



SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

All South Africa's relations with developing countries fall into the category of South-South Co-operation in a sense, and the AU

and the NEPAD are in fact the two most important South-South initiatives that South Africa is engaged in.

There are nevertheless a number of organisations, movements and initiatives of a specifically South-South nature that can

be singled out for mention in a special category of South-South Co-operation. These are : The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of 77 and China, the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organisations' Conference (AASROC) and the Indian

Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC).

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Minister Dlamini Zuma participated in a number of NAM Ministerial Meetings in the course of the year. The meetings served to strengthen the solidarity of the Movement in the context of South-South co-operation, including the reform/revitalisation of the UN, the international campaign against terrorism, the situation in the Middle East and human rights issues.

The Group of 77 and China

The main forum for co-ordinating the promotion of the economic interests of the countries of the South is the Group of 77 and China. The G77 and China celebrated its 40th anniversary during 2004 and plans are already underway for a Second South Summit at Head of State and Government level. The G-77 meets every year at ministerial level during the UN General Assembly.

In December 2003, the Government of Morocco, as outgoing Chair of the G77, hosted

a mid-term review of the outcomes of the South Summit with the focus on developing South-South Co-operation. Deputy Finance Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa led the South African delegation to the Conference and delivered a statement highlighting South Africa's current contribution to the ongoing efforts of promoting South-South co-operation. Delegates discussed ways of promoting South-South co-operation, with emphasis on trade, information and communication technology, health, education, food security and renewable energy.

The Conference provided a platform for a constructive and useful debate on the challenges facing countries of the South and ways and means to consolidate the spirit of solidarity that unites the Group of 77 and China. The Conference adopted the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Co-operation and the Marrakech Framework of Implementation of South-South Co-operation.

India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA)

In 2003, South Africa, India and Brazil estab-

lished a trilateral Dialogue Forum, the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum. Following on the initial meeting in Brasilia, the IBSA Foreign Ministers and their respective Heads of State met in New York on the margin of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA58) and agreed on areas of co-operation which include UN reform, trade negotiations and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. It was agreed that India, South Africa and Brazil would implement projects for poverty reduction, hunger alleviation and also improve access to education, health and sanitation.

The first IBSA ministerial trilateral meeting was held in India in March 2004. The ministerial meeting adopted the New Delhi Agenda for Co-operation and the Plan of Action. The Agenda for Co-operation identified a number of key areas in which all three countries agreed to work together and to find common approaches in addressing them. These included reform of the UN, peace and security, the Middle East peace process, terrorism, globalisation, sustainable development and social development.

The Plan of Action, on the other hand, identified specific projects with clear objectives and time frames, which would be implemented between then and the next ministerial meeting. These projects cover transportation, tourism, trade and investment, defence, energy, infrastructure, job creation, science and technology, health, education, and information and communication technology.

The next meeting, where progress on the Plan of Action will be reviewed, is scheduled to take place in South Africa in the first quarter of 2005.

Asian-African Sub-Regional Organisations Conference (AASROC)

President Mbeki's address at the ASEAN summit in November 2002 led to Indonesia's President Megawati Soekarnoputri taking an initiative that would culminate in the forging of a new strategic partnership between Asia and Africa. This initiative aims at fostering closer co-operation and enhancing trade and investment opportunities between Asian and African regional



The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General Dr Anil Sooklal during the AASROC consultative meeting

and sub-regional groupings.

The first Asian-African Sub-Regional Organisations Conference (AASROC I) took place in Bandung, Indonesia, at the end of July 2003. This was followed by a Ministerial

Working Group Meeting in Durban in March 2004. The latter was in preparation for the second AASROC conference which will be co-hosted by South Africa and Indonesia to be held in South Africa during August 2004.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with her Indonesian counterpart Dr Noer Hassan Wirajuda, during the first ministerial meeting of AASROC

In its quest to deepen south-south links, AASROC aims to establish a new strategic partnership based on co-ordination among the secretariats of the African and Asian sub-regional organisations. These activi-

ties include business-to-business contacts, cultural exchanges, building institutions of excellence, as well as sharing experiences and information with respect to models of economic development.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC)

Minister Essop Pahad, accompanied by two senior officials, participated in the Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held in October 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The COM discussed developments which had taken place since the last COM Meeting in April 2001 in the Sultanate of Oman and the consultations which had taken place in New York in September 2002 and 2003 on the margins of the 57th and 58th United Nations General Assembly, respectively.

Ministers noted progress made since the last Council meeting and impediments in the execution of the different work programmes of the IOR-ARC, including those in the portfolios of the Academic Group, the Business Forum, and the Working Group on Trade and Investment. The Council emphasised the importance of trade and investment in the overall operations of the IOR-ARC, and added that more progress needed to be made in areas covering fisheries, maritime transport, technology, and preferential trade agreements. The COM adopted the High Level Task Force (HLTF)

Report and commended it on the conclusion of the Report, which provides for the enhancement of activities within the IOR-ARC and brings the organisation in line with regional and international best practices.

SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE

Although South-North relations take place on basis of unequal power, dialogue, engagement and partnership with the developed countries of the North continue to be essential elements in the economic development strategies of the countries of the South. The North still provides the bulk of global market opportunities as well as most foreign direct investment. The developed countries are also the major source of ODA. South-North dialogue takes place in a wide range of situations and forums, but for South Africa, probably the main developments during 2003/4 concerned the G-8, the EU's TDCA with South Africa, Japan and TICAD III, the USA and the evolving FTA with SACU, the World Economic Forum, the Commonwealth and South Africa's evolving relationship with the OECD.

Group of 8 (G8)

The NEPAD structures have through dialogue and interaction with the G-8 enlisted partnership and support for its projects. In line with this, President Mbeki was invited by President Jacques Chirac to attend an Enlarged Dialogue of Heads of State and Government on the margins of the G8 Summit in Evian-les-Bains on 1 June 2003, which included a special working session on the NEPAD.

This was followed by a further invitation by President Chirac to President Mbeki to participate in a discussion in New York on 23 September 2003 between the Heads of State of the NEPAD Steering Committee, the Chair of the AU, the Heads of State and Government of the G8 countries, and the Heads of appropriate international organisations. Coming a few months after the Evian Summit, the dialogue was useful in assessing the NEPAD/G8 partnership with a view to maintaining the momentum and establishing a long-term perspective.

The European Union (EU)

2003 was the last full year of provisional implementation of the SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA). The Parties took stock of progress with provisional implementation when the SA-EU Co-operation Council, established for this purpose by Article 97 of the Agreement, met on 9 December 2003. Provisional implementation commenced in January 2000, pending ratification by the Parliaments of European Union (EU) Member States. The ratification of the Agreement by the fifteen EU Member States (EU-15) was concluded at the beginning of 2004. Subsequently, the parties notified each other that their parliaments have completed ratification procedures by way of an exchange of Notes. The implication of full ratification is that the TDCA is now being fully implemented and takes on new significance for both Parties. It becomes wider in scope and the level of interaction is elevated to equal that of the EU vis-à-vis its other strategic partners.

Full implementation means that co-operation on the articles of the TDCA that were in

abeyance pending the completion of ratification procedures will now be activated. These new areas of co-operation are very wide and comprehensively cover all areas of socio-economic relations.

The European Union was enlarged on 1 May 2004 from 15 to 25 member states, and this will result in significant benefits for South Africa. These include an increased market for South Africa's exports, which already amounted to more than R80 billion in 2003 (although still exceeded by imports amounting to more than R100 billion). The 10 newly-acceded countries have adjusted their tariff lines in accordance with the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) component of the TDCA, which provides for reciprocal but asymmetrical tariff reduction. In addition, the TDCA provides for regular high-level political dialogue at Ministerial level.

TICAD III

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is the major Japanese-led initiative for engagement with Africa. President Mbeki attended the TICAD III conference in Tokyo held from

Senior Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Tetsuro Yano and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad at a press briefing in Pretoria



29 September to 1 October 2003. Twenty African Heads of State and Government participated in deliberations aimed at forging closer links between Japan and African countries. Over and above reaffirming

its commitment and continued support for NEPAD, the Japanese Government, through its Prime Minister, Mr. Koizumi, committed grant aid assistance of US\$1 billion for health and medical care, education,



water and food assistance to Africa over the next five years. This Conference had been preceded by the TICAD III Regional Conference for Southern Africa held from 22-23 May 2003 in Pretoria. Thirteen delega-

tions from the region had discussed Southern Africa's development challenges with senior Japanese officials.

SACU-US FTA

The SACU-US Free Trade negotiations are important both in the context of encouraging US support for economic development and co-operation and supporting the implementation of NEPAD. The talks have the potential to improve trade flows between the SACU region and the US significantly and to contribute to regional economic integration and growth. During the period under review, a number of rounds of negotiations, preceded by internal SACU co-ordinating meetings, took place both in SACU and the US. Progress was on schedule, although certain problematical areas with the potential to delay the talks beyond the envisaged deadline of December 2004 were identified.

The SACU-US FTA negotiations are led by the DTI and include the DFA. They are central to the SA-US bilateral economic relationship, as well as to the regional customs union.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

At the request of the OECD's Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP), South Africa led an initiative during 2003 to prepare a Declaration on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development for the January 2004 CSTP Ministerial Conference. South Africa was also selected as a major case study for an OECD-conducted survey on the impact of the mobility of health professionals on sending countries. The purpose of this study was to assess both the extent of the problem and to look at policy responses.

The OECD Global Forum on International Investment (GFII) was hosted in Johannesburg on 17 – 18 November 2003. Entitled "Encouraging Modern Governance and Transparency for Investment : Why and How", the conference was the third annual meeting of the OECD GFII, providing an open forum for policy dialogue and an exchange of expertise and experience in meeting the challenges and opportunities created by international investment. The conference was followed by an OECD-

Africa Investment Roundtable on 19 November, which focussed on African priorities and ways for OECD countries' to contribute towards improving the business environment for domestic and international investors in Africa. This year's OECD Global Forum on International Investment (GFII) also marked the launch of a new "Strategy on Investment for Development". The Strategy is designed to provide a platform for a mutually beneficial dialogue involving OECD and non-OECD governments, business, labour, civil society and other international partners.

The Department is also leading discussions on the issue of OECD Enlargement in the context of South Africa's new and developing relations with the organisation.

The World Economic Forum (WEF)

The WEF continues to be an important forum for dialogue between global political leaders and business. The WEF's Annual Meeting 2004 again took place during January in Davos, Switzerland. The central theme of the meeting was "Partnership for Prosperity and Security". Although the Mid-

dle East, especially Iraq, and terrorism, were the main focus of the meeting it also dealt with issues like the MDGs and the WTO. This resulted in less attention than usual being devoted to Africa and NEPAD.

