



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SOUTH AFRICA
YEARBOOK

2010/11

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The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's priorities are outlined in the Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2009 – 2014. They include:

- continuing to prioritise the African continent
- strengthening political and economic integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- strengthening South-South relations
- strengthening relations with strategic formations of the North
- strengthening political and economic relations
- participating in the global system of governance.

South Africa's diplomatic and consular missions enhance its international profile and serve as strategic mechanisms for the achievement of national interests and for carrying out the national mandate.

South Africa maintains diplomatic relations with countries and organisations through 124 missions in 107 countries abroad and through the accreditation of more than 160 countries and organisations resident in South Africa.

South Africa's growth in stature in international relations has resulted in increased demands on the country to play a significant role in contributing towards efforts aimed at the creation of a more democratic, peaceful, prosperous continent and a better world.

During 2010, the department consulted with stakeholders on the need for the establishment of the Foreign Policy Council, which will serve as an avenue for non-state actors to interface with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation on foreign-policy development and implementation.

South Africa and Africa

The focus of South Africa's engagements on the African continent is to promote development, contribute to the resolution of conflict and build an environment in which socio-economic development can take place.

African Union (AU)

The AU is Africa's premier institution and the principal organisation for the promotion of the continent's accelerated socio-economic integration, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples.

South Africa was instrumental in establishing the AU and its organs, namely the:

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

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

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

It replaced the Organisation of African Unity, which was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AU's objectives include:

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

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

- the AU has developed the PSC, which is responsible for the resolution of conflict,

peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction in conjunction with the United Nations (UN)

- a common defence policy has been adopted, which includes the Standby Force, with a nucleus of five brigades, one from each region
- the Human and Peoples' Rights Court has been established with Judge Bernard Ngoepe as one of the first judges
- the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Declaration on Gender Equality is being implemented
- the Protocol on the Court of Justice is underway.

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

Promoting peace, security and stability on the continent

The AU is responsible for the peaceful resolution of conflict among member states, through such appropriate means as may be decided upon by the AU Assembly.

The PSC Protocol took effect in December 2003 and comprises 15 member states. The PSC was launched in Addis Ababa in May 2004.

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

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

The AU PSC Protocol provides for the creation of the African Standby Force, to be operationalised over 10 years.

The second extraordinary session of the AU Assembly, held in Libya in February 2004, adopted the Common African Defence and Security Policy.

South Africa has been active in efforts to bring about peace and stability on the con-

continent. The country has engaged in peacekeeping operations and peace-building measures in support of the African Agenda, and has played an important mediation and facilitation role in countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, Ethiopia-Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

South Africa has also helped African countries to set up institutions, such as the Independent Electoral Commission's participation in election observation missions, establishing functional civil services and using South Africa's experience in post-conflict and reconstruction programmes.

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

Socio-economic development and integration of the continent

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

RECs are recognised as the building blocks of the AU, necessitating the need for their close involvement in formulating and implementing all AU programmes.

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

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

New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)

South Africa played a role in the establishment of Nepad and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and has hosted the secretariats of these two bodies. Nepad, as a blueprint for Africa's socio-economic development, represents the incarnation of the objectives of the AU at a practical level to intensify the struggle against poverty and underdevelopment.

Nepad remains the main frame of reference for intra-African relations and Africa's partnerships with international partners such as the European Union (EU)-AU Strategic Partnership, Forum for Africa-China Partnership, the Group of Seven Most Industrialised Nations plus Russia (G8), New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and

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Hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ brought unprecedented attention and exposure to South Africa. Many international heads of state and other dignitaries visited the country to support their teams.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation facilitated the hosting of heads of state attending the opening and closing ceremonies, including their accommodation, transportation and security.

It also developed a flag and national anthem "bank".

the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The primary objective of Nepad is to eradicate poverty, halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process, promote the empowerment and economic integration of women and achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The underlying principles of Nepad are:

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

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

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

The 14th session of the AU decided to integrate Nepad into the AU and established the Nepad Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as a technical body of the AU. This is an important step towards the acceleration of 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.

Nepad introduced the APRM, accepted by member states of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism.

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.

By April 2010, 30 African countries had acceded to the APRM.

Structures Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC)

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

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

The main function of the HSGIC is to set policies, priorities and Nepad's programme of action.

Steering Committee

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

Secretariat

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

Southern African Development Community

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

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

nature. The year 2010 saw elections in, among other countries, Mauritius and Tanzania. Additionally, 2010 marked the ascendance of Namibia to the chairship of SADC with the DRC as outgoing chair. Landmark celebrations were held in Gaborone in the SADC host country, Botswana, during the official opening of the SADC Headquarters building in July 2010, which coincided with the SADC's 30th anniversary.

The launch of the Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008 laid the foundation for regional economic integration. The FTA Agreement is part of 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 through the tripartite economic arrangement comprising SADC, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. In terms of Sacu, the internal developments are in pursuance of enhanced intra-Sacu trade and flow thereof through the removal of trade barriers.

The year 2010 marked Sacu's centenary, which was highlighted by the centenary celebration and the inauguration of the Sacu Summit in Namibia. South Africa ascended to the chairship of Sacu following the summit in Pretoria in 2010.

Relations with southern Africa Angola

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

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

In August 2009, President Jacob Zuma paid his first state visit to Angola – accompanied by 11 ministers and more than 150 businesspeople. During this visit, various cooperation agreements were signed, such as in the fields of regular political consultations, infrastructure, industry, trade, sport and recreation, air services and human settlements.

Botswana

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

In October 2010, Lieutenant General Ian Khama, President of Botswana, paid a state visit to South Africa. In view of increased cooperation and the desire to deepen the relationship between South Africa and that country, the heads of state agreed to elevate the current status of the JPCC and the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation on Defence and Security (JPCCDS) to that of an annual binational commission (BNC) at heads of state level.

Democratic Republic of Congo

In October 2009, President Zuma and President Joseph Kabila of the DRC met as part of the BNC established between South Africa and the DRC in 2004.

The BNC is aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries in the areas of, among other things, trade, peace, security, defence and economic development.

In June 2010, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe attended the 50-year celebrations of the independence of the DRC.

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

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In July 2010, South Africa hosted the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) Heads of State and Government Summit. The aim of the summit was to deliberate on the future strategic direction of Sacu in the light of the challenges facing the organisation, and global and regional integration developments.

Lesotho

In August 2010, President Zuma paid a state visit to Lesotho.

The economies of South Africa and Lesotho are interdependent, with Lesotho providing a strategic resource to South Africa in the form of labour and skills. More than 30% of its economically active population are employed in South African mines and about 50% of the income of Lesotho's rural households comes from family members employed in South Africa. This constitutes about 30% of the country's per capita gross national product.

The state visit took place after the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Joint Bilateral Commission for Cooperation (JBCC) between the two countries, which was held in Maseru in April 2010.

During the visit, President Zuma oversaw the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on economic cooperation between South Africa and Lesotho. President Zuma held bilateral engagements with Prime Minister Phakalitha Mosisili and official talks with King Letsie III. The President also addressed the Joint Sitting of Parliament and officially opened South Africa's newly built Chancery and diplomatic village in Maseru.

President Zuma and Prime Minister Mosisili discussed the finalisation of the Agreement on Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The project was started in 1986 as a joint venture to supply water to South Africa, especially the rapidly growing urban population of Gauteng, and to meet Lesotho's electricity needs. The project delivers about 780 million m³ of water to South Africa per year. It is regarded as Africa's largest transfer project as well as the largest ongoing binational construction project.

Other projects that featured in the discussions, included a geochemical mapping project and a hydrological project, as well as the development of the Sani Pass-Mokhotlong Road as part of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Project.

Malawi

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

The inaugural meeting of the JCC between South Africa and Malawi took place in Blantyre, Malawi, in June 2008.

