



Foreign affairs

The role of the Department of Foreign Affairs is to realise South Africa's foreign policy objectives. These are guided by a commitment to promoting human rights, democracy, justice and international law; international peace and internationally agreed mechanisms for resolving conflicts; Africa in world affairs; and economic development through regional and international co-operation.

South Africa and Africa

The South African Government firmly believes that the future of the country is inextricably linked to the future of

Representation, July 2005

South African representation abroad	Total
Embassies/high commissions	83
Consulates/consulates-general	16
Honorary consulates	46
Other (e.g. liaison offices)	4
Non-resident accreditation	106
International organisations	7
Foreign representation in South Africa	Total
Embassies/high commissions	113
Consulates/consulates-general	53
Honorary consuls/honorary consular agencies	73
Other (e.g. liaison offices)	1
Non-resident accreditation	16
International organisations	22

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

the African continent and that of its neighbours in southern Africa. The national vision of building a united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society is also relevant to the vision for Africa.

Coupled with this is the understanding that socio-economic development cannot take place without political peace and stability. South Africa's efforts are directed at creating an environment in which all states on the continent will achieve their full potential. Africa therefore remains the central area of focus in the conduct of the country's foreign policy.

Through the Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa played an active role in setting up the African Union (AU) and making it work. Key AU structures include the AU Commission, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the AU, and the Pan-African Parliament, which was inaugurated in 2004 and is hosted by South Africa.

In July 2004, South Africa was elected a member of the Peace and Security Council for three years. Its role is to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts.

Through active interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan, South Africa supports peace and security efforts in Africa.

The AU appointed South Africa to spearhead the resolution of the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and to chair the committee on the post-conflict reconstruction of the Sudan, respectively.



African Union (AU) financial institutions that will be set up to provide funding for projects and programmes are the:

- African Central Bank, assigned to the western region of the AU
- African Monetary Fund, assigned to the central region of the AU
- African Investment Bank, assigned to the northern region of the AU.

In July 2005, President Thabo Mbeki attended the inauguration of the new Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmed el-Mashir and his two deputies.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

South Africa is a key driver of NEPAD, a socio-economic initiative to promote good governance, eradicate poverty and create sustainable economic growth.

The Department of Foreign Affairs will continue to facilitate implementing NEPAD's priority sectors, namely infrastructure, agriculture, environment, tourism, Information and Communications technology, health, human resources, and science and technology. Attention will increasingly be paid to establishing structures in South Africa to enable the country to maximise the increased trade and investment benefits arising from NEPAD.

By the end of 2005/06, South Africa was preparing for its review by NEPAD's African Peer Review Mechanism, an instrument voluntarily agreed to by AU member states for African self-monitoring. South Africa held its first consultative conference in September 2005.

The country's representatives sit on the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee and its Steering Committee. The NEPAD Secretariat's full-time core staff are located in Midrand, near Johannesburg.

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The SADC is a critical vehicle for southern African regional development.

The SADC provides for regional peace and security, sectoral co-operation and an integrated regional economy. The SADC member states are Angola, Botswana, the DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

South Africa has been engaged in restructuring the SADC to enable it to execute evolving AU mandates and respond to changing development challenges. Considerable work has gone into setting up new institutions, as well as reviewing existing ones. From August 2004, the focus has been on chairing the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

One of the organ's main functions is to ensure that the regional peace and security arrangements are linked to continental arrangements. Another challenge is finalising the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU Commission and Africa's regional economic communities to ensure a co-ordinated interface for addressing AU themes and activities.

Asia and Australasia

South Africa continues to strengthen its relations with the region through increases in two-way trade; personal exchanges between high-level dignitaries; and the finalisation of new instruments of co-operation in the scientific and technological fields, through technology transfer, investments and overseas development assistance in capacity-building.

By June 2005, South Africa had 17 residential diplomatic missions in 15 of the 30 countries or territories in Asia, Australasia and Central Asia. Eighteen countries from this region maintained 30 diplomatic missions in South Africa.

While Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan already rank among the foremost sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) in South Africa, the significance of China and India, as future sources of investment, is expected to grow. South Africa's multinational companies are finding attractive investment opportunities in Australia, China, Indonesia and Thailand in diverse fields such as mining, minerals processing, electronic media and the petrochemical industry.

