



Foreign relations

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the formulation, co-ordination, implementation and management of South Africa's foreign policy and international relations programmes throughout the world.

The Department's priorities for 2004/05 included facilitating the vision of the African Renaissance by promoting regional and continental integration, good governance, sustainable socio-economic development and poverty eradication; participating in international efforts to seek lasting peace and stability in conflict areas, especially in Africa and the Middle East; and promoting the agenda of the South by strengthening solidarity with the developing world and building partnerships with the developed world

to foster sustainable development, with special emphasis on the needs of Africa.

South Africa's diplomatic and consular Missions help to enhance the country's international profile, and serve as strategic mechanisms for the achievement of South Africa's international interests.

South Africa and Africa

African Union (AU)

The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), commonly referred to as the Abuja Treaty, was signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 3 June 1991, and came into force after the requisite ratification in May 1994.



The Abuja Treaty provided for the AEC to be set up gradually by co-ordination, harmonisation and progressive integration of the activities of existing and future regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa. The implementation of the Abuja Treaty introduced a process to be completed in six stages over 34 years, i.e. by 2028, as follows:

- strengthening existing RECs and creating new ones where needed (five years)
- stabilising tariff and other barriers to regional trade and strengthening sectoral integration, particularly in the fields of trade, agriculture, finance, transport, communications, industry and energy, as well as co-ordinating and harmonising the activities of RECs (eight years)
- establishing a free trade area (FTA) and a customs union at the level of each REC (10 years)
- co-ordinating and harmonising tariff and non-tariff systems among RECs, with a view to establishing a continental customs union (two years)
- establishing an African common market and adopting common policies (four years)
- integrating all sectors, establishing the African Central Bank and a single African currency, setting up the African Economic and Monetary Union, and creating and electing the first Pan-African Parliament (PAP) (five years).

An Extraordinary Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), held in Sirte, Libya, in September 1999, concluded with the Sirte Declaration aimed at:

- effectively addressing the new social, political and economic realities in Africa and the world
- fulfilling the people's aspirations for greater unity in conforming with the objectives of the OAU Charter and the Abuja Treaty
- revitalising the continental organisation to play a more active role in addressing the needs of the people
- eliminating the scourge of conflict
- meeting global challenges
- harnessing the human and natural resources of the continent to improve living conditions.

To achieve these aims, the Summit decided to:

- establish the AU in conformity with the ultimate objectives of the Charter and the provisions of the Treaty establishing the AEC
- accelerate the process of implementing the Abuja Treaty in particular
- shorten the implementation periods of the Abuja Treaty
- ensure the speedy establishment of all institutions provided for in the Abuja Treaty, such as the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Union, the African Court of Justice, and, in particular, the PAP
- strengthen and consolidate RECs as the pillars for achieving the objectives of the AEC, and realise the AU
- convene an African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation.

The establishment of the AU was declared on 2 March 2001 at the second Extraordinary Summit in Sirte. The 53-member AU was officially launched in Durban on 9 July 2002, following its Inaugural

Summit. It replaced the OAU, which was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objectives of the AU include, 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 African 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.

The main challenge in the first year of the AU's existence was setting up its priority structures and laying down the groundwork for the rest of its proposed

South African representation abroad	Total	Foreign representation in South Africa	Total
Embassies/High Commissions	83	Embassies/High Commissions	112
Consulates/Consulates General	16	Consulates/Consulates General	54
Honorary Consulates	46	Honorary Consulates	73
Other (e.g. liaison offices)	4	Other (e.g. liaison offices)	1
Non-resident accreditations	106	Non-resident accreditations	12
International organisations	7	International organisations	20

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs (www.dfa.gov.za), August 2004

structures, as foreseen in the Constitutive Act of the AU.

The principal organs, namely the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council of Ministers and the Permanent Representatives Committee, are fully functional.

The AU Commission commenced work in September 2003. South Africa has contributed to the drafting of the vision of the AU and mission of the Commission, including the strategic framework, which will serve as a basis for the implementation of a four-year programme.

Considerable progress was made on the 'people's organs' of the AU, namely the PAP, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)

One of the challenges for the AU is the need to involve civil society in continental processes. In this regard, the Constitutive Act makes provision for the establishment of the ECOSOCC.

The South African Chapter was launched with nine civil-society organisations elected as Secretariat from the following sectors: women, youth, religious groups, organised labour, non-governmental organisations, lawyers, cultural groups and people with disabilities.

The draft statutes of the ECOSOCC were discussed and proposed amendments were to be submitted to the AU Summit. Once ratified, each AU member country would need to elect three representatives to the continental body.

The inaugural session of the PAP was held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 20 March 2004. The launch of the continental Parliament on 18 March 2004 was witnessed by delegates from 41 member states of the AU.

On 16 September 2004, the PAP was inaugurated at Gallagher Estate, near Midrand, in South Africa.

The newly elected President of the PAP is Ambassador Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella from Tanzania.

South Africa has been appointed the permanent seat of the PAP. Gallagher Estate is the temporary venue for the initial five-year period until a permanent facility is constructed. In order for the PAP building to properly reflect its African character, the Department of Foreign Affairs was by September

2004 planning to hold a continent-wide competition for architects and designers to contribute to the permanent building.

South Africa has ratified the Protocol on the African Court of Human and People's Rights.

By September 2004, South Africa was engaged in the process of nominating judges to serve on the Court. Both the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Protocol on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights were signed by South Africa on 16 March 2004.

The financial institutions – the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank – are expected to take longer to operationalise.

Promotion of 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 Assembly, which may give directives to the Executive Council on the management of conflict, war, acts of terrorism, emergency situations and the restoration of peace.

The PSC Protocol entered into force in December 2003 and comprises 15 member states, five of whom will serve a three-year period and 10 who will serve for a two-year period each.

The PSC was unveiled in Addis Ababa in May 2004. Current members are South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Ethiopia, and Gabon, who will serve three-year terms; while Lesotho, Mozambique, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Sudan, Libya, Ghana, Senegal and Togo will serve two-year terms.

As a collective security and early warning arrangement, the PSC will allow for a timely and effective response to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

In terms of PSC statutes, all African countries should establish their own early warning centres and there should be a Continental Early Warning Centre by 2008.

The AU PSC Protocol makes provision for the creation of the African Standby Force, to be operationalised over a period of 10 years.

The Second Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in Libya in February 2004, adopted the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

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 the integration of African economies. RECs are recognised as the building-blocks of the AU, necessitating the need for their close involvement in the formulation and implementation of all AU programmes.

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

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

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

The adoption of NEPAD is considered to be one of the most important developments of recent times for its conception of a development programme, placing Africa at the apex of the global agenda, by:

- creating an instrument for advancing people-centered and sustainable development in Africa based on democratic values
- being premised on the recognition that Africa has an abundance of natural resources and people who have the capacity to be agents for change, and so holds the key to its own development
- providing the common African platform from which to engage the rest of the international community in a dynamic partnership that holds real prospects for creating a better life for all.

The expected outcomes are:

- economic growth and development and increased employment
- a reduction in poverty and inequality
- diversification of productive activities

- enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports
- increased African integration.

NEPAD is a mandated initiative of the AU. A major effort is ongoing to continuously factor NEPAD imperatives into the outcomes of international conferences, such as the Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to ensure the integration of NEPAD into the multilateral system. In a wider context, countries of the South subscribe to the priorities outlined in NEPAD and have pledged their solidarity and moral support, as well as an appreciation for South Africa's positive role in NEPAD. However, NEPAD does not have a mechanism for South-South co-operation. To this end, improved co-ordination with partners in the South should be pursued.

Structures

Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSIC)

The NEPAD HSIC is required to report annually to the Summit of the AU. The chairperson of the AU, as well as the chairperson of the Commission of the AU, are *ex-officio* members of the Implementation Committee. The Commission of the AU is expected to participate in Steering Committee meetings.

Chaired by Nigerian President, Mr Olusegun Obasanjo, with Presidents Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria as vice-chairpersons, the Implementation Committee comprises 15 states (three per AU geographic region), including the five initiating states: South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal and Egypt.

The main function of the Implementation Committee is to set policies, priorities and the Programme of Action of NEPAD.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of the personal representatives of the five initiating Presidents, and is tasked with the development of the Terms of Reference for identified programmes and projects, as well as over-seeing the Secretariat.

