

We commend the considerable progress South Africa made since 1994. However, we note the slow pace of localisation of the SDGs.

Equitable access to quality education remains a major challenge, especially among learners living in economically marginalised areas; How does government plan to address SDG 4?

South Africa is ranked as one of the ten most violent places in the world. Levels of gender-based violence are particularly high, with a femicide rate five times that of the global average; communities are living in fear, the army has recently been dispatched to certain communities affected, this is not a solution and could have negative effects on the very people living in those communities. What long term, sustainable plans are being put in place to address the violence South Africans face on a daily basis?

In terms of the impact of climate change, poor and marginalised communities bear the brunt, with child and female-headed households affected disproportionately; How will government address this?

We note with concern that South Africa is categorised as an upper middle-income country, which does not consider the high levels of inequality. This categorisation has implications in terms of trade, technology transfer, and access to development support.

How will the country tackle corruption and illicit financial flows that robs the country of at least 11 % of public expenditure?

As Civil Society we note with excitement that our gvt has now adopted an institutional framework for the coordination of sustainable development. We call on our government to ensure that within the next 12 months this framework is operationalised.

Statement #2

We note that achieving the SDG's is a challenging task. However time is not on our side and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in South Africa requires a new sense of urgency. How will South Africa demonstrate the urgent implementation of the SDG's by 2030 considering that those who drafted the NDP lacks equitable gender analysis related to SDG 5.

In your statement you mentioned that SOUTH Africa is propoor, but I come from a province that penalizes people who are homeless, by fining them enormous amounts for sleeping on the street.

You mentioned collaboration in your statement, but we express our concern that there was not an inclusive process to consult civil society when preparing the VNR. The SDGs cannot be achieved in South Africa without mobilizing the considerable energies of communities, the youth that make up 60% of our country, various social movements and civil society, this relates to SDG 17 ensuring that no one is left behind through creating enabling environments for transparent and collaborative partnerships.

In the spirit of leaving no one behind how do we reconcile the women empowerment mentioned in your statement when only 7% of Healthcare facilities provide abortions

on demand when it is supposed to be a right under the choice on termination of pregnancy act for all South Africans.

We call the government's attention to the 2018 recommendations of the UN Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee called on the government to:

- Review fiscal policy, to better mobilize domestic resources and increase its redistributive effect
- Increase levels of funding in the areas of social security, health, quality education
- The Committee also called for the decriminalisation of sex work, the protection of sex workers from all forms of harrassment and violence. Which directly relates to SDG 8, decent work, which is enshrined in the constitution of the country that mentions that each person has the right to their own occupation and to be free from all forms of discrimination.

How does the government plan to address these recommendations in a way that is both constitutionally gender responsive, inclusive of the youth of South Africa and sustainable for all?