

**The Corporate Council on Africa's  
U.S.-South Africa Business Forum**  
Presents a roundtable discussion with

The Honorable Buyelwa Sonjica  
Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs  
The Republic of South Africa

Wednesday, April 21, 2010  
4:30 – 5:30 pm

**South African Government Minister Invites Participation in Wastewater Projects**

South Africa's Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Buyelwa Sonjica told CCA members that only 45 percent of the country's wastewater treatment stations are performing at acceptable levels. Her comments came during an April 21 meeting of CCA's U.S.-South Africa Business Forum at CCA's offices in Washington.

Minister Sonjica informed CCA members that, as one of the 30 driest countries in the world, South Africa takes very seriously its chairmanship (2009 - 2011) of the African Ministers of Water, a committee within the African Union. The minister underscored the fact that, while South Africa has very little fresh water, it is not effectively recycling its wastewater. She noted that there have been several initiatives rolled out to address this issue and that the country is seeking to

When asked about the financing of water projects and the structure of the ownership of those projects, Minister Sonjica stressed that water assets are the property of local governments. Government agencies contract the private sector for projects and there are public-private partnerships in bulk infrastructure projects.

Minister Sonjica stressed that South Africa is actively planning to reinvest in its wastewater infrastructure. She stated that her ministry strongly welcomes domestic and foreign private sector involvement in South Africa's water infrastructure to ensure the country's continued development