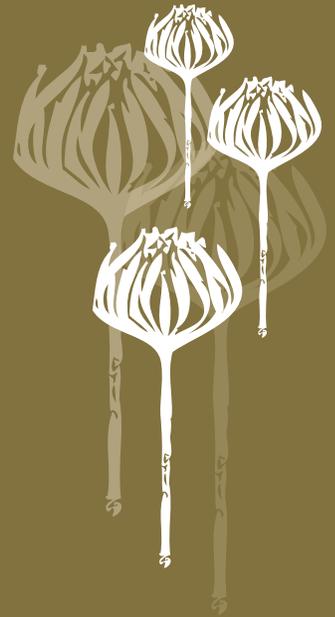




International relations



**SOUTH
AFRICA**
YEARBOOK
2011/12

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's mandate is to formulate, coordinate, implement and manage South Africa's foreign-policy objectives by:

- monitoring developments in the international environment
- communicating government's policy positions
- developing and advising government on policy options
- creating mechanisms and avenues for achieving predetermined objectives
- promoting South Africa's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- assisting South African citizens abroad
- assisting partner departments in managing complex international dynamics.

The principles underpinning the department's foreign policy are the country's commitment to:

- prioritising Africa in world affairs
- economic development through regional and international cooperation
- the promotion of human rights
- the promotion of democracy
- justice and international law in the conduct of relations between nations
- international peace and internationally agreed-upon mechanisms for the resolution of conflict.

White Paper on South Africa's Foreign Policy

In 2011, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation released the *White Paper on Building a Better World: The Diplomacy of Ubuntu*. South Africa is a multifaceted, multicultural and multiracial country that embraces the concept of Ubuntu to define who the people are and how they relate to others. The philosophy of Ubuntu means "humanity" and is reflected in the idea that South Africans affirm their humanity when they affirm the humanity of others.

It has played a major role in forging a South African national consciousness and in the process of its democratic transformation and nation-building.

Since 1994, the international community has looked to South Africa to play a leading role in championing the values of human rights, democracy, reconciliation and the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment.

South Africa has risen to the challenge and plays a meaningful role in the region, on the continent and the world.

South Africa's unique approach to global issues has found expression in the concept of Ubuntu. These concepts inform the country's particular approach to diplomacy.

This philosophy translates into an approach to international relations that respects all nations, peoples and cultures. It recognises that it is in South Africa's national interest to promote and support the positive development of others.

South Africa therefore accords central importance to:

- its immediate African neighbourhood and continent
- working with countries of the South to address shared challenges of underdevelopment
- promoting global equity and social justice
- working with countries of the North to develop a true and effective partnership for a better world
- doing its part to strengthen the multilateral system, including its transformation, to reflect the diversity of nations and ensure its centrality in global governance.

South Africa and Africa

South Africa has always regarded Africa as the centrepiece of its foreign policy, and is mobilising a significant amount of resources towards the socio-economic awakening of the continent, peace-making and peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

African Union (AU)

South Africa's commitment to the advancement of the African Agenda remains. In this regard, the development and strengthening of the AU as a continental body and its structures, as well as adherence to a rules-based system of work, is of great importance to the country. South Africa places high value on the AU's mandate and work. In this regard, South Africa continues to support the AU at multiple levels, key among which is South Africa's annual assessed contribution as one of the five largest member-state contributors to the AU. In addition, South Africa continues to host and support the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the South African Chapter of the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council and the Pan-African Women's Organisation. South Africa played an instrumental role in establishing the AU and its organs, namely the:

- Assembly
- Executive Council

- specialised technical committees
- financial institutions
- Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)
- Peace and Security Council (AUPSC)
- PAP
- Economic, Social and Cultural Council
- Court of Justice
- African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The financial institutions, namely the African Monetary Fund, African Central Bank and African Court of Justice, still have to be put into operation.

The 53-member AU was officially launched in Durban in July 2002, following its inaugural summit. It replaced the Organisation of African Unity, which was established in 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 cooperation
- 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 international negotiations
- promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, and integrating African economies
- promoting cooperation 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 AU has made notable progress towards the political and economic integration of the continent. This includes:

- establishing the PSC, which is responsible for the resolution of conflict, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and development in conjunction with the United Nations (UN)
- adopting a common defence policy that, among other things, talks to the establishment of an

African Standby Force, comprising the five AU regional brigades (Central, Northern, Western, Eastern and Southern regions)

- establishing the Human and Peoples' Rights Court
- implementing the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Declaration on Gender Equality
- implementing the Protocol on the Court of Justice.

The eight existing regional economic communities (RECs), which include the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States, 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 came into force in December 2003, operationalising the 15-member AUPSC, which was inaugurated in May 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As a collective security and early warning arrangement, the PSC allows for a timely and effective response to conflict and crises in Africa.

In terms of PSC statutes, all African countries should establish their own early warning centres.

The AUPSC Protocol provided 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.

South Africa has been active in efforts to bring about peace and stability on the continent. The country has engaged in peacekeeping operations and peace-building measures in support of the African Agenda, and has played an important mediation and/or facilitation role in countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

South Africa has also helped some countries on the continent to set up institutions, such as the Independent Electoral Commission, while participating in election-observation missions,

establishing functional civil services and using South Africa's experience in post-conflict and reconstruction and development programmes.

South Africa was re-elected to the AUPSC for a period of two years effective from April 2010.

In January 2011, the 16th AU Summit opened in Addis Ababa, as African leaders gathered to discuss peace, security and stability on the continent.

The summit's theme was *Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values*. Issues under discussion included the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, the social unrest in Tunisia and Egypt, post-referendum reconstruction in Sudan and the situation in Somalia.

Development, climate change and achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) were also priorities of the summit.

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, and 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 coordinate and take decisions on policies in areas of common interest to member states, as well as coordinate 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 PRC.

New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)

South Africa, as one of the initiating countries, played a key role in the establishment of Nepad and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and hosts the Nepad Agency and APRM Secretariat in Midrand.

In June 2011, during the AU Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, President Jacob Zuma addressed the meeting on mobilising resources to finance Nepad initiatives. Since Nepad's adop-

tion by the 2001 Heads of State Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, it has contributed to Africa, not only progressing towards the right direction but also focusing on key economic fundamentals that will help generate a better economic growth path. Economically, Africa is the third-fastest growing region in the world.

Africa is now proclaimed as the world's most profitable region, according to leading economists. Also, the UN Economic Commission for Africa/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) publication, *African Economic Outlook*, finds that the continent is on the recovery. Economic growth rates for the continent for 2012 are predicted between 5,5% and 5,8%.

Nepad remains the main programme of reference for intra-African socio-economic and developmental relations and Africa's partnerships with international partners such as the European Union (EU)-AU Strategic Partnership, Forum for Africa-China Partnership, the Group of Seven Most Industrialised Nations plus Russia (G8), the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the OECD.

The primary objectives of Nepad is:

- eradicating poverty
- halting the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process
- promoting regional integration through, among other things, advancing infrastructure, informa-

Highlights on the international scene in 2011 included:

- election by acclamation to the United Nations (UN) Security Council
- admission to the most powerful bloc of emerging markets: Brazil, Russia, India and China
- leadership of the infrastructure development initiative within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
- assumption of the chairpersonship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security
- hosting the SADC-East African Economic Community-Common Economic Community of East and Southern Africa
- hosting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's 17th Conference of the Parties and Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol Summit in Durban
- hosting the India, Brazil, South Africa Summit.

tion and communications technology (ICT), agricultural, health and scientific projects

- enhancing the empowerment and economic integration of women and achieve the MDGs.

The underlying principles of Nepad are:

- **Accountability:** Nepad recognises the importance of good political, economic and corporate governance in creating the conditions for development, with African governments embracing greater accountability to their constituents. Nepad also seeks to base Africa's partnership with the North on mutual accountability.
- **Ownership:** Nepad is a long-term vision that is African-led and -owned. Ownership should be promoted through broad and deep participation by all sectors of society, and by tapping into indigenous knowledge/expertise to define needs and solutions.
- **Partnership:** While Nepad is a partnership between and among Africans, it seeks to accelerate sustainable development in Africa through partnerships with the South, and to redefine a new partnership with the developed North that changes the unequal relationship with Africa.

Resources for Nepad are mobilised by way of increasing savings and capital inflows via debt relief, increased targeted official development assistance (ODA) and private capital investment, as well as through better management of public revenue and expenditure.

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

The 14th session of the AU decided to integrate Nepad into the AU and established the Nepad Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the AU. This is an important step towards accelerating Nepad's implementation. The NPCA will focus on the implementation of regional integration programmes and projects.

In November and December 2011, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Durban. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation hosted the event on behalf of the country, with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, as president of the summit.

The AU/Nepad African Action Plan for 2010 to 2015 is a masterplan for concrete projects that will serve as a catalyst for the development of the continent.

One of the outflows of Nepad was the introduction of the APRM, accepted by member states of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism in 2003.

The peer review process is aimed at addressing corruption, poor governance and inefficient delivery of public goods and services to the citizens of African countries. It encourages the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration through the sharing of experiences and best practices, and is important to the sustainability of Nepad.

In January 2011, President Zuma addressed the 14th Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the APRM on the occasion of the presentation of South Africa's *Second APRM Report*.

By April 2011, 30 African countries had acceded to the APRM and 14 had been peer-reviewed.

Structures

Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)

The Nepad HSGOC reports biannually to the summit of the AU. The chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC) is an ex-officio member of the Implementation Committee, and the AUC is expected to participate in steering committee meetings.

The HSGOC comprises 20 states (four per AU geographic region), including the five initiating states: South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal and Egypt.

The HSGOC is the essence and spirit of Nepad with the lead function of high-level coordination of the Nepad priority sectors.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises representatives of the 20 HSGOC members. It is an intermediary body between the HSGOC and the NPCA.

