



# UNDP South Africa Newsletter

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## UNDP and the Department of Trade and Industry launch the centre for trade and regional integration project

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



Participants at the Centre for Trade launch with the guest of honour Minister Rob Davies and the UNDP Resident Representative Mr Gana Fofang

### Some of the featured stories

1. *UNDP and the Department of Trade and Industry launch the centre for trade and regional integration project*
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Trade and regional integration have been among the key priorities of African leaders and other stakeholders, including public and private sector operators, and development agencies. However, the traditional focus on market integration, aimed at reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, has not yielded expected results. It has become clear that Africa needs to broaden its approach to regional integration.

The Project which aims to establish the Southern African Centre for Trade and Regional Integration (CTRI) has been designed with a view to building the capacity of Africa's trade negotiators in the ongoing Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) regional integration negotiations as well as to strengthen trade facilitation mechanisms in the region. Specifically, the Centre's main role will be to facilitate the implementation of the "development integration" approach to regional integration. This implies ensuring that the TFTA and CFTA usher in and drive a process that leads to both the development of productive capacity and cross-border infrastructure. Evidence suggests that for regional integration to be sustainable all its members must benefit, especially, the lesser developed, small, vulnerable, and land-locked countries.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016, UNDP and the Department of Trade and Industry (dti)

hosted a workshop to discuss ideas and concepts on regional integration and to that end the establishment of a Centre for trade and Regional Integration. The workshop sought views of trade and development practitioners, academics and regional bodies on the establishment of this Centre and traced out its work programme for the years to come. The workshop was premised on the reality that stakeholders are committed to the regional integration process in Africa. It recognised the need to develop a long-term research and policy agenda to contribute to the regional integration process and serve as the foundation for the Centre for Trade and Regional Integration (CTRI) project. This would create the environment within which the Centre could play a facilitating role in stimulating and transforming research and policies into tangible interventions that would support development integration in Africa. Having concluded on the design of the project and completion of extensive consultations a launch of the Project took place on March 30, 2017.

**"It is about creating an environment where trade becomes beneficial to all concerned- a win-win situation"**

## From page 1 **Centre for Trade and Regional Integration Project launched**

UNDP South Africa in partnership with the South African Department of Trade and Industry (the DTI) launched the Centre for Trade and Regional Integration project (CTRI) at the Capital Menlyn Maine Hotel, in Pretoria, South Africa on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. The occasion was characterised by broad representation of trade practitioners from Southern Africa including Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa itself. Additionally, the Commonwealth Foundation recognising the potential of the Project came from London to participate and express interest in engaging with the project moving forward. The Project represents a fusion of academia, Government, regional bodies and private sector. The University of Cape Town is a key partner in the initiative ensuring the capacity for much needed research to inform policy dialogue. The Government of South Africa has demonstrated its commitment through its continued engagement and the presence of H.E. Hon Rob Davis as key note speaker at the event. Likewise the high- level representation of other countries in the region and the regional bodies such as ECA and SADC confirm the willingness for a networked approach to capacity building and trade integration.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Fofang, stated that UNDP's motivation to support this project is to build on previous efforts to promote trade such as the Integrated Framework and now the Enhanced Integrated Framework which was intended to help Least Developed Countries play a more active role in the global trading system while promoting economic growth and sustainable development to lift more people out of poverty. "It is about creating an environment where trade becomes beneficial to all concerned- a win-win situation", he said. He noted that in many cases, the benefits of trade do not reach as many people as they should, and mean little those living in poverty and lacking the means to engage in any economic endeavour. "This scenario can give rise to anti-trade sentiments where trade is construed as a one-directional process where the poorer countries are net "receivers" while the bigger economies dominate the supply side", Mr Fofang said. He added that the other programmes that the initiative intends to build on include Aid for Trade and the African Regional Project which focusses on building African capacity to gain maximum benefit from inclusive globalization and regional integration.

Hon Davies, Minister for DTI, highlighted several points during his address which was entitled "The Changing Global Environment on Trade: Implications for Africa's Regional Integration agenda".

The Minister said that globalization works by benefiting a few and not everyone. There has been a "mushrooming" of winner takes all markets with winners reaping huge rewards while "also rans" get little or nothing.

"Globalisation has meant that this phenomenon is increasingly defined on a world rather than national scale. All of this has widened inequality with the numbers of people at the top who own as much wealth as the bottom half now being recorded in a smaller double digit numbers year by year", said Minister Davies.

He also said that Africa is mainly the producer and the opportunity for trade is very small. "It is critical and timely for Africa to work collectively on issues of trade to leverage opportunity" added the Minister.

The launch included presentations plenary discussion and a panel presentation. This facilitated a broad range of inputs from participants and was highly interactive.

Key issues which were captured during these discussions included an update from DTI by Mr. Wamkele Mene on progress towards realizing the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). "Technical working groups have been set and are functioning," said Wamkele. He further explained on the modalities of negotiation as well as the challenges as seen in South Africa context.

The Southern African Centre for Trade and Regional Integration's work will be located within the UNDP South African work areas of "promoting inclusive growth" and "fostering South Africa's regional and global role".

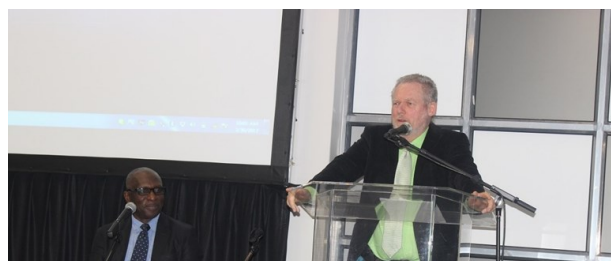
The Centre will advance the developmental regionalism approach to trade and integration in Southern Africa, which is grounded in three principles: (i) increasing trade liberalization by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers among African countries; (ii) building regional value chains in productive sectors that increase their share of value-added and gains from trade through increased

beneficiation and industrial development; and (iii) Cooperating with each other in building cross-border regional infrastructure projects, across a wide field, including transport, energy, communications, and tourism.

