

## Stakeholders discuss achieving gender equality

**19 March, Windhoek:** The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) in collaboration with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and UN Namibia, under the leadership of the Gender Theme Group, held a round table discussion in light of International Women's Day.



The event brought together stakeholders to reflect on progress, gaps, lessons learned and good practices in regards to gender equality in Namibia. The dialogue also focused on unpacking Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Opening the discussion, the UN Resident Coordinator to Namibia, Kiki Gbeho expressed that despite the progress that has been made towards achieving gender parity in Namibia, a lot still needs to be done. "Ultimately, it is about Vision 2030, and more immediately the War on Poverty. It is about reaching those furthest behind, including our women and girls," Gbeho expressed.

During her welcoming remarks, Emily Brown, the Head of the Communications Department at NUST expressed the need to have more engaging platforms that enable people to voice their concerns and get to the root of social problems in Namibia. The UNFPA Representative to Namibia, Dennia Gayle echoed the same sentiment during her closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of partnership in establishing and using these types of platforms to bring about lasting change.

The panellists, including Beata Armas, the Chairperson of the Namibian National Association of the Deaf (NNAD), Umbi Karuaihe-Upi, the Chief Commercial Officer of NBC, Victor Shipoh, Director of Gender Equality and Research at the MGECW, Juno Angula, student from NUST, and James Itana, Chairperson of the MenEngageAfrica, engaged with the participants on a wide arrange of topics.

The participants discussed empowering all women and girls, the important role of the media in addressing gender disparities and shattering gender stereotypes and the need for a transformative agenda to engage men, amongst others. **SDG 5 'Gender Equality**