

## SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2012/13



# International Relations and Cooperation



South Africa is a multifaceted, multicultural and multiracial country that embraces the concept of ubuntu. Meaning “human-ness”, ubuntu is reflected in the idea that South Africans affirm their humanity when they affirm the humanity of others.

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

The philosophy also 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.

The country’s foreign policy is, therefore, guided by the values of ubuntu and the commitment to mutually beneficial partnerships with Africa and other countries of the world.

The foundations and strategic perspective of the foreign policy were derived from a long-standing history, ideology and values that embrace, among other things, the spirit of internationalism and the rejection of colonialism and other forms of oppression.

South Africa occupies a unique position in Africa and plays an important role as a peace-maker on the continent. At the end of January 2012, South Africa handed over the rotating chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). During its brief tenure, South Africa focused on strengthening cooperation between the UNSC and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC). A UN resolution in this regard was unanimously adopted.

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’s international relations policy therefore recognises that to achieve a better life for all, development and security are best addressed through adequate attention to all global threats facing humanity. In this regard the

organs and principal bodies of the UN system are of major importance for the maintenance of global peace and stability.

## Legislation

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation derives its mandate from, among others, the following legislation:

- The Foreign States Immunities Act, 1981 (Act 87 of 1981), regulates the extent of the immunity of foreign states from the jurisdiction of the South African courts and provides for matters connected therewith.
- The Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 2001 (Act 37 of 2001), provides for the immunities and privileges of diplomatic missions and consular posts and their members, of heads of states, special envoys and certain representatives of the UN and its specialised agencies, and other international organisations and certain people. Provision is also made for immunities and privileges pertaining to international conferences and meetings. It also enacts into law certain conventions and provides for matters connected therewith.
- The African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund Act, 2001 (Act 51 of 2001), establishes an African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund to enhance cooperation between South Africa and other countries, in particular African countries, through the promotion of democracy, good governance, the prevention and resolution of conflict, socio-economic development and integration, humanitarian assistance and human resource development.
- International agreements (multilateral and

South Africa is leading the process of developing a new United Nations (UN) Development Assistance Framework 2013 – 2017. This is done in collaboration between the country's UN partners, national departments, provincial governments and civil society. The framework will ensure that all assistance from UN agencies operating in South Africa will be aligned with the country's own identified national priorities.

bilateral): International agreements concluded by the Republic of South Africa in terms of sections 231(2) and 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

## Budget and funding

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework allocation for the 2012/13 financial year was R5 116 591 of which R1 265 310 was allocated to Administration for developing overall policy and managing the department. R2 802 589 was allocated to International Relations and Cooperation to promote relations with foreign countries, and to participate in international organisations and institutions in line with South Africa's national values and foreign policy objectives.

R223 134 was allocated to Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services to communicate South Africa's role and position in international relations in the domestic and international arenas and to provide protocol services. R825 558 was allocated to International Transfers for funding membership fees and transfers to international organisations.

## Foreign policy

In striving to promote South Africa's national interest in a complex and fast-changing world, the mandate of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation is to formulate, coordinate, implement and manage the country's foreign-policy objectives.

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

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

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 transformation.

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

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-South cooperation

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

South Africa's 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 New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP). These forums have demonstrated that they are trusted allies and partners in South Africa's aim for a better world and Africa.

## 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 World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

To achieve this objective, South Africa ensures that the development agenda remains part of the focus of key economic forums, particularly the annual G8 Summit and World Economic Forum meetings.

## Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

A primary goal of South Africa's policy on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control includes reinforcing and promoting the country as a responsible producer, possessor and trader of defence-related products and advanced technologies. In this regard, the department continues to promote the benefits that disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control hold for international peace and security, particularly to countries in Africa.

As part of its continued and strong commitment to multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, the department finalised a host country agreement with the AU in 2012. By the agreement, South Africa would host the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (Afcone) in terms of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, otherwise known as the Treaty of Pelindaba.

Afcone will ensure compliance with the undertakings of member states under the treaty and will also encourage regional and subregional programmes for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty was elected as the first chairperson of Afcone.

The department also participated in the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in March 2012, through Ambassador Minty. South Africa conveyed its position and progress made on nuclear security. The summit was held within the context of a global commitment to achieve a world free from all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons and provided a forum to raise awareness and to support the work of existing bodies on nuclear security, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

As a designated member of the board of governors of the IAEA, South Africa also con-

tinued its constructive participation in the IAEA General Conference and the IAEA board of governors, South African nuclear experts also continued their participation in numerous IAEA technical meetings that hold potential benefits not only for the nuclear industry in South Africa, but also for accelerated economic growth on the African continent.

Regarding conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, South Africa continued to actively participate in UN efforts related to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and efforts aimed at establishing an arms trade treaty.

## Role players

### African Union (AU)

The AU emerged from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established in 1963 with a charter signed by 32 countries in Addis Ababa. The OAU, which was officially disbanded in July 2002 by its last chairperson, former South African President Thabo Mbeki, was replaced by the AU with 51 members who pledged to work for closer political integration and unity among African countries.

The AU was developed along the lines of the European Union (EU) and has 10 commissioners overseeing departments including political affairs, agriculture and peace and security. Its founding charter mandates it to work for "democracy, human rights and development", while it also promotes international co-operation, investment in the continent and sends peacekeepers to trouble spots in Africa.

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 states. In addition, South Africa continues to host and support the Pan-African Parliament; the South African Chapter of the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council; and the Pan-African Women's Organisation.

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

- establishing the AUPSC, which is responsible for the resolution of conflict, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and development in conjunction with the 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, 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.

In February 2012, President Jacob Zuma travelled to Benin for a meeting of the AU heads of state and government. The meeting focused on, among other things, implementation of the decisions of the AU summits, explor-

South Africa presented its second report to the 13th Session of the United Nations Universal Peer Review Mechanism Working Group in Geneva in May 2012. The Universal Periodic Report is a unique process, which involves a review of human rights records of all 192 United Nations Member States every four years.

The report was warmly received by many member states, who commended South Africa for its commitment to human rights and improving the lives of its citizens, as well as the delivery of basic services such as housing, health and education.

South Africa was also praised for its leading role in the UN Human Rights Council, especially regarding the rights of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex persons.

ing mechanisms for capacity building within the AU, continental economic integration and political unity.

In July 2012, South Africa's Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma was elected the first female head of the AU Commission.

In September 2012, the fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of the AU Ministers of Youth Affairs was attended by AU ministers responsible for youth development, senior government officials and young people. The Minister in The Presidency for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Collins Chabane, represented South Africa.

The conference was held under the theme *Africa delivers as one for youth development*.

The outcome of the conference fed into the 20th Assembly of the AU and informed the strategic focus on youth for the next AU Commission Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017.

### AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC)

South Africa plays an important role in efforts to bring about peace and stability on the continent.

The AUPSC is the organ of the AU in charge of enforcing union decisions. Members are elected by the AU Assembly to reflect regional balance within Africa, as well as a variety of other criteria, including capacity to contribute militarily and financially to the union, political will to do so, and effective diplomatic presence at Addis Ababa.

The AUPSC entered into force in December 2003, after being ratified by the required majority of AU member states. It is made up of 15 member states and is responsible for the resolution of conflict, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and development in conjunction with the UN.

South Africa ended its term in the AUPSC on 1 April 2012 in line with the principle of rotation among members of the southern region.

On relinquishing its seat in the council, South Africa emphasised its commitment to continue contributing to the resolution of peace and security challenges in Africa.

### AU regional economic communities

The AU is the principal institution responsible for promoting sustainable development at economic, social and cultural level, as well as integrating African economies.

Regional economic communities 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 regional economic communities, for the gradual attainment of the AU's objectives.

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

### New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)

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, Gauteng.

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 April 2012, South Africa hosted the APRM Focal Points meeting in Durban. The APRM Focal Points are ministers or high-level government officials who report directly to their respective heads of state or government.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operationalisation of the newly adopted Operating Procedures for the APRM and con-

sider the Revised Country Self-Assessment Questionnaire. The Operating Procedures were unanimously adopted by the 16th Summit of the APRM Forum in January 2012.

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 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 NAASP and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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

The 14th session of the AU in 2012, 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. The AU/Nepad African Action Plan for 2010 to 2015 is a master plan for concrete projects that will serve as a catalyst for the development of the continent.

### Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The SADC developed from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which was established in 1980. It adopting its current name during a summit meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in August 1992.

Before 1992, the aim of SADCC was to forge close economic cooperation with southern African countries excluding South Africa, to bolster their economies to reduce their dependence on the South African economy.

From 1992, when the organisation became

On 9 January 2013, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, received the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from Indian President Sri Pranab Mukherjee, in Kochi, India.

The Indian government presents the annual award to individuals of Indian origin living outside India, who are of exceptional merit in their fields and who have contributed to the growth and prestige of India.

India celebrates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-resident Indian Day) on 9 January every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.

The date was chosen to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.

SADC, its mandate changed to the following:

- establishing an open economy based on equality, mutual benefit and balanced development
- breaking down tariff barriers
- promoting trade exchanges and mutual investment
- realising free movement of goods, personnel and labour service
- achieving the unification of tariffs and currencies
- establishing a free trade zone.

The initial member states were Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. South Africa became a member after 1994.

In July 2012, ministers from the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation convened in Pretoria, Gauteng for their 14th meeting, which charted a way forward for the region.

In June 2011, 26 African countries signed an agreement to create a free trade area that covers more than half of Africa.

By June 2014, nearly 60% of South Africa's economy is expected to be a single free trade area, covering the SADC, the East African community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Free Trade Area Agreement is part of

the SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations within southern Africa through trade. These broader 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.

The overall objectives of Sacu is to enhance intra-Sacu trade through improved infrastructure and industrialisation. To this end, Sacu members have developed a work programme on priority areas.

Angola is the current Chair of the SADC after taking over from Namibia in 2011. Mozambique will take over from Namibia, while South Africa hands over the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to Tanzania.

### United Nations (UN)

South Africa was one of the 51 founding member of the UN in 1945. Since then, UN membership has grown to 192 states. After being suspended in 1974, owing to international opposition to the policy of apartheid, South Africa was re-admitted to the UN in 1994 following its transition to democracy.

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 under-development social integration, full employment and decent work for all 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 Security Council (UNSC)

Twelve years after re-admittance to the UN, South Africa was honoured to be endorsed by the AU and subsequently elected with an overwhelming majority to serve as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for the 2007/08 period. South Africa made use of the opportu-

nity to promote the African Agenda of peace, security and development.

South Africa was honoured to once again serve as a non-permanent member for the 2011/12 term, which started in January 2011.

Another notable achievement was the establishment of an AU-UN High-Level Panel to explore the possibility of enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for AU peace operations, a factor that remains the most important constraint that limits Africa's capacity to resolve its own conflicts.

African countries have been pushing for the reform of the UN. Leaders such as President Zuma have also called for stronger cooperation between UNSC and the AU in the prevention and management of conflicts in Africa especially after the 2011 conflict in Libya.

### UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc)

In November 2012, South Africa was elected by the members of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to the 47-member Ecosoc. It is one of the UN's principal organs alongside the UNSC and the UNGA.

South Africa completed its two-year non-renewable, non-permanent membership of the UNSC on 31 December 2012 and immediately assumed membership of Ecosoc on 1 January 2013. South Africa last served in Ecosoc in 2004 to 2006.

Ecosoc is a premier organ of the UN responsible for economic and social development matters of the world.

Membership of Ecosoc will provide South Africa with an opportunity to be located at the centre of the debate on the global development agenda, including the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)

South Africa rejoined Unesco after the advent of democracy in 1994, following its withdrawal in 1956.

South Africa is an active participant in key

Unesco governance structures such as the General Conference (consisting of all member states) and the World Heritage Committee, and has previously served on the executive board.

Since its return to Unesco, South Africa has also ratified a number of Unesco conventions including the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (July 1997), Convention Against Discrimination in Education (March 2000), the International Convention Against Doping in Sport (November 2006) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (December 2006).

South Africa also acceded to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention (December 2003). National interaction with Unesco's various areas of work is coordinated through the South African National Commission for Unesco, whose secretariat is hosted by the Department of Basic Education.

### **UN-South Africa Strategic Cooperation Framework (UN SCF)**

In 2012, South Africa and the UN Country Team in South Africa embarked on protracted negotiations to draft and finalise the UN Development Assistance Framework, also known as the SA-UN SCF, for the period 2013 – 2017.

The UN SCF defines areas of development cooperation between the South African government and the UN, based on the government's national priorities and objectives.

Negotiations led to the identification of the following four broad areas of collaboration: inclusive growth and decent work, sustainable development,

human capabilities, and governance and participation.

The final UN SCF will be the overarching framework that will inform the operational activities of all the UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies in South Africa that make up the UN Country Team in South Africa.

### **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

South Africa is one of the 194 member states that constitute the WHO. The country takes part in the annual World Health Assembly (WHA), which is the WHO's supreme decision-making body.

South Africa also takes part in the WHO's Regional Committee for Africa which convenes annually after the WHA to both reflect on the decisions taken at the WHA and to plan for the following year's WHA.

Through its participation in these structures, South Africa contributes to setting international norms and making decisions on key issues regarding global and public health.

### **Group of 20 (G20)**

South Africa served as co-chair of the G20 Development Working Group during 2012. The country promoted the development agenda in its engagements within the G20, including 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 June 2012, President Zuma, supported by

Among the BRICS countries, South Africa spends the highest percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) on education (6,8%), followed by Brazil at 4,3%.

This was revealed in the 2013 BRICS joint statistical publication, released in March 2013, at the Fifth BRICS Summit in Durban, by Statistics SA, together with the respective statistical agencies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The publication contains 16 chapters, including on population, living standards, the economy, economic sectors, the environment and tourist arrivals.

The publication also reveals that South Africa had the highest tourist arrivals in 2011 – at over 8,3 million, followed by India with 6,3 million arrivals in the same year.

South Africa is ranked third when it comes to GDP per capita – at \$7 790 (in 2011), behind Russia (\$14 015) and Brazil (\$11 463), and ahead of China (\$6 091) and India (\$1 440).

the Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, and South Africa's G20 Sherpa, Ambassador George Nene, attended the seventh annual G20 Leaders' Summit, held in Los Cabos, Mexico.

South Africa committed to invest US\$2 billion of its foreign exchange reserve assets in additional resources as part of an international initiative pioneered by the G20 countries to boost the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enable it to better support struggling economies in times of crisis.

The key outcomes agreed to by the G20 leaders at the Los Cabos Summit in Mexico included joint efforts to strengthen global economic stabilisation and recovery, financial stabilisation of the IMF, adoption of a jobs action plan, and greater commitment to fight climate change. Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to implement in full the IMF quota and governance reform package agreed to in 2012 at the Seoul Summit in South Korea.

### Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) trade alliance

South Africa's membership of BRICS is based on three objectives, namely:

- advancing national interests
  - promoting regional integration programme and related continental infrastructure programmes
  - partnering key players of the South on issues related to global governance and its reform.
- In September 2012, Cabinet approved the draft BRICS Strategy. The strategy is to guide the engagement of South Africa by identifying objectives and opportunities within the group of member countries. It unpacks the three levels of engagements at a domestic, regional and international level.

Cabinet further approved an Inter-Ministerial Committee to provide direction on the preparation for hosting the fifth BRICS Summit in South Africa in March 2013.

### India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) trade alliance

IBSA continues to play its unique role as a

body bringing together three democracies of the South from three continents.

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 inter-regional 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.

In June, 2012, South Africa, India and Brazil signed an agreement which proposes the creation of a tripartite IBSA Working Group on Decent Work, which will meet at least once a year at the margins of the International Labour Conference.

The Working Group on Decent Work is expected to promote the exchange of views and experiences in the area of decent work and promote South-South cooperation initiatives for the benefit of developing countries, including through partnerships with different stakeholders.

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

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, attended the 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the IOR-ARC in October 2012, in India.

South Africa is one of the founding member states of the IOR-ARC, which was launched in Mauritius in March 1997. There are 19 Indian IOR member states.

The objectives of IOR include promoting the sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of the member states, and creating common ground for regional economic cooperation. This also includes formulating and implementing projects for economic cooperation relating to trade facilitation and lib-

eration, promotion of foreign investment, academic, scientific and technological exchanges, tourism and the development of infrastructure and human resources.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers saw India completing its first year as chair of the IOR-ARC.

### **Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth of Nations, an association of former colonies of the United Kingdom (UK), is defined as a voluntary association of independent sovereign states consulting and cooperating in the common interest 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, the 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. Commonwealth countries share a commitment to democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

South Africa is a founding member of the Commonwealth, but was expelled in 1961 owing to its apartheid policies. However, the country was readmitted to the organisation in 1994, after the first democratic elections.

In June 2012, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, participated in a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Task Force in London.

The Ministerial Task Force was established in October 2011 and comprises Australia, the Solomon Islands, Barbados, Canada, Belize, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Seychelles, South Africa and the UK.

### **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

The NAM, with its 120 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 in NAM deliberation and meetings ever since. In May 2012, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, attended the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in preparation for the XVI Summit of the Heads of State and Government of NAM.

Deputy Minister Fransman attended the NAM XVI Summit, which was held under the theme *Lasting Peace Through Joint Global Governance* in Tehran, Iran, from 26 to 31 August 2012.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will chair the movement for the period 2012 to 2015. South Africa's intervention highlighted the challenges being faced by the movement. These are reform of the UN, including the UNGA and the UNSC; the situation in the Middle East, in particular the plight of the Palestinian people; and the situation in Syria.

During the summit, South Africa also participated in the meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine.

### **African, Caribbean and Pacific states**

South Africa assumed full membership of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries in 1996. It became a qualified member of the Lomé Convention in 1997, and of its successor, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou in Benin in June 2000.

In September 2012, South Africa made further strides in strengthening ties with its contemporaries across the continent, the Caribbean and the European community when Cabinet approved the ratification of the second revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

One of the key aspects of South Africa's membership of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states is its active participation in the three 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 African, Caribbean and Pacific States summits, Council of Ministers' meetings, trade ministers' meetings and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Forum on science and technology.

## International relations

### South Africa and Africa

South Africa regards Africa as the centrepiece of its foreign policy and remains committed to promoting the African agenda, particularly regional peace, security and stability, as the key determinants for socio-economic development on the continent.

Through the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund, the department has in 2011/12 supported various initiatives in Africa aimed at realising these objectives.

One of the projects that were supported through the fund include a grant of R15 million to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the improvement of veterinary laboratory capacities in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia.

Another project was funded with R13,5 million towards an International Diplomatic Training Programme at the department's Diplomatic Academy, which benefitted South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Mauritius and the Comoros.

R5 million was allocated towards South Africa's participation in the SADC and AU observer missions to monitor elections in the Seychelles, Zambia and the DRC.

South Africa has engaged in peacekeeping operations and peace-building measures in support of the African Agenda, and has been active in a mediation and/or facilitation role in countries such as Burundi, the DRC, Sudan, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

South Africa 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 responded to a call made by Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Chad in the Sahel region in the wake of the humanitarian crisis facing them and donated products and materials that were directly requested by these countries.

### Relations with southern Africa

#### Angola

South Africa and Angola continue to work together in maintaining peace, stability, regional integration and the promotion of the SADC Agenda. Both countries are still part of respectively the SADC Troika and the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Troika.

Angola is one of South Africa's major trading partners in Africa with almost 90% of Angolan exports to South Africa being petroleum-related products.

In July 2012, South Africa and Angola, through the Regional Spatial Development Initiative Programme (RSDIP) and the Industrial Development Institute of Angola (IDIA), have signed an agreement on technical cooperation that will stimulate infrastructure development in Angola.

RSDIP is the Department of Trade and Industry's spatial development initiative based at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). It is tasked with identifying infrastructure and industrial development opportunities in the SADC region.

In 2012, South Africa also played a meaningful role as part of the SADC Observer Mission during the Angola general elections.

In January 2013, President Zuma visited Angola to review progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation with his counterpart President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos aimed at strengthening relations with Angola.

### **Botswana**

South Africa and Botswana enjoy strong historical, economic, social, political and neighbourly relations, which were deepened during South Africa's struggle for liberation.

Botswana's President Ian Khama visited South Africa in October 2010. President Zuma reciprocated with a state visit to Botswana in August 2012, during which the two countries reviewed progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation.

Strong economic ties already exist between the two countries and South Africa remains Botswana's major trading partner. South African companies have a major presence in Botswana and are involved in various sectors, including mining, housing, food and beverages, construction, retail, hotels and leisure, banking and medical services.

South Africa and Botswana signed an agreement establishing the Bi-National Commission (BNC) in August 2012 replacing both the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation Agreement and the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security. The BNC provides a legal and institutional framework for further cooperation in identified strategic areas. The BNC will assist in elevating the existing cordial bilateral relations between South Africa and Botswana.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

Over the past few years, the DRC has evolved as one of South Africa's growing and leading trade partners in the region.

The two countries cooperate in projects covering fields such as the security sector reform, infrastructure development, capacity and institutional building, humanitarian and social matters.

In October 2012, President Joseph Kabila Kabange visited South Africa for the Eighth Session of the BNC between South Africa and the DRC, where a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

A cooperation agreement between PetroSA and COHYDRO was also signed to establish

cooperation in the activities of pre-exploration, exploration, development and production of hydrocarbons for the benefit of both countries.

### **Lesotho**

Bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Lesotho includes trade and investment, security, energy, transport, agriculture, tourism and water.

With South Africa being Lesotho's only neighbour, the economies of the two countries are interdependent. South African companies have a significant presence in Lesotho and are involved in various sectors such as housing, food and beverages, construction, retail, hotels and leisure, banking, and medical services.

The two countries recently agreed on the construction of Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The project has been in operation for over 20 years and supplies South Africa with about 780 million cubic meters of water per year. When fully operational, Phase 2 of the project will substantially increase the volume of water supplied to South Africa.