The Centre will undertake and facilitate applied research and analysis; collect evidence on policies and good practices in developmental regionalism; develop tools, methodologies and knowledge products for strengthening the implementation and monitoring of regional integration among other things. Strategic partnerships will be cultivated with a range of research and policy institutions within the continent and in other Global South regions as well as in the Global North. It will promote South-South collaboration and the sharing, exchange and co-creation of knowledge.



**"Globalisation has meant that this phenomenon is increasingly defined on a world rather than national scale. All of this has widened inequality with the numbers of people at the top who own as much wealth as the bottom half now being recorded in a smaller double digit numbers year by year"**



*Minister Rob Davies and UNDP Resident Representative Gana Fofang at the event*



## South Africa launches the new National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, TB and STIs



**Panellists giving an overview of the current HIV, TB and STIs response, challenges and achievements and perspectives on the new NSP (L-R): Steve Letsike - SANAC Deputy Chairperson, John Wallington – Executive VP Sibanye Gold, Jessye Lapenn – Charge D’Affaires, US Embassy, Xolisile Qayiso - COSATU, Michel Sidibe-UNAIDS Executive Director and Dr Aaron Motsoaledi—Minister of Health Photo: UNAIDS**

South Africa has made great strides in its AIDS response—it has the largest HIV treatment programme in the world, with more than 3.7 million people on antiretroviral therapy, funded almost entirely from domestic sources; AIDS-related deaths have declined by more than 55% since 2005; and around 95% of all pregnant women living with HIV in South Africa now have access to medicines to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to their child.

South Africa is continually striving to do more to stop new HIV infections and prevent AIDS-related deaths and on 31 March launched its third five-year South African National Strategic Plan on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis (2017–2022) (NSP) under the slogan “Let Our Actions Count”. The plan was launched at an event in Bloemfontein, by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa who is also the chair of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, and the following Heads of Agencies were present at the event to show their support for the new plan; UNAIDS Country Director, Erasmus Mora; UNDP Country Director, Walid Badawi; UNFPA Representative, Esther Muia and WHO Representative Rufaro Chatora

UNDP has contributed to the development of

the new NSP in two significant ways; supporting the writing of the human rights chapter and lobbying and influencing for the inclusion of co-financing as a strategy for sustainable financing of the HIV epidemic in South Africa.

“UNDP is the lead agency in convening Outcome 1 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which focuses mainly on the governance and financing of the AIDS response. This ensures that there is sustainability in financing of the NSP. In this regard, UNDP lobbied both during the consultations and the writing of the NSP for co-financing to be included as a key strategy for sustainable financing of the AIDS response. This suggestion was well received and co-financing is one of the strategies included in the strategies in Goal 7 of the NSP” said Mr Badawi in a separate interview.

In his speech, the Deputy President reminded the gathering of the need for South Africans to hold hands in defeating the HIV and Tuberculosis epidemics as a way of putting the plan that has been launched into action.

“As we launch this third National Strategic Plan, we must remember that in the end it is a plan that belongs to all of us as South Africans. It invites South African leaders from different walks of life to take action to end the

epidemics of HIV, Tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections. Defeating the HIV and Tuberculosis epidemics is going to rest on all of our shoulders,” he said.

Michel Sidibe lauded South Africa as a global leader in the AIDS response and indicated that the country has demonstrated that it is possible to go to scale.

“We can see this in the number of people testing for HIV each year, people on HIV treatment and having the right political leadership,” he said.

The plan sets out bold and ambitious targets which include reducing new HIV infections from 270 000 to less than 100 000 per year, reducing new tuberculosis (TB) infections from 450 000 to less than 315 000 per year and reaching the 90–90–90 targets—whereby 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are accessing treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads—by 2020.

To achieve the targets the government and partners will use a combination of high-impact programmes in the locations and among the populations most affected by HIV.

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The plan also outlines a special focus on HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women, who have the highest rates of new HIV infections in South Africa—100 000 young women became newly infected in South Africa in 2015.

“We need to ensure that no one is left behind. The national response is about the people. We cannot do this if we don’t involve people. Our action will count,” said Steven Letsike, chairperson for South African National AIDS Council’s civil society forum.

The launch of the NSP is one of the highlights of TB month which is commemorated annually across the globe to raise awareness about Tuberculosis (TB). The NSP is the strategic guide for the national response to HIV, TB and STIs in South Africa. One of the objectives of the Plan is to intensify focus on geographic areas and populations most severely affected by the epidemics.

In July 2016, South Africa hosted the 21st International AIDS Conference 2016 (IAC 2016) opened on 18 July in Durban, South Africa. Under the theme “Access equity rights now,” the conference echoed UN’s call to leave no



UN delegation and government officials present at the National Strategic Plan launch **Photo: UNAIDS**

one behind and provide comprehensive HIV services to everyone in need.

The conference was officially opened by South Africa’s Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, United Nations former Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, United Nations Messenger of Peace and actress Charlize Theron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, IAC 2016 Co-Chairs Olive Shisana and Chris Beyrer and Nkhensani Mavasa of South Africa’s Treatment Action Campaign.