South Africa also plays a leading role in the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation, which creates

an opportunity for countries of the South to serve their economic interests.

As a result of South Africa's participation in the Association of South East Asian Nations Summit in November 2002, a decision was taken to launch the Asia-Africa Sub-Regional Organisations Conference (AASROC I) in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 2003. South Africa and Indonesia co-host AASROC.

The AASROC II Conference, held in August 2004 in Durban, identified three broad areas of co-operation between Asia and Africa, namely: political, economic, social and cultural.

The India/Brazil/South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum remains of strategic importance to all three countries as a powerful global forum to drive South-South co-operation and the agenda of the South, and to champion the needs of the developing world.

The second IBSA Ministerial Trilateral Commission meeting, held in Cape Town in March 2005, provided an opportunity for the further strengthening of trilateral co-operation among the three countries. The highlight of the commission was the launch of the IBSA Business Council, which will pave the way for closer co-operation.

The Middle East

The Department of Foreign Affairs distinguishes between two clearly identifiable subregions in the Middle East. There is the Levant, which comprises Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, and on the other hand, the Arabian/Persian Gulf Region, consisting of the member

The Asia-Africa Summit held in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 2005, saw the launch of a new Asian-African strategic partnership focusing on economic issues, trade, investment, health and human resources development.



states of the Gulf Co-operation Council, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran and Yemen.

The Middle East is an important economic region as it occupies a unique geopolitical position in the tri-continental hub of Europe, Asia and Africa.

South Africa's leading trade partners in the region are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Israel and the UAE.

In June 2004, South Africa hosted the annual United Nations (UN) African Meeting in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in an attempt to give impetus to initiatives to bring peace to the region.

South Africa supports a just, equitable and comprehensive peace process in the Middle East and an end to the illegal occupation of land that has led to conflict and violence between the peoples of the region.

In August 2005, South Africa welcomed the withdrawal of Israel from Gaza, effectively ending 38 years of occupation.

The Americas

The bilateral relationship with the United States of America (USA) remains strong. Since 1994, business, civilian and governmental links with the USA have expanded exponentially, and a strong and long-term South Africa-USA working partnership has been established.

The USA remains one of the largest single foreign investors in the South African economy since 1994 and the largest trading partner, as well as the largest donor of official development assistance.

The USA Administration has identified Africa as a foreign policy priority, and among other things, has further identified South Africa as an anchor state in the region in terms of the US National Security Strategy.

The USA Agency for International Development (USAID) programmes in South Africa focus, among other things, on strengthening the capacity of educational

institutions; improving primary healthcare delivery, providing technical assistance and scholarships to improve economic capacity in the country; and improving quality and access to housing in South Africa.

Under the current co-operation agreement, R234 million will be geared directly towards South African government initiatives. This amount represents 56% of USAID's total annual budget of R546 million to South Africa.

South Africa has, in the past two years, been the top recipient of development assistance from among the 27 African countries supported by USAID.

Canada remains a strong supporter of the African Agenda and NEPAD, also in a G8 context. Canada is actively seeking closer co-operation with South Africa on peace-keeping on the continent.

Canada reconfirmed its commitment to development co-operation with South Africa by making available R100 million per year over the next five years. Its technical assistance programme is aimed at social upliftment, policy development and human resource development.

South Africa maintains formal diplomatic relations with all the Latin American countries.

Europe

The advent of a new democratic political dispensation more than 10 years ago marked the dawn of a new era in South Africa-European Union (EU) relations. The legal framework that governs South Africa's relationship with the EU is the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), which is premised on three main areas of co-operation, namely, political dialogue, trade and economic co-operation, and development assistance.

In terms of the South Africa-EU TDCA, which provisionally came into force in 2000, South Africa will eliminate tariffs on 86% of EU exports within 12 years, while the EU will phase out tariffs on 95% of South African

Top sources of imports (2005)	
Germany	12,21%
China	6,81%
United States of America (USA)	6,48%
Japan	5,45%
United Kingdom (UK)	5,01%
Top export destinations (2005)	
UK	8,19%
Japan	7,94%
USA	7,43%
Germany	5,23%
Netherlands	3,81%

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

exports over 10 years. The TDCA is expected to increase substantially South Africa's trade with Europe.

