



SA YEARBOOK 2009/10
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION



South Africa's growth in stature in international relations resulted in increased demands on the country to play a significant role in contributing towards efforts aimed at the creation of a more democratic, peaceful, prosperous continent and a better world.

The name change of the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in May 2009, was in line with international trends and informed by the need to give greater clarity on the mandate of the department.

In this regard, over and above its normal functions, the department will also engage in dynamic partnerships for development and cooperation.

Accordingly, the foreign-policy features still remain:

- pushing back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment in South Africa and Africa, based on the continental economic and developmental plan, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)
- creating peace and pursuing the peaceful resolution of conflicts
- contributing to peace efforts in Africa and the world
- building and consolidating strategic partnerships to advance the country's developmental agenda
- building and reforming African continental institutions
- the continued exertion of influence on global political and economic issues.

As South Africa seeks to attain its foreign-policy objectives, it simultaneously pursues a developmental agenda on the continent and in the developing world.

South Africa and Africa

South Africa recognises that its destiny is inextricably linked to that of the developing world in general and the African continent in particular.

Africa faces the challenge of positioning itself to address the marginalisation of the continent by engaging global role players on socio-economic development and facilitating a fair and just global order.

African Union (AU)

The AU is Africa's premier institution and principal organisation for the promotion of the continent's accelerated socio-economic integration, which

will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and people.

South Africa was instrumental in establishing the AU and its organs, namely the:

- Assembly
- Executive Council
- specialised technical committees
- financial institutions
- Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)
- Peace and Security Council (PSC)
- Pan-African Parliament (PAP)
- Economic, Social and Cultural Council (Ecosoc)
- Court of Justice
- African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

The financial institutions, namely the African Monetary Fund, African Central Bank and African Court of Justice, still have to be operationalised.

The 53-member AU was officially launched in Durban in July 2002, following its inaugural summit.

It replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AU's objectives include:

- achieving greater unity and solidarity between African countries and the peoples of Africa
- defending the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its member states
- accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent
- encouraging international cooperation
- promoting peace, security and stability on the continent

Guarantees that are binding on the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (formerly Foreign Affairs) for the FIFA 2010 World Cup™ are:

- no country will be excluded from participating in the 2010 World Cup
- national anthems of all participating countries will be played
- national foreign flags of all participating countries will be flown
- any violation of the above would constitute an offence
- the provision of protocol services at official government and FIFA 2010-related events.



- promoting democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance
- promoting and protecting people's rights
- establishing the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations
- promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, and integrating African economies
- promoting cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise living standards
- promoting research in all fields
- eradicating preventable diseases and promoting good health on the continent.

The AU has made notable progress towards the political and economic integration of the continent:

- the permanent home of the PAP will be completed in 2010
- the AU has developed the PSC, which is responsible for the resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction in conjunction with the United Nations (UN)
- a common defence policy has been adopted, which includes the Standby Force, with a nucleus of five brigades, one from each region
- the Human and Peoples' Rights Court has been established with Judge Bernard Ngoepe as one of the first judges
- the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Declaration on Gender Equality is being implemented
- the Protocol on the Court of Justice is underway

The eight existing regional economic communities (RECs), which include the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States, have begun to

In February 2009, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary-General of the African Union (AU) and AU special envoy for the inter-Sudanese political talks on Darfur, paid a visit to South Africa in his capacity as a member of the Panel of the Wise. The panel was established by the AU in 2007 to support the efforts of its Peace and Security Council and those of the chairperson of the commission, mainly in the areas of conflict prevention on the continent of Africa.

Members of the panel were appointed in January 2007 for a period of three years and inaugurated on 18 December 2007. The members are: Salim Ahmed Salim, Ahmed Ben Bella, Elisabeth Pognon, Miguel Travota and Brigalia Bam.

In May 2009, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Thabang Makwetla, attended the third Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Defence and Safety and Security at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the progress made in the operationalisation of the African Standby Force, and consider proposals for further implementation. The meeting was also attended by African chiefs of defence and heads of security.

The African Standby Force was established by the AU to support and keep peace in Africa. To this end, the AU has recommended the development of a common security policy and, by 2010, the establishment of the African Standby Force capable of rapid deployment to keep or enforce peace.

Once fully operational, the African Standby Force will comprise standby brigades in each of the five regions, and incorporate a police and civilian expert capacity.

determine time lines to achieve free trade agreements and customs unions.

Promoting peace, security and stability on the continent

The AU is responsible for the peaceful resolution of conflict among member states, through such appropriate means as may be decided upon by the AU Assembly.

The PSC Protocol took effect in December 2003 and comprises 15 member states. The PSC was launched in Addis Ababa in May 2004.

As a collective security and early warning arrangement, the PSC allows for a timely and effective response to conflict and crises in Africa.

In terms of PSC statutes, all African countries should establish their own early warning centres.

The AU PSC Protocol provides for the creation of the African Standby Force, to be operationalised over 10 years.

The second extraordinary session of the AU Assembly, held in Libya in February 2004, adopted the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

South Africa is sparing no effort in conflict resolution and/or peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Comoros, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Socio-economic development and integration of the continent

The AU is the principal institution responsible for promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, as well as integrating African economies.

RECs are recognised as the building blocks of the AU, necessitating the need for their close involvement in formulating and implementing all AU programmes.

To this end, the AU must coordinate and take decisions on policies in areas of common interest to member states, as well as coordinate and harmonise policies between existing and future RECs, for the gradual attainment of the AU's objectives.

Seven specialised technical committees are responsible for the actual implementation of the continental socio-economic integration process, together with the PRC.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

South Africa played a role in the establishment of Nepad and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and hosted the secretariats of these two bodies. Nepad, as a blueprint for Africa's socio-economic development, represents the incarnation of the objectives of the AU at a practical level to intensify the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

Nepad remains the main frame of reference for intra-African relations and Africa's partnerships with international partners such as the European Union (EU)-AU Strategic Partnership, Forum for Africa-China Partnership, the Group of Seven Most Industrialised Nations plus Russia (G8), New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The primary objective of Nepad is to eradicate poverty, halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process, promote the empowerment and economic integration of women and achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The underlying principles of Nepad are:

- **Accountability:** Nepad recognises the importance of good political, economic and corporate governance in creating the conditions for development, with African governments embracing greater accountability to their constituents. Nepad also seeks to base Africa's partnership with the North on mutual accountability.
- **Ownership:** Nepad is a long-term vision that is African-led and -owned. Ownership should be promoted through broad and deep participation by all sectors of society, and by tapping into indigenous knowledge/expertise to define needs and solutions.
- **Partnership:** While Nepad is a partnership between and among Africans, it seeks to accelerate sustainable development in Africa through partnerships with the South, and to forge a new partnership with the developed North that changes the unequal relationship with Africa.

Resources for Nepad are mobilised by way of increasing savings and capital inflows via debt relief, increased targeted official development aid (ODA) and private capital investment, as well as through better management of public revenue and expenditure.

Over the past few years, Nepad's activities evolved from the conceptualisation of frameworks for the actualisation of the new vision and onwards to implementation strategies and action plans in the identified priority areas. Consequently, sectoral frameworks and mechanisms have been developed and are being implemented in the programmes and projects in those priority areas. Such areas include:

- the comprehensive African agriculture development programme
- the short-term action plan for infrastructure development

Mission operations

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Africa	27	28	32	37	38	39	43	46
Latin America	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11
Asia/Australasia	22	26	27	27	28	30	31	32
North America	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
Europe	26	26	26	26	26	27	27	28
All missions	91	96	101	107	109	114	119	124

Source: *Development Indicators, 2009*

Peacekeeping operations

Personnel	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
MONUC (DRC)	1	113	161	1 430	1 430	1 230	1 242	1 248	1 958	1 198
IEMF (DRC)				22						
TPVM (DRC)			3	3						
UNMEE (Eritrea and Ethiopia)	3	6	6	6	10	6	6	6	1	
OLMEE (Eritrea and Ethiopia)	2	2	5	5	4	1	1	1	1	
SAPSD (Burundi)		701	750							
AMIB (Burundi)				1 500						
ONUB (Burundi)					1 100	930	865			
BINUB (Burundi)								1		
AUPF (Burundi) - AUSTF (Burundi)					337	337	337	750	950	1 042
UNMIL (Liberia)					3	3				
UNMIS (Southern Sudan)								4	4	
AMIS (Southern Sudan)					10	339	620	620		
UNAMID (Southern Sudan)								651	614	
Southern Sudan - Uganda								2		2
Total number of personal deployed	118	870	925	7 966	2 894	2 846	3 071	2 632	3 054	2 242
Central African Rep (CAR)									66	
Nepal								5	1	
Other peace operations								2	2	3

Source: *Development Indicators, 2009*

The data provided reflects the maximum number of personnel that were deployed in the specific peacekeeping operations during the specific year. Other peace operations include special envoys in Burundi, Sudan and Uganda.

- the science and technology (S&T) consolidated action plan
- the environment plan
- the AU/Nepad health strategy
- the education action plan
- the tourism action plan
- standards and guidelines for the APRM
- the Africa productive capacity initiative.

Nepad introduced the APRM, accepted by member states of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism.

The peer review process is aimed at addressing corruption, poor governance and inefficient delivery of public goods and services to the citizens of African countries. It encourages the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration through the sharing of experiences and best

practices, and is important to the sustainability of Nepad.

In June 2009, Cape Verde acceded to the APRM as the 29th member.

Structures Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC)

The Nepad HSGIC reports annually to the summit of the AU. The chairperson of the AU Commission is an ex-officio member of the Implementation Committee, and the AU Commission is expected to participate in steering committee meetings.

The HSGIC comprises 20 states (four per AU geographic region), including the five initiating states: South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal and Egypt.

The main function of the HSGIC is to set policies, priorities and Nepad's programme of action.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises representatives of the 20 HSGIC members. It is tasked with developing the terms of reference for identified programmes and projects, and overseeing the Secretariat.

Secretariat

The Nepad Secretariat coordinates implementation of projects and programmes approved by the HSGIC.

The full-time core staff of the Secretariat, located at the Development Bank of Southern Africa in Midrand, provides liaison, coordination, and administrative and logistical functions for Nepad.

The AU's mechanisms for peer review and conflict resolution reflect commitment to human rights, democratisation, good governance and peace and security.

Southern African Development Community

The SADC has been in existence since 1980, when it was formed as a loose alliance of nine majority-ruled states in southern Africa known as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, with the main aim of coordinating development projects to lessen economic dependence on the then apartheid South Africa.

The founding member states are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swa-

ziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

South Africa assumed the chair of the SADC in August 2008 against the milieu of a number of important political developments.

As a community of nations, the SADC had to work together in confronting various challenges of political and socio-economic nature.

The year 2009 saw elections in, among other countries, Namibia, South Africa, Malawi, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Mauritius.

The launch of the Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008 will lay a firm foundation for regional economic integration.

The FTA Agreement is part of the SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations with southern African countries through trade. The SADC also aims to create a regional customs union.

In 2009, the DRC took over the chair of the SADC from South Africa.

Relations with southern Africa Angola

Relations between the people of South Africa and Angola were cemented during the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles, which saw South Africa and Angola's liberation movements, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Movement for the Liberation of Angola, forging an alliance leading to the independence of their respective countries. These relations were transformed into state-to-state relations following the dawn of peace, democracy and justice in South Africa in 1994. Many South Africans regard Angola as their second home.

South Africa committed itself to assisting Angola with its post-conflict reconstruction projects and programmes. The first session of the Joint Commission of Cooperation (JCC) was held in Pretoria in February 2003. Subsequently, significant progress has been made in identifying, negotiating and finalising numerous agreements.

South Africa formed part of a SADC team, which monitored the elections in Angola in September 2008.

Bilateral relations between the two countries were further strengthened by the visit of the Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to Angola in May 2009. She held discussions with her Angolan counterpart and paid a courtesy call on President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

In August 2009, President Jacob Zuma paid his first state visit to Angola – accompanied by 11 ministers and more than 150 businesspeople

South Africa ratified the African Youth Charter in May 2009, and deposited the instrument of ratification with the Commission of the African Union (AU) on 8 July 2009. South Africa was the 14th country to ratify the charter, which entered into force in August 2009.

The African Youth Charter is a legal instrument for youth empowerment and provides a framework for youth-development programmes across the AU member states. This charter prioritises youth development on the AU's agenda and ensures that challenges relating to youth development are adequately addressed. These include unemployment, HIV and AIDS, illiteracy, restricted access to information and gender violence.

In South Africa, the Department of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities; the National Youth Development Agency; and the Youth Desk in The Presidency will monitor the implementation process through the National Youth Policy 2009 to 2014.

Countries that have ratified the charter include: Rwanda, Mali, Gabon, Mauritius, The Gambia, Niger, Libya, Uganda, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Togo, Djibouti, Guinea Bissau and Burkina Faso.



– the biggest business delegation ever taken on a state visit by a president since 1994. During this visit, various cooperation agreements were signed, such as in the fields of regular political consultations, infrastructure, industry, trade, sport and recreation, air services and human settlements.

Botswana

South Africa and Botswana signed the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) in 2003. The JPCC provides a legal and institutional framework for further cooperation in identified strategic areas. The last South Africa-Botswana JPCC meeting was held in November 2007, and took stock of progress regarding JPCC projects.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The DRC has made remarkable progress and presents real opportunities for intraregional economic cooperation, foreign direct investment (FDI) and sustained growth and development. However, cycles of conflict have severely undermined both African and foreign-investor confidence, further weakened indigenous economic development and increased dependence on foreign loans and assistance.