In October 2012, Lesotho's Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane paid an official visit to South Africa in the context of promoting the African Agenda, strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and increasing trade and investment.

### **Malawi**

When South Africa established formal diplomatic relations with Malawi in 1967 under the previous government, it was the first time such relations were established with an independent African country.

In May 2007, a Joint Commission for Cooperation Agreement was signed to establish a structured framework for bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The first session was held in June 2008 in Blantyre and the second in Pretoria in September 2012.

Malawi's President Joyce Banda paid two visits to South Africa shortly after taking office in April 2012, indicating a desire to increase bilateral interaction.

In 2011, Malawi was South Africa's ninth-

largest export destination in Africa and seventh within the SADC region. Major South African companies have a presence in Malawi.

In 2012, South Africa agreed to extend a loan of US\$35 million to Malawi to help with the availability of fuel in that country, following a meeting between President Zuma and Malawian President Banda.

### Mozambique

Relations between South Africa and Mozambique have their historic origin as far back as 1928 when South Africa and Portugal entered into a convention which regulated labour, transport and commercial matters between South Africa and the then Portuguese colony of Mozambique.

Since the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, and peace in Mozambique, the two countries have strengthened their relations in especially the area of economic cooperation and investment.

In July 1994, they entered into the Agreement for a Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation resulting in the implementation of multi-billion rand economic projects, including the Maputo Development Corridor and the trilateral Spatial Development Initiative with Swaziland.

South Africa's mines have over many decades employed substantial numbers of Mozambican miners, resulting in the repatriation of deferred payment of salaries, which formed a valuable source of income for the Mozambican economy.

### Namibia

The economies of South Africa and Namibia are interlinked and South Africa remains one of Namibia's major trading partners.

Namibia imports 80% of its consumables from South Africa. South African companies have a large presence in Namibia and are involved in various sectors such as housing, food and beverages, construction, hotels and leisure, banking, and medical services.

South Africa and Namibia enjoy close cooperation in a number of areas. This was fur-

ther enhanced by the upgrading of the Heads of State Economic Bilateral Meeting to a fully fledged BNC in November 2012. The BNC, coordinated by the respective ministries of international relations, is the main instrument used for the coordination of strategic cooperation in various fields of mutual interest.

In November 2012, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba paid a two-day state visit to South Africa to discuss key priority areas such as trade and investment, energy, public works, defence and security, water and environment, transport, science and technology, and agriculture.

### Swaziland

The Kingdom of Swaziland and South Africa share common borders and have very strong common cultural links that date back to pre-colonial times. Formal relations between South Africa and Swaziland date back to 27 December 1984 at trade representative level. Since South Africa's re-entry to the Commonwealth, relations have been conducted at high-commissioner level.

Both countries are members of key sub-regional, regional and international organisations, including the Sacu, the SADC, the AU, the Commonwealth and the UN.

A bilateral agreement between Swaziland and South Africa provides a mechanism for the two countries to cooperate in areas of mutual benefit in ensuring that the healthy relations are maintained and further developed.

### Tanzania

South Africa established formal diplomatic relations with Tanzania in 1994, immediately after attaining its freedom. The bilateral relations have been characterised by high-level interaction between the two countries aimed at consolidating and strengthening political, economic and social cooperation.

President, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete paid a state visit to South Africa in July 2011, when an agreement on the establishment of a BNC was signed, thereby transforming the existing Presidential Economic Commission (PEC).

South Africa is one of the top 10 major investors in Tanzania and accounts for approximately 10% of total investment in Tanzania. South African exports are concentrated predominantly in the areas of manufacturing, including machinery, mechanical appliances, paper, rubber products, vehicles, iron and steel, services and technology.

In July 2012, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Tanzania to participate in the OR Tambo Annual Educational Tour. The purpose of the tour was to carry forward the legacy of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College that stands as a heritage institution embodying much of South Africa's history in exile.

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College is primarily known as an educational institution that was established by the African National Congress (ANC) to cater for the educational needs of South Africa's young people who were forced to live in exile in the years of the liberation struggle.

### Zambia

South Africa and Zambia maintain solid bilateral relations cemented during the period of the struggle against apartheid.

Formal relations were established in May 1992 with the opening of representative offices. South Africa opened its office in Lusaka in October 1992, while Zambia reciprocated in June 1993. Full diplomatic relations were established on 10 May 1994. Upon South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, relations with Zambia have been conducted at the level of high commission.

There is solid economic cooperation between the two countries as evidenced by the presence of several South African companies in Zambia. Improved cooperation in a variety of areas such as air services and infrastructural development present economic opportunities to the South African private sector and parastatals.

Since 2009, Zambia has ranked consistently as a third destination of South African exports in the SADC region.

In 2012, the Department of Trade and Indus-

try participated with 18 South African companies in the Copperbelt Agriculture, Mining and Commercial Show held annually in Kitwe, Zambia. The department and South African companies started participating in the show in 2009.

### Zimbabwe

South Africa and Zimbabwe have a common and long history of regional affiliation and cultural ties. The people of Zimbabwe have played a significant historical role in support of South Africa's liberation struggle against apartheid.

In 1980, the apartheid government severed official diplomatic ties with Zimbabwe when it gained independence. However, in 1994, the bilateral relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe were normalised, with the establishment of full diplomatic relations. Since then, numerous official visits have taken place between leaders of the two countries.

Zimbabwe is one of South Africa's main trade partners in Africa and several South African companies are operating in Zimbabwe in sectors such as mining, tourism, agriculture, banking, manufacturing and retail.

In 2011, South African exports to Zimbabwe amounted to approximately R15,5 billion, placing Zimbabwe among the country's top five trading partners.

### Uganda

Relations between South Africa and Uganda date back to the time of the struggle against apartheid when Uganda provided support to and solidarity with the South African liberation movement.

Bilateral cooperation between the countries include trade and investment, defence and security, agriculture, water and environmental affairs, social development, public works and science and technology.

In November 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane co-chaired the inaugural session of the South Africa-Ugandan Joint Commission for Cooperation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Mr Sam Kutesa.

The countries signed an agreement on

water and environmental resources, as well as memoranda of understanding on transport and defence cooperation respectively.

In view of the country's solid economic performance, Uganda is regarded as an important trading partner in East Africa. In 2011, South African exports to Uganda amounted to R1,26 billion and imports from Uganda to R50,98 million.

South African companies have a large presence in Uganda and are involved in various sectors such as construction, retail, hospitality, banking, insurance, information technology, communications, and energy.

## Kenya

South Africa and Kenya occupy key roles in their respective regions on the continent. The two countries re-established official relations in 1992 after a break of 29 years.

The South African diplomatic mission, originally started during November 1991, was accorded diplomatic privileges and immunities on 8 May 1992. Relations were upgraded to full diplomatic status on 12 April 1994.

In December 2012, South Africa and Kenya formed the South Africa Kenya Business Association, to reduce the trade deficit between the two countries. Two years previously, they signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on agriculture.

## Ethiopia

Bilateral economic relations with Ethiopia were revived in 1995, when South Africa opened an embassy in Addis Ababa. The two countries have already entered into a number of bilateral agreements to establish a regulatory framework to facilitate political, economic and social interaction.

An agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, as well as a general cooperation agreement between South Africa and Ethiopia was signed in March 2004. The umbrella agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission that will meet every two years.

Relations between the two countries received a boost when they met for their second Joint Ministerial Commission in Ethiopia in April 2012. Trade between the two countries is standing at R302 million and is growing.

## Eritrea

South Africa and Eritrea established diplomatic relations in March 1995, and both countries have already established embassies in each other's capitals.

Exports to Eritrea from South Africa in 2010 amounted to R202,983 million, while imports from Eritrea amounted to R1,044 million.

A South African business delegation visited Eritrea in July 2012, while Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted her Eritrean counterpart Osman Saleh Mohammed in August 2012 in Cape Town. They discussed issues of mutual interest, as well as political developments on the continent.

## 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 investments, culture, sport and recreation. There has also been progress in finalising the General Cooperation Agreement, as well as agreements in such areas as education, scientific and technical cooperation, shipping and maritime activities, environment and tourism, as well as social development.

## Madagascar

Deputy Minister Fransman played a prominent role as Special Envoy of the President in Madagascar, especially during South Africa's term as chair of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

One of the positive developments was the signing of a road map to guide Madagascar in its return to constitutional normalcy. South Africa handed the chair of the Troika over to Tanzania on 16 August 2012.

In March 2012, South Africa handed over

humanitarian aid to Madagascar in response to the devastation caused by the recent cyclone Giovanna and tropical storm Irina.

### **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.

Bilateral relations were strengthened with the signing of the General Cooperation Agreement in June 2012.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation also hosted the launch of the Donor Roundtable for Comoros in September 2012.

### **Mauritius**

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

Key bilateral agreements have been signed between the two countries and are being implemented. These include the Cultural Agreement, the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion, an MoU on Economic Cooperation, an MoU on Cooperation in the Area of Social Development, the Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Areas of Sport and Recreation and the Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.

### **Seychelles**

After many years of one-party rule in the Seychelles, President James Michel is making great strides to enhance democracy in the country. Both the previous presidential elections in May 2011 and parliamentary elections in September 2011 were declared free and fair by the respective SADC election observer missions.

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with Seychelles. South African companies involved

in the construction of luxury hospitality resorts in Seychelles have invested more than US\$6 billion in this sector, with South Africans representing the bulk of the buyers.

## **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 cooperation agreement, and further agreements have since been signed.

Gabon served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC from 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.

South Africa and São Tomé share the same values, especially a dedication to constitutional democracy and good governance.

Relations between the two countries were strengthened in September 2011, when Deputy President Motlanthe renewed the bilateral relations and solidarity between them.

### **Republic of the Congo**

South Africa formalised diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Congo (also known as Congo-Brazzaville) in 1993, and the two countries still enjoy sound bilateral relations.

The two countries have agreements regarding economic cooperation, maritime transport, and arts and culture, which 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 the Republic of the Congo.

Following the explosion of an ammunition dump in Brazzaville in March 2012, a payment of approximately €11 million was made towards the Republic of the Congo from the African Renaissance Fund for emergency relief. This assistance was widely publicised

in the Republic of the Congo, and favourably received by the country's people.

### **Equatorial Guinea**

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

In February 2013, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Elizabeth Thabetshe, visited Equatorial Guinea to explore business opportunities and increase trade and investment.

Targeted sectors included agro-processing, infrastructure, electro-technical, and capital and mining equipment. Minister Thabetshe was joined by a business delegation comprising representatives from 13 South African companies. The visit was a follow-up to a state visit by President Teodore Nguema Mbasogo to South Africa in 2011, where the two countries sought to establish and strengthen bilateral ties.

### **Cameroon**

Diplomatic relations between the republics of South Africa and Cameroon date back to April 1994.

South African companies that have invested in Cameroon include MTN Cameroon, Tiger Brands Chococam, Safmarine, SAA, Multi-choice and Blue Finance. A South African company, BrobonFinex, invested in the Cameroon tea estates when they were privatised in 1999.