Mozambique

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

In January 2010, President Zuma, accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, attended the inauguration of President-elect Armando Guebuza.

In May 2010, a festival to promote relations between the two countries was held in Maputo. The programme included discussions about road infrastructure ICT, a trade exhibition of South African companies and an inspection of agricultural projects. A travel book highlighting the N4 route between Gauteng and Maputo was also released.

President Guebuza undertook a working visit to South Africa in October 2010.

Namibia

South Africa and Namibia enjoy close cooperation in a number of areas, which is further enhanced by high-level engagements such as the Heads of State Economic Bilateral Meeting. The meetings focus on joint economic cooperation projects such as spatial development initiatives (SDIs), tourism, energy matters and matters related to Sacu and SADC.

The annual meetings of the Joint Commission on Defence and Security between the two countries aim to identify, discuss and promote bilateral and regional cooperation in the security area.

South Africa is one of Namibia's most important economic partners. Bilateral trade between South Africa and Namibia accounts for two-thirds of Namibia's total foreign trade. The two countries are also part of SADC and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) configuration that is negotiating with the European Commission.

In March 2010, President Zuma attended the 20th anniversary of Namibia's independence and the inauguration of President Hiikepunye Pohamba.

President Zuma paid a working visit to Namibia in November 2010.

Swaziland

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

The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, and his Swaziland counterpart, Mr Benedict Xaba, signed a cooperation agreement to improve healthcare services in the SADC region in May 2010.

In July 2010, the former Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, signed an MoU with Swaziland on cross-border water supply.

Tanzania

Strong relations between South Africa and Tanzania began when the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, supported the ANC during the South African liberation struggle. This was cemented by formalising bilateral relations in 1994. The Presidential Economic Commission was enacted in 2005.

It provides the required cooperative framework to manage the development and implementation of bilateral projects and the SDI programmes, in particular the Mtwara and central development corridors, which have been identified as regional Nepad priorities.

Zambia

In December 2009, President Zuma paid a state visit to Zambia to deepen relations between the two countries in terms of trade and investment.

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

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

Zambia bestowed the South African President with the Order of the Eagle. He is the second South African to have received this honour after former ANC president, Oliver Tambo.

President Rupia Banda of Zambia paid a state visit to South Africa at the beginning of December 2010.

Zimbabwe

South Africa played a constructive role in support of the SADC-mandated mediation process on Zimbabwe. This led to the historic power-sharing agreement that was signed in September 2008 between the Zimbabwean African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) and the two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations, as well as the establishment of the inclusive government in February 2009.

South Africa, working with SADC and other relevant authorities in Zimbabwe,

initiated the establishment of the Zimbabwe Humanitarian and Development Assistance Framework, a transparent, non-partisan and all-inclusive coordinating mechanism, which was set up to manage SADC's humanitarian assistance to the people of Zimbabwe.

South Africa's bilateral engagement with Zimbabwe took place in the form of the third session of the JPC in March 2009 at Victoria Falls.

South Africa negotiated an assistance package in support of the Zimbabwean Government's Short-Term Emergency Recovery Programme.

SADC appointed South Africa to facilitate the resolution of obstacles between Zimbabwe's Zanu-PF and the two MDC formations, which were still hindering the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). In March 2010, President Zuma held bilateral meetings with each of the three principals.

South Africa continues to carry out the SADC mandate to facilitate negotiations for the implementation of the GPA.

Uganda

In March 2010, President Zuma paid a state visit to Uganda at the invitation of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. During the visit, South African ministers signed agreements in the fields of agriculture, trade, S&T and customs cooperation.

The President was accompanied by more than 30 businesspeople, who attended the South Africa-Uganda Business Forum. This forum will expand the areas of economic cooperation and profitable investment opportunities in Uganda such as agriculture, tourism, mining, energy and ICT.

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

Kenya

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

An SOM between South Africa and Kenya was held in March 2010 in Pretoria.

The two governments signed a cooperation agreement in 2004 to support researchers from universities and public research facilities to enhance S&T co-

operation between the two countries. In 2009, the S&T supported six research projects. In 2010, a further five projects were funded.

At the end of November 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe paid an official visit to Kenya.

Ethiopia

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

In August 2010, the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and her counterparts from 53 countries attended the inaugural Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

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 towards the finalisation of the General Cooperation Agreement as well as agreements in other areas such as education, scientific and technical co-operation, shipping and maritime, environment and tourism as well as social development.

Comoros

South Africa and the Comoros have had official relations since 1993. Following the signing of the Fomboni All-Party Framework Agreement of 17 February 2001, presidential elections for the three sister islands and for the Union of Comoros were held in March and April 2002.

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

Development cooperation

South Africa is not a donor country, but development cooperation with countries in Africa is integral to the country's foreign policy.

Assistance is wide-ranging and includes educational visits by agriculturists, establishing viable training centres, conserving the environment, and rendering medical assistance and technology-exchange programmes.

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

Relations with central Africa

South Africa continued to strengthen its bilateral relations with the countries in the central African region during 2010/11.

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.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Diplomatic relations between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa were established in May 1994. South Africa operates a satellite office in São Tomé and Príncipe under the accreditation of the embassy in Libreville, Gabon. A general cooperation agreement between São Tomé and Príncipe and South Africa was signed in 2005.

Congo

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

In April 2010, the Congolese President, Mr Denis Sassou-Nguesso, paid a state visit to South Africa. Economic cooperation, maritime transport, and arts and culture agreements were signed between South Africa and Congo, which will build on important work already underway in areas such as health and defence.

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

In August 2010, the Republic of Congo celebrated 50 years of independence from France.

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In January 2010, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) opened a zone office in Johannesburg, which will be responsible for 10 countries in southern Africa.

Its presence in South Africa will allow the IFRC to interact and coordinate with other international humanitarian organisations already situated in South Africa.

The zonal office in South Africa will give the IFRC the ability to scale up its assistance to vulnerable communities in the southern African region, as immediate access by air to southern African countries will be made easier.

The inaugural session of the South Africa-Congo JCC was held in Cape Town at the end of October 2010.

Equatorial Guinea

Diplomatic relations between Equatorial Guinea and South Africa were established in May 1993. The two countries have signed bilateral agreements in the following areas: general cooperation, defence and regular diplomatic consultation. In November 2009, President Zuma paid a working visit to Equatorial Guinea.

Cameroon

South Africa and Cameroon signed a general cooperation agreement, a trade agreement and an MoU on economic cooperation in 2006.

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

In May 2010, Cameroon commemorated its 50th anniversary of freedom from colonial rule.

Central African Republic (CAR)

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

In May 2008, Cabinet approved the deployment of 15 South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members to the CAR. In March 2009, Cabinet approved the extension of deployment of SANDF personnel to the CAR to assist with capacity-building of the local defence force.

Chad

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

Rwanda

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

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

Burundi

Since 2008, through South Africa's facilitation, progress has been made in Burundi's peace process. The *Forces National de Liberation* (FNL) abandoned its arms and registered as a political party. The FNL committed itself to participate in the 2010 elections. The last remaining members of the SANDF returned from Burundi in December 2009.

Relations with North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa Algeria

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

- Cooperation Agreement on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear energy
- Programme of Action on Sport and Recreation
- MoU between the Petroleum Oil and Gas Corporation of South Africa and Sonatrach Petroleum Corporation.

They also witnessed the initialling of three MoUs on:

- labour and social security
- cooperation in the water sector
- the executive programme of tourism cooperation from 2010 to 2012.

Western Sahara

During 2009/10, consultations at political and senior government officials' level regularly took place. Concern was expressed regarding the violation of human rights in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. South Africa has called upon the UN to assume its responsibilities regarding the issue by setting up a mechanism for the protection of Saharawi human rights. South Africa continues its humanitarian assistance programme to the SADR.