South Africa is fully committed to continued engagement with the DRC, and to assisting the democratically elected Government with its consolidation of democracy, in line with its foreign-policy objectives.

South Africa has also committed to providing ongoing assistance to the DRC in reforming the country's economy and is supporting measures to encourage a predictable and stable economic environment to unlock investment and trade opportunities between the two countries.

South Africa's assistance to the DRC is broadly based on the following priority areas: health, education, water and sanitation, infrastructure, with security-sector reform being an all encompassing priority.

The Presidential Binational Commission (BNC) between South Africa and the DRC, which has been in existence since 2004, provides a legal framework to manage the post-conflict reconstruction and development projects in that country.

In April 2008, former President Thabo Mbeki hosted his counterpart from the DRC, President Joseph Kabila, for the fifth BNC Summit.

Bilateral relations between the two countries were further strengthened by the visit of former President Kgalema Motlanthe to the DRC in October 2008, during which the implementation of bilateral projects formed part of the discussions.

In October 2009, President Zuma hosted President Kabila during the South Africa-DRC BNC.

Lesotho

The most significant and visible beacon reflecting South Africa's bilateral relations with Lesotho is the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), which was started in 1986 and qualifies as a Nepad project.

The LHWP is a joint venture between the two countries to supply water to South Africa (Gauteng in particular) and to meet Lesotho's electricity needs. The project delivers 780 million cubic metres of water to South Africa a year. The implementation of the LHWP Phase Two is underway.

South Africa and Lesotho signed a Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation (JBCC) Agreement in 2001 to assist Lesotho to progress from least developed status to a developing country and to promote the consolidation of relations between the two countries.

Current projects are:

- spatial development initiatives (SDIs)
- Metolong Dam (African Renaissance Fund [ARF] funds approved in June 2008)
- Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park
- Sani Top-Mokhotlong Road (ARF funds approved in June 2008).

The former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Fatima Hajaig, attended the launch of the JBCC Economic Projects in April 2009, as identified by an SDI scoping exercise that was conducted under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the South African High Commission in Maseru, Lesotho. The economic projects are intended to promote cross-border cooperation and stimulate local economic development.

The South Africa-Lesotho Bilateral Task Team on the Facilitation of Movement of Citizens met in Mphahlele, Lesotho, in February 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to report on progress on preparations towards the implementation of the agreement signed by the two states.

The Facilitation of Movement of Citizens Agreement reduced the administrative burden on Lesotho and South African visitors crossing the common border and reduced opportunities for corruption and criminal activity.

It recognises the uniqueness of Lesotho's geographical situation: being the only country in the world that is entirely surrounded by a single other country.

Malawi

The inaugural meeting of the JCC between South

While on a three-day State visit to Zambia in December 2009, President Jacob Zuma was conferred with the Order of the Eagle of Zambia



First Division, one of Zambia's highest and distinguished recognition awards, by President Rupiah Banda at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.

President Zuma was accompanied by various ministers, senior officials and a business delegation representing 60 companies in the sectors of energy and petroleum, information and communications technology, infrastructure, financial services, healthcare, mining as well as agroprocessing. Agreements were signed in the fields of cooperation in energy, geology, mining and mineral beneficiation.

In addition, bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed in the areas of regular diplomatic consultations, trade and industrial cooperation, mineral resources, agriculture and livestock and health.

Africa and Malawi took place in Blantyre, Malawi, in June 2008. In May 2009, President Zuma conveyed South Africa's congratulations to President Bingu Wa Mutharika on his re-election as the President of the Republic of Malawi.

Mozambique

South Africa and Mozambique enjoy warm political relations both in a bilateral and multilateral context. To this end, the respective heads of state play a leading role in the promotion of the SADC and AU policies and the effective implementation of Nepad programmes.

A successful Heads of State Economic Bilateral Forum meeting was held in April 2008 in Mozambique.

The JPCC was held in Mozambique in August 2008.

The emphasis was placed on the need for both countries to play their part to ensure stability and development in the SADC and throughout the continent. Both countries affirmed their commitment to regional integration and advancement of the SADC.

The inaugural meeting of the JPCC on Defence and Security was held in November 2008.

Work towards the establishment of the South African Developmental Partnership Agency is underway. This agency will be tasked with the management of South Africa's developmental assistance to contribute to capacity- and institution-building, as well as support socio-economic and human-resource development.



The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) was held in August 2009.

The MCLI aims to grow national economies and contribute to the overall growth of the region. Under the MCLI, the corridor links Maputo with Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and other landlocked countries within the SADC region and the continent. The key elements of this corridor are the N4 toll road, the rail corridor, the Lebombo/Ressano-Gracia border post and the Maputo port and terminal facilities.

Namibia

South Africa and Namibia enjoy close cooperation in a number of areas, which is further enhanced by high-level engagements such as the heads of state economic bilateral meeting, the last of which was held in August 2008.

The meetings focus on joint economic cooperation projects such as SDIs, tourism, energy matters and matters related to the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) and the SADC.

The annual meetings of the Joint Commission on Defence and Security between the two countries aim to identify, discuss and promote bilateral and regional cooperation in the security area.

South Africa is one of Namibia's most important economic partners. Bilateral trade between South Africa and Namibia accounts for two thirds of Namibia's total foreign trade.

The two countries are also part of the SADC and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) configuration that is negotiating with the European Commission.

Both South Africa and Namibia share a common interest in ensuring that the EPA fosters regional integration and development.

In July 2009, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Tina Joemat-Petersson, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with her counterpart, Minister John Mutorwa.

Areas covered in the memorandum include:

- South Africa/Namibia agricultural agreements
- training of Namibian veterinary students
- protection of Karakul genetic material.

In November 2009, President Zuma co-chaired the South Africa-Namibia Bilateral Economic Forum with President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Swaziland

Relations between South Africa and Swaziland are cordial.

Former President Mbeki undertook a working visit to Swaziland in April 2008 to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. During the visit, both parties reaffirmed the importance of the JBCC as a strategic platform for strengthening bilateral relations between South Africa and Swaziland.

Tanzania

Strong relations between South Africa and Tanzania began when the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, supported the ANC during the South African liberation struggle. This was cemented by formalising bilateral relations in 1994. The Presidential Economic Commission (PEC) was enacted in 2005 with the most recent meeting held in April 2007 in South Africa.

The PEC provides the required cooperative framework to manage the development and implementation of bilateral projects and the SDI programmes, in particular the Mtwara and central development corridors, which have been identified as regional Nepad priorities.

Zambia

Presidential elections were held in Zambia in October 2008, following the death of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa.

In November 2008, the former South African President and SADC Chairperson, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, led a South African delegation to Zambia to attend the inauguration of President Rupia Banda.

Former President Motlanthe also led a South African delegation to Lusaka to attend the North-South Corridor Conference in April 2009.

Zimbabwe

South Africa played a constructive role in support of the SADC-mandated mediation process on Zimbabwe. This led to the historic power-sharing agreement that was signed in September 2008 between the Zimbabwean African National Union-Patriotic Front and the two Movement for Democratic Change formations, as well as the establishment of the inclusive government in February 2009.

South Africa, working with the SADC and other relevant authorities in Zimbabwe, initiated the establishment of the Zimbabwe Humanitarian and Development Assistance Framework, a transparent, non-partisan and all-inclusive coordinating mechanism, which was set up to manage the SADC's humanitarian assistance to the people of Zimbabwe.

South Africa's bilateral engagement with Zimbabwe took place in the form of the third session of the JPC in March 2009 at Victoria Falls.

South Africa negotiated an assistance package in support of the Zimbabwean Government's Short-Term Emergency Recovery Programme.

In August 2009, President Zuma paid a two-day official visit to Zimbabwe. During this time, he opened the Harare Agricultural Society Show. He also met key political partners of the inclusive government as part of his efforts aimed at assisting to implement the Global Political Agreement.

Uganda

Official diplomatic relations between South Africa and Uganda were established in 1994.

The Department of Science and Technology hosted the Ugandan Minister of Science and Technology and a high-profile delegation to South Africa in April 2009. The visit culminated in the signing of the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The signing of the agreement signals the commitment by both parties to work together in the advancement of S&T and innovation and will pave the way for the development of a plan of action, which will facilitate the identification of priority areas and the consolidation of resources to implement the agreement.

Kenya

In December 2008, the former KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr Sibusiso Ndebele, led a delegation on a two-day official visit to Kenya to share experiences and strengthen relationships between Kenya and KwaZulu-Natal, particularly in the area of cooperative movement. The cooperative movement in Kenya is ranked first in Africa, and seventh in the world by the International Co-operative Alliance.

The delegation held meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government of Kenya, Mr Musalia Mudavadi, as well as with the Minister of Cooperatives, Mr Joseph Nyaga.

In partnership with the Cooperative College of Kenya, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government is working towards developing, promoting, coordinating and facilitating a cooperative training programme for the province, which will culminate in the establishment of the KwaZulu-Natal Co-operative College.

Ethiopia

Bilateral economic relations with Ethiopia were

revived in 1995 when South Africa opened an embassy in Addis Ababa.

The former Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, paid a two-day official visit to Ethiopia in February 2009. During the visit, he signed an agreement on defence cooperation between South Africa and that country.

Indian Ocean islands

South Africa's political, economic and diplomatic relations with countries in the Indian Ocean islands remain strong.

Bilateral relations have been strengthened since 1994, especially in trade and investments, culture, sport and recreation. There was also progress towards the finalisation of the General Cooperation Agreement as well as agreements in other areas such as education, scientific and technical cooperation, shipping and maritime, environment and tourism as well as social development.

Comoros

South Africa and the Comoros have had official relations since 1993. Following the signing of the Fomboni All-Party Framework Agreement of 17 February 2001, presidential elections for the three sister islands and for the Union of Comoros were held in March and April 2002.

South Africa, as the AU-mandated coordinator of the Countries of the Region on the Comoros, is facilitating and closely monitoring the transition process.

Development cooperation

South Africa is not a donor country, but development cooperation with countries in Africa is integral to the country's foreign policy.

Assistance is wide-ranging and includes educational visits by agriculturists, establishing viable training centres, conserving the environment, and rendering medical assistance and technology-exchange programmes.

Technical and financial assistance aimed at capacity-building, especially to SADC countries, is a major instrument for promoting economic development, peace and stability, democracy and the African Renaissance on a regional basis.

Relations with central Africa

South Africa continued to strengthen its bilateral relations with the countries in the central African region during 2009/10.

The embassies in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea are fully staffed and officials represent South Africa in Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe.

An honorary consul has been appointed in the Central African Republic (CAR) to assist with South Africa's programmes in that country.

Gabon

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Gabon were established in 1992. A legal framework was created through the signing of a co-operation agreement, and further agreements were since signed.

In June 2009, President Zuma extended South Africa's condolences to the Government and people of Gabon following the passing of the Gabonese President, El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, on 7 June 2009.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Diplomatic relations between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa were established in May 1994. South Africa operates a satellite office in São Tomé and Príncipe under the accreditation of the embassy in Libreville, Gabon. A general cooperation agreement between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa was signed in 2005.

Congo

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and the Republic of Congo were established in March 1993. South Africa opened an embassy in Brazzaville in Congo in 2005. An MoU on defence between South Africa and Congo was signed in April 2008 in Pretoria.

In August 2009, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe attended the inauguration of President-elect, Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, in Congo Brazzaville.

Equatorial Guinea

Diplomatic relations between Equatorial Guinea and South Africa were established in May 1993. The two countries have signed bilateral agreements in the following areas: general co-operation, defence and regular diplomatic consultation. South African oil company Petro-SA is involved in oil-exploration activities in that country.

Cameroon

During 2006, South Africa and Cameroon signed

a general cooperation agreement, a trade agreement and an MoU on economic cooperation.

These agreements set the framework for the strengthening of relations and business activity between the two countries.

Central African Republic

South Africa has enjoyed full diplomatic relations with the CAR since August 1993.

In May 2008, Cabinet approved the deployment of 15 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members to the CAR. In March 2009, Cabinet approved the extension of deployment of SANDF personnel to the CAR to assist with capacity-building of the local defence force.

Chad

The South African Embassy in Chad became fully functional in 2007. The Chadian Government is planning to open an embassy in Pretoria in the near future. Interaction between the two governments on bilateral issues continues to take place.

Rwanda

Full diplomatic relations were established between South Africa and Rwanda in May 1995. The two countries maintain good political relations. Their cooperation focuses on the post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda and has extended to the coordination of Nepad on the continent.

To further strengthen this bilateral structure, the Implementation Monitoring Committee has been established at director-general level to provide the necessary coordinating, planning and monitoring framework to manage effective implementation of approved programmes, and to ensure the delivery of cross-cutting training and human-resource (HR) capacity-building programmes.

In March 2009, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and her Rwandan counterpart, Ms Rosemary Museminali, co-chaired the South Africa-Rwanda JCC at Groote Schuur, Rondebosch, Cape Town.

The two ministers met to consolidate structured political relations between the two countries and to take stock of the progress made since the last session of the South Africa-Rwanda JCC, held in August 2006 in Kigali.

Bilateral relations between the two countries have been characterised by close contact at a high political level. Rwanda has been a partner in championing the consolidation of the African Agenda by being among the first countries to volunteer for the APRM and by contributing troops

to African peacekeeping missions in the Comoros and Darfur, respectively.

