



Foreign affairs

From being an international pariah just over a decade ago, South Africa has transformed itself into a respected and valued member of the international community which frequently looks to it for leadership.

Representations, April 2004	
South African representation abroad	Total
Embassies/High Commissions	82
Consulates/Consulates-General	16
Honorary Consulates	45
Other (e.g. Liaison Office)	4
Non-Resident Accreditation	106
International Organisations	7
Foreign representation in South Africa	Total
Embassies/High Commissions	112
Consulates/Consulates-General	54
Honorary Consuls/Honorary Consular Agency	73
Other (e.g. Liaison Office)	1
Non-Resident Accreditation	12
International Organisations	20

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

South Africa and Africa

The African Union (AU) was inaugurated in Durban in 2002. The objectives of the AU are, among others, to:

- achieve greater unity and solidarity between African countries and the peoples of Africa

- defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its member states
- accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent
- encourage international co-operation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- promote peace, security and stability on the continent
- promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance
- promote and protect people's rights
- establish the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations
- promote sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, as well as the integration of African economies
- promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of Africa's peoples
- advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields
- work with relevant international partners in eradicating preventable diseases and promoting good health on the continent.

By September 2003, the setting up of the Commission of the AU was in progress. South Africa will be entitled to 22 posts on this body which will support the work of Specialised Technical Committees.

The Pan African Parliament (PAP) was launched on 18 March 2004 in Addis Ababa. South Africa will attempt to host the permanent seal of the PAP.

The AU Peace and Security Council Protocol entered into



FACT

South African emergency professionals helped in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes which struck Algeria and Iran in 2003.



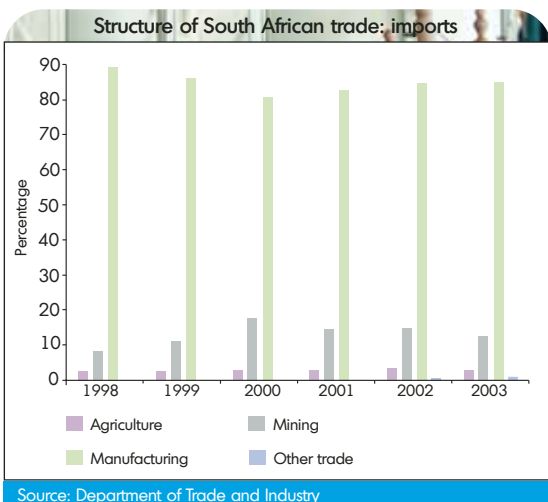
Within the region, South Africa played a leading role in the negotiating process which led to a peace agreement being signed in Rwanda in October 2003. It was similarly a key player in trying to end hostilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Angola's process of reconciliation has been supported with food and humanitarian assistance.

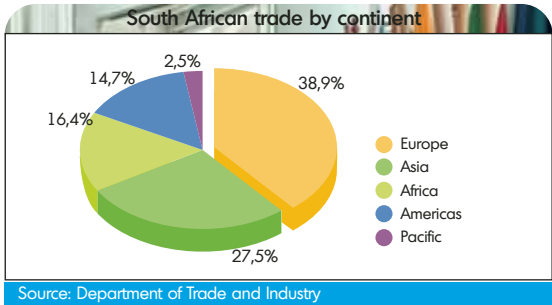
force in December 2003 and consists of 15 member states, five of whom will serve a three-year period and 10 who will serve for a two-year period each.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

A mandated initiative of the AU, NEPAD's adoption, by virtue of its conception of a development programme placing Africa at the apex of the global agenda, is one of the most important developments of recent times.

South Africa is an enthusiastic supporter of efforts to put NEPAD imperatives into the outcomes of international





conferences and multilateral talks. Its 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)

An enthusiastic member of the SADC, South Africa envisages the community becoming the foremost regional economic community on the continent.

The aim of the SADC is to provide for regional peace and security, sectoral co-operation and an integrated regional economy. The SADC member states are Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

FACT

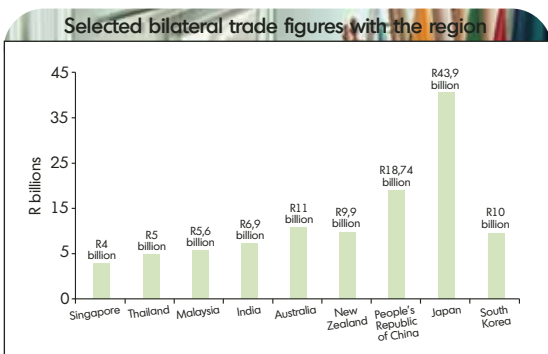
In September 2003, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of the Trans-Kalahari Corridor. This followed the completion of a highway linking the three countries with the Namibian port of Walvis Bay.