The chairperson of the AUC exercises supervisory authority over the NPCA, while giving the new agency adequate and necessary flexibilities

to carry out its mandate, thereby maintaining the corporate brand identity of the Nepad programme within the AU.

Secretariat

The AUC deals with policy and serves as the Secretariat of the AU.

Southern African Development Community

The SADC has been in existence since 1980. It was formed as a loose alliance of nine majority-ruled states in southern Africa known as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. The main aim was to coordinate development projects to lessen economic dependence on the then apartheid South Africa. The founding member states were: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

In August 2011, President Zuma was elected as chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Troika. He took over from former Zambian President, Mr Rupiah Banda, when the regional leaders met in Angola.

The launch of the Free Trade Area (FTA) Agreement in 2008 laid the foundation for regional economic integration. The FTA Agreement is part of the SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations within southern Africa through trade. These broaden SADC efforts continue to be supplemented and complemented by developments within the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) membership and the elevation of regional integration efforts through the tripartite economic arrangement comprising the SADC, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

In terms of Sacu, the overall objective is the pursuit of enhanced intra-Sacu trade through improved infrastructure and increased industrialisation. The year 2010 marked Sacu's centenary, which was highlighted by the inaugural Sacu Summit in Namibia. South Africa ascended to the chairship of Sacu at the second Sacu Summit held in Pretoria in July 2010 and hosted the third summit in March 2011. Sacu members have developed a work programme on priority areas that is being implemented.

Relations with southern Africa Angola

Relations between the people of South Africa and Angola were cemented during the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles, which saw South Africa and Angola's liberation movements, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Movement for the Liberation of Angola, forging an alliance leading to the independence of their respective countries. These relations were transformed into state-to-state relations following the dawn of peace, democracy and justice in South Africa in 1994. Many South Africans regard Angola as their second home.

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

Botswana

South Africa and Botswana signed the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) Agreement in 2003. The JPCC provides a legal and institutional framework for further cooperation in identified strategic areas.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Over the past few years, the DRC has evolved as one of South Africa's growing and leading trading partners in the region. The two countries cooperate on several projects, including security-sector reform, capacity- and institution-building and infrastructure development.

South Africa is involved in the reconstruction of the DRC, helping to rebuild its public service. The country also re-affirmed its continued support to the Congolese Government to build durable state institutions that inspire confidence in the people. South Africa will continue supporting efforts aimed at the consolidation of democracy in that country.

In June 2011, President Zuma led a high-level delegation from South Africa to meet a delegation from the DRC in Lubumbashi to review the progress made in implementing agreements signed between the two countries.

The seventh session of the DRC Binational Commission (BNC) was held in June 2011. During the BNC, the two delegations reviewed the implementation of the commitments and recom-

mendations made during the sixth session of the BNC. These commitments and recommendations concern cooperation projects in the following areas: politics and governance; defence and security; economy, finance and infrastructure; and social and humanitarian affairs.

In September 2011, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, announced Operation Mistral in the DRC. A total of 1 236 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members were deployed in this operation. The SANDF contingent was in support of the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC.

In November 2011, President Zuma and his counterpart, President Joseph Kabila, presided over the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Grand Inga Project, a hydropower project with an estimated capacity of 40 000 MW. It is expected it will change Africa's energy sector. The MoU also paves the way for agreements between the two countries' electricity utility companies.

Lesotho

The economies of South Africa and Lesotho are interdependent, with Lesotho providing a strategic resource to South Africa in the form of labour and skills. South Africa is Lesotho's only neighbour.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) was started in 1986 as a joint venture to supply water to South Africa, especially the rapidly growing urban population of Gauteng, and to meet Lesotho's electricity needs. The project delivers about 780 million m³ of water to South Africa per year. It is regarded as Africa's largest transfer project as well as the largest ongoing binational construction project.

In August 2011, the then Minister of Communications, Mr Roy Padayachie, signed a statement of cooperation with his Lesotho counterpart, the Minister of Communications, Science and Technology, Mr Mothejoa Metsing, in Pretoria.

The statement served as a vehicle to explore discussions and potential partnerships on mutually beneficial programmes for the two countries. This culminated in the signing of an MoU between the two ministries.

Some of the areas of potential cooperation include digital migration, cybersecurity, home-and-away roaming, postal services and broadband.

In August 2011, South Africa signed the agreement for the implementation of Phase Two of the

LHWP in Maseru, Lesotho. This phase will consist of a water-delivery system to augment the delivery of water to South Africa and a hydropower generation system. The water-delivery system comprises Polihali Reservoir on the Senqu River, a water conveyance tunnel connecting the Polihali and Katse reservoirs, access roads to the project sites, camps, power-transmission lines and administration centres, including social and environmental projects and programmes.

Phase Two will also include a pump-storage scheme, associated transmission lines and auxiliary power unit works.

Malawi

In 1967, South Africa established its first formal diplomatic relations with an independent African country, namely Malawi. Relations with Malawi have been conducted at the level of high commission.

Mozambique

South Africa and Mozambique share good historic and neighbourly relations that have over the years been solidified through the South Africa-Mozambique Heads of State Economic Bilateral Commission, the JPCC, promoting the SADC and AU policies and the effective implementation of Nepad programmes.

In June 2011, South Africa and Mozambique signed an MoU that was expected to see the two countries work together on issues of piracy and transborder crime.

The partnership and cooperation include joint training, the sharing of information and intelligence, joint patrols and ongoing support in military developments.

In August 2011, South Africa hosted the third session of the South Africa-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS). The South Africa-Mozambique JPC is tasked with implementing joint operations such as border, navy and air patrols. The JPCDS will also consider issues of training and military health between the two countries.

The JPCDS held its third session in November 2011 in Pretoria.

Namibia

South Africa and Namibia enjoy close cooperation in a number of areas, which is further enhanced by high-level engagements such as the Heads of State Economic Bilateral Meeting. The

meetings focus on joint economic cooperation projects such as spatial development initiatives, tourism, energy matters and matters related to Sacu and SADC.

The annual meetings of the JPCDS between the two countries aim to identify, discuss and promote bilateral and regional cooperation in the security area.

South Africa is one of Namibia's most important economic partners. Bilateral trade between South Africa and Namibia accounts for two thirds of Namibia's total foreign trade.

Swaziland

The Kingdom of Swaziland and South Africa share common cultural links that date back to pre-colonial times.

The South African Government has urged all the relevant parties in Swaziland to begin a political dialogue with a view to speedily and peacefully resolve the challenges it faces.

Tanzania

In May 2011, the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, held bilateral discussions with her Tanzanian counterpart, Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha.

In July 2011, Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete paid a state visit to South Africa. During the visit, relations between South Africa and Tanzania received a boost following the signing of an agreement to establish a BNC and the Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Arts and Culture.

Other agreements and MoUs that were signed included the:

- Cooperation Agreement in Agriculture
- Agreement on Mutual Assistance between Customs Administration
- Bilateral Air Services Agreement
- MoU on Transport-Related Matters.

In September 2011, the South African Government deployed the SANDF to a rescue and humanitarian mission following a ferry accident along the island of Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania.

Zambia

Zambia is South Africa's biggest trading partner in Africa, with a total trade volume of US\$2 billion.

The countries have signed MoUs to enhance their ties in sectors such as agriculture, health, mining and energy.

In September 2011, the South African Government congratulated Zambian President Elect, Mr Michael Sata, after he was announced winner of the presidential elections.

Government reaffirmed its desire to further enhance its strong historical relations with Zambia and to continue working with the Government and people of Zambia for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Zimbabwe

In April 2011, South Africa supported the decision by the SADC Organ Troika (made up of Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which resolved that:

- violence, intimidation, hate speech, harassment and other forms of action that contradict the letter and spirit of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) must end
- all stakeholders to the GPA should implement all its provisions and create a conducive environment for peace, security and free political activity
- the inclusive Government in Zimbabwe should complete all the necessary steps for holding elections, including the finalisation of the constitutional amendments and the referendum
- the SADC should assist in the formulation of guidelines aimed at assisting the holding of elections that will be peaceful, free and fair
- the troika undertook to appoint a team of officials to join the Facilitation Team and work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the GPA.

Uganda

Since 1994, the two countries have cooperated in peace-building efforts on the African continent, particularly in the Great Lakes Region.

In January 2011, at the invitation of President Zuma, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni paid a two-day state visit to South Africa. His visit followed President Zuma's first state visit to Uganda in March 2010.

The two heads of state witnessed the signing of MoUs and cooperation agreements in the fields of public works and infrastructure, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, social development and trade and industry. These MoUs and agreements will further enhance the consolidation and expansion

of bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Uganda.

In February 2011, President Zuma congratulated President Museveni on his re-election.

South Africa recognised that the Ugandan presidential and parliamentary elections of 18 February 2011 were held in accordance with the AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa.

South Africa is committed to working with the Government of Uganda for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

In August 2011, President Museveni and President Zuma held wide-ranging consultations on issues of mutual concern related to the African continent.

Kenya

South Africa and Kenya re-established official relations in 1992 after a break of 29 years. The South African mission, originally started in November 1991, was accorded diplomatic privileges and immunities in May 1992. Relations were upgraded to full diplomatic status in April 1994.

In 2003, the two governments signed the Declaration of Intent on Cooperation and further expanded it in October 2007 for the establishment of a JCC.

In accordance with the JCC agreement, a mid-term review is to be done annually at senior officials' level prior to the JCC, which is to be held biennially and is to be presided over by foreign ministers.

In November 2010, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe paid an official visit to Kenya. This led to senior officials from South Africa and Kenya participating in the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in March 2011. The SOM took place within the framework of official instruments signed between South Africa and Kenya.

