

IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

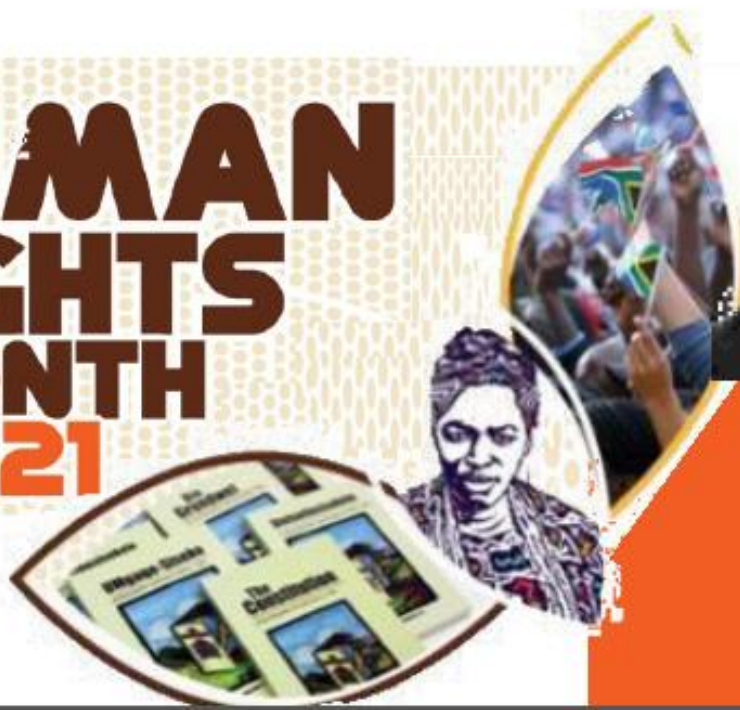
ubuntu diplomat

Issue 2, 31 March 2021

“The work is not for oneself. Kill the spirit of ‘self’ and do not live above your people, but with them. If you rise above them, take somebody with you.”

- *Charlotte Mannya Maxeke*

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke:
Promoting Human Rights in the
Age of COVID-19

CREDITS

Editor-in-Chief	Nthabiseng Makuwa
Managing Editor	Mathapelo Monaisa
Guest Editor	Magdeline Motswaledi
Copy Editor	Delien Burger
Graphic Designer	Reratilwe Aphane
Photographers	Jacoline Schoonees Yolande Snyman Katlhoho Maifadi Yandisa Monakali
Content coordination	Magdeline Motswaledi Mathapelo Monaisa
Publisher	The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

EDITOR'S

LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings, it is three months into the year and that brings us to the March edition of *It's Your Voice*. This month marks a year since President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the 21 days of national lockdown in an attempt to "flatten the curve" of COVID-19 infections. It is also important to note that in February, South Africa began its roll-out plan of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is targeted to reach two-thirds of the population.

The history of Human Rights Day is grounded in the Sharpeville Massacre that took place on 21 March 1960, when the apartheid police shot and killed 69 people during a peaceful protest. This year, Human Rights Month was dedicated to honour the "150th Year Celebration of Charlotte Makgomo Mannya-Maxeke" who fought for our liberation and the rights we enjoy today. The international community observes 21 March as the "The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination". The theme for this month was: "Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19".

March is also the month in which we commemorate International Women's Day. This year's theme was celebrated under the theme: "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World on the Way to the Generation Equality Forum".

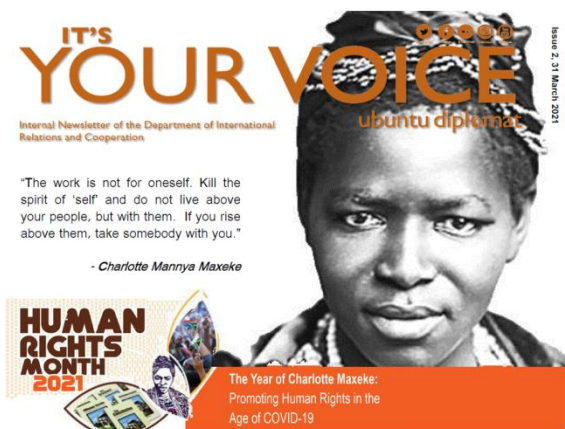
In addition, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini, led the "back-to-school" campaign at Mokhutjisa High School Mookgophong, Limpopo. The Deputy Minister encouraged the learners to stay focussed on their education as South Africa's success in global political and economic affairs is dependent on its ability to produce an educated and skilled workforce.

Turn a page as we highlight the launch of the South African National Action Plan. The event put a spotlight on re-imagining a peace agenda that puts women and girls at the centre of achieving an equal, inclusive, secure and peaceful future in the face of COVID-19 and an ever-changing global context.

May you enjoy all that we have to offer in this month's edition. I am grateful for the opportunity to be guest editor of this issue

Kind regards,

MM



This year Human Right Month was dedicated to the "150th Year Celebration of Charlotte Makgomo Mannya-Maxeke". Had she lived, Maxeke will have been turning 150 years in 2021.



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke:

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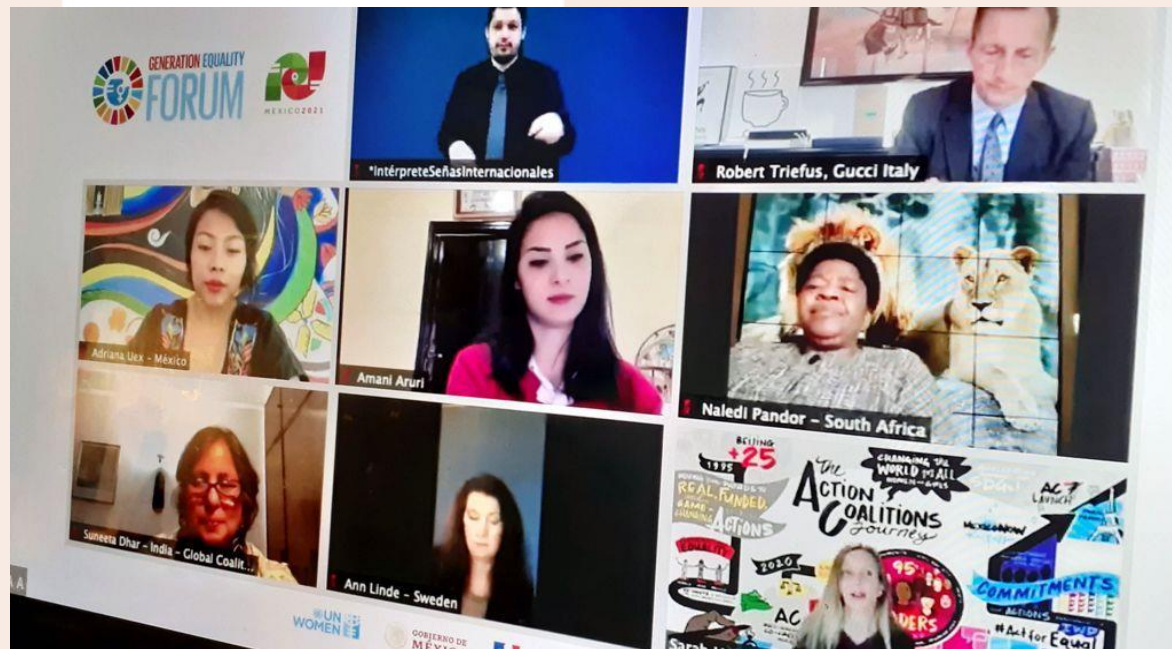
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The Virtual Meeting of Ministers on the Generation Equality Forum Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition Leadership