Egypt

South Africa and Egypt continue to enjoy

cordial relations. The eighth session of the Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) took place in South Africa in March 2010 and served to strengthen bilateral cooperation in several fields, notably in the field of economic cooperation.

President Zuma undertook a state visit to Egypt in October 2010. He was accompanied by more than 100 businesspeople. New agreements and programmes of action were finalised in the following fields: veterinary and animal health; environment; ICT; S&T; as well as sport and recreation.

Tunisia

Political relations between South Africa and Tunisia remain strong.

In April 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe undertook a working visit to Tunisia where he co-chaired a meeting with Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi to assess progress achieved in various areas of cooperation.

The two countries cooperate in the fields of health, social development, defence, S&T, culture and sport. South Africa has more than 80 Tunisian medical doctors working in rural areas.

Libya

High-level political dialogue took place regularly during 2009/10, particularly on the AU and other multilateral issues. President Zuma visited Tripoli in January 2010 to discuss matters on the African Agenda. The second session of the South Africa-Libya JBC was held during 2010.

Morocco

Although interaction between the Kingdom of Morocco and South Africa remains strained as a result of South Africa's principled position on the issue of the illegal occupation of the Western Sahara, efforts are afoot to normalise these relations.

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

- promotion of the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people as enshrined in the UN Charter
- support for the principle of decolonisation and the sanctity of colonial borders
- respect for international humanitarian law and the promotion of universal human rights
- support for international legality and multilateralism in the resolution of conflict

- opposition to the exploitation of natural resources of the occupied territory
- support for sustainable humanitarian and development assistance to the Saharawi people
- promotion of the integration and security and stability of the Maghreb region.

Mauritania

Relations between South Africa and Mauritania were normalised in late-2009 due to the return to constitutional order, the lifting of suspension and re-admission of Mauritania by the AU. South Africa and Mauritania started normalising relations with the latter appointing a resident ambassador during 2010, while South Africa was in the process of doing the same.

Côte d'Ivoire

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

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

South Africa continues to support peace efforts in Côte d'Ivoire.

Sudan

South Africa's involvement in Sudan is informed by its strategic foreign-policy priority that peace, security and stability are prerequisites for Africa's socio-economic development.

In October 2010, President Zuma appointed his political adviser, Mr Charles Nqakula, as his special envoy to the Sudan.

This is a strong reflection of South Africa's commitment to assist Sudan to overcome the challenges that country faces.

South Africa chairs the AU Ministerial Committee on the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development of the Sudan. The committee comprises Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and the Sudan.

Liberia

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

Nigeria

Nigeria is considered one of South Africa's most important partners on the African con-

continent in pursuing the vision of an African renewal.

In November 2009, Deputy President Motlanthe undertook a working visit to Nigeria to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of the South Africa-Nigeria BNC in Abuja. South Africa committed to supporting close cooperation with Nigeria by structuring bilateral relations through the establishment of a BNC.

In May 2010, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane visited Nigeria to meet with her counterpart, Mr Henry Ajumogobia.

Ghana

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

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

In March 2010, South Africa and Ghana signed the MoU on Cooperation in the Foreign-Relations Field and the MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts and Culture at the second session of the two countries' JPCC held in Accra, Ghana.

The JPCC was established in May 2007 as a structured mechanism seeking to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and to consolidate the African Agenda.

Burkina Faso

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

Although Burkina Faso has limited exploitable resources, opportunities exist for South African mining companies to mine gold, zinc and manganese. Since agriculture is the dominant industry, opportunities exist for the trade of various agricultural products. Trade between the two countries is limited.

Benin

Diplomatic relations were established between Benin and South Africa in May 1994. South Africa and Benin maintain good bilateral relations. The two countries signed a general cooperation agreement in October 2003. They have, among other things, identified agriculture, arts and culture, and justice as areas of cooperation.

An embassy was opened in Cotonou in February 2007. Benin opened an embassy in Pretoria in 1999. An agreement to develop and formulate procedures for military cooperation between South Africa and Benin, was signed in June 2008.

The agreement also includes promoting the training of military personnel through the exchange of trainees, instructors and observers.

Republic of Togo

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

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

Cape Verde

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

In line with South Africa's effort to expand its diplomatic reach on the African continent, regular interaction with Cape Verde is envisaged in the coming years, including exploring mutually beneficial business opportunities.

The Gambia

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and The Gambia were established in August 1998. While South Africa's ambassador to Senegal is accredited to The Gambia as non-resident ambassador, the Gambian ambassador to the AU in Addis Ababa is accredited to South Africa as that country's non-resident ambassador. South Africa maintains an honorary consul office in The Gambia to look after South African interests.

Guinea

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

Guinea-Bissau

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

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

In September 2008, a framework cooperation agreement was signed between South Africa and Guinea-Bissau.

Mali

Full diplomatic relations between South Africa and Mali were established in 1994. The latter established an embassy in Pretoria in December 1995. A South African embassy was established in Bamako in November 2002, and the first South African ambassador to Mali was appointed in November 2003.

The two countries are committed to promoting democracy and good governance, and there is substantial South African involvement in the Malian gold-mining sector.

In May 2010, the South African Government officially transferred the new building in Timbuktu, to house the ancient Mali manuscripts of the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research, to the Malian Government.

Manuscripts collected across the city and surrounding regions with the aim to preserve Africa's heritage and intellectual property will be housed in the building.

The manuscripts are expected to contribute to the re-writing of the African history from an African perspective. They are significant to the re-evaluation of Africa's history, culture and contribution to the African Renaissance.

The South Africa-Mali Timbuktu Project, which was managed through a trust, had three main objectives, namely the:

- physical conservation of the manuscripts and training of the Malian conservators
- construction of the library and archives building to house the manuscripts and all services relating to the preservation, collection and accession of the manuscripts
- creation of public awareness on the need to preserve the manuscripts and their importance as sources of information that tell the true story of Mali and the surrounding regions.

The project, adopted by Nepad as its first cultural project, provided intervention measures to slow down the degradation of the manuscripts and encouraged active intellectual engagement emanating from research.

Senegal

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

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

1994 and the two countries' representative offices were upgraded to embassy level.

Various cooperation agreements exist between the two countries.

Sierra Leone

In March 2010, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Affairs Minister of Sierra Leone, Ms Zainab H Bangura, in Pretoria. The two countries have embarked on cooperation projects such as the Freetown Electrification Project, which seeks to assist with the supply of regular electricity to Freetown.

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

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

Niger

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

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

Relations with Asia and the Middle East The People's Republic of China

The South Africa-China bilateral relationship continues to be one of the most dynamic partnerships of its kind.

In May 2010, South Africa's pavilion at Shanghai Expo in China was officially opened. Shanghai Expo's theme of *Better City, Better Life* was showcased by the pavilion depicting the vibrancy of South African cities and urban culture. With the theme of *It's Time! Ke Nako!*, South Africa's pavilion invited visitors to learn more about the offerings of modern South Africa as a strategic partner with China.

China is South Africa's largest trading partner. In 2009/10, South African exports there amounted to R42,45 billion while imports amounted to R59,10 billion with a trade balance of R16,65 billion. In 2009, bilateral trade grew by 2% to R119,7 billion.

At the end of August 2010, President Zuma and President Hu Jintao signed

the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) Agreement during a state visit to the People's Republic of China. China committed in the CSP to the following:

- working towards more balance of trade
- encouraging trade in manufactured value-added products
- increasing trade and investment missions
- establishing a joint working group on trade statistics
- encouraging its enterprises to increase investment in South Africa's manufacturing industry
- promoting value-adding activities in close proximity to the source of raw material
- cooperating and providing mutual technical support in the areas of the green economy, skills development and industrial financing
- encouraging companies from both countries to explore cooperation opportunities in infrastructure-construction projects such as roads, railways, ports, power generation, airports and housing.