An extra-ordinary annual meeting was held in June 2003 in Jordan, at which the main theme was "Visions for a Shared Future". Deputy President Zuma and Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad participated in the meeting, which focused on the Middle East and Iraq.

The Africa Summit 2003 was again held in Durban in June 2003. The theme was "Harnessing the power of partnership" and President Mbeki and several South African Ministers participated. The summit consolidated its status as the region's premier gathering of leaders from business, politics and civil society. It again served as a platform to stimulate private sector interest in implementing NEPAD. The Summit called for a change of focus from advocacy, awareness raising and project design to the implementation of NEPAD policies. It was emphasised that both business and civil society need to play a central role in

the implementation of NEPAD policies.

Commonwealth

President Mbeki, accompanied by Minister Dlamini Zuma, attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that was hosted by Nigeria in Abuja from 5 – 8 December 2003. In addition to the political issues on the agenda, economic development also received focused attention. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Abuja Communiqué, the Aso Rock Commonwealth Declaration on Development and Democracy - Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and the Aso Rock Statement on Multilateral Trade.

MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

UN multilateral system under strain

The current multilateral system of governance based on the United Nations Organisation serves to create a rules-based global economic, social and political system that provides security, certainty and predictability.

Recent international developments - including the unilateral approach to the achievement of foreign policy objectives by some powers, the actions of some countries in the combating of terrorism, the war in Iraq and its aftermath - have however undermined the multilateral system of governance and the pre-eminent role of the UN as the primary organisation for the maintenance of international peace and security. These events have placed a renewed focus on the need to protect and strengthen multilateral mechanisms to address global issues in the field of economic and social development on the one hand and peace and security on the other.

The General Debate of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA58) in September 2003 reflected a sense of urgency within the international community for the need to reinforce rules-based multilateral approaches to problems of international peace and security. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, defined the challenges confronting the international community as follows in his opening address:

"All of us know there are new threats that must be faced – or, perhaps, old threats in new and dangerous combinations: new forms of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. But, while some consider these threats as self-evidently the main challenge to world peace and security, others feel more immediately menaced by small arms employed in civil conflict, or by so-called "soft threats" such as the persistence of extreme poverty, the disparity of income between and within societies, and the spread of infectious diseases, or climate change and environmental degradation. In truth, we do not have to choose. The United Nations must confront all these threats and challenges – new and old, "hard" and "soft". It must be fully engaged in the struggle for development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; in the common struggle to protect our common environment; and in the struggle for human rights, democracy and good governance."

President Mbeki delivered a key statement on the first day of the General Debate ex-

panding on the themes touched upon by the Secretary-General, which also served to guide the participation of the South African delegation to UNGA58 and other multilateral forums.

Peace and Security

United Nations reform

The diminishing role of multilateralism is closely related to the need for the reform and revitalisation of the UN, which provides the only means whereby poor, small and marginalised nations have a voice strong enough to raise their concerns at the global level. While the revitalisation of the UN system, including the reform of the UN Security Council, has been under discussion for more than a decade, this matter has now taken on a new sense of urgency.

This was recognised by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan when he appointed a High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, whose work has become the main focus of attention of the UN reform activities that are currently underway. The mandate of the Panel is to examine



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Anatoly Safonov ahead of the South Africa-Russia Political Consultations on Combating International Terrorism held in Pretoria

today's global threats and provide an analysis of future challenges to international peace and security, identify clearly the contribution that collective action can make in addressing these challenges, and recommend the changes necessary to ensure effective collective action, including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Panel will present its report to the UN Secretary-General in December 2004.

In order to ensure that South Africa's national interests and objectives, as well as those of the Continent and Developing Countries generally, would be taken on board by the Panel, a deliberate effort has been made to engage with all parties, including regional organisations. These efforts have already contributed to a decision by the Panel to expand its mandate, which will now also include extensive consideration of socio-economic issues, particularly the threats

posed by poverty, communicable diseases and environmental degradation.

In the course of UNGA58 further progress was also made with the revitalisation of the UN system. This is a complex issue with many facets that remain work in progress. South Africa, having been nominated by the President of the General Assembly as one of the "Friends of the Chair", played a leading role in the development of various

options on the revitalisation of the General Assembly and its organs, the Economic and Social Council and the UN Secretariat, for consideration by the broader UN Membership.

Actions to Combat International Terrorism and implement UN Security Council resolutions

The global campaign against terrorism remained a prominent issue on the international peace and security agenda, especially in view of the continuing terrorist attacks throughout the world. The Department continued to actively pursue South Africa's commitment to the combating of international terrorism within the framework of the United Nations and also contributed to the efforts of regional and other multilateral organisations in this regard (eg the AU, SADC, NAM and the Commonwealth). South Africa actively participated in the Open Debates of the United Nations Security Council on international terrorism by focusing on the root causes of terrorism, promoting the development of appropriate strategies to address them and calling for a worldwide joint commitment to eradi-

cate poverty and under-development. South Africa also emphasised the need to respect human rights and international humanitarian law while combating terrorism.

The Inter-departmental Counter-Terrorism Working Group, chaired by the Department, continued to co-ordinate South Africa's implementation of the various United Nations Security Council resolutions on terrorism, including the compilation of South Africa's National Reports to the Security Council. In the course of the year South Africa submitted two further National Reports on measures to implement resolution 1373 (2001) to the Security Council. All the National Reports submitted by South Africa have been posted on the UN website together with those submitted by other Member States. South Africa currently has an official from the Department of Justice serving for a period of one year (until December 2004) on the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee core group of experts, responsible for the evaluation of National Reports.

As part of its commitment to combating terrorism, South Africa on 1 May 2003 rati-

fied the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Both these conventions form an integral part of a framework of twelve international instruments that underpin the global effort to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. South Africa has, to date, acceded to or ratified nine of the twelve conventions.

The Department also co-ordinated all actions required to ensure that South Africa fully complied with its obligations to implement UN Security Council sanctions regimes (against the DRC, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Al-Qaeda and the Taliban).

Co-operation on disarmament and non-proliferation

The danger of terrorists obtaining and using weapons of mass destruction has placed renewed focus on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation. The past year furthermore witnessed a continuing rise in the tendency towards the adoption of unilateralist positions by key international



Ministers Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Thoko Didiza and Membathisi Mdladlana sharing a lighter moment during a gala dinner in honour of delegates to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue at Sun City, Pilanesberg

role-players on issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. This, among others, had an adverse effect on the future of multilateralism in the area of international peace and security. Notwithstanding these developments, South Africa continued to reinforce its role as an

active and substantive role-player on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament issues at both the national, regional and international levels.

South Africa actively participated in the work of the First Committee at UNGA58,

where it successfully introduced, co-sponsored and supported a wide range of resolutions. South Africa's participation served to keep the debate alive on certain pertinent issues in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and consolidated the achievements in the areas of small arms proliferation and combating the illicit trade of these weapons. Particularly noteworthy, in this regard, is the fact that South Africa prepared and co-ordinated the traditional draft resolution on the "Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects", which focused on the key elements for further action in the operationalisation and implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons. In this context, it mandated the formation of an open-ended General Assembly Working Group to negotiate an international instrument to identify and trace these illicit weapons.

A significant development in the field of disarmament was the adoption by the meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) of an additional Fifth Protocol to the CCW

on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in November 2003. This Protocol focuses on the post-conflict remedial measures that States should undertake on ERW and included reference assistance and co-operation for ERW survivors, which was an issue strongly promoted by South Africa.

Together with other role-players in the nuclear field, South Africa actively participated in the meetings of the IAEA. This included participation during the annual General Conference (GC) of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the IAEA Board of Governors meetings. Issues considered by the Board included the implementation of NPT Safeguards in the Islamic Republic of Iran. South Africa played a key role in bridging the gap between divergent views and approaches thereby facilitating the adoption by consensus of important resolutions on Iran.

Relevant South African nuclear experts participated in various IAEA technical meetings and expert meetings that hold potential benefits for not only the nuclear industry in South Africa, but also for accel-

erated economic growth on the African continent. South Africa also hosted various inspections undertaken by the IAEA in accordance with South Africa's Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol with the Agency.

South Africa actively participated in the second preparatory committee meeting of the 2005 NPT Review Conference and in the preparations of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) for the meeting. Issues that South Africa pursued at the PrepCom included nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States against the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons.

Transnational organised crime, drug trafficking and corruption

The Department further contributed to, and in many instances co-ordinated, the promotion of South Africa's positions on transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and corruption in various multilateral forums. Particularly noteworthy in this regard, was the role

played by South Africa at the 47th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs where the meeting adopted a proposal by the African Group that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime convene an inter-governmental expert group to assist in the compilation of a report on the main issues of HIV and AIDS and drug abuse, with an emphasis on HIV prevention, injecting drug abuse and risk-taking behaviour. This document will serve as a conference paper for focused discussion at the Commission's meeting in 2004.

South Africa also ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three related Protocols (ie the Protocol against the 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, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime) in February 2004.

The Kimberley Process

South Africa served as Chair of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) for rough diamonds from its inception in May 2000 until the end of 2003, when the Chair passed to Canada for 2004.

The KPCS is a tripartite international technical negotiating forum comprising states, the diamond industry and civil society. The KPCS is a voluntary scheme which seeks to stem the flow of rough diamonds used by rebels to finance armed conflict aimed at overthrowing legitimate governments and protect the legitimate diamond trade, upon which the economies of many countries depend. This is accomplished through the implementation of an international certification scheme for rough diamonds, based on a system of internal controls, regulated by national legislation, and on internationally agreed minimum standards. A voluntary system of industry self-regulation underpins the Scheme.

Further significant progress in strengthening the KPCS was achieved during 2003, under South Africa's leadership:

- The simultaneous international implementation of the KPCS started on 1 January 2003. In recognition of implementation challenges being faced by certain countries, a "tolerance period" for national implementation of the KPCS was extended to 31 May 2003, whereafter 43 Participants were deemed to have met the minimum requirements for implementation.
- On 15 May 2003 the World Trade Organisation approved that a waiver be granted to countries implementing the KPCS which indicate that such a waiver is required.
- A Review Mission visited the Central African Republic from 8 to 15 June 2003, and reported that they were satisfied with that country's ability and capacity to implement the KPCS, and offering suggestions for the strengthening of internal monitoring and controls.
- A peer review mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Scheme was adopted. Based on a combination of self-reporting and the use of 'review visits' and 'review missions', this peer review mechanism helps guarantee that the provisions of

the KPCS are effectively implemented by all Participants.

