

MEDIA STATEMENT.

**ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ATTENTION: JOURNALISTS AND NEWS EDITORS
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LETSIKE REPRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA AT THE FINANCING FOR FEMINIST FUTURES CONFERENCE IN SPAIN.

MADRID, SPAIN — The Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, MP, will represent the Government of the Republic of South Africa at the Financing for Feminist Futures (F4FF) Conference, taking place from 8–10 October 2025 at La Casa Encendida, Madrid, under the theme “**Resourcing Resistance and Building Feminist Solidarities.**”

The South African government is walking the talk by focusing on translating the gender-responsive budgeting, fiscal policies, and investment frameworks to address women's specific needs and promote gender equality, thereby fostering inclusive and equitable economic development.

“Our approach is through strategies that focus on Gender-responsive budgeting, fiscal policies, and investment frameworks to address women's specific needs and promote gender equality, thereby fostering inclusive and equitable economic development”. said Deputy Minister Letsike.

The global conference is convened by the Walking the Talk Consortium — comprising Hivos, Equipop, Restless Development, ODI Europe, and Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung — and co-hosted by La Coordinadora, Spain. It gathers feminist leaders, funders, policymakers, and movement-builders to reimagine the future of feminist financing, amid deep cuts to global aid and the rising backlash against women's and LGBTQIA+ rights.

Deputy Minister Letsike will contribute to two key sessions:

- The Strategic Session – Track 3, themed “*Strengthening Feminist Funding for Gender Equality: Building on Financing for Development 4 and Exploring New Possibilities.*”
- The Closing Plenary, themed “*Resourcing Resistance and Building Feminist Solidarities.*”

In both engagements, Deputy Minister Letsike will highlight South Africa's leadership in advancing feminist economic justice and inclusive public finance, rooted in the principles of substantive equality and social transformation. Her participation underscores the centrality of feminist financing in achieving the National Development Plan (NDP 2030), Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Feminist financing is not charity but structural reform. Every budget is a moral document that reveals who we value and what future we choose. Our task is to ensure that the global financing architecture reflects the principles of justice, care, and equality”, conclude Deputy Minister Letsike.

The conference builds on outcomes from the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and the *Compromiso de Sevilla*, which called for expanded investment in the care economy, gender-based violence prevention, and the resourcing of feminist movements worldwide.

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