Both countries agreed to cooperate on the G20, climate change, reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and South-South cooperation.

The following agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit:

- Beijing Declaration on the Establishment of a CSP
- MoU on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports
- MoU on the Establishment of the China-South Africa Minerals Cooperation Sectoral Committee
- MoU on the Establishment of the China-South Africa Sectoral Committee on Energy Matters
- MoU on Cooperation in Railway-Related Matters
- MoU on Cooperation in Transport-Related Matters
- MoU on Energy Cooperation
- MoU in the Field of Environmental Management.

In November 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe hosted the fourth BNC with his counterpart, Vice President Xi Jinping, in Cape Town.

Central and East Asia Japan

In 2010, Japan and South Africa celebrated 100 years of official relations.

In April 2010, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Katsuya Okada, visited South Africa.

This first visit by a serving Japanese foreign minister took place within the context of promoting North-South cooperation. Minister Okada co-chaired the 10th South Africa-Japan Partnership Forum with Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

Japan is an important trading partner. South Africa's principal exports are base metals, heavy metals and automobiles. Imports are mainly automobiles, machinery, chemicals, earth-moving equipment and high-technology equipment. Thousands of jobs in South Africa are dependent on South Africa's exports to Japan, while Japanese companies in South Africa employ many thousands more.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

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

In January 2010, South Africa and the RoK held bilateral political and economical discussions. These discussions formed part of South Africa's commitment to consolidate bilateral political and economic relations with countries in Asia to achieve the developmental agenda of the South.

In October 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe paid a working visit to the RoK. The two countries signed a cooperation agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Relations between South Africa and the DPRK are cordial. In 2010, the two countries celebrated eight years of diplomatic relations.

Central Asia

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

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

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

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

South Africa has an embassy in Kazakhstan.

At the end of September 2010, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, hosted the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Mr Kairat Sarybay, on a one-day working visit.

New Asian-African Strategic Partnership

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

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

The IOR-ARC is a multilateral organisation comprising countries that share a shoreline along the Indian Ocean. It was launched in March 1997 in Mauritius to focus mainly on trade-related issues. The IOR-ARC plays an important role as a building block for the promotion of South-South cooperation and for complementing African-Asian regional integration.

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

South Africa, India and Brazil (IBSA)

In April 2010, President Zuma paid a working visit to Brasilia, Brazil, to attend the fourth IBSA Summit.

Between the first IBSA Summit in September 2006 and April 2010, two summits and six ministerial trilateral commissions took place, and 17 sectoral working groups were established.

The summit produced a joint declaration by the leaders, which reflected common views on several global issues. A number of trilateral MoUs in various fields were signed.

The summit was an opportunity for President Zuma, President Lula da Silva of Brazil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to discuss the coordination of positions on areas of global importance such as UNSC reform, climate change and the

pursuit of the millennium development goals (MDGs).

Economic ties between the three countries are strengthening. In April 2010, IBSA achieved its interim intra-trade target for 2010 of US\$10 billion, and was working towards US\$25 billion by 2015.

The three IBSA countries share the determination to protect the environment by sustainable development. They cooperate with China on climate change and were instrumental in crafting the Copenhagen Accord.

In April 2010, South Africa hosted the Brazil, South Africa, India and China (Basic) ministerial meeting in Cape Town. The fourth meeting of Basic country ministers on climate change took place in Rio de Janeiro on 25 and 26 July 2010.

South Asia

Key countries in the region are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, with which South Africa has cordial and growing relations. The escalation of terrorist activities in the region, apart from the conflict in Afghanistan and its spill-over into Pakistan, has become a major concern as it threatens regional stability and economic growth, as well as international security. While the civil war in Sri Lanka has ended, a lasting political solution still needs to be secured.

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

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

With the opening of South Africa's high commission in Sri Lanka, diplomatic relations with Bangladesh were no longer covered by the South African high commission in India, but by the South African mission in Colombo.

In November 2009, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka.

Relations with Sri Lanka remain cordial but there is potential for even stronger ties between South Africa and that country. Diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka were

formally established in September 1994 through the exchange of diplomatic notes.

In June 2010, a South African delegation, led by President Zuma, paid a state visit to India. India is a crucial partner for South Africa's long-term economic growth strategy. It was President Zuma's first official visit to Asia since taking office in May 2009.

A business delegation of more than 200 people from South Africa also visited India in support of the President. During the visit, three agreements were signed, namely the:

- MoU on Agricultural Cooperation
- Bilateral Air Services Agreement
- MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation and the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

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.

Total trade between South Africa and India is in excess of \$4,5 billion.

Internationally, South Africa and India share several common interests, including the reform of the UN and Bretton Woods systems, cooperation in the IBSA Dialogue Forum, the G20 and climate change. South Africa and India also share positions on international threats to security, including terrorism; religious extremism; trafficking in drugs, small arms and human beings; and infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

South-East Asia

The regional grouping, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), has emerged as one of the most important groupings within the Asia Pacific region. South Africa maintains resident missions in six of the 10 member states of Asean, namely in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. These six Asean states, as well as Myanmar (Burma), also maintain resident missions in South Africa.

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

In August 2010, South Africa participated in the second Africa-Vietnam Forum in

Hanoi, Vietnam. Since formalising diplomatic relations, South Africa and Vietnam have expanded cultural, trade and economic engagements, such as the signing of the MoU between Johannesburg and Ho Chi Minh City, and the opening of the honorary consul-general in Ho Chi Minh City in 2009.

In October 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe paid an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and met with his counterpart, Vice President Nguyen Thi Doan. During the visit, the two principals witnessed the signing of an agreement between the governments of South Africa and Vietnam on cooperation in the field of tourism.

Both countries also signed the MoU in the Field of Water Resources.

Thailand has emerged as an important trading partner.

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

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

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

South Africa deals with Myanmar mostly through multilateral organisations.

Australasia and the Pacific islands

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, hosted Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Stephen Smith, and his delegation during a working visit to South Africa in January 2010.

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

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

Total bilateral trade amounted to R26 billion in 2008, with the balance slightly in favour of Australia.

Environmental matters are an area of increasing cooperation and South Africa and Australia entered into a climate-change partnership in 2006 to promote cooperation in this regard.

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

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

Australia and New Zealand have been significant recipients of South African emigrants over the past 16 years. These two countries have become home to more than 130 000 and 60 000 South African emigrants, respectively.

New Zealand has a high commission in Pretoria. The South African high commission in Wellington was opened in April 2009.

In June 2010, the former Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Sue van der Merwe, represented South Africa at the opening of New Zealand's new Chancery.

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

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

Relations with the Middle East United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Relations between South Africa and the UAE are extensive. In January 2010, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayad Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited South Africa and held discussions with President Zuma and Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, which provided the opportunity to review and further strengthen bilateral relations.

Mr Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Economic Development, visited the UAE in May 2010

for meetings with his counterpart and other investment institutions.

Police cooperation with the UAE is on a good footing with the South African Police Service (SAPS) sharing skills through the offering of training courses, such as a police dog-handling course.

An estimated 46 000 South Africans work in the UAE as health professionals, engineers, air hostesses, executive managers, information technology specialists, laboratory technicians, and in other professions, contributing to the advancement of the skills base in the UAE.

Trade statistics for 2009 indicated South African exports worth R5,085 billion with imports of R4,056 billion, bringing total trade to R9,142 billion.

Iran

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Iran were re-established in May 1994. The following year, a JBC was formed to allow for a high-level review of existing bilateral relations and to consider ways in which these relations could be expanded.

In September 2009, the fourth South Africa-Iran Deputy Ministerial Working Group was held in Tehran.