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini participated in the “Lightning Talks: The Work Ahead” at the third day of plenary of the Mexico City Forum of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) on 31 March 2021.

The GEF is a civil-society centred, multi-stakeholder global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France, in partnership with civil society and youth. It is a multi-generational advocacy campaign aimed at achieving permanent acceleration in equality, leadership and opportunity for women and girls. It builds from the commitments made at the landmark Beijing Platform for Action.

In 2019, South Africa was invited to be part of the Global Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee that was established to provide overall strategic advice on the conceptualisation and implementation of the GEF and its outcomes. The Steering Committee was initially established as an advisory body for the GEF’s Core Group ahead of the Mexico and France GEF segments.

The Steering Committee also supports outreach for strategic partnerships to the GEF and to the Action Coalitions (ACs). The Steering Committee ensures an intersectional and intergenerational approach to the overall work of the GEF. It is composed of civil society, UN member states (Mexico, France, Canada, Costa Rica, South Africa, Sweden and Tunisia), the private sector and the other stakeholders such as academia, and philanthropic and international organisations.

Through co-creation and diverse and inclusive consultations, the forum brought together feminist advocates from across the globe to foster action and renew movements for gender equality, as well as to launch a set of innovative and multi-stakeholder ACs. The ACs are mobilising governments, women’s, feminist and youth-led organisations, international organisations and the private sector to catalyse collective action; spark global and local conversations among generations; drive increased public and private investment; and deliver concrete, game-changing results across generations for girls and women.

During the event that was attended by representatives from the various member countries, in her remarks, Deputy Minister Candith

Mashego-Dlamini said that like Sweden, Like Sweden, it is an honour for South Africa to co-lead the Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition and collaborate with other enthusiastic and committed leaders who share our determination to push for an ambitious, bold and game-changing set of actions and commitments that will accelerate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as we move towards planet 50-50 in 2030.

“Globally, women continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty due to a number of factors that include, but are not limited to, entrenched traditions, unjust economic policies, conflict, climate change and the outbreak of health pandemics such as COVID-19. This pandemic, particularly, has brought into sharp focus the compound vulnerability effect that women face”. said Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini

The Deputy Minister added that women are at greater risk of either newly entering into poverty or descending further into poverty not only because of the health effects of the pandemic, but also because the economic impact of the pandemic affects women’s economic participation disproportionately.

South Africa’s participation in the EJR Action Coalition is driven by the urgent need to change negative social norms, discriminatory laws and harmful practices that have used gender to determine access to and ownership of productive resources.

“Our adolescent girls deserve all the skills, including 4IR, to prepare them for future work, free of harassment and violence. Through the Generation Equality Forum, we can now declare that education for girls, including sexual reproductive health and rights, should no longer be a subject of debate. It is a basic human right, an economic investment and a catalyst for sustainable developments.” she said.

The Deputy Minister stated that the world must must recognise women’s contribution as creators of wealth and innovators across all sectors of our economies. “This requires an overhaul of the global procurement culture in order to ensure that women-owned enterprises benefit from public and private procurement. Beyond the Mexico Forum, **South Africa will continue to call for a clear commitment of 30% preferential procurement earmarked for women-owned enterprises in the public sector.**”

We are fully behind the Global Acceleration Plans and call on all stakeholders to play their part. The time to turn commitments into concrete action is now. Civil society, leverage your advocacy power! Private sector, join forces with government and use your economic power to bridge the gender parity pay gap, take measures to promote effective representation of women, in particular in leadership positions, as well as supporting the financial inclusion of women and girls.

THE 6 ACTION COALITIONS of the Equality Generation Forum



Gender-based violence



Economic justice and rights



Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights



Feminist action for climate justice



Technology and innovation for Gender Equality



Feminist movements and leadership

Annual Consultations between the Republic of South Africa and Canada

– 25 March 2021



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) hosted the 13th South Africa-Canada Annual Consultations on 25 March 2021. Ambassador NN Losi, Acting Director-General of DIRCO and Deputy Minister Marta Morgan of Global Affairs Canada co-chaired a virtual meeting of the Annual Consultations.

The meeting recalled the historical relations and fraternal bonds between the two countries, which were forged during the struggle for liberation in South Africa, for example, the historic visit to Canada by former President Nelson Mandela in 1990 and his address to the Parliament of Canada, as well as Canada's valuable contribution to the establishment of a new Constitution in South Africa based on human rights, equality, democracy and respect for diversity.

The meeting further exchanged views about a variety of continental and international developments of mutual concern and underscored the need for the two countries to continue their close collaboration in advancing multilateralism and to support the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) in addressing regional and global challenges, including peace and security, climate change, human rights, and to promote shared and inclusive growth.

The two countries discussed peace and security matters, including South Africa's recent term on the UN Security Council (UNSC) as well as Canada and South Africa's current term on the UN Peacebuilding Commission. They also acknowledged their shared support for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and agreed to work with other member states on the roadmap to strengthen the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

South Africa shared information about the role of President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as AU Chairperson, in 2020, in steering the AU's continental response against COVID-19, as well as on South Africa's tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. President Ramaphosa continues to champion the continental fight against the pandemic on behalf of the AU.