Secretariat

The NEPAD Secretariat co-ordinates implementation of projects and programmes approved by the HSIC. The full-time core staff of the Secretariat, located at the Development Bank of Southern Africa in Midrand, provides liaison, co-ordination, 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 as being in the interest of Africans, irrespective of relations with industrialised countries.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a process voluntarily acceded to by the member states of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism.

The APRM requires that each country develops a programme of action within the framework of specific time-bound objectives.

It enables participating member states to adopt policies and practices that conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards. It also serves as a critical instrument for advancing reforms in governance and socio-economic development, and in building capacity to implement these reforms.

One of the key objectives of the APRM is to identify the deficiencies in implementation, with a view to improving its compliance with the Constitutive Act of the AU by member states.

The inaugural meeting of the APRM Forum of participating states was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in February 2004.

By May 2004, 17 countries had signed up to the APRM. South Africa was expected to be peer reviewed in the first quarter of 2005.

Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA)

The first Standing Conference of Heads of State and Government on the CSSDCA took place during the 38th OAU Summit in Durban, in July 2002.

The Summit approved the CSSDCA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Security, Stability,

Development and Co-operation, affirming the centrality of the CSSDCA process as a policy-development forum, a framework for the advancement of common values, and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the AU. The MoU provides the following framework:

- core values concerning security, stability, development and co-operation
- commitments to give effect to these core values
- key performance indicators to evaluate compliance with the MoU commitments
- a framework of implementation as a means of carrying out the commitments contained in the MoU
- an agreed mechanism for measuring performance.

While the strategic focus of the CSSDCA process is to ensure good governance in the political and economic realm, as well as to provide the framework for development and co-operation in Africa, NEPAD serves as the socio-economic development blueprint for the AU to implement its objectives. In addition, it serves as the mechanism for accelerating the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. At the same time, its management structures are particularly designed to ensure follow-up and implementation in the transition phase from the OAU to the AU.

Southern Africa

South Africa's foreign policy with regard to the southern African region reflects a commitment to close diplomatic, economic and security co-operation and integration; adherence to human rights; the promotion of democracy; and the preservation of regional solidarity, peace and stability.

Angola

The signing of a ceasefire agreement in Angola on 4 April 2002 with UNITA ended one of Africa's longest and most devastating wars.

Subsequently, the Government of Angola established the Parliamentary Commission on Peace and Reconciliation with the aim of consulting with community representatives, church groups and civil society on the revival of the peace process.

The first meeting of the Joint Commission of Co-operation (JCC) between South Africa and Angola took place in Pretoria on 28 February 2003.

By May 2004, the peace-implementation process in Angola was on track. Following sessions of the South Africa-Angola JCC, various agreements were finalised and initialled. These included agreements on the promotion of tourism, energy and electricity, petroleum, customs, civil aviation and merchant shipping.

Lesotho

The then Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, launched the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Project in Lesotho in August 2003.

The Project was initiated in June 2001 when the two countries concluded an agreement on the conservation of biological diversity and the promotion of the sustainable development of the area.

President Thabo Mbeki visited Lesotho on 16 March 2004 to inaugurate Phase 1B of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) at Mphahlele Dam. This is a binational project between the two countries.

For South Africa, the LHWP brings improved security of water supply for both economic and domestic use.

In April 2004, the Freedom Park Trust held a Cleansing and Healing Ceremony in Lesotho to commemorate the South African freedom fighters who died in Maseru in 1982.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, attended the Ceremony.

Botswana

The Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation (JPCC), signed in March 2003, covers, among others, areas such as agriculture and livestock, water affairs, mining and tourism, environmental co-operation, monetary and financial arrangements, transportation, roads and infrastructure development.

The then Minister of Transport, Mr Dullah Omar, and his Namibian and Botswana counterparts signed an MoU on the development and manage-

ment of the Trans-Kalahari Corridor (TKC) in September 2003.

The TKC was formally established in 1998 following the completion of the Trans-Kgalagadi Highway in Botswana, which links the three countries by road.

One of the main benefits of the TKC is that it links the three countries with the port of Walvis Bay. The port is the western seaboard in southern Africa and is in closest proximity to shipping routes and markets in the Americas and Europe.

In November 2004, President Mbeki congratulated President Festus Mogae on his re-election.

Malawi

Malawi is one of South Africa's main trading partners in the southern African region. Like other African trading partners, the trade imbalance with Malawi is in favour of South Africa.

South African-based companies, following the trend in most African countries, are becoming increasingly interested in linking up with and establishing a presence in Malawi. Interested parties range from the finance, telecommunications and retail sectors to those involved in the construction industry.

By June 2004, negotiations were underway to establish a Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between the two countries, through which a number of issues of mutual interest could be addressed.

Mauritius

Relations between South Africa and Mauritius were formalised in 1992 with the establishment of representative offices in both countries. Full diplomatic relations were established in 1994. Upon South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, relations have been conducted at the level of High Commission.

Mozambique

The South African Government supports the democratically elected Government of Mozambique and continues with initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and the democratic reconstruction and development processes underway in that country.

Continuous bilateral interaction with the Mozambican Government culminated in the signing of the MoU on the Northern Mozambique Power Development Initiative on 27 August 2003 to facilitate the construction of the Mpanda Hydroelectric Dam.

Both the South African and the Mozambican governments view the expansion of the infrastructural links between the two countries as one of the priority bilateral co-operation areas. The rail and road connections between the two countries serve as the main arteries linking the respective economies.

The upgrading of the road, sea and rail links that form part of the corridors between Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Mozambique is central to the promotion of the economies of both countries.

The Maputo Development Corridor Project has already attracted substantial new investments in Mpumalanga, and is expected to boost the Mozambican economy to an equal degree.

The Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) was launched on 18 February 2004. The MCLI is a new private-sector group aiming to promote the Maputo Corridor as a first-choice transportation route linking South Africa and Mozambique. It envisages increased exports through the Maputo Port.

Greater utilisation of the Corridor will create better economies of scale and a more effective transportation route.

The Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) has been chosen as the preferred bidder for the management and running of the Maputo International Airport. ACSA estimates an investment of about US\$34 million and hopes to start operations at the beginning of 2005.

Negotiations regarding the second cellular network in Mozambique were finalised and Vodacom held the official launch in December 2003. Vodacom is investing US\$567 million in Mozambique over the next 10 years.

South Africa and Mozambique have made substantial progress in the implementation of so-called borderlands and transfrontier conservation initiatives. These are the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park,

as well as the Beira and Nacala corridors, which are in various stages of development.

The development of these corridors and borderlands are aimed at exploiting the opportunities and advantages to be derived from countries seeking increased convergence and integration across borders – the sharing of infrastructure, facilities, natural and human resources, as well as enhanced capacity to market the region and lobby internationally for foreign investment in these projects.

The third JPC took place in Maputo in November 2003 and much progress in respect of bilateral co-operation and development initiatives has been achieved.

On 1 June 2004, President Mbeki attended the inauguration of the Natural Gas Project in Vilankulos, Mozambique.

The project is in line with international energy trends and is expected to bring significant socio-economic and environmental long-term benefits to the region. This is the second of several macro-projects between South Africa and Mozambique, the first being the Mozal I and II Aluminium Smelter.

Sasol has invested US\$1,2 billion to bring natural gas from Mozambique to South Africa. The first batch of gas was delivered to Secunda, Mpumalanga, in February 2004.

Namibia

The relationship between South Africa and Namibia remains close and is marked by co-operation in various areas.

South Africa is the source of between 80% and 90% of Namibia's imports by value, including virtually all commodities. Bilateral trade between the two countries accounts for two-thirds of Namibia's total foreign trade.

The 7 000-km² Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park between South Africa and Namibia features the world's second-largest canyon in the Fish River, a hot-spring game park on the Namibian side, and spectacular arid and desert mountainous scenery on the South African side.

On 12 February 2004, delegations from South Africa and Namibia, led by their respective

Ministers of Foreign Affairs, met in Cape Town to discuss boundary issues.

Both countries had obligations in terms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to settle their outstanding maritime boundaries, as this would be a requirement for the delimitation of the territorial sea, contiguous zone, Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf between South Africa and Namibia.

A three-day meeting of the South Africa-Namibia Joint Commission on Defence and Security took place at Walvis Bay in Namibia in August 2004.

