



SA YEARBOOK 2007/08 | FOREIGN RELATIONS



The Department of Foreign Affairs formulates, co-ordinates, implements and manages South Africa's foreign-policy and international relations programmes throughout the world.

These are guided by a commitment to promoting:

- human rights and democracy
- justice and international law
- international peace and internationally agreed mechanisms for resolving conflicts
- Africa in world affairs
- economic development through regional and international co-operation.

The department continues to implement its strategic priorities in line with government's foreign-policy objectives, outlined in the programme of the International Relations, Peace and Security Cluster.

South Africa and Africa

South Africa's development is inextricably linked to the development of Africa and the southern African region. Africa faces the challenge of positioning itself to address the marginalisation of the continent by engaging global role-players on socio-economic development and facilitating a fair and just global order.

African Union (AU)

The AU is Africa's premier institution and principal organisation for the promotion of the continent's accelerated socio-economic integration, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples. South Africa was instrumental in establishing the AU and its organs, namely the:

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

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

The 53-member AU was officially launched in Durban on 9 July 2002, following its inaugural summit.

It replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The AU's objectives include:

- achieving greater unity and solidarity between African countries and the peoples of Africa
- defending the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its member states
- accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent
- encouraging international co-operation
- promoting peace, security and stability on the continent
- promoting democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance
- promoting and protecting people's rights
- establishing the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations
- promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, and integrating African economies
- promoting co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise living standards
- promoting research in all fields
- eradicating preventable diseases and promoting good health on the continent.

The interim Ecosocc was launched on 29 March 2005 in Addis Ababa. The South African Chapter was launched with nine civil-society organisations elected as a secretariat from the following sectors: women, youth, religious groups, organised labour, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), lawyers, cultural groups and people with disabilities.

On 16 September 2004, the PAP was inaugurated at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, South Africa. The PAP's current premises are temporary until 2010. Preparations are under way to identify a suitable site and construct the permanent headquarters of the PAP in South Africa.

The PAP is fully functional, although decisions emanating from sessions are not yet binding on member states. The current status quo of the PAP as an advisory body will be reviewed in 2009. South Africa has ratified the Protocol on the African Court of Human and People's Rights. The Transvaal Judge President, Justice Bernard Ngoepe, has been appointed to an 11-member judiciary to serve on the court.

In May 2007, African ministers converged in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, to debate Africa's political and economic integration at the AU Foreign Ministers' Retreat and Executive Council meeting.

The eight existing regional economic communities (RECs), which include the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), have begun to determine time lines to achieve free trade agreements and customs unions.

Promoting 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 AU Assembly.

The PSC Protocol took effect in December 2003 and comprises 15 member states. The PSC was launched in Addis Ababa in May 2004. As a collective security and early warning arrangement, the PSC allows for a timely and effective response to conflicts and crises 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 in place by 2008.

The AU PSC Protocol provides for the creation of the African Standby Force, to be operationalised over 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 integrating African economies. RECs are recognised as the building blocks of the AU, necessitating the need for their close involvement in formulating and implementing 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 AU's objectives.

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 as the socio-economic development programme of the AU is considered one of the most important developments of recent times, placing Africa at the apex of the global agenda by:

- creating an instrument for advancing people-centred 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, thus holding 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.

A major effort of the AU-mandated Nepad is to continuously factor Nepad imperatives into the outcomes of international conferences to ensure its integration into the global multilateral system.

In a wider context, countries of the South subscribe to the priorities outlined by Nepad and have pledged their solidarity and moral support, as well as an appreciation for South Africa's positive role in Nepad.

To this end, the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP) was inaugurated in Indonesia in April 2005.

Structures

Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC)

The Nepad HSGIC reports annually to the summit of the AU. The chairperson of the AU Commission is an ex-officio member of the Implementation Committee, and the AU Commission is expected to participate in steering committee meetings.

The Implementation Committee comprises 20 states (four 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 Nepad's programme of action.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises representatives of the 20 HSGIC members. It is tasked with developing the Terms of Reference for identified programmes and projects, and overseeing the Secretariat.

Secretariat

The Nepad Secretariat co-ordinates implementation of projects and programmes approved by the HSGIC. The full-time core staff of the Secretariat, located at the Development Bank of Southern Africa in Midrand, provides liaison, co-ordination, and administrative and logistical functions for Nepad.



South Africa is to establish and host the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for Africa, a branch of the PCA in The Hague, Netherlands, to help resolve interstate and non-state disputes on the continent.

This follows an agreement signed on 17 April 2007 between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and Mr Tjaco van den Hout, Secretary-General of the PCA.

The African PCA's mandate will mirror that of the international PCA, which was established in 1899 as the first global institution to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes between countries.

South Africa became a member of the PCA when it signed the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes in 1997.

The establishment of a regional facility for Africa will offer an alternative means of settling disputes by bodies such as the African Court of Justice and the International Court of Justice.

The African PCA will also be more flexible and offer a greater degree of autonomy to the parties in dispute, as they will have the freedom to choose the arbitrators, rules and procedures to be applied in each case.

The facility will help countries with fact-finding missions, conciliation and arbitration through professional administration and expert guidance.

After an initial focus on interstate disputes, the International PCA now also assists in disputes between countries and foreign investors.

The PCA has, over the past decade, experienced a considerable increase in its caseload, which now includes disputes over investments and contracts, maritime delimitation, international boundaries, banking and finance, international humanitarian law and environmental law.

The PCA has also opened a regional facility in Costa Rica to service the Latin American region.

The AU's mechanisms for peer review and conflict resolution reflect commitment to human rights, democratisation, good governance, and peace and security.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is the mutually agreed African instrument for self-monitoring by participating member states of the AU.

The APRM's primary purpose is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental economic integration, by sharing experience and reinforcing successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the need for capacity-building.

The APRM is a flagship programme that has received international acclaim. By mid-2007, reviews had been completed in Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Algeria and South Africa, and 26 countries had acceded to the APRM. The APRM process is addressing corruption, poor governance and inefficient delivery of public goods and services.

In July 2007, President Thabo Mbeki presented South Africa's response to the African Peer Review (APR) Panel's Country Review Report at the seventh Summit of the APR Review Forum in Accra, Ghana.

The review report identified 18 South African best practices worthy of emulation. They included co-operative governance, popular participatory governance practices, Batho Pele, Thusong Service Centres (formerly multipurpose community centres), the highly consultative Budget-formulation process, achievements of the South African Revenue Service, the Johannesburg Securities Exchange and triple bottom line reporting, the Mzansi account for the unbanked, the Financial Services Charter, the King Commission's reports, self-reliance in development funding, provision of basic needs and socio-economic rights, and the successful promotion of gender equality in the public sector.

In September 2007, government, civil society and business convened for the National Workshop of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the APRM. The workshop, chaired by the Minister for Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, outlined features of the country review

report and the broad strategic thrust of the PoA. The key aims of the meeting were to map out how the PoA will be implemented and clarify the role of each stakeholder in the implementation phase.

Southern Africa

Angola

After the ceasefire of 2002 in Angola, following decades of war, peace still prevails in that country. The signing of the ceasefire agreement ended one of Africa's most protracted and devastating wars. The Memorandum of Commitment between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which was signed on 26 August 2002, is regarded as a watershed in the road to peace and reconciliation. It was agreed then that elections would be held as soon as circumstances allowed it.

South Africa committed itself to assisting Angola with its post-conflict reconstruction projects and programmes. The first session of the Joint Commission of Co-operation (JCC) was held in Pretoria in February 2003. Subsequently, significant progress was made in identifying, negotiating and finalising numerous agreements.

Since the Angolan Government's announcement that it intends holding presidential and general elections in 2008 and 2009 respectively, the South African Government has offered to provide technical assistance, if and when needed.

In May 2006, South Africa and the United Nations (UN) launched the Voluntary Repatriation for Angolan Refugees Programme to assist South Africa-based Angolan refugees in returning home.

In May 2007, a South African delegation visited Angola to prepare for an upcoming JCC meeting.

Lesotho

The ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy won the National Assembly elections held on 17 February 2007.

In June 2007, President Mbeki hosted Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho on an official visit to Cape Town.

The most significant and visible beacon reflecting South Africa's bilateral relations with Lesotho is the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), which qualifies as a Nepad project.

The project was started in 1986 as a joint venture to supply water to South Africa, especially the rapidly growing urban population in Gauteng, and to meet Lesotho's electricity needs. The project delivers about 780 million m³ of water to South Africa per year. By mid-2007, a feasibility study on

Phase II of the LHWP was being undertaken to ascertain costs and benefits for the two countries.

South Africa and Lesotho agreed to engage in a strategic partnership to assist Lesotho in accelerating its economic development to raise its status from that of a least-developed country (LDC). For this purpose, South Africa and Lesotho signed the Joint Bilateral Commission of Co-operation (JBCC) agreement in April 2001.

The JBCC was renewed in April 2006. In addition to strategic areas of co-operation, the JBCC also promotes the process of consolidating relations between South Africa and Lesotho. Since 2001, there has been significant sectoral co-operation between the two countries.

Various projects have been identified and implemented, such as the hydrological project, whereby the South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is providing Lesotho with technical assistance and capacity-building to improve hydrological data's quality and quantity by modernising data-collection equipment and network design.

Formal bilateral meetings under the auspices of the JBCC are held on a regular basis.

Botswana

Botswana's relations with South Africa are cordial and the country is a close neighbour and ally of South Africa. Botswana's long-standing support of the liberation struggle in South Africa led to the establishment of deep and strong mutual bonds between the peoples of the two countries.

In September 2007, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Sue van der Merwe, attended the 41st anniversary of the independence of Botswana.

The South Africa-Botswana Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation strengthens the bilateral relations between the two countries. It provides a legal and institutional framework for close co-operation in various fields between the countries. Many bilateral agreements exist between South Africa and Botswana.

Malawi

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

South Africa-based companies increasingly interested in linking up with and establishing a presence in Malawi, range from the finance, telecommunications and the retail sectors, to those in the construction industry.

By March 2007, the Department of Public Works had commenced with the design and construction of an embassy in Malawi. An agreement on bilateral co-operation between South Africa and Malawi was signed in May 2007 by the ministers of foreign affairs of the respective countries.

Indian Ocean islands

South Africa's political, economic and diplomatic relations with countries in the Indian Ocean islands remain strong.

South Africa, chair of the AU at the time, played a pivotal role in ensuring that peace prevailed in Madagascar, following political instability as a result of disputed election results in 2000.

It also played a meaningful role in accepting Madagascar's candidature to the SADC in August 2004.

South Africa, as co-ordinator of the countries of the region under the aegis of the AU, assisted in diffusing constitutional and political tension, resulting in the Fomboni Peace Agreement in 2000.

South Africa spearheaded the process of peace-building and reconciliation, and the return to constitutionalism. It continues to play an important role in the post-conflict reconstruction and development processes. These include assistance in building institutions of governance, macroeconomic planning and development, and capacity-building in the area of police training and public-service sectors.

South Africa is also involved in strengthening political and economic bilateral relations with

Mauritius and the Seychelles. Sectoral relations with these countries include arts and culture, tourism and environmental management, and poverty-alleviation programmes.

Comoros

On 19 June 2007, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, as chairperson of the AU Committee of Countries of the Region on Comoros, hosted a meeting of ministers from the Comoros, Tanzania, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Kenya and Mozambique to discuss the situation in the Comoros.

Minister Dlamini Zuma convened the meeting, which was also attended by the Vice President of the Comoros and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Said Djinnit, within the context of the AU's priority to consolidate peace, security and national reconciliation in the Comoros.

Discussions at the meeting focused on the current political situation in the Comoros, in addition to the organisation of the island's presidential elections.

The meeting requested the authorities of Anjouan to hold a free and fair presidential election, in compliance with the AU security plan.

Mozambique

South Africa and Mozambique share co-operative and friendly political and economic relations, both in a bilateral and multilateral context. Mozambique's economy continues to perform well and expectations are that the average growth rate of 7% that has been seen over the past 10 years will continue.

Mozambique remains South Africa's second-largest export market in southern Africa. South Africa and Mozambique's economic relationship is the strongest in the southern Africa region.

In May 2007, Cabinet approved the extension of the deployment of 70 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members to Mozambique.

The deployment provided military assistance in the clearance and demolition of unexploded ordinance devices at the ammunition storage facility in Maputo, following an explosion at the facility in March 2007. The SANDF was expected to participate in the exercise until 15 July 2007.



In April 2007, South Africa launched the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) E-Schools Demonstration Project in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga.

Nepad approved the initiative in 2003, with roll-out in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Rwanda and Uganda. The programme was expected to be rolled out in another 12 countries in 2007.

The ultimate aim is to extend the programme to around 600 000 schools across the continent over the next 10 to 20 years.

Schools taking part in the project are equipped with a computer laboratory containing at least 20 personal computers, a server and network infrastructure, as well as peripherals such as scanners, printers and whiteboards.



In September 2007, President Mbeki and his counterpart, President Armondo Guebuza, co-chaired the South Africa-Mozambique Heads of State Economic Bilateral Commission in Pretoria.

The meeting and JPCC ensure the maintenance of sound political and economic relations between South Africa and Mozambique.

Forty agreements covering various spheres of co-operation have been entered into between the two countries. These include the Maputo Harbour, agricultural development, natural gas trade, demining, the Maputo Development Corridor, a joint water commission, promotion and reciprocal protection of investment, and custom administration.

Namibia

Co-operation in various areas marks the relationship between South Africa and Namibia.

