



W20 South Africa Inception meeting
Women in Solidarity
Programme

20, 21 & 22 May 2025

Venue: Lagoon Beach Hotel & Spa, 1 Lagoon Gate Drive, Lagoon Beach, Cape Town

Arrival of delegates

20 May 2025

17:00 – 20:00 ***Welcome Reception and Cocktail Function at the Twelve Apostles, Cape Town.
By invitation only.***

Day 1: 21 May 2025:

08:00 Registration

Morning Session

09:00 – 10:15 ***Opening Plenary Session:
Facilitator: Dr Sindiswa Mzamo, President of The Circle of Global Business Women***

Welcome: Dr Glenda Kruss, Divisional Executive (acting), RDSI, HSRC
Opening remarks: Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller, Divisional Executive, DCES, HSRC
Ms Henriette Robson, Deputy Director-General of Corporate Assurance, DDG, Western Cape Department of the Premier

Keynote speaker: Honourable (MP) Sindisiwe Chikunga Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities in the Presidency

Ms Aleta Miller, UN Women's Representative, SAMCO
Ms Maude Modise, Enterprise and Government relations Executive, Shoprite Group

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

Messages of solidarity

10:30 – 11:00 **Ms Amar Nijhawan, Senior Program Officer, IDRC
Ms Florence Musundwa, Co-Chair, G20 Empower Alliance
Ms Adriana Carvalho, Troika, Brazil
Ms Anne Simmons-Benton, Troika, United States of America
Ms Virginia Littlejohn, Troika, United States of America**



11:00 – 12:30

**PANEL 1:
The Intersections between Entrepreneurship, Financial Inclusion and the
Care Economy**

Agenda:

The global policy dialogue on the care economy, reasserting care as a public good and the need to advance this agenda within government.

The linkages and intersectionality between the care economy and financial inclusion.

- Reducing and redistributing unpaid care, enabling labour market access
 - The recognition of unpaid care to economic growth
 - The importance of data collection and measuring unpaid care
- The care economy as a livelihood generator (job creation enabling financial inclusion)

Examples of care service solutions.

- Solutions to address gaps and inequality – examples of sustainable care entrepreneurship models within the African context
- Pacific examples for elder care
- Mechanisms for governments to support the provision of care infrastructure / facilities
- The role of public-private partnerships (childcare vs. elder care)
- Digital platforms on the future of work and care: the opportunity for entrepreneurs, risks around eroding care worker rights, and regulatory challenges

The future of care systems

- The role of partnerships
- Holistic approach to a comprehensive, accessible care system
- Connecting to other task teams

12:30 – 13.30

Lunch

Afternoon Session

13:30 – 15.00

**PANEL 2: Gender-Based Violence as a Critical Barrier to Women's
Progression in Academia and STEM**

Chair: Prof Benita Moolman, Associate Professor and researcher in the African Feminist Studies Department , University of Cape Town

Key data and trends into the persistent underrepresentation of women in STEM: A strategy against gender stereotypes as a key element in addressing female underrepresentation in STEM and tackling GBV

Prof Linda Laura Sabbadini, Social Statistician and Chair of Women20 in 2021

GBV as a technology of restriction

Prof Pumla Dineo Gqola, Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies and SARChI Chair in African Feminist Imagination at the Nelson Mandela University



Roundtable discussion:

Unpacking GBV in academia and STEM: The role of men, tech-facilitated harms, economic costs, and pathways to change

Prof Kopano Ratele, Professor in the Department of Psychology, Stellenbosch University

Ms Leonora Tima, Founder and Managing Director of Gender Rights in Tech (GRIT)

Ms Naadiya Moosajee, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, WomHub and WomEng (Women in Engineering)

Ms Dharitri Patnaik, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and Founder of Jivada Ventures Pvt Ltd, India (virtual)

Open discussion and closing remarks:

Prof Benita Moolman, Associate Professor and researcher in the African Feminist Studies Department, University of Cape Town

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break

Closed Meeting

15:15 – 16.45 *Closed Meeting to discuss Draft 1 of the Communiqué. By invitation only*

Agenda

Discussion on Communiqué

- Short presentations on themes
- Comments and questions
- Update from Governance Working group
- Update from 10 year anniversary Working Groups

Gala Dinner

19:30 – 22:00: Gala Dinner
Lagoon Beach Hotel and Spa, Cape Town

Keynote address: Honourable Deputy Minister (MP), Mmapaseka Steve Letsike Deputy Minister in the Presidency For Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Launching of W20 song

Dr Gülden Türktan, Co-HOD, Türkiye



Day 2: 22 May 2025

Morning Session

09:00 – 10:15

Second Plenary Session

Facilitator: Ms Irene Natividad (Global Women Summit and US delegate)

Ms Shoki Tshabalala, DDG in the Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities
Ms Daniela Monika Behr, Women, Business and the Law, World Bank
Dr Theophiline Bose-Duker, Senior Economist, African Center for Economic Transformation
Ms Nontobeko Ndhrazi, Group Chief Financial Officer WIPHOLD
Dr Okito Wedi, Founder and CEO of Crive Development
Prof Bonang Mohale, Chancellor of the University of the Free State

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee Break

Dr Elvira Marasco, W20 Head of Delegation W20 (Italy), Member of the Health and Gender Equality Commission, Femtec.

10:30 – 12:00 **PANEL 3: The Challenges and Promises of a Just Transition to Renewable Energy Women's Economic Empowerment**

Agenda

- 10:40 – 11:00 JET Keynote
Ms Elizabeth Marabwa, Chief Director, Department of Energy
- 11:00 – 11:10 Breaking Down Gender Barriers in the Renewable Energy Sector and Integrating Women's Perspectives for More Effective Climate Solutions
Ms Louise Paulsen, Vice President: Renewable Energy, South African Synthetic Oil Limited (SASOL)
- 11:10 – 11:20 Strategies to Provide Innovative Financing Solutions to Advance Women's Participation in the Renewable Energy Economy
Ms Faith Mavukani, General Manager, South Africa National Energy Development Institute
- 11:20 – 11:30 Ensuring a truly "Just" Dimension in the Energy Transition, while Addressing the Social and Economic Equity in the Shift Away from Fossil Fuels
Ms Martina Rogato, Founder and Sustainability Advisor, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Boutique, Italy
- 11:30 – 11:40 Measuring progress in Climate Change and Renewable Energy, including the Role of Women in this sector
Ms Sphiwe Ngwenya, Senior Manager, Presidential Climate Commission, Office of the Presidency, Republic of South Africa
- 11:40 – 12:00 Discussion (all)
Closing
- 12:00 – 12:45 **Lunch**



Afternoon Session (including Outreach meetings)

Moderator: **Dr Fabiana Menna**, anthropologist, master in gender and public policy, Argentina W20 delegate and Co-Chair of Climate Justice W20 task team, Fundación Gran Chaco President.

Country Case studies

Ms Hadriani Uli Tiur Ida Silalahi, CEO, Big Bad Wolf Books

Dr Betül Özel Çiçek, Deputy General Director for Strategic Planning at KADEM

Ms Elena Myakotnikova, Chair, Chamber of Commerce Council, UNEP Observer member, Eurasian Women's Forum

Corporate and intergovernmental agencies share how they are working in rural communities:

Ms Lerato Mathabatha, Executive, Microsoft South Africa, AI for Equity, Public Sector Innovation

Mr Siphon Mtombeni, Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Google South Africa

Ms Tamara Dancheva, Senior Manager, International Relations, GSMA, Co-Head W20 EU Delegation, Co-Chair of EDSS Taskteam

Ms Gomolemo Lolo Madikgetla, Chair, Botswana Investment & Trade Centre, Founder UNGWA Africa, Equity & Innovation Leader

14:20 - 14:25

PAWO and Community Outreach Engagement on the Continent

Ms Bathabile Dlamini, Vice-President of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO)

14:25 – 16:40

Community engagement

Chair: Tummy Motsoatsoe, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

Panellists:

Community Voices

Ms Kaytlin Miller, Basic Package of Support Youth Coach within Atlantis community

