



INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Sisulu takes part in G20 Dialogue on Water

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The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu joined global Ministers of Agriculture and Water in a virtual G20 meeting chaired by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pertinent issues of policy cooperation towards food security and nutrition, and water management challenges were discussed. South Africa is part of the G20 and it is the only representative from Africa that participates and raise crucial issues that concern not only the country but the region and the continent as a whole.

The G20 Ministerial meeting highlighted the devastating human losses and suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic globally, and its impact on food security and nutrition, hygiene and water and sanitation.

Despite the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 Water Ministers affirmed their commitment to cooperate closely and take concrete actions to maintain existing services and accelerate the extension of access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services across the world.

Minister Sisulu said that the G20 Dialogue on Water is long overdue, and that it came at a critical time of the unprecedented pandemic that puts water at the center of all interventions.

“This current situation reawakened in us the notion that Water is Life and is central to all human development”, she said.

The G20 Ministerial committee adopted a Ministerial Declaration which will ensure provision of adequate access to safe and affordable water to households, including in health care facilities, in a bid to enable critical hygienic measures such as handwashing to be practiced.

In as far as water challenges are concerned, the G20 Ministerial committee encouraged the international community to work more closely and share innovation and best practices and





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maximise synergies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 6.

The G20 Ministerial Committee also raised a concern about the impact of water scarcity and poor water quality, as well as the significant impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. They have called on countries to prioritise water demand management and conservation and substantially increase water use efficiency and water productivity.

In her address to the G20 Ministers, Minister Sisulu endorsed the statement made by the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, when he said that “water is vitally important in our sustainability as the human species”.

The Minister also said South Africa supports the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration which is in the interest of the people. She said water is a vital concern at all levels and water challenges affect human life, people’s livelihoods, global supply chains, food security, nutrition and ecosystems.

“It is crucial and urgent that we work towards attracting and increasing water-related investment; innovation and water security, if we are to achieve the objectives of this forum”, concluded Minister Sisulu.

Sanku Tsunke