The meeting discussed, among other things, cross-border drug trafficking, illegal firearms, poaching, ivory smuggling, trafficking in endangered wildlife and general crime along common borders.

Swaziland

By mid-2004, South Africa and the Kingdom of Swaziland were finalising arrangements to establish a Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) for Co-operation to structure formal bilateral interaction. Swaziland has made considerable progress towards the creation of a new constitution.

On 26 June 2004, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, attended the Cleansing, Healing and Symbolic Reparations Ceremony in Manzini, Swaziland. The objective of the Ceremony, organised by the Freedom Park Trust, was to recognise and acknowledge freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives during the fight against Apartheid in South Africa.

Tanzania

Tanzania and South Africa share similar constitutional developments, challenges, historical ties and views on multilateral issues.

Trade and investment between South Africa and Tanzania continues to grow at a steady pace. More than 150 South African companies are economically active in Tanzania, which is rated as a premier South African investment destination in Africa.

The positive progress recorded by the Tanzanian Government in promoting public-private partnerships to address the development challenges facing Tanzania, provides myriad opportunities for South

African investors to strategically position themselves in the region, by forging mutually beneficial joint venture partnerships with Tanzanian stakeholders.

The proposed Presidential Economic Commission is expected to provide the necessary co-operative framework to manage the development and implementation of bilateral projects as well as the SDI Programme, in particular the Mtwara and Central development corridors, which are regional NEPAD priority programmes.

Zambia

The longstanding Zambian support for the liberation struggle in South Africa has led to the establishment of a deep mutual bond between the peoples of South Africa and Zambia.

Since formally establishing diplomatic ties on 10 May 1994, South Africa enjoys warm relations with Zambia, which continue to grow from strength to strength. This has been evident by an increase in trade and investment flow between the two countries.

In October 2004, President Mbeki attended Zambia's 40th independence celebrations.

South Africa has for many years been competing with Britain as the leading source of foreign investment in Zambia. South Africa's investors continue to play an active role in the Zambian economy, a situation that has led to the formation of the South African Business Association in Zambia.

The visit by a technical team from South Africa in March 2004 was the first important step towards establishing a JCC between the two countries.

Uganda

Official diplomatic relations between South Africa and Uganda were established on 24 June 1994.

On 25 March 2004, Deputy President Jacob Zuma held a meeting with President Yoweri Museveni, chairperson of the Regional Peace Initiative in Burundi. They met again in October 2004 to assess progress made.

Kenya

There is a high level of engagement between South Africa and Kenyan institutions aimed at strengthening democratic and constitutional systems.

Kenya is South Africa's largest trading partner on the continent beyond the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

In 2002/03, South African exports to Kenya totalled R2,3 billion.

In October 2004, Deputy President Zuma visited Kenya for the swearing-in of the President-elect of the Somali Republic, His Excellency Abdullahi Ahmed.

Zimbabwe

South Africa and Zimbabwe, besides their geographic proximity, have a common and long history of regional affiliation and cultural ties. The people of Zimbabwe played an important role in support of the liberation struggle against the system of Apartheid in South Africa.

South Africa continues to engage all the stakeholders in Zimbabwe to find ways and means to assist Zimbabweans in their endeavours to find a homegrown solution to their political challenges. South Africa is doing this within the context of the AU and SADC initiatives to the Zimbabwean solution.

Development co-operation

Although South Africa is not a donor country, development co-operation with countries in Africa is an integral part of South Africa's foreign policy. Assistance is wide-ranging and includes educational visits by agriculturists, the establishment of viable training centres, conservation of the environment, the rendering of medical assistance, and technology-exchange programmes. Technical and financial assistance, with a view to 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.

South Africa and the Southern African Development Community

The Government's vision for the southern African region involves the highest possible degree of economic co-operation, mutual assistance, and joint

planning consistent with socio-economic, environmental and political realities. Within the region, the SADC is the primary vehicle for South African policy and action to achieve regional economic development.

Originally known as the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, the SADC was formed in Lusaka, Zambia, on 1 April 1980, following the adoption of the Lusaka Declaration. The Declaration and Treaty establishing the SADC was signed at the Summit of Heads of State and Government on 17 August 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia.

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 (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad, and the Minister of Provincial and Local Government, Mr Sydney Mufamadi, represented South Africa at the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in March 2004.

During the Meeting, representatives discussed various regional economic and social issues, including:

- progress on regional socio-economic activities and the implementation of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
- regional food security
- the AU and the implementation of NEPAD
- arrangements regarding the SADC Consultative Conference.

On 15 May 2004, Deputy President Zuma and the Minister of Agriculture, Ms Thoko Didiza, attended the SADC Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Agriculture and Food Security in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

On 16 and 17 August 2004, President Mbeki, accompanied by a government delegation including Minister Dlamini-Zuma, attended the SADC Heads of State and Government Meeting in Mauritius.

Implementation of the Southern African Development Community Trade Protocol

The SADC Protocol on Trade entered into force on 25 January 2000. The objectives of the Trade Protocol are to further liberalise intra-regional trade in goods and services, on the basis of fair, mutually equitable and beneficial trade arrangements; ensure efficient production within the SADC, reflecting the current and dynamic comparative advantages of its members; contribute towards the improvement of a climate for domestic, cross-border and foreign investment; enhance the economic development, diversification and industrialisation of the region; and establish an FTA in the SADC region. At the core of this agreement is the reduction and ultimate elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers and the setting up of rules of origin. This will happen over a period of eight years, after the ratification of the Protocol by member states.

By September 2004, South Africa had signed 21 protocols and was in the process of acceding to the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges. South Africa had also ratified the protocols on Shared Water-Course Systems, Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Energy, Mining, Transport, Communications and Meteorology, Health, and Education and Training. The Revised Protocol on Shared Water-Course Systems was also ratified.

South Africa is signatory to the:

- Declaration Towards a Southern Africa Free of Anti-Personnel Landmines
- Declaration on Gender and Development
- Declaration on Productivity
- Declaration Concerning Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Material.

Relations with central Africa

South Africa's diplomatic relations with central Africa have been dominated by attempts to bring peace to the DRC and Burundi, thereby ensuring greater stability in the whole of the central African region. As part of the continued expansion of South African diplomatic presence and activity in the central African region, South Africa was expected to open its

first diplomatic Mission in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in 2004.

Gabon

Minister Dlamini-Zuma visited the Republic of Gabon in November 2003, where she signed a Co-operation Agreement and a Tourism Agreement with that country. The Co-operation Agreement will create structured bilateral mechanisms with the Republic of Gabon.

Equatorial Guinea

Dr Dlamini-Zuma hosted her Equatorial Guinea counterpart, Pastor Micha Ondo Bile, for bilateral discussions in Pretoria in February 2004.

The meeting explored issues such as infrastructural development, agriculture, trade and investment and telecommunications between the two countries.

During the visit, the Bilateral Promotion and Protection of Investments Agreement was signed between the two countries.

President Mbeki hosted his counterpart from Equatorial Guinea, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, for bilateral political and economic discussions in Pretoria on 14 July 2004.

A General Co-operation Agreement between the two countries was signed in December 2003. In terms of the Agreement, a Joint Binational Commission (BNC) is envisaged between the two countries.

Chad

An interdepartmental team of senior officials visited the Republic of Chad in June 2003 to assess the potential for the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

At the end of March 2003, President Idriss Deby signed a proclamation that was expected to lead to the opening of a Chadian Embassy in South Africa during the course of 2004.

Rwanda

Relations between South Africa and Rwanda are good. Co-operation between the two countries focuses on the post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda and has extended to the co-ordination of NEPAD on the continent.

On 7 April 2004, President Mbeki and Minister Dlamini-Zuma attended the 10th anniversary of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide in Kigali, Rwanda.

An estimated 800 000 people were killed in 100 days of genocide when the ethnic Hutu majority attacked the minority Tutsis.

On 5 July 2004, Minister Lekota and his Rwandan counterpart, General Machel, signed an Agreement on Defence. The Agreement makes provision for training, capacity-building and transformation.

Dr Dlamini-Zuma hosted her Rwandan counterpart, Dr Charles Murigande, for the Third Session of the South Africa-Rwanda JCC in Pretoria on 27 July 2004. The JCC provides both countries with a mechanism through which they can identify joint projects aimed at strengthening mutual economic co-operation.