Ms Shanise Jeniker, Basic Package of Support Client within Atlantis community

Ms Sedika Williams, MathMom tutor within Bishop Lavis community

Ms Lesego Mohapi, entrepreneur in the last mile delivery space

Ms Sindiswa Xhali, agri-preneur from outer Cape Town region

Community Solutions

Ms Michelle Fortuin, Basic Package of Support

Ms Jacqui Boule, YearBeyond

Ms Judy-Ann Cilliers, MathMom

Ms Neziwe Mazolwane, Ukhukelo Lolutsha

19:00 – 21.00

Dinner



Opening Plenary Session

Facilitator:

Dr Sindiswa Mzamo



Dr Sindiswa Mzamo serves as the President of The Circle of Global Business Women, a prestigious organisation committed to empowering and supporting women in business worldwide. With a notable background in leadership and advocacy, Dr. Mzamo is instrumental in building networks, offering mentorship, and leading initiatives that advance gender equality and economic empowerment for women. This unique organisation was established by African women and women dedicated to Africa, aiming to elevate African women to global forums and markets. Through her steadfast commitment and visionary approach, Dr. Mzamo significantly contributes to the growth and success of women in the business world, ensuring they are well-equipped to thrive in an ever evolving and competitive environment. Dr Mzamo is the former Banker at First Rand, Land Bank of South Africa and former Treasurer General of Black Business Council and former Group COO Edison Power Group..

Welcome:

Dr Glenda Kruss



Dr Glenda Kruss is the Divisional Executive (Acting) of the Research, Development, Science and Innovation division (RDSI) . Over the past twenty years, she has worked in the field of innovation studies, to understand the role of universities and public research institutes in economic and social development, and the determinants of skills and knowledge flows within sectoral, national and global systems of innovation. Her current research focus is oriented towards more contextually appropriate datasets, measures and indicators of Science, Technology and Innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. She has collaborated widely on comparative research projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, and has led large scale projects for national government, building alliances and networks between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in South Africa and the global South.



Opening Remarks:

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller



Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller (Bjuris LLB LLM LLD) is the Divisional Executive of the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State research division at the Human Sciences Research Council and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Gender and African Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Free State. She is an admitted advocate of the High Court of South Africa and has represented South Africa as lead in international fora such as Women20; BRICS, IBSA and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). This year she is Head of Delegation of W20 South Africa. With a career that spans more than 25 years, she has made significant strides in research, academia and policy in the areas international and constitutional law, gender equality, human rights, democracy, governance and social justice. Prof Bohler-Muller has presented and chaired numerous conferences around the world both in her professional capacity and as a representative for the South African government. In 2016 she was shortlisted for the position of Public Protector.

Address:

Ms Henriette Robson

Ms Henriette Robson serves as the Deputy Director-General of Corporate Assurance in the Western Cape Department of the Premier. With her extensive experience in public administration, she provides strategic leadership in overseeing internal governance, risk management, and compliance functions across the provincial government. Ms. Robson has been instrumental in strengthening institutional integrity and accountability frameworks within the Western Cape administration. Her commitment to public service excellence extends to national initiatives, where she actively contributes to policy development and implementation. She has participated in several high-level programs focused on improving governance standards and workplace culture, including initiatives addressing gender equity and professional conduct in the public sector.





Keynote Speaker: Honourable (MP)

Sindisiwe Lydia Chikunga

Honourable (MP) Sindisiwe Lydia Chikunga was appointed as Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities from 3 July 2024. She was previously Minister of Transport from 6 March 2023 to 19 June 2024. She was also Deputy Minister of Transport from 5 August 2021 to 6 March 2023, Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration from 30 May 2019 to 5 August 2021 and Deputy Minister of Transport from 26 May 2014. She has been a member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa since 2004. Ms Chikunga holds a Masters of Arts degree in Curationis From University of Pretoria; Bachelor of Arts degree in Curationis from University of South Africa; and Bachelor of Arts Curationis Honours from University of South Africa and a Diploma in Nursing Science from the Edenvale Nursing College; a Midwifery Diploma from the Edenvale Nursing College. She is currently studying Political Science with University of South Africa. As a member of Parliament Ms Chikunga has served on the Correctional Services Portfolio Committee; Joint Budget Portfolio Committee; Housing Portfolio Committee; Auditor General and Joint Standing Committee on Defence and as a Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police from 2009 to 2012.

Address: Her Excellency

Ambassador Mathu Joyini



Ambassador Mathu Joyini has an MA in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, USA and an MBA from Wits Business School. She is the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations in New York. Before that, she was the Deputy Director-General at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, heading the Diplomatic Academy and the Mediation Support Unit. Prior to joining Government in 2001 January, she held various positions in the private sector for ten years in different industries, including Mining, Financial, Petroleum and Consulting. Amb Joyini was Chair for the Commission on the Status of Women, 2021 to 2023 and has fulfilled many roles at the United Nations. She is a member of the Gertrude Shope Peace and Mediation Network and the African Union Women Mediators Network, FemWise Africa.



Address:

Ms Aleta Miller



Ms Aleta Miller is the UN Women’s Representative in the South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO), covering Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa. She joined SAMCO in April 2022, having served as Country Representative at UN Women Afghanistan since April 2018 and previously as the UN Women Representative of the Fiji Multi-Country Office, covering 14 Pacific Island nations. Aleta has extensive experience in Women’s Rights, Human Rights, Refugee Rights, Public Health, and International Development, gained through more than 25 years of professional engagement, including with UN Women, UNFPA and UNAIDS, and several NGOs and Governments. In addition to the above, she served in Myanmar, China, Hong Kong, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, as well as New York, and her native Australia. Aleta is a Clinical Psychologist (Australian registered, non-practicing status) and holds a Master's degree in International Public Health, along with undergraduate degrees in Behavioral Science and in Occupational Health.

Address:

Ms Maude Modise



Ms Maude Modise is the Enterprise and Government relations Executive at the Shoprite Group and heads up Shoprite Next Capital, a business division dedicated to developing and growing commercially viable Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMMEs). Furthering the Group’s continued effort to give small suppliers access to its consumer market, Shoprite Next Capital – under Modise’s leadership – operates as a one-stop shop for SMME partners by providing marketing opportunities, working capital assistance, product range and geographic expansion, as well as possible private label partnerships. Modise, who grew up in Mabopane near Pretoria, obtained a BCom Accounting at North-West University, after which she joined the Group’s graduate programme as a trainee accountant in 2014. Her roles have included Financial Manager at Shoprite’s Distribution Centre in Johannesburg and Divisional Financial Manager for USave Gauteng. Combining her education, skills and previous roles in finance with Modise’s extensive experience mentoring of young graduates, she now brings new impetus to the Group’s development of small and medium businesses to give them access to market, to increase local procurement and to create jobs.



Messages of solidarity from funders & partners

Message from funder:

Ms Amar Nijhawan



Ms Amar Nijhawan is a Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Center (IDRC), supporting the Scaling Care Innovations in Africa initiative. Prior to IDRC, she worked at Oxfam Canada as a Women's Rights Policy and Advocacy Specialist. Amar has a decade of experience advancing issues related to development policy, gender justice and economic inequality as a policy specialist, program manager, researcher, and feminist advocate. Amar holds an MSc in Gender, Policy and Inequalities from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and is currently based in Nairobi.

Message from partner:

Ms Florence Musundwa



Ms Florence Musundwa, an entrepreneur with a global vision, champions entrepreneurial participation and empowerment across diverse economies. As the Co-Chair of G20 Empower Alliance and a recipient of the 2018 Exceptional Woman of Excellence award from the Women Economic Forum, Florence's passion for unearthing potential has made her a catalyst for individuals and organizations shaping business landscapes around the world. She is the founder and driving force behind Reign Supreme Holdings and Grow Supplier ZA, her mission is deeply rooted in facilitating growth and access to markets for emerging businesses. Florence Musundwa holds a Master's degree in International Business from the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). Among her notable contributions to the entrepreneurial ecosystem are the Scale Up Women in Business Summit and the Road Freight SME Summit, both platforms she hosts to empower and equip women entrepreneurs and SMEs.

