



Report on the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 2023 New York, United States of America

The CSW theme for 2023 which was deliberated on by Representatives of member states, UN entities, and accredited Nongovernmental organizations, was:

“Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.”

The Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by UN Economic and Social Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission’s mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

Agreements that Guide the Work of UN Women

Several international agreements guide the work of UN Women:

UN Women’s strategic plan, 2022–2025 outlines UN Women’s strategic direction, objectives and approaches to support efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It supports the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and contributes to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the optional protocol. The “women’s bill of rights” is a cornerstone of all UN Women programmes. More than 185 countries are parties to the Convention.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA). Adopted by governments at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, this document sets forth governments’ commitments to enhance women’s rights. Member states reaffirmed and strengthened the platform in 2000 during the global five-year review of progress, and pledged to accelerate its implementation during the 10-year review in 2005, the 15-year review in 2010, the 20-year review in 2015, and the 25-year review in 2020.

UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (2000) recognized that war impacts women differently, and reaffirmed the need to increase women’s role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution. The UN Security Council subsequently adopted seven additional resolutions on women, peace and security:

1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019). Taken together, the 10 resolutions represent a critical framework for improving the situation of women in conflict-affected countries.

In September 2015, governments united behind an ambitious agenda that features 17 new **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and 169 targets that aim to end poverty, combat inequalities and promote prosperity while protecting the environment by 2030. They were preceded by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015.

Bureau

The Bureau of the Commission plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation for, and in ensuring the successful outcome of the annual sessions of the Commission. Bureau members serve for two years. In line with ECOSOC decision 2002/234, the Commission holds the first meeting of its subsequent session, immediately following the closure of the regular session, to elect new members of the Bureau as needed.

The Bureau for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2023) comprises the following members:

- H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini (South Africa), Chair (African States Group)
- H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse (Germany), Vice-Chair (Western European and Other States Group)
- Mr. Māris Burbergs (Latvia), Vice-Chair (Eastern European States Group)
- H.E. Ms. Maria del Carmen Squeff (Argentina), Vice-Chair (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)
- Ms. Chimguundari Navaan-Yunden (Mongolia), Vice-Chair (Asia and Pacific States Group)

Ministerial round tables on “Good practices in addressing barriers to bridge the gender digital divide and promote education in the digital age for achieving gender equality”

On 7 March 2023, the Commission on the Status of Women held ministerial round tables on **“Good practices in addressing barriers to bridge the gender digital divide and promote education in the digital age for achieving gender equality”**, in the context of the priority theme **“Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”**.

Participants exchanged experiences, lessons learned and good practices in relation to the topic, with an emphasis on measures taken to create an enabling environment to bridge the gender digital divide and promote education in the digital age for achieving gender equality.

The Minister of Social Development of South Africa, Lindiwe Zulu, chaired the first round table and made introductory remarks. The Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Catherine Russell, provided closing remarks. Ministers and high-level officials from 21 Member States participated in the first round table. The Vice-Minister for Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia, Zulphar Sarkhad, chaired the second round table, and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, provided closing remarks. Ministers and high-level officials from 23 Member States participated in the second round table.

Addressing inequalities in digital access to bridge the gender digital divide 3. Ministers underscored that bridging the gender digital divide was a precondition for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provided new opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They highlighted that women did not enjoy the same access to the Internet and digital technologies as men and that the most marginalized faced significant barriers. Speakers emphasized that affordability, poor infrastructure, lack of education and digital skills, and safety and privacy concerns remained

notable obstacles to meaningful connectivity for women and girls, and that those obstacles were rooted in long-standing gendered stereotypes and negative social norms.

Ministers acknowledged the importance of developing strong institutional policies and programmes to bridge the gender digital divide, including reviewing and strengthening legal frameworks to support digital development. Speakers called for the integration of gender perspectives across all national government policies and plans, including the development of targeted strategies and ambitious targets to ensure equitable access for women and girls. Ministers stressed the importance of considering multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities in the formulation of interventions to avoid amplifying existing divides, affecting, for example, women from rural areas, women with low levels of income or literacy, women migrants, older women and women with disabilities.

Speakers highlighted the underrepresentation of women ministers and regulators in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector and stressed the need for efforts to increase the proportion of women in executive and managerial positions in the technology field. Participants also underscored the need for gender-disaggregated data and the development of indicators and surveys on women's access to ICT. Ministers emphasized the value of multilateral and multinational partnerships in guaranteeing digital access for all women and girls.