The former UN Secretary-General commended countries and specifically South Africa for its progress in the fight against AIDS, particularly in giving access to treatment to people affected by HIV, recalling that the Durban Conference in 2000 had set very good guidelines to achieve such progress. However, he stressed that much remained to be done at the global level to ensure the ending of the epidemic by 2030.

## UNDP in an inception workshop for securing multiple ecosystem benefits through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project

The GEF-funded “Securing multiple ecosystems benefit through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa” project had a very successful Inception Workshop at the Burgerspark Hotel in Pretoria. In addition to the following three responsible parties for this project; Rhodes University, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), provincial and national departments from mainly Agriculture, were also actively present.

The Acting Director for Biodiversity and Conservation in the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ms Thizwi Rambau, presented the opening address. She highlighted the importance of the project for addressing land degradation issues.



UNDP Staff members at the SLM workshop



## UNDP joins forces with IBM on tech skills development for Africa's young workforce

IBM is investing \$70 million in building much-needed digital, cloud, and cognitive IT skills to help support a 21st century workforce in Africa. The initiative, "IBM Digital - Nation Africa", provides a cloud-based learning platform designed to provide free skills development programs for up to 25 million African youths over five years, enabling digital competence and nurturing innovation in Africa.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IBM to facilitate the collaboration for skills development in Middle East and Africa regions.

Under the MoU, the parties have agreed to explore opportunities to foster public private partnerships in skills design and delivery and to strengthen skills acquisition for youth, women, and other disadvantaged groups. The MoU is expected to be a framework for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, with a special focus on the acquisition of market-driven skills.

Concurrently with the MoU, on Thursday 9 February in Johannesburg, IBM launched "IBM Digital - Nation Africa", a digital skills training initiative aimed at benefitting up to 25 million African youth over the next five years.

With the aim of equipping as many as 25 million people with sought after IT skills over the next five years, the program will be launched from IBM's regional offices in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Morocco, and Egypt. This will enable the expansion of the initiative across the continent.

The event featured a keynote address by IBM Chairman, President and CEO Ginni Rometty, and a panel conversation titled Driving Digital Competence and Innovation in Africa which was moderated by Mr. Hamilton Ratshefola, IBM South Africa General Manager.

Panelists included Mr. Arvind Krishna, IBM Senior Vice President and Director of Research; Professor Adam Habib, Vice Chancellor, Wits



*Appearing at the IBM Digital - Nation Africa launch event in Johannesburg (from left to right): IICPSD Deputy Director Gulcin Salingan; IBM CEO Ginni Rometty; and UNDP South Africa Country Director Walid Badawi.*

University; Mr. Allon Raiz, Raizcorp CEO, Mr. Walid Badawi, UNDP Country Director in South Africa.

Hailing the announcement, Walid Badawi said: "UNDP is pleased to leverage its global presence, development knowledge, and long-standing partnerships to provide context, traction and scale to this collaboration with IBM."

Badawi further highlighted the potential link between Digital Nation Africa and the implementation of the global development agenda, as IT will invariably play a big role in enabling the SDGs.

Speaking to UNDP's experience in youth empowerment, Badawi cited the organization's successful YouthConnekt, an innovative programme in Rwanda designed to connect young professionals with career opportunities in the public and private sector, as well as UNDP's work to provide young South Africans with marketable skills, including IT skills. He also underscored the potentially disruptive impacts of the digital revolution for a workforce ill-prepared to weather such changes, a phenomenon detailed in UNDP's 2015 Human Development Report titled Work for Human Development.

"Redundancies and displacement of workers due to technological change for the segment of the population that is unable to keep up with changes will require interventions to ensure workers' well-being, through safety nets and

social protection." added Badawi.

In the various countries targeted by the initiative UNDP will collaborate with IBM on opportunities for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills delivery, certification, and accreditation.

Also present at the event, Ms. Gulcin Salingan, IICPSD Deputy Director underscored the center's commitment to leverage this partnership to support the work of Country Offices and facilitate the achievement of the SDGs.

"IICPSD has been working in the thematic area of private sector-led skills development for almost half a decade. We are generating targeted and actionable knowledge for impact, as reflected by our field studies in Turkey, India and beyond. We facilitate transformative partnerships and support catalytic programme and project implementation all around the world such as Kosovo\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uzbekistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Palestine. The centre will act as UNDP's key coordinating unit of and will operationalize the partnership with IBM, and synergize the efforts towards the global development goals" said Ms. Salingan.

"IBM Digital - Nation Africa" is expected to provide the youth with free access to mobile applications, web guides, online tutorials, and the services of a volunteer programme to support and promote digital literacy.

## UNDP holds a learning exchange on the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

The UNDP South Africa Country Office held a GEF Partners Learning Exchange on 23-24 January 2017 at Environment House, Department of Environmental Affairs. The purpose was to provide a space where project partners could share their project experiences, and their overall programming results and approaches.

In his opening remarks, the UNDP Country Director Mr. Walid Badawi spoke on the need and context of the learning exchange to the 51 participants.

“It is imperative for all of us to facilitate and participate in knowledge exchange initiatives to enhance the level of efficiency and impact of GEF funded projects,” he said.

The South African GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), Mr. Zaheer Fakir, delivered an informative plenary address about the distinctive role of the GEF Council and the GEF Secretariat, and shared his general perspectives and anecdotes on the forthcoming GEF-7 cycle.

An update on the work of the UN Sustainable Development Results Group was provided by the UNEP South Africa Head of Office Ms. Cecilia Njenga.

Dr. Janice Golding, UNDP SA Programme



*Ms Aziza Parker– Project Manager for Mainstreaming Biodiversity, South African National Biodiversity (SANB) presenting on their project*

Manager presented characteristics of the UNDP -GEF Environment Portfolio in South Africa.