Message from Troika: Brazil

Ms Adriana Carvalho



Ms Adriana Carvalho has over 25 years of experience in diversity, inclusion, and business leadership. She is currently Executive Director of Instituto Consulado da Mulher and Head of W20 Brazil. She serves on advisory boards including Brazil Foundation, Instituto EY, IOS, and the Women in Leadership movement of the UN Global Compact Brazil. Previously, she was CEO of Generation Brazil, Associate Director of Diversity and CSR at EY South America, and held leadership roles at UN Women Brazil and Dow. She holds a BA in Economics, a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration, and an MBA.



Message from Troika: United States of America

Ms Anne Simmons-Benton



Ms Anne Simmons-Benton is a senior international development leader and trade attorney with more than 30 years of experience in government, private sector, and academia. She has worked in more than 32 countries, managing and leading complex initiatives, including the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Integrated Framework for Least Developed Countries, the Presidential Initiative on Trade Capacity Building, and the Stability Pact in the Balkans. She brings a strong passion and enthusiasm for advancing equity for women and promoting social justice and the rule of law around the world. Anne is currently the Co-Head of the US Delegation to the Women20 (W20), the Chair of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area, the Deputy Chair for the Society for International Development – US and a Board Member for the Mines Advisory Group – US. She is also a Principal at Deep Water Point & Associates. She is a wife, mother of three and grandmother to four.

Message from Troika: United States of America

Ms Virginia Littlejohn



Ms Virginia Littlejohn is a former magazine editor and Dean of Students at the California School of Professional Psychology. Since the mid 1970s, her focus has been women's entrepreneurship. She has been President or CEO of TradeBuilders, Exponentials, and Quantum Leaps. She is the former VP Public Policy and National President of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in the United States, a delegate to all three White House Conferences on Small Business, led NAWBO's 1986 White House Conference efforts. She is recipient of 4 lifetime achievement awards, and one of Forbes' Women's 50 over 50 (investment) Awardees. She served as Vice President of Les Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales (FCEM, the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs), and chaired Women's Entrepreneurship for the World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME). She has served as a consultant, strategist or advisor for numerous international institutions, including the OECD, for which she organized 3 global best practice conferences on women's entrepreneurship; for the SheTrades program for the International Trade Centre in Geneva; and for the UN's Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator, consisting of 6 UN agencies. She launched the Global Banking Alliance for Women at the 2000 OECD conference (now the Financial Alliance for Women in 135-plus countries), and co-incubated WEConnect International. She is Co-Head of the US Delegation to the W20, on its Communique Drafting Committee, and Chair of the Women Entrepreneurs Act (WE Act) initiative, driving action and implementation on cross-cutting issues for the W20. She is married, has two sons and a 13-year-old granddaughter.



Panel 1: Intersections of Entrepreneurship, Financial Inclusion and the Care Economy

The global policy dialogue on the care economy, reasserting care as a public good and the need to advance this agenda within government.

The linkages and intersectionality between the care economy and financial inclusion.

- Reducing and redistributing unpaid care, enabling labour market access
 - *The recognition of unpaid care to economic growth*
 - *The importance of data collection and measuring unpaid care*
- The care economy as a livelihood generator (job creation enabling financial inclusion)

Examples of care service solutions.

- Solutions to address gaps and inequality – examples of sustainable care entrepreneurship models within the African context
- Pacific examples for elder care
- Mechanisms for governments to support the provision of care infrastructure / facilities
- The role of public-private partnerships (childcare vs. elder care)
- Digital platforms on the future of work and care: the opportunity for entrepreneurs, risks around eroding care worker rights, and regulatory challenges

The future of care systems

- The role of partnerships
- Holistic approach to a comprehensive, accessible care system
- Connecting to other task teams

Chair:

Ms Victoria Duncan



Ms Victoria Duncan is Head of Research at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, a not-for-profit social enterprise that works with partners to find solutions to address the challenge of South Africa's systemic youth unemployment. Her work within Harambee has a focus on labour market demand and supply-side research, measuring impact and enabling the organisation's systems change agenda. She has been responsible for a number of qualitative and quantitative studies conducted through the SA Youth job matching platform, primarily on gender, socio-economic inclusion, income and job opportunity pathways. She has also supported with catalysing Harambee's systems change work within the early childhood development (ECD) sector, working as the ECD Lead under the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI). In 2025, Victoria joined the South African delegation for Women20, Chairing the Care Economy Task Team within the G20 engagement group. She holds a Masters in Economics from Stellenbosch University.



Panellist:

Ms Chiou See Anderson



Ms Chiou See Anderson is the Creator of the Elements retirement villages in Brisbane, Chair of Conpago Software Solutions, Director of Heather (Senior) Care Group, and Chair Juror of the Australian Women in Music Executive Game-Changer Award. She is the immediate past President of both the National Council of Women of Australia and the National Council of Women of Queensland and a current board member of the International Council of Women. She is Australia's Head of Delegation for W20 and Co-Chair of the W20 Care Economy Task Team. Chiou See was an inaugural member of Australia's Prime Minister and Cabinet's Women Economic Equality Taskforce, delivering policy recommendations to remove barriers for Australian women's economic participation.

Panellist:

Ms Aleta Miller



Ms Aleta Miller is UN Women's Representative in the South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO), covering Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa. She joined SAMCO in April 2022, having served as Country Representative at UN Women Afghanistan since April 2018 and previously as the UN Women Representative of the Fiji Multi-Country Office, covering 14 Pacific Island nations. Aleta has extensive experience in Women's Rights, Human Rights, Refugee Rights, Public Health, and International Development, gained through more than 25 years of professional engagement, including with UN Women, UNFPA and UNAIDS, and several NGOs and Governments. In addition to the above, she served in Myanmar, China, Hong Kong, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, as well as New York, and her native Australia. Aleta is a Clinical Psychologist (Australian registered, non-practicing status) and holds a Master's degree in International Public Health, along with undergraduate degrees in Behavioral Science and in Occupational Health.

Panellist:

Ms Kelsey Harris



Ms Kelsey Harris is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Global Development, where she focuses on the intersection of the care economy and women's economic empowerment. Kelsey has been a U.S. Delegate to the W20 since 2023, and she was a Co-Chair of the W20 Brazil Care Economy Working Group. For more than a decade, Kelsey has worked in various policy and advocacy roles in gender, international development, and immigration in Washington, DC, USA, including at ICRW and InterAction. Kelsey holds a Master's in Public Policy from George Mason University and a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Panellist:

Ms Adriana Carvalho



Ms Adriana Carvalho has over 25 years of experience in diversity, inclusion, and business leadership. She is currently Executive Director of Instituto Consulado da Mulher and Head of W20 Brazil. She serves on advisory boards including Brazil Foundation, Instituto EY, IOS, and the Women in Leadership movement of the UN Global Compact Brazil. Previously, she was CEO of Generation Brazil, Associate Director of Diversity and CSR at EY South America, and held leadership roles at UN Women Brazil and Dow. She holds a BA in Economics, a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration, and an MBA.

Panellist:

Ms Ana Moreno



Ms Ana Moreno is a social anthropologist and journalist with over 30 years of experience in public policy, international, and local sustainable development projects. Specializes in defining and implementing collaboration platforms and multi-stakeholder alliances, participating in intergovernmental processes, and designing advocacy and outreach strategies for sustainable development and resource mobilization. Notable roles include serving as Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum (2012-2018), as well as Director of the UN-Habitat Office for Brunei-Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Additionally, she has held key positions with the Barcelona City Council, Spain's Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



Panellist:

Ms Dadisai Taderera



Ms Dadisai Taderera is the Head of Partnerships at SmartStart and the former Co-Director of Ashoka Southern Africa. A champion of sustainable social change, Dadisai has spent over a decade working with leading social entrepreneurs across the Southern Africa region to build a world where everyone has the power to contribute to solutions. At SmartStart, Dadisai leads strategic partnerships to drive large-scale access to early learning for young children in South Africa. She plays a key role in positioning SmartStart as a systems-level solution for early learning, working closely with government, private sector and civil society to shift the national landscape toward universal access to quality early learning in a way that bridges the gap between policy ambition and on-the-ground delivery reality. Her work is rooted in collaboration, innovation, and the belief that every child deserves the best start in life. Her career spans influential roles at organizations such as Ashoka and the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, and she was a founding member of the Right2Know campaign. At the heart of her work is a commitment to unlocking collective leadership and nurturing the next generation of changemakers—including her two children, who inspire her vision for a more just and inclusive world.

