



President Thabo Mbeki meeting with the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast Charles Konan Banny in Pretoria, December 2005.

## GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: POLITICAL ISSUES

### Multilateralism and the Reform of the United Nations

The year 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. To commemorate this event a High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (2005 World Summit) was convened in New York in September 2005. The Summit endorsed an outcome document outlining a series of reforms to the UN as agreed by Member States. While the Summit took important decisions on reform, it did not meet the expectations of all Member States. The Summit failed to pronounce on issues of disarmament and non-proliferation and could not conclude the issue of the reform and enlargement of the UN Security Council.

President Mbeki, in his address to the 60th session of the General Assembly stated that “one of the facts that stands out sharply from the review is that in truth we have not made the decisive progress we thought we would make with regard to the critical issue of the reform of the United Nations.”

Despite an uneven outcome, the Summit did endorse a number of important decisions aimed at strengthening the UN as the primary organisation for promoting a rules-based multilateral system. These included the following:

- Decision to establish a Peacebuilding Commission

- Decision to establish a Human Rights Council
- An endorsement of the MDGs as a framework for measuring progress towards addressing the challenge of underdevelopment and poverty.
- Reaffirmation of the Special Needs of Africa
- Decision to strengthen co-operation between regional organisations and the UN, in particular on peacekeeping. The Summit concluded that it was important to implement capacity-building to enable regional organisations such as the AU, to contribute better to conflict management and resolution.

The Summit postponed many decisions and requested that they be revisited during the remainder of the 60th session of the General Assembly. The Summit accepted that it was not possible to arrive at a decision on the reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) by September 2005; however, it endorsed the South African amendment to review the progress on the reform of the Council before 31 December 2005. The Summit called on Member States to continue with efforts to revitalise the General Assembly in order to fulfil its role as a truly representative organ of the UN. Many Member States, including South Africa, were critical of the Summit for not pronouncing on disarmament and non-proliferation.

South Africa played an active role in the preparations for the Summit including through organisations such as the African Group, the Group of 77 and China and the NAM. Importantly, the African Group sought to convey common positions on all the issues before the Summit.

## Peacebuilding Commission

Following the 2005 World Summit, the Peacebuilding Commission was established in December 2005 by simultaneous resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

The broad objectives of the Commission are to ensure that post-conflict peace-building, reconstruction and development are facilitated through a smooth transition of states emerging from conflict to development, in order to prevent such states from relapsing into conflict, thereby achieving sustainable peace.

South Africa and African countries have to ensure that the work of the Commission is in line with similar initiatives and policy approaches that the AU would be formulating, especially as the Commission's work could predominantly focus on African countries.

## Compliance with UN Security Council on Sanctions Regimes

The Department continued to co-ordinate all actions required for ensuring that South Africa fully complied with UN Security Council resolutions on sanctions regimes in terms of national policy. In this regard, the Department continued to interact with the UN Security Council and other relevant entities to facilitate the implementation of all the relevant measures pursuant to the Security Council resolutions. There are currently UN sanctions measures against the following countries and groups:

- Côte d'Ivoire;
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);
- Liberia;
- Rwanda;
- Sierra Leone;
- Somalia;
- Sudan; and
- Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

## Administrative and Budgetary

South Africa played a prominent role in United Nations administrative and budgetary negotiations during 2005, hav-


ing served on the Bureau of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) of the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA59) until September 2005 and completed a three year term (2003 – 2005) on the 34 member Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC).

The South African Auditor General continued to serve on the UN Board of Auditors (2000 - 2006) and was re-elected in 2005 as the External Auditor for the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) for the period 2006 – 2008. Minister Geraldine Fraser Moleketi, Minister for Public Service and Administration, completed her tour of duty on the First UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Finance (UN CEPA) for the period 2002 - 2005.

Through active participation in processes of the UN, South Africa promoted its own national interests as well as those of the continent. System-wide support in the UN for Nepal is catered for, to the fullest extent possible, in the UN Secretariat programmes and in the 2006 –2007 budget negotiated at the end of 2005. Other priority areas on which South Africa focused while participating in negotiations concerning programmes and budgets included the funding of UN structures and programmes that focus on the economic and social development of Africa; the UN Settlements programme (HABITAT); the co-ordination role of the UN Chief Executives Board, especially in terms of the attainment of the MDGs and UN support for Nepal; as well as sufficient funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

South Africa also worked closely with other developing countries to ensure that multilateralism is enhanced through proper programme guidance to the UN Secretariat and the adequate and equitable allocation of resources for the implementation of international security and development goals.

