



# International Relations and Cooperation

In 2014 and beyond, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) will lead a coordinated campaign, through the footprint it has established, to diversify and consolidate South Africa's international relations. The department is committed to promoting South Africa's national interests and values, the African Renaissance and the creation of a better world for all.

By prioritising Africa and promoting its renewal, development and reconstruction, South Africa is contributing to building a better Africa, which is the central foreign policy goal of the South African Government. South Africa values the support its partners and allies around the world have given it in the past 20 Years of Freedom and democracy.

The country has come a long way with its partners the world over. Within a period of 20 years, South Africa went from being a pariah State to a great nation with a visionary foreign policy that promotes relations with other countries.

### **African Union (AU)**

The AU, which now has 54 member states, brought together the continent of Africa to collectively address its challenges, such as armed conflict, social upheaval, climate change, and poverty. It seeks to promote an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa that is people-centred and represents a dynamic force on the world stage.

Africa Day reflected the key lessons of the past 50 years and acknowledged the contributions of founders of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and Pan Africanism in all countries, regions and the African diaspora.

Fifty years after the formation of the OAU, Africa is on the rise. At the same time, the continent is aware of the challenges it faces, and of the need to use this opportunity to rejuvenate its mission, through Pan Africanism and the African renaissance. In February 2013, AU Commission chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, met in Brussels, Belgium, with Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Union (EU) to discuss the strategic review of the AU-EU partnership.

### **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.

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 New Asian-African Strategic Partnership 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 improved the quality of life for millions of Africans.

## **South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

The SADC developed from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, which was established in 1980. It adopted its current name during a summit meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in August 1992. The initial member states are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. South Africa became a member after 1994.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement is part of the SADC's ongoing efforts to create strong relations within Southern Africa through trade. This is evident from the ongoing discussions to achieve inter-regional cooperation and integration among the regional economic communities (RECs) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and the SADC aimed at forming a TFTA with the ultimate goal of establishing a single customs union.

The three RECs comprise 26 countries, a combined population of close to 600 million people, and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of just under US\$1 trillion.

At the SADC summit in Malawi during August 2013, two women were ushered in at the top – Malawian President Joyce Banda as chairperson and Stergomena Lawrence Tax of Tanzania as executive secretary. Tax, who was elected during the Heads of State and Government Summit, took over from Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão, who served two terms of eight years. Tanzania handed the Chair of the Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation to Namibia in 2013.

Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) member states attended the fourth Sacu Summit in April 2013, held in Gaborone, Botswana to discuss various issues broadly related to regional trade and industrialisation, under the auspices of the customs union.

### 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.

In February 2013, President Jacob Zuma met with his Mozambican counterpart, Armando Guebuza, in Pretoria within the context of the enhanced bilateral cooperation between their respective countries.

In April 2013, President Zuma attended the inauguration of the President-elect Uhuru Kenyatta in Kenya's capital Nairobi.

In April 2013, South Africa and Lesotho resolved to work towards increasing economic activities that will lead to the creation of sustainable jobs that are mutually beneficial to the two intricately linked economies.

In May 2013, the South African non-governmental organisation, Open Africa, and Grant Thornton Consulting were contracted by the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia Compact to assist the Namibia Tourism Board in plotting three self-drive travel routes in Namibia.

President Zuma hosted his São Tomé and Príncipe counterpart, Manuel Pinto Da Costa, who was on a state visit aimed at revitalising diplomatic relations between the two countries in August 2013.

In August 2013, President Zuma travelled to Angola where he had consultations with his counterparts President José Eduardo Dos Santos, and the President of the DRC, Joseph Kabila Kabanga.

By October 2013, South Africa and Angola had signed over 22 bilateral agreements and MoUs covering a wide range of sectors such as trade and industry, energy, science and technology, sport, mining, tourism and defence.

In February 2014, the Republic of the Congo bestowed its Order of Merit on Mathews Phosa at a ceremony in Brazzaville occurring during the 25th anniversary celebrations of the signing of the Brazzaville Peace Accord, which paved the way for the end of the Angolan civil war and Namibia attaining independence.