The purpose of the SOM was to discuss the outcomes arising from the Deputy President's official visit to Kenya and for officials to plan for the inauguration of the JCC, later in 2011.

Ethiopia

Bilateral economic relations with Ethiopia were revived in 1995 when South Africa opened an embassy in Addis Ababa.

South Africa plans to create the South African Development Agency, which intends to drive a development-partnership programme to build innovative, proactive and sustainable partnerships to advance African development.

Indian Ocean islands

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

Bilateral relations have been strengthened since 1994, especially in trade and investment, culture, sport and recreation. There has also been progress in finalising the General Cooperation Agreement (GCA) as well as agreements in such areas as education, scientific and technical co-operation, shipping and maritime activities, environment and tourism as well as social development.

In September 2011, the Troika of the Politics, Defence and Security Organ of the SADC met in Madagascar on a fact-finding mission in a bid to revive the peace process there. The troika engaged the Malagasy stakeholders to accept the Road Map as amended by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, in June 2011.

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, led the talks as South Africa took over the chair of the troika in September 2011.

The SADC suspended Madagascar in 2009 after a military coup there.

Comoros

South Africa and the Comoros have had official relations since 1993.

South Africa, as the AU-mandated coordinator of the Countries of the Region on the Comoros, is facilitating and closely monitoring the transition process.

In May 2011, President Zuma congratulated Dr Ikililou Dhoinine on assuming the Presidency of the Comoros. He also commended its people for steps taken in implementing a democratic transformation.

Development cooperation

South Africa is not a donor country, but development cooperation 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 and rendering medical assistance and technology-exchange programmes.

Technical and financial assistance aimed at capacity-building, especially in SADC countries, is a major instrument for promoting regional economic development, peace, stability and democracy.

Relations with central Africa 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 have since been signed.

Gabon served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2011 to 2012.

Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe

Diplomatic relations between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa were established in May 1994.

In September 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe attended the inauguration ceremony of President Elect, Mr Manuel Pinto Da Costa, of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. South Africa and São Tomé share the same values, especially a dedication to constitutional democracy and good governance.

Deputy President Motlanthe took advantage of the occasion to renew the bilateral relations and solidarity between the two countries.

The President Elect recommitted his government to the implementation of the GCA signed between the two countries in April 2005. This agreement will contribute towards closer links between the two countries in the expansion of trade and investment.

Congo

South Africa formalised diplomatic relations with Congo in 1993 and the two countries enjoy sound bilateral relations.

South Africa has economic cooperation, maritime transport, and arts and culture agreements with Congo, which will build on important work already underway in areas such as health and defence.

South Africa is also keen to participate in the development of the agricultural sector in Congo.

Equatorial Guinea

Diplomatic relations between Equatorial Guinea and South Africa were established in May 1993.

The Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhotso Soty, led a police delegation on an official visit to Equatorial Guinea in March 2011. She met with the country's Minister of National Security, Mr Nicolas Obama Nchama. The purpose of the visit was based on a framework of collaboration and cooperation between South Africa and Equatorial Guinea, and intended to discuss issues concerning police matters based on South Africa's international event-hosting expertise.

In October 2011, President Teodoro Obiang Mbasogo paid a state visit to South Africa.

Cameroon

Diplomatic relations between the republics of South Africa and Cameroon date back to April 1994. During 2006, South Africa and Cameroon signed a GCA, a trade agreement and an MoU on economic cooperation. These agreements set the framework for strengthening relations and business activity between the two countries.

South Africa and Cameroon are both signatories to the Yamoussoukro Declaration (YD). There are direct flights from Johannesburg to Douala and Yaounde with South African Airways and via Nairobi with Kenya Airways.

Since the signing into law of the Yamoussoukro Decision by Africa's heads of state in July 2000, South Africa has implemented effective policy measures. In July 2006, Cabinet approved the Airlift Strategy, which set out to achieve an increase in air-traffic frequencies ahead of demand. These frequencies are the basis of the

The second Southern African Development Community-Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa-East African Community Tripartite Heads of State and Government Summit was held at the end of June 2011.

The summit officially launched the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The three pillars of the FTA are market integration, infrastructure development and industrial development.

The summit also resolved to address the challenges associated with facilitating the movement of businesspeople across regional economic communities, together with infrastructure development.

various air-service agreements South Africa has in place with other African countries.

The Bilateral Air Service Agreement between South Africa and Cameroon embraces the market-liberalisation principles/key elements of the YD to enhance connectivity and stimulate trade and tourism between the two countries. This agreement is the first of its kind to be signed between South Africa and Cameroon.

Central African Republic (CAR)

South Africa has enjoyed full diplomatic relations with the CAR since August 1993.

Members of the SANDF are deployed there for peacekeeping purposes.

Chad

The South African embassy in Chad became fully functional in 2007. South Africa continues to support efforts to stabilise the situation in Chad.

Rwanda

Full diplomatic relations were established between South Africa and Rwanda in May 1995. Co-operation focuses on the post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda and has extended to the coordination of Nepad on the continent.

Burundi

In August 2011, President Zuma, at the invitation of President Pierre Nkurunziza, paid a state visit to Burundi. The two leaders reviewed progress in key areas of bilateral relations and exchanged views on issues affecting Africa, especially political developments in the eastern region and global multilateral matters.

The two heads of state observed the signing of cooperation agreements between South Africa and Burundi, including the:

- Agreement on Defence Cooperation
- Agreement on Education Cooperation
- Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Agriculture and Livestock Sectors
- MoU regarding Economic Cooperation
- Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Fields of Sport and Recreation.

Burundi and South Africa enjoy close relations. South Africa assisted the Government of Burundi with various development projects such as the hosting of the permanent Commission Electoral National Independence (CENI) shortly before the 2010 election in Burundi.

In collaboration with the UN Development Programme, South Africa invited CENI to attend further workshops within the context of the 2011 local municipal elections and observe the election processes in this country.

The first meeting of the Burundi-South Africa JCC will be held in 2012 in South Africa.

Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa

Algeria

South Africa and Algeria have maintained a strategic relationship since the establishment of the Presidential BNC in 2001. In May 2010, the BNC achieved progress in the areas of defence, S&T, energy and mining, arts and culture, youth sports and health. The two countries continued co-operation over the long-standing international dispute of the Western Sahara, including collective support for the AU and UN multilateral efforts to find an equitable, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict between the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Within the framework of the South Africa-Algeria Inter-Governmental Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of S&T signed in 2008, a programme of cooperation (PoC) has been agreed to. The PoC aims to strengthen relations between South Africa and Algeria to pave the way for long-term scientific cooperation.

Western Sahara

South Africa supports the ongoing struggle for self-determination by the people of the Western Sahara.

In October 2011, President Zuma urged the international community to support the country's quest for freedom, human rights and dignity.

Egypt

In October 2010, President Zuma visited Egypt, the first such visit by a South African head of state since the dawn of democracy in 1994. He was accompanied by more than 100 businesspeople as the two countries sought to expand trade, cultural and political relations.

In February 2011, the South African Government welcomed President Hosni Mubarak's decision to resign as President of Egypt. This development created conditions for a transitional process, which paved the way for a democratic dispensation in Egypt.

South Africa is ready to support the Transitional Government in Egypt as it prepares to steer the country towards a new course of freedom and democracy. South Africa urged the new Egyptian Government to maintain a peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and continue playing a positive and constructive role in the Middle East, with a view to realising the establishment of an independent Palestinian State coexisting side by side with the State of Israel.

Tunisia

Political relations between South Africa and Tunisia remain strong.

The two countries cooperate in the fields of health, social development, defence, S&T, culture and sport.

Libya

In September 2011, President Zuma attended the high-level meeting on Libya hosted by the UN Secretary General. Earlier in 2011, the UN responded to the call for assistance from the Libyan people in their time of need.

South Africa supported that call with the belief that the UN had an obligation to bring about by peaceful means, and in accordance with the principles of justice and international law, peace and stability and the protection of civilians.

South Africa supports international post-conflict efforts at reconstruction, reconciliation and rebuilding to help the Libyan people move forward from this conflict.

During the new phase of Libya's transition, the AU and South Africa remain committed to helping the Libyan people in their quest for peace and the reconstruction of their country.

When the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya met in Pretoria on 14 September 2011, it recognised the National Transitional Council (NTC) as the representatives of the Libyan people. It resolved to work with the NTC and all other Libyan stakeholders towards the goal of the early establishment of an all-inclusive national unity government.

Morocco

Although interaction between the Kingdom of Morocco and South Africa remains strained as a result of South Africa's principled position on the

issue of the occupation of the Western Sahara, efforts are afoot to normalise these relations.

The conflict around Africa's last colony remains an International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster priority. South Africa bases its policy objectives on the following principles in support of stabilisation efforts in the Western Sahara:

- promotion of the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people as enshrined in the UN Charter
- support for the principle of decolonisation and the sanctity of colonial borders
- respect for international humanitarian law and the promotion of universal human rights
- support for international legality and multilateralism in the resolution of conflict
- opposition to the exploitation of natural resources of the occupied territory
- support for sustainable humanitarian and development assistance to the Saharawi people
- promotion of the integration and security and stability of the Maghreb region.

Mauritania

In February 2011, President Zuma paid a working visit to Mauritania in his capacity as a member of the AU High-Level Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

The High-Level Panel was established by the PSC of the AU at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa in January 2011.

In March 2011, President Zuma paid a second working visit to continue the discussions for the resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire

South Africa established full diplomatic relations with Côte d'Ivoire in May 1992. South Africa continues to promote the restoration of peace and stability in that country.

In January 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe met with the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr Guillaume Soro in Pretoria.

The country is poised for normalisation with the inauguration of President Alassane Ouattara. In 2011, South Africa availed itself to work with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as it worked towards national unity and reconciliation.