Burundi

South Africa's good relations with Burundi are demonstrated by the leading role the Government played in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed by representatives of the main Hutu and Tutsi political parties, the Government of Burundi, and the National Assembly on 28 August 2000. South Africa's contribution towards the establishment of peace and stability in Burundi included the deployment of SANDF troops, with an African peace mission in Burundi, known as the UN Operation in Burundi.

South Africa has committed itself to working with the regional leadership, the Government and the people of Burundi, including the leadership of the Palepehutu-FNL, in finding a long-lasting solution to their current challenges.

An agreement between South Africa and Burundi was signed in September 2008 in Bujumbura to facilitate the implementation of a cooperation agreement between the two countries in the field of health, including strengthening interventions for safe motherhood, hospital services, reducing malaria morbidity and mortality and the referral of Burundian patients to the South African public health sector.

On 8 August 2009, the South African flag was lowered in Burundi, marking the end of one of the most successful deployments in Africa.

South Africa's role as facilitator in the Burundi process was mandated by the regional initiative and came to an end on 31 December 2009. As a result of South Africa's engagement in Burundi, the FNL, the last armed rebel group in Burundi has returned home. Over 21 000 FNL combatants have been disarmed, demobilised and reintegrated into Burundi society. They include more than 1 000 women combatants and over 500 child soldiers who have been reunited with their families.

Another 4 000 FNL combatants have been integrated into the Burundi security services. The FNL has registered as a political party and is participating in the election scheduled for 2010.

Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa

During 2009/10, South Africa expanded and consolidated its bilateral relations with the region. The following key performance areas were achieved in the region:

- promoting the African Agenda in North Africa

- strengthening AU structures in the region
- contributing towards peace, stability, security and democracy in North Africa
- consolidating and enhancing strategic and structured bilateral relationships with the countries of North Africa
- promoting economic diplomacy and tourism
- enhancing public diplomacy
- promoting South-South and North-South agendas.

Algeria

South Africa and Algeria have maintained a strategic relationship since the establishment of the Presidential BNC in 2000. Bilaterally, South Africa and Algeria have developed close relations in the field of defence and military technological and industrial cooperation. In this regard, the JCC in the Field of Defence has agreed to expand the range of bilateral interactions, including training programmes, joint exercises, technology transfer and exploring production capabilities and partnerships.

During 2008/09, South Africa also maintained close contact with two AU institutions headquartered in Algeria, namely the Africa Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and the African Energy Commission.

South Africa and Algeria also continued their cooperation over the long-standing international dispute over Western Sahara, including collective support for the AU and UN multilateral efforts to find an equitable, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict between the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and the Kingdom of Morocco.

To strengthen relations with the people of Algeria, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana, signed a cultural agreement and a programme of cooperation with her Algerian counterpart in July 2009. Subsequently, a MoU was signed between the National Film and Video Foundation and its Algerian counterpart.

Western Sahara

With regard to the issue of the illegal occupation of Western Sahara, the Africa Branch of the former Department of Foreign Affairs presented a successful international conference in conjunction with the University of Pretoria in December 2008, entitled *The Conference on Multilateralism and International Law with Western Sahara as a Case Study*. The conference, attended by international experts and scholars, focused on critical issues of self-determination and decolonisation,

the exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories, the responsibilities of occupying powers and multilateral efforts towards finding a solution to the question of Africa's last colony.

During 2008/09, high-level political consultation regularly took place between the SADR and senior government officials, while the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs visited the refugee camps in Tindouf during August 2008. South Africa, in this respect, continued its humanitarian assistance programme to the SADR.

In addition, two bilateral development assistance projects were approved during 2008 by the ARF to render bilateral support to the SADR with humanitarian landmine removal and assistance towards the establishment of a youth sports complex.

Egypt

South Africa and Egypt continue to enjoy cordial relations and the State Visit by Egyptian President, Mr Hosni Mubarak, in July 2008 further strengthened bilateral relations and political dialogue.

A substantive legal framework of more than 30 bilateral agreements exists between the two countries and a number of new proposals were tabled during 2008/09. An agreement on cooperation in the Civil Service was concluded in October 2008.

It is envisaged that the conclusion of an MoU on economic cooperation will provide a basis to resolve outstanding trade issues between the two countries. The department also facilitated the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip through Egypt by the Gift of the Givers Organisation.

Tunisia

Political relations between South Africa and Tunisia remain strong. Tunisia views South Africa as a strategic partner on the continent and anticipates that the two countries should form closer economic, trade and cultural ties. In this regard, a successful ministerial meeting of the South Africa-Tunisia Joint Bilateral Committee (JBC) was held in September 2008 in Tunis.

The constructive medical exchange programme between South Africa and Tunisia also succeeded in a substantive manner in providing health services to rural communities in South Africa. A solid framework for cooperation between the SANDF and the Tunisian Defence Force was established during 2008, with the commencement of joint training for continental peacekeeping purposes.

Libya

High-level political dialogue regularly took place during 2008/09, particularly on the AU and other multilateral issues. Former President Motlanthe visited Tripoli in December 2008 to discuss African unity, including peace and security issues pertaining to the African Agenda. Although a South Africa-Libya JBC is functioning at ministerial level, the JBC has not convened since its inception in 2002.

The two sides agreed during 2008 to reinvigorate the strategic focus of bilateral relations in terms of the conclusion and implementation of outstanding bilateral agreements, cooperation and synergy on matters relating to the peace and security agenda of the AU and the resolution of conflicts in Africa, as well as the socio-economic reconstruction and development programme of the continent.

Morocco

Relations between Morocco and South Africa remained strained during 2008 as a result of South Africa's principled position on the issue of the illegal occupation of Western Sahara. The conflict around Africa's last colony remains a priority and South Africa bases its policy objectives on the following principles in support of stabilisation efforts in Western Sahara:

- promote the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people as enshrined in the UN Charter
- support for the principle of decolonisation and the sanctity of colonial borders
- respect for international humanitarian law and the promotion of universal human rights
- support for international legality and multilateralism in the resolution of conflict
- oppose exploitation of natural resources of the occupied territory
- support for sustainable humanitarian and development assistance to the Saharawi people
- promote the integration and security and stability of the Maghreb region.

Mauritania

The establishment of a South African diplomatic mission in Nouakchott was consolidated during 2008 with the deployment of a resident ambassador.

Following the military coup in August 2008, relations between South Africa and Mauritania took a strain due to the suspension of the latter from the AU and the imposition of targeted sanctions by the AU PSC.

South Africa has demanded a return to constitutional order in the country and subsequently recalled its ambassador.

Côte d'Ivoire

South Africa established full diplomatic relations with Côte d'Ivoire in May 1992. South Africa continues to promote the restoration of peace and stability in that country.

In this regard, South Africa's mediation efforts, under the auspices of the AU, culminated in the signing of the Pretoria Agreement in April 2005.

South Africa continues to support peace efforts in Côte d'Ivoire.

Sudan

South Africa and Sudan enjoy good bilateral relations and South Africa is the chair of the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development of the Sudan. The opening of the South African Consulate in Juba, in April 2009, will consolidate South Africa's presence in the Sudan and strengthen the support for peace efforts and the implementation of the post-conflict reconstruction and development-related projects in Southern Sudan, including the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement, which was signed in 2005, marking an end to the civil war in that country.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, accompanied by the Minister for Monitoring and Evaluation in The Presidency, Mr Collins Chabane, and senior government officials, visited Khartoum and Juba in Sudan during September 2009.

During the visit, the minister held discussions with her Sudanese counterpart on post-conflict reconstruction and development, the conflict in Darfur, the 2010 election and other matters related to the implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane participated in the High-Level Conference on the role of the international community in the implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement Conference organised by the United States of America (USA) in June 2009.

The Darfur conflict was the main focus of the Special Session of the Assembly of the AU in Libya on 31 August 2009, with the theme *Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa*. South Africa has also deployed troops and civilian police to Darfur as part of the UN-AU Mission in Darfur.

The AU High-Level Panel on Darfur was held in consultation with various stakeholders from all sections of the Darfurian society to find a compre-

hensive and lasting solution to the conflict in that country. The panel was expected to hand over its report to the AU in September 2009.

In October 2009, Deputy President Motlanthe, supported by Minister Chabane and senior government officials, undertook a working visit to the Sudan.

The visit took place within the context of the advancement of the African Agenda and South Africa's commitment to assist the Sudanese people in efforts to restore peace and contribute to the post-conflict reconstruction of Sudan.

President Salva Kiir Mayadirt of the Government of Southern Sudan also paid a working visit to South Africa.

Liberia

In March 2009, the former Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, led a South African delegation to the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security 2009, which took place in Monrovia, Liberia.

The colloquium, conceptualised in 2006 during the inauguration of Africa's first female President, Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, brought together 400 international participants and 400 Liberian national participants.

Nigeria

In 2009, South Africa and Nigeria celebrated 10 years of formal and good diplomatic relations. Nigeria is one of South Africa's largest trading partners on the African continent.

Former South African Deputy President, Ms Baleka Mbete, co-chaired the second Review Council Meeting of the South Africa-Nigeria BNC with her Nigerian counterpart, Vice-President Dr Goodluck Jonathan, in February 2009.

The second Review Council Meeting followed a meeting of senior officials, which focused on:

- the status of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between the two countries
- strengthening the structures of the BNC
- activities for the commemoration of the 10-year anniversary of the BNC
- political, socio-economic and continental and regional developments
- issues of global interest.

In October 2009, Deputy President Motlanthe hosted the 10th anniversary celebrations of the South Africa-Nigeria BNC. Vice-President Jonathan was part of the activities, which promoted trade and investment and aimed at building cooperation between South Africa and Nigeria.

Deputy President Motlanthe also attended the 10th anniversary celebrations of the BNC in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2009.

Ghana

Diplomatic relations were established between Ghana and South Africa in 1994.

South Africa and Ghana have agreements in the areas of mining, defence, taxation, investment and aviation.

In January 2009, the former South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, represented South Africa during the inauguration ceremony of President-elect, Prof. John Atta Mills. At the same time, South Africa reaffirmed its commitment to work together with Ghana for the political unity and integration of the African continent within the framework of the AU and through support for Nepad.

Burkina Faso

South Africa and Burkina Faso established non-resident diplomatic relations in May 1995. In 2006, South Africa established a diplomatic mission in Burkina Faso.

Although Burkina Faso has limited exploitable resources, opportunities exist for South African mining companies to mine gold, zinc and manganese. Since agriculture is the dominant industry, opportunities exist for the trade of various agricultural products. Trade between the two countries is limited.

Benin

Diplomatic relations were established between Benin and South Africa in May 1994. South Africa and Benin maintain good bilateral relations. The two countries signed a general cooperation agreement in October 2003. They have, among other things, identified agriculture, arts and culture, and justice as areas of corporation.

An embassy was opened in Cotonou in February 2007. Benin opened an embassy in

The evolution of South African foreign policy ushered in an era of trilateral cooperation whose practical expression is found in the developmental projects that South Africa is undertaking in various parts of the continent. These range from the electricity-generation project in Guinea-Conakry, the rice and vegetable production project conducted jointly with the Government of Vietnam in Guinea-Conakry, the India-Brazil-South Africa livestock development and agricultural project in Guinea-Bissau, to the Cuban Medical Brigade in Mali.



Pretoria in 1999. An agreement to develop and formulate procedures for military cooperation between South Africa and Benin, was signed in June 2008.

The agreement also includes promoting the training of military personnel through the exchange of trainees, instructors and observers.

Republic of Togo

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Togo were established in 1997. South Africa and Togo maintain good bilateral relations.

The South African Ambassador to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is accredited on a non-residential basis to Togo.

Cape Verde

South Africa and Cape Verde established diplomatic relations in 1994. South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is also accredited as South Africa's non-resident ambassador to Cape Verde, while the Cape Verdean ambassador to Angola is accredited to South Africa as non-resident ambassador.

In line with expanding South Africa's effort to expand its diplomatic reach on the African continent, regular interaction with Cape Verde is envisaged in the coming years, including exploring mutually beneficial business opportunities.

The Gambia

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and The Gambia were established in August 1998. While South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is accredited to The Gambia as non-resident ambassador, the Gambian ambassador to the AU in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa as that country's non-resident ambassador. South Africa maintains an honorary consul office in The Gambia to look after South African interests.

Guinea

Diplomatic relations were established with the Republic of Guinea in 1995. South Africa opened a diplomatic mission in Conakry in November 2005.

Guinea-Bissau

South Africa opened a diplomatic mission in Guinea-Bissau in February 2008. The opening of the diplomatic mission will contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations between South Africa and Guinea-Bissau.

South Africa is also a member of the Country-Specific Configuration on Guinea-Bissau with the UN Peace-Building Commission. As part of this

group, South Africa strives to mobilise the international community to contribute to the rebuilding of that country, in both political and economic terms.

In September 2008, a framework cooperation agreement was signed between South Africa and Guinea-Bissau.

Mali

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Mali were established in 1994. The latter established an embassy in Pretoria in December 1995. A South African embassy was established in Bamako in November 2002, and the first South African ambassador to Mali was appointed in November 2003.

The two countries are committed to promoting democracy and good governance, and there is substantial South African involvement in the Malian gold-mining sector.

Mali is a strong supporter of the African Renaissance initiative and Nepad. In August 2002, the Agreement on the Preservation of the Ancient Manuscripts in the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu was concluded between the two countries. South Africa is supporting a project aimed at improving the preservation of these ancient manuscripts.