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

In January 2013, 200 Department of Defence and Military Veterans personnel were deployed in the Central African Republic (CAR), in the aftermath of the coup d'état that toppled President Bozize. The SANDF withdrew its soldiers during April 2013. In the same month President Jacob Zuma attended the Extraordinary Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States, which discussed the CAR.

In 2013, South Africa appointed a Resident Ambassador in N'djamena.

In June 2013, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation hosted her Western Sahara counterpart, Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, for bilateral consultations in Pretoria.

By 2014, South Africa had trained more than 1 600 government officials from South Sudan as part of a capacity-building programme within the context of the AU Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development initiative.

President Zuma paid a working visit to President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja in April 2013.

In November 2013, during his first State visit to Ghana President Zuma held talks with President John Mahama. South Africa will participate in a National Pavilion at the Ghana International Trade Fair in 2014.

In September 2013, President Zuma travelled to Senegal where he met with his counterpart President Macky Sall to strengthen bilateral relations and exchange views on various regional and global issues.

In October 2013, South Africa and Niger recommitted to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as working together to promote peace and stability in Africa. This emerged after the inaugural session of the

Joint Commission for Cooperation, which the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and her counterpart Mohamed Bazoum co-chaired.

### Asia and Australasia

China and African countries have pledged to ensure the full implementation of the proposals enshrined in the Beijing Action Plan 2013 – 2015 of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). South Africa has taken over co-chairmanship of the FOCAC from Egypt, on behalf of Africa, for the next six years. The forum is one of the most strategic partnerships between Africa and its development partners. The sixth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015.

During March 2013, the Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Zuma signed several agreements in various fields that would serve to strengthen the already cordial ties between South Africa and China.

President Zuma participated in the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Yokohama, in May 2013. This was followed by a working visit on 4 June.

In November 2013, the then Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ebrahim Ebrahim, paid an official visit to the DPRK to hold political consultations and review bilateral relations.

Then Deputy Minister Ebrahim hosted Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kairat Sarybay, in October 2013. The President of Kazakhstan was on a State visit to South Africa in December 2013, during which he signed several draft agreements.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and the oil rich Azerbaijan came under the spotlight in May 2013. The then Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Marius Fransman, was on an official visit, which reviewed the relations between the two countries.

In November 2013, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry addressed a business seminar in Istanbul while in Turkey with a business delegation on an Outward Selling and Investment Mission.

In October 2013, the third Africa-India Trade Ministers' Meeting took place in Johannesburg. Ministers of trade from several African countries including Nigeria, Ethiopia, Benin, Namibia, Senegal and Libya attended the high-level gathering.

In November 2013, President Zuma attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sri Lanka.

In August 2013, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation hosted her Thai counterpart, Surapong Tovichakchaikul, for a working visit that redefined and refocused the priority areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

President Zuma arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2013, on an official visit to boost political, economic and social ties with the southeast Asian country.

In 2013, South Africa and Vietnam signed an action plan that promotes cooperation between the two countries in law enforcement and compliance with legislation such as the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

In October 2013, South Africa signed a memorandum aimed at curbing rhino poaching with the government of the Lao PDR.

In December 2013, then Deputy Minister Ebrahim was in Myanmar to explore avenues to boost bilateral relations between the two countries.

In January 2013, the DIRCO hosted the inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Philippines Bilateral Consultative Forum. In November 2013, South Africa joined the international community in making a contribution to rescue efforts in the typhoon-ravaged Philippines.

South Africa contributed R4 million in response to the call for international assistance by the Government of the Philippines.

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 information and communications technology, public administration, mining and resources management], defence relations and customs cooperation.

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

## **The Middle East**

The Outward Selling Mission to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in November 2013 aimed to expose South African companies

to the Middle Eastern market and deepen bilateral trade and investment relations between these countries.

In October 2013, South Africa hosted the 11th Meeting of the South Africa-Iran Joint Commission.