Sudan and South Africa

South Africa helped to build South Sudan. The agreement was brokered by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan, led by former President Thabo Mbeki.

In June 2011, the AU special envoy to Sudan, led by former President Mbeki, signed an agreement in the last round of negotiations to define the relations between the North and South.

In July 2011, South Africa also maintained and managed a consistent balance at the onset of the separation of South Sudan from the North as an indication of the country's continued commitment to enhancing relations with the Government of Sudan and new relations with the Government of South Sudan.

South Sudan gained independence in July 2011, following a referendum to break away from the North.

In September 2011, South Africa signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations with South Sudan. The agreement is expected to lay the basis for the conclusion of other agreements, particularly economic and trade-related frameworks, aimed at promoting two-way trade and investment between South Africa and South Sudan.

Liberia

South Africa and Liberia established formal diplomatic relations in January 1997. The Liberian Government established an embassy in Pretoria in October 1997.

In October 2011, President Zuma congratulated the President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nigeria

Nigeria is considered one of South Africa's most important partners on the African continent in pursuing the vision of African renewal.

Nigeria had a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the period 2011 to 2012.

At the end of May 2011, President Zuma attended the inauguration of Nigerian President Elect, Mr Goodluck Jonathan.

Ghana

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

South Africa and Ghana have agreements in the areas of mining, defence, taxation, investment and aviation.

In August 2011, President Zuma hosted the President of Ghana, Mr John Atta Mills, who undertook a state visit to South Africa. The two heads of state observed the signing of the following MoUs and agreements between South Africa and Ghana:

- MoU on Cooperation in the Field of ICT
- MoU on Economic and Technical Cooperation
- MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism
- MoU regarding Cooperation in the Fields of Oil and Gas
- Agreement regarding the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official or Service Passports
- Agreement on Defence Training and Technical Cooperation.

The third meeting of the South Africa-Ghana JPCC will take place in 2012.

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.

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 GCA in October 2003. They have, among other things, identified agriculture, arts and culture, and justice as areas of cooperation.

At the end of November 2011, President Boni Yayi paid a state visit to South Africa. The ministers of international relations and cooperation of the two countries signed an MoU regarding economic cooperation, a bilateral air services agreement and exchanged the terms of reference of the Committee of Defence.

Republic of Togo

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

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 that country's non-resident ambassador. South Africa maintains an honorary consul office in The Gambia to look after South African interests.

Guinea

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

Guinea-Bissau

South Africa opened a diplomatic mission in Guinea-Bissau in February 2008.

South Africa is also a member of the Country-Specific Configuration on Guinea-Bissau with the UN Peace-Building Commission. As part of this group, South Africa strives to mobilise the international community to contribute to the rebuilding of that country, in both political and economic terms.

In August 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe paid an official visit to Guinea-Bissau. The visit provided a platform for the two countries to reaffirm their commitment to implementing a bilateral programme of cooperation agreed to under the Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) initiated in August 2008.

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.

In June 2011, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, paid an official visit to Mali. The two countries signed a social development agreement in October 2009. They are finalising a health agreement as well as an MoU on youth development. The visit was underscored by the importance of increasing bilateral trade.

Senegal

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.

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Senegal were established in May 1994 and the two countries' representative offices were upgraded to embassy level.

There are various cooperation agreements between the two countries.

Sierra Leone

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Sierra Leone were established in August 1998. The South African embassy in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, is accredited to Sierra Leone on a non-residential basis. The Sierra Leonean ambassador in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa on a non-residential basis.

The Government of Sierra Leone opened a high commission in South Africa in 2010.

Niger

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

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

Somalia

In March 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane announced that South Africa and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia had concluded an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations. South Africa's high commissioner to Kenya will be accredited to Somalia until a mission is opened in Mogadishu.

Relations with Asia and the Middle East

The People's Republic of China

December 2011 marked 14 years since the official establishment of diplomatic relations between South Africa and China. China is South Africa's largest trading partner.

Mutual relations between the two nations have been elevated to a strategic partnership. China and South Africa have signed multiple bilateral economic cooperation agreements on investment, trade, technology and taxation. Bilateral trade has surged from US\$1,6 billion to US\$25,7 billion.

At the end of May 2011, Deputy Minister Sotyu and her Chinese counterpart, the Vice Minister of Public Security, Mr Zhang Xinfeng, reinforced cooperation on security matters between the two countries.

In July 2011, the Chinese Vice Minister of Culture, Ms Zhao Shaohua, announced that China was opening a Chinese cultural centre in South Africa as an exchange platform for cultural development with South Africa. China also pledged 300 000 Chinese Yuan to develop cultural activities in South Africa.

In September 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe paid an official visit to Beijing. He held official talks with the Chinese leadership on how to strengthen and consolidate political and economic relations between South Africa and China. The visit was held within the context of the implementation of the Declaration on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed during President Zuma's state visit to China in August 2010.

During the visit, China and South Africa signed, among other things, an MoU on geology and mineral resources cooperation and an agreement on the development of financial cooperation.

With regard to the agreement signed by the China Development Bank and Development Bank of Southern Africa, the two banks will provide financial support for bilateral cooperation in infrastructure construction, transport, water-resource use, housing, health and education.

Central and East Asia

Japan

In 2011, Japan and South Africa celebrated 101 years of official relations.

China became South Africa's top export destination at the end of 2010. China's customs statistics show that trade between China and South Africa totalled US\$25,6 billion in 2010. Imports from South Africa reached US\$14,8 billion during the same period.

Japan is South Africa's third-largest trading partner and Japanese companies, for example Toyota and the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation invested R28 billion in South Africa in 2010 alone.

The two countries cooperate in various fields such as training and skills development. In 2011, there were 103 Japanese companies in South Africa, employing about 200 000 South Africans.

In March 2011, a South African rescue team left for Japan to join an international relief effort after a tsunami devastated the north-eastern part of the country. Rescue South Africa (RSA) put together a team for a mission to Japan under the auspices of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

RSA's disaster-response team comprised 50 South Africans, including paramedics, dog handlers and sniffer dogs.

In June 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane arrived in Japan for the MDG's follow-up meeting and to co-chair the South Africa-Japan Partnership Forum, which took place in Tokyo.

A ministerial bilateral meeting took place between Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and her Japanese counterpart, Mr Takeaki Matsumoto, during which the Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed. An agreement was also reached on the text of a draft cooperation agreement between the customs administrations of the two countries.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Naoto Kan and met key business leaders through the Keidanren, the most important business organisation in Japan.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

Relations between South Africa and the RoK continue to be enhanced through regular interaction under the auspices of the Policy Consultative Forum (PCF).

In June 2011, Deputy Minister Fransman hosted the PCF with First Vice-Minister of Foreign

Affairs and Trade of the Republic of South Korea, Mr Park Suk-hwan.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Relations between South Africa and the DPRK are cordial. In 2011, the two countries celebrated nine years of diplomatic relations.

Central Asia

There is no South African representation in Uzbekistan, but the South African ambassador to Ankara, Turkey, is accredited to Tashkent on a non-resident basis.

There is no South African representation in Tajikistan, but the South African ambassador to Ankara, Turkey, is accredited to Dushanbe on a non-resident basis.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, visited South Africa in 2011 to boost bilateral relations and discuss the steps to be taken for an FTA.

South Africa regards Turkey as a strategic partner and significant momentum has been added to this growing relationship as was demonstrated by the establishment of the senior officials' political consultations co-hosted in South Africa and in Turkey in March 2009 and March 2010 respectively.

These relations were further reinvigorated by the visit to South Africa by Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ahmet Davutoğlu, in August 2011.

There is no South African representation in Turkmenistan, but the South African ambassador to Ankara, Turkey, is accredited to Ashkabad on a non-resident basis.

There is no South African representation in Kyrgyzstan, but the South African ambassador to Ankara, Turkey, is accredited to Bishkek on a non-resident basis.

South Africa has an embassy in Kazakhstan. In November 2011, Deputy Minister Fransman hosted a high-level delegation from Kazakhstan during a five-day working visit, aimed at promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

South Asia

Key countries in the region are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, all of which with whom South Africa has cordial and growing relations.

In line with strengthening South Africa's bilateral political and economic ties with Sri Lanka, a full high commission with a resident high commissioner was established in January 2008.

In South Asia, South Africa views Pakistan as an important role player in the international arena and appreciates the country as a bilateral partner. South Africa remains concerned about domestic insurgency in Pakistan and has called for parties to engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve their differences.

The South African Government appreciates the growing bilateral relations with Sri Lanka. South Africa promotes the need for a peaceful and sustainable political solution, which will be best achieved through broad consultation and dialogue among all the people of Sri Lanka.

The opening of a South African high commission in Colombo was based on growing bilateral trade links, historic links with the Tamil community in South Africa and a desire to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflict in Sri Lanka, as well as the importance of the island state in multilateral affairs and within the South Asian region.

South Africa's trade relations with India have flourished since the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1993. Trade statistics with India continue to reflect the potential that exists for expanding the commercial relationship.

At the end of May 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe led a South African delegation to the second Africa-India Forum Summit, which was held at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The summit aimed to enhance partnership and a shared vision between Africa and India. It is a follow-up to the first summit that took place in New Delhi, in April 2008, during which the New Delhi Declaration and Framework for Cooperation were adopted.

At the same time, the Deputy President paid a courtesy call on the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Kin Moon.

Internationally, South Africa and India share several common interests, including the reform of the UN and Bretton Woods systems, cooperation in the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa partnership) Dialogue Forum, the Group of 20 Developing Nations (G20) and climate change.

South-East Asia

Strengthening South-South relations remains an important pillar of the South African Govern-

The National Research Foundation submitted the documents supporting the African bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope in September 2011. The documents were South Africa's response to the Request for Information issued by the international SKA Siting Group in June 2011.