The Kimberley Process continued to enjoy widespread, growing support during 2003, to the point where it now represents all major diamond producing, trading and processing countries. The progress achieved in international implementation of the KPCS to-date bears testimony to what can be achieved through multilateralism.

Elections to international organisations and bodies

Membership of international organisations is an important vehicle to advance South Africa's national priorities, as well as those of the Continent and Developing Countries generally. The Department achieved its objectives in this regard through the successful election of South Africa to the UN Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), the Commission on Human Rights, the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the



Minister of Minerals and Energy Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Minister of Housing Brigitte Mabandla

International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). In addition, Judge N Pillay (former Judge and President of

the Rwanda Tribunal) was elected to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ambassador PN January-Bardill was re-elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu was nominated to the Board

of Directors of the Trust Fund for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. Another South African candidate, Professor M Rwelamira, was also elected as registrar of the ICC.

Financial Contributions to the United Nations

South Africa is one of the few UN member states that has met its financial obligations to the Organisation in full, on time and without condition. As a result, South Africa has consistently appeared on the UN Secretary-General's "Roll of Honour" of countries that have paid their dues timeously.

South Africa's assessed contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2003 was US \$5 508 511. Its contribution to the UN peacekeeping budget was US \$1,6 million, while its contributions to the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, amounted to US \$231 315.00 and US \$281 237.00 respectively. South Africa also made a voluntary contribution of US \$30 000 towards the functioning of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Human rights

The promotion of human rights in all their aspects – including gender issues and the rights of women, the rights of the Child, the rights of persons with disabilities, political rights and civil rights – was pursued as an ongoing priority objective. The Department actively co-ordinated the participation of South African delegations in many international conferences and meetings on human rights issues, both in South Africa and abroad.

Particularly noteworthy in this regard is that Minister Dlamini Zuma addressed the High-level Segment of the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR59), which was held in Geneva during March – April 2003, on South Africa's foreign policy objectives in the human rights field. In its capacity as Human Rights Co-ordinator of the Africa Group in Geneva, South Africa played a key role in the open consultations on the African group resolutions. In the case of Zimbabwe, South Africa introduced the no-action motion on behalf of the Africa Group. For the second successive year the no-action motion was

adopted with a narrow majority.

The Department also participated in the consultations that resulted in the establishment of the National Forum Against Racism (NFAR). This body will, amongst other things, steer the development and implementation of South Africa's National Action Plan as called for in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia (WCAR).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION

Since the UN's Millennium Summit in 2000, two of the main focuses of the United Nations system and of the specialised agencies has been on helping developing countries to adjust to the demands of globalisation, and on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Initiatives are underway in the UN to integrate the outcomes of the various global conferences that have been held in recent years and ensure that their implementation produce mutually-supportive outcomes, and in particular that they support the at-

tainment of the MDGs. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD- see below) was such a conference, as was the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, held in Mexico in 2002, and the decisions of these two conferences continue to be implemented, with profound implications for developing countries.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Market access is acknowledged as a key aspect in the economic development of developing countries, especially as they seek to come to terms with globalisation. The main forum for negotiation is the WTO and the focus for 2003 was the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003 - the midterm review meeting of the Doha Round of negotiations.

Several deadlines had unfortunately already been missed before the conference, resulting in an impasse in the negotiations. As expected, Cancun also failed to achieve concrete outcomes and the rest of the year, including the first quarter of



Minister of Social Development Dr Zola Skweyiya, who acted as the Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma when she was abroad on official working visits, with Minister in the Presidency Dr Essop Pahad during the WSSD in Johannesburg

2004, was spent on efforts to put negotiations back on track. Progress was, however, made in February 2004, when it was decided to re-establish negotiating groups. Subsequent to that, a number of the major players (USA, the EU and the G20, which includes South Africa) committed themselves to establish a negotiating framework

by July 2004 for negotiations in agriculture and industrial market access.

One of the most significant developments at Cancun was in fact the emergence of the G20. Led by Brazil, and including India, China and South Africa, the group lobbied exclusively on agricultural issues and it soon

became apparent that they were the main counterweight to the EU and the USA. This group represents more than half the population of the globe and the majority of its farmers. For the rest of the year 2003 and the first part of 2004, the Group continued playing its important role in agricultural negotiations.

During 2003 South Africa also played a significant role in the agreement, reached shortly before the Cancun Ministerial Meeting, on TRIPS and Public Health. The agreement tackles the question of access to affordable medicines in developing countries.

The Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs)

The BWIs (the IMF and the World Bank Group) have a key role to play in the economic development of developing countries, especially in Africa. In the year under review, the BWIs continued their work in several key areas. The World Bank Group, notably the International Development Agency (IDA), is the major provider of concessional loans to Africa, and their work in supporting economic development in Africa continued, particularly in projects which are linked to the MDGs. In terms of providing debt relief to heavily-indebted poor countries, the majority of which are in Africa, the BWIs continued their support for the enhanced HIPC (heavily-indebted poor countries) initiative. Efforts continued through 2003 to seek additional funding for the HIPC and to explore whether the

programme could be extended beyond its projected termination at the end of 2004.

Led by the National Treasury, South Africa continued to play an active role in the G20 at the BWIs. This group of countries seeks to promote global financial stability as well as reform of the global financial architecture, including the question of governance.

An important outcome of the Monterrey FfD conference was the initiation of a dialogue between the BWIs and the UN system, represented by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The BWI/ECOSOC dialogue continued in 2003, with the focus being on progress in the MDGs and the effects of globalisation.

Follow-up to the WSSD

The process, started in Stockholm in 1972 and taken forward at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, of placing global environmental management, in all its facets, at the forefront of sustainable development gained new momentum during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002. Oversight

of the implementation of the WSSD outcomes is carried out by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which meets in New York. South Africa chaired the first session of the CSD after the Johannesburg Summit (CSD 11) in April 2003.

CSD11 established a new work programme for the Commission based on two-year cycles beginning in 2004. The first year of each cycle would be a review session of progress made on specific thematic issues followed by a policy year.

The first review session will be held in April 2004 under the thematic issues of Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements, preceded by Regional Implementation Review Sessions.

During CSD-11, it was agreed the Regional Implementation Meetings would be organised to augment the two-year work cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The first Africa Regional Implementation Meeting took place during the Pan Africa Implementation Conference on Water in December 2003. In line with the CSD implementation process, the

focus of this meeting was on constraints and challenges as well as recommendations for action. South Africa chaired the drafting group that prepared the "Report of the Africa Regional Implementation Review Meeting to the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements".

Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs also served on the interdepartmental CSD-12 Steering Committee that co-ordinated the preparation of the South African country report on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements. Country reports will contribute to the deliberations during the CSD-12 Review Session in 2004 as well as the CSD-13 Policy Session during 2005.

Environmental conferences in 2003/4

Work on a number of important environmental conferences, conventions and themes continued in 2003/4: these included desertification, bio-diversity, bio-safety, climate change, the Montreal Protocol, the PIC and POPs Conventions, hazardous waste, issues surrounding Antarctica, and

the Law of the Sea and related issues.

Desertification

Deputy President Zuma led the delegation to the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP-6) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Cuba, in August and September 2003. The UNCCD is one of the most important bodies at the disposal of the international community to fight poverty and ensure food security in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas. It was noted that the economic costs of environmental degradation could undermine the long-term development of developing nations and adversely affect the ability of millions of poor people to escape poverty.

Biological Diversity

The 7th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004. COP-7 focussed on a programme of work on protected areas, and on the terms of reference for the development of an international regime on "access and benefit sharing", both of which were outputs

of important international environmental events which South Africa hosted, namely the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the World Parks Congress (2003).

Bio-safety

The first Meeting of Parties (COP/MOP-1) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted 10 decisions ranging from information sharing, capacity-building, living modified organisms as well as liability, redress and compliance with the Protocol. The Protocol is aimed at ensuring adequate safety in the trans-boundary movement and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse consequences for biological diversity and human health.

UN Environmental Programme

The two main areas of focus during the 8th Session of the UNEP Council in Korea were the Council's contribution to CSD-12 and the implementation of the outcomes of the process of International Environmental Governance (IEG). The Executive Director

of UNEP was tasked to continue with the process of seeking out the views of Member States on the issue of universal membership of the Governing Council. The outcome of the Ministerial discussions on the CSD-12 themes (water, sanitation and human settlements) was embodied in the Jeju Initiative and carried forward to CSD-12.

Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol

During 2003, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) held two meetings, both focussed on technical implementation issues and tentative attempts to commence negotiations on targets for the second commitment period (2012 onwards). The Kyoto Protocol makes provision for negotiations on targets for the developed countries for post 2012 to commence not later than 2005. There is a strong likelihood that pressure could increase on selected developing countries with high greenhouse gas emissions such as South Africa, Brazil and India to consider mitigation targets post 2012.

Domestically, South Africa has commenced with the process of establishing a

procedure for the consideration of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the Kyoto Protocol and has established a Designated National Authority (DNA) in the Department of Minerals and Energy. South Africa hopes to attract CDM projects in view of its high greenhouse gas emission levels and the multitude of domestic project opportunities that are available.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer

The administration and implementation of the provisions of the Montreal Protocol is currently the prime focus of South Africa's response to the ozone depletion process. During 2003 the Department actively participated in the CFC Task Group meetings as well as meetings of the Ozone Layer Protection Committee that monitors domestic compliance with the CFC phase-out schedule.

The 15th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol was held in Kenya in November 2003. MOP15 dealt with the financial mechanisms of the Protocol and considered South Africa's application for

technical and financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in order to phase out methyl bromide.





South Africa is committed to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer and is actively seeking ways to reduce its own emissions

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Convention

The Tenth Session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC) of the PIC was held in November 2003 in Geneva. While progress was made on some technical implementation issues and the Legal Drafting Group resolved some matters in the text of the non-compliance draft decision document, the major policy issues were referred to COP1 for a decision, scheduled for 20 - 24 September 2004 in Geneva. A decision on the location of the Permanent Secretariat will be taken at COP1.

Persistent Organic Pollutants Convention (POPs)

The 7th Session of the POPs Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was held in July 2003 in Geneva. While progress was made on some of the technical issues before the conference, many policy issues were referred to the first COP for a decision.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is also currently reviewing a POPs project in South Africa to consider bio-assays as an affordable and applicable technology to

determine environmental levels of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds. The first COP of the POPs (Stockholm) Convention will be held in the first quarter of 2005 in Uruguay.

Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste

During 2003 the Convention Secretariat, assisted by the Department and DEAT, proceeded with the establishment of an English language African regional training centre in Pretoria for the implementation of the Convention. The centre is providing expert training in waste management and technology transfer as well as the implementation of the PIC and POPs Conventions in Africa. One aspect of continental hazardous waste management that still has to be resolved is the question of the entry into force of the Bamako Convention, which is a blueprint copy of the Basel Convention.

Working group intersessional meetings of the Basel Convention were held during 2003 and the first projects designed to promote the practical implementation of the Convention up to 2010 were approved.

The projects range from the prevention of illegal shipments of dangerous material and improving the operation of landfills, to training and the development of inventories and databases.

Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)

The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat

Negotiations on the establishment of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat were conducted during two intersessional meetings in Argentina and two annual Antarctic Consultative Meetings (ATCM) in Warsaw and Madrid respectively. The finalisation of all outstanding matters relating to the establishment of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat in Buenos Aires was a priority for the 26th ATCM in Madrid. The first Executive Secretary of the Antarctic Treaty will be elected at the 27th ATCM, which will be held in Cape Town from 24 May to 4 June 2004.

The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)

The 26th Session of the ATCM was held in Madrid in June 2003 and it was decided

that the 27th ATCM would be held in South Africa in June 2004. The elaboration of a liability regime, an important item on the agenda of the ATCM, involves the development and adoption of one or more liability related Annexes to the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR was established in terms of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which was signed by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in 1980. The main objectives of the Commission are to undertake assessment of the Antarctic marine ecosystem, to develop conservation measures, to regulate sustainable fishing, and to protect the ecosystem in the area south of 45° South, which includes the South African Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the Prince Edward Islands. South Africa has played an active part in CCAMLR since its entry into force and has contributed much to setting its current direction. Dr Denzil Miller, a South

African scientist, is the current Executive Secretary of CCAMLR.

The 22nd annual meeting of the CCAMLR was held in Australia in November 2003. Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains the main concern for the Commission and this item again generated extensive debate. The Commission failed to reach consensus on the implementation of two important measures to combat IUU fishing, in spite of overwhelming support by the majority of the Members. South Africa, supported by several members, expressed concern at the lack of political will by certain members to effectively address the issue of IUU fishing and urged all Members to make every effort to constructively deal with this very important issue.

United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

South Africa has been a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) since 1994, and actively participates in the various bodies established under the Convention. A representative from the South African Permanent Mis-

sion to the United Nations in New York represented South Africa at the 13th Meeting of the States Parties to the UNCLOS, which was held in New York in June 2003. South Africa supports the initiatives to advance the establishment of institutional arrangements and regulatory mechanisms for the responsible governance of the oceans and its resources within the framework of UNCLOS. The current priority for the International Seabed Authority is the development of a regulatory regime for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts. The Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf informed the Meeting of recent developments in the work of the Commission, which has so far only received one submission from one coastal State (the Russian Federation) claiming an extended continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical mile EEZ.

The United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS)

The 4th Session of the UNICPOLOS was held in New York from 2 to 6 June 2003. The

objective of UNICPOLOS is to facilitate an integrated approach to all legal, economic, social and environmental aspects of oceans and seas, and to improve co-ordination and co-operation at both the inter-governmental and inter-agency levels. As a coastal State, South Africa co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution, which established this Consultative Process and it also participated actively in the three subsequent UNICPOLOS meetings.

The fourth meeting of UNICPOLOS focused on two main themes:

- the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (including tools to protect the ecosystems, management approaches and regional initiatives), and
- the safety for navigation (including capacity building for the production of nautical charts, transport of dangerous goods and implementation and enforcement).

A representative from the South African Mission to the United Nations in New York participated in the meeting.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The International Seabed Authority (ISA), which was established in terms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is the body through which States Parties to the Convention organise and control activities (particularly mining) on the international seabed beyond the national jurisdiction of coastal States. South Africa has participated actively in the work of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) since it became a member in 1998.

The 9th Session of the International Seabed Authority was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 21 July to 7 August 2003. The 9th session focussed on the draft regulations pertaining to prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts as well as the so-called "new minerals" namely hydrothermal polymetallic sulphides and ferromanganese cobalt-rich crusts.

South Africa's Extended Continental Shelf Claim

Article 76 of the UN Convention on the

Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the guidelines for states to prepare a claim for an extended continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In terms of these guidelines it is estimated that of the 141 states that ratified UNCLOS, only 47 states may have potential claims. Subsequent to the Cabinet decision to proceed with the preparation of the South African claim for its extended Continental Shelf, a national Steering Committee and a Project Working Group were established to manage the process to prepare a claim to be submitted to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

The objectives of the IMO are to ensure the highest possible standards of safety at sea and of efficient navigation and the prevention of the pollution of the oceans caused by ships operating in the marine environment. The Department co-ordinated and facilitated the effective participation of South African delegations in a number of IMO meetings in London. The Department was also responsible for the successful lob-

bing for South Africa's re-election to the IMO Council.

In reaction to the events of September 11, 2001, in the USA, the IMO amended the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code during 2002, to enhance maritime security. These Amendments will enter into force by a tacit agreement process in July 2004. As a co-signatory to SOLAS, South Africa has to implement these measures, which have wide ranging security, economic and trade implications. The National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (MSAC) was established to guide the national implementation of the amendments to SOLAS and the ISPS Code. Since security is a priority in the maritime industry, the role that South Africa plays regionally in this context will become increasingly important.

UNESCO International Oceanographic Commission

The International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is a sub-organ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural



Deputy Minister Joyce Mabudafhasi welcoming her Chinese counterpart Vice Minister Zeng Xiaodong to South Africa

Organisation (UNESCO). A senior Oceanographer at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), repre-

sented South Africa at the 22nd session of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which was held in Paris, France, from 23 June to 4 July 2003. South Africa was re-elected to the Executive Council of the IOC that consists of 40 Member States. South Africa is currently involved in several projects, most notably the Global Oceans Observing Scheme (monitoring of the Agulhas current) and the Ocean Data and the Information Network (ODIN) for Africa. The Global Oceans Observing Scheme, which is funded by France and Belgium, involves 20 participating African countries.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

A South African delegation participated in the 55th session of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which was held from 13 to 20 June 2003, in Berlin, Germany. The annual meeting of the IWC is characterised by the continued polarisation between the pro- and the anti-whaling nations. South Africa is a founding member of the IWC and a member state of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. South Africa has consistently held a non-whaling position in sup-

port of non-consumptive sustainable use of whales in the form of whale watching, whale conservation, the establishment of whale sanctuaries and eco-tourism. South Africa also chairs the Whale Watching Advisory Group, which was established by the Commission.

Science and Technology

A vital component of the development agenda of the South is science and technology, and a number of developments in this field took place over the past year: The Group on Earth Observation, the World Summit on the Information Society and South Africa's bid for the Square Kilometre Array among them.

The Group on Earth Observation (GEO)

It is widely recognised that space technologies can support global efforts in addressing international environmental and economic challenges. The Government of the USA convened the First Earth Observation Summit in Washington, DC on 31 July 2003, with the objective of launching a concerted international initiative to develop a new

co-ordinated Earth Observation system. The Summit constituted and mandated the GEO to prepare a conceptual framework and implementation plan for the development of a new internationally co-ordinated Earth Observation system. The GEO elected South Africa, at its first meeting, along with the United States, Japan and the European Commission, as one of its four Co-Chairs. South Africa hosted the GEO-3 in Cape Town from 23 to 27 February 2004, in order to finalise the draft Framework document for a 10 Year Implementation Plan which will be adopted at the Second Earth Observation Summit (EO Summit II) held in Japan, 22 to 25 April 2004. The Department serves as a member of the South African Contact Group on Earth Observations and assists the Department of Science and Technology in their efforts to involve developing and specifically African countries in the process. The Department also gives guidance on the question of International Governance of the GEO process.

The National Space Science and Technology Working Group

Previously Space Science and Technol-

ogy has been regarded as an activity reserved for a small club of nations. This has changed and at present the four main applications of space technology are communications, remote sensing of the Earth, navigation and scientific exploration of the universe and near-Earth space. In order to co-ordinate, initiate and drive a dialogue on space technology issues which will ultimately lead to a consultative process to formulate a national space policy for South Africa, the National Space Science and Technology Working Group was established. The Working Group also acts as an information sharing forum for stakeholders. The Department participates actively in this Working Group.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

In order to give effect to the acknowledgement of the role of information communication technologies (ICT) in socio-economic development as defined by Nepad, the Department of Foreign Affairs actively participates in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The WSIS will take place in two phases. The first phase

took place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase will be held in Tunisia from 16 to 18 November 2005. After lengthy negotiations during various preparatory meetings held in Geneva and Paris, the Summit adopted a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action to facilitate the effective growth of the Information Society and to help bridge the Digital Divide. Two issues in which the South African delegation played a leading role during the preparatory meetings, were Internet Governance and finance mechanisms. An Inter-departmental delegation, led by the Minister of Communications, attended the Summit. Preparations for the second phase, which will take place in Tunisia 2005, are under way.

Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings

The UN General Assembly in resolution 56/93 of 12 December 2001 established an Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings to consider the elaboration of a mandate for the negotiation of such

a Convention. After failing to reach agreement on a mandate, the General Assembly decided to convene a working group of the Sixth Committee from 29 September to 3 October 2003 to continue the work undertaken during UNGA57.

The Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

In order to ensure that South Africa makes a tangible contribution to Scientific and Technical organisations, the Department launched a successful lobby action seeking support for the candidature of the CEO of the SA Weather Service to the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). South Africa's representation on the Executive Council of the WMO underscores the fact that the South African Weather Service is recognised as providing a internationally respected and efficient service to help safeguard life and property. South Africa makes a major contribution to the provision of facilities for meteorology and hydrometeorology in its region.

After a successful lobby action by the Department the South African representative, Mr Tshepo Peege, was elected to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Bid

South Africa signalled its interest to be considered as a host site for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in 2003. The SKA is a \$1 billion international project to create the world's largest radio telescope with a receiving surface of one million square metres, one hundred times larger than the biggest receiving surface now in existence. The SKA Bid has been identified as a national priority for science and technology development. The Bid has a critical role to play in the advancement of South Africa and its people through scientific and industrial development, human capacity development, creation of realistic business opportunities and the provision of access to state-of-the-art infrastructure for our scientists and engineers.

The Bid impacts on the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa and not South Africa alone.

While the core array will be positioned in South Africa, a number of remote arrays need to be positioned throughout Southern and Central Africa. The involvement of the region is furthermore important within the context of NEPAD as it addresses the need to create synergy and co-ordination across the scientific endeavours of different African countries and will facilitate the establishment of regional centres of excellence to co-ordinate research and development in science and technology. African Ministers responsible for science and technology issued a declaration of co-operation with regard to the SKA at the NEPAD Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology in 2003.

