

We are here today in Canada because you joined us as the anti-apartheid movement, the progressive forces as well as Government to defeat apartheid. Now we are facing an even bigger battle of ensuring that Africa is pulled out of this morass of underdevelopment and backwardness. As you heroically showed the way and leadership before, history is calling on you to rise to the challenges again.

I thank you.

Keynote Questions and Answers

Q.1 Could you comment on businesses that exploit, such as Talisman?

Q.2. Could you discuss the role of women in the process?

Q.3. Could you elaborate on the issue of political legitimacy and peer review?

Her Excellency Dr. Dlamini Zuma – To deal with businesses that exploit workers we need to have two things: one is a democratic and accountable government and the other is an informed electorate that can act as a check against irresponsible businesses.

Dr. Zuma said she could spend the entire evening discussing the ongoing struggles of women on the African continent and particularly in South Africa. She argued that women must take on the struggle because there never has been a king who fought for a slave, without the slave first taking up the fight. Men do not feel the problem of women in the same way. Men on their own will not take up the fight for emancipation of women but men will join women in the fight.

Dr. Zuma said that South African women saw this with the African National Congress (ANC). When the ANC was first formed, women could not be full members, only associate members – to make tea or lunch. Women could not vote or take decisions. So women struggled with the ANC but also within the ANC itself. In the 1940s women were able to join as full members but the struggle continues today. Some 29.8% of the South African parliament today is made up of women, almost one-third. Women had to decide, as women, that it was critical to have women in the parliament or laws emerging would not be sensitive to women's needs.

She gave as an example the Gender Advisory Committee (GAC) of the ANC during the transition. Men would negotiate the future and would send their decisions to the GAC. They could accept or not accept feedback. When there was a two-day break from the negotiations, ANC women decided that they had to change this. Women insisted that every party must bring 50% women to the negotiation table. Some parties claimed they could not find 50% women. Dr. Zuma said these men were told that if this was the case, then they could have only half of the representation at the