This followed the initial submission of expressions of interest in 2003 and of reports in 2005, which led to South Africa and Australia being shortlisted as both being suitable for the SKA. The African SKA site bid was led by South Africa's Department of Science and Technology and includes Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana.

In May 2012, the SKA bid was awarded to both South Africa and Australia.

ment's foreign-policy objectives, especially Asia where South Africa has resident missions in six South-East Asian countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. These countries as well as Myanmar (Burma) and Timor Leste also maintain resident missions in South Africa.

Bilateral trade relations with this region have been growing over the past 16 years. Total trade between South Africa and South-East Asia amounted to R52,3 billion in 2010, with Thailand being the biggest trading partner in the region.

The regional grouping, 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 resident missions in six of the 10 member states of Asean, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

There has been an exchange of state visits between South Africa and countries of the region since the normalisation of relations post-1994. There are many long-term trade and investment opportunities for South African companies in the region.

South Africa and Vietnam have agreed to strengthen their relations and cooperation, especially in politics, economy, S&T, culture and education.

In May 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe and visiting counterpart, Vice-President Nguyễn Thi Doan, agreed to seek measures to increase cooperation in all fields to potentially expand trade and investment between the two countries. They also committed to increasing the volumes of trade to reach a target of US\$1 billion over the next few years. The South Africa-Vietnam Partnership Forum developed the details of achieving this goal in 2011, by creating awareness among South African and Vietnamese business communities regarding investment opportunities in both

countries. Opportunities exist in areas such as tourism, agriculture and clothing and textile production.

Indonesia, with its population of almost 250 million, offers interesting market opportunities.

Singapore has important investments in the Coega Project in the Eastern Cape, and in a ship-building project at Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

The ruling party in South Africa has long-standing solidarity links with the present Government of Timor Leste and is eager to assist that country in its reconstruction.

South Africa deals with Myanmar mostly through multilateral organisations.

Australasia and the Pacific islands

South Africa and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1947 and enjoy close political and economic ties. A South Africa-Australian Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) officially came into being in 1997. The JMC was created to provide a framework through which to strengthen the bilateral, and particularly the commercial, relationship, between South Africa and Australia.

South Africa and Australia have a history of productive cooperation across a range of issues, including fisheries protection, law enforcement, defence relations and customs cooperation.

The countries enjoy wide-ranging multilateral relations. Both – together with New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay – are members of the Valdivia Group (Group of Temperate Southern Hemisphere Countries on Environment), which aims to promote southern-hemisphere views in international environmental meetings and enhance scientific cooperation. They enjoy a close working relationship within the context of the Antarctic Treaty and Indian Ocean fisheries, and also interact regularly within the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Cairns Group.

South Africa and Australia also work closely on Commonwealth issues, particularly those affecting Africa.

In September 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe paid a working visit to New Zealand.

He and Prime Minister John Key held discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues and he met the leader of New Zealand's Labour Party, Philip Bruce Goff.

Deputy President Motlanthe attended the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup on

9 September 2011, before proceeding to Wellington where he visited the Springbok team to give them moral support ahead of their opening World Cup game against Wales.

The South African Government has strengthened relations with the Pacific Islands region, opening a resident high commission in Suva, Fiji, in 2006.

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.

Relations with the Middle East

South Africa's relationship with the Gulf States has deepened significantly since the mid-1990s. Not only is the Gulf the source of more than half of South Africa's crude oil requirement, but it has also become a major market for South African products, a source of investment and home to a sizeable South African expatriate community.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

In November 2011, President Zuma paid a state visit to the UAE. It is South Africa's 18th-largest export market, a prominent investor in South Africa and home to a sizeable South African expatriate community, especially health professionals.

South African companies have made a major contribution to the development of the UAE economy and over 200 of them have representative offices in the UAE. The potential for greater interaction between the two countries is enhanced through the 56 weekly flights between South Africa and the UAE.

South Africa and the UAE have signed five bilateral agreements, providing the framework for cooperation. By November 2011, 10 draft agreements were being negotiated in the areas of defence, taxation, industrial development, promotion of investments, legal matters, social development, transport and a joint commission on bilateral issues.

Iran

South Africa and Iran have enjoyed positive bilateral engagements since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations in May 1994.

In 1995, South Africa and Iran established a JBC to allow for a high-level review of existing

bilateral relations and to consider ways in which these could be expanded.

In March 2011, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, hosted the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs, Dr Hadi Soleimanpour, during his visit to South Africa.

The JBC, chaired by South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, meets alternatively in South Africa and Iran biannually. The JBC is regarded as one of South Africa's most successful and longest-running bilateral mechanisms. South Africa hosted the 11th session of the JBC in 2011.

In May 2011, Deputy Minister Ebrahim met Dr Mohammad Javad Larjani, Head of the Supreme Council for Human Rights in Iran.

Several South African companies are involved in major projects in Iran.

Saudi Arabia

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Saudi Arabia were formalised during a visit by former President Nelson Mandela in November 1994. Two missions were established in the country during March 1995: an embassy with a chargé d'affaires in the capital Riyadh and a consulate-general in the commercial capital of Jeddah. The consulate-general is also responsible for looking after the needs of South African pilgrims performing Hajj and Umrah duties in the holy cities of Makkah al Mukarramah and Medina al Munawarra.

Saudi Arabia is a fellow G20 member and remains South Africa's largest supplier of crude oil.

Qatar

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, paid a state visit to South Africa in May 2002, which led to South Africa opening an embassy in Doha, the capital of Qatar, in September 2002. Qatar opened its embassy in Pretoria in January 2003.

Deputy Minister Ebrahim led a South African delegation at the third round of bilateral consultations between South Africa and Qatar in October 2011. The Qatar delegation was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mr Saif Al-Buainain.

Particular focus was placed on cooperation in the fields of arts and culture, defence and security, energy, higher education, public works, social development and trade and investment.

Kuwait

South Africa and Kuwait concluded diplomatic relations in 1995. Kuwait opened an embassy in Pretoria in 1996 and South Africa reciprocated in 1998. Kuwait has become an increasingly important market for South African exports and several Kuwaiti companies have made multimillion-rand investments in the construction and development of hotels and real estate in South Africa, as well as investments on the JSE Stock Exchange.

Oman

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr David Mabuza, paid an official visit to Oman in September 2011. The main purpose was to establish economic and trade relations between Mpumalanga and Oman.

In November 2011, President Zuma visited Oman. The aim of the visit was to identify investment opportunities and sign trade and economic agreements, including the Supplementary Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.

Iraq

Iraq established its diplomatic relations with South Africa in August 1998. By June 2011, South Africa's exports to Iraq totalled R2,2 million.

Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was the first Arab country to establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa in 1993. In December 1994, South Africa established a resident mission in Amman.

In April 1996, the late King Hussein led a delegation attending an UN Conference on Trade and Development in South Africa. This attendance was upgraded to the level of a state visit. During October 1999, former President Nelson Mandela briefly visited Amman, which did much to enhance the bilateral relationship.

Lebanon

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with Lebanon and there is a large ethnic Lebanese community in South Africa. The South African ambassador in

Syria is accredited to Lebanon on a non-residential basis.

Syria

An official Syrian delegation led by Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam visited South Africa in May 1994. Full diplomatic relations were established in June 1994.

In 1998, Syria opened an embassy in Pretoria. South Africa's ambassador to Egypt is accredited on a non-residential basis to Syria, as there is no South African mission in Damascus.

In October 2011, South Africa abstained on the vote in the UNSC because of its concern about the deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Syria.

South Africa condemned the loss of life in Syria, called for maximum restraint from all the parties in the conflict and demanded an immediate end to all violence in Syria.

On the humanitarian front, South Africa called on the Syrian authorities to facilitate access by humanitarian agencies, including the UN, in accordance with relevant international human rights and humanitarian law.

South Africa urged the Syrian authorities to initiate an open, transparent and all-inclusive political process with its people, to address their grievances and to guarantee their fundamental political rights and freedom, including their rights to freedom of assembly and speech.

Arab-Israeli peace process

South Africa supports just, equitable and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab world, which must involve an end to the illegal occupation by Israel of Arab land, namely in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, which has led to conflict and violence between the peoples of the region over the last six decades.

South Africa believes that 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 appeal to all key role players in the peace process to avoid actions that could add to an already volatile situation. The country has been consistent in calling for the immediate implementation of international peace proposals, such as the Road Map for Peace and the Arab League Peace Initiative of 2002, without

preconditions, to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

South Africa is supportive of all international efforts to help the people of Palestine and Israel in their endeavours to find lasting peace. In this regard, South Africa has supported resolutions in the UNSC and General Assembly calling for parties to take certain steps to advance the peace process and for an end to all Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

South Africa has voiced its concern with respect to the continued blockade of Gaza and has repeatedly called for an end to the blockade to alleviate the suffering of ordinary people in the territory. South Africa has also called on all political parties in Palestine to work towards the re-establishment of unity.

Deputy President Motlanthe, accompanied by Deputy Minister Ebrahim, paid an official visit to Syria in October 2010. The Arab-Israeli Peace Process was among the issues discussed.

In support of infrastructure development by the Palestinian authorities, South Africa and its IBSA partners Brazil and India funded the construction of a sports facility in Ramallah, which was expected to be completed in 2011.

Relations with the Americas United States of America (USA)

Relations between South Africa and the USA were normalised after South Africa's first democratic elections in April 1994.

Since then, several state visits have taken place between the two countries. Following former President Mbeki's working visit to the USA in 2001, it was agreed that the work of the former South Africa-US BNC would continue, and that the new structure would be known as the South Africa-US Bilateral Cooperation Forum (BCF).