The co-chairs acknowledged the immense suffering and economic devastation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the significant setback suffered by African and low-income countries. South Africa and Canada pledged to work together with other likeminded countries in ensuring fair and equitable access to vaccines by developing countries.

The two countries agreed to continue using platforms such as the G7 and G20 to advocate for increased support to spur global economic recovery

and build on the G20 Support to COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Developing Countries in Africa and LIC and Small Island States.

The meeting also noted the Summit on Financing for Development, organised by the UN Secretary-General and the prime ministers of Jamaica and Canada, held on 29 March 2021, and to which South Africa was also invited.

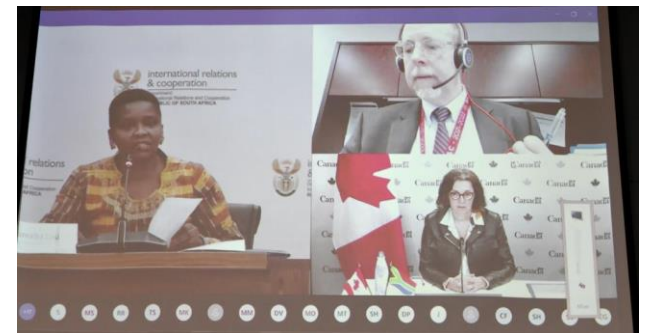
The meeting further took note of the ongoing cooperation in areas such as strengthening democratic governance in South Africa, mining and minerals, environment, green technologies, arts and culture, and agreed on new areas of cooperation, focussing on combatting violence against women and girls, ensuring women's economic and financial inclusion and support for women entrepreneurs. The meeting took note of the Second Joint Committee Meeting on Science, Technology & Innovation Policy (ST&I) Exchanges, which took place virtually in December 2020, where both parties shared presentations and knowledge on the respective economic post-pandemic recovery plans with a focus on the role of ST&I.

The meeting further noted progress in the finalisation of the Modernised Audio-Visual Co-Production Treaty, which has great potential for enhanced cooperation in the film industry. In the area of the environment, the parties looked forward to the finalisation of the implementation plan for the Memorandum of Understanding to enhance environmental cooperation and agreed on close consultation in preparation for the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26). Note was also taken of the potential for enhanced cooperation in the mining and mineral processing sector, including geoscience, joint exploration initiatives and the participation of junior and mid-tier miners.

The parties also took note of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the Fourth Industrial Revolution and agreed to strengthen cooperation in e-commerce and

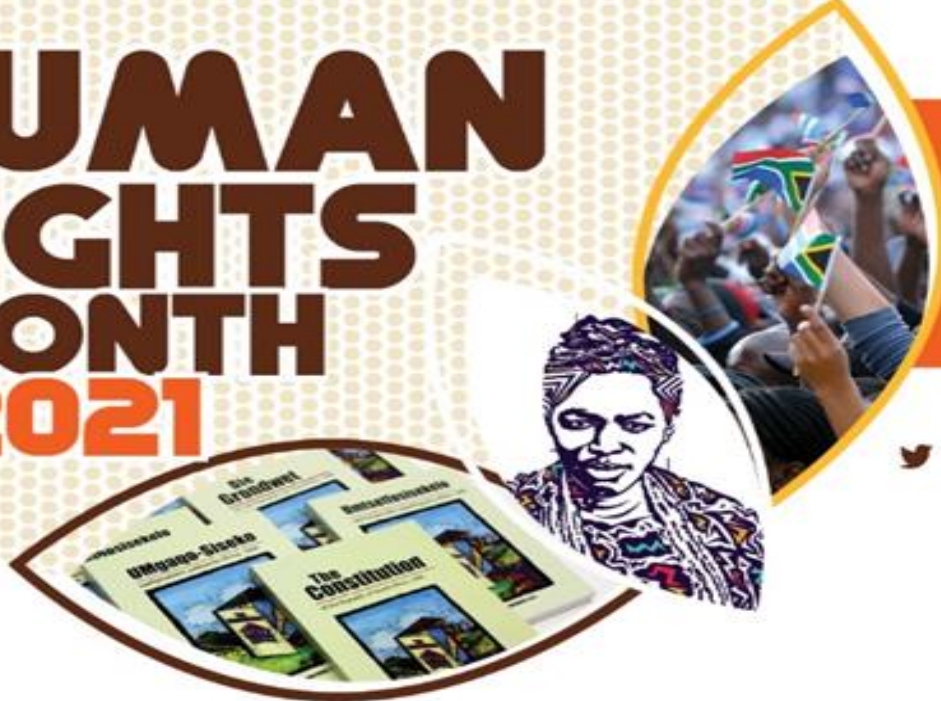
the digital economy. South Africa expressed interest in pursuing partnerships with Canada to strengthen capacity for vocational training and institutional partnerships to support the University Capacity Development Programme.

The co-chairs look forward to the next meeting of the Annual Consultations to be hosted by Canada.



1. From left to right: Amb Maud Dlomo, Deputy Director-General: Americas and Europe; Acting High Commissioner Chris Cooter; High Commission of Canada; and Amb. Nonceba Losi
2. Acting Director General: DIRCO, Amb Losi co-chairs the consultations
3. South African and Canadian officials participate in the meeting

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke:
Promoting Human Rights in the Age of
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The right to access healthcare services is a basic human right and Section 27 of the Constitution provides that everyone has the right to have access to healthcare and no one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



The Life of Dulcie September Remembered: A Commemorative Event

- By Lihle Mancoba, 3rd Secretary Political, Paris, France

The South African Embassy in France, in partnership with the Dullah Omar Institute of the University of the Western Cape, hosted a webinar on 29 March 2021, to commemorate the life of Dulcie September, which coincided with the 33rd anniversary of her assassination in Paris in 1988.

Dulcie September was born in Maitland and raised in Athlone in Cape Town, South Africa. She was an educator by profession and was an anti-apartheid activist from a young age who was repeatedly detained by apartheid security forces, with five years of detention and a five-year ban between 1964 and 1973 – the longest sentences she served. In 1973, she left South Africa to serve in various African National Congress (ANC) structures in exile, including in the United Kingdom and Zambia. At the time of her assassination, she was the ANC Chief Representative to France, Switzerland and Luxembourg, and was the first high-profile anti-apartheid activist to be assassinated outside the southern African region.

