



PRESS STATEMENT

Monday, 23 November 2020

Archbishop Ndungane and Advocate Madonsela to address the Open SDG Club Symposium on Inclusive and Transformative Post COVID-19 Recovery

African Monitor, in partnership with the South Africa Working Group (SAWG) and the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) will host an SDGs symposium on 24 – 27 November 2020.

Building on the success of the 2019 symposium, this year's symposium, under the theme ***"Inclusive and Transformative Recovery - Delivering on SDGs Decade of Action"*** will take place on a virtual platform, Zoom.

The event will open with a high-level panel led by the Founder and President of African Monitor, Archbishop Njongo Ndungane. Among the panelists will be former Public Protector Advocate Thuli Madonsela. The main focus of the high-level panel's discussions will be on "Inclusive and transformative recovery guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" and the principle of "Leave No One Behind".

"It is important to articulate how the SDGs could be at the centre of the South African reconstruction and recovery plan guided by the principle of Leave No One Behind; and identify the building blocks for inclusive and transformative recovery," said Archbishop Ndungane.

He further said that the symposium will be an important opportunity for civil society and other non-state actors to have a conversation with various stakeholders on South Africa's priorities and enablers on post COVID-19 recovery to rebuild better.

Echoing Archbishop's sentiments, Ms Namhla Mniki, A Development Economist who is also the Co-Convener of the symposium said that the first session of the symposium will set the vision and affirm the commitment for inclusive and transformative recovery guided by SDGs and what government has identified as the critical priorities for our nation, in terms of helping the country to recover better.

The main aim of this year is to build a common cause, share transformative solutions and constructive advice on critical interventions to end poverty, among others.

The Open SDG Club is organised by the South African Civil Society Working Group on SDGs (SAWG), which has representation from provinces and sectoral coalitions and has actively engaged with the South African government on the development of the 2030 Agenda and its implementation in the country. The group's purpose is to mobilise South African civil society around effective SDG implementation, ensuring that those most in need are prioritised in the



mainstreaming of goals in the country's national, provincial, and local government strategic plans.

The SAWG enjoys the membership of major civil society networks in South Africa, from across sectors, as well as people's movements. The network has good partnership with trade unions such as the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and Chapter 9 institutions such as the Commission for Gender Equality

Should you wish to attend the symposium, kindly RSVP to joseph@africanmonitor.org and a Zoom link will be provided.

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For more information and interview requests, contact Joseph Eliabson on 083 687 2282 or Yared Tsegay on 072 208 4452.