The lead resource person, Dr. Phemo Kgomotso, UNDP-Global Environmental Finance Expert facilitated the learning exchange over the course of the two days. Dr. Phemo said that the projects are government-owned, GEF - financed and UNDP assisted.

Dr. Phemo’s guidance focussed on the GEF strategies, general principles, rules, procedures and partnerships. In addition, she provided

answers to questions on monitoring and reporting requirements and tools across the various phases of the project cycle; and the responsibilities of the involved entities namely; GEF OFP, Government, Project Board, Executing Agencies, Implementing Agencies among others.

**“We will strive to have this on our calendar as an annual event!”**

### From page 4:

“This project is very important as it addresses land degradation issues in different landscapes of South Africa in general. But also, the project contributes towards the country’s obligations under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the related Land Degradation Neutrality Targets 2030 initiative,” said Rambau

UNDP South Africa Environment Programme Manager, Dr Janice Golding, who served as workshop chair stated in her opening remarks that the long and somewhat frustrating project delays have in fact been helpful, and that it now enables stakeholders to “hit the ground running” as soon as the funding is mobilised.

South Africa’s long-term vision is to establish a green economy underpinned by healthy, functioning ecosystems. Addressing land degradation and achieving SLM is essential for achieving this. The long-term preferred solution is to reduce the costs of ecological restoration in South Africa and increase land productivity. This requires an innovative SLM approach and this is exactly what this project is all about.

Mr. Lehman Lindeque, the UNDP Project Manager responsible for SLM, indicated that this project will address in principle two barriers to attaining the long-term preferred solution.

“Firstly, the necessary capacity to generate and monitor successful examples of SLM practices will be built. Secondly, an integrated and coherent framework to strategically finance, implement and govern the application of SLM best practices to achieve landscape-level results will be attained,” said Lindeque.

**“This project is very important as it addresses land degradation issues in different landscapes of South Africa in general. But also, the project contributes towards the country’s obligations under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the related Land Degradation Neutrality Targets 2030 initiative,”**

# UNDP joins government and other partners in the new initiative to manage severe fires

With extended fire seasons and the outbreak of more severe fires due to drought, government entities, trained fire rescue personnel and residents are taking a proactive role in fire management.

Although the fire season typically runs from December until April, Philip Prins, the fire and technical services manager at SANParks, (Table Mountain National Park), said the season for the past two years has started a month early. Dry vegetation resulting from the drought can also cause fires to spread more rapidly.

Over a span of four years, Department of Environment, UNDP and other major stakeholders teamed up with Kishugu for the Greater Good to reduce disaster risks from wildland fire in the Fynbos biome stretching from the Eastern Cape to the Western Cape through a comprehensive, integrated fire management initiative, FynbosFire project.



*Tessa Oliver (Project Coordinator) and Val Charlton (Project Director) launch the Handbook, A Guide to Integrated Fire Management Photo: Kishugu*

Project organisers implemented a wide range of measures including the development of websites about fire management and risk assessment tools for wildland urban interfaces, installation of automated weather stations with live updates and predictive modelling, and membership growth of fire protection associations.

With funding from GEF, managed by UNDP, more than 4 700 people were sent on training courses ranging from basic wildfire fighting to incident command.

The project also led to the production of the first-of-its kind toolkit for firefighters, land owners, local authorities and NGOs – the GEF FynbosFire Integrated Fire Management Handbook.

“This is a fantastic project. It’s a pilot project that has come up with ground breaking things,” said Ms Tessa Oliver, the project coordinator of Kishugu.

“It would be great to see that people take on certain aspects of the project like the weather stations and actually roll them out nationally,” she added.

Despite an increase in fires, there has been more awareness and reporting from communities, alerting fire outbreaks from the

onset, mitigating the extent of damages, said Shane Christian, general manager of Working on Fire.

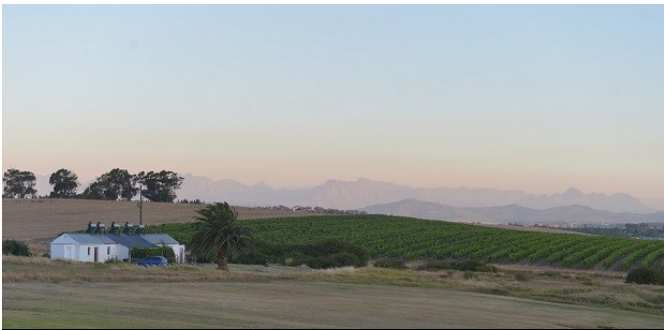
So far, there have been more than 2 000 veld fires in the Western Cape since the start of November. According to a couple of the project’s leading partners, a key component to effective fire prevention and management is the expansion of fire protection associations (FPAs), one of the many successes of the FynbosFire initiative.

Each of the district municipalities within the Western Cape has a registered FPA, which is an organisation formed by land owners to predict, prevent and manage wildfires in designated areas.

According to UNDP Programme Manager for Environment, Janice Golding GEF is the biggest portfolio for the Country Office and it is very encouraging to see that most of the projects under GEF are yielding good results. “We were



also pleased to have partnered with the DEA, SANparks, Kishugu among others in this project and we look forward to continue working more closely in this project,” she said.



*The wonderful Meerendal Wine Estate, situated in the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association area Photo: Kishugu*



## UNDP South Africa launches the Africa Human Development Report - Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa

UNDP South Africa in partnership with UN Women and the Commission on Gender Equality launched the second Africa Human Development Report published by UNDP entitled: [Africa Human Development Report 2016, Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa](#).