More than 200 Rwandan students have been studying at South African tertiary institutions under a bilateral education agreement.

A trilateral agreement between the governments of South Africa, Cuba and Rwanda on health co-operation, funded by South Africa's African Renaissance Fund, has facilitated the implementation of a programme whereby Cuban medical practitioners will train medical personnel in Rwanda.

A number of South African companies, including cellphone operator MTN, have set up ventures in Rwanda.

Burundi

South Africa's good relations with Burundi are demonstrated by the leading role the South African Government played in the peace-negotiation process that culminated in the signing of the peace agreement between the Burundi Government and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy on 9 October 2003, which ended years of conflict.

Deputy President Zuma was the chief mediator in the Burundi conflict, which claimed over 300 000 lives and displaced millions of citizens.

On 18 August 2004, President Mbeki and Deputy President Zuma attended the 22nd Great Lakes Heads of State Summit on Burundi in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Summit reviewed progress

made since the last Summit held on 5 June 2004, which:

- called for the speedy organisation of Burundi elections as per the Arusha Agreement time frames
- mandated Deputy President Zuma to assist the Burundi parties to reach a post-election power-sharing agreement
- announced action against the Palipehutu-FNL, the armed group which remained outside of the peace process.

Democratic Republic of Congo

During December 2003 and early January 2004, senior officials from South Africa visited the DRC to identify possible areas of co-operation to assist the DRC with its post-conflict reconstruction and development. President Mbeki paid a State Visit to the DRC in January 2004 during which a General Co-operation Agreement was signed to establish a Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC).

This Commission will lay the foundation for future co-operation between the two countries and was expected to be inaugurated during 2004.

On 18 March 2004, Minister Mufamadi hosted a delegation from the DRC, led by the Minister of Planning, Mr Thambwe Mwamba, for the South Africa-DRC Joint Ministerial Meeting in Pretoria. The Meeting took place within the context of the General Co-operation Agreement.

On 19 April 2004, President Joseph Kabila released the Road Map consisting of a calendar of different steps of the transitional process, including the finalisation of a draft constitution which would culminate in the organisation of free and fair elections in September 2005.

On 8 May 2004, it was announced that all the components of the DRC's transitional government had reached agreement on the provincial governors and deputy-governors. The South Africa-DRC JBC, which serves as a mechanism to regulate political and economic relations between the two countries, was officially launched in Kinshasa in August 2004.

São Tomé and Príncipe

South Africa, as part of the AU delegation, assisted in

the negotiations that restored President Fradique de Menezes to power in July 2003, following the bloodless *coup d'état* in that country. South Africa subsequently donated non-lethal equipment to the armed forces of São Tomé and Príncipe, and remains committed to the International Committee of Guarantee and Follow-up. This Committee will ensure that the conditions which led to the coup will be addressed to the satisfaction of all parties in the country.

Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa

The countries of North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa are becoming increasingly important trading partners for South Africa, as well as important partners within the context of the AU/AEC.

Algeria

The South African Embassy was established in Algiers in November 1997. The political relations between the South African liberation movement and Algeria dates back to the 1950s.

On 10 April 2004, President Mbeki congratulated Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika on his re-election as the President of Algeria.

In October 2004, President Bouteflika attended the fourth session of the South Africa-Algeria BNC in Pretoria.

The BNC discussed, among other things, bilateral co-operation in fields such as science and technology; health; arts and culture; agriculture; telecommunications; and housing.

By January 2004, exports from South Africa to Algeria amounted to R6,182 million, while imports to South Africa from Algeria amounted to R693 million per year. The trade balance stood at R5,489 million.

Côte d'Ivoire

South Africa established full diplomatic relations with Côte d'Ivoire in May 1992. Given South Africa's firm commitment to the African Renaissance and its attendant features of stability and democratisation on the continent, the events in Côte d'Ivoire since the rebellion of 2002 are of

major significance. The signing of the Marcoussis Agreement on 25 January 2003 by all the belligerents presents an opportunity to restore peace and stability in the country.

The peace process remains fragile given the withdrawal of the opposition parties and the New Forces from the Government of National Reconciliation in early 2004 and the delay in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process.

In July 2004, President Mbeki and Minister Dlamini-Zuma attended a high-level meeting in Accra, Ghana, to discuss the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting formed part of a series of meetings organised under the aegis of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), aimed at restoring peace and stability in that country.

South Africa has pledged to assist Côte d'Ivoire in its process of national reconciliation and will continue to support ECOWAS in its efforts to further promote peace in the country. Côte d'Ivoire is South Africa's largest trading partner in Francophone West Africa.

Egypt

Bilateral political and economic relations between Egypt and South Africa have improved greatly in recent years. These improvements were underlined in April 1996 with the convening of the First Annual JBC Meeting in Cairo.

Several agreements were signed between South Africa and Egypt during the Sixth Session of the South Africa-Egypt JBC in Pretoria in July 2003. Egypt is South Africa's third-largest trading partner in North Africa.

Deputy Minister Pahad paid an official visit to Egypt in September 2004.

Sudan

South Africa chairs the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction Committee for Sudan. A team of African experts was dispatched to assess the requirements for post-conflict reconstruction.

South Africa continues to support the Inter-governmental Authority on Development's initiatives to bring peace and stability to Sudan.

Morocco

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and the Kingdom of Morocco were established in 1991 when the South African Interest Office opened in Rabat. A Moroccan Interest Office was opened in Pretoria in April 1992 and both offices were subsequently upgraded to full Embassies.

The first JBC Meeting with Morocco took place in Pretoria in 1988.

Mauritania

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Mauritania were established in January 1995.

Liberia

South Africa played a meaningful role in the transition process and preparations for the new leadership in Liberia. South Africa forms part of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia and has pledged to continue to be part of international efforts in alleviating the deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

Nigeria

South Africa's bilateral and multilateral relationship with Nigeria remains of strategic importance, particularly in light of the development and promotion of NEPAD. Nigeria serves as the chairperson of the NEPAD HSIC and is one of the 25 members of the AU PSC.

Nigeria is South Africa's largest source of imports on the African continent. South African companies continue to establish themselves in a number of economic sectors in the Nigerian market.

The South Africa-Nigeria BNC, established in October 1999, held its fifth annual session in Lagos in December 2003, during which the progress made in the various sectors of co-operation over the four years since its establishment was reviewed.

Ghana

South Africa's relations with Ghana centre mainly around bilateral trade, with the country having become South Africa's second-largest export market in West Africa (after Nigeria). In this regard, South African mining houses Gencor and Gold Fields are involved in Ghana.

Burkina Faso

South Africa and Burkina Faso established non-resident diplomatic relations in May 1995. The Burkina Faso non-resident Ambassador for South Africa is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while the South African Ambassador to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, is accredited to Burkina Faso on a non-residential basis.

On 13 July 2004, President Mbeki and his counterpart from Burkina Faso, Mr Blaise Compaore, signed a co-operation framework and an MoU. In terms of the agreement, South Africa will be assisting Burkina Faso to find and access mineral deposits.

The two leaders also discussed the need to create stability in areas of conflict around West Africa. Though Burkina Faso has limited exploitable resources, opportunities exist for South African mining companies for mining deposits of gold, zinc and manganese.

Since agriculture is the dominant industry, opportunities exist for the trade of various agricultural produce. Spoornet is one of the few large companies involved in Burkina Faso.

Trade between South Africa and Burkina Faso is limited. In terms of total trade with South Africa, Burkina Faso is South Africa's 11th-largest partner in the West African region.

South Africa's total trade with Burkina Faso in 2003 amounted to R35 million.

Cape Verde

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Cape Verde were established on 4 April 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 August 2004, Deputy President Zuma paid a two-day visit to the Cape Verde. Mr Zuma's visit was aimed at identifying further areas of political and economic co-operation between the two countries.

The Gambia

In September 2004, the President of The Gambia,

Dr Alhaji Yahya AJJ Jammeh, paid a working visit to South Africa and held bilateral discussions with President Mbeki.

South African exports to The Gambia in 2003, which included motor vehicles, prepared foodstuffs and beverages, amounted to R31,3 million.

Guinea

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Guinea were established on 16 February 1995. The first Guinean Ambassador to South Africa took up his post in Pretoria in July 1996. The South African Ambassador to Senegal is accredited to Guinea on a non-residential basis.

