



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
333 EAST 38TH STREET 9TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10018

Madam Chair,

South Africa congratulates you and Members of the Bureau for the sterling work done towards the success of the 57th Session of the CSW. We align ourselves with the statements read on behalf of the G77+China, Africa Group and SADC.

The theme of this year's session is of great importance given the core challenges facing millions of women and

transcending, regional, cultural, religious and racial boundaries.

South Africa has made great progress in representation of women in political leadership. To date, South Africa is amongst countries with the highest representation of women at 44% in Parliament and 43% in Cabinet. A Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill will be passed soon towards legislating 50/50 representation of women at all decision-making levels, including the cabinet.

creation of a world that is better, fairer, more equitable, inclusive and safer than the one in which we live today.

Future generations of women and girls must be empowered to realise their full potential and to live free of violence, fear, repression and poverty.

I thank you.