

Speaking Notes for the Media Briefing on the opening of the United Nations World Data Forum

**The Minister in the Presidency responsible for Planning,
Monitoring and Evaluation and Chairperson of the National Planning
Commission, the Honourable Jeff Radebe, MP**

Sunday 15 January 2017

14h30 - 15h30

Cape Town ICC

1. Greeting an international array of journalists from many parts of the world.
2. South Africa is exceedingly happy to host such an auspicious forum and welcome the delegates from all over the world to our shores and we hope they will enjoy our kind hospitality.
3. The fact that South Africa has agreed to host this inaugural conference is because it is clear testimony of our commitment to the realization of the Vision 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Vision 2030 is aligned to our continental and national visions. It dovetails with both the African agenda 2063 and our country vision as set out in the National Development Plan also with 2030 being the horizon.
5. We are happy to host the first one, but would hope that the UN and the world would continue to engage each other in this manner.

6. This conference brings together a most impressive array of participants. They are from the UN, politicians from other governments, official statisticians, data scientists, technology experts, people working in the field of geography and presenting data specially, many civil society groups, academics, international organizations and many other scholars and students.

7. The Forum has an ambitious agenda in that it seeks to wrestle with building a broad consensus to harness the power of data and to find ways to help policy-makers as they seek better improved measurement of progress towards achieving Vision 2030 to ensure prosperity for all people and the planet.

8. It is important that these experts find ways to work together and to produce their findings in such a way that policy-makers and ordinary citizens can understand the data and if we understand the data we will use it more regularly and I am certain we will make more informed decisions and better policies.