In the latter role, she was based in the City of Arcueil in France from 1984 before she moved to Paris shortly before her assassination. During this period, she received much support from the people of France, including the Mayor of Arcueil,

and other anti-apartheid activists and movements. As a result of her role in the struggle against apartheid and her impact, September has been posthumously memorialised in various ways throughout France, including the naming of two schools in her name in the department of Val-de-Marne (which includes Arcueil), the naming of a street ("Rue Dulcie September"), a square ("Place Dulcie September"); a scholarship named after her; annual commemorative events held by civil-society groups such as the International Federation of African Women in France and Europe; and academic research, published books and public art in her honour.

Such endeavours are important examples of how September's memory can be kept alive. They are also a testimony of the importance of international solidarity not only in South Africa's struggle for freedom, but also for other important causes of the present day.

The Embassy builds partnerships for cooperation to strengthen relations between the peoples of South Africa and France to continue to promote the values she embodied and died for. Among others, these included democracy, human rights and gender equality.

Being held in the month of March, the event coincided with celebrations to mark International Women's Month as well as South Africa's Human Rights Month. In that regard, it contributed to broader conversations on human rights and gender equality, demonstrating to the world how South Africa has fought for and continues to promote these values.

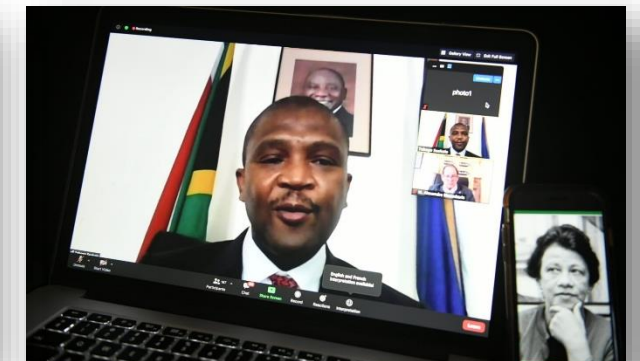
The webinar was held under the theme: "Dulcie September – International Solidarity and the Struggle for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy in South Africa", with the aim to achieve the following:

- celebrate the life of September and honour her contribution to the attainment of democracy in South Africa
- highlight the role played by women in the struggle against apartheid
- reflect on the contribution of the international solidarity movement in advancing the course of freedom and democracy in South Africa.

The webinar comprised three sessions: the first session was a plenary where speakers reflected on the essence of the theme; the second session was a panel discussion consisting of speakers who shared their experiences of working closely with September during her time in France; and the third session provided reflections on the work of keeping the icon's memory alive. The event was concluded with a vote of thanks by a family representative.

In addition to achieving the stated objectives, the webinar had a far-reaching impact that extends beyond the event. It was the basis on which the Embassy formed a partnership for cooperation with the City of Arcueil in the area of education, and facilitated the formation of new networks for academic research on Dulcie September. Furthermore, the use of a digital platform has enabled equal access to both South African and French publics (and beyond) who would not ordinarily have had access to the event. Importantly, the webinar provided a befitting tribute to a departed heroine whose story is not often told, giving her family a semblance of closure even though her murder remains unresolved.

A recording of the webinar is available on the Embassy YouTube Channel (SA Embassy in France) at: <https://youtu.be/H5SJp39iEDY>



Top left: Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini delivering remarks ;

Top right: Ambassador Tebogo Seokolo. Co-host of the event;

Left: Former Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza, panelist





CONGRATULATIONS



Ambassador Mathu Joyini has been elected as the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women for the 66th and 67th session, 2022 and 2023.



CSW65

Commission on the Status of Women

South Africa's Statement at the United Nations 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

- Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations,
Ambassador Mathu Joyini, New York



On 26 March 2021, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (UN) in New York, Ambassador Mathu Joyini, participated in the virtual UN 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), during which she was also elected Chairperson of the CSW for the 66th and 67th sessions, in 2022 and 2023.

During the event, Ambassador Joyini made the following remarks:

Chairperson,
Executive Director for UN Women,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me on behalf of Republic of South Africa to express our gratitude to the outgoing Chairperson of the 65th Session HE Mr Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia, as well as members of the bureau for their excellent work.

I consider it a singular honour to be elected in this august hall to be the Chairperson of the 66th and 67th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. I congratulate the vice chairpersons representing different regions with whom I will form the bureau.

Excellencies,

In his first State of the Nation Address in 1994 as President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela said, 'Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child'.

Allow me to make three points today.

First, each year, under the full glare of the international community, we meet as the Commission on the Status of Women to review progress and to set a forward-looking agenda for gender equality and the full empowerment of women. This commission, therefore, occupies a special place in the United Nations system, and its deliberations and outcomes are closely watched by people all over the world, in particular women and girls.

Second, there is no better time for the CSW to deliberate on the negative impact of climate change on the daily lives of women and girls. Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the perils of a world characterised by digital divides.

Therefore, South Africa considers the themes chosen for the 66th and 67th sessions of the CSW to be of utmost importance. We are therefore challenged during these next two years to find transformative solutions in these important areas. In both areas, I also acknowledge that women are not just victims but are also agents for change and they are part of the solutions.

Third, as I undertake the task of chairing the CSW during the next two years, I am determined to work with all member states and all other stakeholders to ensure that we can achieve results that are meaningful and that help us to move forward with the urgency required.

In closing, I wish to thank UN Women for the important support they provide to the CSW and to the bureau, in particular, and I look forward to working with them during the 66th and 67th sessions.

I thank you!



Voices from DIRCO

International Women's Day 2021: Patriarchy in the world of Work

By Charlotte Lobe
Acting Chief Operating Officer

International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated for over a century since 1911. I have noted over many years that while many people think of the genesis of IWD as a feminist cause, its roots lie in the labour movement. It all started in 1908, when 15 000 women marched in New York City, demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. Following this march, the Women Workers Day was celebrated in New York, United States of America on 28 February 1909 organised by the Socialist Party of America. Subsequent to this, it was first organised in 1911 in recognition of this march by the early 20th century Marxist from Germany, Clara Zetkin. Clara was born in 1857 in Wiederau, Germany. She trained as a teacher and was a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), one of the two major political parties in Germany today. She was active in both the labour movement as well as the women's movement.