The report was launched on Thursday 27 October 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel, in Pretoria. The aim of the launch was to stimulate policy debate and discussions on further steps needed to ensure that gender equality is fully integrated into national agendas and on-going policy dialogues across South Africa. Participants included policy makers development practitioners, development organizations, representatives from the private sector, civil society, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

UNDP has been publishing Human Development Reports since 1990 to stimulate policy dialogue on topical development issues at global, regional and national levels. Over the years, these Human Development Reports have positioned UNDP as a thought leader and the reports have served as a guide for countries to consider options that enhance human development and expand people's choices. The Human Development Index, a composite indicator that tracks progress against education, health, and income measures, has benchmarked countries on human development since 1990.

The 2016 Africa Human Development Report reviewed the on-going efforts of African

countries to accelerate the pace of ensuring women empowerment through all spheres of society – in the home and community, in health and educational attainment, in the workplace, and in political participation and leadership. While significant progress has been made across numerous fronts in most countries, gender equality for African women and girls is still far from satisfactory. To address the gender gap, this report adopts a political economy approach to gender equality and women empowerment in Africa.

In his opening remarks, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Gana Fofang highlighted the achievements that Africa as a continent has made as well as emphasized the achievements of South Africa. "The 2016 Africa Human Development Report notes these important achievements and also places emphasis on the fact that in Africa women of child bearing age are at a higher risk of premature death; nearly one out of two (45.6%) have experienced sexual or physical violence of some kind during their lifetimes mainly from persons known to them. However, South Africa has made great gains in education and the MDG on Education is one of the goals met in terms of access, but for Africa as a whole, one in four girls of primary school age and one in five boys had never attended school or left school without completing primary education," Mr. Fofang said.

During the panel discussion that was held at the launch, the participants agreed with the messages that the report highlighted, for instance; harmful social norms towards women

and girls need to be deconstructed and addressed as they constrain development for all. Another message that the participants took away was that lack of access to land deprives African women of an important economic tool in improving their livelihoods. Adding on to this, the UNDP Senior Economist, Ms Fatou Leigh emphasized that women should have the capacity to participate in decision-making.

Chief Executive Officer of the Graca Machel Foundation, Ms Nomsa Daniels who spoke on 'Women in African economies looking at how far South Africa has come', agreed with the report that there is more to be done in order to uplift women economically, "The UNDP report shows the staggering costs of not investing in women in the loss of \$95 billion USD a year to the continent's GDP for maintaining the persistent gender gap. The time has come for women to be equal partners in driving the development agenda at national, sub regional and regional level," said Ms Daniels.

The Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for Southern Africa, Mr Themba Kalua, in his reflection on challenges and opportunities for South Africa said "South Africa has made a lot of progress on gender equality and women empowerment, but there is a lot that still needs to be done in particular on Gender Based Violence (GBV). UN Women is ready to partner with government, civil society and other UN agencies in addressing GBV including through engaging men and boys using the HeforShe campaign".

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Mr Themba Kalua, Deputy Representative UN Women, Ms Fatou Leigh, Senior Economist UNDP, Ms Nomsa Daniel, CEO Graca Machel Foundation, Mr Gana Fofang, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Bafana Khumalo, Director of Strategic Partnerships Sonke Justice, Ms Keketso Maema, CEO Commission on Gender Equality and Mr Walid Badawi, Country Director UNDP



## From page 8 **Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa**

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Sonke Gender Justice, Mr Bafana Khumalo, presented a perspective on the legal and social norms in gender equality, specifically looking at what Sonke Gender Justice's contribution has been in the country saying that it is high time the country dealt with the notion of "dangerous masculinities informed by patriarchal norms". "In our quest to advance gender equality and equity in relation to Human Development Challenges in the region, we must deal with the notion of dangerous masculinities informed by patriarchal norms. In this regard we need to tackle harmful traditional practices

that continue to undermine the dignity of women. Some of these include, ending the so called child marriages, Female Genital Mutilation, mourning and cleansing rituals for women to name but a few. In this quest we must affirm positive collaboration between women and men in the struggle for gender transformation. Men of quality are not afraid of gender equality." He said.

The report recommends forging stronger alliances among governments, private sector, CSOs and development partners towards a common gender-focused agenda for

action.

**"The UNDP report shows the staggering costs of not investing in women in the loss of \$95 billion USD a year to the continent's GDP for maintaining the persistent gender gap. The time has come for women to be equal partners in driving the development agenda at national, sub regional and regional level."**

## South Africa celebrates International Volunteer Day



***Kgomotso Mafokwane a volunteer at ADAPT presenting a poem - My mother with bare hands and feet volunteered for me!***

United Nations Volunteers in partnership with a local volunteer organization, Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT) joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Volunteer Day (IVD) in an event that was held in Alexandra Township – Johannesburg.

The IVD 2016's theme is **#GlobalApplause** give volunteers a hand, provides an opportunity for people around the world to give volunteers much-deserved **#GlobalApplause** for all they do in making peace and sustainable

development a reality. A day well attended by UN Volunteers and other volunteers was marked by showcasing of different activities which were organized by the residents of Alexandra Township through ADAPT. The UNV South Africa field office also used the event as an opportunity to recognize and award the 6 UNV doctors who completed their assignments, serving in different hospitals in the Limpopo Province.

In his welcoming remarks, the Programme Officer for UNV South Africa, Mr. Ambrose Toolit took time to explain to the audience the

concept of volunteerism in contributing to peace and development. Since independence South Africa has embraced the role of volunteers in enhancing its development goals.