Cameroon is a member of the AU, has adopted Nepad programmes and subscribes to the MDGs. In pursuit of South Africa's regional economic integration and developmental agenda for the African continent, Cameroon has been identified as a strategic partner.

### **Central African Republic (CAR)**

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

In January 2013, 400 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) personnel were deployed to the CAR as part of South Africa's efforts to bring about peace and stability in the region. The SANDF assisted with capacity-building of the CAR Defence Force and also

assisted the country with the planning and implementation of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes.

### **Chad**

Official relations between South Africa and the Republic of Chad were established in October 1994. South Africa has a representative office in N'djamena with the South African High Commissioner to Yaoundé, Cameroon, being accredited to Chad on a non-residential basis.

In May 2012, South Africa donated R1 million in response to a request from the International Organisation for Migration in Chad for financial assistance for the humanitarian needs of the Chadian returnees fleeing from Boko Haram in Nigeria.

The African Renaissance Fund also supported a project proposal for food relief to the government of Chad to the value of R20 million, which included maize, sorghum, fortified milk, palm oil and pearl millet.

### **Rwanda**

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

In October 2012, South Africa's envoy to Rwanda, George Twala launched the South Africa-Rwanda Business Round Table, which will serve as a forum to promote trade initiatives between the two economies.

During its inaugural seating in Kigali, Ambassador Twala hosted a three-hour interactive meeting in which South African and local investors interacted on possible business prospects in either country.

### **Burundi**

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Burundi in June 1995, the two countries have enjoyed excellent relations. In July 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane represented President Zuma at the 50th anniversary of Burundi's independence celebrations. Burundi gained its

independence from Belgium on 1 July 1962.

South Africa's involvement in Burundi is currently focused on strengthening bilateral relations, with a strong emphasis on Burundi's post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts, assistance with the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission and investigations regarding socio-economic and infrastructure development opportunities.

## **Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa**

### **Algeria**

South Africa and Algeria enjoy excellent relations and have developed a strategic partnership since the establishment of the Presidential BNC in 2001. In May 2010, substantial progress was made during the fifth BNC in various areas of mutual interest, including defence, science and technology, energy and mining, arts and culture, youth, sports and health. The sixth session was expected to take place towards the second half of 2012 or early in 2013.

### **Western Sahara**

There is good cooperation over the long-standing international dispute of the Western Sahara, including collective support for the AU and UN multilateral efforts in search of an equitable, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict between the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco.

South Africa remains involved with the issue of the status of Western Sahara and will continue to support the peace efforts of the AU and the UN on that protracted conflict. To this end, South Africa continues to render political support, as well as humanitarian assistance to the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic through the African Renaissance Fund.

The President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic visited South Africa for the Global African Diaspora Summit in May 2012.

### **Egypt**

Since the normalisation of diplomatic relations in 1994, a Joint Bilateral Commission was

established in 1995 and the eighth session was held in South Africa in March 2010. Internal political developments in Egypt during 2011 temporarily prevented the ninth session from taking place.

The election in June 2012 of Dr Mohamed Morsy as Egypt's first democratically elected civilian president was welcomed and South Africa continues to support the ongoing democratic and constitutional processes in the country.

In March 2012, Deputy Minister Ebrahim visited Egypt to consolidate bilateral relations between the two countries. South Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to working with Egypt in the country's progress towards democratic rule.

South Africa views Egypt as a strategic partner in Africa at both bilateral and multilateral levels. The two countries have entered into more than 25 bilateral agreements, among which is an MoU on Economic Cooperation signed in August 2009.

The signing of the MoU has led to the creation of investment opportunities for South African businesses in Egypt.

### **Tunisia**

Relations between South Africa and Tunisia remain cordial and there is a mutual interest in improving trade between the two countries. Cooperation in the areas of health, social development, science and technology, culture and sports has strengthened significantly over the years. South Africa also continues to support the democratic transitional processes in Tunisia.

South Africa is engaging the new leaderships in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya with a view to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation on continental and global issues. Among other things, South Africa is ready to share with these countries its experience in transitional justice and constitution-making.

### **Libya**

Since the 2011 conflict in Libya, South Africa's main thrust for engagement has been at a

multilateral level. As a member of the AUPSC, South Africa was mandated to form part of the AU High Level Panel on Libya to find a peaceful solution to the Libyan conflict.

In December 2011, the Minister of State Security, Dr Siyabonga Cwele, visited Libya and offered South Africa's assistance with the post-conflict reconstruction and development process in the country. The offer was accepted and in February 2012, a delegation of senior officials met in Tripoli to assess and determine South Africa's assistance.

### Morocco

South Africa's official recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in September 2004 has strained relations with the Kingdom of Morocco. Morocco subsequently downgraded its representation to the level of a Chargé d'Affaires en titre and South Africa reciprocated. Since then the status quo remains unchanged.

South Africa has maintained a principled position in UN, AU and other international forums on the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people as enshrined in the UN Charter.

### Mauritania

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

The South African ambassador to Senegal is accredited to Mauritania. The two countries enjoy cordial relations and recently signed an MoU on Economic Cooperation.

In March 2012, South Africa was in consultation with Mauritania to assess the country's emergency humanitarian requirements.

South Africa, through the African Renaissance Fund, provided humanitarian assistance to the value of US\$4,5 million in the form of cereal to Mauritania following the effects of drought in the Sahel region and the influx of refugees from Mali.

### Côte d'Ivoire

South Africa participated in the peaceful resolution to the political stalemate following the

disputed presidential elections held in December 2010 in Côte d'Ivoire. South Africa supported the resolution of the AU taken in March 2011 that President Ouattara is the winner of the elections.

Deputy President Motlanthe attended the inauguration of President Ouattara in May 2011. South Africa has also participated in discussions on Côte d'Ivoire at the UNSC and has supported its resolution on the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces that support it until 13 July 2013.

In accordance with the Bilateral Air Services Agreement between South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire, South African Airways have re-introduced its services to Abidjan with effect from 17 August 2012.

The President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, Guillaume Kigbafori Soro attended the ANC Centenary celebration in Bloemfontein in January 2012 while he was Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

South Africa is committed to working with the government of Côte d'Ivoire in its quest for national unity and reconciliation.

In January 2013, North West Premier Thandi Modise lead a delegation of the provincial government scheduled to meet with ministers from the Côte d'Ivoire delegation, which included the Ministers of the Promotion of Youth, Sport and Recreation, Alain Michel Lobognon and Tourism Roger Kacou.

### Sudan

South Africa and the Republic of the Sudan established diplomatic relations in 1994. In May 2006, the two countries signed an agreement establishing a joint bilateral commission. The commission provides the two countries with a legal framework to cooperate on issues relating to security, economic, political, social and other matters of mutual interest.

South Africa has, since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, been actively supportive of AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) projects throughout Sudan.

South Africa plays a key role in supporting peace in the Sudan through PCRD projects conducted under the umbrella of the AU Ministerial Committee on PCRD of the Sudan, which South Africa currently chairs.

President Zuma visited Sudan in July 2011 when the countries signed an MoU on Agricultural Cooperation. South Africa continues to support the AU negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan over post-independence issues through bilateral engagements with both Sudan and South Sudan.

### **South Sudan**

South Sudan gained independence in July 2011, following a referendum to break away from the North. President Zuma attended the independence celebrations of South Sudan in July 2011.

South Africa and South Sudan signed an agreement establishing bilateral relations in September 2011. 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.

The two countries have subsequently upgraded the missions in their respective capitals to fully fledged embassies. More than 1 600 government officials from South Sudan have been trained by South Africa to date as part of a capacity-building programme within the context of the AU Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD).

South Africa's ongoing support to the AU negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan over post-independence issues was illustrated by the various engagements with senior Sudanese and South Sudanese officials to discuss the negotiation process.

### **Somalia**

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane invited Somali's Foreign Minister, Abdullahi Haji Hassan Mohamed, to visit South Africa in March 2012 to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation. The two countries subsequently signed an

In September 2012, the African Union Commission Chairperson and former South African Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, received the United Nations' South-South Award for Global Leadership. The second Annual South-South Awards Ceremony took place in New York during the High-Level Segment of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The event, which was hosted by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, attracted more than 20 serving and former heads of state.

Following the success of the 2011 event, which saw the award going to the President of Tanzania among others, the 2012 award focused on e-government and tourism.

agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations. This agreement marked the beginning of a process of increased cooperation between the two countries in line with a commitment from South Africa to support Somalia with capacity-building.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane announced that South Africa would set aside funds to provide capacity- and institution-building, socio-economic support, and specified training in key government sectors.

South Africa also pledged an amount of R100 million towards projects that would support the post-conflict reconstruction and development of Somalia.

In January 2013, South Africa pledged its support for Somalia's new government and the country on its road towards a prosperous and stable democracy.

### **Liberia**

South Africa and Liberia established formal diplomatic relations in January 1997. The Liberian government established a resident mission in Pretoria in October 1997, while the South Africa government opened its resident embassy in Monrovia in October 2010.

South Africa is considering draft agreements on general cooperation, trade, the avoidance of double taxation, protection of investment and a draft MoU on economic cooperation.

It is expected that agreements of this nature

will substantially strengthen political, economic and social cooperation between the two countries.

## Nigeria

Nigeria is considered one of South Africa's most important partners in Africa in pursuing the vision of African renewal. As two of the strongest economies in Africa, cooperation between the two countries is pivotal to the growth of the continent.

In May 2012, Deputy President Motlanthe hosted the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mohammed Namadi Sambo, on the occasion of the Eighth Session of the BNC between South Africa and Nigeria within the context of consolidating the African Agenda.

In November 2012, *The Financial Times* and Brand South Africa provided the Nigerian High Commission with a platform for dialogue on trade and investment. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss current and future trade and investment relations between the two countries, and to identify areas of opportunity for South African companies in Nigeria.

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

## Ghana

Diplomatic relations were established between Ghana and South Africa in 1994. The two countries have agreements in the areas of mining, defence, taxation, investment and aviation.

The third meeting of the South Africa-Ghana Permanent Joint Cooperation Commission, which was co-chaired at ministerial level, took place in 2012.

The Permanent Joint Cooperation Commission was preceded by a meeting of senior officials to develop action plans for the implementation of the following MoUs and agreements between South Africa and Ghana:

- MoU on cooperation in the field of information and communications technology (ICT)
- MoU on economic and technical cooperation
- MoU on cooperation in the field of tourism
- MoU on cooperation in the fields of oil and

gas

- Agreement on the waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official or service passports
- Agreement on defence training and technical cooperation.

## 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.

The two countries are working on a draft MoU on Economic and Technical Cooperation; and a draft Agreement between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burkina Faso and Business Unity South Africa.

## Benin

Since diplomatic relations were established between Benin and South Africa in May 1994, the two countries have maintained good bilateral relations.

A South African delegation from the Department of Defence visited Benin in April 2012 to inaugurate the Joint Defence Committee. The next session of the Joint Defence Committee is scheduled for 2014 in South Africa.