Panellist:

Ms Peninah Ndegwa



Ms Peninah Ndegwa is the Founder and Managing Director of Wow Mom Ltd a social enterprise advocating for Children Friendly cities. With a B.A Urban Planning from the University of Nairobi and an ongoing Masters in Climate Change Adaptation, she believes that if children are not designed for, they are designed out. Peninah has spearheaded an award-winning initiative leading to provision of quality and affordable childcare services market centres in partnership with County Governments serving over 3000 children and counting! Her aspiration is to create cities where all people can access social amenities easily and in dignity, regardless of age, gender, physical ability, or income level.



Panel 2: Gender-Based Violence as a Critical Barrier to Women's Progression in academia and STEM

Chair:

Prof Benita Moolman



Prof Benita Moolman is an Associate Professor and researcher in the African Feminist Studies Department. She teaches in the under and postgraduate curriculum on African feminist theories and activisms, African post and decolonial feminist geographies, African feminist knowing and knowledge-making. Her research interests are ending sexual and gender-based violence, masculinities, racialized violence and spatial injustice, and narrative methodologies. She has worked at Rape Crisis Cape Town, and has a M(Phil) Women and Gender Studies (UWC) and a D.(Phil) in African Feminist Geography (UCDavis). She has written and published extensively.

Speaker:

Prof Linda Laura Sabbadini



Prof Linda Laura Sabbadini is a Chair of Women20 2021. She is former Director of the Department of Methods and New Technologies of National Statistical Institute. She is the author of more than 100 scientific publications. She participated at many High Level groups and centers of excellence of UN, OCSE, and Eurostat. Since 2016 she has been a columnist for La Stampa, and since 2020 also for Repubblica the most important newspaper in Italy. She has received numerous prestigious awards (20). In particular, the President of the Italian Republic Ciampi gave her the honour of Commendatore in 2006, and the President of the Italian Republic Mattarella gave her the honour of Grande Ufficiale in 2021. In 2015 she was included in the publication on the 100 Italian excellencies. She is actively engaged with women's civil society for over 30 years.

Speaker:

Prof Pumla Dineo Gqola



Prof Pumla Dineo Gqola is a full Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies. She holds the SARChI Chair in African Feminist Imagination at the Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha. She was previously Dean of Research at the University of Fort Hare, Professor in African Literature at University of the Witwatersrand, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Classical Culture at the University of the Free State, and Chief Research Specialist in the Societies, Culture and Identities Research Programme at the HSRC. She is a graduate of the Universities of Cape Town (SA), Warwick (UK) and holds a PhD from the University of Munich (Germany).



Panellist:

Prof Kopano Ratele



Prof Kopano Ratele is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Stellenbosch and head of Critical and Creative Thought, Kopano Ratele is an expert on men, boys and masculinity as well as decolonial African psychology. Ratele has published extensively. In addition to over a 150 journal articles and book chapters, his books include: *There Was This Goat: Investigating the Truth Commission Testimony of Notrose Nobomvu Konile*; *The World Looks Like This From Here: Thoughts on African Psychology* (2019); *Men Hurt Women and Other Reflections on Love, Violence and Masculinity* (2022); and *The Palgrave Handbook of African Men and Masculinities* (2024). A co-host of the parenting and fatherhood feature on SAFM radio's The Meeting Point with Koketso Sachane, Ratele is a co-editor of the *State of South Africa's Fathers* (SOSAF) 2024.

Panellist:

Ms Leonora Tima



Ms Leonora Tima is the Founder and Managing Director of GRIT – Gender Rights in Tech, a feminist nonprofit creating tech interventions to support survivors of gender-based violence in South Africa. With over 16 years' experience working with youth and GBV survivors, she is a leading voice in ethical, survivor-centred tech innovation. Her groundbreaking work has earned international recognition, including being named one of the Top 50 Most Inspiring Women in Tech in Africa (2023), winning second place in Mozilla's Responsible AI Challenge, and receiving the Bill & Melinda Gates Grand Challenges Award. In 2024, she was honoured with the Wired4Women Tech for Good Award, was a finalist in the Women in Tech Africa Awards, and led GRIT to win the Africa Tech Festival Award for AI. Through GRIT, she continues to lead transformative work at the intersection of technology, justice, and women's rights.

Panellist:

Ms Naadiya Moosajee



Ms Naadiya Moosajee is an engineer and serial entrepreneur, co-founded WomHub, an ecosystem builder supporting STEM innovation, particularly for female founders in climate technology. WomHub provides incubators, accelerators, and innovation spaces, and develops innovative funding models. She also co-founded WomEng, a global social enterprise promoting women in engineering and technology, and is currently building a cybersecurity startup, Cybherfence. Recognized as the 2023 Most Disruptive Woman in Tech in Africa; she is a venture partner at Five35 Ventures, investing in women-led technology businesses. Naadiya's leadership extends to serving as President of the University of Cape Town's Convocation, board directorships, and advisory roles with organizations like the World Economic Forum and the Aspen New Voices Fellowship. Her expertise spans sustainability, cybersecurity, and equitable technology, and she has worked across 30 countries to promote diversity and inclusion in engineering.



Panellist:

Ms Dharitri Patnaik



Dharitri Patnaik has more than twenty–six–years of experience working to empower some of the most vulnerable sections of the society, including women, children, and underprivileged people of India. Dharitri has worked on a variety of issues and across various sectors in the areas of international development, poverty alleviation, social reform, women & child development – both from a policy and advocacy perspective as well as developing and managing on the ground operational initiatives. She has worked with global institutions like UNICEF, ActionAid International, CARE USA, UN Women, Water Health and the Bernard van Leer Foundation globally. Dharitri’s start up company, Jivada Ventures Pvt (Ltd), specialises in hospitality and wellness. Dharitri was awarded the John Kenneth Galbraith Fellowship in Harvard and has a Masters in Social work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, USA.





Keynote Speaker: Honourable Deputy Minister (MP)

Ms Mmapaseka Steve Letsike

Deputy Minister Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, is a human rights advocate. Ms Letsike is the Founder and Executive Director of Access Chapter 2 (AC2). She is a prominent leader, with high level international policy and human rights experience for over 15 years. Currently she serves as the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Co- Chairperson, a portfolio currently co-chairing with the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, mandated in her capacity as the chairperson of SANAC National Civil Society Forum. Furthermore, she is the Co-Chair of the National Task Team established by the Department of Justice to address Hate Crimes and GBV. She is also Co-Chairs the Commonwealth Equality Network with over 53 commonwealth country members. Furthermore, she serves as a member of the Global UN Women LGBTI reference group, and the Southern Africa UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group, the Women4 Global Fund Network, as well as the Queerwell board, appointed by Minister of Health on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Social and Behavior aspects of Covid-19 response in South Africa including serving as a Councilor on the South African Pharmacy Council. Ms Letsike is a seasoned Leader, Feminist, a Human Rights Advocate and an Entrepreneur.



Launching of W20 song:

Dr Gülden Türktan

Dr Türktan was appointed in 2015 as the Founding Chair of the W20 – Women 20. She has studied economics and is a business school graduate from Bogazici University and New York University. She is a founder and the former (2011-2015) President of KAGIDER, the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey. She is now a member of the Presidential Council of KAGIDER. She has written a book on her leadership experiences called “The Dark Face of Leadership” based on her experience as an executive, leader and consultant. Dr. Türktan had been invited to be a member of the Advisory Council for Gender and Development for the World Bank Group in 2016. She has been serving in the boards of various companies and all together she has totalling more than 125 years of board member and chair experience. She makes speeches and writes articles on the topics of leadership and organizational improvements, management, future of work and corporate governance as well as gender. In 2023 she was listed by Forbes 50:50 list for Europe, Africa & Middle East (50 women above 50). She had been one of the founders of IWF (International Women’s Forum) in Türkiye and she has served as the third president of the board of Turkish IWF organisation from November 2019 to February 2023.