"Volunteering in South Africa is an integral part of the culture rooted in social, cultural, and community daily practices of belonging and caring for one another. The ethos of volunteerism is infused with values such as Ubuntu - *I am, because of you*, solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to quality of life and basic expression of human relationships," he said.

Mr Toolit also added that volunteers make contributions to society by generating well-being for people and their communities. Volunteerism enables people to develop the skills to engage and participate beyond the household or village, in particular, expanding participation of young people for the long term stability of societies, as it strengthens social integration, while enhancing personal development and skills.

**"Volunteering in South Africa is an integral part of the culture rooted in social, cultural, and community daily practices of belonging and caring for one another."**

## International Volunteers Day celebrations—Alexandra Township

According to the global statement that was made by the UNV Executive Director, Mr Richard Dictus, more than one billion people volunteer globally, internationally and in their own communities, driven by a deep commitment to making the world a better place, for all. In that statement he joined the rest of the world in giving a global applause to all UNVs worldwide.

“5<sup>th</sup> December International Volunteer Day, is a time to take stock and celebrate the efforts of all volunteers wherever they are. I would like to express my gratitude to and admiration for the billion volunteers worldwide who are making peace and sustainable development a reality,” said Mr Dictus in his statement.

The Assistant Resident Representative for UNDP, Mr. Khepi Shole who made a keynote address on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative Mr Gana Fofang, contextualized the South African event and acknowledged the volunteers that have worked and are still working in different fields in the country. “Let’s recognize and applaud the efforts of the thousands of people responding to the needs of their fellow human beings through volunteering in responding to a number of challenges in our communities and country. For example, in South Africa the United Nations Volunteers for over two decades partnered with Government of South Africa in mobilizing qualified and experienced women and men of different nationalities to work together on projects and campaigns that contributes to the achievement of millennium development goals,” said Mr Shole.

IVD celebrates and recognizes the power and potential of volunteers worldwide and their contributions to sustainable development. Also the event is viewed as a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, share their values and promote their work within their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities, and the private sector.

In her closing remarks, the Chief Executive Officer for ADAPT Ms Irene Khumalo thanked the UNV for partnering with her organization and proving an opportunity for people to understand the concept of volunteerism.

“We are trying to highlight the importance of volunteerism in our country,. The people that



*Joined by UNDP’s Assistant Resident Representative to the left Mr. Khepi Shole and UNVs Programme Officer to the right Mr. Ambrose Toolit, are some of the UNV doctors displaying their trophies received in appreciation for their contribution towards development in South Africa*

are here are now in a better position to understand what it means to volunteer. It is amazing to see all these international specialised doctors being recognized here as they volunteered their skills,” said Ms Khumalo.

The event was also attended by representatives from the Department of Health, a local organization called Grassroots Soccer, Southern Africa Association of Youth Clubs (SAAYC), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Alexandra Hospice, Alexandra Traditional Healers Association, and Rethabile.

**“Let’s recognize and applaud the efforts of the thousands of people responding to the needs of their fellow humanity through volunteering in responding to a number of challenges in our communities, and country.”**

### UNV Programme in South Africa.

The UNV programme in South Africa stems from a UNDP – Government of South African cooperation agreement signed in 1994 to provide development assistance. This was followed by the recruitment of almost 200 UN Volunteer electoral observers who participated in the historic election that marked the end of apartheid. In 1995, UNV and UNDP engaged Government in dialogue to support the health sector reform programme and to address the acute shortage of medical doctors in the rural areas, through the recruitment of UNV medical doctors.

### How many UNVs are in South Africa

As of January 2017, there are currently 11 UNVs serving in South Africa. The 11 UNVs are currently hosted among 5 UN agencies namely: UNV/UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNODC and OHCHR.

Eligible and interested persons should register in the UNV Roster through <http://www.unv.org> and click "How to Volunteer" and follow the instructions therein.



## South Africa engaging people to share their experiences on impact of laws

Since August 2016, South Africans have had the chance to participate in public hearings about how laws passed since 1994, the first year of the African National Congress government, have affected their lives.

The forums are organised by the High Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change, chaired by South Africa's former President Kgalema Motlanthe.

The Panel aims to assess whether national policies are working well, and when all the public hearings are completed, problematic laws could be repealed or amended based on what the population says.

Information about the public hearings and where they are to be convened is disseminated widely by the Provincial Legislatures Public Outreach Programme including through news outlets and on social media. The public hearings can be accessed and watched afterwards on the Parliament's YouTube channel.

The first hearing was held in the Eastern Cape Province during 16–17 August, where more than 2,000 people attended who wanted to express their opinions about current laws. Some participants expressed concern, for example, about problems with service delivery in their communities and nepotism in government institutions.

UNDP in South Africa is providing funding for 12 months, technical guidance, and research assistance to the Parliament for the forums; to help the panel to do its part for the National Development Plan goals, promote citizen participation and to strengthen the legislative capacity of the Parliament.

Public hearings have also taken place in the Northern Cape, Free State, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng and Western Cape. Another three hearings will be held later in the year and early in 2017 in the rest of the nine provinces.

The hearings focus on poverty, unemployment, inequalities and land reform, as well as social cohesion and rural development. During the hearing in Free State on 6 October, people expressed their opinions about girls' rights and naming places in South Africa.

"We have cultural practices like ukuthwala, girl abduction for early marriage and ukuhlola,



*Part of the audience captured at the Eastern Cape consultations*

virginity testing for girls only. We always argue that, if these practices were alright, why aren't they performed on boys too? I therefore request this high panel to look at such issues and make sure that our girl children are protected and are able to enjoy their human rights too," said Sixolile Ngcobo from the Commission for Gender Equality.