For the 2005 regular budget of the UN South Africa's assessed contribution was US\$ 5,196 million. Its contribution to the UN peacekeeping budget was US\$ 2,647 million. It also contributed US\$ 503 648.00 to the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and former Yugoslavia.



South Africa was honoured, once again, by having its name included in the Secretary General's "Roll of Honour" of countries that paid their dues in full, on time and without pre-conditions.

South Africa is active in a number of UN bodies and functional committees. South Africa or South African experts have been elected to serve on the following during 2005/06:

- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) - (1995 - 1997; 2001 - 2003; 2005 - 2007)
- International Law Commission - (2002 - 2006)  
Professor - John Dugard
- International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia - (2005 - 2009) - Judge J Moloto
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea - (2005 - 2014) - Adv AJ Hoffmann

Treaty Bodies :

- International Criminal Court - (2003 - 2009)  
- Judge M Pillay
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - (2005 - 2008) - Ambassador P January-Bardill

### **South Africa served on the following Subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC:**

- Commission for Social Development - (2001 - 2005)
- Statistical Commission - (2002 - 2005)
- Commission on Human Rights - (2004 - 2006)
- Commission on Status of Women - (2002 - 2006)
- Committee for Programme and Co-ordination - (2003 - 2005)
- Governing Council on Human Settlements - (2004 - 2007)
- Inter-governmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accountancy and Reporting - (2003 - 2005)
- Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) - (2005 - 2007)
- Commission on Sustainable Development - (2002 - 2005)

### **International Law**

The dynamism of contemporary international relations continues to present challenges to international law. The interdependence between states in an increasingly complex world requires inter-governmental co-operation, with diplomacy and international law being the key instruments for this. In Africa, the continent's multilateral systems have been overhauled and new ones introduced. The continued development of these structures and systems is based on international law. Contributing to the formulation of international law and enhancing respect for its provisions therefore remain strategic objectives of the Department. The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (IL) ("the Legal Office") continued with its core business of providing legal advice and services, to government as a whole in support of the strategic objectives set by government. During the financial year ending March 2006, the Legal Office provided 1 058 written legal opinions on a wide variety of international and South African law subject matters requested by its clients. One hundred and fifty seven (157) international agreements or treaties were certified for the purposes of obtaining the President's authorisation for their conclusion. The Legal 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 in South Africa or abroad, have been scrutinised by the Legal Office.

As far as international law matters are concerned, a few highlights can be mentioned: The Legal Office continued its involvement in counter-terrorism initiatives in various fora, including participating in the meetings of the InterDepartmental Counter Terrorism Committee; participating in negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism in the UN Sixth Committee and providing inputs in bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism meetings. Following Parliament's approval of accession to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Fixed Platforms Protocol, the Legal Office assisted in obtaining an In-

strument of Accession. Accession to this Convention and its Protocol is welcomed, as they constitute two of the 12 counter-terrorism treaties. South Africa has thus become party to 11 of the 12 counter-terrorism conventions, bringing it more fully into compliance with its counter-terrorism obligations.

The Legal Office provided advice on the status of the Order of Malta, a unique grouping. The Sovereign Order of Malta, a knightly order dating back to medieval times and which controlled the island of Malta for a period in the eighteenth century, has over the last decade approached the Department on a number of occasions with the request to be accorded diplomatic immunities and privileges. These requests were denied, on both policy and legal grounds, as the Order, which is essentially a non-government organisation, is neither a state nor an international organisation, and therefore does not qualify in terms of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 2001 (No. 37 of 2001) for immunities and privileges. The Order approached the Department again with legal arguments based on a large number of historic examples aiming to prove that the Order is "sovereign" and hence qualifies for immunities and privileges, but the status of the Order was confirmed as not qualifying for any form of diplomatic protection.

The Legal Office participated in the negotiations of a Liability Annex to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty that was adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. The adoption of the Annex is significant as this is the first new instrument adopted under the Antarctic Treaty System since 1991 and is the product of prolonged and complex negotiations. The negotiations have also been legally complicated in the sense that rules of international law as well as national laws on procedure, tort and insurance were involved. In summary, the Annex obliges each party to require its operators, defined in the Annex as including government or non-government entities that organise activities to be carried out in the Antarctic Treaty area, to undertake preventative measures to reduce the risk of environmental emergencies. The operators are also required to establish contingency plans to respond to accidents with a potential adverse impact on the area. Parties are further

obliged to require operators to take prompt and effective action in response to environmental emergencies arising from the activities of the operator.