The two governments often meet at high-level engagements such as the regular heads of state economic bilateral meetings. It focuses on joint economic co-operation projects such as spatial development initiatives, tourism, energy matters as well as matters related to the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) and the SADC.

The Joint Commission on Defence and Security was established in terms of an agreement between South Africa and Namibia that was concluded in June 1997. The annual meeting aims to identify, discuss and promote co-operation regarding bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest in the fields of defence, state and public security.

In October 2007, President Mbeki co-chaired, together with his Namibian counterpart, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the South Africa-Namibia Heads of State Economic Bilateral Meeting at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria.

Swaziland

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini Zuma, and her former Swaziland counterpart, Senator Mabili Dlamini, established the JBCC on 20 December 2004 in Swaziland, which formalised bilateral relations between the two countries.

Tanzania

Bilateral relations with Tanzania are cordial and progress is being made in a wide range of fields of mutual interest. Both countries have experienced similar constitutional developments and challenges, and they share similar views on multilateral issues. Trade between South Africa and Tanzania is steadily increasing and a number of exchanges have taken place at official level to enhance co-operation. Close

co-operation takes place in a number of fields between the two countries, and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements on a wide variety of issues have been signed.

The Presidential Economic Commission provides the necessary co-operative framework to manage the development and implementation of bilateral projects.

On 5 April 2007, President Mbeki and his Tanzanian counterpart, President Jakaya Kikwete, co-chaired the South Africa-Tanzania Heads of State Economic Commission held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

South Africa ranks as one of the top-10 countries investing in Tanzania and accounts for 10% of total investment in Tanzania. More than 100 South African companies are economically active in that country. The country rates as a premier investment destination with South African business.

According to the Tanzanian Investment Centre, as of December 2006, there were 111 South African companies investing in Tanzania. South African investments in Tanzania span a range of sectors.

Zambia

South Africa has established a deep mutual bond with Zambia, as evidenced by existing bilateral agreements and an annual increase in trade and investment flow between the two countries.

A senior officials meeting was held in February 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia, to lay the grounds for both ministerial and state visits.

In May 2007, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique agreed on sharing the tourism spin-offs of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, through "border free" tourism packages.

In September 2007, the Zambian Government entered into talks with South Africa's Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to look at how best the two countries can promote tourism ahead of the 2010 World Cup.

Uganda

Official diplomatic relations between South Africa and Uganda were established in 1994. In July 2007, Cabinet approved the deployment of five SANDF members to be part of the AU mission in northern Uganda as military observers until March 2008.

Kenya

Kenya underwent the APRM process in 2006. In July 2007, Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka addressed the Young Women Christian Association in Nairobi on the impact of HIV and

AIDS on African women. She was participating in her capacity as chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council, which promotes the vision of an HIV- and AIDS-free Africa.

While in Kenya, the deputy president officially launched the South African Broadcasting Corporation's East Africa Bureau.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe celebrated 27 years of independence on 18 April 2007.

Besides their geographical proximity, South Africa and Zimbabwe also have a common and long history of regional affiliation and cultural ties. The people of Zimbabwe also played an important role in supporting the liberation struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Zimbabwe is experiencing political instability owing to the lack of progress in resolving political challenges between the Movement for Democratic Change and the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front. Continuous isolation from Western countries is consistently exacerbating Zimbabwe's socio-economic and political challenges.

South Africa's engagement in Zimbabwe, within the AU and SADC context, is largely focused on encouraging an all-inclusive "party-to-party" dialogue between the main political role-players and encouraging them to find a home-grown solution as a basis for the challenges facing the country.

The relationship at government-to-government level between South Africa and Zimbabwe is cordial. At the close of the two-day extraordinary summit in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, in March 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the

SADC mandated President Mbeki to spearhead the promotion of dialogue among political parties in Zimbabwe.

Ethiopia

Bilateral economic relations with Ethiopia were revived in 1995 when South Africa opened an embassy in Addis Ababa. The SANDF has been deployed in Ethiopia in support of the AU PSC.

Development co-operation

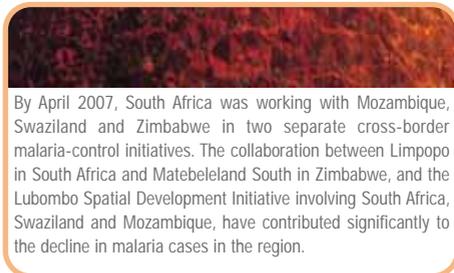
South Africa is not a donor country, but development co-operation with countries in Africa is integral to the country's foreign policy. Assistance is wide-ranging and includes educational visits by agriculturists, establishing viable training centres, conserving the environment, rendering medical assistance, and technology-exchange programmes. Technical and financial assistance aimed at 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

South Africa'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.

The SADC provides 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 SADC is a critical vehicle for developing the southern African region. South Africa has been engaged in restructuring the SADC to enable it to execute evolving AU mandates and to respond to changing development challenges. Considerable work has gone into establishing new institutions and reviewing existing ones.



By April 2007, South Africa was working with Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe in two separate cross-border malaria-control initiatives. The collaboration between Limpopo in South Africa and Matebeleland South in Zimbabwe, and the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative involving South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique, have contributed significantly to the decline in malaria cases in the region.



One of the organ's main functions is to ensure that regional peace and security arrangements are linked to continental arrangements.

The SADC is South Africa's major trading partner after the European Union (EU). The value of South Africa's agricultural trade has grown by 44% over the past six years since the implementation of the free trade area (FTA).

Southern African Development Community Trade Protocol

The SADC Protocol on Trade entered into force on 25 January 2000. Its objectives are to further liberalise intraregional trade in goods and services, on the basis of fair, mutually equitable and beneficial trade arrangements; to ensure efficient production within the SADC, reflecting the current and dynamic comparative advantages of its members; to contribute to the improvement of a climate for domestic, cross-border and foreign direct investment (FDI); to enhance the economic development, diversification and industrialisation of the region; and to 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 by 2008.

Relations with central Africa

South Africa continued to strengthen its bilateral relations with the countries in the central African region during 2006/07. The embassies in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea are fully staffed and officials represent South Africa in Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe. An honorary consul has been appointed in the Central African Republic (CAR) to assist with South Africa's programmes in that country.

Gabon

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Gabon were established in 1992. A legal framework was created through the signing of a co-operation agreement, and further agreements were signed during the State Visit of President Mbeki to Gabon in August 2005.

A co-operation agreement on defence was signed in August 2006, bringing the number of bilateral agreements between the two countries to 10.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Diplomatic relations between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa were established in May

1994. By mid-2007, South Africa operated a satellite office in São Tomé and Príncipe under the accreditation of the embassy in Libreville, Gabon.

A general co-operation agreement between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa was signed in 2005 during the visit of Minister Dlamini Zuma to that country. Among other things, the agreement provides for the provision of technical assistance to members of the Public Service of that country.

Congo

South Africa opened an embassy in Brazzaville in Congo in 2005. President Mbeki visited Congo at the end of 2005, during which several agreements were signed.

Equatorial Guinea

Full diplomatic relations between Equatorial Guinea and South Africa were established in May 1993. The two countries have since signed three bilateral agreements. By mid-2007, plans were under way to establish a JCC. The South African oil company, Petro-SA, is involved in oil-exploration activities in that country.

Cameroon

During 2006, South Africa and Cameroon signed a general co-operation agreement, a trade agreement and an MoU on economic co-operation.

These agreements set the framework for the strengthening of relations and business activity between the two countries.

With its population of over 16 million, infrastructure, economy, strategic location on the Gulf of Guinea and its membership of both the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, Cameroon can be regarded as a stabilising factor in the central African region.

It exports agricultural products to its neighbours and plays a role as outlet to the sea to its landlocked neighbours of Chad and the CAR. Cameroon is an active participant in the PAP and Nepad and is an important member of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

In May 2007, South Africa sent a team of six pathologists to Douala, Cameroon, to help identify victims of a Kenya Airlines crash that killed 114 passengers and crew members. The pathologists assisted the Cameroonian and Kenyan authorities with victim verification.

Central African Republic

In April 2006, President Mbeki invited his counterpart from the CAR, President Francois

Bozize, on a working visit to South Africa. During the visit, a framework co-operation agreement was signed, providing the basis for future co-operation.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, visited the CAR in May and December 2006 to further strengthen relations between the two countries. During a second working visit of President Bozize in February 2007, an MoU on defence co-operation was signed.

By mid-2007, the South African High Commissioner in Cameroon was responsible for relations with the CAR.

The economy of the CAR is in a poor state, after many years of internal political instability. The AU has appealed for assistance for the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community in the CAR, and for the restructuring of the armed forces of the Central African Army.

Financial and economic assistance from bilateral and multilateral partners will also be necessary to ensure that stability is maintained.

In 2006/07, the SANDF provided support to the CAR in repelling attacks from northern rebels seeking to overthrow the democratically elected government.

In September 2007, South Africa's Cabinet approved the deployment of 85 SANDF members to assist with the capacity-building of that country's defence force.

Chad

The new South African Embassy in Chad was expected to become fully functional during the course of 2007. The Chadian Government is planning to open an embassy in Pretoria in the near future.

There is an increasing flow of businesspeople between South Africa and Chad, and a delegation of senior government officials travelled to Chad in 2006 to discuss the implementation of the General Co-operation Agreement between the two countries.

By mid-2007, there was interaction between the two governments on the volatile situation in the east of Chad, where more than 200 000 refugees from the Darfur region of Sudan were being sheltered.

Rwanda

Full diplomatic relations were established between South Africa and Rwanda in May 1995. The two countries maintain good political relations. Their co-operation focuses on the post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda and has extended to the co-ordination of Nepad on the continent.

To further strengthen this bilateral structure, the Implementation Monitoring Committee has been established at director-general level to provide the necessary co-ordinating, planning and monitoring framework to manage effective implementation of approved programmes, and to ensure the delivery of cross-cutting training and human-resource (HR) capacity-building programmes.

In 2006, Rwanda underwent the APRM process.

Burundi

South Africa's good relations with Burundi are demonstrated by the leading role the Government played in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed by representatives of the main Hutu and Tutsi political parties, the Government of Burundi, and the National Assembly on 28 August 2000.

The agreement provided the foundation for the transition to democracy, peace and development in that country. South African diplomacy efforts, under the leadership of former President Nelson Mandela, were central in facilitating the Arusha Agreement. The pivotal point of the agreement was the political power-sharing between the Tutsis and the Hutus.

Burundi held its first democratic election since 1993 on 4 July 2005. The 21-member South African observer mission concluded that the elections were executed in a transparent manner.

South Africa's contribution towards the establishment of peace and stability in Burundi included the deployment of SANDF troops, with an African peace mission in Burundi, now recapped as the UN Operation in Burundi.

South Africa supported the election process financially by providing election material for the 2005 referendum and election.

In September 2006, President Mbeki attended the signing of a cease-fire agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Palepehutu-FNL.



South Africa has committed itself to working with the regional leadership, the Government and the people of Burundi, including the leadership of the Palephutu-FNL, in finding a long-lasting solution to their current challenges.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The DRC has made remarkable progress and presents real opportunities for intraregional economic co-operation, foreign direct investment (FDI) and sustained growth and development. However, cycles of conflict have severely undermined both African and foreign-investor confidence, further weakened indigenous economic development, and increased dependence on foreign loans and assistance.

South Africa is fully committed to continued engagement with the DRC, and to assisting the new democratically elected government with its consolidation of democracy, in line with its foreign-policy objectives. South Africa has also committed to providing ongoing assistance to the new Government to reform the DRC's economy, and is supporting measures to encourage a predictable and stable economic environment to unlock investment and trade opportunities between the two countries.

During 2006, South Africa rendered extensive support for the election process. It deployed a 108-person election observer mission in the DRC during the general and presidential elections in July 2006, and for the second round of the presidential election in October 2006. The Department of Foreign Affairs is continuing with a comprehensive capacity-building project for the DRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

By mid-2007, the Department of Public Service and Administration had completed the Public Service census in Kinshasa and was proceeding with the capturing of data from the Bandundu and Bas-Congo provinces. The department also runs an anti-corruption project for the DRC's public officials.

The presidential BNC between South Africa and the DRC provides a legal framework to manage the numerous post-conflict reconstruction and development projects in that country.

In June 2007, President Mbeki hosted his counterpart from the DRC, President Joseph Kabila, for bilateral talks. Presidents Mbeki and Kabila co-chaired the fourth session of the South Africa-DRC BNC, held in Kinshasa on 21 August 2007.

Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa

During 2006/07, South Africa expanded and consolidated its bilateral relations with the region.

The following key performance areas were achieved in the region:

- promoting the African Agenda in North Africa
- strengthening AU structures in the region
- contributing towards peace, stability, security and democracy in North Africa
- consolidating and enhancing strategic and structured bilateral relationships with the countries of North Africa
- economic diplomacy and tourism promotion
- promoting public diplomacy
- promoting South-South and North-South agendas.

Algeria

Algeria remains South Africa's strategic partner in North Africa. Synergy at the executive level in terms of the AU and Nepad has resulted in a presidential BNC. Bilateral trade and economic links have developed steadily. South Africa's economic reach to Algeria includes possible involvement in the energy (hydrocarbons) sector.

South Africa has continued its co-operation with three important AU institutions based in Algiers, namely the Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the African Energy Commission and the Pan-African Youth Union.

Bilateral trade between the two countries amounted to R1,1 billion in 2006. South African exports to Algeria totalled R1,1 billion, while imports from Algeria amounted to R7,9 million.