### Panel encouraging more people to participate

Other members of the High Level Panel include former Cabinet Minister Brigitte Mabandla, former Auditor General Terence Nombembe, former South African Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Professor Eddy Maloka, Senior Researcher Dr Aninka Claassens and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Judge Navi Pillay.

"We are here to listen and take notes so that we can integrate your experiences into the final report," Panel Chairperson Kgalema Motlanthe said at the Free State hearing. "Our preliminary report is expected in March 2017 and the other one will be submitted in June 2017, and these will then be made public."

The panel was appointed by the Speakers' Forum, a structure of the South African Parliament and the Provincial legislatures, following the legacy report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Parliament, which ended in 2014. The report stated that there was a need for assessment of the quality of legislation that has been passed since 1994. The panel has extended the

deadline for the submissions to 31 March 2017 to encourage more people to participate.

**"We have cultural practices like ukuthwala, girl abduction for early marriage and ukuhlola, virginity testing for girls only. We always argue that, if these practices were alright, why aren't they performed on boys too? I therefore request this high panel to look at such issues and make sure that our girl children are protected and are able to enjoy their human rights too"**



# UNDP participates in the South African Institute of International Affairs 2016 (SAIIA 2016) Young Researchers Symposium on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

An extraordinary group of high-school learners from across the country presented their research findings and recommendations on topics such as water scarcity, food security and natural disaster preparedness. These presentations drew connections between local problems, South African policies and international plans such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP was part of the adjudicators during the event and awards were given to the best delegations and the best presenters from the schools.

The Programme Associate for UNDP Global Environment Fund (GEF), Ms Puleng Mkhathswa who attended the event commended SAIIA for such a good programme which encourages students to research on very important development issues. However, she also noted that due to lack of resources other schools did not get an equal chance of exposure.

“My observation is that schools that are coming from the rural areas do not get the necessary resources to enable them to perform well. This was evident in their presentation and their inability to engage the audience or respond to adjudicators’ questions. It would be great if organizations that are working in the education sector can sponsor reading materials to such schools”, she said.

According to Ms Desirée Kosciulek, the Youth Programme Manager for the SAIIA, the goal of the Sustainability Project is to equip South African youth with knowledge and understanding of the local and international issues connected to sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity so that they might be able to put forth their ideas on how to tackle the challenges facing our world today.

“This programme requires teams of learners to research case examples, and to consider what possible recommendations or solutions they would propose at a local and international level,” said Kosciulek.

Participants on the programme are provided unique and often life changing opportunities to engage with different stakeholders from



The winning team from Sobantu Secondary School . Photo: SAIIA

academia, civil society, government, media, the private sector, the diplomatic community and the United Nations. Tutoring, workshops, and resource materials are provided to each of the participating schools and regardless of results, each school is invited to get involved in various programme activities throughout the year.

**“This programme requires teams of learners to research case examples, and to consider what possible recommendations or solutions they would propose at a local and international level,”**





## News in brief



**United Nations Country Team** The 2017 Annual United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and Programme Management Team (PMT) Retreat was held from 10-12 April in Muldersdrift, Gauteng Province. The annual retreat forms a key part of the strategic planning process of the United Nations in South Africa. It is convened to reflect on the joint work of the UN system in South Africa and ensuring that the UN remains “fit for purpose” in a dynamic and vibrant South Africa. The Heads of respective UN Agencies and senior programme managers - who form part of the Programme Management Team, met to discuss programming, operational and strategic scenario planning for the joint work of the UN system in South Africa for 2017 and beyond. The UNCT is currently preparing for the next South Africa–United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF), which is expected to start in April 2019. The retreat assessed how the UN is strengthening its cooperation with partners and advocating for the mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



**KZN Workshop:** UNDP was requested by the Multi-Party Women’s Caucus from the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature to hold a workshop to provide initial understanding on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, and how these impact their work, particularly regarding gender issues, in the province. UNDP led a delegation that included UN Women and Statistics South Africa, as the leading Government department on data provision. They delivered a workshop which was later said to have been “not only informative, but inspiring, well-presented and enjoyable”. Also in attendance at the workshop was Hon L Johnson, the Speaker of the KZN Legislature, and Hon T Didiza, National Assembly House Chairperson/Chairperson for the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Africa region. One outcome from the workshop will provide substantive inputs for the national Multi-Party Women’s Caucus’ engagements with National Treasury regarding funding of sanitary products. With the workshop being rated a success, they will be requesting UNDP to provide similar workshops for the National Women’s Caucus in Parliament and then take it to each of the other eight provinces.



**Grant-proposal writing workshop** The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) held its grant-proposal writing workshop on the 28-29<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 in Thohoyandou, Limpopo. The workshop was hosted by SGP in partnership with a US – based environmental NGO EcoCatalyst Foundation and was attended by close to 100 people representing 37 Community-Based Organisations (CBO) working on environmental conservation initiative. This training was part of GEF SGP capacity building exercise for small CBOs in Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) to enable them to effectively write grant proposals for GEF SGP as well as for other prospective donors. The VBR was selected by SGP stakeholders to receive 70% of the SGP grant-funding in the 6<sup>th</sup> phase of the GEF.



**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Consultative Workshop** UNDP attended the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Consultative Workshop that was held in Pretoria from the 01st—2nd December 2016. The workshop was organized by Statistics South Africa and aimed at appraising major stakeholders of the progress made as regards the SDG indicators suite that would measure delivery of the intended outputs. It was also aimed at gathering inputs from national structures, businesses, academia and civil society formations that may not have an opportunity to provide inputs during provincial deliberation. According to Statistics South Africa, a fundamental part of the SDG process, aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms, is to ensure that the country’s development programme take central stage during the implementation of the SDGs. To this end it is important that the SDG indicators are reflective of the specific needs of communities through the domestication process.

