South African Federation of Business and Professional Women

Suid-Afrikaanse Federasie van Sake- en Beroepsvroue

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14 May 1992

Mr Murphy Marobe
The Chairman of Administration
Codesa
P O Box 307
ISANDO
1600

Dear Mr Morobe

The South African Federation of Business and Professional Women is affiliated to the International Federation of Business and Professional Women which has NGO consultative status at the United Nations with representatives in Paris, Geneva, New York and Vienna.

The South African Federation was founded over 40 years ago in this country and represents all working women and in particular business and professional women.
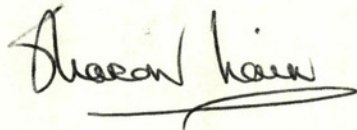
The lastest figures put out by the Department of Manpower show that the percentage increase of women in the workforce has increased by 4.3% per annum during the period 1960-1990. This can be compared with the figures quoted for men over the same period as 2.3% per annum.

In view of the fact that we represent working women who fulfil an important role in the country's economy we would like to bring to your attention that we are a non-party political organisation. We have been ignored and precluded from consultation or inclusion on any committees that focus on issues that pertain or affect working women.

While we welcome the establishment of the Gender Committee we believe that women should not be seen as a gender issue alone but that working women have special areas that have to be protected and have a multi-faceted role to play. We contribute meaningfully to the country's economy and productivity.

We believe that business and professional women, not through any political party affiliation, be consulted on issues that affect them and that we should be afforded representation at Codesa and inclusion on working committees.

Yours faithfully

SHARON LAIN
NATIONAL PRESIDENT