In January 2010, the Speaker of South Africa's National Assembly, Mr Max Sisulu, visited Iran to meet with Mr Ali Larjani, the Chairperson of the Iranian Shura Council, to exchange views on parliamentary cooperation and budgetary planning issues.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a fellow G20 member and remains South Africa's largest supplier of crude oil. In February 2009, South Africa and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement in the field of S&T, on the occasion of the third Joint Commission (JC), held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Since its conclusion, this country has played host to visiting delegations from the King Abdul-Aziz City for S&T, in an effort to foster increased collaboration and the exchange of expertise and knowledge. Saudi Arabia undertook an inward investment mission to South Africa in April 2010.

Total trade with Saudi Arabia in 2009 amounted to R29,152 billion, of which imports from that country were R26,651 billion while South African exports were R2,502 billion.

Qatar

South Africa and Qatar enjoy good bilateral relations dating back to 1994. Qatar-Petro-

leum and Sasol are cooperating in a gas-to-liquids joint venture project in Qatar. Total trade in 2009 amounted to R996 million, with imports from Qatar totalling R772 million and exports to that country of R224 million. The first round of bilateral consultations was held in February 2009.

Kuwait

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 Securities Exchange.

Trade statistics indicate that South Africa exported R839 million worth of goods to that country in 2009, while imports from Kuwait in the same year amounted to R197 million, bringing total trade to R1,036 billion.

Oman

Relations with Oman are developing and negotiations on the Partnership Forum Agreement have been concluded. South Africa and Oman have been maintaining cooperation in the area of defence.

Trade between the two countries is increasing. Figures for 2009 indicated total trade of R1,246 billion, with imports from Oman of R1 billion and exports to that country of R246 million.

In May 2010, the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Patel, visited Oman and conducted discussions with the Minister of Commerce and Industry and advisers of the Omani Centre for Investment Promotion and Export Development, as well as with the Chief Executive Officer of the State General Reserve Fund, to increase trade and investment ties with Oman.

Relations with countries in the Levant continued to expand. Various high-level visits and expanding trade relations bear witness to the strengthening of relations.

Iraq

Trade between Iraq and South Africa showed strong growth in 2009. South African exports to Iraq came to R1 billion with South Africa imported goods from that country totalling R1,55 billion.

Jordan

Visits from Jordan to South Africa included the former Jordanian Prime Minister Al-Majali, who paid a visit to KwaZulu-Natal in October 2009. Following the visit of Queen

Rania of Jordan to South Africa in March 2010 as a guest of FIFA, the sister of the queen, Princess Alia, visited South Africa in April 2010 as a member of a joint conservation project between Jordan and South Africa.

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of South Africa, Mr Thabang Makwetla, attended the Jordanian Special Operational Forces Exhibition in May 2010, together with a delegation consisting of members of the defence industry and war veterans.

South African exports to Jordan totalled R224 million in 2009, whereas imports from Jordan came to R98 million.

Lebanon

Trade during 2009 between South Africa and Lebanon featured an amount of R18 million in goods imported from Lebanon. South Africa exported goods to Lebanon to the value of R235 million.

Former South African Deputy Minister of Communications, Ms Dina Pule, visited both Lebanon and Syria in May 2010 and attended the Arabcom International Communications Conference in Lebanon.

Syria

Syria's Minister of Education, Mr Ghaith Barakat, visited South African in November 2009 to sign the Cooperation Agreement in Education with South Africa's Minister of Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande.

Deputy President Motlanthe paid a working visit to Syria in October 2010. An agreement on economic and trade cooperation was signed during the visit.

In 2009, South African exports to Syria totalled R63 million and South Africa imported goods to the value of R3,3 million from Syria.

Israel

South African exports to Israel totalled R4,804 billion in 2009, while imported goods from Israel amounted to R2,105 billion in the same year.

South Africa supports just, equitable and comprehensive peace between Israel and Palestine and an end to the illegal occupation of Arab land, especially the Occupied Palestinian Territory by Israel, which has led to conflict and violence between the peoples of the region.

South Africa believes that peace and security for the Israelis and the Palestinians cannot be achieved without the fulfilment

of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination within their own sovereign state.

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

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

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

Deputy Minister Ebrahim paid an official visit to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria in April 2010 to discuss the Middle East Peace Process with his counterparts.

As a contribution to the strengthening of Palestinian institutions, South Africa provided a junior diplomatic training course to Palestinian diplomats in April 2010.

Relations with the Americas United States of America (USA)

One of the highlights of South African-US relations is that the USA has identified with South Africa's strategic priorities and is making an effort to align its programmes and projects with these.

At the meeting between presidents Zuma and Barack Obama in Washington during April 2010, in the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit, President Obama re-committed to ensuring that the strategic partnership with South Africa is strengthened.

The Strategic Partnership Dialogue, established by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, and Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton, in April 2010, is a sign of the improvement in bilateral relations.

In June 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe and Vice President Joe Biden met for a high-level meeting to assist in building a strong relationship between South Africa and the USA.

The South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation hosted the South Africa-USA Annual Bilateral Forum (ABF) in May 2010. The ABF enjoyed wide participation from the US embassy, US consulates-general and USA Aid, health and immigration agencies and South African government departments. The tone of the discussions reflected the two countries' growing partnership. The ABF resulted in a joint plan of action and the creation of new working groups to implement and strengthen cooperation in specific areas. All parties have committed the working groups to being action- and results-oriented.

This detailed joint summary document and action plan emanating from the ABF, supplemented by progress reports from the working groups, formed the basis of discussions during the meeting of the foreign ministers in October 2010. This annual ministerial meeting served as the forum for periodic assessment and endorsement, by the US Secretary of State and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, on the progress made in key areas of cooperation and the strategic direction of the relationship.

Relations are highlighted by the following:

- South African exports to the USA amounted to R41 886 978 in 2009. South African exports to the USA are the second-largest after China and US imports to South Africa are the third-largest after China and Germany.
- In 2007, 98% of South Africa's exports to the USA were duty-free due to the combination of South Africa's most-favoured nation status, Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits, the African Growth and Opportunity Act and various other bilateral benefit arrangements.
- The USA is also a key player in the vital area of foreign investment, with that country being the second-largest portfolio investor in South Africa (\$36 billion), as well as the second-largest source of foreign investment (\$5,5 billion), after the United Kingdom (UK).
- South Africa benefited from the tourist trade from the USA with 282 866 Americans visiting South Africa from January to December 2009. This was the second-highest number after visitors from the UK.

- For 2008, the US Government committed US\$591 million towards health assistance to fight HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, making that country the largest single donor of health assistance to South Africa – larger than all other bilateral, multilateral, non-governmental organisations and private donors combined.

Canada

South Africa and Canada's partnership is based on shared values in support of democracy, peace, security and prosperity. Furthermore, the shared commitment to the African continent, and the emergence of trilateral cooperation to the betterment of the continent, are taking relations between the two countries to a new level.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Canada are multifaceted. Cooperation between the various spheres of government is ongoing with a perennial focus on skills transfer and capacity-building.

The Annual Consultations (AC), which took place in Pretoria in mid-May 2008, have continued to expand in scope and include ODA, trade, sport, policing, arts and culture, S&T, minerals, energy, agriculture, transport, health, African cooperation issues, multilateral issues, the G8 and peacekeeping cooperation.

The Mutual Customs Administration Agreement was signed in October 2009. Negotiations on a bilateral air services agreement were also successfully concluded in July 2009. The agreement provides for future expansion of air-traffic rights under additional protocols to the signed agreement. It will have a positive impact on the steady growth of bilateral trade, investment and tourism between the two countries. The Agreement on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy has also been finalised and is ready for signature.