The Department of Trade and Industry led a business delegation to Benin during February 2012, when the two countries inaugurated the Joint Trade and Investment Committee. Aerosun, the IDC and Transnet are involved in projects in Benin.

Transnet is investigating the possibility of participating in maritime transport and railway line projects, as well as port management.

Aerosun and Acsa are involved in the refurbishment of the International Airport of Cotonou, while the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is participating in hotel construction in Benin.

South Africa and Benin are in the processes of twinning the Port of Cotonou with the Port of Ngqura, whereby Transnet will assist with building capacity and efficiency in the Port of Cotonou. An important aspect of this project is the provision of rail equipment that will help

move minerals from inland Benin to the ports.

In May 2012, President Zuma visited Benin for the meeting of the AU Heads of State and Government Ad-hoc Committee on the election of the members of the AU Commission. The election took place during the summit in Malawi later in 2012.

In September 2012, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Elizabeth Thabethe, visited Benin with the aim of increasing trade and investment between the two countries.

### **Republic of Togo**

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Togo were established in 1997, and the two countries maintain good bilateral relations. Togo does not have a resident embassy in South Africa, or any accredited ambassador to Pretoria.

The South African ambassador to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire is accredited on a non-residential basis to Togo.

President Zuma's Special Envoy, Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, visited Togo in October 2011.

### **Cape Verde**

South Africa and Cape Verde established diplomatic relations in 1994. South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is accredited as the country's non-resident ambassador to Cape Verde, while the Cape Verdean ambassador to Angola is accredited to South Africa as non-resident ambassador.

Bilateral discussions on a General Co-operation Agreement, establishing a Joint Commission for Cooperation, were started during late 2012 and was expected to be signed in early 2013.

### **The Gambia**

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and The Gambia were established in August 1998. South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is accredited to The Gambia as non-resident ambassador, while the Gambian ambassador to the AU in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa as non-resident ambassador.

South Africa and The Gambia maintain honorary consuls and The Gambia is examining the possibility of opening an embassy in Pretoria in the near future.

### **Guinea-Conakry**

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Guinea were established in February 1995, and both countries maintain resident embassies in their respective capitals.

Following a state visit to Guinea in July 2006, South Africa pledged substantial developmental assistance to Guinea through the African Renaissance Fund.

Subsequently, social developmental projects in the sectors of food security, sanitation and hygiene, infrastructure maintenance and development were implemented.

The Project to Improve Rice and Vegetable Production is widely regarded as highly successful. This project is a trilateral arrangement between South Africa, Vietnam and Guinea.

Other projects, under consideration are focused on matters such as electricity stabilisation, cleaning of the capital and electoral assistance.

### **Guinea-Bissau**

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

The two countries were engaging in various activities to accelerate bilateral interaction when the April 2012 coup d'état in Bissau led to the suspension of Guinea-Bissau from the AU. Until Guinea-Bissau is readmitted to the AU, all bilateral engagements are suspended.

### **Mali**

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Mali were established in 1994 with Mali subsequently establishing 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.

A meeting of senior officials took place in November 2011, but the accelerated engagement process created by this meeting was interrupted by the March 2012 coup d'état.

Mali has been suspended by the AU and, until Mali is readmitted, all bilateral engagements are suspended. Nonetheless, South Africa provided R70 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to Mali during 2012. In March 2012, the South African Embassy in Bamako closed owing to unrest in that country.

### Senegal

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Senegal were established in May 1994. Bilateral relations between the two countries 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.

Methods to deepen and accelerate bilateral relations between the two countries are being examined, and will be finalised during the Joint Commission of Cooperation that will be held on the eve of the next state visit by President Zuma to Dakar.

### Sierra Leone

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Sierra Leone were established in August 1998.

The South African High Commission in Accra, Ghana, is accredited to Sierra Leone on a non-residential basis, while the Sierra Leonean ambassador in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa on a non-residential basis. In 2011, both countries appointed honorary consuls on a reciprocal basis.

In April 2010, South Africa committed financial support to bolstering healthcare services, supplied by a contingent of Cuban doctors and medical experts in Sierra Leone, through the African Renaissance Fund.

The project is expected to run over a period

of three years and it is aimed at reinforcing and consolidating South-South cooperation and strengthening relations with Sierra Leone.

### Niger

In November 2011, President Mahamadou Issoufou visited South Africa to consult with President Zuma in.

In 2012, South Africa provided aid to help Niger overcome its drought, food and nutritional insecurity by providing 877 tons of fertiliser, 5 000 litres of biopesticides as well as 12 000 protection kits for workers applying pesticides.

Additionally, South Africa provided 11 000 tons of animal feed for cattle and goats, nine million doses of vaccine PPR for livestock, 103 500 tons of food grains, millet and sorghum and nutritional provisions for children and pregnant women, to cater for approximately 22 000 people.

### Relations with Asia and the Middle East

#### The People's Republic of China

South Africa is China's largest trading partner in Africa and the bilateral trade volume accounts more than a quarter of China-Africa trade.

In March 2012, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited President Zuma on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul. They used the meeting to discuss the development of China-South Africa ties, exchange views on improving cooperation between the two countries and discuss South Africa's new infrastructure plan. China has vast experience in infrastructure-build and was a strategic partner through the conclusion of the Beijing Declaration, which the two had signed in August 2010.

According to the Beijing Declaration, China and South Africa will work together to improve the structure of bilateral trade by encouraging the trade of high value-added manufactured goods and increasing China's investment in South Africa. The two sides will continue to deepen their cooperation in infrastructure

development, including the construction of roads, railways, ports, power plants, airports and housing.

In July 2012, President Zuma visited China to further strengthen relations between the two countries. The visit took place within the context of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership concluded between South Africa and China in August 2010.

President Zuma also attended the opening ceremony of the fifth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The FOCAC is a collective consultation and dialogue mechanism between China and African countries launched in 2000.

China and African countries have pledged to ensure the full implementation of the proposals enshrined in the Beijing Action Plan 2013 – 2015 of the FOCAC.

South Africa assumed co-chairmanship of the FOCAC partnership from Egypt, on behalf of the African side, for the next six years. The forum is one of the most strategic partnerships between Africa and its development partnerships. The sixth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015.

## Central and East Asia

### Japan

In 2012, Japan and South Africa celebrated 102 years of official relations.

Japan is South Africa's third-largest trading partner with the two countries cooperating in various fields such as training and skills development.

In March 2013, Deputy Minister Fransman led a South African delegation to the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The conference is a strategic partnership between Africa and Japan that was launched in 1993 to serve as a consultative forum for development assistance to Africa.

### Republic of Korea

Formal diplomatic relations between South

Africa and the Republic of Korea were established in December 1992. Increasingly the focus of the bilateral relationship is on economic and business links. President Zuma travelled to Seoul, in March 2012 to participate in the two-day Nuclear Security Summit, which was a follow-up to talks held in Washington in April 2010.

The main purpose of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit was to review the progress made since the first summit and to focus on facilitating national measures and international cooperation on nuclear security.

During his visit to Seoul, President Zuma held bilateral talks with his counterparts, including President Lee Myung-bak on issues of mutual interest.

In September 2012, Deputy Minister Ebrahim visited Seoul, where he co-chaired the sixth Policy Consultative Forum with the Republic of Korea Vice Minister Ho-young Ahn.

The forum takes place within the context of promoting the already important bilateral relations and strengthening strategic cooperation between the two countries. It seeks to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, coordinate skills development and training programmes and initiatives, improve cooperation in the multilateral arena, and increase trade and investment.

The Republic of Korea is South Africa's fourth-largest trading partner in Asia, while South Africa is the Republic of Korea's largest trading partner in Africa. Trade between the two countries encompasses a wide variety of products ranging from minerals to sophisticated high-technology electric products.

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

South Africa established diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in August 1998.

Currently, the South African ambassador to China is also accredited to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Capital, Pyongyang, while the Democratic People's Republic of Korea established an embassy in Pretoria in 2002.

### Central Asia

There is no South African representation in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan, but the South African ambassador in Turkey is accredited to each of these countries on a non-resident basis.

Kazakhstan and South Africa established diplomatic relations in March 1992. The South African Embassy in Kazakhstan was opened in December 2003 in Almaty, and was later relocated to Astana in February 2008.

In January 2012, Mr Shirish Soni was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### Turkey

In February 2012, South Africa and Turkey signed a declaration to boost relations in areas such as infrastructure development, mining and energy, trade and economic relations.

Relations between South Africa and the Republic of Turkey were further strengthened when Deputy President Motlanthe visited Ankara in June 2012, culminating in the establishment of a BNC between the two countries.

The commission will meet every two years and will be co-chaired by the two countries. It will address cooperation between South Africa and Turkey in the fields of politics, economics, trade, defence, security, agriculture, minerals, energy, education, tourism, sport and environment.

South Africa's major exports to Turkey comprise mineral products, base metals, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment, chemical and allied products, vehicles, aircraft, iron and steel, organic chemicals, ores, slag and ash.

### South Asia

South Africa's economic strategy is strongly focused on deepening trade and investment linkages with the South, particularly with countries that offer potential for future growth and where synergies and complementaries in product and technologies exist.

In south Asia, South Africa enjoys cordial relations with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

### India

In many respects, South Africa and India share a common vision on a range of global issues and domestic challenges, including the need to address the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, deepening democracy, protecting human rights and reforming institutions of global governance.

In addition to bilateral cooperation, South Africa and India cooperate on the multilateral level in pursuit of common objectives in institutions and organisations such as the UN, the NAM, the India-Africa Forum, IBSA and BRICS.

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.

In the context of south Asia, India – South Africa's strategic partner – is by far the largest trading partner of South Africa. In 2011, trade stood at R53,7 billion, with exports from South Africa totaling R24,4 billion and imports from India in the region of R29,2 billion.

South Africa's main exports to India include coal, gold, diamonds and phosphates, while South Africa's main imports include pharmaceuticals, textiles and clothing, spices, machinery and metal products. In the past decade,

South Africa and India are set to reach US\$15 billion in trade ahead of their targeted 2014 deadline. India is one of South Africa's top 10 export countries, and is among the top five import countries for South Africa. South African exports to India increased by 21% between 2002 to 2011, while imports from India grew by 28%.

Indian companies that have invested in South Africa include TATA (automobiles and hotels), Mahindra (automobiles), and Sahara Computers.

In the last eight years or so, a number of South African companies, including Sasol, FirstRand, Old Mutual, Acsa, Shoprite, South African Breweries and Nandos, and recently Sanlam, have entered the Indian market.

South Africa's trade with India has increased by 669%.

### Pakistan

Pakistan and South Africa enjoy cordial, bilateral relations. In November 2012, Deputy Minister Ebrahim undertook a working visit to Pakistan, where he addressed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Nawabzada Khan.

South Africa views Pakistan as an important role-player in the international arena and South Africa welcomes the strengthening of democracy in Pakistan. South Africa engages Pakistan via the Joint Commission, the most recent of which was held in mid-2011.

South Africa has identified additional avenues of cooperation regarding law enforcement issues, an Extradition Treaty, an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, an MoU on Cooperation in Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics, Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.

