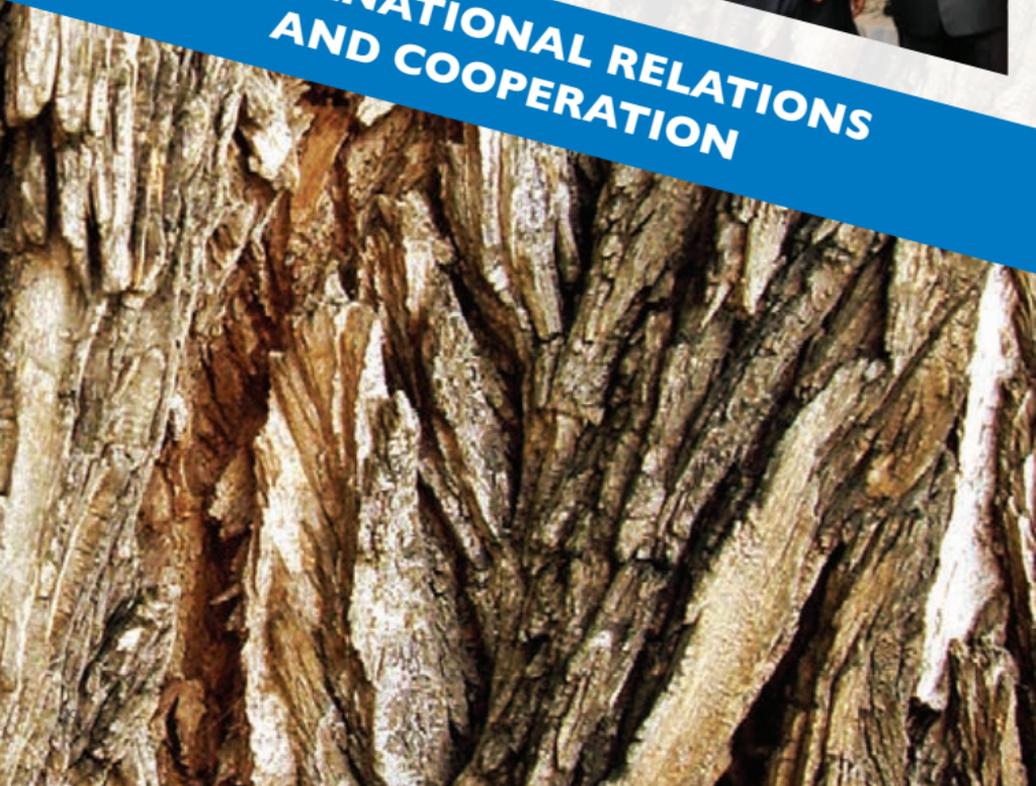




**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION**



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's priorities are outlined in the Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2009 – 2014. They include:

- continuing to prioritise the African continent
- strengthening political and economic integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- strengthening South-South relations
- strengthening relations with strategic formations of the North
- strengthening political and economic relations
- participating in the global system of governance.

South Africa maintains diplomatic relations with countries and organisations through 124 missions in 107 countries abroad and through the accreditation of more than 160 countries and organisations resident in South Africa.

South Africa and Africa

The focus of South Africa's engagements on the African continent is to promote development, contribute to the resolution of conflicts and build an environment in which socio-economic development can take place.

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 African countries and peoples. 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 occupies its current temporary premises in Midrand, Johannesburg. Preparations are underway to identify a suitable site and construct the permanent headquarters of the PAP in South Africa.

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

- 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 a Standby Force, with a nucleus of five brigades, one from each region
- the Human and Peoples' Rights Court has been established
- 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.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)

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 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).

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.

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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.

Through Nepad, Africa expanded its development priorities. Development and funding in agriculture, information and communications technology, science and technology (S&T), infrastructure and education brought improvement to the quality of life for millions of Africans.

The 14th Session of the AU decided to integrate Nepad into the AU and established the Nepad Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the AU. This is an important step towards the acceleration of Nepad's implementation. The NPCA will focus on the implementation of regional integration programmes and projects. The AU/Nepad African Action Plan for 2010 to 2015 is a master plan for concrete projects that will serve as a catalyst for the development of the continent.