Since the establishment of the presidential BNC in 1998, 24 co-operation agreements have been signed. By mid-2007, a solid legal framework existed and additional agreements were being negotiated.

In 2006, Algeria underwent the APRM process. In July 2007, Algeria hosted the ninth All Africa Games.

The third meeting of the Algeria-South Africa Joint Committee on Science and Technology took place in February 2007.

During the visit, concrete progress was recorded in the co-operation areas of microsatellite applications, radiation sciences, laser technology, agriculture and poverty alleviation.

Côte d'Ivoire

South Africa established full diplomatic relations with Côte d'Ivoire in May 1992. Given its firm commitment to the African Renaissance and its attendant features of stability, democratisation and development on the continent, South Africa will continue to promote the restoration of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

In this regard, South Africa's mediation efforts, under the auspices of the AU, culminated in the signing of the Pretoria Agreement in April 2005.

South Africa continues to support peace efforts in Côte d'Ivoire. The South African Government welcomed the "flame of peace" ceremony, held in July 2007 to officially launch the disarmament process by setting fire to weapons handed over by rebels. A brigade of the 37th Battalion in Yamassoukro was named after President Mbeki, to mark the role played by South Africa in general, and the president in particular, in bringing about a resolution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

Egypt

South Africa and Egypt continue to enjoy cordial bilateral relations. In 2006/07, the following significant developments took place:

- Petro SA was awarded an oil-exploration permit in the Suez basin.
- The mid-term review by senior officials of the JBC was held in November 2006 in South Africa. This review confirmed the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries.
- South Africa and Egypt co-ordinated their positions in International Atomic Energy Agency meetings on non-proliferation in the Middle East.
- Regular sport and cultural exchanges.

Sudan

President Mbeki paid a working visit to Khartoum and Juba in Sudan in April 2007.

His discussions with his Sudanese counterpart, President Omar el-Bashir, and First Vice President, Mr Salva Kiir, took place within the context of South Africa's priority to encourage the full implementation of the AU-United Nations (UN) agreement on the hybrid force for Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and the South.

In August 2007, the UN and AU convened Darfur peace talks in Arusha, Tanzania.

Morocco

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Morocco remain cordial, but are influenced by South Africa's recognition of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which took place in 2004, as well as South Africa's principled stand on

the issues of decolonisation and self-determination in relation to the illegal occupation of Western Sahara.

Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic

The issue of the illegal occupation of Western Sahara remains a foreign-policy priority for South Africa, especially in terms of the sanctity of colonial borders and the recognition of the Saharawi people's right to self-determination. The following developments are relevant:

- To strengthen international co-operation, South Africa attended the International Conference of Solidarity with the Saharawi People on the occasion of the commemoration of the 31st anniversary of the proclamation of the SADR, held in Tifariti from 24 February to 1 March 2007. Officials also participated in the 32nd annual European Conference for Co-ordinating Support for the Saharawi People, held in Spain in November 2006.
- In July 2006, the South African Government hosted Aminatou Haidar, renowned Saharawi human-rights activist. In November 2006, the Department of Foreign Affairs also co-hosted a human-rights seminar on the situation in the illegally occupied territory of Western Sahara in co-operation with the South African Human Rights Commission.
- In July 2006, the department hosted the Saharawi Minister and Chief Negotiator, Mr Mohamed Khadad, and the Minister for International Co-operation, Mr Salek Baba. Mr Khadad again visited South Africa at the end of 2006 to conduct political consultations.
- The department facilitated and continued its humanitarian-assistance funding for the SADR through the African Renaissance Fund.

Mauritania

During 2006/07, South Africa expanded the bilateral legal framework between the two countries and supported the implementation of the democratic roadmap undertaken by the military transitional government following the coup d'état of August 2005.

South Africa also supported the lifting of the AU suspension of the country on 10 April 2007. In this



regard, South Africa participated in the constitutional referendum in June 2006, legislative and municipal elections in December 2006 and presidential elections in March 2007, as part of the AU Observer Mission for Mauritania.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania opened a resident diplomatic mission in South Africa during 2006.

Liberia

Africa's first female head of state, Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, was inaugurated in Monrovia on 16 January 2006.

In March 2007, Cabinet approved a request from the African Development Bank (ADB) for South Africa to contribute to clearing Liberia's unpaid debt to the bank. The Liberian economy deteriorated following the civil war in 1989. However, since the election of President Johnson-Sirleaf, the economy has shown signs of recovery, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5,3% in 2005 and a projected growth of 7,7% in 2006/07.

South Africa was expected to provide US\$3,6 million (about R26,28 million), amounting to 6,25% of the amount requested from bilateral donors, as the country's contribution to the clearance of Liberia's unpaid debt to the ADB.

Nigeria

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria were established in 1994.

The two countries maintain good bilateral relations. The BNC, established in 1999, provides a framework through which these relations are solidified. The two countries have signed bilateral agreements in the following areas: trade, minerals and energy, agriculture, education, defence, police matters, arts and culture, science and technology, transport, sports and recreation, health, public enterprises, immigration, communications and justice.

Nigeria is one of South Africa's largest trading partners on the African continent. In May 2007, President Mbeki attended the inauguration of President Umaru Yar'Adua.

Ghana

Diplomatic relations were established between Ghana and South Africa in 1994.

South Africa and Ghana maintain good bilateral relations. President Mbeki visited Accra on 6 March 2007 to participate in celebrations marking Ghana's 50th anniversary of independence. This is of particular significance as Ghana was the first

sub-Saharan country on the continent to gain its independence.

South Africa and Ghana have agreements in the following areas: mining, defence, taxation, investment and aviation. A number of technical exchanges took place between South Africa and Ghana in 2006, including in the fields of defence and aviation.

In April 2007, Ghana's Vice-President, Mr Alhaji Aliu Mahama, visited South Africa on official business. He paid a courtesy visit to his South Africa counterpart, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka.

In May 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma and her counterpart, Ms Nana Addo Dakwa Akufo-Addo, co-chaired the inaugural session of the Permanent JCC in Pretoria. The meeting followed a bilateral meeting between presidents Mbeki and Kufuor in Pretoria in May 2007.

Burkina Faso

South Africa and Burkina Faso established non-resident diplomatic relations in May 1995. In 2006, South Africa established a diplomatic mission in Burkina Faso.

Although Burkina Faso has limited exploitable resources, opportunities exist for South African mining companies to mine gold, zinc and manganese. Since agriculture is the dominant industry, opportunities exist for the trade of various agricultural products. Spornet is one of the few large South African companies involved in Burkina Faso. Trade between the two countries is limited. In terms of total trade with South Africa, Burkina Faso is South Africa's 11th-largest partner in the West African region.

In April 2007, Dr Dlamini Zuma hosted the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Co-operation, Mr Youssef Ouedraogo, for bilateral political and economic discussions.

They signed the agreement to establish the South Africa-Burkina Faso JCC. They also welcomed the decision of both governments to open diplomatic missions in their respective capitals. Burkina Faso is the current chair of the Ecowas and helped broker the Ivorian Political Accord in Ouagadougou in March 2007.

Benin

Diplomatic relations were established between Benin and South Africa in May 1994. South Africa and Benin maintain good bilateral relations. The two countries signed a general co-operation agreement in October 2003. They have, among other things,

identified the following areas of co-operation: agriculture, arts and culture, and justice.

President Mbeki visited Benin in March 2007 to further consolidate relations. An embassy was opened in Cotonou in February 2007. Benin opened an embassy in Pretoria in 1999.

Republic of Togo

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Togo were established in 1997. South Africa and Togo maintain good bilateral relations.

By mid-2007, economic relations were still limited. Phosphates comprise the bulk of South African imports from Togo. The South African Ambassador to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is accredited on a non-residential basis to Togo.

Cape Verde

South Africa and Cape Verde established diplomatic relations in 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.

The Gambia

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and The Gambia were established in August 1998. While South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is accredited to The Gambia as non-resident ambassador, the Gambian Ambassador to the AU in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa as this country's non-resident ambassador.

Guinea

Diplomatic relations were established with the Republic of Guinea in 1995. South Africa opened a diplomatic mission in Conakry in November 2005.

In March 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma held bilateral political and economic discussions with her counterpart from Guinea, Mr Mamadou Conte.

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 August 2007,

Prime Minister Martinho Dafa Cabi visited South Africa. South Africa has since decided to open an embassy in Guinea Bissau.

Mali

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

Mali is a strong supporter of the African Renaissance initiative and Nepad. In August 2002, the Agreement on 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.

South Africa is supporting a project aimed at improving the preservation of these ancient manuscripts. They vary in content from religious treatises and poems, to documentary letters dealing with legal and commercial matters, while others relate to slavery, mathematics, astronomy, medicine and history – all of them subjects of immense interest to scholars and the African population at large. Three major objectives of the project are to:

- implement a conservation programme to protect and improve environmental storage conditions for the manuscripts
- rebuild the Ahmed Baba Centre to one of international stature while ensuring its architectural harmony with ancient Timbuktu
- promote academic study and public awareness of the magnificent and ancient African and Islamic heritage at Timbuktu.

The two countries are committed to promoting democracy and good governance, and there is substantial South African involvement in the Malian gold-mining sector. AngloGold and Randgold run operations in Mali. The first session of the South Africa-Mali JCC took place in Pretoria in August 2004.

Senegal

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Senegal were established in May 1994 and the two

countries' representative offices were upgraded to embassy level. Bilateral relations between South Africa and Senegal are based mainly on the Senegalese Government's strong support for the African Renaissance initiative and Nepad, and its strong commitment to promoting democracy and good governance.

In March 2007, President Mbeki congratulated President Abdoulaye Wade on his successful re-election as the President of Senegal, during the presidential elections held in February 2007.

Tunisia

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Tunisia are characterised by a substantial reservoir of goodwill towards expanding relations, including closer economic and trade ties. During 2006/07, the following developments were noted:

- The inaugural Joint Military Committee between South Africa and Tunisia was conducted in Cape Town.
- A Tunisian ophthalmology team visited South Africa and rendered voluntary eye-care treatments to communities in the Eastern Cape.
- The fourth session of the South Africa-Tunisia Business Forum took place in Pretoria in May 2006. The Tunisian Minister of Trade and Handicrafts, Mr Slaheddine Makhoul, held discussions with the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Mandisi Mphahlele.
- In October 2006, South Africa's first lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, visited Tunisia to investigate the country's successful poverty-alleviation programmes.

Libya

Bilateral relations between Libya and South Africa remain cordial. During 2006/07, the following significant developments occurred:

- Libya's Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Abd-al-Rahman Mohamed Shalgham, visited South Africa in November 2006. The JBC between the two countries has been elevated to the level of deputy president.
- President Mbeki received special envoys from Libya pertaining to African and AU issues.

Sierra Leone

South Africa and Sierra Leone established diplomatic relations in 1998. The South African Ambassador in Côte d'Ivoire was accredited to Sierra Leone in December 2002.

Although the country remains poor, various accomplishments towards promoting democracy

and development have been achieved. In September 2007, President Mbeki congratulated President Ernest Bai Koroma on his successful election as the President of Sierra Leone.

Niger

Diplomatic relations were established between Niger and South Africa in May 1994. South Africa and Niger maintain good bilateral relations.

In July 2006, President Mbeki paid a state visit to Niamey, during which various fields of co-operation were identified, such as agriculture, mining and transport. Priority projects will be in the fields of milk pasteurisation and meat production.

Ms Aichatou Mindaoudou, Niger's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and African Integration, paid an official visit to South Africa in April 2007. During their discussions they reviewed the state of bilateral relations; and regional, African and international issues.

South Africa is represented in Niger on a non-residential basis by its ambassador in Côte d'Ivoire. Niger is represented in South Africa by its ambassador in Ethiopia.

Relations with Asia and the Middle East Asia and Australasia

East Asia

South Africa's bilateral relationship with Japan has expanded across a wide spectrum and is strengthened with regular interaction between the two countries under the auspices of the bilateral Partnership Forum.

The forum was upgraded to the level of ministers of foreign affairs at the end of 2006, when Minister Dlamini Zuma paid an official visit to Japan at the invitation of Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Taro Aso.

The Partnership Forum provides a framework within which both countries are able to continuously work towards strengthening, developing and broadening relations to the mutual benefit of both countries. Discussions are held over a wide spectrum of areas.

The exchanges in the fields of science and technology constitute a priority bilateral sector and are aimed at extending such initiatives to the benefit of the region at large.

A first exploratory meeting between South African and Japanese universities was expected to be held in 2007 at the University of Hiroshima, with a view to formally establishing the Japan-South Africa University Forum in 2008.

The Government of Japan has provided substantial assistance to the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) and the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (Jipsa). Japan established the Japanese Jipsa Working Group in Tokyo in December 2006, which mobilises Japanese stakeholders from across the spectrum (public, private and civil-society institutions) to assist with HR capacity-building.

Japan became South Africa's number-one export partner in 2005, followed by the United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and Germany. It is South Africa's fourth-largest import partner after Germany, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the USA. In the past decade, South Africa has consolidated its position as Japan's most important trading partner in Africa. Exports to Japan increased since 1992 from R4 billion to about R41,3 billion by the end of 2006, while imports from Japan in same period increased from R5 billion to R30,2 billion.

South Africa exports primary products such as base metals, agricultural products and manufactured goods to Japan while importing technology-intensive goods from Japan.