They vary in content from religious treatises and poems to documentary letters dealing with legal and commercial matters, while others relate to slavery, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and history – all of them subjects of immense interest to scholars and the African population at large. Three major objectives of the project are to:

- implement a conservation programme to protect and improve environmental storage conditions for the manuscripts
- rebuild the Ahmed Baba Centre to one of international stature while ensuring its architectural harmony with ancient Timbuktu
- promote academic study and public awareness of the magnificent and ancient African and Islamic heritage at Timbuktu.

In January 2009, former President Motlanthe attended the official opening of a new facility that was built in Mali to preserve the manuscripts.

Senegal

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Senegal are based mainly on the Senegalese Government's strong support for the African Renaissance initiative and Nepad, and its strong commitment to promoting democracy and good governance.

In September 2009, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, co-chaired the South Africa-China Strategic Dialogue Forum with his counterpart from the People's Republic of China (PRC), Assistant Minister Zhai Jun.

The South Africa-China Strategic Dialogue Forum is an annual consultation between South Africa and the PRC.

Accordingly, the 2009/10 session of the forum examined ways to further build on strong relations by focusing, among other things, on:

- reviewing bilateral relations
- African issues and China's policy towards Africa
- multilateral cooperation and international developments.

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Senegal were established in May 1994 and the two countries' representative offices were upgraded to embassy level.

The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, co-chaired the inaugural session of the South Africa-Senegal Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, with her Senegalese counterpart, Dr Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, on 30 April 2008. During the session, the two countries agreed to cooperate in various areas.

The session also enabled the signing of the bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement. Agreements on sports cooperation, agriculture, livestock development and minerals and energy were signed in 2008.

Sierra Leone

South Africa and Sierra Leone established diplomatic relations in 1998. The South African ambassador in Côte d'Ivoire was accredited to Sierra Leone in December 2002.

Although the country remains poor, various accomplishments towards promoting democracy and development have been achieved.

Niger

Diplomatic relations were established between Niger and South Africa in May 1994. South Africa and Niger maintain good bilateral relations.

South Africa is represented in Niger on a non-residential basis by its ambassador in Côte d'Ivoire. Niger is represented in South Africa by its ambassador in Ethiopia.

Relations with Asia and the Middle East

The People's Republic of China

The South Africa-China bilateral relationship continues to be one of the most dynamic partnerships of its kind. During 2008, South Africa and China celebrated 10 years of diplomatic relations, which were observed through a series of high-level political and economic exchanges; journalistic exchanges; think-tank seminars and academic engagements; as well as trade expos; cultural shows; and a hospitality suite in China.

In 2009, South Africa started its preparations for participating in the Shanghai World Expo 2010, under the theme *Better Cities, Better Life* where it will have a national pavilion of 2 000 m² that will allow the country to be showcased as a modern, vibrant economy. Regarded as the Olympics of economy and S&T, the expo will also afford South Africa the platform to promote the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ and leverage further opportunities for trade and FDI.

During 2008/09, the countries also continued to work on common positions through coordinated high-level meetings between President Hu Jintao and former President Motlanthe to address the global financial crisis. The two countries shared ideas on how to deal with peace, security and developmental challenges on the African continent. In this regard, the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation Senior Officials meeting in Egypt and the launch of the offices of the China-Africa Development Fund (CADF) were among some of the significant developments.

More opportunities for Chinese investment into Africa opened up with the announcement that China was to bolster the CADF by an additional R19,8 billion. The state-run equity fund had already invested in 20 projects, totalling R3,9 billion in Africa since it was established in June 2007. The CADF opened its first South African office in Johannesburg in March 2009. The CADF set up offices in more African countries to accelerate the level of mutual cooperation. This was a major step for Sino-African cooperation and a positive sign for economic development in Africa.

The fund, which is the first of its kind, was launched after Chinese President Jintao made a pledge in 2006 to increase Chinese aid to Africa. The president was speaking at the China-Africa Cooperation Summit held in Beijing.

China planned to double its assistance to Africa by 2009. This encompassed an amount of R29,8 million in preferential loans, R19,9 million in preferential buyers' credits to Africa, the establishment of the R49,7-billion CADF and the waiving of debts owed to China by a number of poor African countries.

In 2008, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China acquired a 20% stake in Standard Bank. The deal, valued at R54 billion was the largest single investment into South Africa, and was also China's biggest financial investment ever. China had also invested in the mining, construction and motoring sectors, as well as the electronic goods industry in South Africa, its major trading partner on the continent. South Africa, in turn, has several major investments in China.

Central and East Asia Japan

In 2008/09, South Africa's bilateral relationship with Japan continued to expand across a wide spectrum and is strengthened with regular interaction under the auspices of the Partnership Forum. The forum provides a framework for continued discussions on various areas of cooperation to strengthen, develop and broaden bilateral relations.

Japan hosted South Africa at the ninth Partnership Forum meeting in Tokyo in January 2009.

South Africa continued to place high priority on economic diplomacy in its relations with Japan, which is an important source of FDI and tourism.

In 2008, Japan remained South Africa's largest trading partner worldwide.

On the multilateral front, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is aimed at promoting high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners.

The TICAD also seeks to mobilise support for African-owned development initiatives. As such, Japan promoted African socio-economic development in line with AU and Nepal priority projects, through ODA and financing provided in terms of the TICAD programme of action.

At TICAD IV in May 2008, "Africa's Voice" was reflected in the Yokohama Declaration and an outcomes document (OD) was adopted for the first time in the 15-year history of the TICAD process.

A follow-up mechanism to monitor the implementation of the OD was also adopted.

In March 2009, the TICAD IV ministerial follow-up meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana, to report on the implementation of the TICAD IV

OD and to formulate a common message to the G20 London Summit on the impact of the global economic crisis on Africa.

In spite of the global economic crisis, Japan has continued with financial support for African development and committed itself to doubling ODA to and private investment in Africa by 2012.

South Africa is not eligible for Japanese grant-aid but benefited through capacity-building training of officials through the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) and Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (Jipsa) focused activities of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in South Africa.

Volunteers also provide educational training, especially in Mathematics and Science.

The Republic of Korea (Rok)

Relations between South Africa and the Rok continue to be enhanced through regular interaction under the auspices of the Policy Consultative Forum.

The Rok hosted South Africa at the fourth Policy Consultative Forum in Seoul in December 2008. Trade relations between the two countries remain strong with the Rok becoming South Africa's fourth-largest trading partner in Asia.

As part of Korea's contribution to Jipsa, the Rok has offered a number of skills-training opportunities to the South African youth.

The Rok demonstrated a growing commitment to Africa, and hosted the Korea-Africa Economic Conference in October 2008, during which development assistance agreements were concluded with nine African states. These include: infrastructure development, sustainable natural-resources development, agriculture and rural development and capacity-building for information and communications technology excellence.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Relations between South Africa and the DPRK are cordial. In 2008, the two countries celebrated six years of diplomatic relations.

Central Asia

The economies of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are all at various stages of change and development.

Diplomatic representation has been established with that country and a senior delegation from the then Department of Foreign Affairs paid a working visit to that country in December 2008.

Discussions with the ministry included mechanisms to strengthen the bilateral relationship in both political and economic fields.

New Asian-African Strategic Partnership

South Africa and Indonesia were instrumental in the launch of the NAASP in Bandung in 2005 on the 50th anniversary of the Asia-Africa (Bandung) Conference, which cemented Afro-Asian solidarity. NAASP represents a commitment to help build closer economic and development cooperation between Africa and Asia.

A conference on capacity-building for Palestine (a joint initiative by the NAASP and co-chaired by Indonesia and South Africa) took place in 2008 in Indonesia. Almost 220 participants from 56 countries participated in the conference.

The first NAASP Summit is due to be held in South Africa during 2010.

Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

The IOR-ARC is a multilateral organisation comprising countries that share a shoreline along the Indian Ocean. It was launched in March 1997 in Mauritius to focus mainly on trade-related issues. The IOR-ARC plays an important role as building block for the promotion of South-South cooperation and for complementing African-Asian regional integration.

South Africa has given its full weight to the economic and strategic significance of the Indian Ocean Rim, and to the importance of regional cooperation in fulfilling the region's substantial economic potential.

South Africa's total trade with IOR countries stands at more than R140 billion. The ninth annual Council of Ministers Meeting took place in Yemen in June 2009.

South Africa, India and Brazil (IBSA)

In 1999/00, the idea of South-South cooperation as a counterpoint to the G8 was conceptualised among a number of heads of state and government from developing countries. Following this, trilateral consultations between South Africa, India and Brazil were formally launched in Brasilia on 6 June 2003.

The main objectives of the IBSA Dialogue Forum are to:

- promote South-South dialogue and co-operation on global political and multilateral issues of importance
- promote trade and investment opportunities between the three regions

- exchange information, expertise, technologies and skills
- promote intragovernmental cooperation in a broad range of areas, including agriculture, climate change/environment, culture, defence, education, energy, health, human settlements, information society, public administration, revenue administration, S&T, social development, trade and investment, tourism and transport.

The first IBSA Summit took place in Brasilia in 2006, the second in South Africa in 2007 and the third in New Delhi in 2008. In May 2008, the first joint IBSA naval exercises took place in South African waters. The next summit took place in Brazil in October 2009, where the emphasis was on finding ways to enhance implementation of the 20 bilateral agreements already signed by this tripartite initiative.

Apart from strengthening trilateral cooperation, IBSA countries are committed to collective efforts to reform the UN Security Council (UNSC), as well as the international financial architecture and to take joint steps to mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis.

The three countries have also agreed to redouble their efforts to promote transport inter-connectivity through the adoption of cooperative maritime and aviation frameworks that will assist in facilitating the new intra-IBSA trade target of US\$25 billion by 2015.

The IBSA Facility Fund for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation focuses on poverty-alleviation initiatives to benefit developing countries most in need. In 2006, IBSA received the South-South Alliance Award at the South-South Partnership Awards ceremony in New York for "spearheading the transformation of South-South concepts of development into action through strategic public-private partnership alliances". In addition to the already implemented and operational projects in Haiti (solid waste management) and Guinea-Bissau (agricultural development), projects in Cape Verde (safe drinking water and rehabilitation of a community centre); Palestine (sports facility); Lao People's Republic (watershed management); and Burundi (HIV and AIDS capacity-building) were approved during 2008.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr SM Krishna, and the Minister of External Relations of Brazil, Ambassador Celso Amorim, met in Brasilia on 31 August and 1 September 2009 for the sixth IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission.

In October 2009, President Zuma undertook a state visit to Brazil, supported by several ministers and senior government officials.

South Asia

Key countries in the region are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, all with which South Africa has cordial and growing relations. The escalation of terrorist activities in the region, apart from the conflict in Afghanistan and its spill-over into Pakistan, has become a major concern as it threatens regional stability and economic growth, as well as international security. The civil war in Sri Lanka has ended. However, a lasting political solution still needs to be secured.

In line with strengthening South Africa's bilateral political and economic ties with Sri Lanka, a full high commission with a resident high commissioner was established in January 2008.

The opening of a fully fledged South African high commission in Colombo was based on growing bilateral trade links, historic links with the Tamil community in South Africa and a desire to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflict in Sri Lanka, as well as the importance of the island state in multilateral affairs and within the South Asian region.

With the opening of South Africa's high commission in Sri Lanka, diplomatic relations with Bangladesh were no longer covered by the South African high commission in India, but by the South African mission in Colombo.

Bilateral trade between South Africa and India has continued to grow since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries after South Africa's democratisation. India is one of South Africa's top 10 trading partners globally.

India is South Africa's dominant political and economic partner in the South Asian region – both within bilateral and multilateral contexts. Bilateral trade relations continue to strengthen, as the ever-increasing trade volumes between the two countries suggest (up from R22 billion in 2007 to R47 billion in 2008).

The seventh session of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) took place in Pretoria in February 2008 and demonstrated India's commitment to cooperation with South Africa in many areas of mutual interest, especially in the area of support to HR development.

The inaugural Africa-India Summit in April 2008 was witness to the possible advent of a welcome opening of Indian markets for African products. The forum aims to develop a sustainable partnership based on the joint acceptance of globalisation and the establishment of a strong commitment to the development and industrialisation of Africa.

Its important components are to engage through revolving lines of credit, capacity-building programmes and supporting Africa in attaining the MDGs.

Following the Mumbai terrorist attacks and the March 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team in Pakistan, the Indian Premier League cricket tournament was moved to South Africa, confirming the strong bilateral relations, and especially substantial two-way tourism growth between South Africa and India.

South-East Asia

The regional grouping, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), has emerged as one of the most important groupings within the Asia Pacific region. South Africa maintains resident missions in six of the 10 member states of Asean, namely in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. These six Asean states, as well as Myanmar (Burma), also maintain resident missions in South Africa.

There has been an exchange of state visits between South Africa and countries of the region since the normalisation of relations post-1994. During 2008/09, bilateral relations with South-East Asia remained steady and cordial and were further strengthened through numerous ministerial visits to the region for either bilateral purposes or to attend international meetings.

There are many long-term trade and investment opportunities for South African companies in the region. Trade with South-East Asia continues to grow, totalling around R18 billion annually in 2007.

Thailand has emerged as the most important trading partner. Indonesia, with its population of almost 250 million, offers interesting market opportunities. Singapore has important investments in the Coega project in the Eastern Cape, and in the ship-building project at Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

The trilateral project between South Africa, Vietnam and the Republic of Guinea relating to the production of rice and vegetables in Guinea was implemented during 2008. It is progressing well, contributing to food security in Africa and is receiving international interest.

