



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

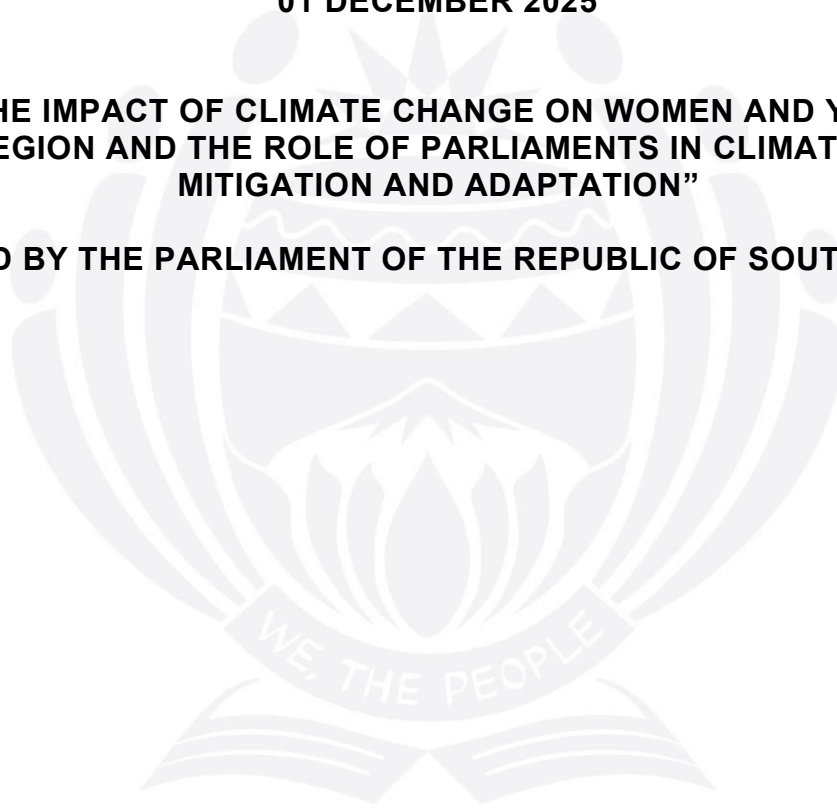
**ON THE THEME OF THE 58TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY
SESSION**

COASTLANDS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE, UMHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA,

01 DECEMBER 2025

**THEME: "THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN AND YOUTH IN THE
SADC REGION AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE
MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION"**

HOSTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Climate change poses a significant threat to the environment, economies, and social systems globally. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, the impacts are particularly pronounced, affecting vulnerable populations, including women and youth, who often bear the brunt of environmental changes. As frontline responders to climate-related challenges, these groups face unique challenges and opportunities that require attention and action.

2. Key Issues

- **Vulnerability of Women and Youth:** Women and youth in the SADC region are disproportionately affected by climate change due to socio-economic factors, lack of access to resources, and limited representation in decision-making processes. They are often responsible for food security, water management, and energy supply, making them critical stakeholders in climate change discourse.
- **Role of Parliaments:** Parliaments play a crucial role in shaping policies and frameworks that can mitigate the effects of climate change. Legislative bodies can influence climate action by enacting laws, allocating resources, and ensuring accountability in climate change initiatives.

3. Objectives

The symposium aims to:

- a) **Facilitate Discussions and Open Space for Strategic Conversations:** Provide a platform for sharing of experiences and best practices by state and non-state actors on responses to natural disasters
- b) **Raise Awareness:** Highlight the specific impacts of climate change on women and youth in the SADC region.
- c) **Discuss Challenges:** Identify the barriers faced by these groups in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- d) **Empower Voices:** Provide a platform for women and youth to share their experiences and perspectives on climate change and adaptation strategies.

- e) **Engage Legislators:** Foster dialogue between parliamentarians, civil society, and community representatives to discuss the role of legislative frameworks in addressing climate change.
- f) **Develop Actionable Recommendations:** Generate actionable strategies that can be implemented by parliaments to enhance climate resilience among women and youth.

4. Participants

- **Parliamentarians:** Members of national legislatures from SADC countries.
- **Local government:** Representatives from eThekweni Municipality
- **Business:** representative from local business and farmers

5. Format

The symposium will include:

- **Keynote Speeches:** in addition to insights from experts on the intersection of climate change, gender, and youth, there will be a keynote address by the responsible Ministers.
- **Discussions:** Engaging dialogues among stakeholders on challenges and solutions.
- **Government Responses:** presentations by representatives from eThekweni Local Municipality
- **Networking Opportunities:** Facilitate collaboration and partnership building among participants.

6. Expected Outcomes

- Comprehensive understanding of the impact of climate change on women and youth in the SADC region.
- Concrete recommendations for legislative action to support climate resilience.
- Strengthened networks among stakeholders working on climate change, gender, and youth issues.
- Increased commitment from parliamentarians to integrate gender and youth perspectives into climate policies.

7. Conclusion

This symposium presents a vital opportunity to address the challenges posed by climate change specifically affecting women and youth in the SADC region. By engaging parliamentarians and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, we can pave the way for effective climate action that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2025	
ACTIVITY	TIME
SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEME FOR THE 58TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION.	09:00 - 13:00
Theme: <i>“The Impact of Climate Change on Women and Youth in the SADC Region and the Role of Parliaments in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”</i>	
• Welcome and greetings from the host Clerk of Parliament: Mr Xolile George	09:00 - 09:10
• Opening Remarks by the SADC PF President & Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar	09:10 - 09:20
• South African Government Perspective on Climate Change, Natural Disasters, Disaster Risk Management: Mr W Aucamp, MP Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	09:20 - 09:40
• Impact of disasters on Human Settlement Climate Change Responses, Mitigation and Adaptation: Ms T Simelane, MP Minister of Human Settlement	09:40 – 10:00
• eThekweni Municipality Perspective on Climate Change, Disaster and Risk Management and experiences in responding to recurrent floods Dr Y Brijmohan Disaster Management Directorate, eThekweni Municipality	10:00 - 10:20

DISCUSSION -PLENARY	10:20 – 11:15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Responses, Mitigation and Adaptation: Business Perspective Business Representative 	11:15 - 11:30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change impact on communities: Community Representative 	11:30 - 11:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Impact of Climate Change on Commercial Farming and on the lives of farm workers Representative from the Farming Community/ Sugar cane farmers 	11:45 – 12:00
DISCUSSION - PLENARY	12:00 - 12:50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vote of thanks: Hon AT Didiza, Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa 	12:50 - 13:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch 	13:00 – 13:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegates are invited to a guided tour/ Site Visit and Excursion 	14:00 - 16:30