Two of the major Japanese automotive assemblers produce selected models in South Africa for world supply. The increase in production of vehicle exports from South Africa has encouraged further opportunities for investment in the automotive component sector. The Japan-South Africa Business Forum was created to facilitate business relations between the respective countries and meets biannually.

The Koreans

Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka visited the Republic of Korea (South Korea) in May 2007 at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr Han Duck Soo. The visit aimed to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries and to engage the Republic of Korea on AsgiSA and Jipsa and the contribution they can make to these programmes.

An extradition agreement and an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters co-operation were signed. South Korea is South Africa's fourth-largest trading partner in Asia and South Africa is Korea's largest trading partner in Africa.

Cultural and tourism links between the two countries are also becoming stronger. The number of Koreans studying in South Africa has increased significantly in the past decade. Each year, many Korean students travel to South Africa as an alternative destination for English-language training.

Relations between South Africa and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) are cordial. In March 2007, the two countries celebrated five years of the establishment of diplomatic relations. By mid-2007, conclusion of agreements on sport and culture between the two countries was under consideration.

Greater China

South Africa's bilateral relations with the PRC aim at advancing South Africa's bilateral, regional, trilateral and multilateral agendas. South Africa and the PRC share many of the same social and developmental challenges, including those induced by globalisation and historic inequity.

South Africa adopted the "One China" Policy in December 1997 and full diplomatic relations with the PRC in January 1998. Emphasising the strategic importance of these relations was the signing of the Pretoria Declaration on Partnership in April 2000 and the Programme for Deepening Strategic Partnership in June 2006. A BNC was established in 2002, the third session of which was scheduled to be held in Beijing during 2007.

During November 2006, President Mbeki concluded a state visit to the PRC.

Premier Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao visited South Africa in June 2006 and February 2007, respectively. At the conclusion of his visit, President Hu Jintao announced support for South Africa's AsgiSA and Jipsa by donating funds for setting up a vocational and an agricultural technology co-operation centre.

On 20 May 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma held a bilateral meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Minister Yang Jiechi, in Beijing.

In September 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka visited the PRC.

South Africa is China's key trade partner in Africa, accounting for nearly 21% of the total volume of China-Africa trade. In 2006, South



African exports amounted to nearly R14,02 billion, with imports reaching R46,72 billion. In 2006, China became South Africa's second-largest import trading partner, and sixth-largest export partner. Total trade between South Africa and the Greater China region (PRC, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) reached a massive R80,52 billion during 2006. South African exports in 2006 amounted to R23,54 billion, while South African imports from the region amounted to R56,98 billion.

The Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) was initiated in October 2000 as the chief instrument of engagement between the PRC and Africa. In January 2006, the PRC released a policy document on Africa that clearly spelled out its policy of engagement with Africa. In the November 2006 FOCAC Beijing Declaration, the PRC and Africa committed themselves to handle issues and challenges that may arise in the course of co-operation through friendly consultation in keeping with the China-Africa friendship and the long-term interests of the two sides.

China and Africa adopted the sector-specific Beijing Action Plan (2007 – 2009), based on the shared imperative to “promote friendship, peace, co-operation and development”, and to “advance the new type of strategic partnership between China and Africa” in keeping with the FOCAC Beijing Declaration.

President Hu Jintao announced that the PRC would, among other things, in the next three years:

- double its 2006 development assistance to Africa
- provide preferential credit to Africa worth US\$5 billion over the next three years
- establish a US\$5-billion development fund to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa
- cancel all interest-free government debt owed to the PRC by Africa's highly indebted countries and LDCs that have diplomatic relations with China
- radically open up the Chinese market to products from Africa's LDCs by removing all tariffs on 440 products, helping to train at least 15 000 African professionals, providing general scholarships for 4 000 African students to study in China, building rural schools in Africa, deploying agricultural experts in Africa and opening special agricultural technology centres in Africa.

Trade between the PRC and Africa reached \$55,5 billion in 2006, representing an increase of 40% year on year.

The PRC exported US\$26,7 billion to Africa, an increase of 43% over the previous year, while the PRC imported goods worth US\$28,8 billion from Africa, up 37%.

According to trade analysts, trade between China and Africa could reach US\$110 billion in the near future. The PRC is now Africa's third-largest commercial partner after the USA and France, and second-largest exporter to Africa after France.

Despite the absence of diplomatic relations, South Africa and Taiwan maintain vibrant trade, scientific, cultural and other relations, with representative offices in the respective capitals. Taiwanese investors in South Africa continue to enjoy full protection under South African law, and all the other benefits extended to foreign investors. Taiwan has 600 companies active in the South African economy, employing about 45 000 people.

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

South Africa and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1994. In April 2007, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad, hosted a senior Sri Lankan delegation in Pretoria for discussions aimed at sharing South Africa's constitutional experiences. The Sri Lankan delegation comprised the Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare, Mr Douglas Devananda, and the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Veerasingham Anandasangaree.

Deputy Minister Pahad hosted this delegation within the framework of South Africa's Road Map of Engagement with the broad leadership of Sri Lanka, with a view to address conflict resolution in that country. The Road Map aims to support the Norwegian-led facilitation team to promote dialogue and seek ways to return to peace negotiations.

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, established in 2004, remains of strategic importance to all three countries as a powerful global forum to drive South-South co-operation, the agenda of the South, and to champion the needs of the developing world.

The fourth meeting of the trilateral commission of the IBSA Dialogue Forum took place in July 2007 in New Delhi. Minister Dlamini Zuma also held bilateral talks with her Indian and Brazilian counterparts. The second IBSA Summit took place in October 2007.

In August 2007, President Mbeki addressed the India Calling 2007: India-South Africa Business Conclave in Johannesburg. The conclave aimed to promote the two countries as attractive investment destinations and highlight unlimited business opportunities in both countries.

India is among the top-10 investing countries in South Africa, with investment estimated at R10 billion.

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Pakistan were established in April 1994. A letter of understanding, establishing a joint commission (JC) between the two countries, was signed in 1999. The lifting of the Commonwealth suspensions that had been imposed on Pakistan paved the way for the normalisation of South Africa's relations with that country, and created the opportunity to engage on issues of mutual interest.

The first session of the South Africa-Pakistan Bilateral JC was held in Islamabad in March 2007.

Several South African and Indian businesses belong to the Indo-South Africa CEOs Business Forum that was established in 2004 to help stimulate trade and investment between the two countries.

The existence of opportunities for closer co-operation between South Africa and India have been identified in the capital equipment; agro-processed products; autos and components; services; information and communications technology (ICT), science and technology; health; and small, medium and micro-enterprise (SMME) sectors.

South-east Asia

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) has emerged as one of the most important groupings within the Asia Pacific region. South Africa maintains embassies and high commissions in six of the 10 member states of Asean –

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. These Asean states and Myanmar (Burma) also maintain embassies and high commissions in South Africa.

In April 2007, President Mbeki hosted his Singaporean counterpart, President Sellapan Ramanathan, the first Singaporean Head of State on a state visit to South Africa.

Singapore is an important member of the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) of which South Africa is a member. Singapore has also played a leading role in formulating the NAASP. This partnership mandated all Asian and African countries to give expression to their political relations by expanding trade and economic relations.

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.

President Mbeki paid a state visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, in May 2007; the first since 1994.

South Africa believes that there is large potential for economic relations and especially for the private sector to take up business opportunities in Vietnam. There are many long-term trade and investment opportunities for South African companies in that country. Economic relations with Malaysia and Indonesia remain important, due to Malaysian investment in South Africa and the size of the Indonesian market.

Malaysia has indicated its support for Nepal 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.

Central Asia

The economies of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are all at various stages of change and development. Furthermore, all five are developing states and, like South Africa, seek investment.

Economic opportunities for South Africa in the Central Asian states include infrastructure development, mining technology, energy exploitation and related mining and engineering technology, agroprocessing expertise and exports,



Ms Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress and leader of the ruling Indian Congress Alliance, visited South Africa for a two-day working visit in August 2007. Ms Gandhi was accompanied by the Indian Minister of State, Mr Anand Sharma.

She visited South Africa as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen and consolidate political, economic, trade and cultural relations between the peoples of South Africa and India.

water-management expertise, and infrastructure for adventure and ecotourism.

Australasia and the Pacific islands

South Africa and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1947 and enjoy 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 a sports boycott against South Africa.

New Zealand maintains a high commission in Pretoria, while the High Commission in Canberra represents South Africa in New Zealand.

Since 1994, political, economic and social links between the two countries have improved significantly. In 1996, the Cape Town Communique was signed, seeking to strengthen co-operation between South Africa and New Zealand.

The political relationship has been further strengthened through visits by numerous high-level delegations to New Zealand to gain expertise in their different fields and to 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 enhance 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 World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Cairns Group.

South Africa and New Zealand also work closely on Commonwealth issues, particularly those affecting Africa. The South African Government wants to strengthen relations with the Pacific islands. The roving Ambassador to the Pacific islands has been accredited to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Fiji islands and the Solomon Islands.

The High Commissioner in Canberra, Australia, has been accredited to the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the Independent State of Samoa.

The Middle East

In the Middle East, the Department of Foreign Affairs distinguishes between two clearly

identifiable subregions. On the one hand, there is the Levant, which comprises Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria; and on the other is the Arabian/Persian Gulf Region, comprising 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 tricontinental 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. More than 7 000 South Africans embark on the Hajj pilgrimage each year.

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 continued to call on all parties to the conflict in Israel and Palestine to avoid 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.

In January 2007, Deputy Minister Pahad hosted his Syrian counterpart, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Faisal Mikdad, in Pretoria for discussions.

In May 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka attended a meeting with ambassadors of the Gulf states.

The meeting discussed, among other things, second-economy interventions, AsgISA, Jipsa, and related trade and investment opportunities.

In March 2007, Deputy Minister Pahad visited Qatar and Iran.

In Iran, Mr Pahad led a senior South African delegation to the seventh IOR Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC) Ministerial Meeting. The IOR-ARC is a multilateral organisation comprising countries that share a shoreline along the Indian Ocean. It was launched in March 1997 in Mauritius to focus mainly on trade-related issues. The shared identity of a common historical experience of colonialism and imperialism also contributed to bringing together the leaders of states in the Indian Ocean region.

South Africa was one of the founding members of the IOR-ARC. The organisation is based on the principle of open regionalism, which is a flexible arrangement that compares very favourably with other regional arrangements such as preferential trade agreements, FTAs, customs unions and common markets. With several IOR-ARC member states sharing participation in other regional initiatives, the IOR-ARC plays an important role as a building block for promoting south-south co-operation and complementing African-Asian regional integration.

IOR-ARC member states include Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE and Yemen.

The Dialogue Partners (China, Japan, France, Egypt and the International Tourist Organisation) committed themselves to supporting the implementation of the association's priority programmes. The meeting also agreed to set up a special trust from which funds will be disbursed to various approved projects as grants, to push back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment for the peoples of the member states.

In March 2007, President Mbeki visited Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

While in Riyadh, President Mbeki met King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to discuss, among other things, the status of bilateral, political and economic relations between the two countries.

The Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion Agreement was signed between South Africa and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is a major supplier of crude oil to South Africa and has indicated a keen interest to invest in this country.

Relations with the Americas United States of America

The USA has been the largest single foreign investor in the South African economy since 1994, one of the largest single country trading partners, and the largest donor of official development assistance.

South Africa has, in the past two years, been the top recipient of development assistance from among the 27 African countries supported by the USA Agency for International Development. Support for Nepal within the US Administration, Congress and the business sector, with particular focus on implementing infrastructure-development projects, remains a high priority.

Regarding military-to-military co-operation, South Africa and the USA continues bilateral interaction on the topic of military medicine research within the Phidisa Programme (a clinical research project focused on the management and treatment of HIV-infection in the uniformed members of the SANDF) and the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance Programme, which is aimed at enhancing South Africa's peacekeeping and humanitarian-assistance intervention capabilities.

In 2006/07, emphasis was placed on achieving enhanced capacity, and creating the necessary mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of such ability throughout Africa.

The Sacu/US FTA negotiations encourage US support for economic development and co-operation, and also support the implementation of Nepal. A trade deputies meeting held in April 2006 decided that the comprehensive FTA would remain an objective in the long term, but that both parties would develop a joint work programme to address a broad range of FTA and other trade- and investment-related issues. Potentially in the near term, it will seek to conclude concrete trade- and investment-enhancing agreements. Such a framework (Trade and Investment Co-operation Agreement [TICA]) will establish the basis and form the building blocks for pursuing the FTA over the longer term.

In 2006/07, local capacity-building for research and effective delivery in the continuing battle against communicable diseases through the US Presidential Emergency Programme for AIDS

(PEPFAR) received a boost. Under the PEPFAR, Africa received more than US\$1 billion to fight the disease, of which South Africa obtained more than US\$220 million in 2006.

Various high-level meetings took place, such as the meeting between presidents Mbeki and George W Bush in Washington in December 2006.

The two presidents discussed:

- the status of bilateral political and economic relations between both countries
- conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa
- multilateral co-operation, including developments in the WTO negotiations and South Africa's accession to the non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

In January 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma visited Washington where she held discussions with her counterpart, Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice.

Canada

In January 2006, a new minority Conservative government, under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, was elected to power. A priority for 2006/07 became engaging with Canada under this new leadership. Achievements were registered on various fronts.

In May 2006, the third annual consultations between South Africa and Canada took place at senior officials' level in Pretoria. It featured a broader agenda from previous interactions.

The year produced significant investment outcomes with the announcement of major Canadian direct investment in the Gautrain by McCain Plant and Alcan totalling R27 billion.

