

**Remarks By Ms Edna Molewa, South Africa's Minister of Water and  
Environmental Affairs**

**At A South African Function Held At The Ritz Carlton (Cancun)**

**06 December 2010**

I would like to warmly welcome you all to this evening's event, an occasion that we thought we should use to welcome all South Africans and our friends from all the regions of the world and give you a sense of the hospitality that you can expect in Durban next year.

Your presence here today is truly appreciated and celebrated.

Without much further ado, I would like to congratulate the government and the people of Mexico for hosting this successfully organized meeting of COP 16. We must as a country and the various sectors, take some lessons from them as much as we prepare to host the COP 17/CMP7 talks next year.

It is important for us as the various sectors involved in these Climate Change negotiations to actively engage with our counterparts in the UN regions and in the UN constituencies in the context of South Africa preparing to take the COP Presidency baton from Mexico.

We have been encouraged by the open and transparent manner in which the Minister Espinosa the COP President has approached this meeting. We in South Africa intend similarly to ensure that COP 17/CMP7 and any lead up processes to this meeting will similarly move forward on the basis of full participation and a transparent process.

We as Africans and as South Africans are known for our warm and welcoming and hospitable approach to our visitors. As you are all aware we have recently hosted one of the most successful FIFA World Cups ever, and we fully intend to ensure that COP 17/CMP 7 will be a similarly successful event.

We are working hard here in Mexico with all the parties to ensure that there is a successful outcome to the meeting and that a solid basis is laid for the work that we must undertake in Durban next year. We are fully ready for a year of hard work and will with utmost dedication and on the basis that we listen carefully to all parties, groups and stakeholders in order that we can lead the process successfully and in so doing strengthen a multilateral approach to resolving global issues.

We would like to, Ladies and Gentlemen, urge all parties participating in the talks with us to work together in arriving at a solution that will ensure a robust future climate change regime – one which determines the most effective means through which this global threat can be most successfully addressed.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government and the people of Mexico for so graciously hosting us and providing us with this opportunity to showcase to the delegates here in Cancun what the City of EThekweni will have to offer as we host the COP 17/CMP 7 next year.

With that said it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this piece of South Africa in Mexico and would like to invite all of you to join us as we prepare for the COP 17/CMP 7 in Durban next year.

I thank you.