

AFRICA DIALOGUE SERIES

# Russia–Africa Relations

Date: 2 April 2025 | Time: 12:00



Prof Hussein  
Solomon



Dr Sergey  
Kostelyanets



Dr Envarbik  
Fazelyanov



Dr Alexander  
Zhambikov

T: +27 51 401 3121 | E: [gaillelepb@ufs.ac.za](mailto:gaillelepb@ufs.ac.za) | [www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za)

*Inspiring excellence,  
transforming lives  
through quality,  
impact, and care.*



VISION **130**  
*Renew and Reimagine  
towards 2034*

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIBESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**Prof Hussein Solomon** is at the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Osaka School of International Public Policy of Japan, a Senior Research Associate at Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa (RIMA), an Extraordinary Professor at the School of Government at North-West University, a Visiting Professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Nelson Mandela University, a Visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University and a Research Fellow at the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University, and a Research Fellow at the Israel-Africa Relations Institute

**Dr Sergey Kostelyanets** is a Russian political scientist and Africanist, Leading Research Fellow and Head of the Centre for Social and Political Studies at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Associate Professor at the RUDN University, Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre of Anthropology of the HSE University (all – Moscow, Russia). Dr Kostelyanets graduated with MA in International Affairs, Conflict Resolution and German Language from the George Washington University (USA) and completed his PhD in Political Science at the Institute for African Studies. He worked previously at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the sections for human rights and for combating human trafficking at the offices in Vienna (Austria), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), and Yerevan (Armenia). His research interests include the study of armed conflicts and conflict resolution in Africa, particularly in North Africa and the Horn of Africa, terrorism, secessionist movements, involvement of foreign militaries on the continent, and relations between Russia, Turkey, GCC countries and Africa. Dr Kostelyanets has authored the book *Darfur: A History of the Conflict* (in Russian) and over 100 research papers in Russian and international academic journals and anthologies.

**Dr Envarbik Fazelyanov** is a Soviet and Russian diplomat, Doctor of Economics, Leading Research Fellow in the Department of Economic Studies at the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Until 1987, he worked as a researcher at the Institute for African Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In 1986–1987, he took part in the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) as an expert on Africa. In 1990, he published a book entitled *Egypt: The Human Factor and Development*. During the course of a 30-year diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Dr Fazelyanov served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Oman, Ambassador to Sudan, Consul-General of Russia in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), as well as held various diplomatic positions in the Middle East and North Africa countries, including Iraq, Kuwait and Sudan. Dr Fazelyanov focuses his research on sustainable development in the Middle East and Africa and on Russia's cooperation with these regions in the energy sector.

**Dr Alexander Zhambikov** is Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Russian–African Relations and African States' Foreign Policy at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He holds a BA and an MA from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Russian Federation and a PhD in History from the Institute for African Studies. In 2014–2022, Dr Zhambikov worked at the MFA, first as Attaché in the Department of African States, then at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Ghana, and then as Third Secretary and Head of the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. He holds the diplomatic rank of the 2nd Class Second Secretary. His research interests include Russia–Africa relations, activities of African international organizations, and regional integration in West Africa. Dr Zhambikov is fluent in English and French and also speaks Swahili.