### Sri Lanka

In March 2012, South Africa and Sri Lanka deepened their relations when Minister Nkonoana-Mashabane hosted that country's External Affairs Minister, Gamini Lakshman Peiris for talks in Pretoria.

Bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and South Africa has seen a steady increase in growth in both exports and imports. Between January and December 2011, South Africa's exports to Sri Lanka amounted to R268 million and imports from Sri Lanka amounted to R194 million.

The South African private sector is also becoming involved in Sri Lanka's expanding economy. An example is the announcement of Sun International's US\$800 million investment in a new hotel venture in Sri Lanka.

Since the end of the protracted civil war in Sri Lanka in May 2009, South Africa has promoted the need for a meaningful and inclusive political settlement, which will be best achieved through broad consultation and dialogue among all the people of Sri Lanka.

South Africa has also offered to share its

experiences in nation-building and reconciliation with Sri Lanka. The end of the civil war has led to opportunities for the exploration of trade and investment cooperation, including the tourism industry.

### Bangladesh and Nepal

Bangladesh offers many opportunities to South Africa in the areas of rural development, micro-financing, agriculture and textiles. Bangladesh also offers a substantial market for South Africa products.

Although still undergoing a democratic transformation process, for which the drafting of a new Constitution is central, Nepal also offers South Africa opportunities for cooperation. In addition to trade, South Africa has offered to share its experiences in nation-building and reconciliation with Nepal.

### South-East Asia

Strengthening South-South relations remains an important pillar of South African's foreign policy, especially in Asia, a region that has surpassed the EU as the country's biggest trading partner.

South Africa has resident diplomatic missions in six of the 11 countries in South-East Asia, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The remaining five countries – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Timor-Leste – are covered on a non-residential basis. Only three out of the 11 countries in the region – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Lao PDR – do not have resident missions in South Africa.

South Africa's bilateral trade with the 11 countries in the region has been growing consistently over the past 16 years, reaching R64,7 billion in 2011.

Throughout 2011, South Africa has worked closely with countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia to address some of the impediments to market access experienced by a number of South African exporters, particularly in the area of agriculture and agro-processed products.

### Thailand

In August 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Thailand.

Following the conference in Bangkok, the Minister paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Thailand, Yingluck Shinawatra, and held bilateral talks with her Thai counterpart, Dr Surapong Towichukchaikul, reviewing the scope of relations between South Africa and Thailand and identifying possible further areas of cooperation to deepen and strengthen bilateral relations.

In 2011, Thailand was South Africa's biggest trading partner in the region with trade reaching almost R20 billion, followed by Malaysia (R16,5 billion), Indonesia (R11,6 billion) and Singapore (R10,9 billion).

### Indonesia

Relations with Indonesia date back to the country's pre-1994 support for the anti-apartheid movement. In October 2012, South Africa and Indonesia agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation and will conduct a joint study to explore trade opportunities.

The agreement includes market access and import regulation, the designation of ports of entry for imports of fresh produce, the introduction of an import licensing regime for imports of horticultural products and sectoral cooperation such as trade promotion and capacity-building for small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs), with particular interest in jewellery design and special economic zones.

Indonesia proposed cooperation under the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnerships (NAASP) framework. Under this cooperation, Indonesia will work with South Africa to assist other countries in Africa as a form of solidarity.

The NAASP has been co-chaired by South Africa and Indonesia since its establishment in 2005. Both countries are active members of important organisations such as the NAM and the G20, and as such they are working together closely in promoting the ideals of South-South cooperation.

### Malaysia

South Africa's political and economic relations with Malaysia are growing, marked in particular by substantial Malaysian investments in South Africa and continuing offers to train South Africans in a variety of fields. Relations with the Philippines are warm and cordial, with bilateral trade growing annually and substantial South African investment in the country's gold mining and food and beverage sectors.

### Singapore

Political relations with Singapore are warm and substantive, with a steady exchange of high-level visits over the years.

Being well-known as a centre of excellence, Singapore makes a significant contribution to capacity building and human resource development in South Africa through the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

### Vietnam

Political relations with Vietnam are strong, with a substantial exchange of high-level visits between the two countries over the past few years, as evidenced by the visit to Vietnam by Deputy President Motlanthe in October 2010 and the return visit to South Africa in May 2011 by the Vietnamese Vice-President, Mrs Nguyễn Thị Doan.

The protection of South Africa's wildlife, particularly the rhino, has been high on the agenda of discussions with Vietnam.

South Africa and Vietnam have agreed to strengthen their relations and cooperation, especially in politics, economy, science and technology, culture and education.

In August 2012, progress was made at the second meeting of the South Africa-Vietnam Partnership Forum, where the entire scope of bilateral relations between the two countries was reviewed and strengthened. Discussions between the two countries took place in the ambit of the bilateral agreement concerning the establishment of an Inter-Governmental Partnership Forum for Economic, Trade, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, which was concluded between the two countries in 2004.

The two countries expressed their shared concern on illegal trafficking, particularly around rhino horns, and agreed to work together to address the issue of protecting endangered species.

Other areas of cooperation would include water affairs and justice matters, specifically further negotiation with the aim of concluding an agreement on an extradition treaty.

#### **Brunei-Darus-Salam, Cambodia,Lao PDR, and Tomor-Leste**

South Africa's relations with Brunei-Darus-salam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are cordial and friendly. Political relations with Timor-Leste are cordial and friendly.

#### **Myanmar**

During September 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane undertook a one-day working visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – the first visit by a South African government minister to that country.

The objective of the visit was to join the international community in welcoming the democratisation process and political reform in Myanmar. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane used the occasion to express the South African government's support for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar, as the country continues to address its positive political transformation in an inclusive manner.

Like the rest of the international community, South Africa welcomed the political reform process underway in Myanmar and supported all efforts aimed at opening up the political space for participation by all the people of Myanmar through the political parties of their choice.

In this regard, South Africa has offered to share its experience in national reconciliation with Myanmar, during the historic visit to Nay Pyi Taw by Minister Nkoana-Mashabane in September 2012.

#### **Philippines**

At the end of September 2012, Deputy Minister Ebrahim paid a working visit to the Philippines to strengthen relations with that country, in the

areas of trade, investment, tourism and culture.

The South African government established formal diplomatic relations with the Philippines in November 1993.

The Philippine Embassy in Pretoria was established in June 1994. South Africa, in turn, established an embassy in Manila in December 2004.

Relations between South Africa and the Philippines are strong both on the bilateral and multilateral levels. Both countries are influential in organisations of the South, including the NAM and the G77+China.

A Memorandum of Agreement on the establishment of a bilateral consultative forum was signed between the two countries.

On the economic front, efforts have been undertaken by both countries to enhance bilateral trade and commercial relations.

In January 2013, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation hosted the inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Philippines Bilateral Consultative Forum.

The meeting came after the signing of the agreement between the two countries on the sidelines of the 67th session of the UNGA in September 2012, in New York, USA.

The forum serves as an instrument for structured bilateral consultations with the aim of advancing cooperation between the two countries.

#### **Australasia and the Pacific islands**

##### **Australia**

South Africa and Australia have a history of productive cooperation across a range of sectors and issues, including fisheries protection, mining, law enforcement, sport, tourism, education and training (in fields such as ICT, public administration, mining and resources management), defence relations and customs cooperation.

Australia is the sixth-largest export destination for South African goods. The majority of goods exported from South Africa to Australia are finished goods. Exports of high quality passenger motor vehicles, mainly BMW 3 Series,

Mercedes and Volkswagen, head the list.

The number of Australian tourists who arrived in South Africa by December 2011 stood at 103 506.

With its renewed focus on Africa, Australia has committed to work together with the African continent to address challenges of development in areas such human resource development, mining and resources management and infrastructure development.

In September 2012, Australia hosted the Africa-Australia Infrastructure Conference that was aimed, among other things, at exploring new business opportunities and strengthening cooperation in infrastructure development on the African continent.

South Africa and Australia have also worked closely together for the benefit of third countries (e.g. Zimbabwe) in areas such as sanitation and revenue collection.

South Africa and Australia work closely together at a multilateral level in organisations and institutions such as the Commonwealth (particularly on those issues that affect the African continent), the UN and the Cairns Group.

## New Zealand

Historically, the political relations between South Africa and New Zealand go back many years during the anti-apartheid movement in which New Zealand played a leading role in that part of the world.

At a bilateral level, South Africa and New Zealand enjoy close cooperation in business, tourism, agriculture, disarmament, fisheries, environmental protection, and indigenous people and human rights issues.

In sport, South Africa and New Zealand have strong ties – especially in rugby and cricket, but in recent years also soccer.

In 2009 and 2010, South Africa hosted the Confederations Cup and the FIFA World Cup™, respectively in which the New Zealand national soccer team, the All Whites, participated.

In September 2011, Deputy President Motlanthe visited New Zealand to attend the opening ceremony of Rugby World Cup. During this visit, South Africa and New Zealand signed the

Films Co-Production Agreement.

The two countries enjoy productive cooperation at a multilateral level. Both countries are members of the Valdivia Group (Group of Temperate Southern Hemisphere Countries on Environment), which aims to promote the southern hemisphere's views in international environmental meetings and enhance scientific cooperation.

The two countries also enjoy a close working relationship within the context of the Antarctic Treaty and Indian Ocean fisheries, and interact regularly within the context of the World Trade Organisation and the Cairns Group.

## Fiji

Diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Fiji Islands were established in November 1994 and the two countries have since enjoyed cordial and friendly relations.

In July 2011, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Mr Frank Bainimarama, accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola visited South Africa to officially open the High Commission of Fiji in Pretoria.

## 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)

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, which provide the framework for cooperation.

### **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.

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. 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 Kingdom during March of 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**

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and the State of Qatar were established in 1994, strengthened by official visits to Qatar by former presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, as well as by visits of several Cabinet ministers.

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.

In January 2012, President Zuma visited Qatar to promote peace in North Africa with a specific focus on Libya.

Further cooperation between South Africa and Qatar, as well as peace and the security situation in the Middle East dominated the talks with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

In terms of trade relations, Qatar has traditionally enjoyed a healthy trade surplus, primarily due to its export of crude oil and petrochemicals to South Africa.

### **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 major 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**

In March 2012, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, signed a defence cooperation memorandum with Oman's Minister of Defence, Sayyid bin Saud bin Harib al-Busaidi.

The MoU, signed at the Castle in Cape Town, includes an agreement on technical cooperation, an agreement to share lessons around peacekeeping operations and the sale of military hardware to Oman by South Africa.

Oman was the first country in the Gulf to acquire military hardware from South Africa, and Dr Sisulu encouraged her counterpart for Oman to continue doing so.

The signing of the agreement follows the state visit by President Zuma to Oman in November 2011.

Oman and South Africa have enjoyed good relations since 1995. In 2002, an Embassy was

established in Muscat and in 2003, the Oman Embassy was set up in Pretoria.

## Iraq

Iraq established diplomatic relations with South Africa in August 1998.

In November 2012, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, and his Iraqi counterpart, Khairullah Hasan Babakr, signed an agreement aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two countries by exploring trade potential in various sectors.