Ministers provided positive examples of designing and implementing policies and programmes to bridge the gender digital divide, including the development of national broadband or digital strategies and the establishment of national ministries on digitalization as key to promoting equitable access. Strategies cited for facilitating affordable connectivity included the provision of free or low-cost devices, such as laptops and mobile telephones, and access hubs and Wi-Fi networks, including in public spaces, rural areas and villages. Speakers also recognized the importance of strengthening digital infrastructure, in particular to support groups in vulnerable situations.

Ministers stressed the importance of digital technologies in increasing women's access to information, services, education, employment and labour markets. Participants emphasized the importance of digital skills training and upskilling in building the capacity of women to leverage digital platforms for those purposes. Speakers highlighted e-government tools, including for birth registrations and election processes, online banking services, e-health, e-commerce and other digitalized systems and services. Positive examples shared

included the use of mobile applications to support women farmers in gaining access to the digital economy and the use of digital platforms to enable women to access sexual and reproductive health information. Promoting equitable digital education and skills and women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Ministers recognized the significant disparities in digital connectivity at the school level, as well as in the acquisition of digital skills, cautioning that limited use of digital tools by women and girls could lead to greater gender gaps and widening inequalities. Ministers expressed concern that women were underrepresented in ICT and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in higher education and employment.

Speakers called for the integration of universal digital education for all women and girls at all levels of the education system, emphasizing that digital education should be obligatory for girls and boys alike and that lifelong learning was crucial for achieving gender equality. It was recognized that increasing school enrolment and retention levels for girls was a key priority and that the provision of sexual and reproductive health education was critical to that effort. Some speakers highlighted progress in working towards achieving gender parity in enrolment or graduation levels in secondary and tertiary education.

Digital literacy and competencies were crucial in ensuring full access by women and girls to information and services and the participation of women in the labour market in the changing world of work. Participants also highlighted the need to address the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work carried out by women and girls and other barriers to education and employment. A number of participants also emphasized the disproportionate impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies on women's and girls' digital access and education.

Ministers highlighted the importance of providing Internet access in schools and training educators to deliver equitable digital learning, as well as deconstructing gender stereotypes, including in curricula and textbooks. Speakers emphasized the need to provide varied learning modalities to ensure the participation of all women and girls in digital education, including courses that took place in the evenings or remotely and blended learning. Some speakers recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated remote education and that the capacities gained through that experience should be retained and extended. Ministers also highlighted the

value of research in educational technology (known as “edtech”) to enable smart decision-making on the application of digital technologies to support learning environments.

Ministers recognized that interventions to increase the number of women and girls in STEM fields must include early childhood education programmes. It was acknowledged that approaches ought to centre on changing attitudes and stereotypes around STEM career pathways. Speakers provided positive examples of various entry points, including the facilitation of access by girls to women role models in STEM, the provision of dedicated scholarships, career orientation and taster days for women and girls, and the development of programmes dedicated to retraining women graduates in STEM skills.

Ministers recognized the role of national Governments in strengthening education and employment opportunities to increase the number of women in STEM, while working closely with higher education institutions and the private sector. Several speakers described dedicated national plans and programmes to increase the participation of women in STEM fields, as well as public events and national celebration days dedicated to raising awareness of the topic. Speakers also highlighted capacity-building initiatives and programmes undertaken with United Nations entities in that area.¹

67th Session Conclusions

At its sixty-seventh session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/15, considered as its priority theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

It considered as its review theme “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”, evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixty-second session. Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Council resolution 2022/4, the session included a ministerial segment comprising an opening segment, four ministerial round tables and one general discussion. The session also included an interactive expert panel on the priority theme, an interactive dialogue to facilitate exchanges among youth representatives from delegations of Member States on the priority theme, and an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue of getting back on track: achieving gender equality in a context of overlapping emergencies.

¹ Economic and Social Council, CSW, 67th Session, Ministerial Roundtable Report
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/075/12/pdf/n2307512.pdf?token=7jTy8TXtk3vcEVqL4e&fe=true>

The Commission considered its review theme through a series of presentations, made on a voluntary basis, by representatives of seven Member States from various regions on lessons learned, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixty-second session, which were followed by comments and an interactive dialogue among representatives of 14 partner countries that provided comments and posed questions at the invitation of the presenting countries.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme, in which it reaffirmed existing commitments and set out areas and issues requiring attention in conjunction with the priority theme and a series of actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders to:

- a) Prioritize digital equity to close the gender digital divide;
- b) Leverage financing for inclusive digital transformation and innovation towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- c) Foster gender-responsive digital and science and technology education in the digital age;
- d) Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership as well as the full employment of women in technology and innovation;
- e) Adopt gender-responsive technology design, development and deployment;
- f) Strengthen fairness, transparency and accountability in the digital age;
- g) Enhance data science to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- h) Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies.