The Legal Office actively participated as part of a Task Team of African legal experts established by the AU Commission to draft recommendations on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005, in which the situation in Darfur was referred to the International Criminal Court. The meeting was chaired by the AU Legal Counsel and delegations from South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Sudan attended. The Nigerian delegate intimated that Nigeria, as the AU Chair, has taken an initiative in the matter and tabled a paper containing three options for the way forward: challenging the legality of Resolution 1593, challenging the jurisdiction of the ICC, or trying suspects of war crimes and crimes against humanity violations under Sudanese jurisdiction. The paper found the first two options unacceptable and proposed that the third option be further explored, with which the Task Team concurred. It further concurred that the present courts in Sudan were inadequate to adjudicate on these matters, and that new institutions with international credibility should be set up in order to allow the AU to approach the Security Council not to renew the referral to the ICC when it came up for consideration on 31 March 2006. The Task Team proposed that a Special Court, a Special Court of Appeal and an African Panel for Peace and Reconciliation be set up and be staffed by both Sudanese and African experts, and that a prosecutor and deputy prosecutors be appointed by the AU Commission from Member States other than Sudan.

The Legal Office provided legal advice on the question, referred by President Wade of Senegal, of the extradition of the former ruler of Chad, Hissene Habre, to the AU Summit. Habre, who fled to Senegal after being deposed in 1990, has been the subject of an extradition request by Belgium addressed to Senegal. This is because victims of alleged human rights abuses perpetrated by his government who have become Belgian citizens laid charges against him in Belgium. A Belgian law, which provides for universal jurisdiction for human rights crimes under certain conditions, formed the basis



**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sue van der Merwe meeting with the United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Mr Jan Egeland in Pretoria, December 2005.**

of the extradition request. President Wade then referred the matter to the AU Summit to recommend a “competent jurisdiction” for a trial. A practical way to resolve this unprecedented matter was proposed whereby an AU decision to refer the matter to an African panel of legal experts with the mandate to investigate the question of a suitable jurisdiction, with a view of reporting back to the next Summit, was drafted and adopted by the Summit.

The Legal Office met with the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to discuss the possibility of the referral of cases from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for trial in South Africa. In 2003, the Security Council adopted a resolution (1503) in which it calls on the ICTR to complete its investigations by the end of 2004 in order to complete all its work in 2010. Under the completion strategy of the ICTR, the need for referral of middle- and low-level indictees by the Tribunal to national jurisdictions for prosecution has now been emphasised. This strategy was also endorsed by the Security Council resolution. The ICTR engaged South Africa on its willingness to take some cases for trial in South Africa by the South African courts. The requirements for referral and the acceptance of cases by South Africa were explained, including the need for legislation in order for South African courts to have jurisdiction over the offences.

Representatives of the Legal Office attended the Diplomatic Conference on the Adoption of a Third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, which was held in Geneva from 5 – 7 December 2005. The Conference

aimed to adopt the Protocol providing for a third emblem to be used by national societies to the Red Cross Movement, namely a red crystal. The adoption of the red crystal as additional symbol would allow the Israeli national society, the Magen David Adom (MDA), which presently uses the Star of David as its symbol, to be admitted to the Red Cross Movement. An agreement was reached shortly before the Diplomatic Conference between the MDA and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society forming the framework for all operational activities of the two organisations, including those taking place in the occupied territories, thus paving the way for the simultaneous admission of these two societies to the Red Cross Movement. The aim of Switzerland as Chair of the meeting was to have the Protocol adopted by consensus, but the Conference ran into early problems when the Syrians proposed a number of amendments to the text, aimed at restricting national societies to using emblems only within “internationally recognised borders”, a position aimed to prevent the MDA from operating in the Golan Heights, which were annexed by Israel after the 1967 war against Syria. The Syrian position was supported by the Organisation for the Islamic Conference and despite arduous efforts by the Norwegian Ambassador, who was appointed by the Chair to conduct negotiations parallel to the Plenary with a view to obtaining a consensus outcome, no consensus could be reached. Eventually, a vote had to be called and the draft Protocol was adopted by vote, with most (but not all) OIC countries voting against it.

The Legal Office is also deeply involved in various international environmental law negotiations such as on

climate change, biodiversity, law of the sea, etc. A legal advisor of the Office was elected as a member of the Compliance Committee established under the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The purpose of the Compliance Committee is to enhance compliance by parties to the Kyoto Protocol with their obligations under the Protocol.