The last BCF took place in May 2010. The BCF gives the two countries a platform to review projects that have been undertaken and to assess and remove the challenges to implementation.

In December 2010, as part of the BCF, the Department of Transport was invited to follow up and finalise issues related to cooperation with the Department of Transportation in the USA. As a result of these negotiations, the Memorandum of Cooperation was developed through correspondence and finalised in May 2011.

In March 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe visited the USA with the aim of boosting relations between South Africa and its second-biggest trade partner. South Africa and the USA enjoy close ties, marked by an increase in regular high-level interactions.

In June 2011, the First Lady of the USA, Mrs Michelle Obama, visited South Africa. During her stay she, among other things, delivered a keynote speech to the Young African Women Leaders Forum, and visited Former President Mandela and Robben Island.

In September 2011, President Zuma concluded a working visit to the USA, where he led the South African delegation to the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, and also promoted economic and educational ties with the USA. He visited the New York Stock Exchange, and ended his stay with a stop-over in Houston, Texas, where he met with the business community to promote trade and investment, as well as education.

The President also addressed the Greater Houston Partnership.

Canada

The South Africa-Canada partnership is an important vehicle for promoting South Africa's national priorities and establishing strategic cooperation platforms. Canada has supported South Africa's re-entry into a broad range of multilateral organisations. The two countries consult regularly on important multilateral issues.

Relations between South Africa and Canada are conducted largely within the framework of the Annual Consultations (AC). This is the primary forum in which issues of mutual interest and concern receive specific focus. The last AC were held in Ottawa, Canada, in November 2010.

The growth in regular high-level visits in both directions serves to cement and expand the mutually beneficial interaction in all spheres.

Canada's ODA to South Africa under the Country Development Programming Framework (CDPF) has three main programme themes, namely strengthening South Africa's service-delivery mechanism; regional cooperation; and mainstreaming (gender, HIV/AIDS and the environment). For the period 2008 to 2013, Canadian ODA to South Africa amounts to R250 million.

The CDPF, which was due to end in late 2008, was extended to 2011.

Canada has a long-standing and wide-ranging track record of constructive engagement, both on bilateral and multilateral levels, on the African continent; ranging from peacekeeping and development aid to foreign direct investment.

Mexico

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Mexico are good and the two countries work closely together in multilateral forums on issues such as South-South cooperation and nuclear disarmament. South Africa is Mexico's biggest trading partner in Africa.

By September 2011, negotiations were underway between South Africa and Mexico on the 2010 to 2012 Work Plan, which includes collaboration on strategies and policies to eradicate poverty and inequality.

In September 2011, a South African delegation attended the XXIV World Road Congress in Mexico City.

South Africa was expected to enter into a road-construction exchange programme deal with Mexico following a meeting between the Minister of Transport, Mr Sibusiso Ndebele, and Mexico's Minister of Communications and Transport, Mr Dionisio Pérez-Jácome Friscione, in Mexico City.

The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean (Caricom). The majority of the inhabitants of the Caribbean are of African descent and have strong historical and cultural links to the continent. South Africa's endeavour, in conjunction with the AU and Caricom, to strengthen cooperation between Africa and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean has given added impetus to bilateral and multilateral relations.

South Africa attaches importance to strengthening its relations with the Caribbean and developing common positions on global issues such as access to the markets of the industrial North, reform of international institutions and promoting the development agenda.

Cuba is an important trading partner for South African exporters.

In May 2011, Minister Dlamini Zuma held exploratory discussions with her Cuban counter-

part on civic and immigration issues in Havana, Cuba.

This visit followed President Zuma's state visit to Cuba in December 2010, during which Minister Dlamini Zuma signed, with her Cuban counterpart, a bilateral visa waiver agreement for holders of diplomatic and official passports between the two countries. It enables these holders to travel to the respective countries for 90 days without visas, which ensures that representatives of their respective governments can conduct their business speedily and efficiently.

Deputy Minister Ebrahim co-chaired the successful ninth South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism Meeting in August 2011 with his counterpart, Mr Marcelino Medina Gonzalez, the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in Havana. The aims of these official talks included consolidating political bilateral and multilateral relations and further increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Latin America

The Caribbean and Latin America regions are important anchors of the country's South-South cooperation.

Bilateral relations with Latin America will continue advancing the development agenda of the South and strengthening cooperation among developing countries through active participation in groupings of the South at regional, interregional and multilateral levels. These groupings include trilateral arrangements such as the IBSA initiative, which is a value-driven proposal in the South.

Bilateral relations with Latin America are used to enhance economic, scientific, technical and business opportunities through bilateral mechanisms. The key areas of cooperation are aligned to the principles of government.

There is significant potential for cooperation with the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) trading bloc, which consists of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela as full members (Venezuela still to be ratified by Paraguay), and a steadily increasing number of associate members in the Latin American region.

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 remains a strategic partner for South Africa.

Brazil and South Africa agree on the issue of the reform of the UNSC and the Bretton Woods institutions. They cooperate in multilateral forums in line with trilateral relations through IBSA and the G20.

Brazil is South Africa's largest trading partner in South America.

In July 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane met with her Brazilian counterpart, Minister Antonio Patriota.

Discussions touched on the draft MoU of 2011 on cooperation aimed at supporting Brazil's organisation of major global sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup™ in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

In view of South Africa's scheduled hosting of the African Diaspora Summit in 2012, talks also covered both the technical and political aspects of the planned summit, including the African Diaspora Ministerial Meeting in September 2011 in New York, USA.

A range of technical and commercial agreements are either in place or being negotiated with several countries in the Latin American region.

In November 2011, the fourth bilateral seminar in support of the South Africa-Argentine BNC took place in Buenos Aires. It was opened by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, and Argentina's Minister of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship, Mr Héctor Timerman.

Relations with Europe European Union

South Africa's exports to the EU are growing and their composition is becoming more diverse. South Africa is gradually moving from mainly commodity-based products to a more diversified export profile that includes manufactured products.

The fifth South Africa-EU Summit will be held in Brussels in 2012. The fourth South Africa-EU Summit took place in September 2011 at the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga. The summit reviewed the rapid expansion of the bilateral relationship between South Africa and the EU, manifested by a strengthened strategic partnership and growing cooperation in a number of areas. In its assessment of the implementation of the joint action plan, the summit welcomed positive developments such as the:

- effective implementation and increased ownership of the EU's development assistance programme for South Africa and the excellent relationship between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and its South African partners
- launch in September 2011 of the Primary Healthcare Programme, worth €126 million, aimed at increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and child mortality and supporting the fight against HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis
- successful cooperation in the areas of S&T and innovation, and supporting seminars on minerals, mining and climate-change research, as well as on the environment and sustainable development, including green growth, climate action and biodiversity
- consistent progress in space cooperation, also involving the South African National Space Agency and the European Space Agency, especially the advanced preparations for the extension to South Africa of the European Geographic Navigation Overlay System, which will significantly enhance global navigation satellite system services in South Africa.

The summit also deliberated several strategic matters, including infrastructure development, development cooperation, global issues, the G20, climate change and Rio+20, regional issues, EU-SADC economic partnership agreements, group negotiations, Africa-EU radio astronomy co-operation, political and security issues, Sudan and South Sudan, Zimbabwe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership has an ongoing discussion on issues of mutual interest, such as effective multilateralism, debt relief, a fair global trading system and work towards peace, security and greater prosperity in the world.

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

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) 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 cooperation between the 78 countries of the ACP group and the EU. The 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 ODA. 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 Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement.

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 cooperation.

The most far-reaching changes are to be introduced in the area of trade, through regional economic partnership agreements, where non-reciprocal preferences will be gradually abolished and regional integration processes encouraged. 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 participates 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 S&T.

The interest and commitment shown by the EU regarding the African continent and its development is encouraging. Within that context, the European Commission (EC) and the Nepad Secretariat are closely cooperating 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 (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) remain important trade and investment partners of South Africa, and major providers of tourism.

South Africa enjoys close political relations with the Netherlands and Belgium, and engages in substantial and fruitful cooperation partnerships with these countries, contributing significantly to South Africa's national priorities.

The focus on establishing trilateral cooperation to promote peace and security with special emphasis on initiatives in support of capacity-building in the Great Lakes Region continued with the Belgian Government, which takes 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 as well as the Netherlands on the issues and complicated processes necessary to find durable solutions to the conflicts in the region.

High-level visits between South Africa and Belgium take place regularly.

Cooperation with Flanders is very strong. A substantial portion of the Flemish ODA budget is devoted to South Africa and the programme is in line with South Africa's new priorities, including the Human Resource Development Strategy, especially in the areas of skills development and the development of small, medium and micro-enterprises.

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.

Bilateral and economic relations, especially in the financial services and funds sectors, remain strong between Luxembourg and South Africa.

German-speaking countries

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Germany cover various issues, including investment and trade, S&T, defence, culture, the environment, tourism, sport, development cooperation and energy.

Some 600 German companies have set up operations in South Africa and employ a total workforce of over 90 000.

In November 2011, Minister Dlamini Zuma paid an official visit to Berlin, Germany, where she held discussions with her German counterpart, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Dr Ole Schröder, to exchange views on the German model of dealing with immigration, refugees, asylum seekers and civic management.

Relations between South Africa and Switzerland have continued growing since 1994. As a result of democratic changes in South Africa, Switzerland decided to grant South Africa special status on the Swiss foreign-policy agenda as one of the focus areas for Swiss interests outside Europe.

In March 2011, Deputy Minister Ebrahim co-chaired the South Africa-Switzerland third Annual High-Level Consultations with his Swiss counterpart, State Secretary Peter Maurer.

The visit covered, among other things, the promotion of the African Agenda as a cornerstone of South Africa's foreign policy, strengthening the UNSC, deepening the reform of the UN, and promoting South Africa's foreign-policy objectives on reform of the global governance system.