Asia and Australasia

Nations in the Asian and Australasian region have 31 Diplomatic, Consular and other Missions in South Africa. Before 1994 there were only three.

Since 1994, South Africa has continued 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.

For South Africa, as part of the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), which encompasses the eastern African coastal countries, the Arabian Peninsula, south-east Asia, Australia and the Indian subcontinent, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC) is considered an important regional economic entity. The IOR-ARC Initiative, currently backed by 19 countries including South Africa, creates an opportunity for countries of the South to serve their economic interests.



Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

Structure of South African trade: exports



Source: Department of Trade and Industry

The Middle East

Before 1994, South Africa's diplomatic interests in the region were concentrated solely in Israel. This has changed dramatically, with trade relations with the entire region burgeoning.

In 2001, bilateral trade with the region stood at R35 503 billion, most of it energy imports.

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

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 September 2003, Qatar and South Africa signed an agreement for the development of a large-scale fuel grade



The Development Bank of Southern Africa has established the Africa Partnerships Unit to promote the implementation of NEPAD's vision and to assist the NEPAD Secretariat.

methanol project, targeting an output of 12 000 to 15 000 t per day.

The Americas

The United States of America (USA) is South Africa's largest trading partner. Total trade was more than US\$7,25 billion in 2001.

Exports to the USA in 2001 under the General System of Preferences Programme through the African Growth and Opportunity Act were worth over US\$400 million.

US President George W. Bush visited South Africa in July 2003.

In November 2003, President Thabo Mbeki paid a State visit to Canada, with that country becoming the first to create a fund to support NEPAD.

In December 2000, a Framework Agreement for the Creation of a Free Trade Area between South Africa and the MERCOSUR bloc was signed.

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

Europe

South Africa has 25 Missions in Europe, while these countries are, in turn, represented by more than 50 Embassies and Consulates-General or Trade Missions in South Africa.

Collectively, western Europe is South Africa's largest trading partner and the main source of foreign direct investment and development assistance.

Germany has pledged its firm support for NEPAD, its

Top sources of imports (2002)	
Germany	R43,2 billion
USA	R32 billion
UK	R25,1 billion
Japan	R19,1 billion
China	R14,3 billion
Top five export destinations (2002)	
USA	R35,9 billion
UK	R27,6 billion
Japan	R24,8 billion
Germany	R22,2 billion
Netherlands	R12,6 billion
Trade by economic region	
EU	35,8%
Nafta	13,4%
North-east Asia	12%
SADC	11,3%
Chinas	6,3%
Others	21,2%

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

priority areas being conflict prevention and good governance.

South Africa and the United Kingdom continue to build a special partnership, with Britain showing strong support for NEPAD, the AU and for conflict resolution. Another staunch supporter of NEPAD is France, which demonstrated its commitment to Africa by hosting special summits in 2003.

The Nordic and Benelux countries' involvement in development and civil society has recently strengthened their historically close ties with South Africa and Africa.

In September 2003, Deputy President Jacob Zuma visited the Netherlands and Spain.

In 2002 and 2003, President Mbeki and Deputy President Zuma met with Heads of State or Government as well as

senior Ministers from Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Austria and Sweden.

The European Union (EU) is South Africa's largest trading partner while South Africa ranks as the EU's 15th largest trading partner.

In terms of the SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), which provisionally came into force in January 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 exports over 10 years. The TDCA is expected to substantially increase South Africa's trade with Europe.

The European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, with a budget of €127 million, is the single largest foreign-financed development programme in South Africa. From 1995 to 1998, the EU provided 43% of all foreign grant aid to South Africa. Further assistance is supplied through soft loans from the European Investment Bank.

United Nations

South Africa has consistently appeared on the UN Secretary General's 'Roll of Honour' of countries that pay their dues timeously. President Mbeki represented South Africa at the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2003.

South Africa will serve as vice-chairperson of the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly. This follows South Africa's chairpersonship of the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee the previous year.

The Commonwealth

South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth in 1994 after an absence of 33 years. In 1999, South Africa hosted the

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). President Mbeki used CHOGM to strongly argue South Africa's position on development, trade and the African Renaissance.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

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