

# Buntwani 2015: discussing innovation and good governance in SA

Nearly 100 delegates from across the globe are meeting in Johannesburg for Buntwani 2015 this week. Buntwani provides a platform for reflection, analysis and candid dialogue on the impact of technology-supported initiatives that are aimed at empowering citizens to voice their concerns and demands, as well as improve governments' responsiveness and accountability.



The theme of Buntwani 2015 is, "The next step in innovation for good governance: moving the dialogue forward from potential to impact".

South Africa is the ideal venue to host this discussion. As incoming Chair of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and host to both a thriving technology sector and outspoken civil society, it has the potential to shape good governance in Africa, a continent which still faces huge challenges of inequality, corruption and poor public services.

"We have an opportunity right now to use technology to achieve better governance. However, we have to better understand how and where technology can actually make a difference, or we risk seeing repetitive pilot schemes, wasting both time and money", states David Barnard, vice president: Africa at TechSoup Global.

TechSoup Global, the Open Institute and Making All Voices Count are hosting Buntwani from 25 to 26 August 2015, and will begin to publish discussions and recommendations next week. Already, online discussions through [#BuntwaniChat](#) are highlighting critical issues that have implications for governance practices far beyond just South Africa.

"Well designed tech4good governance encourages and supports citizen participation in policymaking and fosters inclusive societies", [Anne Musyoki](#)

"Despite the rhetoric, the sector has done an awful job of identifying what works and genuinely getting behind it", [Ken Banks](#)

"It's ok to look to tech once you know what the job to be done is - it's not ok to start with the tech before you really know", [Indra de Lanerolle](#)