

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY ADV JOYCE MIKATEKO MALULEKE,  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES TO THE WEBINAR ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN  
GREEN INDUSTRY: LAUNCH OF RESEARCH REPORT AND POLICY  
ASSESSMENT HELD ON 20 JULY 2021**

Programme Director

Hon Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Minister in the Presidency for  
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Hon Ms Nomalungelo Gina: Deputy Minister: Trade, Industry & Competition

Mr Khaled El Mekwad: UN Representative for UNIDO – Southern Africa  
Regional Office

Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe: UN Representative: UN Women – South Africa  
Multi-country Office

His Excellency Dr Rudiger Lotz: Charge d' Affaires – German Embassy in  
South Africa

Ms Valerie Geen: National Coordinator – Economic Empowerment of  
Women in Green Industry Programme – UNIDO

Dr Anneline Chetty: CEO – DTIC

All participants, stakeholders, and government officials



Good morning and welcome to this webinar we are jointly hosting with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the UN Industrial Development Organisation, UNIDO.

In November 2019, South Africa was invited to attend UNIDO's inception meeting on the Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry (known as the EEWIGI programme) in Vienna, Austria, which was focusing on a research undertaking in four nominated countries: Cambodia, Peru, Senegal and South Africa.

The research was focused on an assessment of existing policies from a gender perspective in the green industry space.

In South Africa, the research focused on three areas:

- renewable energy sector especially on wind and solar;
- the waste management sector especially on plastics, and
- land transport sector especially on public transport.

The intention is to assist government to mainstream gender in the green industry programme; identify training gaps; design capacity building programmes, and address skills gaps required for women to enable women to access and operate in the green industry space.

In South Africa this study was conducted in partnership with the DWYPD; the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; the Department of Mineral Resources; the Department of Small Business Development; the



Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment; and relevant private sector and civil society organisations.

The policy assessment report thus provides recommendations to policy-makers and practitioners on the establishment and implementation of a policy framework to integrate gender and green industrial policies, and affect change and empower more women to take leadership roles in green industries as entrepreneurs or industrial professionals.

This will be unpacked further by the esteemed speakers on the programme today. This is a very critical piece of work given that one of our priorities in the country is that of women's economic empowerment. As the DWYPD, we are tackling the much-male- dominated sectors such as infrastructure, Energy, Oceans economy, Maritime and Environmental or Climate change sectors to mainstream women's participation, representation, ownership, and control within them.

This is in line with the Department's mandate of regulating for women's socio-economic empowerment and rights. It is now more than ever critical that we do so – given the COVID 19 pandemic that has impacted most negatively on the vulnerable sectors and the need to include women, youth and persons with disabilities within economic recovery and reconstruction programme. Deputy Minister Gina will highlight these issues in her address later in the programme.

The environmental disaster caused by the flooding in Germany over the past week recalls the necessity of the inter-linkages between policy



approaches, a gender perspective and sustainable environmental development. I am sure His Excellency, Dr Lotz will share more of this in his address.

Programme Director

Without taking up too much time any further allow me to welcome all our VIP speakers and thank them for availing themselves to participate in this webinar today. I look forward to their inputs and how we can take this process forward in advancing women in the green industry and green economy in the country.

I THANK YOU