A legal advisor of the Legal Office has also been elected as a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in elections held during the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 2005. The Tribunal is a specialised judicial body established under the Convention and provides an important forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States concerning the interpretation and application of the Convention. The Convention provides a comprehensive legal framework for the regulation of all ocean space, its uses and resources and contains *inter alia* provisions relating to the territorial sea, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone, high seas and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. South Africa has been a state party to the Convention since 1997 and although it has been involved in the various bodies and activities within the framework of the Convention this is the first time that South Africa will be represented in the Tribunal.

The Legal Office is the leading source of information concerning treaties and international law, dealing with a large number of inquiries daily. 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 Legal Office. As the custodian and administrator of all international agreements or treaties to which South Africa is party, the Treaty Section bound 59 international agreements or treaties and instruments of ratification or accession. It added to the Treaty Record 66 international agreements concluded by South Africa.

The Legal Office also made presentations on various aspects of international law to many government Departments. Manuals on the services offered by the Legal Office, on the procedures for the conclusion of

agreements and on the binding of international agreements were compiled and published for the benefit of its clients in the Department and government in general, while information sessions on agreement procedures were also offered.

## Human Rights

South Africa has played a key role in shaping the international human rights agenda including the constant development of international human rights and humanitarian law. A central consideration in South Africa's foreign policy is the commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the advancement of democracy. The political vision of the democratic government in South Africa is predicated on a fundamental principle, which affirms the inextricability of economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand, and civil and political rights on the other.

During the period under review, the South African government actively engaged the processes of UN reform in the area of human rights. South Africa was one of the two Co-Chairs and played a critical role in the formation of the UN Human Rights Council, which was established by the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 on 15 March 2006 in New York.

Consistent with a decision of the South African Cabinet on 22 October 2002, South Africa has received the Special Procedures and Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. South Africa has made regular financial contributions to the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) for the effective operations of the Office, and in support of important funds and programmes within the OHCHR aimed at advancing the cause of human rights globally, such as the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of the Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the recently established United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

The position of the South African government is to advocate a balanced sustainable development pro-



gramme within the human rights framework, which reflects, among others, the primacy of achieving the realisation of the right to development as well as moral human rights issues such as the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment. The outcome document (Programme of Action) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development hosted by South Africa (Johannesburg, 2002) is regarded globally as an instructive document for achieving sustainable development.

South Africa is among the leading countries at the UN who continually evaluate the effectiveness of existing human rights treaties and propose additional instruments in a process of setting norms and standards with the view to updating and strengthening such treaties. In this regard, in collaboration with other member states of the AU, South Africa is leading a process which will initiate the elaboration of complementary standards to update and strengthen the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This process is undertaken within the framework of the mechanisms established to follow up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) hosted by South Africa in Durban in 2001. South Africa, in line with its international obligations, has submitted its country reports to the human rights treaty monitoring bodies of the UN, and to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

South Africa also plays a meaningful role in the process of deepening the core values of democracy, good governance and the rule of law, both at the national, regional and international levels, through its membership and active participation in the following Democracy Forums:

- Community for Democracies
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- Human Security Network
- Progressive Governance in the 21st Century

President Mbeki hosted the Progressive Governance Summit in February 2006 in South Africa.

Consistent with the commitment to advancing the African

Agenda, South Africa works within the African Group at the level of Geneva and New York in the area of human rights. South Africa plays a primary role in advocating the agenda for development through intergovernmental structures of the NAM and the Group of 77 and China (G77).

The DFA has participated in the UN process aimed at evolving international human rights law within the sphere of economic social and cultural rights and the rights of people with disabilities. Its engagement in these processes is guided by the government's vision, strategic objectives and values that are enshrined in the South African Constitution and elaborated in different government policy documents. The Department seeks to incorporate South African human rights values in international human rights law and instruments.

In the above context, the Department has been involved in the elaboration of the following new international human rights instruments:

- The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- The Draft Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding the implementation of international human rights instruments, the Department has participated in the Working Group on the Right to Development tasked with seeking an international consensus on implementing the rights to development. Furthermore, the Department has also hosted the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of People with Disabilities which is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules for the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

**The UN Open-Ended Working Group to consider options regarding the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, February 2006**

The Department attended the third session of the above-mentioned meeting that discussed elements for an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the establishment

of an individual's complaints procedure. South Africa, together with the majority of the delegates, was of the opinion that the process has reached the stage where negotiations on a draft text can begin. Given that there was a small number of countries who were opposed to this or needed more time for further consultation, it was decided that the Chairperson should produce a narrative report that will be brought before the Human Rights Council. It is anticipated that, in due course, the Human Rights Council should take a decision authorising the process of negotiating a draft optional protocol.