South Africa's trade with and investment in Guinea have increased substantially over the past few years, with the country's rich mineral sector being the main area of focus. South Africa was planning to open a Diplomatic Mission during 2004.

Guinea-Bissau

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Guinea-Bissau were established in October 1994. The South African Ambassador to Senegal is accredited as South Africa's non-resident Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau.

In an effort to support post-conflict reconstruction in the country, and in response to the call by the ECOSOC *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on Guinea-Bissau for the international donor community to give emergency assistance to the people of Guinea-Bissau, the South African Government in February 2004 made a contribution to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund for that country.

Mali

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Mali were established in May 1994 and 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 appointed in November 2003.

Mali is a strong supporter of the African Renaissance initiative and NEPAD.

In August 2002, the Agreement of 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, following a pledge made by President Mbeki during his State Visit to Mali in November 2001 that South Africa would support a project aimed at improving the preservation of these ancient Manuscripts.

The two countries share a commitment to the promotion of democracy and good governance, and substantial South African involvement in the Malian gold-mining sector. Anglogold and Randgold run operations in Mali.

Eskom Enterprises was successful in winning the international bid in July 2001 for the hydroelectrical generation project in Manantali, a joint initiative between the governments of Mali (which will receive 51% of the output), Senegal (34%) and Mauritania (15%).

The First Session of the South Africa-Mali JCC took place in Pretoria in August 2004.

The two sides reviewed the progress made in the sectors of co-operation identified during the November 2001 State Visit to Mali by President Mbeki.

These included co-operation in the fields of agriculture, arts and culture, education, health, foreign affairs, mines and energy, sport and transport.

Following the signing of the Bilateral Air Services Agreement in July 2002 between the two countries, South African Airways was expected to introduce flights between Johannesburg and Bamako.

Senegal

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Senegal were established in May 1994 and the two countries' Representative Offices upgraded to Embassy level. After closing its Embassy in Pretoria in December 1995, the Senegalese authorities re-established it in 2001. The South African Ambassador to Senegal is also accredited to Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania on a non-residential basis.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Senegal are based mainly on the Senegalese

Government's strong support for the African Renaissance initiative and NEPAD as well as strong commitment to the promotion of democracy and good governance.

Senegal is one of the 15 members of the NEPAD HSIC and the AU PSC.

In November 2004, Minister Dlamini-Zuma paid an official visit to Mali and Senegal.

Tunisia

On 9 July 2004, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, Mr Habib Ben Yahia, attended the Fourth South Africa-Tunisia JBC Session in South Africa.

The JBC concluded the following:

- Agreement on the Abolition of Visa Requirements for the Holders of Diplomatic and Official or Special Passports
- MoU between the JSE Securities Exchange SA and *Bourse des Valeurs Mobilières de Tunis*
- MoU on Technical Co-operation between the National Institute of Normalisation and Industrial Property for Tunisia and the South African Bureau of Standards.

The Fifth Session of the South Africa-Tunisia JBC is expected to take place in Tunisia in 2005.

Libya

The long-standing unofficial relations between South Africa and the Great People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya dates back to the days of the struggle against Apartheid.

The First Session of the South Africa-Libya JBC was held in Tripoli in June 2002. The Session presented an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, and jointly promote unity, peace, security and development on the African continent.

Relations with Asia and the Middle East

Asia

South Africa values its relations with Asian countries. Since 1994, South Africa's interaction with

Asia has seen a manifold increase. South Africa has 16 residential Missions in the Asian and Australasian region.

In 2004, 16 countries from this region maintained 31 diplomatic, consular and other Missions in South Africa, compared with the three that existed prior to 1994.

South Africa continues to strengthen its relations with the region through increases in two-way trade and the finalisation of new instruments of co-operation in the scientific and technological fields, through technology transfer, investments and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in capacity-building.

More than 27% of South African foreign trade, some R70 billion per year, is conducted with countries in Asia.

During 2003/04, a number of significant events took place, testifying to the close ties that have developed between South Africa and the countries of south-east Asia.

Singapore serves as an important economic and trading hub in the south-east Asian region. South Africa's bilateral trade with Singapore is substantial. In addition to providing South Africa with valuable opportunities for human resource development (HRD) through its Technical Co-operation Programme, Singapore also enjoys ongoing defence co-operation with South Africa.

Singapore hosted an all-day investment and trade conference in Sandton, Gauteng, in November 2003.

Thailand chairs the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), having taken over the chairpersonship from South Africa in April 2001. South Africa continues to interact closely with Thailand on the UNCTAD. Thailand also took over the chairpersonship of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation in December 2002.

A trade delegation from Thailand led by South Africa's Honorary Consul in Changmei visited South Africa during September 2003. South Africa and Thailand simultaneously issued sets of stamps bearing the images of the Africa and Asian elephants in commemoration of 10 years of diplomatic relations.

In February 2004, the South African Embassy in Bangkok hosted a NEPAD seminar; and the resident Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ambassadors accredited to South Africa held a NEPAD seminar in Stellenbosch in February 2004, in consultation with the NEPAD Secretariat.

Vietnam plays an increasingly important role in south-east Asia and has vast economic potential and opportunities for mining, infrastructure development, and agricultural and manufacturing companies.

The Vietnamese News Bureau was officially opened in Pretoria in November 2003.

In November 2004, Vietnamese Prime Minister, Phan Van Khai, paid a State Visit to South Africa, He was accompanied by the largest delegation to ever visit South Africa. South Africa's trade with Vietnam increased eight-fold in the past 10 years.

Economic relations with Malaysia and **Indonesia** remain important, due to Malaysian investment in South Africa and the size of the Indonesian market.

On 23 March 2004, Minister Dlamini-Zuma and her Indonesian counterpart, Dr Noer Hassan Wirajuda, co-chaired the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organisations Conference in Durban.

The two Ministers signed an MoU for the establishment of a Joint Commission on Bilateral Co-operation between the two countries.

The MoU paved the way for increasing investment by South African companies in the vast mineral reserves of Indonesia.

Many agreements exist between the two countries.

South Africa and **Malaysia** enjoy close co-operation within the multilateral field in fora such as the Commonwealth and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Malaysia continues to be very supportive of South Africa's efforts to enhance South-South co-operation and ensure that the needs of the South are addressed in international fora.

Malaysia has also indicated its support for NEPAD and has sought to promote the Malaysian-initiated Langkawi International Dialogue aimed at expanding co-operation among countries of the South, including those in southern Africa.

South Africa participated by means of a National Pavilion at the Defence Services Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 12 – 15 April 2004.

A State Visit to Malaysia during 2003 resulted in the establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between the two countries. The first JMC meeting was expected to take place in the second half of 2004.

Before 1994, there were no South African Missions located in the south and central Asian regions. In fact, South Africa had no diplomatic relations with states in this region. Today, there are resident High Commissions in New Delhi and Islamabad, and a Consulate-General in Mumbai. South Africa has diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have resident Missions in South Africa. By mid-2004, arrangements were underway for the establishment of South Africa's first Embassy in Manila in the Philippines.

South Africa enhanced co-operation with central Asia in the field of water and environmental affairs by participating in conferences held in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in 2003. Economic opportunities for co-operation in the region exist, especially with regard to the energy and mining sectors.

December 2003 saw South Africa establishing its first residential diplomatic Mission in central Asia with the opening of the South African Embassy in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Mission was expected to be accredited to other states in central Asia.

South Africa and **Afghanistan** established diplomatic relations in September 1994. South Africa never recognised the former Taliban regime and has normalised relations with the current Government of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The South African Liaison Office for Afghanistan was established in 2003, headed by the current South African High Commissioner to Pakistan.

During 2003/04, South Africa continued to monitor the situation in Afghanistan and to support the process of democratisation in that country. In March 2004, the South African High Commission in

Pakistan donated US\$6 000 towards the voter-registration process being undertaken in that country. The finalisation of formalities pertaining to the appointment of an Honorary Consul in Cape Town to represent Afghanistan's interests in South Africa was expected to be completed in the second half of 2004.