The two countries have signed a bilateral Overseas Development Assistance Treaty, facilitating the transfer of development assistance from Canada to South Africa.

Two project implementation plans are under way, releasing R50 million each to the South African Management Development Institute and the Department of Health for capacity-building programmes.

The Caribbean

South Africa's relations with the independent member states of the Caribbean community were further strengthened and expanded during 2006/07. South Africa opened a high commission in Port-of-Spain and Trinidad and Tobago in early 2007.

Together with the High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica, these two missions now maintain

responsibility for Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The mission in Havana, Cuba, is also responsible for relations with the Dominican Republic.

In formulating South Africa's policy in relation to the emerging markets of the Caribbean, it is important to strengthen relations and develop common positions on global issues such as access to the markets of the industrial North, reform of international institutions and the promotion of the development agenda.

The South African Government will increase its focus on strengthening relations with the Caribbean region in future.

Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Suriname have diplomatic missions in South Africa.

In August 2007, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, represented South Africa at the African Diaspora Global Conference, held in Barbados. Among other things, the conference sought to strengthen bonds of friendship and affinity among and between the people of the African continent, the Caribbean region and the world.

The conference set the tone for the AU Global Diaspora Conference held in November 2007 and ultimately an AU Global Diaspora Summit to be held in early 2008.

South Africa signed a bilateral co-operation agreement with the Bahamas in May 2005, and the first JBC met in September 2005. It focused on co-operation in agriculture, arts and culture, education and health. The next JBC was expected to be held in South Africa in 2007. The fifth Joint Consultative Mechanism between Cuba and South Africa was held in Cuba in July 2007.

In October 2006, the Secretary for External Relations of the Dominican Republic, Minister Carlos Morales Troncoso, visited South Africa and held bilateral talks with his South African counterpart, Dr Dlamini Zuma.

They signed a declaration of intent in which they stated their intention to undertake consultations, joint actions and projections on issues of common interest. During the visit, Minister Morales Troncoso also announced his country's decision to open a diplomatic mission in South Africa in 2007.

In September 2007, South Africa and Cuba signed an agreement of co-operation in the areas of:

- training of social workers and community development workers

- expanded public works programmes, with an emphasis on youth-employment creation in the early childhood development and care sectors.

Latin America

The South American community of nations covers 17 million square kilometres, with 361 million inhabitants, a GDP of more than US\$973 billion and exports of more than US\$180 billion. The developing countries in Central America and the Andean Community are playing an increasingly important role in international political bodies and formations such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the UN.

In November 2006, President Mbeki and a South African delegation participated in the first-ever Africa-South American Summit, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria. The summit provided an opportunity for the two continents to meet for the first time to discuss issues of mutual importance.

There is also significant potential for co-operation with the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) trading bloc, which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela as full members, and a steadily increasing number of associate members in the Latin American region. A partial preferential trade agreement with Mercosur was signed in December 2004. Negotiations towards a full FTA continue.

Brazil remains a significant player in the multilateral context, particularly regarding the interests of the South. With its like-minded approach to a number of significant issues affecting the developing world, it is a strategic partner for South Africa.

In the bilateral sphere, a broad range of contacts and exchanges exist between Brazil and South Africa. The IBSA Dialogue Forum also provides a multilateral mechanism for institutionalised engagement. In this context, South-South co-operation was boosted by President Mbeki's attendance of the IBSA Summit in Brasilia in July 2006.

South Africa attaches great importance to its relations with other like-minded countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America such as Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, and to pursuing increased co-operation in a number of fields.

A range of technical and commercial agreements are either in place or being negotiated with several of the countries in the region. In addition, the inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Argentine JC took place in Pretoria in February 2007, co-chaired by Minister Dlamini Zuma and her Argentine counterpart, Mr Jorge Taiana. The JC with Brazil was expected to take place during 2007, as was the JC Mechanism with Chile.

South Africa's first lady, Mrs Mbeki, led a delegation to Chile in 2006 to study poverty-reduction programmes. Official and study visits to countries of the Southern Cone by ministers and officials are ongoing. In the sphere of defence, the navies of several Southern Cone countries and South Africa also participated in the Atlasur joint naval exercises, contributing to closer institutional ties.

In June 2006, Colombia's former Foreign Affairs Minister, Ms Carolina Barco, visited South Africa for bilateral economic and political discussions with Dr Dlamini Zuma. Bilateral trade flow between Colombia and South Africa is constant with the balance in favour of South Africa. SABMiller, Anglo American, Anglo Coal and AngloGold Ashanti are among the South African companies operating in Colombia.

Following a visit from President Evo Morales from Bolivia to South Africa in January 2006, a high-level South African delegation visited that country in July 2006 to explore ways of furthering bilateral relations.

An MoU on the establishment of a consultative mechanism was also signed. The inaugural meeting of this mechanism was expected to take place in 2007, to coincide with the opening of a Bolivian diplomatic mission in South Africa. The Vice President of Bolivia, Prof Alvaro Garcia Linera, visited South Africa in April 2007.

On 11 April 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka hosted her Bolivian counterpart, Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera, for bilateral political and economic discussions.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Venezuela have also been placed on a stronger footing.

South Africa hosted a delegation of the *Movimiento al Socialismo*, the majority party in the Bolivian Assembly, in May 2007. The Bolivian



delegation's visit was in response to the South African Government's offer to Vice President Linera, during his visit in April 2007, to assist the Bolivians with institution-building and the process of drafting their Constitution.

In July 2007, Deputy Minister Pahad headed a South African delegation to Mexico for bilateral political, economic and trade discussions. They also visited Panama.

Relations with Europe European Union

The EU accounts for almost 40% of South Africa's imports and exports. In 2006 alone, the EU's FDI into South Africa amounted to R4,6 billion.

In October 2007, South Africa signed an agreement that will see it receiving almost R10 billion in development aid from the EU over the next seven years. The EU is the world's largest trading bloc – generating about 30% of global GDP and 20% of global trade flows – and is also the world's biggest donor to poor countries, contributing approximately half of global aid. The EU is also South Africa's largest development-aid partner, having allocated R1,5 billion since 1994.

The Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), which was signed in 1999 and provisionally came into force in January 2000, governs South Africa's relations with the EU. The agreement would be reviewed within five years of entering into force, to address the possible implications of other arrangements or events that may affect the agreement.

The preliminary discussions on the review of the TDCA commenced in 2005 and a joint progress report was presented to the 2005 South Africa-EU Ministerial Joint Co-operation Council (JCC). The 2005 JCC gave the mandate for formal negotiations over the review of the TDCA to commence. By April 2007, working groups had not yet been established as the European Commission's (EC) mandate for the review was outstanding.

The TDCA was fully ratified on 1 May 2004, meaning that co-operation on the articles of the TDCA that were put in abeyance pending the completion of ratification procedures, could be activated.

The 2004 Ministerial JCC decided that full implementation of new areas of co-operation of the TDCA should be pursued. Consequently, the Department of Foreign Affairs held a series of interdepartmental meetings, after which the South African proposal for new areas for full implementation were communicated to the

delegation of the EC to South Africa. The delegation indicated that the EC was not yet in a position to enter into discussions on the proposed new areas of co-operation, pending a council mandate.

The second meeting of the South Africa-EU Ministerial JCC (also the sixth South Africa-EU JCC) was held on 7 November 2005. It cemented the strong and productive relationships in trade, development and political dialogue.

The political discussion at the council meeting took place in troika format, co-chaired by Dr Dlamini Zuma and Mr Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK.

The parties welcomed the Additional Protocol to the TDCA between South Africa and the EU that includes the 10 new partner countries in the institutional provisions of the TDCA. The parties re-emphasised their intention to further liberalise trade and give consideration to widening the scope and ambition of the agreement to extend into other areas of mutual importance.

South Africa and the EU asserted their commitment to an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Development Agenda, which they considered a unique opportunity to further liberalise trade, while supporting development on the basis of stronger and fairer multilateral rules.

The strong relations between South Africa and the EU were further strengthened during the year by visits to South Africa of Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC; Dr Javier Solana, High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy; as well as a visit by Mr Louis Michel, EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

The EU's development-assistance programme in South Africa, the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD), is the largest by a single foreign donor. The funded programmes and projects are informed by South Africa's national development policies that specifically target, among other things, improving social services, HR and economic growth and deepening democracy. Discussions for a new Country Strategic Paper (CSP) for 2006 to 2013 were held in 2006. The CSP provides the framework within which funding is provided through the EPRD.

The South Africa-EU Science and Technology Co-operation Agreement, which was signed in 1997, affords the opportunity for co-operation between South African and European researchers. The preparation campaign for the EU's seventh

Framework Programme (FP7) was launched in Pretoria. South Africa's participation in the FP7 is informed by its national policy priorities, including connecting South Africa to the global research and development agenda.

Negotiations between the SADC and the EC on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which picked up pace in 2005, continued in 2006. This followed the Sacu ministers' resolve, at their meeting of November 2004, that southern Africa's trade relations with the EU needed to be harmonised.

The Review of the TDCa and the SADC-EC EPA negotiations presented an ideal window of opportunity to initiate this process. To this end, in March 2006, SADC senior officials met with their EC counterparts to explore modalities on how to move towards this direction. The negotiations were expected to be concluded in December 2007, ahead of the expiry of the WTO waiver permitting the EU to give preferential market access to products from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of countries till 31 December 2007.

African, Caribbean and Pacific States-European Union relations

South Africa assumed full membership of the ACP group of countries in 1996. It became a qualified member of the Lomé Convention in 1997 and of its successor, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA), signed in Cotonou in June 2000.

The CPA is a framework for co-operation between the 78 countries of the ACP group and the EU. The new EU members that acceded in May 2004 adopted the agreement as part of the EU's legislative infrastructure.

Qualified membership means that South Africa is excluded from the trade regime provided in the agreement and from the provisions on development assistance. South Africa can, however, tender for projects in all ACP countries and participate fully in all political instruments of the agreement. South Africa's economic relations with the EU are governed by the TDCa.

The CPA differs significantly from its predecessor in that its duration will be 20 years, with a revision clause every five years and a financial protocol for each five-year period. The agreement underscores the importance of regional economic co-operation.

The most far-reaching changes are to be introduced in the area of trade, through regional economic partnership agreements (EPAs), where non-reciprocal preferences will be gradually abolished and regional integration processes encouraged. The arrangements were to be maintained until December 2007 when the EPA was expected to be finalised.

The Heads of Mission on AU Summit noted the *Report on the Commission on the Status of EPAs* and the decision of the 85th session of the ACP Council of Ministers on EPAs, held in Brussels, Belgium, in May 2007. The EU was requested to consider putting in place transitional measures to safeguard the continued flow of African exports to the EU market beyond 2007.

One of the key aspects of South Africa's membership of the ACP is its active participation in the three ACP-EU joint political organs, namely the Council of Ministers, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ambassadors.

South Africa takes part in dialogue on important issues such as peace-building, conflict resolution, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. South Africa regularly participates in ACP summits, Council of Ministers' meetings, trade ministers' meetings and the ACP Forum on Science and Technology.

The interest and commitment shown by the EU regarding the African continent and its development is encouraging. Within that context, the EC and the Nepad Secretariat are closely co-operating through established structures and regular dialogue and information-sharing. They have also agreed to increase coherence between EU member states and the EC in support of Nepad projects, the AU and its institutions, and the RECs.

Benelux countries

The Benelux countries remain important trade and investment partners of South Africa, and major tourist providers.

South Africa enjoys close political relations with the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg and engages in substantial and fruitful co-operation partnerships with these countries.

The focus on establishing trilateral co-operation to promote peace, security and economic diplomacy

are continuing, with special emphasis on initiatives in support of Jipsa and AsgiSA.

The Belgian Government continues to take a keen interest in South and southern Africa, and the Great Lakes Region, particularly the DRC. There is a regular exchange of views between South Africa and Belgium on the issues and the complicated processes necessary to find durable solutions to the conflicts in the region.

In November 2006, the inaugural meeting of the Belgo-South Africa JC was held in Brussels, with the focus on bilateral political and economic relations, promotion of the African Agenda, development co-operation and co-operation within the context of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in view of Belgium's election at the same time as South Africa as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.

Co-operation with Flanders is strong on AsgiSA and Jipsa, especially in the areas of skills development and the development of SMMEs.

Since 1994, the Dutch Government has consistently supported South Africa in terms of bilateral and multilateral relations. A large number of bilateral agreements have been signed and high-level bilateral ministerial meetings are held frequently. The first South Africa-Netherlands JC was held in October 2006 in Pretoria. The agenda included co-operation on AsgiSA and Jipsa.

Luxembourg and South Africa enjoy good bilateral relations. High-level visits between the two states take place regularly.

German-speaking countries

Since 1994, the relationship between South Africa and Germany has developed into a strong socio-economic and political partnership that has shown considerable growth in many areas.

Germany has made substantial new investments into the South African economy since the 1994 democratic election and remains one of the country's most important trading partners. By 2007, German commitments towards development in South Africa amounted to about Euro 262 million for bilateral financial and technical assistance.

Since its inception in 1996, the South Africa-German BNC has become the most significant instrument through which bilateral relations are conducted. The extent of co-operation and joint initiatives is substantial.

South Africa ranks 30th as a source country for Germany's imports and 22nd as an export destination. Germany is South Africa's largest import partner and fourth-largest export partner after Japan, the UK and the USA.

Germany ranks with the UK and the USA among the three largest economic role-players in South Africa regarding trade, investment, finance and tourism. Major investments by German companies include BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Volkswagen, Siemens, Bayer and Ferrostaal.