The ruling party in South Africa has long-standing solidarity links with the present Government of Timor Leste and is eager to assist that country in its reconstruction. While South Africa served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC from 2007 to 2008, it was appointed as Lead Nation on Timor

Leste. At the UN General Assembly (UNGA) 63, South Africa signed the Framework Agreement for Technical Cooperation with Timor Leste, paving the way to assist the country in its development.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation hosted her counterpart from Timor Leste, Dr Zacarias da Costa, during an official visit in August 2009.

South Africa deals with Myanmar mostly through multilateral organisations. Following the devastating cyclone that struck Myanmar in May 2008, South Africa made a donation to the UN's humanitarian system to alleviate the plight of the people of Myanmar.

Australasia and the Pacific islands

Relations with Australia and New Zealand have shown sound development over the years, with strong growth trends in terms of trade and tourism. Total bilateral trade with Australasia and the Pacific Islands increased by 47% from R16 billion to R23 billion between 2004 and 2007.

Similarly, tourism showed an increase of more than 10% annually and visitors from Australasia constitute nearly half the total number of tourists from Asia and the Middle East.

Australia and New Zealand have been significant recipients of South African emigrants over the past 16 years. These two countries have become home to an estimated 130 000 and 60 000 South African emigrants, respectively.

From an economic point of view, Australia is South Africa's most significant partner in the region. In 2007, Australia was South Africa's 12th-largest export and 16th-largest import market.

South Africa and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1947 and enjoy cordial political and economic ties. As campaigns for the international isolation of South Africa intensified in the 1970s and 1980s, successive Australian governments placed Australia firmly in the anti-apartheid camp, supporting UN resolutions against apartheid and implementing the oil, trade and arms embargo as well as a sports boycott against South Africa.

Since 1994, political, economic and social links between the two countries have improved significantly. A South Africa-Australian JMC came into being with the signing of a joint communiqué by the respective ministers of trade in July 1997.

In 2006, former Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka led a delegation to Australia and New Zealand to reinvigorate the relationship. As a result, Australia offers 10 annual scholarships

and five fellowships to South Africans in terms of Jipsa. Australia's Federal Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance visited South Africa in September 2008.

Senior officials meetings (SOMs) have been held on a regular basis since 2004. The political relationship has been further strengthened through visits by numerous high-level delegations to Australia to gain expertise in their different fields and to exchange knowledge to enhance capacity-building in central, provincial and local-government structures.

South Africa and Australia enjoy wide-ranging multilateral relations. Both – together with New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay – are members of the Valdivia Group (Group of Temperate Southern Hemisphere Countries on Environment), which aims to promote southern-hemisphere views in international environmental meetings and enhance scientific cooperation. They enjoy a close working relationship within the context of the Antarctic Treaty and Indian Ocean fisheries, and also interact regularly within the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Cairns Group.

South Africa and Australia also work closely on Commonwealth issues, particularly those affecting Africa.

On 26 February 2009, South Africa and Australia issued a joint communiqué, committing to enhance collaboration in the development of a coordinated scientific and technical programme for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) pathfinder telescopes, the South African pathfinder MeerKAT and the Australian SKA pathfinder.

South Africa and Australia continue their high level of cooperation in sport matters after the signing in May 2009 of an agreement of cooperation that will benefit both countries.

Australia assists with several successful sport-development programmes, particularly in the Eastern Cape and the agreement will see the aligning of those programmes with the policies and programmes of Sport and Recreation South Africa.

The agreement focuses on the exchange of information, particularly in the fields of coaching, technical sport matters and Australia's expertise in stadium and sport-facility management.

New Zealand has a high commission in Pretoria. The South African high commission in Wellington was opened in April 2009.

Since 1994, political, economic and social links between the two countries have improved significantly. In 1996, the Cape Town Communiqué

was signed, seeking to strengthen cooperation between South Africa and New Zealand. New Zealand's former Prime Minister, Ms Helen Clark, visited South Africa in 2006 to attend the Progressive Summit.

In February 2008, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, held bilateral discussions with her counterpart from New Zealand, Mr Winston Peters. The fourth SOMs between South Africa and New Zealand were hosted by South Africa in October 2008.

The two countries also work closely on Commonwealth issues, particularly those affecting Africa.

The South African Government has strengthened relations with the Pacific Islands region, opening a resident high commission in Suva, Fiji, in 2006.

The high commissioner in Canberra, Australia, has been accredited to the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the Independent State of Samoa.

Relations with the Middle East

South Africa and Qatar enjoy good bilateral relations dating back to 1994. Qatar contains oil reserves of 15,21 billion barrels, while its natural gas reserves exceed 25 trillion cubic meters.

The first round of bilateral consultations were held in February 2009 with the Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow-Up Affairs of the State of Qatar, Mr Mohammed Al-Rumaihi.

Kuwait has become an increasingly important market for South African exports and several Kuwaiti companies have made major multimillion-rand investments in the construction and development of hotels and real estate in South Africa, as well as on the JSE Limited.

The third session of the South Africa-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission (JC) was held in February 2009 in Johannesburg. The JC, which promotes multilayered relations between the two countries, had a special focus on trade and investment initiatives.

During the JC, a joint business council was established to promote commercial relations between South Africa and Saudi Arabia. To enhance scientific and technological cooperation, an agreement on cooperation in the field of S&T was also signed.

Since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in May 1994, South Africa and that country have shared mutually beneficial trade and political relations.

In July 2008, former Minister Dlamini Zuma attended the 10th session of the South Africa-Iran JC in Tehran. The JC serves as a vehicle to promote and advance bilateral cooperation in the areas of drug trafficking, disaster management, health, housing, arts and culture, tourism, sport, investment, mining, S&T, agriculture, labour, transport and energy.

The fourth South Africa-Iran Deputy Ministerial Working Group was held in September 2009 in Teheran.

South Africa and the Sultanate of Oman established diplomatic relations in 1995 and, with a view to strengthening relations, a number of bilateral agreements have been signed, which include an S&T cooperation agreement, an MoU in the field of law, as well as an agreement on double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and South Africa have enjoyed good bilateral relations since the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1994. This bilateral relationship has been characterised by several high-level visits and a high degree of trade and economic interaction, with thrice daily flights between Dubai and Johannesburg and a large South African expatriate community in the UAE.

With regard to the Middle East Peace Process, South Africa supports just, equitable and comprehensive peace between Israel and Palestine and an end to the illegal occupation of land that has led to conflict and violence between the peoples of the region.

Peace and security for the Israelis and the Palestinians cannot be achieved without the fulfilment of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination within their own sovereign state.

South Africa has continued to call on all parties to the conflict in Israel and Palestine to avoid actions that could add to an already volatile situation. The country has been consistent in calling for the immediate implementation of the Road Map, without preconditions, to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine.

South Africa has been supporting all international efforts to help the people of Palestine and Israel in their endeavour to find lasting peace. In this regard, South Africa has supported resolutions in the UNSC and in the UNGA, calling for parties to take certain steps to normalise the situation and for an end to Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian Territory.

South Africa has also voiced its concern with respect to the continued blockade of Gaza and

has urged all parties within Gaza and the occupied West Bank and Israel, to find a solution to the insurmountable suffering being experienced by ordinary people on the ground. South Africa strongly condemned the Israeli war against Gaza.

Relations with the Americas United States of America

The overall bilateral relationship with the USA remains strong with cooperation expanding on matters of common interest and mutual benefit.

The election of President Barack Obama in August 2008 presents new opportunities for the bilateral relationship and global interactions in coordinating a response to serious challenges.

Efforts within the bilateral relationship to enhance cooperation on issues of mutual importance were underscored by various high-level visits and included the visit of US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, to South Africa in 2009.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane participated in the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) deliberations, which took place in Kenya during August 2009. Under the AGOA:

- South Africa is one of the three beneficiaries, the others being Nigeria and Angola
- South Africa's exports to the USA are the most diversified when compared to other sub-Saharan African countries' exports
- bilateral trade between the USA and South Africa is boosted and it is estimated that about 98% of South African and other sub-Saharan African countries' exports to the USA receive preferential treatment.

In May 2008, the South Africa-USA Annual Bilateral Forum was held to assess the progress made on bilateral cooperation activities, to identify areas for further cooperation enhancement and to address the challenges of the bilateral relationship.

Through the global economic slowdown, South Africa remained one of the USA's leading trading partners in Africa with trade amounting to about R100 billion, and South Africa enjoying a trade surplus of about R20 billion. In addition, the Trade and Investment Development Cooperation Agreement was signed on 14 July 2008.

The USA has further played a supportive role in South Africa's efforts in its fight against communicable and infectious diseases, especially in the context of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief, which received a commitment of R4,3 billion in 2008.

South Africa and the USA have also had continued interaction regarding military medical research within the Phidisa Programme, and the

African Contingency Operations Training Assistance Programme, which is aimed at enhancing peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Another important pillar of South Africa's relations with the USA is "people-to-people" interaction where a wide range of individuals and institutions continue to interact on a regular basis.

Canada

In May 2008, the fifth bilateral annual consultations (ACs) between South Africa and Canada took place in Pretoria. The AC is the primary forum in which issues of mutual interest and concern receive specific focus. It also serves to direct and focus all areas of cooperation between South Africa and Canada for the year. The agenda continued to increase in terms of scope, including issues such as Africa, peace and security cooperation, trade and investment, mining and nuclear cooperation, S&T, arts and culture, policing and capacity-building in the context of Jipsa and AsgiSA. There was progress on the draft mutual customs cooperation and bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements and a sports-exchange programme, including cooperation on the hosting of sport events such as the 2010 World Cup, was signed.

A steady growth in regular high-level visits in both directions further serves to cement and expand the mutually beneficial interaction in all spheres.

Canada's ODA to South Africa is aimed at fostering social upliftment, policy development, welfare transformation, training programmes, capacity-building, education and skills exchange. For the period 2008 to 2013, the amount of Canadian ODA to South Africa amounts to R250 million.

Canada is one of the largest foreign direct investors in South Africa to the amount of about R30 billion. South Africa is Canada's major trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa.

The implementation of a trade and investment round-table consultative process was recognised as a significant step in creating a dedicated and hands-on approach to address the trade and investment relationship between South Africa and Canada. It was also agreed that a similar approach be adopted with mining issues and the first mining round-table was held in November 2008.

At the time, Canada was one of the largest foreign investors in the South African mining sector, with 17 Canadian exploration and mining companies active in this country. Of the total Canadian FDI in South Africa, an estimated R14,5 billion represented capital assets in the mining sector.

Canada is particularly involved in Africa in areas such as the Great Lakes and Sudan. Canada was expected to invest up to R2 billion in Sudan during 2008/09 in security, diplomacy and aid.

The first South Africa-Canada bilateral co-operation projects in the region were also identified and implemented. South Africa and Canada also cooperated on preparations for the Ghana Conference on Aid Effectiveness.

The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean (Caricom). The South African embassy in Cuba is accredited to the Dominican Republic, while the South African high commission in Kingston, Jamaica, is accredited to 15 Caricom countries. A high commission, headed by a *chargé d'affaires*, was established in Trinidad and Tobago in 2006.

The majority of the people of the Caribbean are of African descent and thus have strong historical and cultural links with the continent of Africa. South Africa's endeavour, in conjunction with the AU, to strengthen cooperation between Africa and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean, has given added impetus to bilateral and multilateral relations.

Trinidad and Tobago has vast resources of natural gas and is a manufacturing and transport hub in the region. In formulating South Africa's policy in relation to the emerging markets of the Caribbean, it is important to strengthen relations and develop common positions on global issues such as access to the markets of the industrial North, reform of international institutions and the promotion of the development agenda.

Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Suriname have established resident missions in South Africa.

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, co-chaired the seventh South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism meeting in June 2009, in Havana, Cuba.

In September 2009, President Jacob Zuma, supported by a number of top government officials, visited Isla Margarita in Venezuela for the second Africa-South America Summit.

While in Venezuela, President Zuma also used the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with his Latin American counterparts, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, Chilean President, Dr Michelle Bachelet, and Uruguay's President, Mr Tabare Vazquez.

The European Union is South Africa's largest development partner, representing about 70% of all overseas development assistance, with South Africa earmarked to receive €980 million between 2007 and 2013. The European Investment Bank has also approved a loan mandate of €900 million for South Africa.

Latin America

The South American community of nations covers 17 million square kilometres, with 361 million inhabitants, a gross domestic product of more than US\$973 billion and exports of more than US\$180 billion.

The developing countries in Central America and the Andean Community are playing an increasingly important role in international political bodies and formations such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the UN.

Bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean will continue advancing the development agenda of the South and the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries through active participation in groupings of the South at regional, interregional and multilateral levels. Of particular importance is the need to build stronger and balanced relationships with Latin American countries.

Bilateral relations with Latin America will be used to enhance economic, scientific, technical and business opportunities through bilateral mechanisms such as JBCs. Opportunities for interactions with the G5 will be monitored continually.

There is also significant potential for cooperation with the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) trading bloc, which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela as full members (Venezuela still to be ratified by Brazil and Paraguay), and a steadily increasing number of associate members in the Latin American region. A partial preferential trade agreement with the Mercosur was completed in mid-2008. Negotiations are expected to continue towards a full FTA.

Brazil remains a significant player in the multi-lateral context, particularly regarding the interests of the South. With its like-minded approach to a number of significant issues affecting the developing world, it remains a strategic partner for South Africa.

In the bilateral sphere, a broad range of contacts and exchanges are ongoing between Brazil and South Africa in a variety of fields.