South Africa and **Sri Lanka** formally established diplomatic relations in September 1994. In December 2003, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr Tyrone Fernando, visited South Africa. Minister Dlamini-Zuma and Minister Fernando signed a Partnership Forum Agreement aimed to enhance and promote bilateral trade and economic co-operation. The first round of the Forum was scheduled to be held in 2004 during the Fifth Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

For South Africa, as part of the IOR, which encompasses the eastern African coastal countries, the Arabian Peninsula, south-east Asia, Australia and the Indian subcontinent, the 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.

The Sixth Council of Ministers Meeting will be held in Tehran, Iran, in 2005.

India is South Africa's sixth-largest trading partner in Asia. In addition, South Africa's total investment into India exceeds R209 million whereas India's investment into South Africa totals more than R125 million.

In September 2004, the President of the Republic of India, Dr Abdul Kalam, paid a State Visit to South Africa. This was the first State Visit by a serving Indian Head of State since the transformation of South Africa into a democracy.

Dr Dlamini-Zuma and her Indian and Brazilian counterparts, Mr Yashwant Sinha and Mr Celso Amorim, met in New Delhi, India in March 2004 for the first meeting of the Trilateral Commission of the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum. The Meeting adopted the New Delhi Agenda for Co-operation and the Plan of Action.

It reviewed developments in the trilateral initiative that began with their meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, in June 2003 and the meeting of the three Heads of State and Government in New York in the United States of America (USA) in September 2003.

The Agenda for Co-operation identified areas such as UN reform, terrorism, globalisation, trade negotiations and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Plan of Action identified trilateral co-operation in the spheres of poverty alleviation; science and technology; Information and Communications Technology; health; sanitation; civil aviation and shipping; tourism; trade and investment; defence; energy; and education.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in South Africa in the first quarter of 2005. South Africa welcomed the rapprochement between India and Pakistan in 2003 and their mutual willingness to commit to a programme of action aimed at the peaceful resolution of various outstanding bilateral issues including Jammu-Kashmir.

South Africa maintains active and mutually beneficial relations with Australia and New Zealand, and non-residential accreditation in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa and the Cook Islands.

South Africa and **Australia** established diplomatic relations in 1947 and enjoyed very close political and economic ties. As campaigns for 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 sport boycott against South Africa.

New Zealand maintains a High Commission in Pretoria, while the High Commission in Canberra represents South Africa in New Zealand. The establishment of a resident High Commission in Wellington is imminent.

Since 1994, political, economic and social links between the two countries have improved significantly. In 1996, the Cape Town Communiqué was signed, which seeks to strengthen co-operation between South Africa and New Zealand. The political relationship has been further strengthened by

numerous high-level delegations that have visited New Zealand to gain expertise in their different fields and exchange knowledge to enhance capacity-building in central, provincial and local government structures.

South Africa and New Zealand enjoy wide-ranging multilateral relations. Both are members of the Valdivia Group, which aims to promote southern hemisphere views in international environmental meetings and the enhancement of scientific co-operation.

They enjoy a close working relationship within the context of the Antarctic Treaty and Indian Ocean Fisheries, and also interact within the context of the WTO and the Cairns Group. South Africa and New Zealand also work closely on Commonwealth issues, particularly those affecting Africa.

Bilateral relations with the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** have expanded substantially since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1998. In July 2004, the PRC's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chen Zhili, visited South Africa to promote Chinese culture.

A broad range of agreements to formalise relations have been concluded between South Africa and the PRC, such as the Pretoria Declaration between President Jiang Zemin and President Mbeki in April 2000, which established a high-level BNC between the two countries. The inaugural meeting was held in Beijing in December 2001.

Other agreements include the Agreement on Extradition and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Agreement. Total bilateral trade between the PRC and South Africa reached R23,3 billion in 2003 with the balance in favour of the PRC.

A Consulate-General was established in Shanghai in November 2002 to promote trade activities. In an effort to promote tourism to South Africa from China, the authorities in Beijing have granted Approved Destination Status (ADS) to South Africa. The ADS Agreement was signed in October 2002.

In September 2003, at the invitation of the State Council Press Office of the PRC, a Government Communications (GCIS) delegation visited the PRC to learn and share communication experiences.

Between 26 and 29 June 2004, the Vice President of the PRC, Mr Zeng Qinghong, paid an official visit to South Africa to attend the the PRC-South Africa BNC.

In July 2004, the Minister in The Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad and Vice Minister Wang Guoqing, responsible for the State Council Information Office of the PRC, signed a Letter of Intent on Friendly Co-operation and Exchanges between the two countries.

Notwithstanding the absence of diplomatic relations, South Africa and **Taiwan** continue with trade, scientific, cultural and other relations. Taiwanese investors in South Africa continue to enjoy full protection under South African law, as well as all the other benefits extended to foreign investors.

The year 2004 marked the Seventh **Japan-South African Partnership Forum**, which took place in Tokyo. This high-level forum of senior government officials witnessed the successful conclusion of the Science and Technology Agreement between the governments of Japan and South Africa in August 2003.

President Mbeki, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, led a South African delegation to the International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD III) in Tokyo, Japan, in October 2003.

TICAD is an initiative for African development, launched in 1993 through the joint efforts of the Japanese Government, the UN and the Global Coalition for Africa.

The primary goals of TICAD are to:

- promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their trade partners
- mobilise support for Africa's own development efforts
- strengthen co-ordination among all development partners
- promote regional co-operation and integration through support for regional and subregional groupings and organisations
- promote South-South co-operation in general, and Asia-Africa co-operation in particular, through the exchange of experience and knowledge.

The TICAD process reaffirmed the concept of African ownership of the development process by

Africa, embodied in the pursuit of priorities set by Africa itself. TICAD also importantly enshrined a vision of African development that integrates the principle of global partnership based on an equal footing with all development partners.

NEPAD is set to continue featuring strongly as a central issue in Africa's relationship with Japan.

South Korea remains an important trade partner of South Africa in Asia.

The Middle East

In the Middle East, the Department of Foreign Affairs distinguishes between two clearly identifiable sub-regions. On one hand, 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 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. It is the source of 67% of the world's petroleum reserves and commands two of the most strategically important waterways in the world, namely the Arabian/Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, giving access to the Asian hinterland via the Gulf of Aqaba. South Africa places strong emphasis on the expansion of diplomatic representation and activities in this region, where it was formerly underrepresented, particularly in the area of trade, which has grown significantly since 1994.

The South African Consulate-General in Jeddah, in addition to performing important functions relating to the promotion of trade, also serves members of the South African Muslim community on their annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

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. 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 consistently called on all parties to the conflict in Israel and Palestine to demonstrate responsibility in avoiding 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.

During 2003/04, South Africa continued to engage Israelis and Palestinians in the search for peace in the Middle East, consistent with President Mbeki's Spier Initiative of 2002 that aimed to share South Africa's experience in peace-making.

In June 2004, South Africa hosted the annual 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.

It was followed in July 2004 by the UN Reform of Civil Society in Support of Middle East Peace. Both events focused on promoting support for international efforts aimed at stopping the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; salvaging the political process; and realising the vision of peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

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

The importance of the Middle East to South Africa can also be seen in the growing number of bilateral agreements that are being concluded between South Africa and countries of the region. These cover the fields of civil aviation, avoidance of double taxation, protection of investments, scientific co-operation and defence.

South Africa and **Saudi Arabia** signed a MoU and also launched the South Africa-Saudi Arabia Business Forum in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 1 June 2004.

Deputy President Zuma and Deputy Minister Pahad paid an official visit to **Turkey** in October 2003.

During the visit, several agreements were signed between the two countries, including agreements on trade and economic co-operation; co-operation

in the fields of education, arts and culture, science and technology, sport, recreation and youth affairs; and police co-operation.

On 14 September 2003, the State of **Qatar** and South Africa signed an agreement for the development of a large-scale fuel grade methanol project, targeting an output of 12 000 to 15 000 tons (t) per day.

Sasol and Qatar have formed a joint venture worth R6,5 billion that will utilise Sasol's unique and proven gas-to-liquids technology.

In May 2003, the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and the Second Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, Mr Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, signed an agreement of co-operation between PetroSA and Transworld of Qatar.

The Second Deputy Minister, who is also the Minister responsible for Energy and Industry, paid an official visit to South Africa in March 2004.

Relations with the Americas

United States of America

The promotion of economic relations with the USA, particularly in trade and investment, remained a central element of the bilateral relationship in 2004/05. The trade relationship continued to expand, with total trade for 2001 in excess of US\$7,25 billion, making the USA South Africa's largest single trading partner.