Facilitator:

Ms Irene Natividad



Ms Irene Natividad, a recognised leader for women in the United States, wears many hats. Ms Natividad is President of the Global Summit of Women, an annual international gathering of women leaders from around the world, and is the Chair of Corporate Women Directors International, which promotes the increased participation of women on corporate boards globally. Most important, she runs her own public affairs firm, GlobeWomen, based in Washington, D.C. A sought-after commentator, her views are aired nationally on PBS' 'To The Contrary', an all-women news analysis series in which she has served as a regular panelist for over two decades. She has appeared on CNN news shows, Crossfire, the Today show, Good Morning America, Fox News, MSNBC, etc. Her editorials have appeared in USA Today, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Des Moines Register, Chicago Tribune, to name a few. Ms. Natividad's commitment to promoting women, nationally and internationally, stems from her decade-long involvement with the National Women's Political Caucus, a 35-year-old bipartisan organization dedicated to electing and appointing more women to public office.

Address:

Ms Welhemina Tshabalala



Ms Welhemina Tshabalala is the Deputy Director General in the Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities and she is responsible for mainstreaming women's rights and advocacy programme. She holds a B.A. in Social Work from the University of Zululand and a B.A. in Social Work, Honours from the University of South Africa (UNISA). Ms Tshabalala held several portfolios after serving as a social worker and became the Deputy Director: Welfare Services in the Department of Social Development. She then joined the Gauteng Office of the Premier as the Director: Gender, Youth and Disability (GEYODI). She became the Chief Director: Social Crime Prevention Road Safety, & Communication in the Department of Community Safety and the Deputy Director General: Social Welfare Services in the Gauteng Department of Health & Social Development. She later re-joined the Gauteng Department of Social Development as the Head of Department (HOD).



Speaker:

Ms Daniela Behr



Daniela Behr is an Economist at the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law project, where she leads the team's research on women's legal capacity in areas such as property rights, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship. Since joining the World Bank Group in 2018, she has contributed to a wide range of initiatives, including co-leading a research project on affordable housing, assessing the impact of IFC's investments in financial institutions, and developing indicators related to agribusiness regulations. Prior to her work at the World Bank, Daniela served as a research fellow at the University of Konstanz and George Washington University, and worked as a human rights and gender specialist with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She holds a PhD in political economy from the University of Konstanz and studied in Konstanz, Madrid, and Canada.

Speaker:

Dr Theophiline Bose-Duker



Dr Theophiline Bose-Duker is a Senior Economist working within the Gender Equality Program. Her work in ACET focuses on applying a robust gender lens to ACET'S research programs to support African governments to transition to gender-responsive macroeconomic policies and implementation models; and to ensure progress on gender-sensitive economic policy is effectively measured and reported. She is a development economist with research interests within the broad subject areas of labor and family economics. Her work applies econometric techniques and quantitative methods in investigating the gender dimensions of intra-household resource allocation, the measurement of inequality, labor force participation and social protection. Before joining ACET, Theophiline was working at the World Bank as an Africa Fellow and consultant. In the World Bank, she made significant contributions to various projects including the Individual Poverty Project, the Women's Work and Employment Partnership, the Strengthening Gender Statistics Project, and the Liberia Poverty Assessment. Theophiline holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. Her undergraduate degree (BA Economics) is from the University of Ghana.



Speaker:

Ms Nontobeko Ndhrazi



Ms Nontobeko Ndhrazi is currently the Group Chief Financial Officer at WIPHOLD – an investment holding company owned and run by black women. Her career started at the accounting & auditing firm of Deloitte & Touche where she served her articles and thereafter moved to their financial management outsourcing division as a manager and eventually a Director in the division. She currently serves as a non-executive director on various boards of some of WIPHOLD's investee companies and other private companies, giving her insight into various industries. With over 15 years of management experience & commitment to operational excellence, Nontobeko is a big picture thinker and is passionate about financial inclusion, transformation and leadership matters.

Speaker:

Dr Okito Wedi



Dr Okito Wedi is the Founder and CEO of Crtve Development, a pan-African Organisation that champions sustainable African-owned and led development through art, authentic storytelling and creative campaigning to bridge the gap between people and policies. She is also a medical doctor, global health and development specialist, and academic researcher with over 10 years of experience working across development issues such as health security, climate change, gender equity, WASH, and public policy for various organisations and institutions, including the UN, the African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (UTC), and Global Citizen to name a few. Her passion for young people, creativity, global development and the African continent has allowed her to experience the practice of global health, development and advocacy at its cutting edge in low and middle-income countries such as South Africa, Rwanda, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana, and the DRC, to name a few, with all the resources, policy, and practical frustrations and opportunities that this entails.



Speaker:

Prof Bonang Mohale



Prof Bonang Mohale is the Chancellor of the University of the Free State, Former President of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), Professor of Practice in the Johannesburg Business School (JBS) in the Faculty of Business and Economics and Chairman of two listed entities, The Bidvest Group Limited and ArcelorMittal as well as Swiss Re Corporate Solutions Africa and SBV Services! He has been appointed the Sherpa of the Values 20 (V20), a global community of values-driven experts and practitioners dedicated to engaging meaningfully with the Group of Twenty (G20) - launched in 2020 during Saudi Arabia's G20 presidency, V20 is an informal engagement group that develops value-based, human-centred policy proposals for the G20. V20 focuses on how we, as global citizens, can collectively and conscientiously apply values to improve the wellbeing of people and the planet. He is a member of the Community of Chairpersons (CoC) of the World Economic Forum and author of the two best selling books, "*Lift As You Rise*" and "*Behold The Turtle*"! In November 2001, he received the PRESIDENTIAL AWARD for his "*Servanthood in South African Industry & the Economic Empowerment of Previously Disadvantaged Individuals*".

Speaker:

Dr Elvira Marasco



Dr Elvira Marasco is a dynamic columnist at *Futuro Europa*, celebrated for her unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. She co-founded the Italian delegation of Women 20—the official G20 engagement group that infuses gender perspectives into global policy discussions—and has played a pivotal role in championing innovative projects in education, renewable energy, and women's economic empowerment. Elvira's international leadership shines through her work as the former Head of International Relations for SOLYMED Events and as Italy's representative for Cuba's Grupo Empresarial PALCO, where she pioneered initiatives like the island's premier Fashion Fair and workshops supporting female entrepreneurship. Additionally, by co-establishing the Equality in Health commission and holding influential roles within key commissions on discrimination and health equality, as well as serving as a permanent member of the Gender Equality Commission of the World Federation of Thermalism, she continuously drives transformative change in policy and practice.



Panel 3: The Challenges and Promises of a Just Transition to Renewable Energy Women's Economic Empowerment

The objective of this expert panel discussion is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the interconnected challenges and opportunities surrounding climate justice, just energy transition, and women's economic empowerment within the G20 nations. The rationale is to leverage the diverse expertise of panellists to generate concrete, actionable recommendations for policymakers, businesses, and international organizations. By fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing, the panel aims to identify best practices, pinpoint critical bottlenecks, explore innovative solutions (including emerging sectors like green hydrogen), and build consensus on effective strategies for women inclusion and economic empowerment. Ultimately, the discussion seeks to inform policy development, raise public awareness, and catalyze collaborative action within the G20 framework to advance a more climate-just, economically equitable, and sustainable future where women are fully engaged and empowered in decision-making platforms.

