MEDIA STATEMENT

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MISTRA mourns the passing of former Deputy President Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

The Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) has learnt with profound sadness of the passing of Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa.

On behalf of MISTRA's Advisory Council, Board of Governors, Management and Staff, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ngcuka and Mlambo families, her loved ones, friends and all those whose lives she touched through her remarkable life of service.

Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka occupied a distinctive place in South Africa's democratic history. As the country's first woman Deputy President, she broke important barriers in public leadership and contributed to shaping the country's democratic and developmental trajectory. Her service in government, her commitment to the transformation of the economy and her contribution to the advancement of women were significant features of her public life.

Her subsequent leadership of UN Women extended this contribution onto the global stage. She became an influential voice in the pursuit of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the advancement of a more inclusive and just world.

Her life reminds us of the importance of principled leadership, intellectual commitment and public service in building a society that is more equitable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of its people.

As an institution committed to strategic reflection on South Africa's and Africa's development, MISTRA recognises the significance of her contribution to our country's democratic journey and to the broader African and international community.

We mourn the passing of a distinguished South African whose legacy will endure in the institutions she helped shape and the lives she touched.

MISTRA extends its deepest sympathies to her family and loved ones during this sad time.

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