South Africa ranks among 14 AU member states of the APRM, which was established in 2003 as a voluntary instrument to ensure efficient delivery of services to the peoples of the continent, and promote good democratic, economic and corporate governance.

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community

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, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

The year 2010 saw elections in, among other countries, Mauritius and Tanzania.

The Free Trade Agreement, which was launched in 2008, is part of SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations with southern African countries through trade. SADC also aims to create a regional customs union.

Asia and Australasia

South Africa and Indonesia were instrumental in the launch of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) in Bandung in 2005 on the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, which cemented Afro-Asian solidarity. NAASP represents a commitment by heads of state and government to help build closer economic ties between Africa and Asia.

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

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 occupation of land that has led to conflict and violence between the peoples 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.

One of the highlights in South African-US relations is that the USA has identified with South Africa's strategic priorities and is making an effort to align its programmes and projects with these.

In May 2010, South Africa's 2 000-m² pavilion at Shanghai Expo in China was officially opened. Shanghai Expo's theme of "Better City, Better Life" was showcased by the pavilion depicting the vibrancy of South African cities and urban culture. With the theme of "It's Time! Ke Nako!" South Africa's pavilion invited visitors to learn more about the offerings of modern South Africa as a strategic partner with China. More than 3,5 million people attended the South African pavilion with more than 10 million passing through the joint African pavilion.





At the end of 2010, South Africa was invited to become the fifth member of the BRICS group of developing economies, which includes Brazil, Russia, China and India. As full member, South Africa attended the annual BRICS Summit in Beijing, China, in April. South Africa expects to gain substantial trade and investment benefits as a member of this group.

At the meeting between presidents Jacob Zuma and Barack Obama in Washington during April 2010, in the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit, President Obama recommitted to ensuring that the strategic partnership with South Africa is strengthened.

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, remain an effective vehicle for managing relations in all spheres. The agenda has expanded in scope and now includes ODA, trade and investment and cooperation in the fields of sport, arts and culture, S&T, safety and security, minerals and energy, agriculture, transport, Africa and multilateral issues.

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.

The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. 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 endeavours, in conjunction with the AU, to strengthen cooperation between Africa and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean, have 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.

Germany has made substantial new investments in the South African economy since the 1994 democratic election and remains one of the country's most important trading partners.

The United Kingdom (UK) consistently occupies the third position in terms of South African exports. With the number of

tourists from the UK per year approaching half a million, the UK is one of South Africa's most important overseas tourism markets. In March 2010, President Jacob Zuma paid a state visit to the UK.

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. President Zuma paid a state visit to France in March 2011.

The strategic nature of South African-Russian relations has been significantly consolidated over recent years through continued high-level political dialogue with the Russian Federation. In August 2010, President Zuma paid his first official visit to Russia.

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 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 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 will host the 17th UN Conference of Parties on climate change in 2011.

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.

The European Union (EU) is South Africa's largest trading and investment partner with the country in turn prominently placed within the EU's top-20 trading partners.

Focused on poverty alleviation, the EU is South Africa's largest development partner. The EU (including its member states and the European Investment Bank) annually commits over R6 billion in grants and loans to economic and social development, as well as governance programmes in South Africa.



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It actively participates in the various nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation forums.

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.

Members range from micro-states in Polynesia to members of the G8, from the smallest and poorest to the richest and most populous, with cross-cutting affiliations straddling the North-South divide.

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

In October 2010, South Africa won a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the second time. The country served on the UNSC in 2007/08.

The United Nations General Assembly also elected Germany, India, and Colombia to two-year seats on the council, commencing 1 January 2011.

Each non-permanent country sits on the council for two years alongside the permanent powers – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States of America – who have the right to veto any council resolution.

South Africa will be guided by its commitment to multilateralism, advancement of the African Agenda and the peaceful resolution of conflict.





removal of disparities in living standards across the world and the alleviation of poverty and illiteracy.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

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.