In the 1880s, when anti-socialist laws were enforced by the German leader Otto von Bismarck, Clara went into self-imposed exile in Switzerland and France. During this time, she wrote and distributed prohibited literature, and met leading socialists of the time. Clara also played a significant role in the formation of the Socialist International. Upon her return to Germany, she became the editor of Die Gleichheit ("Equality"), the SPD's newspaper for women, from 1892 to 1917. In 1910, three years after Clara became a co-founder of the International Socialist Women's Congress (ISWC), proposed by fellow participants at a conference of the ISWC, held in Copenhagen, that the IWD be celebrated annually. However, the IWD was only institutionalised in 1975

by the United Nations as part of the International Women's Year and the beginning of the International Women's Decade. The IWD has now assumed a global dimension and it is celebrated in most countries.

This year, we celebrated the IWD under the theme: "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World on the way to the Generation Equality Forum". The theme was particularly important as we moved towards the Generation Equality Forum's first segment, held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 29 to 30th March 2021 and subsequently to a Presidential Summit in Paris, France, to be held in July 2021. The Generation Equality Forum presents an opportunity for the global community to think anew of the gender equality and women's empowerment agendas as we move towards Plant 50/50 in 2030. It also provides a unique opportunity to turn commitments made in Beijing Platform for Action into transformative, bold and concrete actions.

If we were to go back to basics and reflect on the situation of a working woman in 2021, the vexing question is: Are the conditions favourable enough for women to grow and thrive or are they expected in this day and age to still perform twice as much to prove their worth in an environment that is male-dominated? This question has bothered me considerably over the past few years because women all over the world sometimes work in environments that are not welcoming to their talents and their expertise. Their assertiveness is sometimes viewed as arrogance or lack of respect for the other gender.



In order to amplify this, let me pose a few questions ... Have you ever felt like you have been in a particular environment for years and you still feel like you do not quite fit in? It can be a church, a neighbourhood, an organisation or even your workplace. I have been in this environment for five years but I sometimes feel like a complete stranger because of established traditions and norms, all of which are patriarchal in nature. I sometimes look at women around me and would silently say: Did "she" really say that? or Do we still have "women" who think like this, in this day and age? I also listen to men talk and would sit there in total awe, amazed at the patriarchal venom they spew.

Most conversations taking place in both the public and the private sector about gender equality tend to focus on how women should strive for gender equality and not how organisations should entrench and promote gender equality. They tend to focus on arming women in the world of work with tools to deal with discrimination and not arming the organisations with tools to entrench gender equality and women's empowerment. Women are put on leadership courses and believe me I support any programme that affirms women. However, you empower women and expect them to continue working in untransformed environments. So, the burden of gender equality is put squarely on the shoulders of women, not on the organisation or on the management of the institution. In this way, we fail to map the problem correctly and not recognise the elephant in the room: "Patriarchy".

Patriarchy by its nature is systemic; it is an amoeba that changes shape to fit into any and every aspect of everyday life. It is about how male dominance manifests itself in conversations around the boardroom tables, in the cafeteria or passages at work, on the street or at church, or even at home. Patriarchy is particularly promoted at the work place by men who have earned their power

international relations & cooperation
Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

As we commemorate International Women's Day, let us remember women like the late Mme Charlotte Maxeke who led the struggle for gender equality for many years, thus paving the way for women today to occupy positions that give us the power to not only make decisions, but to continue eroding gender inequality and its destructive effects.

We remember our forebears who gave us a voice.

08 March 2021

Minister Naledi Pandor

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19

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The South African motto: *!ke e:/xarra//ke*, written in the language of the /Xam people, literally means *Diverse People Unite*. It represents the nation uniting in a common sense of belonging.

Through our diversity, we can strengthen our unity and build a cohesive society.

Nation building is a process and we must continue to nurture and defend it.



through the old-boys networks over decades. In the boardroom, they usually target women and once a woman has said something profound, they will either rubbish it or turn the session into an ideathon (marathon of ideas and not a battle of ideas), showcasing their knowledge of the subject matter and not contributing towards enriching the ideas presented by a woman. In other words, the discussion is more about ideas chasing each other and not a battle where the superior idea eventually wins the day. In their minds, they cannot fathom a woman with clarity of mind.

The most annoying part is that after raising their "noble or nonsense idea", of course in a very condescending manner, they will immediately go out and not engage further. You will be left there fuming alone, preaching to the converted or even responding to people who never asked a question or made a remark. The idea is just to remind you that it is the men's world after all. During lunch, they will regroup around a table, very proud of themselves. Patting each other on the shoulders and saying: "Mchana or Chief, you dealt with that matter properly blah blah ..." You look at them and in your heart you are think but "Bro, you ran away from the debate". In the midst of these conversations, they will be laughing out loud and lying to each other in order to feel good and protect their fragile egos.

Having served in various capacities, I have seen it all. You will raise a profound point in a meeting and your point will be ignored until it is raised from the Boy's Club corner. The chairperson, who is the leader of the Boy's Club, will immediately thank a fellow member of the Boy's Club for raising a brilliant idea and will totally ignore the fact that as a woman, you are the originator of that idea. Unfortunately, what women around the world have not understood is that the Boy's Club protects itself by consolidating power among its members and their peers. This they do, by reinforcing the belief that women are not welcome or women are of an inferior intellect. This entrenched system is so nicely woven that it has a defence mechanism which kicks into gear when threatened.

A woman who stands for what she believes in will be isolated and other women will be used as proponents of patriarchy. They will assume positions as spokespersons of patriarchy and justify why certain things cannot be done. This upsets me even more but I always come back to my senses and understand that these women were raised in a patriarchal society, so their posture is a reflection of our social construct. What these sisters of mine do not understand is that male privilege is very much still part of our social fabric. Patriarchy assumes that women are weak and incapable of fulfilling any function outside the family home. It is a cultural shock for some men to see a capable woman. This threatens the Boy's Club and as such a protectionist egoistic gear kicks in. The reality is that patriarchy is something women cannot fight on their own, it requires society to reject it in all its forms and manifestations. It requires men to stand up against male privilege by eliminating the sense of power and brotherhood created by toxic masculinity.



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GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

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- 2021 marks the 150th anniversary of struggle icon and human rights campaigner Charlotte Maxeke.
- She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force.
- She helped organise the anti-pass movement in Bloemfontein in 1913 and was at the forefront of fighting for social justice.
- As we celebrate our human rights, we dare not forget those who sacrificed everything for us to be free.
- Through their sacrifices, we now live in a country, which recognises women as equal citizens, with equal rights and responsibilities.