## Who is Who in UNDP

### Your full name, and more about your educational background

My name is Lindiwe Dhlamini. The name Lindiwe means 'waited for', it was given to me as I am my parents' first child and the first grandchild from both sides of the family. I'll admit that I was spoilt until my siblings came along.

I went to an all-girls Catholic school. My educational background post high school spans from finance, monitoring and evaluation, and project management: I got my Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) in Risk Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and my Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), having done my Economics specialisation at Cornell University in the US. When realising the need for better monitoring and evaluation, and project management within programmes, I participated in the International Program for Development Evaluation and Training (IPDET) from the World Bank at Carleton University in Canada, and also took the PRINCE2 Practitioner project management global accreditation course.

### Your career, when did you join UNDP and what inspired you to join?

I grew up on Vilakazi Street, Orlando West in Soweto, the only street in the world that had two Nobel Peace Prize winners living in it – Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. This also meant that it was a highly political street so from a young age I was surrounded by people who were working towards 'Democracy in South Africa', I didn't know what this meant but knew that I had to play my part. This idea has always stayed with me so after six years in the private sector as an Institutional Equity Trader with Credit Suisse (my first grey hairs are due to the 2008/2009 global recession and a highlight was trading construction and property stocks ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup) and having gone back to school, I looked to work for the United Nations. I interned for six months at the UN Secretariat in New York and appreciated witnessing the establishment of both UN Women and International Nelson Mandela Day, and learned from sessions deliberating issues during the MDGs Review Summit – all these influenced my research and thesis topic. Having briefly worked in the NGO sector thereafter I joined the UN Development Group in 2013 working on Delivering as One coordination for UN Country Teams in Eastern and Southern Africa as the Regional Coordination Associate, also facilitating regional and thematic consultations on the Common Africa Position that led to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. I then joined UNDP a year later as a Programme Associate focusing on inter-agency joint work and coordination and localizing Agenda 2030, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



*Lindiwe Dhlamini, Programme Associate*



*Lindiwe captured with colleagues and partners at the signing ceremony for the OR Tambo debate series project document at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)*

### What do you like doing in your free time?

I'm a runner and like going on regular hikes. I enjoy live entertainment such as music concerts, the theatre and stand-up comedy. I also love to travel to experience new places and cultures.

### Your dreams and aspiration

I dream and aspire to be the best version of myself.

### Your motto in life

During one of her shows I heard Oprah Winfrey say that 'luck is when preparation meets opportunity'....I use this as my motto in life because there's always something we can do ourselves whilst waiting for that big break.

### Your full name, and more about your educational background

My name is Takalani Radzilani. The name Takalani means 'Be happy' and my maiden name is Petunia. I was born in a village called Phadzima Nzhelele in Limpopo Province. Growing up in the village I learned a lot about respecting people, looking after them and helping others regardless of their background. I learned great values and morals from my elders. My grandmother still provides her mentorship and despite her age as she is turning 94 this year, she still washes her clothes, cooks and ploughs in the garden. I completed my Matric in Park Town College in 1998. I then went to the Johannesburg College currently known as Johannesburg Technical College to study Engineering Science, Mathematics and Computer Literacy. Since then, I have completed various professional IT certificate courses. Currently, I am studying at the University of South Africa for a **Bachelor Degree in Computer Science**. Recently I attended the **Women in ICT Summit** in Johannesburg and received a completion certificate.

### Your career, when did you join UNDP and what inspired you to join?

I have worked in various organisations and in different positions. I started my career as a volunteer at Planet Cyber in Braamfontein. I also served as a volunteer at Nampak in Sandton, MECER(Mustek) in Midrand followed by a learnership at the State Information and Technology Agency (SITA) in various places like (Erasmusklouf, Brooklyn, Sunninghill and Centurion) where I completed my ISS (**Information System Security**) training and Microsoft Office 2000.



*Takalani Radzilani, IT Associate*



# Who is Who in UNDP

I had a breakthrough when I joined the UNDP in 2008. In UNDP, I am a member of various committees such as ICT Working Group and Learning Team and I have managed to complete 21 LMS certificates in various areas such as negotiation skills, ethics, security, gender and others. I have gained immense experience and international exposure which includes representing UNDP South Africa as ICT Manager in Ethiopia in 2008 and again in 2010 at Indaba hotel, Johannesburg during the SharePoint workshop where I was awarded a completion Certificate. In 2012 I also represented UNDP South Africa as ICT Manager during the **ITIL Foundation and CCNA workshop** in Senegal, Dakar and I was awarded a completion Certificate. I am the only woman who worked in UNDP SA IT department since 2008.

### What do you like doing in your free time?

In my free time, I visit friends and family. My studies also keep me very busy.. I enjoy going to church and as a mother I like taking my children to school every morning and helping them with their homework after work.



*Takalani receiving a certificate of completion for an ITIL Foundation V3 and CCNA workshop for ICT managers in Dakar, Senegal*

### Your dreams and aspiration

My dream is to be a good leader, entrepreneur and to be able to assist others who need help  
My aspiration is to share the knowledge that I have to those who need it so that they will be able to teach the new generations.

### Your motto in life

**My motto is:** It all starts with you, be yourself, appreciate yourself, love yourself, dream and be inspired by others. You can achieve whatever you desire if you put your mind to it.

United Nations Development Programme

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