Trade between South Africa and Iraq was valued at R197 million in 2011.

In 2013, the Department of Trade and Industry sent a delegation to Iraq comprising government officials and the private sector on an International Trade Initiative.

The department undertook to seek ways to assist Iraqis with the challenge of obtaining South African visas, as there is no embassy in Iraq. Iraqi citizens get their visas in Jordan.

Trade relations between South Africa and Iraq was generally conducted through intermediaries and it was envisaged that from the signed agreement, a guideline to trade directly would be formulated.

## Syria

The situation in Syria remains fragile. In April 2012, the South African government welcomed the entering into effect of the ceasefire arrangement in Syria.

South Africa supports the call made by the Joint Special Envoy regarding the urgent deployment of a UN Observer Mission to verify and monitor the ceasefire. South Africa, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, is participating in discussions on a resolution authorising the deployment of the UN Advanced Monitoring team.

South Africa's approach is that the UNSC should adopt a balanced resolution providing the necessary support for the Joint Special Envoy's efforts.

## Arab-Israel peace process

South Africa supports 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 does not have a policy aimed at boycotting Israel, but discouraged people from visiting Israel because of the latter's continued occupation of Palestinian land.

A joint media briefing was held in August 2012, following the second meeting of the South Africa-Vietnam Partnership Forum that was co-chaired by Deputy Minister Ebrahim and his Vietnamese counterpart, Le Luong Min, to discuss the issue of continued occupation.

## Relations with the Americas

### United States of America (USA)

Formal relations between South Africa and the USA go back as far as 1789, when the USA opened a consulate in Cape Town. Cordial relations between the two countries deteriorated during the apartheid years and in 1986, the US Congress introduced wide-ranging sanctions against South Africa in terms of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. However, with the launch of South Africa's democratisation process in 1990, relations gradually improved, and were normalised with South Africa's first fully democratic elections in April 1994.

Since then, numerous state visits by leaders of the two countries have served to strengthen bilateral relations between them. In July 2012, Deputy President Motlanthe concluded a working visit to the US, where he attended the International AIDS Conference in Washington DC.

In August 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, for the second meeting of the South Africa-US Strategic Dialogue.

The inaugural South Africa-US business summit took place at the same time to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. The US is South Africa's third-largest trading partner and a significant

investor. In turn, South Africa remains the US's largest trading partner in Africa, with exports totalling US\$7 billion in 2011 – up by 30% compared to 2010.

The US increasingly recognises South Africa's growing influence in world affairs such as its membership of BRICS and its influential role in the AU.

#### Recent initiatives:

- the signing of a US\$2-billion declaration of intent between the Export-Import Bank of the USA and South Africa's IDC to provide credit guarantees to stimulate development of South Africa's renewable energy sector
- the establishment of a Global Disease Detection Centre in South Africa, co-directed by the USA Centre for Disease Control and South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases
- the USA Agency for International Development (USAID) credit guarantee facility which will make up to R1,2 billion (US\$150 million) available to more than 300 SMMEs and help create over 20 000 jobs in South Africa;
- the launch of the School Capacity Innovation Program (SCIP), a new R60-million (US\$7,5-million) public-private partnership between USAID, the ELMA Foundation and JP Morgan. SCIP was designed in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education to improve teacher quality
- the launch of the US\$500 000 Opportunity Grants Program, which will help disadvantaged South African students cover expenses to study in the USA
- a R5,2-million (US\$650 000) USAID programme for judicial management and leadership projects that raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence
- representatives of both governments met in August 2012 to identify mutual areas of interest and strengthen opportunities for cooperation on cyber issues. The United States/South Africa Strategic Dialogue endorses the establishment of a Cyber Working Group as a platform to discuss and take these issues forward.

## Canada

Canada was strict in its application of sanctions against apartheid South Africa, but relations normalised fully in 1994 with the country's first democratic elections. A state visit by then President Nelson Mandela to Canada in September 1998 cemented the good relationship that had developed between the two countries.

Canada has supported South Africa's re-entry into a broad range of multilateral organisations and 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. This is the primary forum in which issues of mutual interest and concern receive specific focus. The last consultations 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 official development assistance to South Africa under the Country Development Programming Framework has three main programme themes, namely strengthening South Africa's service-delivery mechanism; regional cooperation; and mainstreaming (gender, HIV, AIDS and environment). Between 2008 and 2013, Canada's official development assistance to South Africa amounts to R250 million.

The Country Development Programming Framework was due to end in late 2008 but 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.

In November 2012, Cabinet approved the state's entering into a treaty with Mexico on the extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The treaty is to provide for more effective cooperation between South Africa and Mexico in the fight against crime and to provide for the extradition of fugitives between the two countries.

The treaty aims to improve effectiveness of the law enforcement authorities of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and prevention of crime through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Latin America

The developing countries in Latin America continue to play an important role in international political bodies and formations such as the NAM, the G20 (Brazil and Mexico), BRICS (Brazil), IBSA (Brazil) and the UN. South Africa shared an important platform with countries from the region (Brazil and Colombia) in the UNSC as non-permanent members from 2011 to 2012.

The region had an estimated combined population of 572 million and a total GDP of US\$5,4 trillion in 2011. It hosts important global players and bilateral partners such as Brazil (the world's sixth-largest economy with a GDP of US\$2,44 trillion), Cuba and Mexico. By the end of 2012, Brazil was expected to surpass France as the fifth-largest economy in the world.

South African business has extensive interests in the region, including SAB Miller, Anglo-Gold Ashanti, Naspers, Denel, Sasol, PetroSA. These relate to exports of capital equipment, intermediary goods and investments as well as a growing presence of South African companies of the service sector establishing in the region.

South Africa's bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean continue to advance the development agenda of the South, and strengthen cooperation among developing countries through active participation in group-

ings of the South at regional, interregional and multilateral levels. In this regard, the need to build stronger and balanced relationships with Latin American and Caribbean countries is of particular importance. South Africa has observer status in Caricom and acts as the region's voice in the G20.

High-level delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean attended the Global African Diaspora Summit hosted by South Africa in May 2012.

Diplomatic interaction with countries in the region was carried out in close alignment with South Africa's domestic strategic priorities.

High level interactions were achieved with like-minded countries in areas of climate change.

### Brazil

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.

The presidents of South Africa and Brazil met regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest. South Africa maintained the view that the Rio+20 Conference, which took place in Brazil, was sure to keep the issue of sustainable development as a top priority on the agenda of the UN and the international community.

In March 2012, South African enterprises showcased their abilities and experiences gained over the course of hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ at the Investment and Trade Initiative that took place in Brazil.

The importance of promoting these platforms is to showcase the prospects for trade and investment in South Africa, its capabilities and accomplishments in foreign markets. As Brazil's economy continues to flourish, so does their need for resources from Africa, providing a new impetus to the history of African growth.

This was the third investment and trade initiative to be hosted by the Department of Trade

and Industry in Brazil. The initiative, which focuses on South Africa's FIFA World Cup™ legacy, was led by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Thandi Tobias-Pokolo. It included 45 South African companies from the built environment, construction, aerospace, rail and marine, manufacturing, agro-processing, services and electro-technical sectors.

The aim of the initiative was to foster bilateral partnerships and opportunities for urban development, tourism and economic development of FIFA World Cup™ host cities in 2014.

### **Argentina**

Cooperation between Argentina and South Africa continue apace in various fields, such as agriculture, forensic anthropology, and biotechnology. An MoU in the Field of Arts and Culture was signed between the two countries.

In November 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted her Argentine counterpart, Foreign Relations and International Trade Minister, Hector Timerman, who was in South Africa for the two-day third session of the South Africa-Argentina BNC.

The links between South Africa and Argentina are strategic and they involve crucial long-term interests.

Moreover, the two countries both wanted to expand their value chains and increase employment, thus profiting from the economies of scale that enlarged markets offer.

In 2011, Argentine exports to South Africa amounted to US\$1,08 billion, representing a 23% growth in comparison to 2010. In turn, imports from South Africa totalled US\$205 million, a 45% increase in the same period.

### **Chile**

Political relations between South Africa and Chile remain sound. The Joint Consultative Mechanism continues to serve a constructive purpose in the ongoing political dialogue between the two countries at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

In July 2012, multilateral cooperation and regional developments formed part of discus-

sions between South Africa and Chile during the fourth Joint Consultative Mechanism meeting between representatives of the two countries. Two agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and an MoU on the establishment of a Joint Trade and Investment Commission were signed.

The meeting also discussed a number of other areas, including the possibility of a dialogue regarding a preferential trade agreement subject to concurrence with Sacu, science and technology and academic exchanges in the tertiary education sector.

Exports to Chile include minerals, chemical fertilisers, sulphate, insecticides and fruit. Imports from the South American country include chemicals. Exports to Chile in 2011 were at R604 083 and imports from Chile at R834 622. It was also decided to explore further academic collaboration between the countries, in particular the University of South Africa.

### **Venezuela**

South Africa and Venezuela have embassies in each other's capitals and enjoy good relations. South Africa is seeking new opportunities in Venezuela including among others cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

Two senior officials' meetings were held between South Africa, Mexico and Venezuela in line with existing BNCs between them.

### **Colombia and Ecuador**

The South African Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela is responsible for the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Ecuador. Colombia and Ecuador are experiencing growing interest from South African companies primarily relating to the mineral resources sector.

### **Panama**

South Africa established full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Panama on 10 January 1995. The Government of Panama opened an Embassy in Pretoria in August 2000.

In April 2012, bilateral relations between South Africa and Panama were strengthened

when Panama's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Francisco Alvarez de Soto, visited the country at the invitation of Deputy Minister Fransman.

This was the first high-level bilateral visit from Panama to South Africa since full diplomatic relations were established in January 1995.

The visit focused on the strengthening of political and economic relations between the two countries providing impetus to South Africa's already solid bilateral and multilateral relations with Panama, a prominent maritime country and a hub for trade with strong economic growth.

The Panama Canal is one of the world's most important and strategic maritime passages, benefitting global freight circulation and economic activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Panama opened an embassy in Pretoria in August 2000.

South Africa is non-residentially represented in Panama from Lima, Peru, with an honorary consulate in Panama.

### The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean. 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 and protection of small island states.

### Cuba

Cuba remains a strategic partner of South Africa and the region. Several South African medical students have already graduated

from Cuban medical faculties under the South Africa-Cuba medical study programme.

Discussions are underway to grow the current 80 bursaries offered by Cuba significantly to increase the number of qualified medical practitioners in South Africa. Currently several hundred Cuban specialists are deployed in South Africa, rendering professional services in the fields of public health, human settlements, public works and social development.

In February 2012, South Africa and Cuba signed a R350-million Economic Assistance Package Agreement geared towards helping that country improve its food security. The total package to the island nation is three-pronged, with the first portion being a R40-million grant for the purchase of seeds by Cuba.

From this amount, Cuba is expected to use R5 million to buy seeds in South Africa. The remaining R35 million can be used by Cuba for the purchase of seeds from any other country.