Chair

Ms Karen Shippey



Ms Shippey has over twenty-five years of experience in environmental management and sustainability. This includes 15 years as an Environmental Practitioner, working as a consultant in the environmental impact assessment, environmental management and policy fields and 10 years in Provincial Government. She currently serves as a Chief Director: Environmental Sustainability at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) in the Western Cape. She is responsible for overseeing Biodiversity and Coastal Management, Climate Change, Sustainability and Green Economy teams. Since 2017 she has also been the technical Gender Focal Point for the Department and has developed a passion for Gender Mainstreaming in the Public Service. Ms Shippey has also been involved in the NGO sector in her private capacity, serving on the Committees of such varied bodies such as the Zoning Awareness Project, Peninsula Mountain Forum, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIAsa) and the Cape Town Environmental Centre Association. She is passionate about the development of a caring, robust and ethical Environmental Assessment profession.



JET Keynote address:

Ms Elizabeth Marabwa



Ms Elizabeth Marabwa is a Chief Director in the Department of Energy. She has spent most of her career in government but has also had exposure to consulting and academia. For the last 20 years she has been involved in many aspects of energy on South Africa from a regulatory and policy point of view and across all forms of energy including liquid fuels, gas and electricity. Elizabeth has also had significant exposure to the international energy arena, and has worked with the IEA, SADC, and other governments in Africa and world-wide as well as funders and financial institutions. Elizabeth has been responsible for setting up new departments within DoE and also managing large scale projects. She is currently responsible for ensuring that the various energy centres in South Africa are integrated. Her qualifications include an MA in economics from the University of Zimbabwe, a BA honours in economics and an MA in Commerce, both from WITS. She is also a qualified project manager.

Panellist:

Ms Louise Paulsen



Ms Louise Paulsen works in Renewables at Sasol. Before her most recent appointment, Louise held the position of Managing Director at Vestas South Africa, the world's largest onshore wind OEM, becoming the only woman to lead a renewables-specific OEM. Louise has been a mentor to several young women within the Wind Industry and has provided input to the SA Renewable Energy Master Plan. She volunteers with organisations such as Endeavor South Africa, and the African Leadership Academy as a mentor to student enterprises. Louise has consulted for the South African Supplier Diversity Council and UN Women with an area of stewardship in the capacity of UN Project Manager focusing on the localisation of the global procurement policies for gender-driven procurement. She has also served as the Project Manager at the South African Wind Energy Association providing support to the Industry Associations' programmes. Louise holds a Masters' in City and Regional Planning from the University of Cape Town and a Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainability from Cambridge University, UK.



Panellist:

Ms Simphiwe Ngwenya



Ms Simphiwe Ngwenya is a professionally registered environmental scientist (SACNASP) who holds an MSc Degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is currently the Senior-Manager for the Mitigation Team at the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC). In this role she supports the mitigation workplan by using her strategic mindset and extensive knowledge in ESG, sustainability and climate science field. She manages projects to facilitate consensus on the NetZero pathways for each sector of the economy in line with the country's efforts to support the Paris Agreement and ensure socio-economic justice. Simphiwe is intrigued by climate change/ risk management in a growing and future fit economy that will reduce inequality, unemployment and poverty. Lastly, Simphiwe is seasoned in both private and government stakeholder engagement and strategy development.

Panellist:

Ms Martina Rogato



Ms Martina Rogato is the Founder of ESG Boutique, a consultancy service that helps companies integrate sustainability and diversity into their strategies. She is a passionate advocate for women's rights and empowerment, serving as the Co-Chair of the Women7 (G7) Italy and the Sherpa of the Women20 (G20) Italy 2021. Furthermore She co-founded Young Women Network and currently She's the Honorary President of the organization. She's currently the President of Human Rights International Corner (HRIC), first NGO committed on business and human rights in Italy. Additionally, She teaches urban dynamics, sustainability and diversity courses at LUMSA and Temple University, and She has been recognized as one of the 100 women who are changing Italy with their social activism (Startup Italia), and one of the international changemakers by Pope Francis. She did a TedxTalk in Catania in 2019 and in Cortina in 2021, She is a Columnist for Fortune Magazine Italy and she is one of the co-Authors of the book: Circular Fashion Management edited by EGEE. Her mission is to contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive, and fair world for all.



Panellist:

Ms Faith Mkhacwa



Ms Faith Mkhacwa is a driving force behind energy efficiency initiatives, and brings a wealth of experience in fostering sustainable energy practices. Faith is an energy and climate change executive whose extensive experience in energy includes generation, transmission, distribution, energy efficiency and renewable energy. She is a UNIDO-certified energy management systems expert and a RENAC-certified renewable energy project developer with more than 20 years' experience. She is the Energy Efficiency General Manager at SANEDI. In addition to holding BSc Eng. (Electrical and Electronic) and MBL degrees, Faith has also completed a range of other energy related courses. She is a member and former chair of SAFEE, a chapter of SAEEC, and serves on ISO TC 301 which focuses on developing international standards for energy management systems and methods for measuring energy consumption reductions.



Panel 4: The untapped potential of rural women for climate resilience, food security and digital transformation

Background & Rationale:

The panel aims to showcase the potential of rural areas as a vehicle for promoting economic and sustainable growth. In this framework, rural areas can be more productive by activating rural women's potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improving disaster preparedness and food production. Strengthening rural women's participation in the local economy with digitalisation and access to new markets has the potential to accelerate the growth of their communities while contributing to global sustainability efforts. Additionally, rural areas have high levels of biodiversity and native forest conservation which can be monetized in the carbon credit market.

Women's digital upskilling is a prerequisite to any sustainable environment management and food security schemes and as such bringing rural women online and equipping them with much needed digital skills can transform their territories and highlight their potential.

Leveraging new and existing technologies to accelerate the digital transformation process will not only improve food security, climate and disaster resilience, but also create new economic opportunities for MSMEs, not least women-led MSMEs. Carbon markets can benefit rural communities by providing new income opportunities through high quality carbon credit sales reducing emissions or sequestering carbon, while also incentivizing sustainable land management and promoting climate resilience.

Major corporations, including Microsoft, Google and Meta, are aiming at purchasing nature-based carbon removal credits in the voluntary carbon market and rural communities can offer a high-quality service in this regard. The adoption of Article 6 during the last COP29 meeting outlines the final framework as to how carbon markets will function under the Paris Agreement, making the carbon crediting mechanism fully operational while the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group also defined it as one of its priority areas by focusing on unlocking the financing potential of carbon markets.

This panel seeks to unify the bold and innovative successes from past W20 presidencies, facilitating dialogue among government leaders, corporate stakeholders, and civil society organizations dedicated to rural communities. By exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and actionable strategies, we aim to forge new pathways for scalable, women-led climate solutions—bridging.

Objectives:

- Outline the potential that rural areas offer, especially for women, in terms of unlocking carbon market opportunities thanks to the digital transformation, food production and climate management.
- Showcase success stories from among G20 countries
- Promote an open dialogue among governments, companies and non-profit organizations serving rural communities for the purpose of sharing lessons learnt and best practices and building purpose driven partnerships

Sub-topics:

climate change, agriculture (food security), carbon market, digital and financial inclusion.



Chair

Dr Fabiana Menna



Dr Fabiana Menna, Italian anthropologist from the “Universita degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza”, Master in gender and public policy design, with over 24 years leading development projects in Latin America, especially related to women's economic autonomy and gender mainstreaming in climate change policies. International consultant for UNEP, UNOPS and World Bank. President and founder of the Gran Chaco Foundation and the Rural Women's Network, Vice President of the National Steering Committee of PPD-UNDP in Argentina, Delegate of Women 20, advisory group of the G20 and member of the Women and Gender Constituency. With publications in the field of local development, climate change and gender with intercultural approach.

Panellist:

Ms Hadriani Uli Tiur Ida Silalahi



Ms Hadriani Uli Tiur Ida Silalahi is an accomplished leader with over 30 years of experience in business and nonprofit sectors. She is a doctoral candidate in Commercial Administration at the University of Indonesia, and holds degrees in Communication Management and Economics, along with international training from the University of Sydney. She has overseen the distribution of over 10 million books. Additionally, as CEO of TYO First Edition, a joint venture with Japan, she serves global brands like Visa and Volvo. She is a Women20 delegate for sustainability, women's empowerment, and economic growth. Hadriani is a transformative figure in business, advocacy, and public leadership.