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

Canada's ODA to South Africa is aimed at fostering upliftment, policy development, welfare transformation, training programmes, capacity-building, education and skills exchange. For the period 2008 – 2013, the amount of Canadian ODA to South Africa amounts to R250 million under the South Africa/Canada Country Development Programming Framework (CDPF).

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

for the review of the CDPF and projects will be discussed during the sixth AC.

South Africa is Canada's largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. About two-thirds of South African exports to Canada relate to minerals and mining equipment with agricultural and chemical products making up the rest. Both South Africa and Canada are globally significant producers of mineral resources that involve extensive mining. This is a natural area of co-operation and there is a growing interest on both sides to increase both investments and mining-related trade. According to a decision taken at the fifth AC, the second Trade and Investment Roundtable took place in November 2009 and the Second Mining Roundtable in March 2010. The respective roundtables allowed for a dedicated and hands-on approach to address the trade and investment relationship between South Africa and Canada.

As with trade, mutual investment in the two countries is growing. Canada is South Africa's sixth-largest foreign direct investor, mainly in the mining sector. South African direct investment in Canada is both significant and growing rapidly, amounting to R4,8 billion in 2008 (mostly mining).

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.

Canada is the only country to have been involved in every UN peacekeeping mission in Africa, and is involved in the DRC and the Sudan in particular. It is also the only G8 country to have met its Gleneagles commitment to double aid to Africa. This means that Canada's support to Africa rose to R14,7 billion in 2008/09. Its influential position within the G8 allows it to coordinate and promote African positions in the G8 context and it plays a key role in coordinating G8 responses to Nepad. In addition, Canada has fully untied its food aid, and is in the process of untying its overall aid by 2012. Canada is also committed to the implementation of the L'Aquila Accord on food security, to which it has contributed R4,2 billion.

Mexico

In April 2010, South Africa and Mexico began talks in what marked the historic first BNC of the two countries.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, co-chaired the session with her counterpart,

Ms Patricia Espinosa, in Mexico, in what was labelled as an indication of maturing relations between the two countries.

Apart from working towards strengthening cooperation with each other, the two countries used the opportunity to, among other things, solidify issues around social development, trade, S&T and arts and culture.

The BNC is an important mechanism for constructive engagement and dialogue between the two countries, at a political, bilateral and multilateral cooperation level.

Trade between South Africa and Mexico has been growing at a steady pace.

Trade figures in 2009 showed that exports between the two countries amounted to R1,21 billion while imports were recorded at R2,25 billion.

In September 2010, the governments of Denmark, Mexico and South Africa agreed to establish a troika to facilitate close cooperation by the three governments on the ongoing climate change negotiations under the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Caribbean

South Africa enjoys cordial relations with the countries of the Caribbean (Caricom). The majority of the inhabitants of the Caribbean are of African descent and have strong historical and cultural links with the continent of Africa. 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 as well as developing common positions on global issues such as access to the markets of the industrial North, reform of international institutions and the promotion of the development agenda.

In November 2009, President Zuma held a bilateral meeting with the Caricom heads of government on the sidelines of the 60th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting hosted by Trinidad and Tobago.

Cuba is an important trading partner for South African exporters.

In 2008, South Africa exported goods to Cuba to the value of R81 979 457 and Cuba exported goods to the value of R15 741 495 during the corresponding period.

South Africa regards Cuba as a strategic partner in the Caribbean.

In addition, it has a growing tourism sector and South Africa is well placed to supply the necessary products to that market.

In July 2010, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim, met with his Cuban counterpart, Mr Marcelino Medina, during the eighth meeting of the South Africa-Cuba Joint Consultative Mechanism, held in Pretoria.

President Zuma paid a state visit to Cuba in December 2010.

Latin America

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

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

In April 2010, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane co-chaired the Inaugural BNC with her Mexican counterpart in that country.

President Zuma invited his Mexican counterpart, President Felipe Calderon, to attend the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Opening Ceremony at Soccer City, Johannesburg, on 11 June 2010.

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

A partial preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the Mercosur was completed in mid-2008. Negotiations are expected to continue towards a full FTA, pending the ratification of the PTA by all members on both sides.

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.

In May 2010, the JC with Brazil was held at senior official level in Pretoria.

In July 2010, the Strategic Partnership Declaration was signed by the Brazilian and South African presidents when they met during an official state visit to South Africa. South Africa used the opportunity to market South African products to be introduced in Brazil.

The two countries agree on the issue of the reform of the UNSC and the Bretton Woods institutions. They cooperate in multi-lateral forums in line with trilateral relations through IBSA and the G20.

Brazil is South Africa's largest trading partner in South America. Total trade between the two countries was nearly \$1,7 billion in 2009.

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

Official and study visits to countries of the Southern Cone by ministers and officials are ongoing, especially to Brazil, as the country has similar socio-economic scenarios and challenges to those prevailing in South Africa.

Relations with Europe European Union (EU)

South African and the EU deepened their cooperation with the adoption of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership in 2006, followed in early 2007 by the Joint Action Plan.

The partners have an ongoing discussion on issues of mutual interest, such as effective multilateralism, debt relief, a fair global trading system and work towards peace, security and greater prosperity in the world.

The EU is South Africa's largest trading and investment partner with the country in turn prominently placed within the EU's top-20 trading partners.

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

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States-European Union relations

South Africa assumed full membership of the ACP group of countries in 1996. It became a qualified member of the Lomé Convention in 1997 and of its successor, the Cotonou

Partnership Agreement (CPA), signed in Cotonou in June 2000.

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

Qualified membership means that South Africa is excluded from the trade regime provided in the agreement and from the provisions on ODA. South Africa can, however, tender for projects in all ACP countries and participate fully in all political instruments of the agreement. South Africa's economic relations with the EU are governed by the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA).

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

The most far-reaching changes are to be introduced in the area of trade, through regional economic partnership agreements, where non-reciprocal preferences will be gradually abolished and regional integration processes encouraged. One of the key aspects of South Africa's membership of the ACP is its active participation in the three ACP-EU joint political organs, namely the Council of Ministers, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ambassadors.

South Africa participates in dialogue on important issues such as peace-building, conflict resolution, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. South Africa regularly participates in ACP summits, council of ministers' meetings, trade ministers' meetings and the ACP Forum on S&T.

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

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During the third South Africa-European Union (EU) Summit in September 2010 in Brussels, Belgium, South Africa's Department of Basic Education received R1,7 billion from the EU to improve primary school education.

projects, the AU and its institutions, and the RECs.

Benelux countries

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

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

The focus on establishing trilateral co-operation 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.

In October 2009, the third session of the Belgium-South Africa JC was held in Brussels, with the focus on bilateral political and economic relations, promotion of the African Agenda, development cooperation and cooperation within the context of the UNSC.

High-level visits between the two countries take place regularly.

President Zuma undertook an official visit to Belgium towards the end of September 2010, where he was hosted by Prime Minister Yves Leterme.

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

The Dutch Government has consistently supported South Africa in terms of bilateral and multilateral relations. A large number of bilateral agreements have been signed and high-level bilateral ministerial meetings are held frequently.

In September 2009 and in April 2010, President Zuma met with the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr Jan Peter Balkenende, on the fringes of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 64 and the Nuclear Summit respectively, to discuss bilateral relations, economic development and areas of cooperation.

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

German-speaking countries

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

In April 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe co-chaired the sixth session of the South Africa-German BNC with his counterpart, Dr Guido Westerwelle, Vice Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, in Pretoria.

The successful trade record between Germany and South Africa continued in 2008, with trade worth a total of €12,6 billion compared with €11,5 billion in 2007.

By mid-2010, Germany was South Africa's second-largest trading partner, with total imports and exports worth some €4,2 billion. South Africa ranks seventh among the most important overseas buyers of German goods.