President Zuma undertook a state visit to Brazil in October 2009, supported by several ministers and senior government officials. The visit took

place within the context of consolidating South-South cooperation, strengthening the existing bilateral ties and regional partnership and deepening cooperation on the trilateral and multilateral levels between South Africa and Brazil.

The JC with Brazil was held in Pretoria in 2009, as was the JMC.

A range of technical and commercial agreements are either in place or being negotiated with several of the countries in the region.

The second meeting of the South Africa-Argentine JC took place in Buenos Aires in December 2008, co-chaired by former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, and her Argentine counterpart, Mr Jorge Taiana.

Official and study visits to countries of the Southern Cone by ministers and officials are ongoing.

Relations with Europe European Union

President Zuma co-chaired the second South Africa-EU Summit with his Swedish counterpart, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, in September 2009 in Kleinmond, outside Cape Town.

The EU delegation was led by Mr Reinfeldt and included Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (EC), Dr Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council of the EU and High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, and other senior EU officials.

The primary objectives of these joint discussions were to further deepen South Africa-EU relations and to address issues of mutual interest and concern, including many of the key national priorities, namely health, education, rural development, job creation and combating crime.

The summit assessed progress on the implementation of the South Africa-EU strategic partnership. Other issues on the agenda of discussions included:

- the ongoing negotiations on the SADC-EU economic partnership agreements
- the global financial crisis
- climate change
- peace and security in Africa
- the Middle East
- preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

A key outcome during the summit was the signing of the amending agreement to the South Africa-EU Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA). The amending agreement included 35 new and revised non-trade chapter articles, which were negotiated following the mid-term review of the TDCA.

The summit was preceded by the ninth South Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting to discuss the implementation of the South Africa-EU strategic partnership joint action plan and future areas of cooperation, as well as EU-Africa relations and issues of peace and security in Africa.

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States-European Union relations

South Africa assumed full membership of the ACP group of countries in 1996. It became a qualified member of the Lomé Convention in 1997 and of its successor, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA), signed in Cotonou in June 2000.

The CPA is a framework for cooperation between the 78 countries of the ACP group and the EU. The new EU members that acceded in May 2004 adopted the agreement as part of the EU's legislative infrastructure.

Qualified membership means that South Africa is excluded from the trade regime provided in the agreement and from the provisions on ODA. South Africa can, however, tender for projects in all ACP countries and participate fully in all political instruments of the agreement. South Africa's economic relations with the EU are governed by the TDCA.

The CPA differs significantly from its predecessor in that its duration will be 20 years, with a revision clause every five years and a financial protocol for each five-year period. The agreement underscores the importance of regional economic cooperation.

The most far-reaching changes are to be introduced in the area of trade, through regional economic partnership agreements, where non-reciprocal preferences will be gradually abolished and regional integration processes encouraged. One of the key aspects of South Africa's membership of the ACP is its active participation in the three ACP-EU joint political organs, namely the Council of Ministers, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ambassadors.

South Africa takes part in dialogue on important issues such as peace-building, conflict resolution, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. South Africa regularly participates in ACP summits, Council of Ministers' meetings, trade ministers' meetings and the ACP Forum on S&T.

The interest and commitment shown by the EU regarding the African continent and its development is encouraging. Within that context, the EC and the Nepad Secretariat are closely cooperating through established structures and

regular dialogue and information-sharing. They have also agreed to increase coherence between EU member states and the EC in support of Nepad projects, the AU and its institutions, and the RECs.

Benelux countries

The Benelux countries remain important trade and investment partners of South Africa, and major tourist-providers.

South Africa enjoys close political relations with the Netherlands and Belgium, and engages in substantial and fruitful cooperation partnerships with these countries.

The focus on establishing trilateral cooperation to promote peace, security and economic diplomacy are continuing, with special emphasis on initiatives in support of Jipsa and AsgiSA.

The Belgian Government continues to take a keen interest in South and southern Africa, and the Great Lakes Region, particularly the DRC.

There is a regular exchange of views between South Africa and Belgium on the issues and the complicated processes necessary to find durable solutions to the conflicts in the region.

In October 2007, the second session of the Belgium-South Africa JC was held in Pretoria, with the focus on bilateral political and economic relations, promotion of the African Agenda, development cooperation and collaboration within the context of the UNSC.

Cooperation with Flanders is very strong. A substantial portion of the total Flemish ODA budget is devoted to South Africa and the programme is in line with AsgiSA and Jipsa, especially in the areas of skills development and the development of small, medium and micro-enterprises.

The Dutch Government has consistently supported South Africa in terms of bilateral and multilateral relations. A large number of bilateral agreements have been signed and high-level bilateral ministerial meetings are held frequently.

In April 2008, former Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka led a government delegation on an official visit to the Netherlands. The visit served to strengthen bilateral relations and emphasised human development support from that country.

Luxembourg and South Africa enjoy good bilateral relations. High-level visits between the two countries take place regularly. The Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Jean Asselborn, visited South Africa in November 2008. The visit served to strengthen bilateral and economic relations, especially in the financial services and funds sectors.

German-speaking countries

Since 1994, the relationship between South Africa and Germany has developed into a strong socio-economic and political partnership that has shown considerable growth in many areas.

In March 2009, the former South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, visited Berlin for bilateral discussions with German Foreign Minister, Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The four-nation European visit was aimed at consolidating bilateral political, economic and trade relations with European countries while advancing North-South relations and consolidating the African Agenda. In this context, former Minister Dlamini Zuma visited Switzerland, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany and Denmark.

Discussions between Dr Dlamini Zuma and Minister Steinmeier focused on, among other things:

- a review of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between the two countries
- the forthcoming G20 meeting
- reform of the global financial architecture
- consolidation of the African Agenda
- preparations for the Confederations Cup and the 2010 World Cup.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Germany remain sound, dynamic and wide-ranging. Relations cover a wide variety of issues, including investment and trade, S&T, defence, culture, environment, tourism, sport, development cooperation and energy.

Relations between South Africa and Switzerland have continued to grow since 1994. As a result of democratic changes in South Africa, Switzerland decided to grant South Africa special status on the Swiss foreign-policy agenda as one of the focus areas for Swiss interests outside Europe.

Bilateral relations with the Republic of Austria are sound. Besides engaging the Austrian Government at national level in support of development programmes, increased economic involvement, and support for the African Agenda, provincial partnerships with key Austrian provinces have also resulted in increased business ties and commitments to support training programmes for South African students. Closer cooperation in the field of renewable energies is expected to intensify in the future.

Nordic countries

South Africa enjoys good relations with all the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). Flowing from the strong grassroots support in these countries for demo-

cratisation in South Africa, relations have been established in virtually every field at both public and official levels. The scope of Nordic development cooperation is broad and has benefited civil society and government.

Relations in the international arena have seen close cooperation on multilateral issues. The Nordic countries are strong supporters of Nepad and are directly involved in conflict resolution and reconstruction projects in Africa. This was reinforced through the signing of the Declaration of Intent on Partnerships in Africa in June 2008, which laid a framework for future trilateral cooperation.

In March 2009, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, joined Nordic and African foreign ministers at the eighth session of the Nordic-African Informal Foreign Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen. They discussed, among other things, climate change and its effects on Africa, peace and security challenges in Africa and UN issues.

South Africa and Denmark signed a Declaration on Bilateral Relations during the visit to South Africa in January 2009 by the Danish Foreign Minister, Ms Ulla Toernaes.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane held a meeting with Ms Toernaes on the margins of the World Economic Forum on Africa, in Cape Town in June 2009.

Issues for discussion, among other things, included:

- bilateral cooperation between the two countries
- South Africa's candidature for the position of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- the situation in Zimbabwe
- Conference of the Parties (CoP15) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and climate change.

Denmark was a very strong supporter of the anti-apartheid struggle and a major force in sanctions and disinvestment. In addition, Denmark has always had a very active development cooperation programme with South Africa, which was transformed into official assistance from 1995.

In the 2009 to 2013 programme, over R7 billion is being disbursed to projects ranging from water, energy, education, governance, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and support to business and HIV and AIDS. Denmark remains a strong supporter of Nepad and African development.

Denmark hosted the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009.

At the end of November 2009, King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway paid a state visit to South Africa. They were accompanied by a delegation of more than 100 business leaders. A number of bilateral agreements were signed that will improve cooperation between South Africa and Norway.

United Kingdom and Ireland

The UK is one of the largest foreign direct investors into South Africa and consistently occupies the third position in terms of South African exports. With the number of tourists per year approaching half a million, the UK is also South Africa's most important overseas tourism market.

The UK, through its Department for International Development as implementing arm, seeks to promote development and reduce poverty in Africa and spends on average £20 million a year in South Africa. The UK took the lead initiatives in putting the plight of Africa on the agenda of the G8 discussions held in the UK in 2005, advocating for additional resource requirements to tackle poverty and vulnerability in Africa.

This was continued through the UK Government's hosting of the "London Summit" in April 2009, which focused on the alleviation of the effects of the global financial crisis on developing nations.

South Africa's relationship with the UK covers a wide spectrum and remains sound. The main areas of cooperation are political, trade and investment, security, defence, finance, tourism and other technical sectors. The defence relationship remains important for the strategic interest of both countries. The UK contributed R2,3 million to the establishment of the South African National Peace Mission Training Centre in Pretoria.

The eighth meeting of the South Africa-UK Bilateral Forum was held in Pretoria in July 2008. The MoU on the Reciprocal Exchange of Healthcare Concepts and Personnel was signed on this occasion.

Former Irish Prime Minister, Mr Bertie Ahern, paid a working visit to South Africa in January 2008, accompanied by 50 Irish business leaders investigating investment and joint venture opportunities in South Africa.

In February 2008, former Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka launched the Irish and South African Heritage Project at the Nelson Mandela

Gateway to Robben Island in Cape Town. The project is based on historical research of bilateral relations that both Ireland and South Africa have shared since 1994. The project will extend relations between the two countries, through potential exchange programmes on e-schools.

The second session of the Ireland-South Africa Partnership Forum was held in Dublin in April 2009.

Mediterranean Europe

South Africa and the countries of Mediterranean Europe maintain excellent relations through several institutionalised mechanisms such as the South Africa-France Political Dialogue, South Africa-Spain annual consultations and various commissions on trade and industry; health; education; arts, culture, and S&T; and sport.

These countries are among South Africa's top trading partners and remain large investors in the South African economy, providing not only capital inflow but also thousands of jobs.

Mediterranean Europe has excelled in providing several opportunities for training in terms of Jipsa through government and business interventions.

In addition to this area of work, relations between the two countries are growing and hold much promise for the future.

South Africa and France enjoy excellent political relations characterised by regular high-level dialogue, diverse bilateral cooperation programmes and growing bilateral trade. South Africa acknowledges France's strong influence on the continent, especially in Francophone Africa and seeks to cooperate with France wherever possible in promoting the African Agenda.

France is the largest donor to and trading partner with Africa, a major investor on the continent and is a traditional champion of Africa and the developing world on issues such as debt relief, sustainable development and mitigating the negative effects of globalisation.

Italy and South Africa have agreed to deepen the level of exchanges on a number of issues critical to development on the African continent, especially regarding peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and post-conflict reconstruction in the DRC and the Great Lakes Region.

Economic relations between South Africa and Spain have grown at a very rapid pace, with total trade between the two countries amounting to R19 billion, having doubled over the past four years.

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Sue van der Merwe, paid an official visit to Spain in February 2009.

South Africa and Greece have strong cultural ties through the Hellenic community in South Africa, which plays a positive and constructive role in the reconstruction and development of this country. The Hellenic community in South Africa is estimated at 60 000.

Greece is the oldest and largest market for South Africa in the Balkan Region. While Greece is not a major donor country, it has contributed to education and health programmes in South Africa. These include a US\$200 000-donation to a health clinic in Sebokeng and a US\$40 000-donation to sports facilities in Soweto and Alexandra.

Central Europe

South Africa enjoys excellent relations with all the countries of Central Europe. Subsequent to the official visit by former Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka to the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia in May 2008, 17 South African students got scholarships for a master's programme in Textiles Engineering and a degree in Road-Transport Management, as part of bilateral cooperation to support South Africa's Jipsa priorities.

The accession of seven Central European countries to the EU not only influenced South Africa's political and economic relations with these countries but has impacted on South Africa's strategic and multifaceted relations with the EU. The new EU member countries have opened greater scope for mutually beneficial cooperation. Since most of the countries in Central Europe play an important role in the field of S&T, emphasis on developing more programmes of cooperation in this area and skills development projects will continue to receive priority attention.

During the 2008/09 financial year, successful bilateral political and economic engagements were held with Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia.

The department's focus in the 2009/10 financial year was to facilitate the implementation of decisions taken at bilateral meetings, including the integration of the Government's key priorities in bilateral programmes.

In February 2009, Dr Dlamini Zuma hosted the Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Ivailo Kalfin, for bilateral political, economic and trade discussions.

Eastern Europe

The Eastern Europe region is of crucial impor-

tance to South Africa's strategic objectives, straddling across a wide spectrum of political and economic interests. The region is well endowed with strategic commodities/minerals that are of vital importance to South Africa's economic livelihood. Cooperation in gas and oil and peaceful use of nuclear energy can go a long way in alleviating South Africa's energy shortcomings.

Cooperation with Eastern European countries is, given their advancements in the field of S&T, likely to contribute effectively to South Africa and Africa's development priorities.