Panellist:

Dr Betül Özel Çiçek



Dr Betül Özel Çiçek, W20 delegate from Turkey, scholar specializing in religion, mythology, and feminist theory. She holds a Ph.D. in the History of Religions and currently serves as Deputy General Director for Strategic Planning at KADEM, where she oversees advocacy, research, and gender policy initiatives. She is also the Managing Editor of KADEM's academic journal. Her work focuses on cultural memory, feminist theology, and comparative literature. With over two decades of experience in civil society, she bridges academic research and feminist activism, and has taught courses on mythology, science fiction, and American literature.



Panellist:

Ms Elena Myakotnikova



Ms Elena Myakotnikova is a Women20 Russia delegate, Chairman of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Council on Sustainable Business Development, CSR and Volunteering. She is a member of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, International independent observer UNEP as well as member of the Climate Club of the Russian Federation and the Climate Club of the Eurasian Economic Commission and of the RUIE Council on Non-Financial Reporting; RUIE Committees on Climate Policy and Carbon Regulation, CSR and Sustainable Business Development, Ecology and Environmental Management. Elena is also member of the expert council of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives and of the Public Council of the Federal Forestry Agency.

Panellist:

Ms Lerato Mathabatha



Ms Lerato Mathabatha, Microsoft South Africa, specialized in public sector-focused technological innovations, with a rich professional background spanning roles such as Director of Energy & Manufacturing and Solution Sales Manager for Modern Workplace security. Driven by a commitment to enriching lives and delivering exceptional value, she aspires to continuous mastery and innovation. Holding an Executive MBA from the University of Cape Town, advanced management training from Wits Business School (WBS), and business strategy expertise from INSEAD, she advocates for leveraging transformative technologies like AI to address global challenges and opportunities. Passionate about equity for women, she emphasizes the need for initiatives that bridge the equity gap to ensure true equality.

Panellist:

Mr Sipho Mtombeni



Mr Sipho Mtombeni is the Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager at Google South Africa. In this role, he engages with the South African government on policy and legislative matters concerning artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, copyright, privacy, and online safety. Prior to joining Google, he held a regulatory position at the Competition Commission of South Africa. Mr. Mtombeni holds an LLB, Law Degree from the University of Pretoria and a Master of Business Administration, MBA from the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS).



Panellist:

Ms Tamara Dancheva



Ms Tamara Dancheva has worked in various roles in global organizations, focusing on gender equality, human rights and international relations. As Senior Manager at International Relations of GSMA, responsible for leading the international digital gender equity and equality space, with UN Women, the EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, the Generation Equality Innovation and Technology Action Coalition and the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network. Co-Chair of the EQUALS Skills Coalition, Co-Chair of the Education, STEM and Bridging the Digital Divide Task Team of Women20 and the Co-Head of the EU Delegation to W20. Bachelor's Degree in International Business from Rockhurst University (Kansas City, USA) and a Master's Degree in Politics and Government from the London School of Economics.

Panellist:

Ms Gomolemo Lolo Madikgetla



Ms Gomolemo Lolo Madikgetla is an ISO30415 Diversity and Inclusion certified professional, operating at the intersection of care, strategic communications, creative leadership, gender equity, innovation, trade, economic development and investment advisory. Founder of UNGWA Africa, that curates and co-creates meaningful impact for women and youth in Africa and the Diaspora. Advisory to the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business, Women in Business Conference Board. For over 21 years at national and global board roles in diverse fields. Chairman of the Board of Directors at Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) to attract foreign direct investment, promote trade and positioning Botswana, globally.



Speaker:

Ms Rimjhim Gour



Ms Rimjhim Gour is a trailblazing political strategist and governance reformer, leading some of the most ambitious women-led initiatives across the Global South. She is the Founder of Sapiens Research & Analysis, one of India's most prominent female-led political and public policy consultancies. Rimjhim commands the world's largest Self Help Group (SHG) network, engaging over 1 million women in grassroots development and financial empowerment. In 2024, she mobilized 15 million first-time women voters, making it the largest women-led voter engagement campaign globally. Her influence spans 25+ Indian states and advisory roles across 8+ countries. She also founded VEDA, a global political and development collaborative, and GRAMYA, an AI-powered policy feedback platform active in 25,000+ village councils. Fiercely committed to financial and digital inclusion, Rimjhim works to position women at the center of India's digital public infrastructure movement - an emerging global model for inclusive governance.

PAWO and Community Outreach Engagement on the Continent

Address:

Ms Bathabile Dlamini



Former Minister Dlamini has served in various structures of the African National Congress (ANC) since the unbanning of the ANC. The Former Minister has an extensive history in the ANC as she was the ANC Branch Treasurer and ANC Secretary of the Women's League (WL) at Imbali branch. The Former Minister also served in the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC WL in Natal Midlands Region and later became Regional Secretary. She was elected as Deputy Secretary General of the Women's League L and thereafter became the Secretary General of the women's league. It was during this period when along with the leadership formed the Progressive Women's Movement of South Africa. She was then elected as President of the ANC WL where she formed the ANC Young Women's Desk. The groups Upscaled campaigns on violence against women and worked with different sectors of women including women professionals, women in business, domestic workers, farm workers as well as NGOs including during COVID-19 pandemic. The Former Minister was elected in the ANC NEC from Polokwane and given the responsibility of mobilisation of different sectors in the office of the ANC President. She also served in the Social Development Committee since then and in the gender and equity as well as mobilisation subcommittees and social transformation committee. She also served in Parliament during 5 administrations and served in Correctional Services and Social development Portfolio Committees. She also served as a Duty Whip. She was then employed as a Deputy Minister of Social Development, Minister of Social Development and as the Minister of Women. Presently, the Former Minister is Vice President of the Pan African Women's organisation (PAWO) which was founded in July 31, 1962. PAWO is a continental organisation that has a history of fighting for women's emancipation. It was founded before the formation of the Organisation of African Unity which is now which is now the African Union. PAWO is a specialised agency of the African Union.



W20 South Africa: Outreach Session

Overview

Women's empowerment is a key priority on the global development agenda and is crucial for achieving gender equality – Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. However, as of 2025, women globally continue to experience persistent challenges including violence, discrimination, limited access to education and healthcare, and economic disparities. In South Africa, these challenges are often exacerbated by factors such as poverty, poor access to economic opportunities, social norms inhibiting leadership and decision-making, and HIV / AIDS¹.

The ILO estimates that the global labour force participation gap between men and women is 25% with some nations exceeding 50%². Within South Africa, women consistently experience higher unemployment rates with latest indicators measuring 35.5% for women versus the 30.7% unemployment rate experienced by men³. Yet, to fully comprehend what impact this has on women as individuals, there is a need to delve deep into the stories of women in communities. As G20 host nation, South Africa's communities offer a rich environment for learning and shared wisdom that can span borders.

The W20 Inception outreach session will draw on the G20 theme of solidarity and W20 theme of Ubuntu by facilitating an interactive discussion that seeks to learn from the stories and lived experiences of individuals in Cape Town communities. Storytelling is a foundational aspect of African tradition, where stories are passed down through generations by word of mouth to be used for teaching and imparting lessons. This session will take the time to understand both the challenges faced by women on the ground, as well as innovative grassroots solutions emerging for gender empowerment. This is whilst also exploring recommendations that can be applied by the broader international community.