The second part of the agreement is a R100-million solidarity grant. The third portion is a R210-million credit line which will go out in two tranches of R70 million and R140 million. This is a loan facility with the R70 million being made available to Cuba immediately.

### Jamaica

South Africa established non-resident diplomatic relations with Jamaica in September 1994. In August 2012, President Zuma paid a state visit to Jamaica and attended the island's 50th anniversary of independence celebrations.

The visit also served to enhance bilateral relations, to recognise the role Jamaica played during South Africa's struggle for emancipation and to celebrate Jamaica's achievements as an independent, stable constitutional parliamentary democracy.

A number of draft agreements and MoUs were negotiated between both countries. These are in the fields of sports and recreation, science and technology, defence and security, social development and culture, bilateral air services and public works.

The Jamaican and South African govern-

ments have waived visa requirements for all South African and Jamaican passport holders to enable nations from each side to enter the country for a period of up to 90 days without the necessity of visas.

This provision facilitates the smooth movement of South Africans and Jamaicans who are engaging in music, education, and sports, among other things.

## **United Kingdom (UK) and Northern Ireland**

Bilateral relations between South Africa and the UK are rooted in the long history shared by the two countries and are extensive and multi-faceted, covering fields as diverse as science and technology, development cooperation, promoting trade and a rules-based international system.

The UK was ranked South Africa's fifth-biggest export trading partner globally and its second-biggest export trading partner in Europe in 2011. South African exports to the UK in 2011 were R28,8 billion and imports were R29,1 billion, giving a total of R57,9 billion.

There is a healthy flow of investment in both directions. The UK is recognised as the foremost source of foreign direct investment into South Africa, while South African companies have equally made large investments in the UK.

The UK is by far South Africa's most significant source of (non-African) tourists, a position it has not relinquished for the past 15 years. Total tourism from the UK in 2011 was 420 483 visitors. Frequent high-level visits in both directions underline this strategic relationship.

In February 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane had a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK and Northern Ireland, Mr William Hague.

South Africa and the UK are looking to increase economic and trade ties by focusing on exporting high-value-added goods to Britain.

In April 2012, the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, visited South Africa and met with Deputy

President Motlanthe in Pretoria. The visit was part of the celebrations marking the Queen's 60 years on the throne. Princess Anne visited a number of non-governmental organisations she supports, such as Save the Children and the St John's Ambulance Service.

In July, 2012, Deputy Minister Ebrahim hosted the UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for Africa, Mr Henry Bellingham, for bilateral discussions on issues of common concern, including recent developments in Africa and the Middle East.

The meeting took place within the context of strengthening North-South relations and consolidating the African Agenda.

## **Republic of Ireland**

The Republic of Ireland was the only EU member country that did not have full diplomatic relations with South Africa until the dawn of democratic South Africa.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with Ireland was announced in October 1993 and the Irish Embassy was opened in Pretoria in 1994. The South African Embassy in Dublin was opened in 1995.

The third meeting of the South Africa-Ireland Partnership Forum was held in Cape Town on 15 November 2012. Co-chaired by Deputy Minister Fransman and the Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development, Mr Joe Costello, the Partnership Forum is the structured bilateral mechanism between South Africa and Ireland, which was established in 2004.

The parties discussed political, economic and social developments in South Africa and Ireland, as well as in Africa and Europe.

## **Relations with Europe**

### **European Union (EU)**

South Africa has strong cultural and historical links to the EU.

The EU is by far South Africa's most important development partner, providing for about 70% of all external assistance funds. South Africa is also the EU's largest trading partner in Africa.

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

South Africa's primary exports to the EU are fuels and mining products, machinery and transport equipment, and other semi-manufactured goods.

EU exports to South Africa are dominated by machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and semi-machinery products.

South Africa, while part of the African Caribbean Pacific group of countries, is not party to the same preferential trade arrangements granted to the African Caribbean Pacific countries under the Cotonou Agreement.

The Cotonou Agreement is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU. It is the framework for the EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

South Africa joined the Economic Partnership Agreement (the trade pillar of the Cotonou Agreement) negotiations as part of the SADC-group in February 2007.

South Africa's trade relations with the EU are governed by the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement concluded with the EU in 1999.

## 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.

## Belgium

In June 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane met with her Belgian counterpart, Mr Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Belgium for a bilateral meeting.

Relations between the two countries are strong and dynamic, covering a number of areas that are important to South Africa's national development objectives.

Since 1994, Belgium has allocated substantial resources to South Africa in the form of official development assistance.

This support has covered areas such as health, ports management and logistics, education, rural development and further education and training.

## The Netherlands

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 regularly.

## Luxembourg

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 the German-speaking countries cover various issues, including investment and trade, science and technology, defence, culture, the environment, tourism, sport, development cooperation and energy.

## Germany

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

The German-South African Year of Science event, an initiative between the Department of Science and Technology and Germany's Ministry of Education and Research, is aimed at stimulating the development of more local South African innovations.

The two countries' relations in science and research stretch back to 1996 when they signed a science and technology cooperation agreement which led to a joint research fund to support research and development projects.

Germany also helped to set up the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management – a joint initiative between Germany, South Africa and several neighbouring African countries to address the challenge of climate change.

In May 2012, Deputy President Motlanthe visited Germany to promote North-South cooperation and strengthening existing relations.

Germany has become one of South Africa's most important trading partners within the EU and was ranked the fourth-largest export destination for South Africa in the world.

In 2012, there were about 700 German-owned companies or subsidiaries of German companies in South Africa. Overall, South Africa's exports to Germany have been showing an upward swing over the five-year period ending in 2011.

### **Switzerland**

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.

### **Austria**

Besides engaging the Austrian government at a 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.

### **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.

There has been close cooperation on multi-lateral 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**

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 from 1995.

As part of the country's 2009 – 2013 programme, more than R7 billion is disbursed to projects ranging from water, energy, education, and governance, the South African Police Service, business support, and the fight against HIV and AIDS. In addition, Denmark remains a strong supporter of Nepad and African development.

### **Norway**

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.

## Finland

In May 2012, Deputy President Motlanthe visited Finland within the context of promoting North-South cooperation and strengthening existing relations.

## 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 Advisory Committee and various commissions on trade and industry; health; education; arts and culture, science and technology; 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.

## France

France is a major trading and development cooperation partner and source of tourism for South Africa. Trade between the two countries was about R27,5 billion in 2010.

In February 2012, South Africa hosted the South Africa-France Forum for Political Dialogue in Pretoria to map a way forward on how to deepen political and economic relations between the two countries.

More than 170 French-owned companies or subsidiaries of French companies are operating in South Africa, accounting for 25 000 employment opportunities.

## Italy

In October 2012, the Minister of Tourism, Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk, attended an award ceremony in Milan, Italy. He noted that close to 55 000 Italian tourists visited South Africa in 2011.

In October 2012, Deputy President Motlanthe visited Italy where he met with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti to review the scope of relations between South Africa and Italy and identify possible further areas of cooperation. The Deputy President addressed a business luncheon on South Africa's Infrastructure

Development Programme and opportunities for investment.

The Deputy President also attended the 35th anniversary celebration of the solidarity pact between the City of Reggio Emilia and South Africa. It included an exhibition called Reggio Africa and the official opening of the Reggio Africa Archive, which hosts historical documents on Africa and particularly South Africa.

## Spain

Economic relations between South Africa and Spain have grown rapidly. Trade between the two countries have reached R19 billion, having doubled over the past few years.

In July 2012, the eighth Session of Annual Consultations between South Africa and Spain was concluded in Madrid. The discussions were co-chaired by Deputy Minister Ebrahim and his counterpart, the Secretary of State Gonzala De Benito.

## Greece

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 and has contributed to education and health programmes in South Africa.

In September 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane paid a working visit to Cyprus at the invitation of their Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Erato Kozakou-Markoullis.

During the visit, the MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations, and the Protocol to the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion were signed. This was the Minister's first visit to Cyprus.

## 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 and minerals that are of vital importance to South Africa's economy.

Co-operation in gas and oil and the peaceful use of nuclear energy can go a long way towards alleviating South Africa's energy needs.

### Czech Republic

In September 2012, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Elizabeth Thabetshe, visited the Czech Republic to co-chair the second session of the Czech-South Africa Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The purpose of the meeting was to promote and strengthen trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

### Slovak Republic

The Deputy Minister also visited the Slovak Republic in September 2012 to co-chair the fourth session of the Slovak-South Africa Joint Council for Economic Cooperation with her counterpart, Pavol Pavlis.

They signed a joint protocol, which outlines the plan on further expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation between South Africa and the Slovak Republic.

Total trade between South Africa and Slovakia increased consistently over the years.

In 2011, bilateral exchange of goods between the two countries amounted to R792 million, an increase of 14% compared to R720 million in 2010.

### Russian Federation

South Africa regards the Russian Federation as an important strategic partner and close bilateral and multilateral ties exist between the two countries. Historical links between South Africa and the Russian Federation are strong. Direct contact between the former USSR and the ANC were established on a regular basis during 1963.

In the era of the USSR, the latter was one of the key supporters of the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

With the dissolution of the USSR, South

Africa became the first African state to recognise the independence of the Russian Federation. Full diplomatic relations were established between South Africa and the Russian Federation in February 1992.

In November 2012, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane travelled to Moscow for the 11th Session of South Africa-Russia Joint Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The Minister co-chaired the meeting with the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Sergey Donskoy.

In February 2013, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the Minister Donskoy in Pretoria during an Joint Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation co-chairpersons' meeting. The agreements under consideration are in the fields of agriculture; education; energy; fisheries; justice, mineral resources, science and technology, and transport.

### Conclusion

South Africa conducts its foreign policy against the background of an ever-changing political and economic environment. The global environment is characterised by major shifts in global political, economic, social and cultural dynamics that have an impact on different parts of the world.

These include the realignment of new economic powers, new media and social networks, innovation, environmental change, heightened demand for scarce resources and the changing nature of conflict and insecurity.

Africa is at the centre of South Africa's foreign policy and South Africa will continue to support regional and continental processes to respond to and resolve crises, strengthen regional integration, increase intra-African trade, and champion sustainable development and opportunities in Africa.

The strengthening of the AU and its structures is a strategic priority in deepening the continental integration process. South Africa will continue with efforts aimed at revitalising

Nepad as a strategy for socio-economic development on the African continent.

The integration of the SADC remains critical for the economic development of the region and for South Africa's global competitiveness. To this end, South Africa continues to support efforts aimed at ensuring political stability and economic viability through strengthening governance and institutional capacity within the SADC.

In advancing global peace and security, South Africa continues to play an active role in all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The country will also con-

tinue to support the AU and UN initiatives to find just and lasting solutions to outstanding issues of self-determination and decolonisation on the African continent. To achieve this, both bilateral and multilateral branches will engage through structured mechanisms and intergovernmental forums.

The consolidation and strengthening of bilateral political and economic relations remains a strategic focus area. South Africa will continue to use structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level engagements to reinforce and expand cooperation in the political, economic, social and security spheres, for the purpose

## Acknowledgements

or contributing to the achievement of national priorities.  
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