

# BUSINESS REPORT

[www.businessreport.co](http://www.businessreport.co)

## SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL FINANCIAL DAILY Business skirts women's issues

ALISON MALTZ

Parastatals have nearly five times as many women directors as publicly-listed companies, says a study released this week to mark the Global Women's Summit which was held in Sandton over the weekend.

The boards of directors of South Africa's top 300 listed and state-owned companies were included in the study, which was commissioned by Corporate Women Directors International.

Women directors fill 5.8 percent, or 179, of the 3 067 seats on the boards of the surveyed companies in South Africa. They fare better than their counterparts in the UK, where 5 percent of directors are women. Japanese women fill a puny 0.8 percent of directorships.

In the US, 11.1 percent of directors are women, with Australian and Canadian women holding 10.7 percent and 9.1 percent of these positions respectively.

"The South African corporate boardroom is the last bastion of economic power whose membership remains predominantly male," said Irene Navivida, president of Corporate Women Directors International.

"When one compares statistics to the US, one clearly sees the gap. Eighty percent of the 500 largest companies in the US have at least one women corporate director."