OTHER MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FIELD

Other developments during 2003/4 of note included the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the UN Secretary-General's Global Compact, the UN Commission for Social Development, a seminar on the work of faith-based organisations and the Disability ARCC.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The annual International Labour Conference took place in Geneva in June 2003. Beside the usual participation of the Minister of Labour and his delegation, the 2003 event was of greater significance for South Africa as President Mbeki, in his capacity as Chair of the AU, had been invited by the ILO Secretary General, Juan Somavia, to address the conference. His keynote address made a major impact and was widely reported.

The ILO also conducted a fact-finding mission to develop co-operation with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in the area of a Tourism Labour Account System. South Africa is to be a pilot (test) case for the project. The system is complementary to the Tourism Satellite Accounting System. The specific areas of co-operation are Training; SME's and Poverty Alleviation; Labour Statistics in Tourism; Labelling and Criteria of Working Conditions (Minimum Standards) in Tourism; and the Impact of HIV and AIDS on the Tourism Industry.



*A tourist attraction:
uShaka Marine World in Durban*

World Tourism Organisation (WTO)

South Africa participated in the proceedings of the 15th Session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) held from 17 - 24 October 2003 in Beijing. The decision to transform the organi-

sation into a specialised agency of the UN was hailed as a significant one. After final approval by the UN's General Assembly in November, the WTO became the first new specialised agency of the UN since 1985. At its assembly, the WTO emphasised its intention to influence the Doha Agenda to ensure that trade ministers are fully aware of the important potential of tourism as a catalyst for sustained growth and development.

The Cabinet-endorsed International Tourism Growth Strategy requires the partnership of national departments and other stakeholders for its successful implementation. In this respect, the Department, through its Missions abroad, is a key partner for the successful implementation of the strategy.

SA Chapter of the UN Global Compact

The Department is represented on the Taskforce of the SA Global Compact Network. The activities of the Taskforce and Network are co-ordinated by the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC). The work of the Taskforce focuses on South African business behaviour in regard to BEE, sustainability reporting, interpretation of the Global Compact Principles and responsible Multinational Enterprise investor behaviour, as well as SA business behaviour in operations in other African countries. The official launch of the SA Chapter of the Global Compact is scheduled for June 2004.

UN Commission for Social Development

The 42nd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development was held in New York in February 2004 (the last session before the 10 year review of the Social Summit (Copenhagen, 1995) and the 5 year review of the 24th Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Geneva, 2000). Minister of Social Development Dr Z Skweyiya, was elected to chair the forthcoming 43rd Session.

Seminar on the Work of Faith-Based Organisations in Social Development

The Seminar was presented at the University of Pretoria on 19 August 2003. The Department participated in several meetings with the Faculty of Theology at the University to arrange presentation of the Seminar. The Minister of Social Development delivered the keynote address. The aim was to bring together key representatives of the mainstream faith-based organisations to share information on best practices and on what each is doing, individually or in partnership with other groups, NGOs, etc., in the field of charitable and community work that falls within the definition of "social development".

Disability African Regional Consultative Conference

The South African Government hosted the first ever Disability African Regional Consultative Conference (ARCC) in Johannesburg in May 2003. The disability sector in Africa, including persons with disabilities and their organisations, and representatives of governments from across Africa

attended. President Mbeki addressed the Conference on the last day. Minister Essop Pahad delivered the keynote speech. The ARCC focused on the three key issues facing the disability sector in Africa, namely: Implementation of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities; The linkage of disabilities into the NEPAD program to ensure that NEPAD's policies and programmes incorporate disability issues; and the development of the proposed UN Comprehensive and Integral Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In addition to participation in the promotion of the socio-economic development agenda of the South, the Department has also been active in the field of humanitarian assistance and disaster management.

The Department co-ordinated the dispatch of a team of 46 volunteer Urban Search and Rescue experts to provide emergency assistance to the citizens of Bam, Iran. The city was devastated by a massive earth-



South African rescue team members return from Iran after rendering humanitarian assistance to earthquake victims

quake on 26 December 2003. A consignment of humanitarian assistance was also sent.

Following an appeal from the Government of Madagascar, the Department co-ordinated the dispatch of a team of four SA Air Force cargo helicopters and their air- and ground-crews to airlift emergency food supplies to communities cut-off from receiving their regular food supplies, through the effects of tropical cyclones. The operation was conducted over ten days, delivering 300 Metric Tonnes of food. The helicopters flew a combined distance of 27 000 Nautical Miles delivering their loads.

A consignment of clothing and canned foods collected from donations by the public was distributed to internally displaced persons in Angola who were being resettled.

Targeted financial contributions of R9 million were made to the humanitarian relief programmes of a number of international organisations, providing relief to civilians and refugees from armed conflicts and natural disasters. Contributions benefited

the UNHCR, ICRC, Iraqi Red Crescent Society, UNICEF, UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Institute for the Training and Advancement of Women, UN Institute for Training and Research, and others. The contributions were intended to provide relief to Angolan, DRC, Sudanese, Ugandan, West African and Palestinian refugees, internally displaced persons and demobilised child soldiers; bursaries for African refugees; relief to Angolan landmine victims and Iraqi trauma victims; protection of migrants and trafficked persons in southern Africa; capacity-building training projects for women in Africa; creation of disaster- and conflict-early warning systems in Africa, and others.

The Department participated in the planning and implementation of three humanitarian capacity-building training exercises held in co-operation between the SANDF and the armed forces of France, SADC and the UK, respectively. Plans were also put in place for a combined humanitarian relief and capacity-building exercise to be held with United States military forces in mid-2004.

An ad hoc inter-departmental working group chaired by the Department is formulating guidelines and a policy on the provision by South Africa of rapid-response humanitarian relief to disasters abroad, and the creation of a structure to provide rapid access to the finance necessary for such operations.

The Department continued to facilitate the work of the WFP, which is co-ordinating the international response to the ongoing food insecurity situation in six countries of SADC. Government made a contribution of R100 million to the combined appeal for the six countries, where an estimated 6,5 million persons face food insecurity. The contribution will provide agricultural inputs (R67,5 million); emergency food supplies (R22,5 million); and support for the creation of a sub-regional early-warning system on food insecurity (R10 million).

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Department co-hosted, with the International Committee of the Red Cross, (ICRC), the third annual training/capacity-building seminar for senior officials of SADC

governments, on the rules, application and implementation of IHL, as well as a two-day workshop on ways in which to ensure the protection of civilians affected by armed conflict, and to ensure accountability under IHL for violations of their rights.

South Africa participated in the 28th International Conference of the International Red Cross movement, held under the theme "Protecting Human Dignity", in Geneva in December 2003. A delegation from the South African Red Cross Society also participated actively in the non-governmental aspects.

Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)

South Africa was invited to participate in the Commission, together with representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland. The GCIM was created based on a need identified in the UN Secretary-General's report to the UNGA in September 2002 entitled; "Strengthening of the UN: an agenda for further change", where migration was identified as a priority issue

for the international community for the new millennium. Sweden and Switzerland took the initiative and the GCIM was established with the objective of placing migration more prominently on the international agenda; to identify and analyse the gaps and shortcomings in current approaches to international migration; and, to make policy recommendations to stakeholders, most notably the UN Secretary-General. Dr Mamphela Ramphele of South Africa accepted the invitation to co-chair the Commission.

In December 2003, the Minister of Foreign Affairs signed the Tripartite Agreement between the Governments of South Africa and Angola and the UNHCR for the establishment of a Tripartite Commission for the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from South Africa. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in April 2002 between the Government of Angola and UNITA has brought a new era of peace to Angola paving the way for the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees and asylum seekers. Of the approximately 13,626 Angolan refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa, it is estimated that 4000 will

avail themselves of the opportunity presented by the tripartite voluntary repatriation process to return to Angola before the end of December 2005.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE LAW ADVISOR (INTERNATIONAL LAW)

Recent international developments, especially the trend towards unilateralism, have undermined a number of international legal principles, and have given rise to changes in the fundamental principles of international law resulting in ongoing developments in international law. Consequently, the role of international law to enhance a rules-based international order should be strengthened. The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser(IL) (hereinafter referred to as "the Office") appraised the Department of these developments and challenges with the view that they be taken into account in foreign policy formulation. Such developments and challenges include the developments in the law on the use of force; the applicability of international humanitarian law in current conflicts; gross human

rights violations within the boundaries of states; internal conflicts; threats to human security; review of major conferences; the issue of impunity for international crimes; threats to global environmental governance; the emergence of non-state actors as a significant factor in international law and, the legal authority and legitimacy of international institutions such as the AU and UN, including the increased use and misuse of the SC to impose additional obligations or to supersede existing obligations as well as the reform of the UN. South Africa's enhanced role as a major player in international relations further emphasises that respect for and adherence to international law must be, and is, a priority that underpins the Government's foreign policy. It was against this changing background that the Office provided advice and assistance to the Department and the Government as a whole during this reporting period.

During this period, the Office wrote 733 legal opinions on a wide variety of international and South African law subject matters, while scrutinising and certifying all international agreements/treaties concluded by South Africa. All treaties and

instruments of ratification/accession were bound by the Treaty Section of the Office, the custodian and administrator of all international agreements/treaties to which the Republic is party. The Office also provided advice to the Department on all aspects of South African law and was responsible for co-ordinating all legal actions taken against and by the Department. All departmental contracts, whether concluded inside or abroad, are scrutinised by the Office.

This Office is the leading source of information concerning treaties and international law, dealing with a large number of inquiries daily. The Treaty and Information Management Services played a vital role in this regard. It delivered a virtual information service on the Departmental Intranet and on the homepage of the Office.

The Office is responsible for assisting the Department with complying with the implementation of its obligations under the Promotion of Access to Information Act, No 2 of 2000. The Office prepared and published a Manual on the Act in three languages as is required by law. A booklet

on Practical Guidelines for the implementation of the Act was prepared for the Department to assist with the implementation of the Act.

A Practical Guide on the services offered by the Office as well as on the procedures for the conclusion of Agreements was compiled and published for the benefit of its clients in the Department and government in general, while a series of information sessions on agreement procedures were also offered. A comprehensive workshop on the procedures for the conclusion of international agreements was held at the end of November 2003 and was attended by over 200 representatives from all government departments.

Throughout the year, the Office advised the Department on the various international law aspects of the transition of the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union and attended many meetings as part of the South African delegations. The Office assisted in co-ordinating inputs from relevant government departments on the review of existing OAU treaties in order to establish the relevance of the existing OAU

treaties for the AU. Recommendations were made to Cabinet in this regard and comments were subsequently sent to the AU Commission for their consideration.