In May 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka led a government delegation on an official visit to Germany.

In August 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka hosted the Minister-President from the federal state of Baden Wurttemberg, Mr Gunther Hoettinger, who was on a five-day working visit to South Africa.

In October 2007, President Mbeki hosted his German counterpart, Chancellor Angela Merkel, for political, economic and trade discussions in Pretoria.

Present-day relations between South Africa and Switzerland are sound and cordial. As a result of monumental democratic changes in South Africa, Switzerland decided to grant South Africa special status on the Swiss foreign-policy agenda as one of the important areas for Swiss interests outside Europe.

In addition to a number of high-level visits, annual senior official working group meetings between the two departments of foreign affairs have proved useful in strengthening bilateral relations and trilateral co-operation in technical areas such as demining, conflict management, human security and development co-operation in the rest of Africa.

At the working group meeting in February 2007, several trilateral co-operation projects were identified. Switzerland is actively involved in promoting peace dialogue and humanitarian issues on the African continent.

According to the South African Reserve Bank, the total of Swiss FDI in South Africa accounts for R6 398 billion, making Switzerland the seventh-biggest investor in South Africa.

Austria prides itself on having built up many years of experience in international peacekeeping and conflict resolution, and offers internationally recognised training courses at the Diplomatic Academy in co-operation with New York-based NGOs for South Africa's and other African governments.

Besides engaging the Austrian Government at national level in support of development programmes and increased economic involvement, provincial partnerships with key Austrian provinces have also resulted in development support.

Nordic countries

South Africa enjoys excellent relations with all the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). 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 is broad and has benefited civil society and government.

Relations in the international arena have seen close co-operation on multilateral issues. The Nordic countries are strong supporters of Nepad. They are directly involved in conflict resolution and reconstruction projects in Africa, and have already entered into trilateral projects with South Africa such as in the DRC.

At the end of February 2007, Iceland's Foreign Affairs Minister, Ms Valgerdur Sverrisdottir, paid a working visit to South Africa. In March 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma joined Nordic and African foreign affairs ministers at the sixth session of the Nordic-African Informal Ministerial Meeting in Oslo, Norway, against the background of South Africa's commitment to promoting North-South co-operation in support of the African Agenda. Among other things, they discussed the peace and security challenges in Africa, climate change and UN issues.

The South Africa-Sweden BNC took place in Pretoria in September 2007. Total trade between South Africa and Sweden amounts to R10 billion coming off a very low base in 1994. The biannual foreign ministry consultations between Norway and South Africa took place in Pretoria in January 2007.

United Kingdom and Ireland

The UK is the largest foreign direct investor into South Africa and consistently occupies the third position in terms of South African exports. With the number of tourists per year approaching half a million, the UK is also South Africa's most important overseas tourism market.

South Africa's many-faceted relations with the UK were further strengthened in 2006/07 by, among other things, President Mbeki's working visit to London in May 2006, and by the UK-South Africa Bilateral Forum, chaired by UK Foreign Secretary, Ms Margaret Beckett, and Minister Dlamini Zuma.

During his visit to London, President Mbeki had a one-on-one meeting with former Prime Minister Tony Blair, discussing, among other things, the then upcoming G8 Summit in Saint Petersburg and how to sustain the African Agenda at that forum, as well as the WTO Doha Round of negotiations. Co-operation in the promotion of the African Agenda remains a principal focus area in relations between South Africa and the UK, including trilateral co-operation in support of peace, stability and economic development.

Co-operation on AsgiSA and Jipsa was an important cross-cutting issue. A film co-production agreement was also signed during the Bilateral Forum, opening the way for meaningful and exciting co-operation in film-making between South Africa and the UK.

Numerous high-level visits both to and from the UK occurred in the course of 2006/07, further underlining the wide range of interests between South Africa and the UK.

Former UK Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, paid an official visit to South Africa from 31 May to 1 June 2007. This was his last official visit to South Africa before stepping down in June 2007. The first South Africa-Ireland Partnership Forum was held in Pretoria in June 2006 and covered a range of issues, including bilateral political and economic relations, co-operation to promote peace and security in Africa, development co-operation and co-operation on AsgiSA and Jipsa.

Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka led the highest-level South African visit ever to Ireland in November 2006 and met with President Mary McAleese, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and various Irish cabinet ministers.

Mediterranean Europe

Relations between South Africa and the countries of Mediterranean Europe have undergone significant growth in recent years, and are manifested across the spectrum of bilateral relations.

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



Economic relations between France and South Africa continue to strengthen. South African Airways procured Airbus aircraft as part of its comprehensive fleet-modernisation programme.

In September 2006, South Africa and France signed a partnership agreement setting out joint development projects worth R3,1 billion. The Framework Charter Partnership covers the fields of service delivery, small business, job creation and energy efficiency. Prime Minister Francois de Villepin visited South Africa in December 2006 and held discussions with President Mbeki. Minister Dlamini Zuma represented President Mbeki at the France-Africa Summit in Cannes early in 2007.

On 12 April 2007, President Mbeki, accompanied by Deputy Minister Pahad, visited Paris, France, at the invitation of his French counterpart, President Jacques Chirac, for consultations and to bid farewell ahead of the presidential election in France on 22 April 2007.

In October 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka visited France where she held bilateral discussions with her counterpart, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon, and paid a courtesy call on President Nicolas Sarkozy.

She also visited the South African national rugby team ahead of its scheduled World Cup semi-final against Argentina.

Italy and South Africa have agreed to deepen the level of exchanges on a number of issues critical to development on the African continent, especially regarding peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and post-conflict reconstruction in the DRC and the Great Lakes region.

In July 2007, Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Massimo D'Alema, attended the South African-Italian Business Forum, held in Sandton, Johannesburg.

He also held bilateral meetings with senior government officials, including Minister Dlamini Zuma and Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka. Italy is among South Africa's 10 most important export market partners.

Total trade between South Africa and Italy amounted to about Euro 3,693 billion, with a positive trade surplus for South Africa, according to the Italian Central Institute of Statistics.

In November 2006, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka paid an official visit to Portugal. She was accompanied by a large business delegation from South Africa seeking partnerships with Portuguese companies.

In April 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma held bilateral political and economic discussions with

her Portuguese counterpart, Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Luis Armado, in Pretoria.

In July 2007, Deputy Minister Pahad paid an official visit to Spain, at the invitation of Mr Bernardino Leon Gross, Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Pahad and Mr Leon co-chaired the plenary session of the fourth annual political consultations between South Africa and Spain.

In 2006, South Africa's exports to Spain totalled Euro 1,4 billion, representing an increase of 7,6% on 2005. Spain is South Africa's ninth most important export market. Spanish exports to South Africa grew by 16,8% in 2006.

South Africa and Greece also have strong cultural ties through the Hellenic community in South Africa, which plays a positive and constructive role in the reconstruction and development of South Africa.

Central Europe

The President of the Czech Republic, Prof. Václav Klaus, paid a state visit to South Africa in December 2006.

The visit was of historical importance as it was the first visit of a head of state from the Czech Republic since the Velvet Revolution and its separation from Slovakia in 1991. The visit was also the first visit of a head of state from Central Europe to sub-Saharan Africa. The visit provided an opportunity to concretise bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Czech Republic regards South Africa as its strategic partner in sub-Saharan Africa and this co-operation impacts on regional and continental relations between sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe and the EU.

In June 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma visited Slovakia for bilateral discussions with her counterpart, Mr Jan Kubis.

Eastern Europe

The strategic nature of South African-Russian relations was significantly consolidated in 2006/07 through continued high-level political dialogue with the Russian Federation.

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr Vladimir Putin, visited South Africa in September 2006. Bilateral relations also expanded significantly under the umbrella of the Intergovernmental Trade and Economic Committee (Itec) between the two countries.

Strategic direction and a structured and disciplined policy framework have resulted in

substantive action taken by the respective governments in the minerals and energy and the science and technology sectors. In this respect, good progress was made through the establishment of the Joint South Africa-Russia Business Council.

Progress in the field of science and technology relations, especially in terms of the presidential policy objective of establishing South Africa as a key player in international astronomy and deep-space research, also characterises the relationship.

The signing of the Co-operation in Space Agreement between the two countries remains indicative of the accelerated level of co-operation existing between the Russian Federation and South Africa.

The Treaty of Friendship and Partnership was also signed by the two presidents, further strengthening ties between the two nations.

In February 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma and the Russian Minister of Natural Resources, Mr Yuri Petrovich Trutnev, co-chaired the sixth session of the South Africa-Russia Itec.

In March 2007, Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka met with her Russian counterpart, Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov. The meeting was within the context of expanding South Africa's strategic partnership with the Russian Federation as a member of the G-8 and the UNSC.

In July 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma visited the Russian Federation for the South Africa-Russia Itec, which she co-chaired with Minister Trutnev.

There has been substantial growth in relations between South Africa and the Republic of Belarus during 2006/07. Numerous high-level visits to and from the country occurred. The South Africa-Belarus Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Co-operation was launched in July 2007 in Minsk, Belarus.

The visit by the Foreign Affairs Minister of Belarus, Mr Sergey Martynov, in August 2006, consolidated and promoted increased interaction between the two countries.

The two foreign affairs ministers held a bilateral meeting during which four agreements were signed. Bilateral relations between the two countries have continued to grow steadily,

providing mutual opportunities for investors to identify areas of co-operation in various fields.

The Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Alec Erwin, a delegation from his department and representatives from the Department of Defence and Denel, visited Belarus in November 2006 to identify possible areas of co-operation and prospective projects. Similarly, representatives and counterparts from Belarus were invited to visit South Africa during the early part of 2007.

Minister Dlamini Zuma, accompanied by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, and the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, participated in the opening session of the South Africa-Belarus Itec.

Turkish overseas development assistance designated for Africa amounts to US\$350 million, with the focus on joint partnerships and mainly targeting sub-Saharan Africa in the sectors of health (AIDS, polio, tuberculosis and malaria) and education (scholarships and HR development), with the objective of establishing sustainable projects.

Turkey has successfully participated in international peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the UN, including in Africa.

It hosts a peacekeeping academy and has firmly indicated its readiness to train and assist African peacekeeping capacity.

Turkey is supportive of Nepad and is willing to consider specific project proposals in line with Nepad and AU priorities in the form of joint ventures, such as in the construction and engineering sectors.

The further expansion of the economic, trade and investment relationship remains a primary focus of activities. South Africa is continuing its efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

In this regard, South Africa recognised the independent Republic of Montenegro in July 2006 and concluded diplomatic relations with that country in October 2006.

South Africa continues to play a significant role, as non-permanent member of the UNSC, in the search for solutions for the conflicts in the region, with specific reference to the Kosovo and Cyprus issues.

On 15 June 2007, Deputy Minister Van der Merwe held bilateral political and economic discussions



with her Lithuanian counterpart, Dr Oskaras Jusys, in Cape Town. They discussed, among other things:

- the status of bilateral political and economic relations between both countries
- developments in Lithuania, including its membership of the EU
- developments in Africa and the SADC
- other issues of mutual global interest, including the comprehensive reform of the UN and the Middle East peace process.

Lithuania has a historical link with South Africa through the Jewish community. It is estimated that 80% of South African Jewry is of Litvak extraction.

Multilateral diplomacy

The adoption of the UN World Summit Outcome document in New York in 2005 by more than 150 heads of state and government marked one of the most prominent efforts to protect and strengthen multilateralism.

Expectations of wholesale change and reform of the UN, however, proved not to be realistically attainable.

The Review Summit nonetheless agreed on a number of reforms to address events and issues that continue to undermine global peace and security and the multilateral system of governance. South Africa remains an active participant in these ongoing efforts to implement the 2005 World Summit Outcome document to reform the UN.

It also believes that the multilateral system should be fully engaged in human development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs); the common struggle to address environmental degradation; the pursuit of an overarching human-rights agenda; the promotion of democracy and good governance; and all efforts to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons, both of mass destruction and small arms.

South Africa maintains that issues such as these pose major threats to world peace and security. Through participation in organisations and groups such as the UN, the AU, the NAM, the G77 and the Commonwealth, South Africa seeks to ensure that national interests and objectives, as well as those of the continent and developing countries generally, are taken on board in discussions in multilateral forums and reports.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

South Africa's priorities for participation in the UNGA, its main committees and organs, include:

- pursuing an overarching human-rights agenda, including the right to development
 - promoting global peace and security
 - protecting and promoting multilateralism, international law and the centrality of the UN Charter
 - addressing human development, poverty eradication and environmental degradation
 - advancing the active follow-up and implementation of the MDGs, international development goals and the outcomes of major UN conferences
 - advancing South-South co-operation through active participation in the NAM and other South-South co-operation arrangements
 - promoting the reform of the UNSC General Assembly, Ecosoc and regional organisations, and generally revitalising the UN system
 - promoting the Common Africa Position on the reform of the UN, including the equitable representation of Africa on the UNSC
 - disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of both weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms
 - implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
 - humanitarian assistance
 - promoting the AU and Nepad in the UN context
 - promoting gender mainstreaming
 - supporting the global campaign against terrorism.
- In September 2007, President Mbeki led a South African delegation to the 62nd session of the UNGA.
- During his visit to New York, President Mbeki addressed the UNGA whose focus was on climate change, progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, reform of the UN system, including the UNSC, and counter-terrorism.

He also addressed the UNSC meeting hosted by French President Nicholas Sarkozy on *Peace and Security in Africa*.

