With just over 100 days before the World Social Sciences Forum opens its doors to delegates in Durban, South Africa, the local organising team are picking up the pace, and preparing for three days of challenging, stimulating and decisive discussions. The Forum, with its overarching theme “Transforming global relations for a just world” is hosted by the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), together with a consortium of universities and research centres from across the African continent. The Forum has the formal patronage of UNESCO—a status granted to demonstrate UNESCO’s moral endorsement of an exceptional activity.

With approximately 1600 delegates expected at WSSF2015, the exhibition hall is sure to be a hive of activity. Click on the link at wssf2015.org to find out more about exhibiting.

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION
Our special fees for early registration are only valid until this Sunday, May 31, so don’t delay! Click here to register.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
We are pleased to be able to announce that Stephen Lewis, Co-Director, AIDS-Free World, Canadian philanthropist, diplomat and politician, whose advocacy in the field of HIV/AIDS has garnered international acclaim, has accepted an invitation to be a keynote speaker. He will be joined by other notable speakers such as Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO; Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General and Coordinator for Economic and Social Development of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; Marcelo Neri, former Minister for Strategic Affairs, Brazil; and Achille Mbembe, Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand’s Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER). You can expect to meet a diverse and inspiring group of people at WSSF2015. We have received over 500 abstracts from authors representing 56 countries. The programme committee has nearly completed the exacting task of selecting the abstracts which will be included in the programme. Keep watching our website at www.wssf2015.org for programme updates.

VISITING DURBAN
Durban has been chosen as the venue for WSSF2015. This sub-tropical city "is pumping all the time..., it is a true African city. It has an African history, it has an African soul and it has a very African reality," according to a great National Geographic video which you can view here. We have chosen a great range of accommodation which you can choose according to your budget. Go to www.wssf2015.org or choose your accommodation here. You will not need to take precautions against malaria if you are only going to be in Durban or any of South Africa’s other major cities. If you are planning to extend your stay and travel beyond Durban, you might want to take some health precautions. You can find out the most up-to-date health information here.

WWW.WSSF2015.ORG