Germany is a major direct investor in South Africa, with an investment volume of nearly €4,3 billion in 2007.

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

Relations between South Africa and Switzerland have continued to grow 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.

Bilateral relations with the Republic of Austria are sound. Besides engaging the Austrian Government at national level in support of development programmes, increased economic involvement and support for the African Agenda, provincial partnerships with key Austrian provinces have also resulted in

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In June 2010, the 25th Africa-France Summit was held in Nice. The summit, which attracted more than 40 heads of state, looked at the African continent's role in global governance, strengthening peace and security, climate change and development.

At the end of the summit, France committed to setting up a \$120-million fund to help Africa's farming and food-distribution sectors.

President Jacob Zuma also held bilateral discussions with Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, on the sidelines of the summit.

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 the 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.

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

In March 2010, the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Ms Maud Olofsson, was in South Africa on a working visit to participate in the sixth South Africa-Sweden BNC.

In May 2010, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Swedish Trade Council signed a transformation initiative to develop a coordinated and collective approach for Swedish companies to comply with the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Codes of Good Practice.

The initiative created a platform from which Swedish multinationals could jointly participate in high-impact BBBEE projects. It also acted as an independent vehicle through which Swedish multinationals could channel their BBBEE investments.

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.

In the 2009 to 2013 programme, over R7 billion is being disbursed to projects ranging from water, energy, education, governance, the SAPS and support to business, the HIV and AIDS. Denmark remains a strong supporter of Nepad and African development.

United Kingdom and Ireland

The UK, through its Department for International Development as the implementing arm, seeks to promote development and reduce poverty in Africa and spends on average £20 million a year in South Africa.

South Africa's relationship with the UK covers a wide spectrum and remains sound. The main areas of cooperation are political, trade and investment, security, defence, finance, tourism and other technical sectors. The defence relationship remains important for the strategic interest of both countries. The UK contributed R2,3 million to the establishment of the South African National Peace Mission Training Centre in Pretoria.

South Africa and the UK have extensive trade and economic relations. The UK was South Africa's fourth-largest export partner in 2008. Total trade between the two countries during the same period was R74,9 billion. The UK is also South Africa's largest foreign investor with investment flows ranging from R21,8 billion in 2004 to R47,7 billion in 2005.

President Zuma paid a state visit to the UK in March 2010, where agreements were reached on several bilateral issues. He was accompanied by 12 Cabinet ministers and a 200-strong contingent of businesspeople.

Among the agreements reached was an MoU committing the UK to providing £67 million to help the RECs improving transport infrastructure in eight countries. This will support Africa's efforts to increase trade and develop economically to grow out of poverty.

They also agreed to continue to work together to reform global institutions. The UK reaffirmed its commitment to support the fight against HIV and AIDS and the public health system in its new £25-million programme.

The President also held talks with Prime Minister Gordon Brown. He met with Conservative Party Leader, Mr David Cameron, and Liberal Democrats Leader, Mr Nick Clegg. The President delivered the keynote address to members of the British Parliament at the Palace of Westminster.

President Zuma unveiled a plaque at Oliver Tambo House, the former residence of the late ANC President, in Muswel Hill, and met with community leaders who have had a long association with South Africa and the struggle for democracy.

President Zuma concluded his visit with an address to the UK-South Africa Business Seminar.

In September 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe paid a working visit to the UK. The Deputy President used the visit to strengthen both political and economic ties with that country. He also used the visit to garner support for South Africa's bid for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the 2011/12 period.

In March 2010, Ireland's Minister for ODA, Mr Peter Power, visited South Africa. He signed a protocol to amend the avoidance of double taxation agreement and made site visits to several Irish Aid projects in Limpopo.

The Films Coproduction Agreement with Ireland was finalised and signed in 2010.

Mediterranean Europe

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

These countries are among South Africa's top trading partners and remain large investors in the South African economy, providing not only capital inflow but also thousands of jobs.

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

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

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

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

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.

Greece is the oldest and largest market for South Africa in the Balkan Region. While Greece is not a major donor country, it has contributed to education and health programmes in South Africa. These include a US\$200 000-donation to a health clinic in Sebokeng and a US\$40 000-donation to sports facilities in Soweto and Alexandra.

Central Europe

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

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

Eastern Europe

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

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

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

In August 2010, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Vuk Jeremic, for a bilateral meeting in Pretoria.

The two countries reviewed their bilateral relations; strengthened their political, economic and cultural relations; and facilitated the identification of priority areas for cooperation in line with the two countries' national development priorities.

South Africa and Serbia share similar values on many international issues and supported each other's candidatures for non-permanent seats in the UNSC and Human Rights Council.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is the most important strategic partner in Eastern Europe. The Russian Federation's membership of the G8 and the UNSC offers South Africa an influential strategic partner in global governance. South Africa's relations with Russia have been significantly consolidated over the past few years through continued high-level political dialogue. Bilateral relations also expanded strongly under the umbrella of the Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (Itec), a mechanism which is likely to enhance mutual beneficial trade and economic ties between the two countries. The sessions serve as a strong platform for enhancing trade and investment cooperation between Russia and South Africa. The ninth Itec was held in August 2010.

Both countries are committed to exploiting new trade and investment opportunities; to resolve obstacles to bilateral economic cooperation that will enhance development, competitiveness and skills upgrading; generate jobs; and contribute towards improving the livelihoods of the people of Russia and South Africa.

In June 2010, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane, paid an official visit to Russia.

In August 2010, President Zuma paid his first official visit to Russia, during which the two countries signed the Agreement on the Promotion of Aviation Safety, the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Plant Quarantine and the MoU on Cooperation in Space S&T.

Given the similarities of development challenges in South Africa and Russia, such as poverty and inequality, quality of education and health, and of HIV and AIDS, the two presidents reinforced the importance of

a development partnership for MDG promotion between the two countries.

Republic of Belarus

The relations between South Africa and the Republic of Belarus are progressing well.

Following the September 2008 political consultations between the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and her counterpart, Mr Sergei Martynov, a South African consul-general office was opened in Belarus.

Turkey

In May 2010, Deputy President Motlanthe undertook an official visit to the Republic of Turkey at the invitation of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoan.

South Africa and Turkey share common platforms in key multilateral institutions, including as members of the G20 and Executive Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The visit also served to advance common positions in these institutions, including on climate-change deliberations. The Turkish economy is the 17th-largest in the world and the country is South Africa's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe.

The visit also focused on expanding and consolidating of political and economic relations, promoting the Government's key priorities, the African Agenda, multilateral issues, including UNSC issues, the Middle East Peace Process, climate change and the G20.

Multilateral diplomacy

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

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

- participating in the global economic reform processes through continued engagement with the international and regional economic and financial institutions
- supporting the momentum within the G20 through active participation in summit processes, while:
 - seeking to ensure that the G20 continues to coordinate an integrated and coherent global response to the financial and economic crisis

- playing a role in maintaining future financial stability
- providing leadership in the reform of the regulation and supervision of the global architecture, including the Bretton Woods institutions
- promoting national and developing country positions in the implementation of G20 initiatives, especially the African Agenda
- using existing negotiating groupings and alliances to pursue the objectives of developing countries
- working with like-minded countries in forging a collective vision for the transformation of global governance
- playing a supportive role in the WTO towards the conclusion of the Doha development round of negotiations and striving towards common objectives with like-minded partners
- continuing active engagement within global governance institutions on political, economic and security matters, including the reform of the multilateral system to be more responsive to the developmental needs of developing countries.

United Nations General Assembly

The UN, through its global membership and the wide mandate it enjoys through the member states in terms of its charter, is in the centre of the global system of governance.

South Africa recognises the need for social and economic development. The country expects the UN to advance the global development agenda by addressing underdevelopment and the eradication of poverty.

