance and corporate reporting. She holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Environmental Science from the University of the Witwatersrand and is currently pursuing an MBA at Henley Business School. Ntebaleng is passionate about advancing transparent, credible and decision-useful corporate reporting that connects sustainability performance with business strategy and stakeholder expectations.

Sanjeev Raghubir - Shoprite Holdings

Sanjeev is the Chief Sustainability Officer of the Shoprite Group, Africa's largest retailer, where he leads the integration of sustainability across the business. He is responsible for driving the Group's sustainability strategy, advancing climate action, renewable energy, resource efficiency, responsible sourcing, circular economy initiatives, and social impact programmes. With extensive experience in sustainability leadership, governance, stakeholder engagement and corporate reporting, he works across complex value chains to create long-term business resilience and shared value. He engages regularly with industry bodies, investors, regulators, suppliers and civil society organisations on sustainability challenges and opportunities. A strong advocate for practical, scalable solutions, he focuses on delivering measurable environmental, social and economic outcomes while supporting sustainable growth and innovation. Through collaboration and strategic partnerships, he champions responsible business practices, supports transparency and accountability, and helps position the Shoprite Group as a leader in sustainability across the continent. He holds degrees in chemical and environmental engineering and an MBA.

Laura Girella – External Consultant to the IFRS Foundation on Integrated Reporting

Laura is the external consultant on Integrated Reporting at the IFRS Foundation, where she oversees the maintenance and development of the technical resources and related market practice on integrated reporting. Before joining the IFRS Foundation, she was a staff member at the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF) working in the respective technical teams and as Region Lead for Italy. In addition to this, over the years, she has been collaborating with various regional and international jurisdictions such as EFRAG and the World Intangible Capital Initiative. She is also Associate Professor of Business Administration at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy).

Blaise Colyvas – W.consulting

Blaise is a Director at W.consulting and a corporate reporting advisor with more than 20 years of experience in financial reporting, sustainability reporting and technical accounting matters. His expertise spans IFRS Accounting Standards, the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard, IPSAS, GRAP and IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. He advises organisations across the public and private sectors, both locally and internationally, on technical accounting issues, complex transactions, reporting transformation and training. Blaise is actively involved in financial and sustainability reporting standard-setting and regulatory initiatives. He serves as Chair of SAICA's Accounting Practices Committee and is a member of SAICA's Sustainability Technical Committee, the IFRS Foundation's SME Implementation Group, the Financial Reporting Standards Council, and the JSE/SAICA Financial Reporting Investigations Panel. He previously served on the board of the Accounting Standards Board. His experience spans listed companies, government, regulators, professional bodies and international organisations.

Dr Katherina Bryan - GRI

Katharina joined the GRI as Director of Policy and Research on 1 April 2026, leading GRI's global policy strategy, high-level engagement with policymakers and regulators, impact research and thought leadership on sustainability reporting. She brings 20 years of experience across international organisations, governments and global business. As Head of International Sustainability Reporting Policy at Amazon, she built a global reporting policy function and advised on IFRS/ISSB, CSRD, CSDDD, transition plans and nature policy. She previously spent 13 years at the European Court of Auditors with various responsibilities. As Head of Cabinet to the Swedish Member, she advised her on all board matters, supervised high-visibility audits on sustainable finance and focused on nascent public sector sustainability reporting. She founded Resilience, advising on sustainability strategy, public financial management and reporting. Katharina holds a doctorate in economic and social sciences. She is based in Luxembourg.

Roberta Carvalho Mendes - Vale

Roberta is an environmental engineer with 15 years of experience in Corporate Sustainability. She currently serves as Sustainability Disclosure Manager at Vale, leading initiatives such as sustainability data collection, Vale's Annual Report, ESG Portal (website), and the response to ESG assessments and questionnaires from different stakeholders (clients, banks, ESG ratings agencies). Passionate about sustainability transparency, she believes that high-quality information is essential for responsible decision-making.

Samson Kanai - Safaricom

Samson is a sustainability and ESG leader with over 16 years of progressive experience across financial services, telecommunications and ICT, food and agriculture across Africa and the Middle East. Currently, he's the Sustainability and Partnerships Lead at Safaricom and has previously held leadership roles at Equity Bank Group and Corteva Agriscience where he directed sustainability and ESG strategies, operationalization of green finance strategy, environmental and social due diligence and climate risk compliance oversight for complex investment portfolios. He brings deep expertise in climate finance, environmental, social and climate risk management, climate and nature strategies, and sustainability disclosures. He holds a Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi, and professional certifications from the IFRS Foundation, Harvard Business School Online, the Centre for Sustainability and Excellence (London) and the University of Cambridge.

Lynelle Bagwandeen - Naspers and Prosus

Lynelle is the Naspers and Prosus Group Company Secretary & Head of Global Company Secretariat. She joined the global technology group in August 2020. Prior to this appointment, she served as Group Company Secretary and General Counsel of Netcare Limited and was on its executive committee since 2012. She is also the information officer for Naspers Limited. She previously worked in banking and finance, holding governance and legal advisory roles at Absa and Standard Bank. She is a qualified and admitted attorney and holds an FCG, LLM, LLB (summa cum laude) and BSc from the University of Natal and University of Witwatersrand respectively. Her non-executive roles include acting as a director of the Hospital Association of South Africa and is the Past President of the Chartered Governance Institute of Southern Africa, of which she is also a fellow.

Charmane Russell - R&A Strategic Communications

Charmane has extensive experience developed over two decades in advising clients and producing sustainability and integrated reports. Working primarily in the resources sector for companies listed all over the world, Charmane has supported the development of numerous reports aimed at meeting the needs of stakeholders, while at the same time ensuring alignment with reporting standards. Over the past few years this scope has increased to include materiality assessments, including double materiality. R&A is an SME corporate member of the Integrated Reporting Committee of South Africa, a member of the IFRS Sustainability Consultant Program, and a long-time supporter of GRI. Prior to founding R&A, Charmane was a Senior Divisional Manager at AngloGold Limited and Head: Group Corporate Communications at Anglo American. Charmane is a member of the IRC Working Group.

John Turner - XBRL International

John leads XBRL International, the not-for-profit standards development organisation behind XBRL, the business reporting data exchange standard. He works with regulators, governments and the private sector around the world to help the shift from a paper-based to a data-centric reporting paradigm. He has been involved in the XBRL standard, in a number of different capacities, since 1999. Since 2017 he has been focused on the role that mandatory digital statutory disclosure will play in the sustainability sphere. Prior to taking on his current role, at the end of 2013, he had served as the CEO of CoreFiling, an XBRL software firm, before that, led the global XBRL activities of KPMG LLP, and prior to that, worked as a prudential regulator, running off-site surveillance and leading the revamp of data collection systems at APRA in Australia. Based in Oxford in the United Kingdom he holds degrees in Law and Arts from the University of Queensland, with majors in computer science and government.