The Office also dealt successfully with the complaint lodged by Mr GA Prince against South Africa at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Office participated in the Interdepartmental Task Team on a Common African Defence and Security Policy where the AU Concept Paper on the Establishment of a Common African Defence and Security Policy was discussed and a South African position solidified.

The Office was also involved, together with representatives of the Presidency and several government departments, in reviewing civil society inputs into the South African position with regard to the negotiations for the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and on the Rights of Women in Africa. It also participated in two AU meetings on the establishment of the African Union Court of Justice.

The Office participated in meetings with the Defence Secretariat and the National Office for the Co-ordination of Peace Missions (NCOPM) in order to review an agreement that was entered into between the AU and Burundi on the deployment of the AU Mission in Burundi.

Following on a decision of the Interdepartmental Counter Terrorism Working Group, the Office was tasked to co-ordinate, consolidate and consult on proposed South African inputs to the Draft AU Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. These inputs were subsequently used as a basis for participation in a Meeting of Experts on this matter, which the AU Commission convened in December 2003.

The Office was required to provide() legal advice on the legal obligations of United Nations Member States to implement and enforce the provisions of Chapter VII resolutions and on whether Security Council Resolutions 1373(2001), 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003) go beyond the provisions of existing international terrorism conventions and if so, what the implications are. The

Office provided a detailed opinion on both questions.

The Office provided legal inputs on counter-terrorism initiatives in various fora and for various Desks including: participating in the meetings of the Interdepartmental Counter Terrorism Committee; providing inputs on an Indian proposal to conclude a bilateral counter-terrorism agreement; inputs for the Mission's participation in the debate on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism in the UN Sixth Committee; co-ordinating inputs on, and drafting a Cabinet Memorandum for, South Africa's inputs to the proposed African Union Protocol to the Convention on the Suppression and Combating of Terrorism; briefing notes for

the Commonwealth meeting and briefing notes for the RSA/ Russia ITEC meeting. The Office also provided inputs and comments on the Counter Terrorism Bill for the South African Police Service. It also co-ordinated the comments and inputs from other Departments on the Counter Terrorism Bill from submissions to the IRPS Committee.

The Office was extensively involved in providing legal advice on the invasion of Iraq. Numerous legal opinions were prepared and various briefings to the Task Team on Iraq on possible approaches that a USA/UK coalition may take in an attempt to legally justify the use of armed force against Iraq were made. Legal opinions were prepared on almost all aspects of the invasion.

The Office made written and oral presentations to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on what the legal consequences are arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, considering the rules and principles of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The Office also played a role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court and South Africa's involvement in the implementation thereof.

PROGRAMME 3: Public Diplomacy and Protocol

AIM: To market South Africa's Foreign Policy Objectives, project a positive image of South Africa and Africa, and provide State Protocol services. Activities are organised into two sub-programmes:

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY:

Addresses media liaison, engagements with national stakeholders, and promotion of South Africa's policies and programmes at the international level.

PROTOCOL:

Responsible for incoming and outgoing state visits, intergovernmental and provincial protocol services, protocol ceremonial; managing Presidential and Diplomatic guesthouses; facilitating international conferences; and managing diplomatic immunities and privileges.

OUTPUT AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

During the reporting period the Department's communications arm continued to promote the activities of the Department and Ministry in the execution of the tasks mandated by Parliament and priority areas set by the International Relations, Peace and Security (IRPS) Cluster. This included a comprehensive coverage in the spheres of media liaison, internal/external communications, marketing, logistical support, web development, and information management.

The past year saw the Department increase its efforts to keep the people informed on the implementation progress, through publications, of programmes and resolutions on AU/NEPAD, World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and World Conference Against Racism (WCAR). The Department also informed the public on the execution of its mandate during the previous reporting period through the Annual Report 2002/03. The Department's plans for 2004/05 financial year were also publicised through the Strategic Plan booklet.

The Department took part in national promotional and marketing events while continuing to support the efforts of the International Marketing Council (IMC) in promoting a positive image of South Africa abroad. Once again South African Missions abroad provided a great platform in this regard by assisting to disseminate the Department's publications and the country's promotional materials during their various imaging and branding initiatives.

As solid proof of leading by example in the promotion of the country the Department acquired the membership of 'Proudly



President Mbeki joined by Ministers Ronnie Kasrils, Geraldine Frazer-Moleketi and Deputy Ministers Suzan Shabangu, Aziz Pahad, Malusi Gigaba, Dirk du Toit and Gert Oosthuizen awaiting the announcement of the result of the 2010 Soccer World Cup Bid, at the Union Buildings, Pretoria

Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa

South African' – a proud achievement. The following were other significant promotional events that the Department undertook during the reporting period:

- Preparations for 10 Years Celebration of Freedom for 2004:
 - Pull-up screens, T-shirts, hats, paper bags, and lapel pins with the 10 Years Celebration of Freedom logo provided to all South African Missions abroad;
- Freedom Day Celebrations:
 - Showcasing South African products, cuisine and fashion in Amman, Jordan, 21 – 27 May 2003;
- Africa Day Celebrations:
 - Showcasing South African products, cuisine and fashion together with other African representation in Kingston, Jamaica, 19 – 24 May 2003,
 - South African fashion; Sao Paulo, Brazil, 23 – 24 May 2003,
 - Performance by South African music group in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 24 – 26 May 2003,
 - Performance by South African music group in Johannesburg Stadium, 25 May 2003,

- Distributed promotional items such as T-shirts and caps to spectators in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the birth of the OAU;
- **South Africa Week:**
 - Moscow, Russia, 3 – 6 September 2003,
 - South African participants in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, 2 – 5 October 2003,
 - Assisted with the performance of a South African artist in Lisbon, Portugal, 9–13 October 2003,
 - Performance by South African group in Harare, Zimbabwe, October 2003,
- **South Africa Month:**
 - Assisted in identifying South African artist to perform in Santiago, Chile, 5– 12 November 2003,
 - Rendered assistance to the Mpumalanga Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture for a South African cultural groups and crafters to participate in activities such as handicraft exhibitions, a fashion show, music and dance performances and a children's art competition;
- **International Festivals, Competitions, Exhibitions and Conferences:**
 - International Festival of Choreographers in Florence, Italy, 8 – 10 May 2003
 - Participation by a South African artist at the International Trade Fair in Tunis, Tunisia, 17 June – 1 July 2003
 - Promotional material; Schaderberg Photographic Exhibition on display at French National Assembly, July to September 2003
 - Jazz Festival in Rome, Italy, 10 – 14 July 2003
 - Assisted with the showcasing of South African arts and music; Water Festival in Paris, France, 21 June to 6 July 2003
 - Rendered assistance with regard to obtaining and forwarding promotional material from the Department of Water & Forestry. This was during the Pan African Society for Musical Arts Education Conference held in Kisumu, Kenya, 5 – 11 July 2003
 - South African representation; International Summer Wonder Festival in Doha, Qatar, 6 July 2003,
 - Rendered logistical assistance for all South African participants at weeklong festival; International Folklore Festival in Moerbeke-Waas, Belgium, July 2003
- World Gold Panning Championship in Switzerland, August 2003,
- Tarbarka Jazz Festival and World Music Festival, Tunis, Tunisia, July – August 2003
- Arcus Project in Tokyo, Japan, 1 August to 27 December 2003
- 4th Pan-African Music; Festival (FESPAM), Kinshasa, DRC and Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 2 – 9 August 2003
- Rendered assistance to the Department of Arts and Culture for a traditional Zulu dance group to perform; " World Women Together" in Barcelona, Spain, 10 – 14 September 2003
- Expo Munda Turismo, Mexico, 24 – 17 September 2003
- Expo and Trade Show, Beverly Hills, USA, 24 – 27 September 2003
- Cervantino Festival, Mexico City, Mexico, 27 October – 1 November 2003
- Rendered assistance to the Department of Arts and Culture to host a South African group at the festival Nan-Ying International Folklore Festival in Taipei, Taiwan, 8 – 23 November 2003
- David Goldblatt Photographic Exhibition, " South Africa before and after Apartheid in Paris, France, November 2003 – April 2004

- Worldwide Week of Performing Arts Writing also in Paris, France, 20 – 27 March 2004,
- Assisted the Department of Arts and Culture with the South African representation; World Aids Day Festival in Abuja, Nigeria, 8 December 2003,
- Facilitated the participation of a South African artist at the International Music Festival in Vin Del Mar, Chile, 18 – 23 February 2004;
- **International Sporting Events:**
 - Successfully facilitated South African participation at the Special Olympic in Dublin, Ireland, 21 June 2003
 - South African waving flags; World Peace King Cup in Korea, 15 – 22 July 2003
 - Invitation to South African Football Club; Gymnaestrada, 20 – 26 July 2003, Lisbon, Portugal
 - Invitation to South African gymnasts; Century Champion Cup, Namibia, 30 August 2003
 - Invitation to South African Football Clubs; Belgium, 20 August – 13 September 2003
 - Disabled Riders World Games in Paris, France, 3 – 7 September 2003
 - Danone Nations Cup Football Tournament: South African participation
 - All Africa Games, September – October 2003, Abuja, Nigeria
 - Rendered logistical assistance to South Africa's *Ekhaya* team; Prada Football Sports Festival, 17 – 21 December 2003;
 - Pinda International Football Cup, 23 – 31 January 2004
 - 2003 Vodacom Soccer Challenge, 27 – 29 June 2003, Mafikeng and 4 – 6 July 2003, Durban: Promotion and popularisation of AU and NEPAD;
 - 2010 Soccer Bid: Bid Book Hand-over, 28 – 30 September 2003: Assisted the Mission, Sports and Recreation South Africa and the 2010 Bid Committee; Doha, Qatar, 19 – 21 October 2003, FIFA Congress;
 - **International Film Festivals:**
 - New Delhi, India: 34th International Film Festival of India, 9 – 19 October 2003;
 - Gaborone, Botswana: EU-AFRICA Film Festival: 7 – 10 December 2003; Screened a South African Cultural Film;
 - Yaoundé, Cameroon: Commonwealth

Week: 8 – 12 March 2004: Screening of South African film;