GENERATION
EQUALITY
REALIZING
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS FOR AN
EQUAL FUTURE



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Launch of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for South Africa

THEME: "WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: ACHIEVING AN EQUAL, INCLUSIVE, SECURE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD"

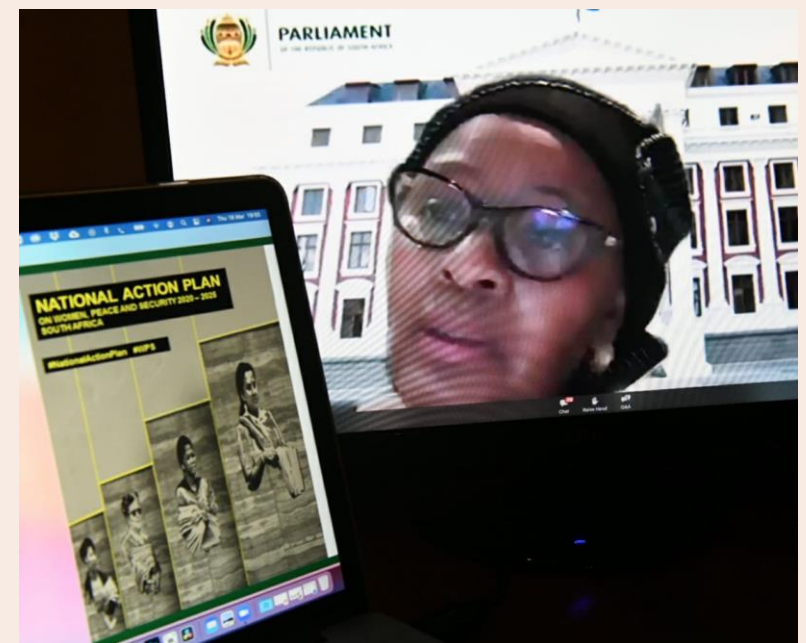
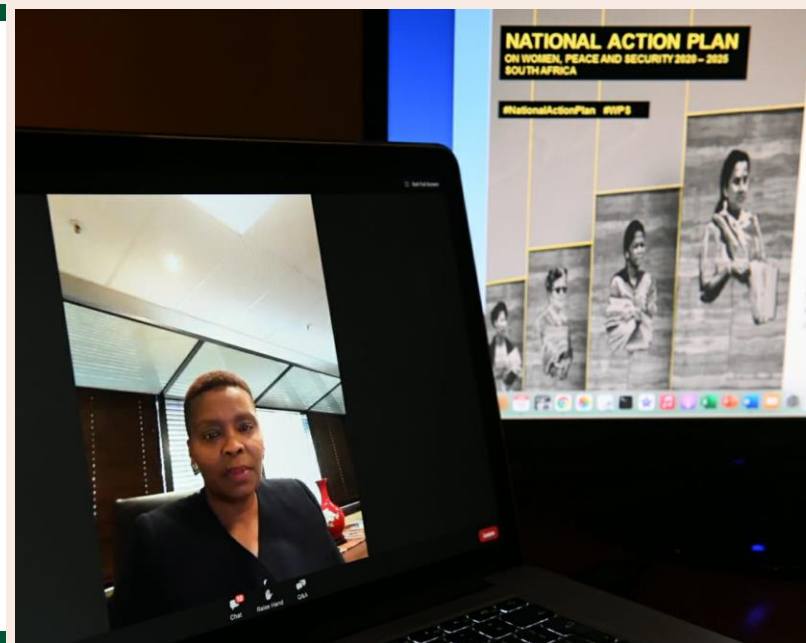


NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY 2020 – 2025
SOUTH AFRICA

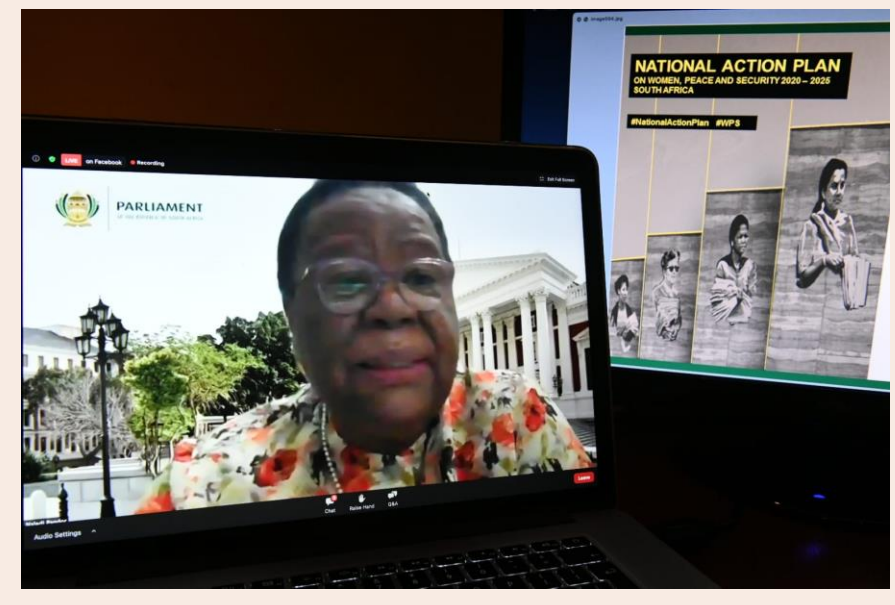
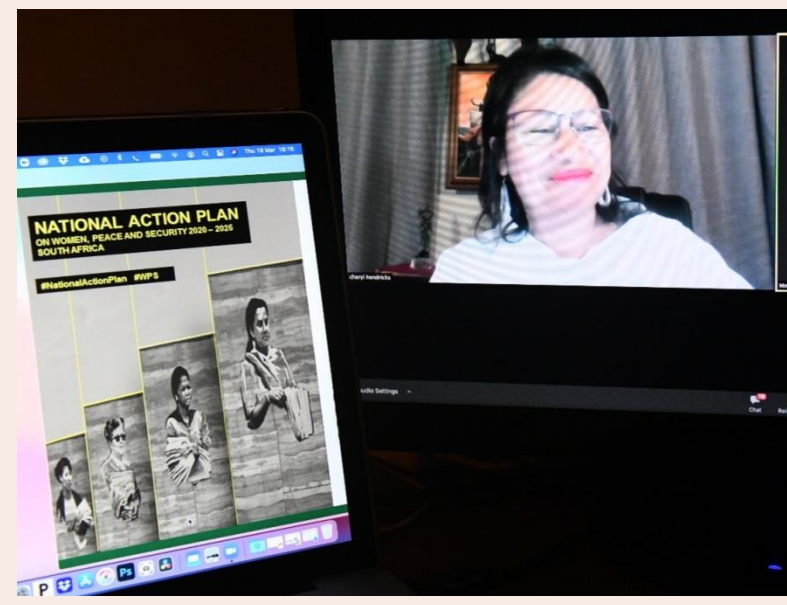
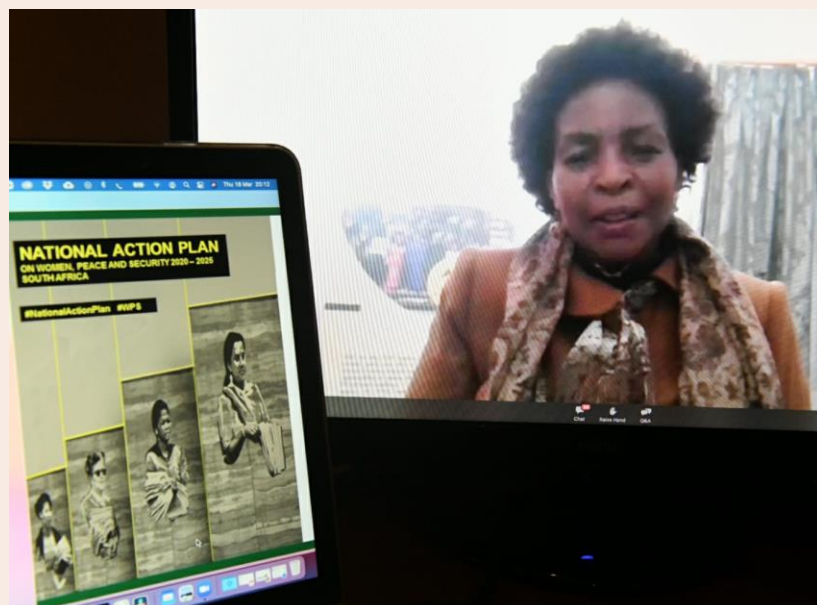
#SANationalActionPlan
#SAWPS