#### **The Seventh UN Ad Hoc Committee meeting on the Draft Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, January 2006**

The Ad Hoc Committee continues the process initiated by the General Assembly to develop a comprehensive and integral convention on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. South Africa, in close consultation with the Africa Group, continues to play an effective role in the negotiations. To this end, South Africa represents Africa on the UN Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee on Disability that oversees all administration and logistics of its meetings.

#### **The UN Working Group on the Right to Development January 2006**

South Africa participated in the Seventh Session of the UN Working Group on the Right to Development in close consultation with members of NAM and the African Group. The Working Group reformulated the 15 criteria on periodic evaluation of global partnership necessary for selecting partnership to mainstream the right to development in the policies and the operational activities of relevant actors at national, regional and international level including multilateral financial, trade and development institutions. The Working Group examined regional review initiatives, such as Nepad's African Peer Review Mechanism and the OECD-Nepad Mutual Review on Effectiveness. It considered these regional mechanisms to be of potential value for partnership in assessing the role of human rights in the development process. The NAM

was concerned that there was lack of progress in moving the process from conceptualising to operationalising the right to development. The NAM was of the view that the Working Group should evolve the implementation mechanism for the realisation of the right to development.

#### **Disaster Management**

The Department played an active role in facilitating South African assistance to a number of countries affected by natural and complex humanitarian disasters. During August 2005, the Department supported a humanitarian flight to Niger, organised by the "Gift of the Givers Foundation".

During August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mexican Gulf area of the US, causing severe damage, destruction and death. The Department, in a gesture of solidarity and support, contributed R2 million to assist victims who were students at Howard University.

On 12 October 2005, the Department led the humanitarian assistance mission to Pakistan, following a devastating earthquake in the state of Kashmir. The "Gift of the Givers Foundation" supplied medical personnel as well as approximately 30 tonnes of relief supplies comprising medicines, tents, tinned food and blankets. The Department paid for and facilitated the relief flight to Pakistan and is still involved in longer-term assistance, such as psychotherapeutic trauma intervention for survivors of the earthquake Psychological Relief South Africa in association with the "Al-Imdaad Foundation".

The Department also participated in different conferences and fora, regarding disaster management and assistance, including the:

- SADC Disaster Assessment Meeting in Windhoek from 19 - 20 September 2005
- UNDAC Advisory board meeting in Geneva from 27 - 29 February 2006.
- Third International Early Warning Conference in Bonn, Germany, from 27 - 29 March 2006.

The Department also played a leading role in the nomination of Ambassador SG Nene, Deputy Director-Gen-





**The acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jeff Radebe signing an agreement with the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme Ms Shiela Sisulu, Pretoria May 2006.**

eral Multilateral, Department of Foreign Affairs, to the Central Emergency Relief Fund Advisory Group. Ambassador Nene has since been appointed Co-Chair to the Advisory Group.

### **Humanitarian Assistance**

In addition to disaster management, the Department co-ordinated the provision of humanitarian assistance to a number of international causes. An amount of R8.7 million was provided to a number of UN agencies and international organisations to address the most critical needs of vulnerable groups, war-displaced children, refugees, internally displaced persons and the needs of women on the African continent.

### **Contributions in respect of humanitarian assistance.**

During 2005, South Africa contributed R140 million to the Food and Agriculture Programme (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). This contribution was in response to appeals from the FAO-WFP for assistance in providing emergency support to food security and livestock programmes in Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia. In addition, R500 000 was paid to the International Organisation for Migration for shelter-related programmes to support internally displaced people in Zimbabwe.

### **Human Security Network (HSN)**

The Deputy Director-General of the Department, Mr

AS Minty, represented the Minister at the Seventh HSN Ministerial Meeting in Ottawa from 18 - 20 May 2005. The Seventh Ministerial Meeting adopted two important outcomes namely a "Chair's Summary" and the "Ministerial Statement on Human Security and UN Reform: May 2005". The South African delegation succeeded in securing consensus on a number of important issues for South Africa and the African Region. The final outcome of the Ministerial Meeting included issues such as the widening of the Human Security Network agenda to include development concerns, poverty eradication, gender equality, conflict prevention, the destruction of light and related arms as well as the importance of regional organisations in addressing human security-related challenges.