In April 2013, then Deputy Minister Ebrahim, attended the Fourth Round of Bilateral Consultations in Qatar.

In November 2013, Mpumalanga Premier, David Mabuza said the province was ready to enter into an agreement with Oman to help resolve that country's food security problems.

The third Africa-Arab Summit of Heads of State and Government opened in Kuwait City in November 2013, under the theme "Partners in Development and Investment."

In 2013, the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) sent a delegation to Iraq comprising government officials and people from the private sector on an international trade initiative.

### The Americas

Formal relations between South Africa and the United States of America (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 USA Congress introduced wide-ranging sanctions against South Africa in terms of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act.

The climax of the South Africa 2012 Campaign, was the Celebration of the Life, Legacy and Values of Nelson Mandela and the unveiling of the Nelson Mandela statue in front of the newly-renovated Embassy of South Africa on 3051 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington DC in September 2013.

In November 2013, then Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe was in Canada for a working visit to promote investment by Canadian companies in South Africa's mining sector.

### The Caribbean

The developing countries in Latin America continue to play an important role in international political bodies and formations such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the G20 (Brazil and Mexico), BRICS (Brazil), IBSA (Brazil) and the UN. South Africa's business sector has extensive interests in the region, including SAB Miller, AngloGold 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 in the service sector.



The fourth meeting of the Argentina-South Africa BNC took place in Buenos Aires in August 2013, co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, Héctor Timerman, and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

The latter part of 2013 saw ministerial visits from both Colombia and Ecuador to South Africa as a follow-up to high-level visits by South Africa to those countries in September 2013.

Then Deputy Minister Fransman visited Lima, in Peru, in September 2013. The visit was used to strengthen political, social and economic bilateral relations. The two countries also identified new areas of cooperation.

Relations between South Africa and Venezuela came under discussion when Minister Nkoana-Mashabane, held talks with her counterpart, Elias Jaua Milano, in September 2013.

Minister Nkoana-Mashabane was in Venezuela to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in the areas of energy, mining, agriculture, education, as well as arts and culture.

Trade relations between South Africa and Venezuela have decreased over the years, with the balance of trade changing to favour South Africa. Between June and July 2013, trade statistics showed imports standing at R42,5 million, while exports stood at R84,6 million.

Several South African medical students have graduated from Cuban medical faculties thanks to the South Africa-Cuba medical study programme.

The 80 bursaries offered by Cuba in 2013 increased the number of qualified medical practitioners in South Africa significantly. 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.

## Europe

The 10th South Africa-United Kingdom (UK) Bilateral Forum met in September 2013 in Cape Town, co-chaired by Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and UK Foreign Secretary William Hague. The Bilateral Forum is a structured mechanism to monitor and manage bilateral relations between the two countries and meets every two years, co-chaired at Foreign Minister level.

During the 10th Bilateral Forum, the two countries committed to further strengthening bilateral relations.

The UK announced in April 2013 that it would end its development cooperation programme in South Africa in 2015.

In July 2013, President Zuma and his delegation met with the EU delegation led by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, in Pretoria.

Given the challenges that face South Africa, President Zuma emphasised that the central theme of South Africa's engagements with Europe should be "Job Creation through Inward Investment."

A South African delegation, led by President Zuma, was in talks with representatives from the EU in July 2013, where ways to boost trade and investment were discussed. President Zuma also discussed the October 2014 deadline imposed by the EU for the conclusion of the economic partnership agreement (EPA) with the SADC countries. The EPA gives the countries preferential access for their agricultural and agro-processed products to EU markets.

Since 1994, Belgium has allocated substantial resources to South Africa in the form of official development assistance. This support has covered such areas as health, ports management and logistics, education, rural development and further education and training. The budget of the development cooperation programme, which will run up to 2016, is R66 million a year. The Belgian region of Flanders also has a long-standing development programme in South Africa, also with a budget of R66 million per year up to 2016. Minister Nkoana-Mashabane held a bilateral meeting with her Belgian counterpart, Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, in June 2013 in Brussels. The meeting covered bilateral political and economic relations as well as the African Agenda, including the Great Lakes Region. In October 2013, a high-level and very large Belgian economic mission of 333 participants, including 252 business leaders, arrived in South Africa hoping to boost trade, investment and other ties.