Trade between South Africa and Switzerland has grown over the years. Total trade increased by approximately R16 billion from R11 billion in 2005 to over R27 billion in 2009, representing an increase of over 150%.

Bilateral relations with the Republic of Austria are sound. Besides engaging the Austrian Government at national level in support of development programmes, increased economic involvement and support for the African Agenda, provincial partnerships with key Austrian provinces have also resulted in increased business ties and commitments to support training programmes for South African students. Closer cooperation in the field of renewable energies is expected to intensify in future.

In September and October 2011, Premier Helen Zille led a delegation of Western Cape provincial government officials and business representatives on an official visit to Germany and Austria.

Nordic countries

South Africa enjoys good 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 cooperation is broad and has benefited civil society and government.

Relations in the international arena have seen close cooperation on multilateral issues. The Nordic countries are strong supporters of Nepad and are directly involved in conflict resolution and reconstruction projects in Africa. This was reinforced through the signing of the Declaration of Intent on Partnerships in Africa in June 2008, which laid a framework for future trilateral cooperation.

Denmark was a very strong supporter of the anti-apartheid struggle and a major force in sanctions and disinvestment. In addition, Denmark has always had a very active development cooperation programme with South Africa, which was transformed into official assistance as from 1995. In the 2009 to 2013 programme, over R7 billion is being disbursed to projects ranging from water, energy, education, governance, the South African Police Service, and the fight against HIV and AIDS. Denmark remains a strong supporter of Nepad and African development.

In March 2011, South Africa hosted the second South Africa-Danish consultations in Pretoria.

President Zuma paid a state visit to Norway in August and September 2011, with the aim of strengthening North-South dialogue.

South Africa is committed to deepening political, economic and trade relations with Norway. Existing strong bilateral relations with Norway are based on historical ties from the liberation movements during the struggle for democracy in South Africa and a common outlook on global issues.

Norway's development cooperation contribution to South Africa from 2005 to 2009 was over R25 million. Norway is one of the few countries to reach the official UN target for ODA, which is 0,7% of gross national income.

United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland

In July 2011, President Zuma received the British Prime Minister, Mr David Cameron, on a working visit, which took place within the context of deepening, strengthening and broadening further the strong relations between the two countries. The visit to South Africa followed a successful state visit by President Zuma to the UK in 2010; the subsequent South Africa-UK Bilateral Forum; and the eventual adoption of the strategy of cooperation between the two countries.

The central aim of Prime Minister Cameron's visit to South Africa was to explore commercial opportunities and to see how best to support the Africa Free Trade Initiative. The visit also focused on a mutually beneficial strategy that will ensure that South Africa and the UK work together at national, regional and international levels in various fields, key among which are sustainable development; peace and security; good governance; and other socio-economic issues.

In June 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane led a South African delegation to the ninth South Africa-UK Bilateral Forum.

The forum was an important milestone in relations between the two countries, as its main focus was on implementing the ideals expressed in the Joint Declaration as adopted at the end of President Zuma's state visit to the UK in 2010.

The meeting culminated in the adoption of the Joint Strategy Framework that will serve as a blueprint for enhancing relations between South Africa and the UK.

Mediterranean Europe

South Africa and the countries of Mediterranean Europe maintain excellent relations through several institutionalised mechanisms, such as the South Africa-France Political Dialogue, South Africa-Spain AC; and various commissions on trade and industry, health, education, arts and culture, S&T and sport.

These countries are among South Africa's top trading partners and remain large investors in the South African economy, providing capital inflow and thousands of jobs.

South Africa and France enjoy excellent political relations characterised by regular high-level dialogue, diverse bilateral cooperation programmes and growing bilateral trade. South Africa acknowledges France's strong influence on the continent, especially in Francophone Africa, and seeks to cooperate with France wherever possible in promoting the African Agenda.

France is the largest donor to and trading partner with Africa, a major investor on the continent and a traditional champion of Africa and the developing world on issues such as debt relief, sustainable development and mitigating the negative effects of globalisation.

In February 2011, President Zuma led a high-level government and business delegation to

In October 2011, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Sweden, where he participated in the Binational Commission (BNC) and other consultations, which saw South Africa and Sweden strengthening political and economic relations.

Following the BNC, the Deputy President proceeded to Denmark for further consultations and high-level meetings with the Prime Minister of Denmark, Ms Helle Thorning-Schmidt. They discussed ways of strengthening the existing political and economic relations between South Africa and Denmark.

Paris on a state visit aimed at deepening political and economic relations between South Africa and France. His visit was at the invitation of French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The two presidents signed an agreement on the New Partnership Framework Document for 2011 to 2013. According to the agreement, the French Development Agency will make about R10 billion available over three years for the development of infrastructure, agriculture, mining and beneficiation, manufacturing, the green economy and tourism.

In November 2011, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Alain Juppé, visited South Africa to further promote North-South cooperation.

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 June and July 2011, the Premier of Limpopo, Mr Cassel Mathale, led a provincial government delegation on a visit to Italy. The purpose of the mission was to attract foreign investors to the province through the establishment of trade and economic relations with that country.

Economic relations between South Africa and Spain have grown rapidly, with total trade between the two countries amounting to R19 billion, having doubled over the past few years.

In February 2011, at the seventh annual bilateral consultations between the two countries, Deputy Minister Fransman and the Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barriuevo, discussed political cooperation, development and the strengthening of trade and investment. The promotion of the African Agenda and reform of international institutions also featured on the agenda.

South Africa and Greece have strong cultural ties through the Hellenic community in South Africa, which has played a positive and constructive role in the reconstruction and development of this country. The Hellenic community in South Africa is estimated at 60 000 people.

Greece is the oldest and largest market for South Africa in the Balkan Region. While Greece is not a major donor country, it has contributed to education and health programmes in South Africa.

In June 2011, Deputy Minister Ebrahim paid a working visit to Cyprus at the invitation of Ambassador Nicholas Emiliou, where climate change and support for South Africa's five national priorities formed part of discussions.

A MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations was signed, while Deputy Minister Ebrahim also paid a courtesy call on President Demetris Christofias and the President of the Cypriot Parliament, Mr Yiannakis Omirou.

Central Europe

South Africa enjoys excellent relations with all the countries of Central Europe.

The accession of seven Central European countries to the EU not only influenced South Africa's political and economic relations with these countries, but has affected South Africa's strategic and multifaceted relations with the EU. The new EU member countries have opened greater scope for mutually beneficial cooperation. Since most of the countries in Central Europe play an important role in the field of S&T, emphasis on developing more programmes of cooperation in this area and skills development projects will continue receiving priority attention.

Eastern Europe

The Eastern Europe region is of crucial importance to South Africa's strategic objectives, straddling a wide spectrum of political and economic interests. The region is well endowed with strategic commodities/minerals that are of vital importance to South Africa's economic livelihood. Cooperation in gas and oil and the peaceful use

of nuclear energy can go a long way towards alleviating South Africa's energy needs.

Cooperation with Eastern European countries, given their advancements in the field of S&T, is likely to contribute effectively to South Africa and Africa's development priorities.

South Africa continues to use structured bilateral mechanisms and other high-level engagement to strengthen political and economic relations with Eastern European countries. Thus, relations with these countries, if properly nurtured, will contribute to the achievement of South Africa's strategic objectives and the African Agenda at large.

In 2011, Serbia and South Africa reviewed their bilateral relations; strengthened their political, economic and cultural relations; and identified priority areas for cooperation when Deputy Minister Ebrahim visited the country in July.

The following outstanding priority agreements were finalised:

- Protocol on Political Consultations between the Foreign Ministries
- Waiver of Visa Requirements of Diplomatic and Official Passports
- Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation
- an MoU on Law-Enforcement Cooperation.

In September 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane visited Bulgaria. She met with her counterpart, Mr Nickolay Mladenov, to discuss, among other things, cooperation in the EU and the reform of global institutions of governance such as the UNSC and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Russian Federation

In 2011, South Africa and Russia further strengthened bilateral political and economic relations. Delegations from the two countries met for the 10th session of the South Africa-Russian Federation Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (Itec) in Pretoria in September 2011.

The Russian Federation is the most important strategic partner in Eastern Europe. The Russian Federation's membership of the G8 and the UNSC offers South Africa an influential strategic partner in global governance. South Africa's relations with Russia have been significantly consolidated over the past few years through continued high-level political dialogue. Bilateral relations also expanded strongly under the umbrella of the Itec, a mechanism which is likely to enhance mutually beneficial trade and

In May 2011, South Africa hosted a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping course for prospective leaders of UN peacekeeping missions. The project was co-sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands, which contributed around €300 000 towards the course.

economic ties between the two countries. The sessions serve as a strong platform for enhancing trade and investment cooperation between Russia and South Africa.

Republic of Belarus

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and the Republic of Belarus were established in March 1993.

Deputy Minister Ebrahim hosted his Belarusian counterpart, Mr Sergei Aleinik, in Cape Town in October 2011.

During the bilateral meeting, the two deputy ministers reviewed the status of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between South Africa and that country.

During his working visit to South Africa, Deputy Minister Aleinik also participated in the second session of South Africa-Belarus Itec in October 2011 in Pretoria. The SA-Belarus Itec Agreement was signed in August 2006 and the first session of the Itec was held in Minsk, Belarus, in July 2007.

Turkey

Deputy President Motlanthe hosted Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on his official visit to South Africa in October 2011. The visit followed Deputy President Motlanthe's official visit to Turkey in May 2010 and the official visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Dr Ahmet Davutoğlu, to South Africa in August 2011.

The two leaders reviewed the state of bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries, including the status and implementation of agreements and programmes of co-operation.