### **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES**

#### **Work for the reform of the international financial architecture**

The increasing importance of the socio-economic dimension of globalisation and the current insufficiency of institutional arrangements for global economic governance demonstrate the need for a new improved framework to address the attendant challenges, the strengthening of the UN institutions and the promotion of its normative instruments on issues such as social and economic development, peace-building, security, justice and the promotion of human rights.

South Africa, as one of the G20 countries within the In-

ternational Financial Institutions (IFIs), Bretton-Woods Institutions (BWIs), World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), is committed toward achieving the MDGs and continues to pragmatically develop the global partnership among developed and developing countries. Within this context, the evolution of the international economy and global financial markets requires a continuing review of the representation, operations and strategies of the BWIs and it remains committed to the democratisation of the BWIs and the reform of the global financial system.

The main outcome of the Fourth World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Ministerial Conference, held in Doha in November 2001, was an agreement to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would ensure that measures were oriented towards development and poverty alleviation. The Doha Declaration has given members of the WTO the mandate to engage in negotiations on a variety of market access issues.

Progress since Doha, however, has been slow with a series of missed deadlines, followed by the failed Cancun Ministerial Conference in 2003, but negotiations were put back on track following the adoption of the July 2004 package.

The focus in 2005 was to build on what was agreed in the July package, moving towards a first approximation in July and agreement on full modalities in agriculture and industrial market access for the Hong Kong Ministerial (held from 13 - 18 December 2005). It was, however, clear early on that expectations for Hong Kong had to be scaled down and the focus was to deliver a "development package".

In Hong Kong, the deal focused primarily on agriculture and the need to secure developmental outcomes in the other areas of negotiations. The compromise deal that was reached was regarded as a workable platform for keeping the Doha Development Agreement afloat. For the major developing countries in the G20, the view was that the agreement was no major breakthrough, but a small and significant step forward. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other small, weak and vulnerable

countries, there were some incremental gains, but no breakthrough on their major demands.

The most important decisions taken in Hong Kong were that:

- The Doha Round was to be concluded by the end of 2006;
- Agricultural export subsidies were to be eliminated by 2013;
- Full modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) were to be agreed on by April 2006;
- A new schedule of commitments in agriculture and non-agricultural market access was to be submitted by July 2006;
- There would be duty- and quota-free access to 97% of products from LDCs from 2008; and
- Aid for Trade package details would be finalised in 2006.

As part of its efforts to promote the African and Development Agenda, South Africa negotiated as a member of the African Group, the G20 (Agriculture), the Cairns Group (Agriculture) and led the NAMA-11. The latter group was formed just before the Hong Kong Ministerial focusing on negotiations concerning non-agricultural market access. The main objective of the group was to reclaim and emphasise the development content of the round, including flexibility and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

The immediate focus during the first three months of 2006 was on reaching an agreement on full modalities in agriculture and NAMA, in line with the Hong Kong agreed deadline of April 2006.

However, it was clear early on that the deadline was going to be missed, thus jeopardising the envisaged conclusion of the Doha Development Round by the end of 2006, unless political intervention could speed up negotiations.

### World Trade Organisation (WTO)

In the World Trade Organisation, South Africa support-



ed the implementation of the African and development agenda, by actively negotiating as a member of the African Group, the Group of 20 (G20) (Agriculture) and the Cairns Group (Agriculture). South Africa also led the NAMA-11, a group formed just before the Hong Kong Ministerial, focusing on negotiations in non-agricultural market access. The main objective of the group was to reclaim and emphasise the development content of the round, including flexibility and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

In respect of developing country alliances, another important, historic development at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005 involved a meeting of all developing country groupings (G20, G33, ACP, Africa Union, LDCs, Caribbean Community) on one platform. This meeting (the G110) signalled the possibility for collaboration in harmonising the positions of developing countries relating to important issues, such as trade regulations, that may impede sustainable development.

### Group of 8 (G8)

The two key objectives for Africa in relation to the G8 member-states were to transform the South-North relationship to align it with Africa's priorities as outlined in the Nepad Strategy and to induce the much-needed capital inflows needed to realise Nepad's objectives.

At the G8 2005 Gleneagles Summit, various commitments were announced in the areas of aid, debt and trade, as well as some sector interventions.

**Aid:** A commitment was made to double aid over the next five years by an annual amount to equal US \$50 billion by 2010, with conditions being set with respect to governance, democracy and transparency. About half of the increase was to go to Africa.

**Debt Relief:** The G7 Finance Ministers announced a US \$40 billion debt write-off for 18 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and "completion point" countries which include 14 African countries. These debts were mainly International Development Agency (IDA) con-

cessional loans, although some IMF and World Bank loans were also included.

