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Cobus de Swardt is a South African sociologist whose work experience spans the fields of globalisation, development policy, international relations and multinational business management. His academic experience includes teaching at universities in South Africa, Australia, Japan and Germany. He has also worked for multinational corporations, trade-unions and research institutes in managerial and research-related capacities in various countries. During the 1980s and early 1990s he was active in the anti-Apartheid struggle in South Africa chairing the ANC in Cape Town.

From May 2004 to May 2007 Cobus de Swardt was Director for Global Programmes at Transparency International (TI). In June 2007 he was appointed Managing Director.