Multilateral diplomacy

Within the multilateral system, South Africa continues to work for global political and socio-economic stability and security. The country promotes development, security, human rights and international law through its participation in international forums, such as the UN and its various agencies.

South Africa aims to enhance developmental objectives of the developing world, including global order, by:

- participating in the global economic reform processes through continued engagement with the international and regional economic and financial institutions

In January 2012, the South African Government welcomed the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) unanimous adoption on 12 January 2012 of Resolution 2033, which urges for enhanced cooperation between the UNSC and subregional organisations, particularly the African Union, in peace and security matters. South Africa held the Presidency of the UNSC for the month of January 2012.

- supporting the momentum within the G20 through active participation in summit processes, while:
 - seeking to ensure that the G20 continues to coordinate an integrated and coherent global response to the financial and economic crisis
 - playing a role in maintaining future financial stability
 - providing leadership in the reform of the regulation and supervision of the global architecture, including the Bretton Woods institutions
 - promoting national and developing country positions in the implementation of G20 initiatives, especially the African Agenda
 - using existing negotiating groupings and alliances to pursue the objectives of developing countries
 - working with like-minded countries in forging a collective vision for the transformation of global governance
 - playing a supportive role in the WTO towards the conclusion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations and striving towards common objectives with like-minded partners
 - continuing active engagement within global governance institutions on political, economic and security matters, including the reform of the multilateral system for it to be more responsive to the developmental needs of developing countries.

United Nations General Assembly

The UN occupies the central and indispensable role within the global system of governance. South Africa looks to the UN to advance the global development agenda and address underdevelopment and the eradication of poverty globally. Through participation in multilateral forums, South Africa also upholds the belief that the resolution of international conflicts should be peaceful and in accordance with the centrality of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

United Nations reform

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation continues engaging in ongoing debates and negotiations to advance reform.

Guidelines and criteria for a consistent and coordinated approach to identifying and fielding South African candidates for positions in international organisations to be filled, and support of candidates of other countries in elections were developed in the Policy on the Nomination and Election of Candidates to International Organisations and adopted by Cabinet in 2010. Through this coordinated approach, South Africa's candidatures for membership of identified strategic intergovernmental bodies of the multilateral system will be promoted.

United Nations Security Council

Following the AU endorsement of South Africa as Africa's candidate for membership of the UNSC from 2011 to 2012, UNGA endorsed the candidature. South Africa's membership of the UNSC was guided by its commitment to strengthening the multilateral system and its support for a broader multilateral approach to questions of international peace and security. As a member of the UNSC, South Africa discharged its responsibility, alongside the other members of the council, in a manner that contributed meaningfully to peace, security and development.

For the first time, the configuration of the UNSC in 2011/12 reflected the membership of a potentially reformed council.

South Africa is continuing its efforts to promote and enhance the UNSC's cooperation with regional organisations, particularly the PSC of the AU. Closer cooperation between these two bodies is contributing to enhancing the convergence of perspectives and approaches in dealing with and responding to peace and security challenges in Africa.

In 2011, South Africa, in line with its foreign-policy priorities, chaired the 1540 Committee, which imposes binding obligations on all states to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery to non-state actors. In addition, South Africa also chaired the Working Group on Conflict Prevention in Africa and served as vice-chair of the Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia sanctions committees.

North-South cooperation

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation serves as the focal point for North-South dialogue, engaging key global economic institutions such as the WTO, the OECD 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 Summit and World Economic Forum meetings.

In May 2011, President Zuma was one of 10 African leaders who attended the G8 Deauville Summit in France.

South-South cooperation

Through the negotiation of various agreements in the area of strengthening South-South and North-South cooperation, respect for international law will continue and form an important basis for strengthening relationships through the work of the joint commissions. The same remains true for the area of strengthening political and economic relations.

South Africa pays dedicated attention to partnerships between other key South countries and Africa, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Africa's comprehensive partnership with India, and the Korea-Africa Forum.

Government spares no effort in strengthening the progressive forums of the South such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), G77+China, Africa-South America Summit and the NAASP. These forums have demonstrated that they are trusted allies and partners in South Africa's aim for a better world and Africa.

Group of 20

The G20 plays an active role in international efforts to seek global responses to the effects of the global economic and financial crises. South Africa is the only African country participating in the G20 and will continue using its membership to raise issues of concern to Africa with other G20 members.

At recent G20 summits, South Africa stressed the need for developed countries to meet their commitments of increased aid to developing countries, and to ensure a stronger voice and representation for developing countries in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

South Africa will continue promoting a development agenda in its engagements within the G20 and engage with other G20 countries to pursue the implementation of G20 decisions that are aimed at limiting the impact of the crisis on developed and developing countries and preventing the occurrence of similar crises in future.

In November 2011, President Zuma and the Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, attended the sixth annual G20 Summit held in Cannes, France.

Relations between Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS)

In April 2011, President Zuma led a South African delegation to the third BRICS Leaders Meeting held in the Hainan Province of the People's Republic of China. The theme of the summit was *Broad Vision, Shared Prosperity*.

South Africa attended the meeting as the newest member of BRICS, with objectives to:

- consolidate South Africa's BRICS membership and commit to its processes and related mechanisms
- identify and leverage opportunities for South Africa's development agenda
- enhance the African Agenda and sustainable development
- promote broad cooperation in the multilateral arena
- work for cooperation with other emerging market economies.

At the end of the summit, a joint declaration was signed, which captures the central essence of what this evolving formation is committed to and seeks to achieve it.

The BRICS Action Plan was also adopted. Among other things, it identified the need to enhance existing cooperation programmes on security issues, central banks and agriculture expertise and establish a network of research centres, cooperatives, supreme courts and development banks.

The action plan also identifies new cooperation areas such as:

- health
- research on economic and trade issues
- culture
- sports
- green economy
- scientific, technological and innovation cooperation in the BRICS format

- establishing a working group in the pharmaceutical industry.

New Asian-African Strategic Partnership

South Africa and Indonesia were instrumental in the launch of the NAASP in Bandung in 2005 on the 50th anniversary of the Asia-Africa (Bandung) Conference, which cemented Afro-Asian solidarity. NAASP represents a commitment to help build closer economic and development cooperation between Africa and Asia.

Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

The IOR-ARC is a multilateral organisation comprising countries that share a shoreline along the Indian Ocean, namely Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE and Yemen. It was launched in March 1997 in Mauritius to focus mainly on trade-related issues. The IOR-ARC plays an important role as a building block for the promotion of South-South cooperation and for complementing African-Asian regional integration.

South Africa has given its full weight to the economic and strategic significance of the IOR, and to the importance of regional cooperation in fulfilling the region's substantial economic potential.

In November 2011, Deputy Minister Ebrahim attended the 11th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting in India.

India, Brazil and South Africa

In March 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane attended the seventh IBSA Trilateral Commission meeting in New Delhi.

IBSA partners continue to ensure that the UN remains central to addressing global peace and security issues. IBSA took the sustainable development agenda forward through South Africa's hosting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) and Brazil hosting the Rio+20 Summit. In this regard, in preparing for COP17, South Africa closely consulted with its IBSA partners, also in the context of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) group.

President Zuma hosted the fifth IBSA Dialogue Forum in October 2011, preceded by an IBSA

Ministerial Meeting. The objectives of the summit were to promote South-South cooperation as well as trade and investment opportunities among the three countries.

The realisation of a trilateral alliance between IBSA stems from three commonalities between the three countries, namely: all three countries are vibrant democracies; they share common views on various global issues; and are substantial emerging economies within their subregions.

Apart from promoting South-South dialogue, IBSA also fosters interregional cooperation.

The engagement process of the IBSA countries takes place on three levels, namely: heads of state and government, government-to-government and people-to-people cooperation.

South Africa's trade with its IBSA partners has increased significantly since the forum's inception. South Africa's trade statistics for the period 2007 to 2010 showed an increase in overall trade from R36,92 billion in 2007 to R58,133 billion in 2010.

Commonwealth Commonwealth Heads of Government

The 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) met in Perth, Australia, in October. CHOGM is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations and is a main decision-making forum. The meeting is hosted by different member states, and chaired by that nation's respective prime minister or president, who becomes the Commonwealth Chairperson-in-Office.

Under the theme *Building Global Resilience, Building National Resilience*, CHOGM 2011 provided a platform for Commonwealth leaders to discuss world issues on trade and investment opportunities, reinforcing strong people-to-people links and promoting shared values relevant to building a strong and secure future for all.

The Commonwealth of Nations, an association of former colonies of the UK, is defined as "a voluntary association of independent sovereign states consulting and cooperating in the common interests of their people and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace".

Its membership is diverse, spanning the six continents, encompassing all major faiths, and including both developed and developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Caribbean, Europe and the South Pacific. The Commonwealth represents one third of the world's population and more than a quarter of the world's countries.

The Commonwealth countries share a commitment to democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

As a founding member of the Commonwealth, South Africa was expelled in 1961 owing to apartheid policies, but rejoined the organisation in 1994, shortly after the country's first democratic elections.

In November 1999, South Africa hosted the CHOGM in Durban and assumed the chair for the next two years.

Non-Aligned Movement

The NAM, with its 114 member states, is the largest political grouping of countries outside 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.

In May 2011, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane attended the 50th Commemorative Session of the NAM Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia. This gave South Africa the opportunity to address the issue of relevance and raise some strategic questions about where South Africa finds itself in the development trajectory of international relations. The Minister touched on the need for international organisations, such as the NAM, to adapt to the new global political and economic landscapes and be responsive to opportunities of the 21st century.

The NAM brought a new appreciation to the important principle of the sovereignty of states. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane reiterated the call for the composition of the UN leadership and institution of global governance to be reshaped to give more power to emerging nations.

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