



Media Release

Global Alcohol Policy Conference [#GAPC2023] welcomes Dr Norman D. Maldonado as a keynote speaker

10 May 2023

Cape Town: The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) and its co-sponsors are pleased to announce that Dr Norman D. Maldonado will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming 7th global alcohol policy bi-annual conference which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24 – 26 October 2023.

Dr Norman D. Maldonado, a health economist, will speak on *“Taxes in Latin America and Policy Processes and Advocacy in Colombia”* as a keynote speaker at the conference.



Dr Maldonado is the director of PROESA - Research Center on Health Economics and Social Protection in Cali, Columbia. The center carries out high-quality research and generates relevant evidence for the orientation of public policies in social protection and health economics, both nationally and internationally.

Dr Maldonado worked in academia, as a consultant and advisor in Columbia (Ministry of Health, the Pan American Health Organisation, Department of National Planning) and in the United States for the World Bank (Washington DC).

Dr Maldonado's research focuses on the connection between health, poverty and sustainable development. He works mainly on (i) the role of socioeconomic conditions in exposition to health risk factors, (ii) health systems, provision of healthcare and health insurance, and (iii) evaluation of health interventions for policy design and implementation.

He also specialises in Health Systems and Health Economics, Tobacco Economics and Monitoring and Evaluation research.

The 7th bi-annual conference is co-hosted by GAPA, the SAMRC, and SAAPA. It is also-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), South Africa's Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Department of Health (DOH), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the DG Murray Trust and SA National Convention Bureau (SA Tourism). The conference theme is *“Investing in People before Profits: building momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control”*.

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For more information contact: Mr Julian A. Jacobs on 061 917 9661 (#GAPC2023: Media Liaison)

***Conference website:** <https://gapc2023.samrc.ac.za/index.html>

Note to News desks:

GAPC Co-hosts

1. Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) [Co-Host]

It is a network of non-governmental organisations and people working in public health agencies and researchers in academic and other institutions who share information on alcohol issues and advocate evidence-based alcohol policies, free from commercial interests. Regional and national alliances affiliated with GAPA operate in Africa (Southern Africa, East Africa, and West Africa), the European Union, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, the USA, and Western Pacific regions. The bi-annual GAPA conference is the leading forum for the world's alcohol policy makers, advocates, researchers, civil society activists and practitioners. - <https://globalgapa.org/>

2. SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) [Co-Host]

The SAMRC was established in 1969 with a mandate to improve the health of the country's population, through research, development, and technology transfer, so that people can enjoy a better quality of life. The scope of the organisation's research projects includes tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases, gender and health, and alcohol and other drug abuse. <https://www.samrc.ac.za/>

3. Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) [Co-Host]

SAAPA was established in 2012 as a platform for civil society organisations in the Southern African region to share resources and experiences in the lobby for evidence-based alcohol policy that promotes the well-being of citizens. <https://saapa.africa/>

GAPC Sponsors:

1. Department of Social Development [Co-Sponsor]

Management and oversight over social security, encompassing social assistance and social insurance policies that aim to prevent and alleviate poverty in the event of life cycle risks such as loss of income due to unemployment, disability, old age, or death occurring. Developmental social welfare services that provide support to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and the impact of HIV and AIDS through sustainable development programmes in partnership with implementing agents such as State-funded institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs). - <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php>

2. National Research Foundation [Co-Sponsor]

The NRF is an independent statutory body established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No 23 of 1998), following a system-wide review conducted for the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST). The NRF promotes South African research and innovation interests across the country and internationally, and together with research institutions, businesses, industry, and international partners, we build bridges between research communities for mutual benefit that contributes to National Development. - <https://www.nrf.ac.za/about-us/>

3. SA National Convention Bureau (SANCB) [Co-Sponsor]

The SANCB is a ‘one-stop solution’ for independent information and assistance, giving neutral advice on hosting and organising any business event in South Africa. - <https://www.southafrica.net/za/en/>

4. DG Murray Trust [Co-Sponsor]

The DG Murray Trust (DGMT) is a public innovator that aims to develop South Africa’s potential through strategic investment. Together with other funders, NGOs, and government, DGMT studies and supports work being done in the critical areas of early childhood development (ECD), youth unemployment, school dropout and education quality, and innovation in the civil sector. As such, our team is well-placed to share critical insights or provide comments on a range of issues in these areas – or if we cannot, connect the press to people in our network who can. - <https://dgmt.co.za/>

5. The Department of Health (DOH) [Co-Sponsor]

The Department of Health's vision is for all South Africans to have a long and healthy life. Its mission relates to improving citizens' health status through the prevention of illnesses and the promotion of healthy lifestyles and to consistently improving the healthcare delivery system by focusing on access, equity, efficiency, quality, and sustainability. -

<https://www.health.gov.za/>

6. The World Health Organisations (WHO) [Co-Sponsor]

The World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to achieve better health for all. By connecting countries, people and partners, we strive to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance at a safe and healthy life. - <https://www.who.int/>