- **Charity Bazaars:**
 - Promoted South African Arts and Crafts throughout the world by sourcing South African material for presentation in Rabat, Morocco, October 2003;
 - Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Bazaar in Amman, Jordan, 4 October 2003;
 - Bethlehem Christmas Bazaar, Palestinian National Authority, 29 November 2003;
 - Diplomatic Ladies Christmas Event in Caracas, Venezuela, 9 November 2003;
 - **Women's Day, 9 August 2003:** Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania: Secured a South African Women's Cultural Group to participate; Maputo, Mozambique: Assisted with Imaging and Branding material;
 - **Heritage Day, 24 September 2003:** Abu Dhabi, UAE: Musical Performance by South African artist;
 - **South African Tourism and Trade Extravaganza, Bangkok, Thailand, September 2003:** South African fashion designer participated in the event;

- Exchange Programmes:
 - Uganda/South Africa Student Exchange, July and September 2003,
 - Rendered assistance to the Ugandan High Commission and the Free State Province Department of Education to facilitate an annual student exchange programme between the two countries. Participating schools were St Mary's College and Gayaza High from Uganda, Voortrekker High of Bethlehem and Mariusdale High of Tweespruit from South Africa,
 - Cultural Exchange programme facilitated between Hayandori Elementary School in Tokyo, Japan and Malopo Matebele Primary School from the Limpopo Province
- Solidarity Conference, London, UK: 24 – 26 October 2003: Rendered assistance to South African High Commission hosting this conference;
- 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign, 25 October – 10 December 2003: Promotional items and candle light service;

- Millennium Train Project, Rome, Italy: October – December 2003 Travelling exhibition where South Africa represented the rest of Africa to implement the UN Millennium Goals with the theme: "HIV and AIDS";
- Hanoi, Vietnam Ten Years of Bilateral relations between SA and Vietnam: 11 – 12 December 2003: Assisted in identifying suitable South African artist to perform;
- Mozambique-South Africa Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation (JPCC), 3 – 4 November 2003: Image and Branding Items;
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 12 - 22 March 2004: Meeting of Pan African Parliament.

During the year under review the Department undertook both audio-visual and photographic documentation for thirty-two incoming visits and strategic outgoing visits of President Mbeki and Minister Dlamini Zuma abroad. The photographic footage of these events was distributed to local and international media on an ongoing basis, usually within one hour of an event taking place. The video material collected was

also provided to, and utilised by, the SABC (including on SABC AFRICA) and Reuters.

The Department provided video and photographic coverage of the AU Africa Day Celebrations in Johannesburg. Other events of significance covered included the historic departure of Charles Taylor from office in Liberia as well as the video and photographic coverage provided during a state visit by President Mbeki and the South African business delegation to the DRC.

The South African National Anthem and the AU Anthem were transferred to separate CDs for official use by South Africa's Missions abroad and foreign representative offices in Pretoria. The '10 Years of Freedom celebration' logo was sourced from the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), transferred to CD and distributed to South Africa's Missions abroad for use in the production of material for activities surrounding the celebrations. Furthermore, various video programmes from the Film Resource Unit as well as photographs, in hard copy and on compact disk, were also supplied to the South African Missions abroad for use

during the celebrations and other publicity events.

The Department organised media briefings, press conferences and timeous dissemination of information to the media regarding state, official and working visits; Joint Commissions; bilateral meetings; as well as attendance of the Ministry and Presidency of important international functions.

South Africa's involvement and leadership in different continental and international fora also received positive coverage and thus enhanced the status of the country as global player in international relations.

The Department continued where it had left off the previous year by continuing to provide a committed 24-hour support service to its staff, the Presidents Office, Foreign Missions in South Africa and other government departments.

During the reporting period, the Department's official website, www.dfa.gov.za was redesigned to give it a new look that befits its international stature. The re-design was undertaken to make the web-site

more user-friendly, attractive, accessible and align it to the government's corporate identity. The Department also responded promptly to various enquires regarding consular issues, scam and trade. The rate of monitoring and provision of feedback to the 35 mission web-sites ran by South African Missions abroad continued unabated. The monitoring was necessary to ensure that these web-sites were consistent in format, linkages and functionality in order to promote a unified departmental image world-wide.

The management of electronic information and provision of library and archive services also continued. The five departmental libraries undertook the following tasks:

- provided relevant information to 2258 queries in either hard copy material or Internet searches;
- distributed 740 magazines to Head Office officials;
- ordered 942 books for Head Office and Missions, and
- filed 13 622 UN documents.

The libraries were further involved in various marketing activities and the orientation of new employees. During this reporting

period the transfer of the Storage and Information Retrieval System (STAIRS) from SITA to the Department was finalised.

OUTPUT AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS

STATE PROTOCOL

The State Protocol Branch manages and coordinates all the major aspects of the protocol functions in South Africa. The Branch is the final arbiter on all matters of state protocol, and has the responsibility to promote the adherence to internationally-accepted protocol policies, procedures, guidelines and practices.

Principally, the State Protocol Branch provides direct protocol support to the President and Deputy President, especially in the execution of the country's international obligations. The demand on the services of the Branch during the financial year 2003/4 increased exponentially.

These entailed the coordination of the logistics for the visits abroad of both the Presi-

dent and the Deputy President. Similarly, the State Protocol Branch also ensured that the visiting Heads of State and Government and other important international guests of the government were accorded the necessary support and care during their stay in South Africa. This has greatly enhanced the standing of South Africa and has thus cemented South Africa's diplomatic relations with all the countries concerned.

Similarly, State Protocol is also responsible for the accreditation of diplomats both in South Africa and abroad. In South Africa, the Branch is responsible for the wellbeing and safety of more than eight thousand members of the diplomatic corps. The Department renders a package of services to the diplomatic community with a view to facilitating among others, their accreditation process.

Special attention was paid to the regular interaction between the Department and Missions accredited to South Africa. Through the Office of the Chief of State Protocol, there was an increased interaction between Ambassadors, High Commissioners/Missions and the Depart-



The Chief of State Protocol Billy Modise welcoming German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder

ment during the period under review. With the appointment of the Deputy Chief of State Protocol the Department has begun a process to increase its capacity to respond to the concerns of the diplomatic

community. Additional appointments will be made during the financial year 2004/05 in order to strengthen the management and execution of the protocol function.

Protocol Ceremonial

One of the key responsibilities of State Protocol is to provide protocol support during official state functions. These include State dinners, banquets, receptions, credentials and signing ceremonies. Other responsibilities include assistance during bilaterals, Joint Binational Commissions (BNCs), Opening of Parliament, Summits and Conferences. In the main, the Department provided support to a total of sixty-six (66) of these functions.

In addition, thirty-seven (37) foreign diplomatic appointments of Heads of Mission, thirty-eight (38) foreign consular appointments and seventeen South African consular appointments were processed.

A total of one thousand six hundred and eighty two (1 682) Notes Verbale and two hundred and eighteen (218) Official Messages from the President were processed.

Being at the coalface of diplomatic interface in South Africa, State Protocol is responsible for facilitating the arrivals and departures of dignitaries in the country. In

this regard, 15 521 dignitaries were facilitated through the State Protocol Lounge at Johannesburg International Airport. These included foreign Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and Royalty amongst others.

The Branch also facilitated and coordinated functions at the Presidential and diplomatic guesthouses. During the past financial year four thousand eight hundred and eleven (4 811) guests were received and entertained at the Diplomatic Guesthouse and nine thousand and twenty two (9 022) guests were attended to at the Presidential Guesthouse.

Conferences and Summits

During the year 2003/04, the Department organized the logistics for the following:

- 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union in Sun City and Sandton during May 2003.
- Africa Day Celebrations in Johannesburg on 25 May 2003
- Assistance to Mozambique to host the Second Summit of the African Union

during July 2004.

- Ministerial Working Group and African Consultative Meeting for the Second Asia –Africa Sub-Regional Organisations Conference in Durban during March 2004.

Preparations for these conferences were both intensive and demanding.

State Visits

During the past financial year the Branch managed logistics for a total of fifty-five (55) international Presidential outgoing visits: thirty (30) for the President and nineteen (19) for the Deputy President, six (6) for the First Lady as well as eighty-five (85) incoming visits. Incoming visits included those by Foreign and Deputy Foreign Ministers and thirty-nine private visits to South Africa. The Department also assisted with logistics pertaining twenty-nine (29) international visits by Former President Mandela and Former President De Klerk.

Intergovernmental and Provincial Protocol

State Protocol also provided protocol sup-

port to both the second and third spheres of government.

It also provided protocol training to the officials and officeholders from all the spheres of government. Beneficiaries of the training programs included Premiers, Speakers of Provincial Legislature, Members of the Executive Council, Executive Mayors, Mayors, Municipal Councilors, Houses of Traditional Leaders and members of the South African Local Government Association.

During the period under review the Branch coordinated one hundred and twenty four (124) visits by officials and officeholders from the provincial and local spheres of government.

A total of seventeen (17) workshops were conducted. Nine (9) twinning Memoranda of Understanding were also signed.

Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges

At the close of the reporting period, the diplomatic community in South Africa consisted of approximately 8 500 members, which included diplomats, consular,

administration and technical staff and their dependants. Diplomatic immunities and privileges for the diplomats are managed in terms of the South African Diplomatic Act.

The following outputs were recorded during the period under review:

- 706 diplomatic, 126 consular, 107 international organization and 331 administrative requests for identity certificates were processed and issued. These requests and applications were manually processed.
- 26 diplomatic, 8 consular and 10 administrative requests for the expansion of staff establishment were processed. These entailed protracted administrative processes and authorisations.
- Approximately 5 000 official and privately owned vehicles belonging to the diplomatic community in South Africa are registered with the Department for which fuel rebates were processed.
- Missions are exempted from transfer duties and municipal rates in respect of properties for offices and residences

for Heads of Mission. During 2003/04, the State Protocol Branch processed an amount of R9 300 000 to local authorities in respect of diplomatic property taxes and R61 700 000 in terms of VAT refunds.

- The Branch continued to facilitate travel documents for diplomatic and official passport holders nationally. Approximately 1 255 Diplomatic passports were issued in 2003/04 and 4527 visas were requested from Foreign missions in South Africa in respect of South African diplomatic and official passport holders. 4 363 RSA diplomatic permits were issued to accredited foreign passport holders and their dependants.
- Seven training sessions on the handling of diplomats were provided to stakeholders and the Foreign Affairs Training Institute.

PROGRAMME 4: Foreign Properties

AIM: This programme provides secure, economical, representative housing and office accommodation to all staff members abroad (including partner departments), and maintains immovable properties abroad. Priorities are determined according to a needs analysis, which takes into account local property markets, political stability, environmental factors and South Africa's foreign policy objectives.

