



**SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT TO THE
65th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
NEW YORK**

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FINAL

Your Excellency, Ambassador Mher Margaryan, Chairperson of the Bureau

Your Excellency, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Honourable Members

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

South Africa congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your appointment.

We are honoured to deliver our statement during the 150th year of one of our stalwarts, Mme. Charlotte Manny Maxeke's anniversary, who was one of the first Black woman in South Africa to graduate with a BSc degree from Wilberforce University, in the USA.

My delegation welcomes this years' focus on 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.

Chairperson,

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed many gains made by women. Women and girls are exposed to increasing unemployment, poverty,

growing hunger, loss of livelihoods and increasing levels of gender-based violence.

We commend Member States for creating social safety nets and stimulus packages to mitigate the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 especially for women and girls.

South Africa congratulates Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for her appointment as Director-General of the World Trade Organization.

This appointment comes at a time when Africa is pushing for implementation of its Continental Free Trade Agreement. Women's leadership and participation in this process is critical for their financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

Excellencies,

The Beijing + 25 appraisal indicated that no country has achieved gender equality. South Africa therefore calls for the acceleration of women's representation and participation at all levels.

The strong political will and commitment in the country is demonstrated by the achievement of 50-50 gender parity at the Executive level with 50% of Cabinet Ministers being women.

We also have 46% representation of women in the national legislature; 41% of women in Local Government; 38% women judges and 49% women magistrates in the judiciary; and 42% women in senior management in the Public Service.

Chairperson,

South Africa remains committed to combating and eradicating violence against women, eliminating discriminatory laws and negative social norms from our society.

We are currently implementing the National Strategic Plan for Gender-Based Violence and Femicide as an overarching plan to eradicate this pandemic.

South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In conclusion, we wish you a successful session of the CSW and you have the full support of our delegation.

I thank you