United Nations reform

The adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome by more than 150 heads of state and government did, however, set in motion a number of reforms in the UN system that include:

- establishing a peace-building commission
- establishing a human-rights council
- implementing management reforms in the UN Secretariat
- reviewing the mandates of UN activities and programmes
- finalising the comprehensive Convention against

Terrorism and developing a broader counter-terrorism strategy

- maintaining and strengthening political momentum for development.

South Africa supports and actively participates in all negotiations.

United Nations Security Council

The UNSC has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is organised so as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at the UN.

The comprehensive reform of the UNSC remains work in progress. South Africa has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. In March 2007, Minister Dlamini Zuma addressed the UNSC on the relationship between the UNSC and the AU's PSC in conflict resolution.

Minister Dlamini Zuma led these discussions within the context of South Africa's Presidency of the UNSC for the month of March 2007.

Science and technology

The South African Government has recognised the importance of harnessing science and technology as an integral part of a wider political and economic strategy to address national and regional development priorities.

A major vehicle to achieve this objective is South Africa's bid to host the proposed Square Kilometre Array as an extraordinary opportunity for advancing South Africa and its people through scientific and industrial development, developing regional scientific capacity, human capacity-development in the region, creating business opportunities and providing state-of-the-art infrastructure for South African scientists and engineers as well as those in the region.

In ensuring the implementation of the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for Information Society, as the outcome of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, South Africa will remain involved in the ongoing discussions on Internet governance as well as bridging the digital divide between developed and developing countries.

Human rights

A commitment to promoting human rights is one of the central considerations in the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy.

South Africa is a major player in the development of international human-rights law at the UN, continually evaluating the effectiveness of existing human-rights treaties and proposing additional instruments.

South Africa played a critical role in the UN Commission on Human Rights. It also participated in initiatives leading up to the UN Millennium Review Summit in New York on UN reform in the area of human rights and the establishment of the UN Human-Rights Council (HRC).

South Africa co-sponsored an HRC resolution in March 2007, seeking to ensure that the HRC agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs.

It agreed on a programme of work that would lead to raising the right to development to the same level and on par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the core human-rights instruments.

South Africa also sponsored an HRC resolution on the Rectification of the Legal Status of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which was adopted by consensus in March 2007, and which will elevate the committee's status to be on par with all other treaty-monitoring bodies.

South Africa also supported the process towards the elaboration of an optional protocol to the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights with a view to creating an individual complaints mechanism for the covenant, and supported the resolution on strengthening economic, social and cultural rights throughout the world.

The UN Ad Hoc Committee, tasked with drafting the International Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, concluded its negotiations in December 2006. During the 61st session of the UNGA in December 2006, the convention and its optional protocol were adopted by consensus, and opened for signature on 30 March 2007.

South Africa signed both the convention and the optional protocol on 30 March 2007 and by

mid-2007, was preparing for ratification. South Africa complied with the Convention on the Rights of the Child's treaty obligations by submitting its second country report on the status of children's rights to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2007.

South Africa hosted the fourth World Congress on Rural Women in April 2007 to discuss universal and wide-ranging issues confronting rural women and to share concrete experiences of successes in addressing these worldwide.

Humanitarian issues

As a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, South Africa has committed itself to protecting refugees. These international treaties have been domesticated through the Refugee Act, 1998 (Act 130 of 1998).

Fulfilling its obligations under international and domestic law, South Africa played an active role in facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from South Africa after peace was consolidated in Angola. Given the large number of refugees in Africa and the critical need for burden-sharing by countries, South Africa also contributed to various initiatives to address these needs, including a contribution of R1,5 million to the UN High Commission for Refugees Return and Reintegration Programme for Sudan.

South Africa's foreign-policy interventions on migration are guided by its adherence to the major international human-rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the various refugee conventions and conventions related to the rights of women and children, among other things. This includes the understanding that migration, if properly managed, could contribute significantly to enhancing sustainable development in African countries.

South Africa's participation in humanitarian assistance is strongly embedded in the principles of UNGA Resolution 46/182 and its guiding principles of providing humanitarian assistance on a basis of neutrality, impartiality and humanity.

South Africa plays an active role in providing humanitarian assistance globally, with a particular focus on the Africa continent in conjunction with the UN and other international organisations, to alleviate the plight of thousands of victims of natural sudden-onset disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies.

During 2006/07, the Department of Foreign Affairs contributed more than R20 million in humanitarian assistance.

Environment

South Africa is committed to maintaining the political momentum gained in the sphere of sustainable development, through the outcomes of the WSSD and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Various UN conventions for the environment, such as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity are used by South Africa to meaningfully reduce poverty, and in so doing, meet the aims of the MDGs.

Climate change is regarded as one of the major stumbling blocks to achieving sustainable development. International efforts are aimed at both the mitigation of climate changes by stabilising the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and measures to enable countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

In terms of mitigation, the key negotiation issue is related to the future of the Kyoto carbon market. The current period of legally binding commitments of developed countries expires in 2012.

Developing countries have an interest in securing the Kyoto carbon market beyond 2012 as they benefit through participation in the Clean Development Mechanism.

To develop and negotiate a framework for the future international climate-change regime, a two-track process was set up in Montreal in 2005:

- an ad hoc working group to negotiate future (post-2012) legally binding Kyoto targets for developed countries
- a dialogue on long-term co-operative action under the convention, focused on future action by developing countries.



In August 2007, the statue of former South African President Nelson Mandela, was unveiled at Parliament Square in London, United Kingdom, in honour of his contribution to the struggle against apartheid.

Dignitaries at the unveiling included British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, London Mayor Ken Livingstone, philanthropist Lord Richard Attenborough and anti-apartheid campaigner Wendy Woods.

The nine-foot statue has been placed among statues of other statesmen such as Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln.

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

It has ratified all the major treaties dealing with marine, maritime, fisheries and Antarctic matters, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and its related instruments, the International Maritime Convention, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Compliance Agreement, and the Antarctic Treaty.

Disarmament

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

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

The failure by some states to implement their obligations under the NPT (particularly on nuclear disarmament) and to roll back agreements made at previous conferences created a climate that made it difficult to make progress with key challenges facing the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Together with other role-players in the nuclear field, South Africa actively participated in the meetings of the policy-making organs of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Important issues considered by the IAEA Board of Governors included the implementation of NPT safeguards in Iran and Korea.

South Africa actively participates in the structures of the Chemicals Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BWC), and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

South Africa continues to emphasise the importance of the BWC and the need to strengthen it to adequately address the threat posed by the possible use of biological and toxic weapons by terrorists and other non-state actors.

South Africa was admitted as the first African state to join the Wassenaar Arrangement (conventional arms and dual-use technology-control regime) in December 2005, and became a

full participating state in the arrangement on 28 February 2006.

In the context of South Africa's participation in various international arms-control bodies, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Missile Technology Control Regime, South Africa continues to promote the principle of access to advanced technologies for peaceful purposes, thereby ensuring that non-proliferation controls do not become a means whereby developing countries are denied access to technologies required for their development.

Crime and crime prevention

Following its ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three supplementary protocols: The Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, South Africa participated in the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime in October 2005.

Following its ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption, South Africa participated in the first CoP of the Convention against Corruption in 2006.

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)

The KPCS is a voluntary tripartite international forum, intent on preventing the use of diamonds in the promotion of conflict, while encouraging the contribution of diamonds to prosperity.

The KPCS forum comprises all major diamond-producing, -trading and -processing countries, as well as the diamond industry and civil society.

The department participates actively in the standing bodies of the KPCS.

One of the department's primary objectives in monitoring the KPCS and participating in the business of KPCS standing and ad hoc bodies is to support government's efforts to ensure that the collective interests of African diamond-producing countries are protected.

North-South co-operation

The Department of Foreign Affairs serves as the focal point for North-South dialogue, engaging key global economic institutions such as the WTO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

To achieve this objective, South Africa ensures that the development agenda remains part of the focus of key economic forums, particularly the annual G8 (Group of Seven most industrialised nations plus Russia) Summit and World Economic Forum meetings.

South-South co-operation

In advancing the development agenda of the South and within the overall context of promoting multilateralism, South Africa participated in the second South Summit in June 2005 in Doha, Qatar.

Progressively, the importance of South-South co-operation is being acknowledged, especially in terms of global, regional and country-level efforts to achieve the MDGs. Rather than being a substitute for North-South co-operation, the modalities of South-South co-operation are complementary.

South African foreign policy seeks, among other things, to persuade the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to expand such co-operation.

Through active participation in other co-operation arrangements such as IBSA, South Africa seeks to contribute to strengthening South-South co-operation and the development of innovative co-operation programmes.

Global finance

The Department of Foreign Affairs has in its engagements solicited the international community to fulfil its Monterrey commitments. It recognises the need for increased and more predictable resources for development.

As such, it supports initiatives such as Action Against Hunger and Poverty to implement innovative financing mechanisms for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis, to complement official development assistance.

As one of the G20 countries within the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the department contributes to developing pragmatically the global partnership between developed and developing countries.

Within this context, South Africa is committed to the continuous review of the representivity,

operations and strategies of the BWIs and more effective participation by developing countries in these bodies.

Social development

Furthermore, South Africa continues to play a pivotal role in the international arena, particularly in the promotion of the global health agenda.

Having successfully chaired the G77 and China Group during the 44th session of the UN Commission for Social Development and the 39th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD) in 2006, South Africa further advanced the momentum created in both UN commissions.

South Africa delivered a keynote address, which set the tone for the entire session as well as the 46th session of the commission to take place in 2008. South Africa also participated at the 40th session of the UNCPD in April 2007.

At both commissions, South Africa reiterated the country's priority social and population-development issues as contained, respectively, in the WSSD (Copenhagen Declaration, 1995) and the International Conference on Population and Development Plan of Action, which include, among other things, the internationally agreed development goals.

Participation in United Nations budgetary and programmatic issues

Over the past five years, South Africa has played a prominent role in the context of UN budgetary and programmatic issues.

South Africa's Auditor-General served on the UN Board of Auditors from 2000 until the end of 2006. The Auditor-General was also re-elected in 2005 as the External Auditor for the UN Industrial Development Organisation for the period 2006 to 2008.

The Minister for Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, was elected vice president of the second UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Finance for the period 2006 to 2009.

Another South African, Judge Mervyn King, who chaired the King Commission on Corporate Governance in South Africa, has been elected chairperson of a high-level steering panel to evaluate governance in the UN.

Active participation in administrative and budgetary issues is aimed at ensuring, to the fullest extent possible, that UN programmes as well as budgetary and administrative priorities adequately cater for development and poverty eradication. In

this regard, priority areas for South Africa include the funding of UN structures and programmes that focus on Africa and Nepal, and sufficient funding for peacekeeping operations on the continent.

South African representation on United Nations bodies and organs

South Africa strives to be active in all bodies and functional committees of the UN dealing with its foreign-policy priorities or objectives, and thus serves on the following:

- International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (2005 to 2009): Judge J Moloto.
- HRC, successor to the Commission on Human Rights (2006). The first election of the members of the HRC was held by the UNGA on 9 May 2006. South Africa was elected to the HRC by 179 votes from 191 countries.
- International Criminal Court (2003 to 2009): Judge M Pillay.
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (2005 to 2014): Judge A Hoffmann.
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2005 to 2008): Ambassador P January-Bardill.

South Africa currently serves on the following subsidiary bodies of the Ecosoc:

- Commission for Social Development (2006 to 2009)
- Statistical Commission (2006 to 2009)
- Committee for Programme Co-ordination (2006 to 2008)
- Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accountancy and Reporting (2006 to 2008)
- Commission on Sustainable Development (2007 to 2010)

- Commission on Population and Development (2007 to 2010)
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2007 to 2010).

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Africa

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeks to implement programmes that are relevant to government's transformation and development imperatives.

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

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is a mechanism to establish an integrated framework for co-operation for development assistance between the UN system, represented through 16 UN funds, programmes and agencies present in South Africa and government. The UNDAF reflects the priorities conveyed to the UN by government and is based on the Common Country Assessment (CCA).

The previous UNDAF ended in December 2006. The department worked with the UNCT in South Africa and numerous other departments to prepare the new UNDAF, which will guide UN support in South Africa from 2007 to 2010. In this process, a CCA has been drafted by government and accepted by the UN and the new UNDAF.

Commonwealth

The Commonwealth comprises 53 member countries on every continent and with a combined population of 1,8 billion (one quarter of world population), making up one fifth of world trade. It is an important multilateral institution uniting countries with common historical backgrounds.

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

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



In July 2007, South Africa hosted the 38th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) Africa Region Conference in Cape Town. One of the main objectives of the CPA is to promote and maintain gender equality and respect for human rights and freedom.

President Thabo Mbeki addressed delegates at the conference under the theme *Parliamentarians Building Strong Democratic Institutions for Promoting Development in the 21st Century*.



understanding. It is an important multilateral institution, both uniting and serving its member countries and providing a lobby on global issues.

Its programmes of action, such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Foundation, are focused on capacity-building, economic and social development, the removal of disparities in living standards across the world, and the alleviation of poverty and illiteracy.

These programmes are committed to the UN MDGs, Nepad and the plight of small and less-developed countries.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) takes place biennially. Malta hosted the CHOGM in November 2005 under the theme *Networking the Commonwealth for Development*, also focusing on world trade, migration and terrorism.

Aside from the Final Communiqué, which addresses different issues of concern to the Commonwealth, heads of government also issued the Malta Declaration on Networking the Commonwealth for Development, the Valletta Statement on Multilateral Trade, and the Gozo Statement on Vulnerable Small States.