The Commission recognized its primary role in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and called upon the United Nations system entities, relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to support efforts to ensure women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.²

South African Parliamentary Delegation in Attendance at the 67th Session:

- Hon SE Lucas, MP Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

² Commission on the Status of Women Report on the sixty-seventh session (25 March 2022 and 6–17 March 2023) <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/094/25/pdf/n2309425.pdf?token=ySyx9aYo35IMFp5ssi&fe=true>

- Hon W Ngwenya, MP, House Chairperson, International Relations, National Council of Provinces
- Hon M Boroto, MP House Chairperson, National Assembly

Support Staff in Attendance

- Dr S Mvulane, Manager office of the Deputy Chairperson, National Council of Provinces
- Mr Thabang Molusi, Researcher, House Chairperson for International Relations, National Council of Provinces
- Ms M Brandt, Appointment Secretary, Office of the Deputy Chairperson, National Council of Provinces

CSW 68, Convened in 2024

The 68th Commission on the Status of Women Was Convened in 2024, under the Theme:

“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”.

The 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, took place in 2024 from 11 - 22 March under the priority theme, “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”.

Given the fact that globally 10.3 per cent of women live in extreme poverty and they are poorer than men, progress towards ending poverty needs to be 26 times faster to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Accelerated progress requires investment. Data from 48 developing economies shows that an additional \$360 billion is needed per year to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment across key global goals, including to end poverty and hunger.

Solutions to end women's poverty are widely recognized: investing in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boosting women's agency and leadership. Such investments yield enormous dividends: Over 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritized education and family planning, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits. Almost 300 million jobs could be created by 2035 through investments in care services. Closing gender gaps in employment could boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita by 20 per cent across all regions. At CSW68, governments, civil society

organizations, experts and activists from across the world came together to agree on actions and investments that can end women's poverty and advance gender equality.³

Collaborative Session Between the UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Given the fact that since its inception, the CSW sessions have mostly been dominated by the executive, civil society organizations and other none-governmental entities, the collaborative session convened between the UN Women and the IPU, signaled the beginning of formalized engagements, where the legislative sector, through the IPU, could provide a balanced perspective in terms of progress made towards achieving gender equality goals.

Theme for Discussion during the UN Women and IPU Session: Advancing Gender Equality to End Poverty

Both the IPU and UN Women, reiterate their recognition that poverty remains an enduring challenge, affecting millions worldwide and perpetuating cycles of inequality across generations with women and girls being disproportionately affected. As global statistics show, one in every 10 women lives in extreme poverty (10.3%).¹ If current trends continue, by 2030, an estimated 8% of the world's female population – 342.4 million women and girls will live below the poverty line.

The persistence of discriminatory norms and harmful gender stereotypes affecting women and girls in all their diversity across every area of life contribute to a vicious cycle of exclusion and discrimination. In turn, women and girls face substantive barriers to accessing resources, education and sustainable economic opportunities.

The importance of addressing women's poverty has been long recognized in the international normative framework. "Women and Poverty" is the first critical area of concern of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Convention) recognizes that poverty limits women's access to food, health, education, training, and opportunities for employment and other needs, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge, indispensable for the achievement of sustainable development.

Intervention Made by the Speaker of the National Assembly, The Hon NN Mapisa Nqakula, MP, at the UN Women and IPU Session at the CSW

³ CSW 68th Session

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>

- The theme for the debate, ***advancing gender equality to end poverty*** - is so important and fundamental to the work of transformative parliaments in our continent and globally.
- Parliaments are midwives to governments, as they facilitate the establishment of governments after people have exercised the birth right of voting for their representatives in the legislatures. Parliaments represent the needs and aspirations of all people in their diversity, with women constituting overall, the majority in comparison to men. It is in this context that issues of women, the girl children and other vulnerable sectors of society, should find better expression as our democracies continue to grow and mature. Indeed, there is some commendable progress in women representation in Parliaments, in government and among many sectors of our society.
- There are also many areas where significant progress is being, including education, women access to health care, and employment opportunities. These performance outputs, have yet to register the desired impact in numerous areas of human development. Key amongst these challenging areas is women's disproportionate share in poverty and hunger, inequalities that remain glaring in land ownership, in leadership and management positions, and their low income and wealth despite their huge share of societal work that does not even get included in the calculations of nations' gross-domestic-product.
- With the slow pace of change towards mainstreaming of gender and parity between women-and-men across the spectrum, realising our goal would take nearly 200 years.
- With centuries of patriarchal and women exclusion, as well as, discrimination, changing the status quo, would require much more than what we have been doing. Parliaments, therefore have a civic and constitutional duty to multiply their capacity and impact of its oversight and accountability mandate. They must ensure that the executive in particular and the society at large, shift to business unusual to accelerate the pace of change to mainstream women in all facets of life, economic development and human development.
- As custodians of democracy, Parliaments must defend our constitutions, our democracy and the institutions built to ensure a people's government. To undo or reverse historical inequities, to build a truly just and developmental societies where women and girl children enjoy a great quality of life, free of poverty, and related social ills, Parliaments have a pivotal responsibility to serve as agencies of change. In South Africa, our founding constitutional framework, is hailed as among the best,