The South African-German Year of Science (2012–2013) displayed great strides in science and technology cooperation. Around 41 joint research projects were initiated, focusing on areas such as astronomy, renewable energy and pharmaceuticals. South Africa and Germany signed an MoU in February 2013 to enhance bilateral dialogue and practical cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector by establish-

ing a partnership, which builds on the ongoing successful cooperation in the energy sector. In April 2013, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, paid an official visit to South Africa, during which he recommitted Germany to further strengthening economic relations with South Africa. The German Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Ilse Aigner, met with the South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in May 2013, for bilateral discussions. Germany is a good partner in terms of offering South Africa technical assistance in agriculture.

The dti hosted the South Africa-Switzerland business forum in September 2013, which showcased business opportunities in the renewable energy sector. South Africa and Switzerland also signed an MoU on cooperation and trade promotion. South Africa held high-level discussions with Switzerland when then Deputy Minister Fransman, was on an official visit in November 2013. He co-chaired the fifth Annual Switzerland-South Africa high-level consultations (HLC) with his Swiss counterpart, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yves Rossier.

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, which ended in 2013. The Danish Government is focusing on renewable energy development in South Africa. This programme has been developed in response to the commitments made in the MoU of October 2011 between Denmark and South Africa and to the Declaration of Intent on the South African Renewable Initiative, to which Denmark is a co-signatory. As part of the country's 2009 to 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.

Then Deputy Minister Fransman co-chaired the inaugural HLC with his Norwegian counterpart, State Secretary Bard Glad Pedersen, in Oslo during his official visit in November 2013. The structured HLC cover the areas of international relations and human rights, trade and investment, renewable energy, education and skills development, and science and technology.

In June 2013, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation concluded a successful working visit to Finland, where she participated in the 13th Africa-Nordic Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in the Finnish town of Hameenlinna.

The meeting addressed three issues, namely, how macro-economic challenges affect the Nordic Welfare model, Africa on the rise – how to make economic growth inclusive, and seeking solutions to African conflicts – the role of regional and global actors.

In May 2013, ministers from South Africa and Sweden met in Pretoria to assess the state of relations between the two countries. The high-level meeting was attended by the ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, Trade and Industry, National Planning, and the Deputy Minister of Finance. The two sides also exchanged views on developments on the African continent and in the multilateral arena.

From 2003 to 2013, Sweden invested in 14 projects in South Africa across a range of sectors, with total capital investment estimated at R2,04 billion, creating over 1 807 jobs. In October 2013, then Deputy President Motlanthe and the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden Jan Björklund convened the eighth South Africa-Sweden BNC in Pretoria.

The eighth session assessed the state of relations between the two countries, particularly the implementation of the programme of bilateral cooperation.

Sweden has a well-developed maritime sector and South Africa has established a Maritime Skills Development Programme with Sweden through the South African Maritime Safety Authority. Through the programme, 26 postgraduate South African students have been awarded scholarships to study at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden.

In October 2013, French President François Hollande paid an official visit to South Africa.

South Africa will count on France's support in ensuring the effective implementation of the UN Resolution 2033, which provides for closer coordination between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

Between 2012 and 2013, South Africa undertook a number of high-level visits to Italy. Then Deputy President Motlanthe met with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti in Italy to review the scope of relations between the two countries and identify possible further areas of cooperation.

South Africa remains the largest recipient of Spanish outward investment to Africa with FDI in the period 2006 to 2012 estimated at over R7 billion. By September 2013, Spanish companies had targeted the energy, financial services, tourism, textiles, information technology and software, metals, and mining sectors in South Africa for foreign direct invest-

ment (FDI). In July 2013, the ninth Session of South Africa-Spain Annual Consultations was concluded in Pretoria.