South Africa continues to use structured bilateral mechanisms and other high-level engagements to strengthen political and economic relations with Eastern European countries. Thus, relations with Eastern European countries, properly nurtured in the next three years, will contribute effectively to the achievement of South Africa's strategic objectives and the African Agenda at large.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is by far the most important strategic partner in Eastern Europe. The Russian Federation's membership of the G8 and the UNSC offers South Africa an influential strategic partner in global governance. South Africa's relations with Russia were significantly consolidated over the past few years through continued high-level political dialogue. Bilateral relations also expanded strongly under the umbrella of the Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (Itec), a mechanism which is likely to enhance mutual beneficial trade and economic ties between the two countries.

The seven Itec subcommittees cover the following sectors: agriculture, education, health, S&T, minerals and energy, trade and industry, justice and the South Africa-Russia Business Council. They facilitate strategic interactions in these fields and hold a great promise for economic growth and investment opportunities.

The seventh Itec Intersessional Meeting, held in November 2008, registered significant progress in the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Forestry, especially the signing of the Action Plan that concretises and sets timelines in the work of the subcommittee for the coming year. It also made noteworthy headway in the area of the peaceful uses of outer space, especially the launch of the Sumbandila satellite in September 2009. Cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy was also progressing well. The JCC on Nuclear Energy Cooperation was hosted by South Africa in 2009,

which was preceded by a workshop on nuclear-safety regulations and nuclear power reactors.

The eighth session of Itec was held in October 2009. Ministers committed to exploit new trade and investment opportunities and resolve potential obstacles to bilateral cooperation.

South Africa and the Russian Federation control vast reserves of the world's platinum-group metals and there exists a massive opportunity for mutually beneficial cooperation in this area.

Further, Russia's natural energy endowment in oil and gas, coupled by technological advancement in nuclear energy, offers South Africa opportunities of addressing energy challenges.

Republic of Belarus

The relations between South Africa and the Republic of Belarus are progressing well. The annual political consultations between the ministers of international relations of the two countries have been a foundation to explore areas for mutual beneficial cooperation.

Following the September 2008 political consultations between the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, and her counterpart, Mr Sergei Martynov, a South African consul-general office was opened in Belarus.

These burgeoning relations were greatly enhanced by the establishment of the Itec. In the main, the endeavour has identified S&T cooperation (especially in the areas of laser technology), the automotive sector and the consumer goods sector as areas that offered good potential for mutual benefit. The second Itec meeting was held in 2009 in South Africa. The Subcommittee on S&T meets annually to map out areas for future cooperation.

The former Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan, visited Belarus in July 2008 to sign the Programme of Action that activated the Agreement on Arts and Culture Cooperation.

Turkey

Turkey is South Africa's largest trading partner in Eastern and Central Europe. Bilateral relations between the two countries are growing and senior officials held political consultations in March 2009, which set the platform for the enhancement of political relations in the next five years.

The Joint Economic Commission was established in April 2008 and agreed to facilitate cooperation in clothing and textiles, the automotive sector, jewellery manufacturing, energy and

construction services. Furthermore, South Africa continues to strengthen cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the Africa-Turkey Summit Declaration (i.e. the Istanbul Declaration) and enhance multilateral cooperation in the UN.

Multilateral diplomacy

The adoption of the UN World Summit Outcome document in New York in 2005 by more than 150 heads of state and government marked one of the most prominent efforts to protect and strengthen multilateralism.

Expectations of wholesale change and reform of the UN, however, proved not to be realistically attainable. The Review Summit nonetheless agreed on a number of reforms to address events and issues that continue to undermine global peace and security and the multilateral system of governance. South Africa remains an active participant in these ongoing efforts to implement the 2005 World Summit Outcome document to reform the UN. It also believes that the multilateral system should be fully engaged in human development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the MDGs; the common struggle to address environmental degradation; the pursuit of an overarching human-rights agenda; the promotion of democracy and good governance; and all efforts to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons, both of mass destruction and small arms. South Africa maintains that issues such as these pose major threats to world peace and security.

Through participation in organisations and groups such as the UN, the AU, the NAM, the G77 and the Commonwealth, South Africa seeks to ensure that national interests and objectives, as well as those of the continent and developing countries generally, are taken on board in discussions in multilateral forums and reports.

United Nations General Assembly

South Africa's priorities for participation in the UNGA, its main committees and organs, include:

- pursuing an overarching human-rights agenda, including the right to development
- promoting global peace and security
- protecting and promoting multilateralism, international law and the centrality of the UN Charter
- addressing human development, poverty eradication and environmental degradation
- advancing the active follow-up and implementation of the MDGs, international development goals and the outcomes of major UN conferences

- advancing South-South cooperation through active participation in the NAM and other South-South cooperation arrangements
- promoting the reform of the UNSC General Assembly, Ecosoc and regional organisations, and generally revitalising the UN system
- promoting the Common Africa Position on the reform of the UN, including the equitable representation of Africa on the UNSC
- disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms
- implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
- humanitarian assistance
- promoting the AU and Nepad in the UN context
- promoting gender mainstreaming
- supporting the global campaign against terrorism.

In September 2009, President Zuma addressed the 64th UNGA debate in New York.

United Nations reform

The adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome by more than 150 heads of state and government, set in motion a number of reforms in the UN system that include:

- establishing a peace-building commission
- establishing a human-rights council
- implementing management reforms in the UN Secretariat
- reviewing the mandates of UN activities and programmes
- finalising the comprehensive Convention against Terrorism and developing a broader counter-terrorism strategy
- maintaining and strengthening political momentum for development.

South Africa supports and actively participates in all negotiations.

United Nations Security Council

The UNSC has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is organised so as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at the UN.

The comprehensive reform of the UNSC remains work in progress. The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, participated in the UNSC on Post-Conflict Peace-Building in July 2009.

Science and technology

The South African Government has recognised the importance of harnessing S&T as an integral part of a wider political and economic strategy to address national and regional development priorities.

A major vehicle to achieve this objective is South Africa's bid to host the proposed SKA as an extraordinary opportunity for advancing South Africa and its people through scientific and industrial development, developing regional scientific capacity, human capacity-development in the region, creating business opportunities and providing state-of-the-art infrastructure for South African scientists and engineers as well as those in the region.

In ensuring the implementation of the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for Information Society, as the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, South Africa will remain involved in the ongoing discussions on Internet governance as well as bridging the digital divide between developed and developing countries.

Human rights

A commitment to promoting human rights is one of the central considerations in the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy. South Africa is a major player in the development of international human-rights law at the UN, continually evaluating the effectiveness of existing human-rights treaties, proposing additional instruments and striving to advance the progressive realisation of all human rights, both globally and nationally.

South Africa played an active role in the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, which replaced the former Commission on Human Rights. South Africa is a member of the UNHRC, where it has strongly advocated for a treaty on the right to development. It also sponsored an HRC resolution on the rectification of the legal status of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will elevate the committee to be on par with all other treaty-monitoring bodies.

For the same reason, South Africa has supported the elaboration of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to create an individual complaints mechanism for the covenant, thereby strengthening economic, social and cultural rights globally.

South Africa was one of the first countries to sign and ratify both the International Convention

on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol, becoming a state party to the convention in November 2007.

Humanitarian issues

As a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, South Africa has committed itself to protecting refugees. These international treaties have been domesticated through the Refugee Act, 1998 (Act 130 of 1998).

South Africa's foreign-policy interventions on migration are guided by its adherence to the major international human-rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the various refugee conventions and conventions related to, among other things, the rights of women and children. This includes the understanding that migration, if properly managed, could contribute significantly to enhancing sustainable development in African countries.

South Africa's participation in humanitarian assistance is strongly embedded in the principles of UNGA Resolution 46/182 and its guiding principles of providing humanitarian assistance on the basis of neutrality, impartiality and humanity. South Africa plays an active role in providing humanitarian assistance globally, with a particular focus on the African continent in conjunction with the UN and other international organisations, to alleviate the plight of thousands of victims of natural sudden-onset disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies.

During recent times, the world has witnessed a serious disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL) and its fundamental principles during conflicts, especially where civilians are indiscriminately targeted. South Africa will continue to coordinate the country's internalisation and compliance with relevant instruments of IHL. Following its commitment to the development and implementation of IHL, South Africa will continue to co-host, support and participate in initiatives aimed at disseminating relevant instruments of IHL.

Environment

South Africa is committed to maintaining the political momentum gained in the sphere of sustainable development, through the outcomes of the WSSD and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Through the implementation of various UN environmental conventions, such as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity, South Africa supports the sustainable use of natural resources while striving to reach the internationally agreed to MDGs to, among other things, reduce poverty, promote gender equality and ensure environmental sustainability

Climate change is regarded as one of the major stumbling blocks to achieving sustainable development. International efforts are aimed at both the mitigation of climate changes by stabilising the concentration of greenhouse-gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere and measures to enable countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

South Africa participated in the CoP14 of the UNFCCC and the fourth Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, held in December 2008 in Poznan, Poland.

In Poznan, there was slow progress. However, discussions succeeded in moving the process towards full negotiation-mode in 2009. A clear process and milestones for both negotiating tracks under the Bali Road Map had been agreed on. On substantive issues, most of the negotiations have been referred to the 2009 work programmes.

These negotiations were concluded in 2009 for the governments to ratify them before 2012 and to avoid any gap between the first and second commitment periods on the reduction of GHG emissions.

South Africa is firmly committed to the protection of the oceans and the sustainable management of its marine resources. It has ratified all the major treaties dealing with marine, maritime, fisheries and Antarctic matters, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its related instruments, the International Maritime Conventions, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Compliance Agreement, and the Antarctic Treaty.

Disarmament

South Africa continues to reinforce its position as an active and substantive role player on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control issues at regional, national and international levels.

It actively participated in the various nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation forums, including the 2005 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

The failure by some states to implement their obligations under the NPT (particularly on nuclear disarmament) and to roll back agreements made at previous conferences created a climate that

made it difficult to progress with key challenges facing the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Together with other role players in the nuclear field, South Africa actively participated in the meetings of the policy-making organs of the IAEA. Important issues considered by the IAEA Board of Governors included the implementation of NPT safeguards in Iran and Korea.

South Africa actively participates in the structures of the Chemicals Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

South Africa continues to emphasise the importance of the BWC and the need to strengthen it to adequately address the threat posed by the possible use of biological and toxic weapons by terrorists and other non-state actors.

South Africa was admitted as the first African state to join the Wassenaar Arrangement (conventional arms and dual-use technology-control regime) in December 2005, and became a full participating state on 28 February 2006.

In the context of South Africa's participation in various international arms-control bodies, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Missile Technology Control Regime, South Africa continues to promote the principle of access to advanced technologies for peaceful purposes, thereby ensuring that non-proliferation controls do not become a means whereby developing countries are denied access to technologies required for their development.

Crime and crime prevention

Following its ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three supplementary protocols, the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, South Africa participated in the CoP of the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime in October 2005. Following its ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption, South Africa participated in the first CoP of the Convention against Corruption in 2006.

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)

The KPCS is a voluntary tripartite international

forum, intent on preventing the use of diamonds in the promotion of conflict, while encouraging the contribution of diamonds to prosperity.

The KPCS forum comprises all major diamond-producing, -trading and -processing countries, as well as the diamond industry and civil society.

The department participates actively in the standing bodies of the KPCS.

One of the department's primary objectives in monitoring the KPCS and participating in the business of KPCS standing and ad-hoc bodies is to support government's efforts to ensure that the collective interests of African diamond-producing countries are protected.

North-South cooperation

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation serves as the focal point for North-South dialogue, engaging key global economic institutions such as the WTO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. To achieve this objective, South Africa ensures that the development agenda remains part of the focus of key economic forums, particularly the annual G8 Summit and World Economic Forum meetings.

South-South cooperation

In advancing the development agenda of the South and within the overall context of promoting multilateralism, South Africa is an active member of groups and movements such as the G77 and China and the NAM.

Progressively, the importance of South-South cooperation is being acknowledged, especially in terms of global, regional and country-level efforts to achieve the MDGs. Rather than being a substitute for North-South cooperation, the modalities of South-South cooperation are complementary.

In September 2008, Minister Dlamini Zuma participated in the ministerial meetings of the G77 and China and the NAM, held in New York on the margins of the 63rd session of the UNGA. South Africa ensured that the G77 Ministerial Declaration adopted principles for South-South cooperation to avoid it being defined by developed countries.

South African foreign policy seeks to, among other things, persuade the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to expand such cooperation, with a special focus on the needs of Africa.

In this regard, South Africa led the negotiations of the African Group on the landmark political declaration on Africa's development, which was

adopted by the General Assembly in September 2008. Through active participation in other cooperation arrangements such as IBSA, South Africa seeks to contribute to strengthening South-South cooperation and the development of innovative cooperation programmes.

Since its inception in 2004, the IBSA Trust Fund has financed IBSA projects in Burundi, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Palestine.

Global finance

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation has in its engagements solicited the international community to fulfil its Monterrey commitments. It recognises the need for increased and more predictable resources for development.

As such, it supports initiatives such as Action Against Hunger and Poverty to implement innovative financing mechanisms for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis, to complement ODA.

As one of the G20 countries within the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the department contributes to developing the global partnership between developed and developing countries pragmatically. Within this context, South Africa is committed to the continuous review of the representivity, operations and strategies of the BWIs and more effective participation by developing countries in these bodies.

With the advent of the global financial and economic crisis in 2008, the G20 met at summit-level to discuss a global response to the crisis.