guaranteeing constitutionalism. However, so much more still needs to be done to fight, poverty especially among women, eliminate barriers to women ownership of land, and enable access to resources and finance for women to sustainably enter the mainstream of the economy.

Second Intervention by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Hon NN Mapisa-Nqakula, MP

GENDER -BUDGETING

- Recently we reviewed our Women's Charter, reflecting collectively with civil society on areas we did well in and those that remained elusive, and therefore what must be done differently to end gender stereotypes, discrimination and inequities that remain pervasive in many facets of life. One of the key interventions endorsed by all, is raising the bar in ensuring a gender responsive budgeting, to assess if the irrefutably progressive policies pronounced and strategies for their execution, are in fact properly funded to champion the mainstreaming of women in state and societal operations.
- Along this commitment, has been a pledge of the legislatures to sharpen oversight, the scrutiny of budgets and budget processes, track trends to enable early warning systems against any reversal of the gains made and the sustenance of the status quo. This cannot be successfully done by Parliaments alone, and that is why we need to mobilise key stakeholders to build better resident and non-resident capacity of our Parliaments to hold the executive accountable, effectively monitor and evaluate their performance and decisively intervene to unlock any barriers to the required pace of transformation. We know that disaggregating fiscal allocations with particular focus on what gets materially allocated to advance women and girl-child development, is not an easy task.
- We need to educate women, their formations and all champions of transformation to collectively hold government accountable. It is when women and citizens are better empowered that citizen participation will go beyond the electoral cycles to every-day activities and turn everyone into a gender-activist.
- As a young and maturing democracy, South Africa boasts of a Social Sector cluster of Ministries, that is led by the Minister of Social Development, who will present at this CSW session, an account of our country in respect of the status of women. These milestones include women representation in the Executive, in Parliament and numerous other state institutions.
- We also cherish progress made in our continent in this regard, with Rwanda carrying the global flag as a leading agency in women representation in Parliament. We also celebrate the current President of

the IPU, a woman of value, who spared no effort in mainstreaming gender-dialogue. We are also the first to acknowledge that so much more needs to be done.

- These transformation programmes, require everyone else globally to throw their weight behind these efforts, and standing out for flagging now, is the slow pace of the debt-cancellation programme, that is aimed at releasing more resources to finance these transformation programmes, including building gender sensitive state and non-state development programmes. This campaign should resonate with all other development interventions flagged even in the Sustainable Development Goals. We also implore parliamentary delegates to the next IPU Assembly in Geneva to place this agenda firmly on the global stage with an emergency item resolution to end poverty among women globally.
- As evidence demonstrate, when interventions are done properly, the multiplier effect kicks in, and benefits more women and girl-children. We therefore need to pay particular attention to the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and also consequence management, so that no one takes these goals and objectives as, “nice to have”, but mandatory obligations to unlock the full human potential of the majority of our populations. Their continued exclusion and discrimination, is a sword that cuts both sides, and no one wins.
- Affirmed trust in that the leadership of the UN Women, the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the IPU, are fit and proper to steer us to the ideals we cherish, and the attainment of better nations, better continents and a better world that are fit for women and girl-children.

Intervention By the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Hon SE Lucas, MP

- Parliaments have a critical role to play in the process to advance gender transformation for the reduction of poverty, by enacting laws that are gender responsive in nature and framed with the dexterity to disrupt gender regressive norms and behaviors across society at large. Therefore, in ensuring that policy interventions respond more effectively to the challenges that women face
- across various platforms in our society, it is imperative to consistently analyze the gender norms that are prevalent in our communities, so as to ensure targeted efficacy in the framing of policy interventions.
- In working towards achieving gender transformation, we must continue to be guided by existing international and national protocols and legal frameworks, including prescribed norms of gender transformation, which can be used to strategically shape policy making and promote gender equality. Precepts as contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and The

Beijing Platform of Action Women amongst others, are still relevant for anchoring our poverty reduction and gender transformation initiatives.