South Africa expanded its exports to the USA in 2001 under the General System of Preferences (GSP) Programme through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the value of which was in excess of US\$400 million.

The importance of the AGOA in enhancing trade between the two countries was highlighted. Exports from South Africa to the USA under AGOA increased by 45% during 2002.

The USA pledged support for South Africa's fight against HIV and AIDS, committing US\$15 billion over a period of five years to the global fight against the pandemic.

Both countries are committed to the international promotion of human rights and trade, the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the elimination of illicit trafficking in narcotics.

South Africa and the USA also share a confluence of values in important areas such as democracy, the rule of law, good governance, and the peaceful resolution of conflict in Africa.

Canada

South Africa and Canada enjoy cordial relations. Considerable co-operation also occurs between the two countries on a multilateral level and within international fora.

A number of South African Cabinet Ministers and officials have visited Canada in recent years and have held discussions with their Canadian counterparts on bilateral and multilateral issues. Canada has played a leading role in co-ordinating and formulating the G-8 response to NEPAD.

Canada became the first country to create a fund to support NEPAD.

It has indicated its support for NEPAD in a concrete fashion, through the scrapping of tariffs for least-developed countries and the creation of a C\$500-million Fund for Africa.

Furthermore, Canada made available C\$6 billion in ODA over a five-year period. Canadian civil society has also indicated strong support for, and interest in, NEPAD.

Trade and investment between the two countries have grown steadily since 1994, with mining remaining the mainstay of the economic relationship.

Canada is active in the field of development co-operation in South Africa. Its technical-assistance programme is aimed at fostering social upliftment, policy development and HRD. The Canadians have made a significant contribution towards good governance and education in South Africa, through a twinning programme that links six Canadian provinces to six South African provinces.

President Mbeki paid a State Visit to Canada in 2003.

The Caribbean

South Africa's relations with the independent member states of the Caribbean Community have been strengthened and expanded through the fully operational South African High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica. In addition to Jamaica, the High Commission also maintains responsibility for Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Mission in Havana, Cuba, is responsible for the Dominican Republic.

In January 2004, President Mbeki attended the 200th independence celebrations in Haiti, the first Black republic in the world to declare its independence in January 1804 from French colonial rule.

President Mbeki paid a successful visit to Jamaica during June/July 2003. He utilised the opportunity to address the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit. A General Co-operation Agreement was signed with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas during the inauguration of President Mbeki in April 2004.

President Mbeki's visit to the island was preceded by a fact-finding visit by Minister Dlamini-Zuma in December 2003.

On 30 April 2004, Minister Dlamini-Zuma, together with her counterpart from The Bahamas, Mr Fred Mitchell, signed a General Co-operation Agreement in Pretoria.

According to the Agreement, the Colleges' School of Hospitality and Tourism in The Bahamas will reserve a number of places for South African students.

Other areas of co-operation include the exchange of ideas on trade and industry, culture, economics, science and education.

Latin America

South Africa's relations with the countries of the South American region are entering an important and dynamic period of development. South Africa maintains formal diplomatic relations with all the countries of Latin America.

Latin America's population of about 300 million, as well as its various economic blocs, such as

MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) and the Andean Community, will ensure the region's increasing importance to South Africa.

There is great potential for co-operation with the MERCOSUR trading bloc, which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with Peru, Bolivia and Chile having associate status. Co-operation in the South Atlantic is further enhanced through the Zone of Peace and Co-operation in the South Atlantic (ZPCSA). The aims and objectives of the ZPCSA include the protection of the marine environment and resources, the promotion of the South Atlantic as a nuclear-free zone, and joint business ventures.

In December 2000, a Framework Agreement for the Creation of an FTA between South Africa and MERCOSUR was signed by the then South African Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin. The aim of the Agreement is to strengthen existing relations, promote the expansion of trade, and establish the conditions for the creation of a future FTA between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and MERCOSUR.

Several rounds of discussions towards the establishment of an FTA have taken place since the first talks in Montevideo, Uruguay, in October 2001.

The third South Africa-Cuba JBC took place in December 2003 in Pretoria. It reviewed existing bilateral co-operation projects and the extension of co-operation to new areas.

Relations with Brazil were given further impetus with the inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Brazil JBC in Brasilia in August 2002. This encompassed political discussions between the respective Foreign Affairs Ministers, as well as discussions on co-operation between line-function departments in a variety of technical fields. The second meeting, held in Pretoria in May 2003, served to further broaden relations in various fields. They also encompassed political discussions.

An official visit by Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in November 2003, accompanied by several Ministers, gave further impetus to bilateral relations.

Relations with Europe

South Africa's bilateral relations with Europe have improved and expanded significantly since 1994. Exchanges have continuously increased in terms of high-level political consultation, economic relations and development assistance. South Africa currently maintains diplomatic relations with virtually all countries in 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 main source of foreign direct investment (FDI) and development assistance. Regular consultations with the European Union (EU) and its member countries take place with regard to the continued and possible expansion of their constructive involvement in South Africa.

To enhance co-operation with European countries, various political and economic mechanisms such as binational and economic commissions have been established with the United Kingdom (UK), France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Mechanisms to step up bilateral political consultations have also been created with a number of Nordic countries.

Multilateral interaction with Europe continues on issues such as globalisation, market access, debt relief, the role and reform of the UN Security Council, disarmament and human rights. The establishment of a constructive North-South dialogue is of particular importance to South Africa.

Relations with **Germany** have expanded considerably since the introduction of the South Africa-Germany BNC in 1996, as the committees of the Commission now work continuously to enhance political, economic, scientific, cultural and environmental co-operation.

Africa is the main focus of German development co-operation initiatives. Germany has pledged its firm support for NEPAD, with priority areas being conflict prevention and good governance.

The Fourth Session of the South Africa-Germany BNC took place on 30 October 2003 in Pretoria.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder paid his

first official visit to South Africa in January 2004.

He met with President Mbeki for bilateral talks, which included discussions on increasing co-operation on labour and health issues, and business, cultural and sporting relations.

The two leaders also discussed the AU, NEPAD, Zimbabwe, the Middle East peace process, the peace process in Burundi and the DRC, and the volatile situation in Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Germany is South Africa's largest import partner and fourth-largest export partner. More than 450 German companies have investments in South Africa and employ over 70 000 people here.

South Africa and the **UK** continue to build a special partnership. The UK has shown strong support for NEPAD, the AU and conflict resolution in Africa, and has maintained its position as one of South Africa's most significant trade partners, the largest single foreign investor in South Africa, and a major source of tourism.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and **France** are directed by institutionalised mechanisms, such as the MoU for Political Dialogue, as well as joint commissions on trade and industry, arts and culture, and science and technology.

People-to-people relations have expanded dramatically and there have been regular exchanges of cultural, art and sports groups. France is a staunch supporter of the AU and NEPAD, especially in the context of the G-8.

The historic links between South Africa and the Nordic countries (**Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland** and **Iceland**) have deepened in recent years. Flowing from the strong grassroots support in these countries for democratisation in South Africa, relations have been established in virtually every field at both public and official levels.

The scope of Nordic development co-operation relations is broad and has benefited civil society and the three tiers of government. Relations in the international arena have seen close co-operation on multilateral issues such as the banning of anti-personnel mines.

Norway sees South Africa as an important partner in bridging the North-South divide, particularly in the area of human rights.

On 26 March 2004, Minister Dlamini-Zuma hosted her Norwegian counterpart, Mr Jan Petersen, for bilateral and economic discussions.

Fundamental to trade relations between both countries is the GSP for the import of goods from developing countries that was extended by Norway to South Africa on 6 May 1994.

Through this mechanism, goods imported by Norway from South Africa are not submitted to the normal custom duties. These tariff preferences provide an incentive to traders to import products from developing countries like South Africa and help them to compete on international markets.

A number of Norwegian companies are expected to expand their operations in South Africa through increased investment and technology.

Norway's development co-operation contribution to South Africa for the period 2005 – 2009 is expected to be over R25 million.

South Africa maintains excellent bilateral relations with the Benelux countries (**Belgium**, the **Netherlands** and **Luxembourg**). This is, *inter alia*, reflected in the increase in high-level visits, co-operation in multilateral fora and the number of development-assistance programmes being implemented in South Africa.