Launch of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for South Africa

The Generation Equality campaign, calls for women’s right to decision-making in all areas of life, equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to all forms of violence against women and girls, and health-care services that respond to their needs.



The Department of International Relations and Cooperation; the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; and the Department of Defence, in collaboration with UN Women, launched the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security



What is World Down Syndrome Day?



World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), 21 March, is a global awareness day, which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

The date for WDS being the 21st day of the third month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down Syndrome.

What is Down syndrome?

Down syndrome (sometimes called Down's syndrome) is a condition in which a child is born with an extra copy of their 21st chromosome, hence its other name, trisomy 21. This causes varying degrees of physical and mental developmental delays and disabilities and associated medical issues. Down syndrome (or Trisomy 21) is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, being universally present across racial, gender or socio-economic lines in approximately one in 800 live births, although there is considerable variation worldwide.

Many of the disabilities are lifelong, and they can also shorten life expectancy. However, people with Down syndrome can live healthy and fulfilling lives. Recent medical advances, as well as cultural and institutional support for people with Down syndrome and their families, provide many opportunities to help overcome the challenges of this condition.

What causes Down syndrome?

In all cases of reproduction, both parents pass their genes on to their children. These genes are carried in chromosomes. When the baby's cells develop, each cell is supposed to receive 23 pairs of chromosomes, for 46 chromosomes total. Half of the chromosomes are from the mother, and half are from the father.

In children with Down syndrome, one of the chromosomes doesn't separate properly. The baby ends up with three copies, or an extra partial copy, of chromosome 21, instead of two. This extra chromosome causes problems as the brain and physical features develop.

Types of Down syndrome

There are three types of Down syndrome:

- **Trisomy 21**

Trisomy 21 means there's an extra copy of chromosome 21 in every cell. This is the most common form of Down syndrome.

- **Mosaicism**

Mosaicism occurs when a child is born with an extra chromosome in some but not all of their cells. People with Mosaic Down syndrome tend to have fewer symptoms than those with trisomy 21.

- **Translocation**

In this type of Down syndrome, children have only an extra part of chromosome 21. There are 46 total chromosomes. However, one of them has an extra piece of chromosome 21 attached.

What are the symptoms of Down syndrome?

Though the likelihood of carrying a baby with Down syndrome can be estimated by screening during pregnancy, you won't experience any symptoms of carrying a child with Down syndrome. At birth, babies with Down syndrome usually have certain characteristic signs, including:

- flat facial features
- small head and ears
- short neck
- bulging tongue
- eyes that slant upward
- atypically shaped ears
- poor muscle tone.

An infant with Down syndrome can be born an average size, but will develop more slowly than a child without the condition. People with Down syndrome usually have some degree of developmental disability, but it's often mild to moderate. Mental and social development delays may mean that the child could have:

- impulsive behaviour
- poor judgement
- short attention span
- slow learning capabilities.

Medical complications often accompany Down syndrome. These may include:

- congenital heart defects
- hearing loss
- poor vision
- cataracts (clouded eyes)
- hip problems, such as dislocations
- leukemia
- chronic constipation
- sleep apnea (interrupted breathing during sleep)
- dementia (thought and memory problems)
- hypothyroidism (low thyroid function)
- obesity
- late tooth growth, causing problems with chewing
- Alzheimer's disease later in life.

People with Down syndrome are also more prone to infection. They may struggle with respiratory infections, urinary tract infections and skin infections.

Will my child have Down syndrome?

Certain parents have a greater chance of giving birth to a child with Down syndrome. According to the Centres for Disease and Prevention, mothers aged 35 and older are more likely to have a baby with Down syndrome than younger mothers. The probability increases the older the mother is. Research shows that paternal age also has an effect. One 2003 study found that fathers over 40 had twice the chance of having a child with Down syndrome. Other parents who are more likely to have a child with Down syndrome include:

- people with a family history of Down syndrome
- people who carry the genetic translocation.

It is important to remember that no one of these factors mean that you will definitely have a baby with Down syndrome. However, statistically and over a large population, they may increase the chance that you may.

Screening for Down syndrome during pregnancy

If you are a woman over 35, your baby's father is over 40, or there's a family history of Down syndrome, you may want to get an evaluation.

First trimester

Twenty weeks of pregnancy. If any of these tests are not normal, you will be considered at high risk for birth defects.