- As guided by international protocols, conventions and legal frameworks, we have recently in South Africa, adopted the 2021 Women's Charter for Accelerated Development, which outlines critical areas of intervention, through which women in South Africa, have mandated Parliament address, through policy, legislative, programmatic interventions, to meaningfully advance gender transformation and reduce poverty. **The 2021 women's charter for accelerated development**, was adopted after a rigorous public participation process, engaging women across all provinces, metros, districts and localities in South Africa, ensuring that women across all 9 provinces in our country, contribute towards shaping and framing key areas for targeted intervention by the legislative sector.
- To this end, critical policy areas highlighted through our Women's Charter Review process, includes the recommendation for the amendment of budget policies, money bills, fiscal policies, tax laws, including macroeconomic policies, which we view as critical areas for sustained and high-level analysis and amendment. If amended to make more gender responsive in their shape, form and content, these policies and legislative instruments will serve as enabling instruments to achieve poverty reduction and gender transformation objectives.
- To this end, fiscal policies and macro-economic policies, must be amended, to build in mandatory gender responsive provisions in key transformation and development policies. These policy and legislative instruments, if appropriately reshaped, will meaningfully inform and concretize gender responsive planning, budgeting and implementation, ensuring that money bills, fiscal policies, tax laws and macro-economic policies, are not passed or approved for implementation, without the appropriate gender responsive considerations.
- Furthermore, the appropriate gender responsive oversight and accountability frameworks must also be developed by Parliaments, to ensure meticulous implementation.
- Gender responsive law making and policy interventions, represent a critical area for capacity building in our parliaments. Parliaments must therefore continue to Build women's capacity to advocate for gender responsive oversight and law-making processes, across critical sectors of development and transformation.
- Some of the capacities and resources that parliaments should continue to invest in includes gender responsive budget analysis capabilities, gender responsive law making, gender responsive oversight and oversight agenda setting, including the capacity to effectively use gender

Commission for gender equality host United Nations CSW 68 side event on discrimination against athletes with differences of sexual development

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will on 14 March 2024, host a side event at the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), to highlight the discrimination experienced by athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD).

CGE Chairperson Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya-Mogale, Kenya's National Gender and Equality Commission, Chairperson, Dr. Joyce Mwikali Muthinda, United Nations's Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace, Advocate Mojankunyane Gumbi and United Nations's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, will be amongst the panelists who will make presentations on the event's topic "Gender Based Discrimination imposed by international sport bodies which promote exclusion of athletes with differences of sexual developments in sports".

This event is in part also to assess progress, identify challenges, and reflect on global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Various women athletes with differences in sexual development as in the case of Caster Mokgadi Semanya and moreso in different African and Asian countries such as Namibia, Niger, India and Burundi inter alia have been subject to this form of discrimination.

It is against this backdrop that the Commission for Gender Equality will be hosting this side event which seeks to achieve the following:

1. To foster a shared understanding and knowledge of athletes with DSD;
2. To create awareness about the Regulations that are adopted by the international bodies that promote exclusion of the athletes with DSD;
3. To highlight the continued prejudice of the IAAF Regulations on athletes with DSD;
4. To get buy in at the effective implementation of non-discrimination practices on DSD athletes.

The SA parliamentary delegation attended the session, in support of the CGE and committed to supporting the campaign initiated by CGE, to ensure that objectives of the campaign are achieved.

The South African Parliamentary Delegation in Attendance included:

- Hon NN Mapisa-Nqakula, MP (Speaker of the National Assembly)
- Hon SE Lucas, MP (Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP)

- Hon DE Dlakude, MP (Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC)
- Hon M Bartlett, MP (Northern Cape Provincial Whip)

Support Staff in Attendance:

- Ms N Nojozi (Special Adviser to the Speaker of the national Assembly)
- Dr S Mvulane (Manager: Office of the Deputy Chairperson, National Council of Provinces)
- Ms Z Mahabeni (Personal assistant to the Speaker of the National Assembly)
- Ms M Brandt (Appointment Secretary to the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces)

Recommendations for the Effective Participation in the Seventh Parliament

The delegation recommends the following:

- That the Parliament of RSA, through the IPU, should convene a series of side events the 69th Session of the CSW and going forward, focusing on key aspects and recommendations contained in the 2021 Women's Charter for Accelerated Development and as guided by International and Regional Development Agendas
- That Parliaments through the IPU platform, should play a more significant role through targeted participation at CSW sessions, focusing on both ministerial inputs and legislative sector inputs
- That better collaborations and social compacting between Parliament and the executive should be deepened, to ensure better outcomes for the country's gender transformation agenda