PROGRAMME POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

One of the priorities of the Department is to effectively meet its accommodation and infrastructure needs, both in South Africa and in various centres abroad. Besides providing for its own needs, the Department is also responsible for providing the same accommodation and infrastructure for its partner Departments who have representation abroad. In South Africa the Department of Public Works provides the Department with accommodation. The Department consists of various functional groups/directorates

occupying six (6) separate buildings in Pretoria. In the international front, South Africa is represented in 93 countries globally, with 105 Missions. This number will increase by five with the opening of new Missions during the 2004/05 financial year.

The Department has embarked on a strategic initiative aimed at significantly reducing its expenditure on the rental of properties, especially abroad, where the majority of properties are still being rented. A feasibility study which has been commissioned will focus on alternative methods of property acquisition such as Public Private Partnerships, loans, lease-to-own arrangements, etc. By

Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa

using these methods the Department envisages reducing its expenditure on rentals significantly over the long term.

OUTPUTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS:

During the year under review, the Department finalised the Chancery and Diplomatic Village projects in Kinshasa and the Chancery project in Berlin. The Kinshasa project was officially handed over to the Department by the Minister of Public Works, Ms Stella Sigcau on 14 January 2004 and officially opened by President Mbeki. The Berlin project was completed in August 2003. The new Chancery was handed over to the Department by the Minister of Public Works, Ms Stella Sigcau and officially opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on 14 November 2003.

The Department made good progress with its new Head Office project. It was decided that the new Head Office which would house the Department in one building would be procured by means of a Public Private Partnership. The tender for

the appointment of a Transaction Advisor was placed in October 2003. The tender was awarded to a consortium headed by SPP Project Solutions and their appointment was finalised in January 2004. The Transaction Advisor is currently finalising the feasibility study in order to obtain Treasury Approval I for this project. The projected completion date for this project is December 2006.

The department has embarked on a program to address the most urgent maintenance requirements at its missions abroad. For this purpose, the department obtained professionally evaluated maintenance reports on all State-owned properties abroad. These evaluations form part of the Department's short, medium and long term maintenance planning and implementation programme. Currently the Department has a maintenance backlog of 40% of its State-owned properties abroad. Since immediate attention is given to all required emergency repairs, the existing maintenance backlog refers to general required upgrading and repairs. The maintenance backlog has been addressed in both the medium term expenditure frameworks as



Minister Stella Sigcau witnesses as President Thabo Mbeki opens South Africa's new Chancery in the Democratic Republic of Congo

well as the departments long term expenditure planning program.

Generally the maintenance of the department's assets abroad is in fair condition with a few properties requiring urgent attention. These properties have been specifically ad-

dressed in the department's MTEF budget.

During the financial year under review, the department undertook maintenance/structural works to official residences in Athens, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen, Lilongwe, Rome, Buenos Aires and Munich.

Maintenance/structural works for chanceries were addressed in Harare, London, and Rome, while other housing received maintenance attention in Lilongwe and Maputo.

During the 2003/2004 financial year the asset holdings of the department remained constant. No acquisitions or disposals were done.

Projects to be carried over from the 2003/2004 financial year include the painting and refurbishment of the Official Residence in Copenhagen, the roof replacement and general refurbishment at the Diplomatic Village in Maputo and the upgrading of the air-conditioning and heating system at the Chancery in Rome. During the 2004/2005 financial year continuing

major maintenance/refurbishment will also take place in Milan, Windhoek, Lilongwe, Tehran, London and Washington for which the necessary funds have been allocated.

During the 2004/05 financial year the Department intends to finalise the acquisition of land for the construction of Chanceries and Official Residences in Addis Ababa, Abuja and Dar Es Salaam. The Department will also start with the design and development of these projects as well as the design and development of a Chancery, Official Residence and staff housing in Maseru.

The Department will in the 2004/05 financial year commission a study to review the ways through which it traditionally acquires property and accommodation in foreign countries for use by South African Diplo-

matic Missions as offices (Chancery) or as a residence for its Head of Mission (Official Residence). The study will explore and investigate the different options available in different regions and countries of the world through which fixed property can be acquired, while at the same time determining the best value for money solution and procurement options accessible to diplomatic missions in a specific region or country, that will fulfill the needs of the Department.

Through the department's medium and long-term forecast, financial planning has been ensured for the proper maintenance of all state owned assets falling under the jurisdiction of the department abroad. Financial provision has been made for all committed and planned projects for the 2004/2005 financial year.

PROGRAMME 5: Auxiliary Services

AIM: This programme provides for the payment of international organisations, and renders an administrative support service to all officials on transfer abroad. It also makes provision for the inauguration of the President. The activities are organised into the following sub-programmes:

- International Organisations provides for paying fees and contributions to various organisations.
- Administrative Support provides assistance to staff being transferred abroad, including medical and hotel costs, airfreight costs, import and export privileges, and storage costs.
- Presidential Inauguration provides for the activities related to presidential inaugurations.

PROGRAMME POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- continued payment of membership

fees to various international institutions in which South Africa is a member

- meet the transfer objectives and requirements of the Department through assisting transferred officials both coming in or out.

OUTPUTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS:

Transfer Payments

Transfer payments primarily arise from obligations undertaken by South Africa at international, regional and sub-regional multilateral levels. The payments,

which are made by the Department of Foreign Affairs, generally take the form of:

- Membership dues to organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Commonwealth etc.
- Contributions to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations.
- Meetings of States (parties to international treaties) of which South Africa is a member, and in which South Africa has participated.
- Voluntary pledges that South Africa has made to international organisations for the purpose of humanitarian assistance, technical assistance, etc.

During the year under review, the Department has transferred a total amount of R315 556 million to various organisations and institutions as reported in note 9 of the Financial Statements.

Transfer programme

The Sub-directorate: Transfer Assistance facilitates the relocation of Foreign Af-

fairs and staff of certain partner Departments to, from and between overseas missions.

For the year 2003/2004 a total of 144 officials were transferred to missions whilst 145 were transferred from missions back to Head Office.

Medical benefits

The Department offers medical benefits to employees abroad according to Resolution no.11 of 2000 which makes provision for the continuation of Part II of Chapter D.IX of the former Public Service Staff Code.

South Africa supports the efforts of the international community to make the globalising world a better place for our children



PART 4:
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

We are pleased to present our report for the financial year ended 31 March 2004.

1. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ATTENDANCE

An audit committee for the Department has been established in accordance with the requirements of Sections 38 (1)(b) and 77 of the Public Finance Management Act. Currently the audit committee comprises 3 members with the majority of the members being from outside the public service. During the year under review, approval was obtained from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to increase the capacity of the Audit Committee from 3 to 5 members. The two vacant posts will be filled by appointing suitable persons from either the Information Technology, Legal or International Relations environments. The chairperson of the audit committee is from outside of the public service.

The audit committee consist of the members listed hereunder and meets 4 times per annum as per its approved terms of reference. The Audit Committee furthermore met with the Office of the Auditor-General and the Director-General. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee met on several occasions, individually, with the Head of Internal Audit and key Internal Audit staff. During the current year 4 meetings were held:

Name of Member	Number of Meetings attended
Ms BL Mthembu (Chairperson)	4
Ms SW Magojo (Member)	4
Mr Z Jojwana (Member)	4

2. AUDIT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

The Audit Committee reports that it has complied with its responsibilities arising from section 38(1)(a) of the PFMA and Treasury Regulation 3.1.13 and 27(1)(10). The Audit Committee also reports that it has adopted appropriate formal terms of reference as its audit committee charter, has regulated its affairs in compliance with this charter and has discharged all its responsibilities as contained therein.

3. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

The system of internal control was effective except for specific lack of compliance reported by the Auditor-General. During the year under review the internal and external auditors reported several instances of non-compliance with internal controls that resulted from a breakdown in the functioning of controls. Significant control weaknesses have been reported by the Auditor-General under emphasis of matter and in the

management letter. The effect of these instances has been included in the annual financial statements and the report of the Accounting Officer.

The Audit Committee together with Internal Audit has developed a comprehensive detailed plan as intervention measure to remedy the matter of emphasis reported by the Auditor-General. Issues were prioritised in accordance with their materiality and fundamental effect on the overall management of the department. The plan includes detailed action plans, scheduled target dates for implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan and agreed KPIs. The issues identified include:

- Establishment of integrated treasury cash flow management function with strong emphasis on integrated foreign currency management and budgeted cash flow management,
- Re-engineering and restructuring of strategic financial management functions with focus on migration to and implementation of the accrual accounting system,
- Formalisation of appropriate policies and procedures,
- Asset management, including fixed asset register and supply chain management, and
- Strategic management of missions, co-ordination with other departments and overall training and professional development.

It is anticipated that the plan will be fully completed by the end of the 2004/05 financial year. The Director General and the entire department have given their full commitment and support to ensure that all matters raised by the Auditor-General are effectively and efficiently resolved.

4. QUALITY OF IN YEAR MANAGEMENT AND MONTHLY / QUARTERLY REPORTS SUBMITTED IN TERMS OF THE PFMA AND THE DIVISION OF REVENUE ACT

The Audit Committee is not satisfied with the content and quality of monthly and quarterly reports prepared and issued by the Accounting Officer and the Department during the year under review. Full details of the financial management and position of the Department are not provided in these reports. The Accounting Officer and the Chief Financial Officer are currently developing a more comprehensive financial reporting framework in compliance with statutory requirements such as the PFMA and the Treasury Regulations.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

The capacity of the Internal Audit Function has been comprehensively increased and consolidated through the appointment of the Chief Director Internal Audit, filling all strategic internal audit positions and merging the Internal Audit Function

with the Management Consultancy Unit. The internal audit strategic and annual operational plans were considered and approved by the audit committee. All internal audit work performed as well as internal audit reports and quarterly progress reports were reviewed by the audit committee.

The Fraud Prevention Policy and Strategy were formalised and a Fraud Prevention Implementation Plan was developed. The rollout of the implementation plan will commence early in the 2004/05 financial year. The Internal Audit Unit developed a comprehensive Risk Management Strategy, which has been reviewed, approved and formalised by both the audit committee and management of the department. An annual risk assessment is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. Control self assessment schedules will be developed for the relevant managers.

6. EVALUATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

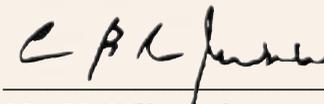
The Audit Committee has:

- Reviewed and discussed with the Auditor-General and

the Accounting Officer the audited annual financial statements to be included in the report;

- Reviewed the Auditor-General's management letter and management's response;
- Reviewed changes in accounting policies and practices; and
- Reviewed significant adjustments resulting from the audit.

The Audit Committee concurs and accepts the conclusions of the Auditor-General on the annual financial statements and is of the opinion that the audited annual financial statements be accepted and read together with the report of the Auditor-General.



Ms BL Mthembu
Chairperson of the Audit Committee