In February 2013, then Deputy Minister in The Presidency Obed Bapela visited Portugal.

Poland is not only one of the strongest role players in the political and economic arenas in central Europe, but also an emerging power in the EU. In October 2013, then Deputy President Motlanthe, held discussions with visiting Polish Prime Minister Donald Franciszek Tusk in Pretoria.

In February 2013, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted Minister Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, in Pretoria during an Joint Intergovernmental 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.

South Africa and Belarus marked the beginning of an important relationship when the two countries established a working group to facilitate bilateral cooperation in agriculture. In March 2013, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in South Africa, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Head of Presidential Affairs in Belarus Viktor Vladimirovich Sheiman discussed further cooperation in the field of agriculture between the two countries.

## **International bodies**

### **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**

BRICS is the acronym for a grouping of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The fifth BRICS Summit was held in South Africa in March 2013.

In August 2013, business leaders from the BRICS group of countries converged in Johannesburg for the first meeting of the BRICS Business Council. The council was established during the 2013 BRICS Summit in Durban in March, with South African businessman Patrice Motsepe named chairman of the body.

In September 2013, leaders of the BRICS bloc met away from the G20 meeting, which was held in Russia. The BRICS bloc emerged saying the G20 leaders could do more to boost global demand and market confidence.

The summit presented a unique high-level opportunity for South Africa to further support key priority areas of the African Agenda.

### **India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum**

IBSA is a coalition of the south that has facilitated dialogue at a level previously unimaginable. Development cooperation, along with the views on tackling socio-economic distress and trading among the three nations distinguishes IBSA from BRICS. All the IBSA members are democracies and can discuss issues which cannot be discussed in BRICS summits.

The forum provides the three countries with a platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in fields such as agriculture, trade, culture and defence.

### **United Nations**

President Zuma attended the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2013. The 2013 theme was "Setting the stage for the post-2015 agenda."

In December 2012, South Africa concluded its second term as an elected member of the UN Security Council (UNSC). South Africa's second tenure in the UNSC was aimed at building upon its experience during its previous term by contributing to achieving peace and stability on the African continent and in all the regions of the world. Throughout its term, South Africa sought to promote a multilateral, rules-based system. Despite constraints, South Africa influenced a large number of UNSC outcomes and actively engaged on all issues on the Security Council's agenda pursuant to the global mandate associated with its membership.

Notable achievements during South Africa's tenure include its leadership role in chairing the Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, whose strategic intent is to find ways by which to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa and the 1540 Committee, which prevents non-state actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

South Africa also championed landmark UNSC decisions on strengthening the strategic cooperation between the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council in Resolution 2033 as well as the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) is a premier organ of the UN responsible for economic and social development

matters of the world. South Africa assumed membership of Ecosoc on 1 January 2013. This will give South Africa an opportunity to be located at the centre of the debate on the global development agenda, including the acceleration of the implementation of the MDGs.

In February 2013, then Deputy Minister Ebrahim, participated in the 22nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, in Geneva, Switzerland.

In February 2013, South Africa and the UN signed a five-year UN Strategic Cooperation Framework that will help government as it tries to meet its development agenda and implement its Programme of Action.

## **Commonwealth**

The modern Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent member countries. Membership is diverse and includes both developed and developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and the South Pacific.

In March 2013, South Africa hosted the first Commonwealth Conference on Education and Training of Youth Workers.

In late-August 2013, the South African Parliament hosted the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Johannesburg.

In December 2012, the commonwealth adopted a charter that brings together the values and aspirations of its membership and unites the principles of democracy, human rights and rule of law in a single document. In May 2013, member states approved a new strategic plan for the period 2013/14 to 2016/17.

In November 2013, the biannual Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), under the theme "Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development" took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka. President Zuma represented South Africa. At the same time the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation attended the pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers Meeting.

## **Non-Aligned Movement**

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.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is chairing the NAM for the period 2012 to 2015. The NAM consists of 120 member states.

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

The next NAM Summit is scheduled to be held in Venezuela in 2015.