**Trade:** The G8 leaders committed to a "credible date" by which trade-distorting domestic subsidies would be significantly reduced. They also committed to improving non-agricultural market access for LDC products and called on World Trade Organisation member-states to work with urgency towards a conclusion of the Doha Development Round by 2006.

**Climate Change:** The G8 acknowledged the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change as the appropriate forum for negotiating future action and the commitment to ensuring the success of the Kyoto Protocol by those who ratified it. The importance attached to realising the commitments made was through the creation of a G8 +5 Outreach forum. South Africa, India, Brazil, China and Mexico formed this Outreach Partnership as a first step towards more formalised interaction.

**Sector Interventions:** Commitments were announced regarding peace and stability, promoting good and responsive government, human resources, development, health, science and technology, agriculture and infrastructure.

**G8 2006 + 5 dialogue:** The Climate Change G8 +5 engagement created a new platform of engagement for 2006 between the G8 and the five emerging developing countries, China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa.

G8 2006 brought the Russian Federation to the chair for the first time. The +5 emerging developing countries were engaged as Strategic Outreach Partners in preparation for the July Summit in Saint Petersburg. Engagement centres on the development of the three central themes for 2006: International energy security; health care: fighting communicable diseases - HIV and AIDS: Tuberculosis, malaria, polio and avian flu and education development. These themes link the G8 developed world and the developing world's development concerns. To date, the G8 +5 dialogue has been manifested in a series of G8 Ministerial meetings following

set themes for the 2006 Summit. It was envisaged that a special outreach dialogue or session would form part of the Summit programme in Saint Petersburg with this being considered an acknowledgement of the importance of the G8 +5 engagement to ensure sustainable development.

**G8 Africa Action Plan:** At Gleneagles, the G8 Africa Personal Representatives presented a comprehensive G8 Africa Implementation Progress Report which provided an integrated account by G8 members with respect to their progress since Kananaskis. Some of the challenges — as a result of each G8 member country having its own bilateral initiative to implement the 110 commitments made at Kananaskis, rather than an integrated G8–Africa intervention — relate to measurability and accountability. In addition, bilateral G8 country interventions are not always in synergy with Nepad priorities while double counting pledges made with respect to debt and aid inflates reporting.

**Africa Partnership Forum (APF):** As a traditional G8 African partner, South Africa uses its Strategic Outreach Partnership position to further G8 commitment to the African Agenda. The joint mechanism of co-operation between the G8 and Africa, the African Partnership Forum, will report to the Russian Presidency in October 2006 on progress made regarding the implementation of agreed African-G8 initiatives. The key interest for Africa is ensuring sustained commitment to the outcomes as far as G8-Africa initiatives for development are concerned. Areas to be focused on are the development of infrastructure in Africa, the development of agriculture, food and water security and addressing AIDS. The key interest for the G8 is to see the enactment of commitments made.

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

Over recent years, South Africa has steadily developed closer ties with the OECD. As such, South Africa has formally indicated the inclination to enter into a more structured relationship with the OECD. In line with the decision taken by cabinet, national Departments have been encouraged to actively explore the work of and

pursue applications for official observer status in those individual OECD committees that are relevant to their portfolios. A programme of policy alignment, or “accession path” to the OECD would allow for gradual alignment of South Africa’s economic and social policies with those of the OECD agreements and instruments, so that a future decision to become a full member would not require any major adjustments.

**Developments in South Africa-OECD relations during 2005/6:**

- In April 2005, the Department of Foreign Affairs participated in the Global Dialogue in Paris;
- In May 2005, South Africa was invited by the OECD Council to become a full participant in the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions. Application for accession to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business was launched in Parliament;
- In May 2005, the Minister of Trade and Industry participated in the Annual Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris, ensuring access to intensified dialogue among trade policy makers to ensure concrete WTO Doha Round results in preparation for the Hong Kong Ministerial;
- In June 2005, a South African delegation attended the 142nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the High Level Meeting of the Committee;
- South Africa’s observer status on the Committee for Fiscal Affairs (CFA) was renewed to 2007. The South African Revenue Service also attended the 69th Session of the CFA in June 2005 in Paris;
- In September 2005 the South African Revenue Service participated in the 10th Annual International Taxation meeting on Tax Treaties and Transfer Pricing;
- In November 2005 a South Africa-OECD Workshop on International Science and Technology Co-operation for Sustainable Development was held;
- The Committee for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs decided not to invite South Africa to participate as a regular observer, but offered ad

hoc observership, related to theme-specific South African interests.

