

## My dear sisters and brothers

I send my warmest greetings to all of you - delegates, speakers and dignitaries - who have gathered in Bloemfontein for the first International Conference on Sustainability, Empowerment and Integrity: Freedom - our Responsibility.

Congratulations are due to the Lyndi Fourie Foundation, the University of the Free State and Initiatives of Change for their efforts in presenting this conference, and to the Mangaung Metro for the significant support it has rendered.

The theme of the conference is close to my heart. Freedom is not the end destination; it is a critical junction on the road to justice and dignity for all. With freedom comes responsibility. The struggle for equity continues, though it takes on different textures and nuances.

This conference will debate the importance of continuing efforts to alleviate poverty, overcome gross inequalities, ensure the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, create jobs and, very importantly, equip young minds and spirits with skills and positive attitudes.

Leadership integrity is an area of critical importance. We must speak out against injustice, maladministration, abuse of power and corruption. We must speak out for justice.

God bless your endeavours in this city of reconciliation.

+Aldrun

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu (Cape Town – South Africa)