The commitment of the Benelux countries to the objectives and ideals of the AU and NEPAD is underscored by the close interaction with South Africa in the promotion of peace and security on the African continent. Both the Netherlands and Belgium are providing political and financial support for South Africa's role in conflict-resolution and peace-keeping operations in the Great Lakes region.

Spain is one of South Africa's major trading partners. Between 1999 and 2002, South African exports to Spain increased from R4,2 billion to R9,5 billion, making it the 13th-largest investor for the period. In a move to further cement trade relations between South Africa and Spain, a Spanish retail chain *El Cortes Ingles* will purchase South African products worth R90 million to sell in the European country.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, Mr Ramon Gil-Casares, paid an official visit to South Africa in February 2004.

The visit formed part of efforts to build and consolidate sound and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the two countries signed an Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Arts and Culture, following the signing of the Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Science and Technology in 2003.

The President of the Republic of **Italy**, Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, paid a State Visit to South Africa in March 2002. This was a successful visit during which Italian support for NEPAD, the WSSD, the fight against HIV and AIDS, increased levels of the ODA, and the transfer of technology was pledged.

President Constantinos Stephanopoulos of the **Hellenic Republic**, accompanied by a trade delegation, paid a State Visit to South Africa in October 2002. He expressed support for socio-economic upliftment through NEPAD, increased levels of trade and investment, and targeted ODA projects.

On 26 May 2003, South Africa and **Austria** signed a co-operation agreement on safety and security issues.

Minister Dlamini-Zuma hosted her Swiss counterpart, Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, for bilateral political and economic discussions in Pretoria in February 2004.

Switzerland remains a very important foreign direct investor in terms of new investment in South Africa, with FDI in South Africa since 1994 amounting to R2,7 billion by the end of 2001.

In terms of total investment, Switzerland ranked as the sixth-largest foreign direct investor in South Africa in 2002. South Africa ranked as the 12th-largest foreign investor in Switzerland in 1999, the third-largest after Japan outside the EU and USA.

On 1 March 2004, Deputy Minister Pahad hosted his counterpart from **Serbia** and **Montenegro**, Dr Dusan Crnogorcervic, in Pretoria for bilateral political and economic consultations.

Serbia and Montenegro regard South Africa as an important and reliable ally in their foreign relations, as well as a gateway to the rest of southern Africa. Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Serbia and Montenegro were established in April

1992, when the country was still called the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The historical links between South Africa and the **Russian Federation** are strong. The former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was one of the key supporters of the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

With the dissolution of the USSR, South Africa became the first African State to recognise the independence of the Russian Federation. Full diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in February 1992.

In April 1999, the Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Co-operation between the Russian Federation and South Africa was established, the Third Session of which was held in November 2003 in Moscow. There is rapid development of bilateral co-operation in political, economic, scientific and cultural spheres between the two countries.

In March 2004, the Russian mining company Norilsk Nickel purchased a US\$1,16-billion stake in the Gold Fields mining company.

The first South African-Russian Inter-Ministerial political consultations on combating international terrorism were held in Pretoria on 29 January 2004. Deputy Minister Pahad and his Russian counterpart, Mr Anatoly Safonov, discussed ways of implementing the Resolution on Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction, which was adopted by the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Multilateral diplomacy

South Africa is a full participant in the debates on global issues in international fora and organisations such as the UN, the Commonwealth and NAM. Among the multitude of issues that are dealt with are terrorism; UN reform; South Africa's role in peacekeeping operations and disarmament issues; the global development debate; negotiations with the EU; the future of NAM; and the implementation of Agenda 21 and the treaties that flow from it, such as those on biodiversity and climate change, international drug control, international measures to

combat crime, good governance, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

The country's active and full involvement in initiatives such as the renegotiation of the SACU, the South African-Britain Bilateral Forum and new structures in the WTO, also places South Africa in a good position to ensure that not only trade, but also development is addressed in its international relations.

International organisations

United Nations

Since its readmission to the UN in 1994, South Africa has fully participated in and contributed to international organisations, treaties and conventions concerned with global policies. It has played an active role in several General Assembly working groups tasked with the appraisal of UN reforms as well as the restructuring of the Security Council.

South Africa's name has consistently appeared on the Secretary-General's 'Roll of Honour' of countries that pay their dues timeously.

In September 2004, President Mbeki addressed the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 59) in New York, USA.

South Africa's participation in the UNGA 59 focused on, among other things, promoting the AU and NEPAD within the UN context; supporting the global campaign against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; and supporting the Middle East Peace Process. South Africa indicated its readiness to serve as a permanent member of the Security Council.

European Union

South Africa relates to the 25-member EU at various levels and in many fora. One of the key aspects of South Africa's relations with the EU, within the framework of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU partnership, is its active participation in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Activities (JPA). South Africa hosted the Fourth Session of the ACP-EU JPA in March 2002 in Cape Town.

At this Session, the JPA accepted a resolution on NEPAD, noting that there was considerable scope

for the ACP-EU partnership to be effectively aligned with NEPAD. It urged the European Commission (EC) to identify ways in which, both directly and through the ACP-EU partnership, EU programmes could support NEPAD.

Since South Africa's transition to democracy, the dialogue between the European and South African parliaments has become institutionalised with frequent reciprocal visits of parliamentarians, also in the context of the EU-ACP Joint Assembly and EU-SADC exchanges.

The European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, which channels about R900 million per year into development efforts in South Africa, makes the EU one of South Africa's most important donors. The Co-operation Council, a forum comprising officials from the South African Government and from the EC, was established to monitor the implementation of the Trade Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA).

The EU proposed a two-pronged approach of qualified accession to the Lome Convention (since replaced by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou, Benin, in June 2000).

Negotiations on the Fisheries Agreement have been suspended pending finalisation of a framework that would address South Africa's concerns regarding access to its resources.

In 1998, South Africa and the EU reached a broad agreement on the contents of the TDCA. In addition to the tariff liberalisation schedule, agreement was reached on the numerous articles dealing with trade-related issues such as intellectual property rights, competition policy and rules of origin.

The parties also agreed to co-operate in a number of non-trade fields, such as the fight against drugs, money laundering and the protection of data. The central component of the agreement revolves around a tariff phase-down schedule for agricultural and industrial products.

In terms of this agreed schedule, South Africa will eliminate tariffs on 86% of EU exports to South Africa, over a period of 12 years. The EU in return will eliminate tariffs on 95% of South African exports to the EU, over 10 years.

The TDCA has to be ratified by all 15 member states. By mid-2004, it had been ratified by 10 EU member states. Luxembourg, France, Austria, Italy and Greece still had to finalise the process of ratification.

South Africa's bilateral relationship with the EU was elevated to a higher level following the commencement of full implementation of the South Africa-EU TDCA, with effect from 1 May 2004.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 sovereign states with a common political heritage. After the UN, with 185 members, the Commonwealth is one of the world's largest multilateral organisations. It includes members of every major regional institution, economic zone and multilateral organisation.

Its total population exceeds 1 500 million. The link in this union is the common use of the English language as well as elements of the common culture, including sport, inherited from the colonial past.

South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth in 1994 after an absence of 33 years. The Department of Foreign Affairs co-ordinates the policy and objectives of the Government in the Commonwealth.

The Non-Aligned Movement

The NAM is the second-largest grouping of countries within the UN, comprising 115 member states. It was founded in 1961 as a global voice for developing countries that felt excluded from international politics dominated by the superpowers of the time.

South Africa joined the Movement as a full member in 1994, and assumed chairpersonship in September 1998, during the XII Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of NAM, held in Durban. The fundamental principles of the Movement include respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, the right to self-determination of all colonised peoples, and economic and cultural equality.

The NAM also continues its long-standing support for the rights of the Palestinian people, in international fora such as the UN and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

On 13 May 2004, Deputy Minister Pahad attended the NAM Troika Meeting and Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The NAM Committee Meeting on Palestine sought to put the proposed Middle East Road Map on track.

The Middle East Road Map, drafted by a quartet comprising the USA, Russia, the UN and the EU in 2002, proposes the creation of two separate independent Palestinian and Israeli states living side-by-side, in peace.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

On 12 October 1994, the Government signed the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement with the UNDP. The UNDP has an office in Pretoria, headed by its resident representative, who is also the UN Resident Co-ordinator for all UN operational activities for development in South Africa.

Acknowledgements

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