

## **Welcoming Remarks**

**Muzi Mkhizi**  
**Chief Director: Hydrocarbons**  
**Department of Minerals and Energy**  
**Republic of South Africa**

**Plenary Meeting**  
**Meeting of Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum**  
**Cape Town, South Africa**  
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Good morning.

My name is Muzi Mkhizi. I'm the Chairperson for this Session. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our Minister of Minerals and Energy, Buyelwa Sonjica; the Premier for the Western Cape Province, Ibrahim Rasool; the Chairperson of the CSLF, James Slutz; Barbara McKee and the CSLF Secretariat team; government officials both national and international; and delegates from all over the world. We are really honored to have you in our midst, especially those of you who are coming from abroad. I would like to say to you, enjoy this conference and enjoy also our beautiful South Africa.

I regard it a privilege and an honor to Chair this Session. I hope we will come up with tangible results from this conference and also raise awareness so that the public can know that we are not just sitting still, but are actively involved in trying to get solutions to the challenges facing us in regard to carbon emissions that are leading to the climate change problem. As a country well-endowed with coal reserves, this conference has a special significance to us. I'm looking forward to debates, discussions and briefings as per the program schedule.

Without any further ado, then, I would like to welcome the Chairperson of the CSLF, Mr. James Slutz, to come to the podium. Thank you.