



Dr Dorsamy (Gansen) Pillay is the former Deputy Chief Executive Officer responsible for leading the Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) division of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. His career spanning more than three and a half decades includes various academic, management and full professoriate positions at the former University of Durban-Westville (UD-W), the Durban University of Technology and UKZN in South Africa. His academic and research leadership roles include portfolios at institutional, regional, national, and international levels. He has spent time as Visiting Research Professor at Cornell University, USA; the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia; Goethe Universitat, Germany; and the Scottish Crops Research Institute in Invergowrie, Scotland. He obtained a post-M.Sc. qualification in Biophysics at the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot, Israel, and a PhD degree in Microbiology from UD-W. Dr Pillay completed the *International Executive Development Programme* through WITS University, South Africa; the London School of Business; the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore; and the *“Senior Executive Leadership Programme”* through Harvard Business School (HBS), Harvard University, USA. Dr Pillay is a Harvard alumnus. At the national level he served on the Board of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), the Board of the Council on Higher Education (CHE), was a member of the Research and Innovation Strategy Group (RISG) of Universities South Africa (USAf) and was on the ExCo of COHORT. Previous memberships include the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Phytopathology Society (APS) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). Dr Pillay was a member of (i) the *Selection Committee for the Future Earth Engagement Committee*; (ii) the *International Steering Committee of the Global Research Council (GRC)*; and (iii) the *Council of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)* in Austria where he was the Vice Chair of Council for two terms. Recently, IIASA conferred the title of “IIASA Honorary Scholar” to Dr Pillay in

recognition of his contributions to Systems Thinking. Dr Pillay was a Founding Member of the GRC and served previously on its Governing Board.