



Happy International Women's Day

Achieving gender equality is fundamental to realizing sustainable development and creating a more just and equitable world for everyone. The UN Women theme for the 2024 International Women's Day is: "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress". The WPN supports this theme primarily as it aligns with both ethical principles supporting the inclusion of women as well as business objectives leading to positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

Additionally, there are further aspects promoting the inclusion of women, and diversity in the workplace (a significant focus for the WPN this year) which will ensure economic sustainability and societal benefits that our country is in desperate need of:

- Promoting Gender Equality: Women inclusion helps advance gender equality by providing equal opportunities for women to participate in the workforce, thereby challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes.
- Empowerment of Women: Inclusive workplaces empower women to pursue their professional aspirations, develop their skills, and achieve career advancement, contributing to their overall empowerment and self-confidence.
- Cultural Diversity and Perspective: Women bring diverse perspectives, experiences, and insights to the workplace, enriching organizational culture and fostering creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.
- Role Modelling and Mentorship: Visible representation of women in leadership positions serves as role models for aspiring female professionals and encourages mentorship and support networks, promoting career development and advancement for women.

We all have a role to play in contributing positively towards the creation of more inclusive workplaces, by implementing diversity and inclusion initiatives that are intended to support women's leadership development, and advocating for gender equality within our organizations. By fostering inclusive cultures where all voices are heard and valued, we can unlock the full potential of our organizations and create a brighter future for everyone.

THULI MPUNTSHE WPN NATIONAL CHAIR