

## **Princess Nono Simelela**

**Assistant Director-General for Strategic Priorities: Cervical Cancer Elimination, World Health Organization (WHO)**



Dr Simelela from South Africa is WHO's Assistant Director-General and Special Advisor to the Director-General for Strategic Priorities. She oversees the organization's work on cervical cancer elimination, gender, equity, human rights and youth. In her prior role, she served as WHO's Assistant Director-General for Family, Women, Children and Adolescents.

Dr Simelela has more than 30 years of experience as an obstetrician, academic, advocate and government official, and has previously served as Special Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic of South Africa on Social Policy, where she supported the multisectoral, governmentwide response to HIV.

Dr Simelela joined the National Department of Health, South Africa, after qualifying as the country's first black female gynaecologist. She worked for more than 20 years in the Department of Health, initially as a senior lecturer and clinician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Medical University of Southern Africa, and has had a distinguished career both in government and as a private medical doctor.

Other previous senior leadership roles held by Dr Simelela include serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the South African National AIDS Council, and as the Director of Technical Knowledge and Support for the International Planned Parenthood Federation.