Through participation in the multilateral forums, South Africa supports the peaceful resolution of international conflict, with the UN Charter and international law being central.

The UNGA is the central forum of the UN to develop countries through its global interest and democratic decision-making processes. South Africa supports the initiatives to strengthen the UNGA and its role in multilateralism.

United Nations reform

Intergovernmental negotiations were launched on 29 February 2009 in line with Decision 62/557 of the UNGA. It focuses on key aspects of categories of membership,

the veto, regional representation and the size of an enlarged council.

The working methods and the relationship between the UNGA and the UNSC are also scrutinised. South Africa supports and actively participates in all negotiations.

The UN Secretariat and management reform are focus areas. South Africa continues to demand better accountability and levels of system supervision. The country also promotes a more efficient, transparent and service-orientated secretariat that responds more effectively to its mandates.

United Nations Security Council

In October 2010, South Africa won a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the second time. The country served on the UNSC in 2007/08.

The UNGA also elected Germany, India and Colombia to two-year seats on the council, commencing 1 January 2011.

Each non-permanent country sits on the council for two years alongside the permanent powers – Britain, China, France, Russia and the USA – who have the right to veto any council resolution.

South Africa will be guided by its commitment to multilateralism, the advancement of the African Agenda and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Science and technology

The South African Government recognises the importance of S&T to:

- inform the knowledge-based society in South Africa
- inform the wider political and economic strategy to address national and regional development priorities
- transfer technology and skills to encourage economic growth and development.

Human rights

South Africa is committed to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The country strives for the strengthening of the mechanism for the protection and acknowledgement of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.

South Africa is influential in the development of international human rights law. The country is also part of the leading nations of the UN who continually evaluate the effectiveness of the existing human-rights treaties and propose additional instruments in a norm- and standard-setting process with a view to updating and strengthening such treaties.

South Africa has, in conjunction with members of the AU, been actively involved in the elaboration of human-rights instruments.

Humanitarian issues

Internationally, there has been an increase in human vulnerability as a result of the sudden onset of natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies. In recent times, the world has witnessed a serious and concerning disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL) and its fundamental principles during conflict, especially where civilians are indiscriminately targeted.

South Africa continues to support the UN Humanitarian System, specifically the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It coordinates the country's continued internalisation and compliance with relevant IHL instruments.

South Africa continues to co-host the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Annual Regional Seminar on the implementation of IHL.

In February 2010, the Cluster Munitions Convention and the AU Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons was adopted at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of the seminar was to, among other things, review and discuss the present state of implementation of IHL instruments in respective countries and examine the requirements and challenges of some of these instruments.

In May 2010, Deputy Minister Ebrahim addressed the 10th Annual Regional Seminar on the Implementation of IHL.

Environment

South Africa continues to contribute to the implementation of existing as well as the development of new multilateral environmental agreements as a way to foster a global partnership in addressing global environmental challenges.

This involvement includes areas such as biodiversity, desertification, climate change and pollution, deep seabed exploration and marine and maritime protection.

The threat posed by climate change and the associated impacts contributing to the continued loss of biodiversity and desertification continue to present a major challenge. South Africa is engaged in addressing climate change through its participation in multilateral negotiations under the UNFCCC. Through the participation in the Bali Roadmap Process under

the UNFCCC, experts from all the relevant departments and stakeholders from civil society will continue to discuss strategies with the international community to combat these phenomena. It sets the framework for negotiations to strengthen the climate regime according to the expiry of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. Climate change is also expected to be discussed in the AU and the G20.

South Africa will host the 17th session of the Conference of Parties (CoP) 17 on the UNFCCC in November/December 2011. The objective of CoP 17 will be to reach agreement on the stabilisation of greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere within a timeframe that will allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, ensure food production is not threatened and enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Disarmament

South Africa continues to play an active role in all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control as these relate to both weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. While actively promoting and supporting the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with the goal of promoting international peace and security, South Africa will continue to promote the importance of ensuring that non-proliferation controls do not become the means whereby developing countries are denied access to advanced technologies required for their development.

Focus areas include preparations for the Review Conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (2010), the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons Convention (2011) and the conference to review progress made on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2012), with particular emphasis on the interests of developing countries, including the promotion of access to technologies, cooperation and assistance.

Crime and crime prevention

Following its ratification of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its three supplementary protocols, the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of

and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, South Africa participated in the CoP of the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime in October 2005. Following its ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption, South Africa participated in the first CoP of the Convention against Corruption in 2006.

Development agenda

The promotion of the development agenda remains an important foreign-policy priority for South Africa. From 2010, South Africa is serving a three-year term on the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)/UN Population Fund (UNFPA). As a board member, South Africa will provide support to and supervise the UNDP, the main body responsible for coordinating UN development work, and the UNFPA, which plays a leading role in promoting population programmes.

North-South cooperation

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

South-South cooperation

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

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

Social development

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation aims to promote and advocate for social development issues to remain high on the international agenda. This is achieved through consolidation of the

African Agenda relating to social development as well as promoting and mainstreaming social- and population-, global health- and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)-related issues.

In pursuit of the country's foreign-policy objectives on social development matters, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation interacts with the following multilateral structures and organisations: the UN Commission for Social Development, the UN Commission on Population and Development, UNFPA, Unesco, UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS and the World Health Organisation.

Participation in United Nations budgetary and programmatic issues

In respect of UN programmatic and budgetary issues, South Africa will continue to focus on increasing support to African development challenges in particular and developing countries in general. It is South Africa's view that greater attention should be paid to addressing the particular needs of poor and vulnerable communities through more programmes.

Group of Twenty

The G20 continues to play an active role in international efforts to seek global responses to the international financial crisis. South Africa is the only African country in the G20 and will continue to use its membership to raise issues of concern to Africa with other G20 leaders.

In October 2009, at the G20 summits in Washington and London, South Africa stressed the need for developed countries to meet their commitments of increased aid to developing countries, as well as to ensure a stronger voice and representation for developing countries in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. South Africa will continue to promote a development agenda in its engagements within the G20 and engage with other G20 countries to pursue the implementation of G20 decisions that are aimed at limiting the impact of the crisis on developed and developing countries and preventing the occurrence of similar crises in future.

International law

The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser continues to act as the primary legal counsel on international law matters for government.

International law remains a key principle of South Africa's strategic foreign-policy objective. The enhancement of respect for its provisions to safeguard a rules-based international order and the importance of South Africa's contribution to the formulation of international law is underscored. Cabinet confirmed the office as the official and sole custodian of the South African Treaty Register where the status of South African international treaty obligations is recorded and original treaties are kept.

In the area of consolidation of the African Agenda, the continent's multilateral systems have been overhauled and new ones introduced. As the AU and the RECs are international organisations, they are based on the principles of international law. The implementation of the mandates of these organisations and the creation of new organs such as the AU Authority and the integration of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice are also effected in terms of the principles of international institutional law. Other branches of international law such as international criminal law and universal jurisdiction are moving onto the agenda of the AU.

Commonwealth

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

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

practices and understanding. It is an important multilateral institution, both uniting and serving its member countries and lobbying on global issues.

Its programmes of action, such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Foundation, are focused on capacity-building, economic and social development, the removal of disparities in living standards across the world, and the alleviation of poverty and illiteracy. These programmes are committed to the UN MDGs, Nepad and the plight of small and less-developed countries.

South Africa actively participates in the various ministerial meetings and governing bodies of the Commonwealth.

In November 2009, President Zuma attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting took place under the theme, *Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future*. On the meeting's agenda was the report of the Ministerial Action Group, the global economic situation and its impact on small and vulnerable states, and the reform of international institutions. The meeting also discussed matters of climate change and youth issues.

Non-Aligned Movement

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

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

Acknowledgements

BuaNews

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