South Africa made numerous contributions to the Malta Communiqué, in particular on issues relating to the MDGs, the African Agenda and Nepad, and addressing health, education and debt relief. South Africa also supported strong positions on trade liberalisation, climate change and terrorism.

South Africa actively partakes in the various ministerial meetings and governing bodies of the Commonwealth. Meetings of ministers of finance have devoted resources in support of the Monterrey Consensus, justice ministers have drafted model anti-terrorism legislation and control measures over money laundering and ministers of education and of health have adopted codes of conduct in the recruitment of health workers and teachers.

Uganda hosted the 2007 CHOGM in November 2007 under the theme *Transforming Commonwealth Societies to Achieve Political, Economic and Human Development*.

Non-Aligned Movement

The NAM with its 114 member states is the largest political grouping of countries outside of the UN, making it an important lobby group of developing countries in global affairs.

South Africa formally joined the movement in 1994 and has played a leading role ever since.

Multilateral agreements signed or ratified between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Title	Date
24 February 1985	Statute of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries	9 January 2006 (a) Entry into force: 6 February 2006
5 September 1997	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management	15 November 2006 (a) Entry into force: 13 February 2007
28 May 1999	Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air	22 November 2006 (r) Entry into force: 21 January 2007
16 November 2001	Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment	18 January 2007 (r) Entry into force: 1 May 2007
16 November 2001	Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment	18 January 2007 (r) Entry into force: 1 May 2007
18 October 2002	Marrakesh Instruments amending the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992)	18 October 2006 (r)
19 October 2005	International Convention Against Doping in Sport	30 November 2006 (r) Entry into force: 1 February 2007
20 October 2005	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	21 December 2006 (r) Entry into force: 21 March 2007
22 June 2006	MoU to facilitate the Establishment of the Limpopo/Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area	Entry into force: 22 June 2006
26 June 2006	Free Trade Agreement Sacu/EFTA	
13 September 2006	Action Plan on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment (IBSA)	
13 September 2006	Framework for Co-operation on the Information Society (IBSA)	
13 September 2006	MoU on Establishing a Trilateral Task Team on Biofuels (IBSA)	
13 September 2006	MoU on Trilateral Co-operation in Agriculture and Allied Fields under the IBSA Dialogue Forum Initiative (IBSA)	
13 September 2006	Trilateral Agreement concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport-Related Matters (IBSA)	

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs

r = Ratification

a = Accession

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Country/organisation	Title	Date
4 January 2006	India	Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Health and Medicine	
6 February 2006	Germany	Supplementary Arrangement concerning the Provision of Support during Exercise Good Hope from 6 February 2006 to 20 March 2006	Entry into force: 6 February 2006
23 February 2006	DRC	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Human Settlements	Entry into force: 23 February 2006
28 February 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning EPRD Audit/Evaluation Facility	Entry into force: 28 February 2006
28 February 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning Programme of Assistance to the Victim-Empowerment Programme of the Department of Social Development in the South African Government	Entry into force: 28 February 2006
28 February 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning Support to the Risk Capital Facility	Entry into force: 28 February 2006
28 February 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning Support to the Urban Renewal Programme in the Eastern Cape	Entry into force: 28 February 2006
8 March 2006	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network	The Establishment of a Regional Office in South Africa	Entry into force: 8 March 2006
13 March 2006	IAEA	MoU between the IAEA and the RSA concerning a Regional Training Course on the Physical Protection of Radioactive Sources, Cape Town, South Africa 13 - 17 March 2006	
16 March 2006	DRC	Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Maritime Transport	Entry into force: 16 March 2006
16 March 2006	DRC	Agreement on Decentralisation	Entry into force: 16 March 2006
16 March 2006	DRC	MoU on Education Co-operation	Entry into force: 16 March 2006
18 March 2006	Niger	Agreement on a Framework for Co-operation	Entry into force: 18 March 2006
19 April 2006	UN Industrial Development Organisation	Agreement on Establishing a Sub-Regional Office in South Africa	Entry into force: 19 April 2006
25 April 2006	UAE	MoU on Police Co-operation	Entry into force: 25 April 2006
28 April 2006	CAR	Framework Co-operation Agreement	
9 May 2006	Vietnam	MoU concerning Defence Co-operation	Entry into force: 9 May 2006
16 May 2006	Argentina	Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation	
21 May 2006	France	Programme for Co-operation for the Years 2006 - 2008	Entry into force: 21 May 2006

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Country/organisation	Title	Date
22 May 2006	UK	MoU concerning the Provision of Personnel of the UK Armed Forces and the UK Ministry of Defence to advise the Department of Defence of South Africa on Aspects of Democratic Defence Management and Peace Support Operations	Entry into force: 22 May 2006
22 May 2006	World Food Programme (WFP)	Agreement on Establishing the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa for the UN WFP	Entry into force: 22 May 2006
24 May 2006	UK	Agreement on Film Co-production	
25 May 2006	Mozambique	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Sport and Recreation	Entry into force: 25 May 2006
30 May 2006	Sudan	Agreement regarding the Modalities for the Establishment of a JBC	
30 May 2006	UNDP	Standard Letter of Agreement for the Provision of Implementation Services within the Framework of the Project of "Support to Electoral Process in the DRC", regarding the Timely Printing of Appropriate Ballot Papers and Transportation to 14 Hubs for the First and Second Rounds of the Congolese Elections	Entry into force: 30 May 2006
8 June 2006	India	MoU concerning the Training of South African Navy Personnel by the Indian Navy	Entry into force: 8 June 2006
12 June 2006	India	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Governance, Administration and other related Areas	Entry into force: 12 June 2006
15 June 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning Assistance to the South African Government to Prevent and React to Human Trafficking	Entry into force: 15 June 2006
15 June 2006	EU	Financing Agreement concerning Financial Management Support Programme Phase 2	
21 June 2006	PRC	Agreement on Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy	
21 June 2006	PRC	Implementation Programme under the Agreement on Co-operation in Arts and Culture for the years 2006 - 2009	
21 June 2006	PRC	Joint Declaration of Intent on Economic and Technical Co-operation	
21 June 2006	PRC	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Forestry	Entry into force: 21 June 2006
21 June 2006	PRC	MoU on Public Health and Medical Sciences Co-operation	Entry into force: 21 June 2006
21 June 2006	PRC	MoU regarding Co-operation in the Field of Aquaculture	Entry into force: 21 June 2006
21 June 2006	PRC	Programme of Co-operation on Deepening the Strategic Partnership	
21 June 2006	PRC	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruit from South Africa to China	Entry into force: 21 June 2006

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Country	Title/organisation	Date
21 June 2006	PRC	Protocol on Sanitary Requirements of Inspection and Quarantine for Export and Import of Heat-Treated Pork	
21 June 2006	PRC	Protocol on Sanitary Requirements of Inspection and Quarantine for Export and Import of Heat-Treated Poultry Meat	
22 June 2006	Denmark	Agreement regarding the Support to Education and Skills Development Programme in South Africa Phase II	Entry into force: 22 June 2006
23 June 2006	Mozambique	Agreement in the Fields of Arts and Culture	
23 June 2006	Spain	Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	
28 June 2006	Denmark	Agreement on Project Consolidate: A Knowledge Management Project Implemented by the Department of Provincial and Local Government in all Provinces of the Republic of South Africa	Entry into force: 28 June 2006
3 July 2006	Guinea	Protocol on Diplomatic Consultations	Entry into force: 3 July 2006
3 July 2006	Guinea	Trade Agreement	
7 July 2006	Mozambique	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation	Entry into force: 7 July 2006
10 July 2006	Mali	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation	Entry into force: 10 July 2006
18 July 2006	Bolivia	MoU regarding the Establishment of a Mechanism for Consultations	Entry into force: 18 July 2006
2 August 2006	Orange-Senqu River Commission (Orasecom)	Agreement for the Hosting of the Secretariat of the Orasecom in the Republic of South Africa	Entry into force: 2 August 2006
18 August 2006	Botswana	MoU on the Development of the Mmamabula Coal-Fired Power Station	Entry into force: 18 August 2006
22 August 2006	Iran	Agreement regarding Mutual Assistance between their Customs Administrations	
22 August 2006	Iran	Joint Communique of the Ninth Joint Bilateral Commission (not an agreement)	
28 August 2006	Belarus	Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Arts and Culture	Entry into force: 28 August 2006
28 August 2006	Belarus	Agreement on the Establishment of a Committee on Trade and Economic Co-operation	
28 August 2006	Belarus	Agreement on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Service or Official Passports	
28 August 2006	PRC	MoU on Promoting Bilateral Trade and Economic Co-operation	Entry into force: 28 August 2006 Annexure 1 January 2007
30 August 2006	Rwanda	MoU regarding Economic Co-operation	
31 August 2006	Ethiopia	Joint Declaration of Intent	

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Country	Title/organisation	Date
31 August 2006	Seychelles	Agreement on Health Matters	
5 September 2006	Russian Federation	Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Health and Medical Science	Entry into force: 5 September 2006
5 September 2006	Russian Federation	Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes	
5 September 2006	Russian Federation	Agreement on Reciprocal Protection of Intellectual Property Rights Used and Established in the Course of Bilateral Defence-Industrial Co-operation	Entry into force: 5 September 2006
5 September 2006	Russian Federation	Treaty of Friendship and Partnership	
8 September 2006	Argentina	Agreement for the Co-ordination of their Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue Services	Entry into force: 8 September 2006
19 September 2006	IAEA	Revised Supplementary Agreement concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance	Entry into force: 19 September 2006
22 September 2006	Cameroon	General Co-operation Agreement	
22 September 2006	Cameroon	MoU regarding Economic Co-operation	
22 September 2006	Cameroon	Trade Agreement	
22 September 2006	PRC	Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters	Entry into force: 1 February 2007
27 September 2006	Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)	Agreement regarding the Establishment of the IDEA Regional Office in South Africa	Entry into force: 27 September 2006
29 September 2006	Belarus	Agreement on Military Technical Co-operation	Entry into force: 5 September 2006
2 October 2006	India	Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Education	Entry into force: 2 October 2006
2 October 2006	India	The Tshwane Declaration on Reaffirming the Strategic Partnership between South Africa and India	
3 October 2006	Dominican Republic	Declaration of Intent on Joint Activities	Entry into force: 3 October 2006
9 October 2006	PRC	MoU on Co-operation in the Fields of Human-Resource Development and Employment Creation	Entry into force: 9 October 2006
11 October 2006	Chile	MoU on Defence Co-operation	
11 October 2006	Montenegro	Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations	
18 October 2006	Australia	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation	
30 October 2006	Greece	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation	
30 October 2006	Lesotho	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Labour	Entry into force: 30 October 2006
1 November 2006	Gabon	MoU on Defence Co-operation	Entry into force: 1 November 2006
10 November 2006	Belgium	JC	Entry into force: 10 November 2006
13 November 2006	Portugal	Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	
23 November 2006	DRC	MoU on Co-operation in the Area of Social Development	Entry into force: 23 November 2006
23 November 2006	Guinea	Agreement on the Establishment of a JCC	Entry into force: 23 November 2006

Bilateral agreements signed between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007

Date signed	Country	Title/organisation	Date
23 November 2006	Mauritius	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Social Development	Entry into force: 23 November 2006
24 November 2006	Guinea	MoU on Basic English and French Language Training	Entry into force: 24 November 2006
30 November 2006	Belgium	Specific Agreement on Post-Settlement and Development Support to Restitution Beneficiaries for the Commission on Restitution of Land Affairs	Entry into force: 30 November 2006
30 November 2006	Mexico	Technical Co-operation Agreement	Entry into force: 30 November 2006
5 December 2006	Japan	Declaration of Intent between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Japan Bank for International Co-operation Establishing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	
30 January 2007	Seychelles	General Co-operation Agreement	Entry into force: 30 January 2007
6 February 2007	PRC	Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation	Entry into force: 6 February 2007
6 February 2007	PRC	Joint Declaration of Intent on Economic and Technical Co-operation	
6 February 2007	PRC	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Apple Fruit from China to South Africa	Entry into force: 6 February 2007
6 February 2007	PRC	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Pear Fruit from China to South Africa	Entry into force: 20070206
6 February 2007	PRC	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Table Grapes from South Africa to China	Entry into force: 6 February 2007
6 February 2007	PRC	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Tobacco Leaf from South Africa to China	Entry into force: 6 February 2007
6 February 2007	PRC	Protocol on Economic and Technical Co-operation	Entry into force: 6 February 2007
11 February 2007	CAR	MoU concerning Defence Co-operation	Entry into force: 11 February 2007
14 February 2007	Burundi	General Co-operation Agreement	Entry into force: 14 February 2007
28 February 2007	Argentina	Agreement on Bilateral Co-operation in the Fields of Sport and Recreation	Entry into force: 28 February 2007
28 February 2007	Argentina	Extradition Treaty	
28 February 2007	Argentina	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	
5 March 2007	Benin	Joint Communiqué	
6 March 2007	Uganda	MoU regarding the Renovation of the OR Tambo School of Leadership	Entry into force: 6 March 2007
9 March 2007	AU	Agreement on the Material and Technical Organisation of the Third Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health	Entry into force: 9 March 2007
12 March 2007	Oman	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Co-operation	
13 March 2007	Saudi Arabia	Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Tax Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital	
30 March 2007	FAO	Agreement on Capacity-Building for South African Professional and Emerging Farmers in the Field of Agriculture and Food Security	Entry into force: 30 March 2007

Acknowledgements

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