



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF WATER AND SANITATION**

**HON. PAMELA TSHWETE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE WOMEN PARTNERSHIP  
HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM.**

**12 July 2018**

Madam moderator, South Africa is excited with the 2018 High Level Political Forum, Sustainable Development review as the session is timely occasioned to take stock of where we are in terms of progress and identify emerging issues that have the potential to significantly affect the achievement Sustainable Development Goals.

The buzz word in this session is “leaving no one behind”; we therefore cannot leave women behind in all areas access and participation. The responsibility of ensuring that there is water has historically been left to the female members of the household, as we all know that they are responsible for the cooking, cleaning and other chores that all require water, hence South African Government remains committed to the ideals of water as a Human Right, universal access to water and provision of dignified sanitation.

We all know that the aim of the Voluntary National Reviews facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The reviews also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the National Development Plan as aligned to the SDG Goal 5 indicates that the achievement of full human potential and sustainable development will not be possible if women, as one half of the population, continue to be denied the enjoyment of freedom, human rights, a safe and secure society and access to participation in opportunities including equal access to economic resources, leadership, decision-making and employment opportunities.

Madam Moderator, Speakers will bring their unique perspectives on approaches and prospects to reaching the 2030 Agenda, and indicate what they see as priorities. This is where we all need to listen with critical minds, and check how women are considered and acknowledged as equal partners in the full cycle of water and sanitation throughout this High Level Political Forum session.

It is therefore important, to work together, as member states and organizations to support and make sure that we achieve adoption of the United Nations International Year of Women within this early stages of the Agenda 2030. I am made aware that countries like Hungary, Netherlands and, South Africa stands ready to work on this important resolution. I therefore invite all of us in the room to support this noble course. The International year of Women and Water should serve as a vehicle to mobilize global political will that

culminates sustainable empowerment opportunities in the Water Sector.

Madam Moderator, We are one of the countries that has a plan that is fully aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is our National Development Plan, as it has the same time lines and targets, hence we are confident that we will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on time.

In conclusion, Moderator let me refer you back to the East London Ministerial Declaration of the Women for Water Partnership Conference, that clearly outlines how we could implement decisions on Water and Women.

- Water resources management should be based on a participatory approach. Both men and women should be involved and have an equal voice in managing the sustainable use of water resources and sharing of benefits.
- Governments must immediately implement their international commitments to women's rights and gender equity in relation to water and sanitation;
- All Member States and stakeholders must recognize that women's empowerment is essential to poverty eradication and environmental regeneration. Women, therefore, must be leaders in the development, implementation, and monitoring of viable initiatives and solutions.

- Recognised that Local governments, utilities and the public sector must use participatory, gender-balanced and gender-sensitive working methods in developing sustainable, equitable and affordable water and sanitation systems.
- Women must be key actors in the decision-making and development, implementation and monitoring of these systems.

It is my honest wish that we all consider implementing these resolutions and declarations that we take to continue to improve the lives of women, particularly in the area of water.

**I thank you.**