Social development

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation aims to promote and advocate social development issues to remain high on the international agenda. This is achieved through consolidation of the African Agenda relating to social development as well as promoting and mainstreaming social- and population-, global health- and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)-related issues.

In pursuit of the country's foreign-policy objectives on social development matters, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation interacts with the following multilateral structures and organisations: the UN Commission for Social Development, the UN Commission on Population and Development, UN Population Fund, Unesco, UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS and the WHO.

Participation in United Nations budgetary and programmatic issues

South Africa continues to play a prominent role in the context of UN budgetary and programmatic issues.

The former Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, was elected vice-president of the second UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Finance for the period 2006 to 2009.

Another South African, Judge Mervyn King, who chaired the King Commission on Corporate Governance in South Africa, was elected chairperson of a high-level steering panel to evaluate governance in the UN.

Active participation in administrative and budgetary issues is aimed at ensuring, to the fullest extent possible, that UN programmes as well as budgetary and administrative priorities adequately cater for development and poverty eradication. In this regard, priority areas for South Africa include the funding of UN structures and programmes that focus on Africa and Nepad, and sufficient funding for peacekeeping operations on the continent. South Africa believes that active participation in the administrative and budgetary activities of the UN contributes to the strengthening of multilateralism and a system that is more responsive to the needs of all member states.

South African representation on United Nations bodies and organs

South Africa strives to be active in all bodies and functional committees of the UN dealing with its foreign-policy priorities or objectives, and thus serves/served on the following:

- International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (2005 to 2009): Judge J Moloto
- UNHRC, successor to the Commission on Human Rights (2006)
- International Criminal Court (2003 to 2009): Judge M Pillay
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2005 to 2014): Judge A Hoffmann
- Board of Auditors (until 30 June 2012): Auditor-General of South Africa
- International Law Commission (1 January 2007 to 31 December 2011): Prof. CJR Dugard
- UN Commission on International Trade Law: (2007 to 2013).

South Africa serves/served on the following subsidiary bodies of the Ecosoc:

- Commission for Social Development (2006 to 2009)
- Statistical Commission (2006 to 2009)

- Commission on Sustainable Development (2007 to 2010)
- Commission on Population and Development (2007 to 2010)
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2007 to 2010).

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Africa

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeks to implement programmes that are relevant to government's transformation and development imperatives. The UNDP has a country office in Pretoria, which is headed by the resident representative, who is also the UN resident coordinator for all UN operational activities in South Africa.

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a mechanism to establish an integrated framework for cooperation for development assistance between the UN system, represented through 16 UN funds, programmes and agencies present in South Africa and government.

The UNDAF reflects the priorities conveyed to the UN by government and is based on the Common Country Assessment (CCA). The previous UNDAF ended in December 2006. The department worked with the UNCT in South Africa and numerous other departments to prepare the new UNDAF, which will guide UN support in South Africa from 2007 to 2010. In this process, a CCA has been drafted by government and accepted by the UN and the new UNDAF.

In 2008, the government and the UN Evaluation Group undertook a joint evaluation of the impact of the presence of the UN in South Africa. This was the first time that an evaluation was conducted at country level on a system-wide basis. The overall objective of South Africa's foreign policy, namely to work towards "a better South Africa" within "a better Africa" and "a better world", was used as the conceptual framework for the evaluation. The joint evaluation was concluded in December 2008 and the findings were submitted to government and the UN in early 2009.

International law

The importance of international law as a mechanism for enhancing a rule-based international order, particularly in areas such as law of the sea, climate change, resolution of disputes and terrorism, remains important. In exercising its rights under international law, South Africa launched its claim for Extended Continental Shelf in May 2009.

Through this claim, South Africa has the opportunity to exercise its jurisdiction to a very large area of maritime territory around its mainland and sub-Antarctic Prince Edward islands.

International law continues to play a role in support of the African Agenda, enhancing Africa's own initiatives in developing architecture to ensure peace, security and stability on the continent and to address the challenges of underdevelopment, poverty alleviation, democratisation and good governance. In this regard, the establishment and integration of the African Court on Human and People's Rights and the African Court of Justice and the strengthening AU structures through international law will be important.

Legal advice in respect of South African law concerning all departmental issues will be provided in support of the department.

With Cabinet's endorsement of the department as the official treaty custodian of South Africa, the maintenance and administration of a complete and up-to-date record of the treaty collection of South Africa remains a priority and the department will continue to render an information service specialising in international law. The electronic *South African Treaty Register* was officially launched in April 2009 on the department's intranet.

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth comprises 53 member countries on every continent and with a combined population of 1,8 billion (one quarter of world population), making up one fifth of world trade. It is an important multilateral institution uniting countries with common historical backgrounds.

The Commonwealth is united by its shared ideals and common traditions manifested in similar structures of governance, public administration and law, a common working language, and commercial and business practices and understanding. It is an important multilateral institution,

both uniting and serving its member countries and providing a lobby on global issues.

Its programmes of action, such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Foundation, are focused on capacity-building, economic and social development, the removal of disparities in living standards across the world, and the alleviation of poverty and illiteracy. These programmes are committed to the UN MDGs, Nepad and the plight of small and less-developed countries.

South Africa actively participates in the various ministerial meetings and governing bodies of the Commonwealth.

Non-Aligned Movement

The NAM with its 114 member states is the largest political grouping of countries outside of the UN, making it an important lobby group of developing countries in global affairs.

South Africa formally joined the movement in 1994 and has played a leading role ever since.

A major contribution under the South African chairship was a comprehensive review of the decisions taken by the movement since 1992. The review aimed at revitalising the movement and focusing it on the new challenges of the 21st century. Popularly referred to as the Zimbali Process, the outcome was taken up in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration of the XIII NAM Summit in Malaysia on the revitalisation of the movement in the 21st century.

After Malaysia, Cuba chaired the movement, which in turn handed over the chairship to Egypt in July 2009.

In July 2009, President Zuma, addressed the XV Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the NAM, in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2009

Date signed	Country/organisation	Title	Entry into force date:
25 January 2008	United States Agency for International Development	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of South Africa through the Department of Education and the Government of the United States through the United States Agency for International Development on Cooperation in the Development of Textbooks and Learning Materials	25 January 2008
6 February 2008	Netherlands	Arrangement on Bilateral Police Cooperation (not a treaty)	6 February 2008
22 February 2008	India	Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	22 February 2008
22 February 2008	India	Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology	25 February 2008
25 February 2008	Malawi	MoU on Defence Cooperation	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	Egypt	Executive Programme of Cooperation for the Implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts and Culture	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Energy	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Agreement on Cooperation pertaining to Tourism	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Agreement on Transport-Related Matters	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Declaration on South Africa-French Cooperation on the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition	28 February 2008
28 February 2008	France	Statement of Intent on the Extension of the Continental Shelf, the Surveillance of Fisheries and Scientific Research Cooperation in the Waters Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories and Marion and Prince Edward Islands	28 February 2008
29 February 2008	European Molecular Biology Conference	Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the European Molecular Biology Conference	29 February 2008
8 March 2008	Switzerland	MoU on Strengthening Mutual Cooperation	8 March 2008
17 March 2008	Indonesia	Joint Declaration on a Strategic Partnership for a Peaceful and Prosperous Future	
17 March 2008	Indonesia	MoU on Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defence	17 March 2008
17 March 2008	Indonesia	MoU on Cultural Cooperation	17 March 2008
17 March 2008	Indonesia	Statement on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership	
18 March 2008	Ethiopia	Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments	
18 March 2008	Ethiopia	Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)	18 March 2008
18 March 2008	Ethiopia	Agreement on the Establishment of a JMC	18 March 2008
18 March 2008	Ethiopia	MoU regarding Industrial and Technical Cooperation	
28 March 2008	African Union	MoU Contributing Military Resources to the African Union Mission in the Sudan	28 March 2008
31 March 2008	Australia	Protocol Amending the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	12 November 2008
7 April 2008	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Agreement concerning the Hosting of IAEA Meetings	7 April 2008
10 April 2008	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund Grant Agreement (Renewable Energy Market Transformation Project) between South Africa and IBRD Acting as an Implementing Agency of the GEF	

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2009

Date signed	Country/organisation	Title	Entry into force date:
14 April 2008	Congo	Agreement on Defence Cooperation	14 April 2008
17 April 2008	Norway	Joint Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Issues	
30 April 2008	Senegal	MoU on Defence Cooperation	30 April 2008
11 May 2008	Brazil	Agreement regarding Mutual Assistance between their Customs Administrations	
8 June 2008	Oman	MoU on Cooperation in the Legal Field	8 June 2008
24 June 2008	Benin	Defence Cooperation	24 June 2008
26 June 2008	Germany	Exchange of Notes Constituting an Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Capacity and Institution-Building for Southern Sudan: Legal Affairs and Correctional Services Training Programmes	26 June 2008
1 July 2008	Food and Agriculture Organisation	Agreement on Sustainable Food Production and Nutrition Education in Schools in Support of the National Schools Nutrition Programme	1 July 2008
3 July 2008	United Kingdom	General Security Arrangement concerning the Protection of Classified Information Exchanged for the Purpose of Defence Cooperation, Production, Research and Procurement between the Two Countries	
8 July 2008	Netherlands	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital with Protocol	28 December 2008
17 July 2008	Botswana	Agreement on Water Supply across the Border	17 July 2008
17 July 2008	International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	Agreement regarding the Holding, Organisation and Financing of the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly of the ITU	17 July 2008
29 July 2008	Egypt	Declaration of Intent on Cooperation	29 July 2008
31 July 2008	Ireland	Agreement regarding Funding for a Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Support Programme	31 July 2008
5 August 2008	Namibia	Cooperation in the Field of Health	5 August 2008
14 August 2008	Germany	Exchange of Notes concerning the Project FIFA World Cup 2010™ - Modernisation and Development of Urban Infrastructures in Johannesburg	
15 August 2008	India	Programme of Cooperation on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts and Culture	15 August 2008
1 September 2008	Sudan (Southern)	Statement of Intent on the Establishment of a Liaison Office in South Africa	
2 September 2008	Venezuela	Cooperation in the Field of Energy	
2 September 2008	Venezuela	Framework Agreement on Cooperation	
3 September 2008	Cameroon	Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health	3 September 2008
9 September 2008	Germany	Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital plus Protocol	
16 September 2008	Republic of Korea	Cooperation in the Field of Health	16 September 2008
22 September 2008	Burundi	MoU on the Establishment of a South Africa-Korea Information and Communications Technologies Cooperation Centre in South Africa	22 September 2008
25 September 2008	Guinea-Bissau	Agreement on a Framework for Cooperation	25 September 2008
26 September 2008	Germany	Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Veterinary Affairs	26 September 2008
26 September 2008	Timor Leste	Framework Agreement on Technical Cooperation	26 September 2008
9 October 2008	African Union (AU)	Host Agreement on an Interim AU Office for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) operating outside the AU Headquarters	9 October 2008
9 October 2008	AU	Host Agreement on an Interim AU Office for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) operating outside the AU Headquarters	9 October 2008

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2009

Date signed	Country/organisation	Title	Entry into force date:
15 October 2008	Multilateral	MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Women's Development and Gender Equality Programmes India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)	15 October 2008
6 November 2008	Nigeria	Agreed Minutes of the Fourth Session of the Special Implementation Committee of the Binational Commission (BNC), between the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Nigeria held from 4 to 6 November 2008 in Tshwane, South Africa (not an agreement)	
10 November 2008	China, People's Republic of	Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Geology and Minerals	10 November 2008
14 November 2008	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Agreement on Establishing a Regional and Subregional Team Office of the UNFPA in South Africa	14 November 2008
26 November 2008	Lithuania	MoU on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	26 November 2008
1 December 2008	Lesotho	MoU in respect of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area	
3 December 2008	Argentine Republic	Agreed Outcome and Minutes of the Second Meeting of the BNC (not an agreement)	
3 December 2008	Argentine Republic	Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	
4 December 2008	Mozambique	Agreement on Cooperation in respect of Fisheries and Integrated Marine and Coastal Management and Development	4 December 2008
10 December 2008	Finland	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning the Finnish-South African Partnership Programme to Strengthen the Nepad/South African Network for Biosciences (SANBIO) Network	10 December 2008
23 January 2009	Denmark	Declaration of Intent on Bilateral Consultations	23 January 2009
5 February 2009	Mauritius	MoU on Economic Cooperation	5 February 2009
12 February 2009	Malawi	Agreement in the Field of Health	12 February 2009
19 February 2009	Mexico	MoU for the Establishment of a BNC	19 February 2009
20 February 2009	Hong Kong	Agreement concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	
20 February 2009	Hong Kong	Agreement concerning Surrender of Fugitive Offenders (Extradition)	
25 February 2009	Saudi Arabia	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation	
2 March 2009	Burkina Faso	Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts and Culture	2 March 2009
2 March 2009	Finland	Declaration of Intent concerning the Deepening of Bilateral Relations and Strengthening of Partnerships	2 March 2009
9 March 2009	France	Priority-Solidarity-Funds Funding-Agreement for the Implementation of Project No 2006-81: Fight against Transnational Crime and Terrorism in South Africa-Enhlangano Project	9 March 2009
10 March 2009	China, People's Republic of	Exchange of Notes on the Construction of an Aquaculture Technical Demonstration Centre	10 March 2009
25 March 2009	Rwanda	Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts and Culture	25 March 2009
25 March 2009	Rwanda	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation	25 March 2009

Acknowledgements

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Estimates of National Expenditure 2009, published by National Treasury

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