



58TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MAINSTREAMING
THEME: THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION
AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
H.E. MR RONALD LAMOLA
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

24 FEBRUARY 2025

(16:00-18:00)

GENEVA

Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the timely and pertinent theme of this year's panel discussion. We appreciate the insightful contributions by the panellists and the calls to reinvigorate our efforts to realise the commitments made in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

South Africa is among the countries whose Constitution enshrines gender equality and, further to this, women's empowerment and gender equality is a national policy priority. My government continues to create a legislative framework and policies towards achieving this goal which has found expression, in among others, our National Development Plan. South Africa also submitted its Beijing +30 progress report to the United Nations in 2024.

Mr President

Our efforts are guided by the firm belief that gender equality not only includes access to opportunities but also the notion that women's rights are human rights.

While we are proud of our advancements, we also note our challenges. Although we have made some strides in terms of substantive equality, gaps exist in areas such as gender-based violence (GBV), economic disparity, health inequities, and socio-political challenges pose significant hurdles. At the continental level, the African Union, in 2020, extended the Decade for African Women with a focus for 2020-2030 on Financial and Economic Inclusion. Furthermore, a week ago, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the milestone Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Mr President,

As we commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we need to strengthen our efforts to fulfil its implementation, through action plans which translate into tangible outcomes for women and girls in all their diversity.

I thank you.