Approach

- 1. Community Voices:** ±5 women from local Cape Town communities will engage in a facilitated conversation to share their journey, challenges faced and solutions they have adopted to overcome. Each of the individuals selected are engaged in a type of empowerment intervention, whether it be to address a community need (e.g. education) or become economically productive. (50 min: 10 min each)
- 2. Community Solutions:** 3-4 practitioners will be engaged in a short panel discussion to highlight local community solutions that are seeking to empower women. As part of the discussion, the practitioners will build on the stories from the Community Voices conversation, focusing on each model, policy implications and learnings that can be replicated elsewhere. A key aspect will be to ensure that not too much time is spent on South African-specific detail. Practitioners will need to adopt a macro / global lens given the audience, whilst remaining authentic to the experience of the communities they operate in. (40 min: 10 min each)
- 3. Audience Engagement:** W20 inception in-person participants will be offered the opportunity to ask individuals questions or to reflect on their experiences from a policy perspective, possibly drawing on examples from their own countries. This will be closely facilitated and guided through carefully designed open-ended questions. (30 min)
- 4. Close Out:** One line reflection from each panellist on what inspires them about their / their community's future. (10 min: ± 1 min per individual)

¹ Shozi, M. (n.d.). *Challenges facing South African in relation to gender equality*. Commission for Gender Equality. Available at: <https://cge.org.za/challenges-facing-the-south-africa-in-relation-to-gender-equality/>

² ILO. (2022). *The Gender Gap in Employment: What's holding women back?* February. Available at: <https://webapps.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Employment/barriers-women#intro>

³ Statistics South Africa (2025). *Quarterly Labour Force Survey Quarter 1 2025*. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02111stQuarter2025.pdf>



Chair:

Ms Boitumelo (Tumy) Motsoatsoe



Ms Boitumelo (Tumy) Motsoatsoe is the Head of Communications and PR at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator and former Head of Programmes at Business and Arts South Africa NPC (BASA). She holds a Master's degree in Cultural Policy & Management and an Honours degree in Dramatic Arts, both from the University of Witwatersrand. Tumy is a dynamic and values-driven professional with extensive experience in strategic communications, programme development, facilitation, and cultural policy. She has collaborated with notable organisations such as the Goethe Institut, Digify Africa, GIZ, Constitutional Hill, the South African Cultural Observatory, the Graca Machel Trust, and the Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct to design and execute impactful campaigns and programmes promoting inclusion, equity, and access, particularly for youth, women, mothers, and creatives. Over the last 13 years, she has been selected for the British Council's Future Leaders Programme (UK), the Young Leaders Connect initiative (IWFSA), the Clore Leadership Programme (UK), and the Mandela Washington Fellowship, which placed her at Lehigh University (USA). She became a Relational Dynamics Coach (Culture at Work UK) and was named one of Mail and Guardian's 200 Young South Africans. Additionally, Tumy received the BASA Award for Cultural Leadership and Management in the Cultural Economy and holds a Bronze Arts Award from Trinity College London.

Participant:

Ms Michelle Fortuin



Ms Michelle Fortuin, is a certified life coach, community radio presenter and BPS Site manager. Michelle is a dedicated leader committed to youth development and community empowerment. Born in Cape Town and raised in Atlantis, she has spent her career in corporate finance while maintaining a strong passion for supporting young people. Recognizing the need for holistic youth development, she founded X-treme Youth, an organization aimed at fostering growth and opportunities for the next generation. In 2022, Michelle had the distinct honor of being appointed as the first site manager of the inaugural Basic Package of Support (BPS) office, where she continues to drive impactful initiatives that benefit her community.



Participant:

Ms Kaitlyn Miller



Ms Kaytlin Miller, is a 25-year-old proud mother, a youth coach and a caring and compassionate person, someone who finds real purpose in helping others. She is deeply passionate about guiding and supporting young people as they work towards achieving their goals. Being goal-oriented, she understands the importance of staying focused and motivated—even when life gets tough. Through her BPS journey, as Mobiliser, a client and now youth coach she aims to be a positive influence and a source of encouragement, helping youth believe in themselves and build brighter futures. Making a difference in someone's life, no matter how small. This is what drives her every single day.

Participant:

Ms Shanise Jeniker



Ms Shanise Jeniker, 22, is a Sports Massage Therapist & Entrepreneur. She grew up in Atlantis with her brother, mother and father. When she first joined the BPS program, she only had a matric certificate and a dream of becoming a sports massage therapist. She didn't know where to start, but BPS helped her find my path—supporting her in registering for courses and securing an internship that turned into a full-time job. After a year and a half, she took a leap and opened my own business, guided every step of the way by BPS—from business training to career expos and one-on-one mentorship. Her business, now thriving for over a year, is dedicated to her late brother, who always encouraged her to chase her dreams. She is proud of how far she has come, and incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of BPS.

Participant:

Ms Sindiswa Xhali



Ms Sindiswa Xhali, is a 31 year old farmer. She was a BA student majoring in psychology and human Geography at the University of the Western Cape and had to drop out on her last year, left with 2 modules to finish. She is now a farmer who nurtures her community through gardening and market work at Orenzcht City Farm. Her dream is to have a farm that will be a vibrant hub for connection, growth, and sustainability.



Participant:

Ms Sedika Williams



Ms Sedika Williams, is a 22-year-old Psychology BA student at UNISA, living in Bishop Lavis. Her passion lies in understanding the depths of the human mind, the thoughts, emotions, and stories that shape people's lives. As an Administrative Assistant at MathMoms, she contributes to education and community upliftment, helping support learners and their families. Before stepping into this role, she was involved at MathMoms in various capacities, after joining the organisation as part of the YearBeyond programme in 2023.

Participant:

Ms Judy-Ann Cilliers



Ms Judy-Ann Cilliers is the Wellbeing Manager at MathMoms, a Cape Town-based women's initiative which builds confident communities, one maths empowered child at a time. Judy-Ann's background is in political philosophy, with a focus on immigration ethics, questions around belonging, identity, and violence, and political judgment. This background informs her work at MathMoms, which offers trauma-informed community interventions to create structures of belonging within which people can heal, connect, learn, and flourish.

Participant:

Ms Jacqui Boule



Ms Jacqui Boule is the Head of YeBo Institute, and manages the Youth and After School Programme Office in the Western Cape Government. She has over 30 years of development experience as a public servant, NGO leader and consultant. This includes running the SA NGO Coalition Poverty hearings in 1999, working on formalising the determination and training frameworks for expanded public works while the General Manager of Working for Water Programme, crafting the Western Cape Provincial Youth Strategy. Jacqui is particularly passionate about education and youth. She has worked extensively on youth development, pathways to employment and strategies to address poverty and inequality. Her particular skill is in bringing public, private and NGO partners together around a shared goal. Jacqui holds an economics degree and MBA.



Participant:

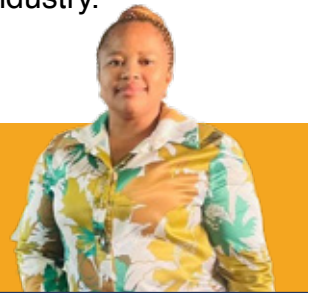
Ms Lesego Mohapi



Ms Lesego Mohapi is a woman in the mobility space, who has overcome many obstacles to get to where she is today. She is a third-year Bachelor of Business Administration student majoring in Finance & Investments. After all the learnings of being a mobility entrepreneur by being on the ground and through the Learnership (YBC) program, she has gained the skills and support that transformed her journey. She also serves as an ambassador and facilitator for YBC as she is passionate about empowering young women to embrace entrepreneurship, mobility solutions, and financial inclusion—breaking barriers and creating new opportunities in this industry.

Participant:

Ms Neziwe Mazolwane



Ms Neziwe Mazolwane is a dynamic and results-driven professional with a wealth of experience in administration, customer service, and data processing. With a strong foundation in Microsoft Office and excellent communication skills, She has excelled in various roles, including Admin Clerk and Data Processor at prominent organizations such as Absa Bank and the Department of Public Transport. Currently, she is spearheading her own initiative as the Founder and Director of Ukhokhelo Lolutsha community organization, where she is dedicated to making a positive impact in her community. Through this platform, she is able to leverage her skills and expertise to drive meaningful change and empower others. In addition to her community work, she is also the founder of Sikunye Transport Services & Graphic Designs, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit and versatility. With a strong educational background, including certifications in Project Management and Internet Marketing, she continues to expand her knowledge and skills, staying ahead of the curve in her fields of interest. Through her work, she demonstrates a commitment to excellence, community development, and social responsibility, inspiring others with her passion and dedication. A key aspect of her work with Ukhokhelo Lolutsha involves designing and implementing afterschool programs for children, providing them with a supportive environment to grow and learn. She also conducts youth programs, empowering young people with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. By investing in the next generation, she is helping to build a brighter future for her community.



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