Additional prenatal tests

Your doctor may order additional tests to detect Down syndrome in your baby. These may include:

- **Amniocentesis:** Your doctor takes a sample of amniotic fluid to examine the number of chromosomes your baby has. The test is usually done after 15 weeks.
- **Chorionic villus sampling (CVS):** Your doctor will take cells from your placenta to analyse foetal chromosomes. This test is done between the ninth and 14th week of pregnancy. It can increase your risk of a miscarriage, but according to the Mayo Clinic, only by less than one per cent.
- **Percutaneous umbilical blood sampling (PUBS, or cordocentesis):** Your doctor will take blood from the umbilical cord and examine it for chromosomal defects. It is done after the 18th week of pregnancy. It has a higher risk of miscarriage, so it is performed only if all other tests are uncertain.

Some women choose not to undergo these tests because of the risk of miscarriage. They'd rather have a child with Down syndrome than lose the pregnancy.

Tests at birth

At birth, your doctor will:

- perform a physical examination of your baby
- order a blood test called a karyotype to confirm Down syndrome

Treating Down syndrome

There is no cure for Down syndrome, but there is a wide variety of support and educational programs that can help both people with the condition and their families.

www.healthline.com

The clock is
TICKING
→ LET'S FIND,
TREAT AND
END TB NOW!

Take your TB treatment and complete it. This will strengthen your immune system to even withstand a potential COVID-19 infection.

→ Message from front line workers

The clock is
TICKING
→ LET'S FIND,
TREAT AND
END TB NOW!

Unite to end TB in our Communities



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The High-Level segment of the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC 46)

- The achievement of peace and stability in the Middle East, through a negotiated settlement between the Palestinians and Israelis is key.
- The fact that Palestinians, should also be allowed the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.
- The need of our commitment to the purpose and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whilst working towards the universal accession and ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).
- The contribution to humanity's collective response in confronting the myriad global challenges, through a firm commitment to multilateralism and promoting human rights, women's empowerment and gender equality.
- South Africa welcomes the decision taken by the General Assembly, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).

Mr. Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini embarks on a back-to-school campaign at Mokhutjisa High School, Mookgophong, Limpopo



The event took place under the theme: "New Way of Learning Under COVID-19".



Globe at a Glimpse



Minister Pandor visiting the MISK Charity Foundation that aims to discover, develop and empower Saudi youth to become active participants in the future economy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 29/03/2021



Below: Dr Naledi Pandor participates in the virtual meeting of the SADC Council. 12/03/2021



Minister Pandor visiting the MISK Charity Foundation that aims to discover, develop and empower Saudi youth to become active participants in the future economy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 29/03/2021



Left: Deputy Minister Botes on a bilateral meeting with the UK High Commissioner to South Africa, H.E Nigel Casey,, at Johnny Makhathini Guesthouse, Pretoria. 31/03/2021

Below: Deputy Minister Alvin Botes, Ambassador Maud Dlomo and DIRCO officials meet with the staff of the UK High Commission in South Africa for High Commissioner Nigel Casey's farewell lunch. of the High Commissioner's farewell lunch





international relations & cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



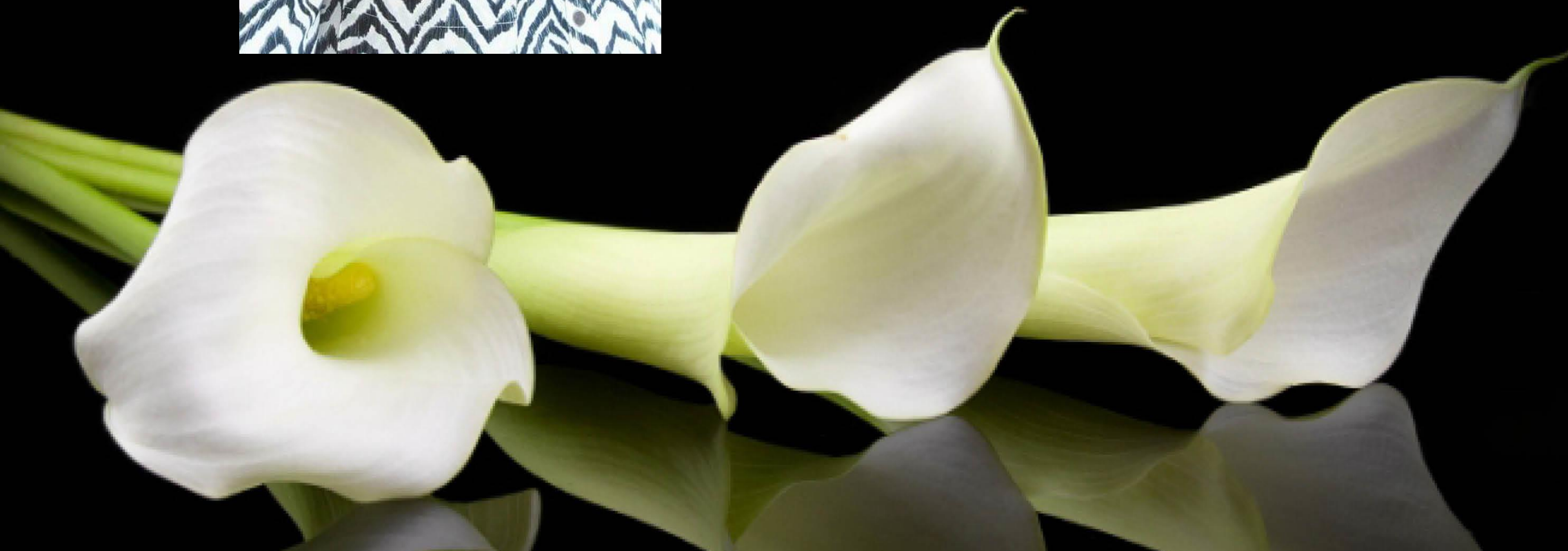
IN MEMORY OF MS. NTHABISENG SKADE

It is with great sadness that the Employee Health and Wellness announces the passing of Ms Nthabiseng Skade on 14 March 2021.

The late Ms Skade joined the Department on 1 September 2008 and served in the Branch: Public Diplomacy.

The Minister, Deputy Ministers, the DG and colleagues wish to convey their deepest condolences to the family of late Ms Skade.

May her soul rest in peace.



IT'S YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

For contributions to the magazine, submit your article to internalcomms@dirco.gov.za

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2021



The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19