



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 and prosperous continent and a better world.

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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.

South Africa and Africa

South Africa's development is inextricably linked to the development of Africa and the southern African region. 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 promoting the continent's accelerated socio-economic integration, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between

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



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*

African countries and people. South Africa was instrumental in establishing the AU and its organs, which are the:

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

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

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

The PAP’s temporary premises is in Midrand, Johannesburg. Preparations are underway to identify a suitable site and construct the permanent headquarters of the PAP in South Africa.

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 on China-African Cooperation, the G8, New Africa-Asia 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).

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

The APRM report on South Africa raised a number of challenges. South Africa subsequently developed a comprehensive APRM programme of action and reported on progress in its implementation in January 2009.

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

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The SADC has been in existence since 1980.

The founding member states are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The launch of the Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008 laid 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

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.



also aims to create a regional customs union, referred to as the Southern African Customs Union, by 2010.

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

Asia and Australasia

South Africa and Indonesia were instrumental in the launch of the NAASP in Bandung in 2005 on the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, which cemented Afro-Asian solidarity. The NAASP represents a commitment by heads of state and government to help build closer economic ties between Africa and Asia. The first NAASP Summit will be held in South Africa in 2010.

South Africa continues to strengthen its relations with the region through increased two-way trade; personal exchanges between high-level dignitaries; and the finalisation of new instruments of cooperation in the science and technology (S&T) fields, through technology transfer, investments and overseas development assistance (ODA) in capacity-building.

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 sources of investment, is growing. 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 Cooperation (IOR-ARC), which creates

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

South Africa's total trade with IOR countries stands at more than R140 billion.

Apart from strengthening trilateral cooperation, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) countries are committed to collective efforts to reform the United Nations Security Council, 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 interconnectivity 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.

South Africa enjoys wide-ranging multilateral relations with Australia and New Zealand.

The Middle East

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation 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 states of the Gulf Cooperation 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 tricontinental 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.

South Africa supports a just, equitable and comprehensive peace process in the Middle East and an end to the illegal occu-

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.



pation of land that has led to conflict and violence between the people of the region.

The Americas

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

The election of President Barack Obama in November 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 that of US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, to South Africa.

The annual consultations between South Africa and Canada, first launched in 2003 as a result of a Declaration of Intent signed between the two countries, remains an effective vehicle for managing relations in all spheres.

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. A number of important visits from Latin America provided a platform for closer cooperation.

The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. The South African embassy in

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 science and technology, the expo will also afford South Africa the platform to promote the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ and leverage further opportunities for trade and foreign direct investment.



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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.

Europe

The EU is a unique international organisation comprising 27 member states. Developed primarily as a single market, it is the largest economy in the world. The EU has a common trade policy, a common agricultural and fisheries policy and a regional policy (to assist its underdeveloped regions). Thirteen member states have also adopted a single currency, the Euro. The EU has also developed the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy.

Since 1994, building on shared values and mutual interests, South Africa and the EU have developed a comprehensive partnership based on the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA). The TDCA, which was signed in 1999, provisionally came into force in January 2000, and, fully ratified on 1 May 2004, governs South Africa's relations with the EU.

Through this agreement, a partnership has been built, which rests on five pillars: trade, political dialogue, development cooperation, economic cooperation and cooperation in other areas.

The TDCA provides for an FTA by 2012. The Trade Chapter of the agreement provisionally came into force in January 2000. The TDCA also provides the legal basis for continued EU support for development cooperation activities in South Africa. This support is channelled through the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, which is the largest single development programme in South Africa that is financed by foreign donors.

Further assistance from the EU comes in the form of soft loans from the European Investment Bank.

A key outcome during the South Africa-EU Summit in September 2009, was the signing of the amending agreement to the South Africa-EU 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 United Kingdom (UK) often occupies the third position in terms of South African exports.

South Africa and France cooperate in various multilateral forums, particularly to improve peace and security on the African continent and support the advancement of global governance.

The strategic nature of South African-Russian relations was significantly consolidated over the past year through continued high-level political dialogue with the Russian Federation. The eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two countries was held in October 2009.

United Nations (UN)

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 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 of mass destruction and small arms.

As a party to the UN conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity, South Africa is committed to reducing

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 to 2013. The European Investment Bank has also approved a loan mandate of €900 million for South Africa.



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poverty and the loss of biodiversity. South Africa is also firmly committed to the protection of the oceans and the sustainable management of its marine resources.

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

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

In September 2009, President Jacob Zuma addressed the 64th UN General Assembly Debate in New York.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP has an office in Pretoria, which is headed by the resident representative, who is also the resident UN coordinator for all UN operational activities for development in South Africa.

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth comprises 53 member countries on every continent and major ocean, making up a quarter of the world's population and generating 20% of global trade.

The Commonwealth is united by its shared ideals and common traditions manifested in similar structures of governance; public administration and law; and a common working language, 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.