

VASU GOUNDEN

Vasu Gounden is the founder and Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) in Durban, South Africa. He is a lawyer and a mediator, trainer and researcher in the field of conflict resolution. He studied at the University of Durban-Westville (UD-W) where he obtained his LL.B. He was President of the Students Representative Council (SRC) at UD-W during the State of Emergency in 1985/6. He practiced as a human rights and trade union lawyer. In 1989 he took up a Fulbright Scholarship to complete his LLM at Georgetown Law School in Washington D.C. In 1990 he served as a Senior Fellow at the National Institute for Dispute Resolution in Washington D.C. In 2000 he completed the Senior Executive Program of the Harvard and Wits Business Schools. He has served on several Government commissions and independent bodies and has been involved in mediation work both in South Africa and globally, providing mediation support to the facilitators of the Burundi Peace Process, which include former President Nelson Mandela, President Jacob Zuma, Minister Charles Ngcakula, and he served as an advisor on strategy to former President Masire on the Inter Congolese Dialogue Peace Process. In September 2005 he was the first member of an African NGO in the history of the United Nations to address the Security Council. His achievements have led the World Economic Forum to elect him as one of their Global Leaders for Tomorrow (GLT). The GLT network represents the new generation of global decision-makers from business, Government, politics and civil society who have demonstrated responsible leadership vis-à-vis society, environment and socially responsible business.



Link: [ACCORD staff profile](#)