In November 2004, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and a top-level delegation, attended the South Africa-EU Joint Co-operation Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting reviewed South Africa-EU co-operation within the framework of the TDCA, with specific reference to political dialogue and trade and development.

The EU accounts for 44% of the total FDI flows to South Africa. Six out of the top 10 foreign investors in South Africa are member states of the EU.

Since 2000, South Africa exported an annual average of R80,6 billion worth of goods to the EU, and annually imported an average of R120,2 billion worth of products from the EU.

In January 2005, the EU donated R80 million to South Africa's Parliament and the nine legislatures to help strengthen democracy and promote accountability.

The European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, which is funded directly from the EU Commission at 127,5 million euro a year, is the largest single

development programme in South Africa financed by foreign donors.

South Africa is Germany's largest trading partner on the African continent. Germany ranks with the United Kingdom (UK) and USA among the three largest economic role-players in South Africa regarding trade, investment, finance and tourism. More than 370 German companies have invested in South Africa and collectively employ more than 65 000 people here.

Relations with the UK were strengthened during the 6th meeting of the South Africa-UK Bilateral Forum in Cape Town in August 2004.

President Thabo Mbeki visited Italy in May 2005, where he met his counterparts as well as the newly selected Pope Benedict XVI.

United Nations

South Africa remains an active participant in ongoing discussions on the reform of the UN and believes that the multilateral system should be fully engaged in the endeavour for human development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the millennium development goals; 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 of mass destruction and small arms.

President Mbeki used the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in September 2005 as a platform to expand on the above-mentioned national priorities. He also reviewed progress made in the implementation of the millennium development goals and deliberated on the reform of the UN, including the Security Council.

During 2004/05, an additional amount of R8,5 million was transferred to various UN agencies in support of

Various multilateral economic fora, such as the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, the G8 and the World Economic Forum serve as focal points for South Africa to engage in dialogue with the countries of the North on key global economic issues, ensuring that the Africa and development agendas remain part of the focus of such fora.

The 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, provided an important platform for engagement on the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The G8 announced adopted measures to combat global warming and African poverty, by boosting aid to poor countries in Africa and elsewhere by R170 billion a year by 2010, and cutting farm subsidies.

projects alleviating the plight of vulnerable groups such as women, children, internally displaced persons and refugees.

In recognition of its active participation in this regard, South Africa was elected to chair the 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development in New York, USA, during February 2005.

As party to the UN conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity, South Africa is committed to reducing poverty and the loss of biodiversity by 2010. South Africa is also firmly committed to the protection of the oceans and the sustainable management of its marine resources.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The first agreement South Africa signed with the UN was the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement with the UNDP. The Comprehensive Country Co-operation Framework (CCF) to cover the period 1997 to 2001 followed this basic agreement. The current CCF covers 2002 to 2006.

In terms of the CCF, the UNDP seeks to implement programmes that are relevant to government's transformation and development imperatives. Programmes focus on priority areas such as the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment, strengthening local government,

building civil society co-operation, and addressing the challenges of globalisation.

South Africa's voluntary contribution to the UNDP for 2004/05 was R950 000, which was used for the UNDP operational costs of development programmes in South Africa.

The UNDP has a country office in Pretoria, which is headed by the resident representative, who is also the UN resident co-ordinator for all UN operational activities for development in South Africa.

Commonwealth

South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth in 1994 after an absence of 33 years. South Africa actively participates in all meetings of the Commonwealth and has played a leading role, also as a voice of the South, in supporting the Commonwealth's commitment to further the millennium development goals, relations with NEPAD, poverty relief, debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, a human rights agenda, assistance to small and island states, Information Technology, and human and administrative capacity-building.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

South Africa joined the 115-member NAM in 1994, and chaired the organisation from 1998 to 2003.

In August 2004, South Africa hosted the XIV Ministerial Conference of the NAM in Durban. South Africa initiated the Durban Declaration on Multilateralism, which was adopted by ministers attending the conference.