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BIOBETTERS AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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Biobetters, regulatory frameworks and the 'Right to Health' in Africa

While 'biobetters' are meant to be an innovation in provision of affordable drugs to all those people engrossed in debilitating poverty, the challenge arises on how to navigate the complex regulatory frameworks, which fundamentally hamper access to the life-giving affordable medicines. This keynote address grapples with ways of navigating regulatory frameworks in Africa so as to make 'biobetters' easily available to the masses of people who are unhealthy but cannot afford the expensive life-giving medicines available in the market. The entry point of this keynote address is the 'Right to Health' and how this has remained an aspiration for the poor people of Africa. It proceeds to documents how the existing regulatory frameworks limits rather than enhance access to 'biobetters' in Africa. It ends with explorations of ways of democratizing the regulatory frameworks in such a way that they enable the realization of the 'Right to Health' in Africa—A continent where human life is still being lost due to curable diseases.

Biography

Mandla Stanley Makhanya was appointed Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa on 1 January 2011 and is a prominent proponent of higher education leadership and advocacy. Prof Makhanya is President of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE) and is also treasurer of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE). Professor Makhanya is also the President of the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (HETL) – International Body.

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