- In February 2006, South Africa's membership of the Development Centre was approved;
- South Africa was invited to apply for observer status on the Committee on Statistics; and
- South Africa was invited to apply for observership to the OECD Committee on Steel;

### World Economic Forum (WEF)

The World Economic Forum continues to be an important forum for dialogue between political and business leaders and civil society. Its Annual Meetings in January and the Africa Economic Summits in June have proved to be important events in keeping Africa on the global agenda.

The World Economic Forum also branded 2005 the "Year of Africa", starting early in the year with its Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Its 15th Africa Summit was held from 1 – 3 June 2005 in Cape Town, with about 700 registered participants from 42 countries. The theme of the Summit was "A Call To Action – Help make 2005 the Year of Africa".

The focus of the Cape Town Summit therefore was the UK's Commission for Africa (CfA) report and its recommendations. In addition, 400 business delegates signed a declaration endorsing the CfA recommendations in preparation for the G8 Gleneagles Summit.

Neither the President nor any cabinet minister participated in the WEF's January 2006 Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

### Facilitate implementation of the outcomes of the major international conferences

In its international engagements, South Africa participated actively in ECOSOC Special High Level Meetings with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD on 18 April 2005 at the UN Headquarters, in New York. The overall theme of the meeting was "Coherence, co-ordination and co-operation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus : Achieving the internationally

agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."

South Africa also participated in the second High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development from 27 - 28 June 2005 at the UN in New York, which was a follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the first General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development that took place from 29 - 30 October 2003, also in New York.

South Africa noted the outcomes of the 2005 UN Millennium Review Summit, which has its origins in the MDGs and the progress that the international community has made toward achieving the MDGs. President - Mbeki led the South African delegation, which also included Foreign Minister Dlamini Zuma, and Minister of Social Development Dr Zola Skweyiya, to the World Summit in New York in September 2005. The Summit culminated in the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. It encapsulated, inter alia, important concerns of Africa and the developing world in general relating to socio-economic development and security affairs.

The outcome of the 2005 Millennium Review Summit was disappointing in that little progress was made in promoting the development agenda of the UN. One significant positive outcome of the Summit was the universal acceptance of the MDGs as benchmark measures of progress in development. However, the Summit failed to meet earlier expectations that a realisable, pro-active plan for an international partnership for the achievement of the MDGs would be forthcoming. Following the 2005 World Summit, South Africa will continue striving and working towards the focus of international dialogue remaining on implementation.

### Monterrey Consensus

In participating in international engagements, the DFA solicited the international community to fulfil its Monterrey Commitments and recognise the need for increased and more predictable resources for development. The historic UN International Conference on Financing for

Development (FfD) that took place in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 reinforced the objectives established by the MDGs. The implementation of Monterrey is vital to achieving the MDGs and the agreements of the International Summits (such as the 2002 WSSD Johannesburg Summit) and conferences that underpin the MDGs. The successful implementation of the objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration, particularly those aimed at improving the economic and social conditions of the people of Africa, is of specific importance to South Africa. It constitutes one of the key elements in the country's interaction with the UNGA as well as with the other bodies of the UN.

Progress in achieving the MDGs has been exceptionally slow, most notably in Sub-Saharan Africa. This can be attributed primarily to the fact that current international efforts to assist developing countries in their efforts are inadequate to meet the need. The ongoing efforts to identify and utilise innovative new sources of financing for development are critical to overcoming the financing constraints that limit progress towards attaining international development objectives. Heeding South Africa's shared responsibility and to underscore its determination to act against hunger and poverty, in March 2006 South Africa joined the Action Against Hunger and Poverty Initiative (the Initiative). This Initiative called for more international action to identify concrete measures and solutions to the problem of insufficient financing, as well as for further co-ordination between different financing mechanisms.

To further enhance the international consensus on innovative sources of financing for development to realise the MDGs, within the framework of the Monterrey consensus, and specifically to emphasise the fight against transmissible diseases, the French Government hosted an International Ministerial Conference in Paris from 28 February – 1 March 2006 to discuss innovative sources of financing, including the proposal for a solidarity levy on air tickets. Minister Dlamini Zuma led the South African delegation to the conference, and pledged South Africa's support by joining the "Leading Group on Solidarity Levies" to fund development within the framework of the Forum. The Paris Conference


produced a new dynamic for the process of "Innovative Instruments for Financing Development" and was an important milestone on the road to expanding the circle of countries that support innovative mechanisms for financing development and the fight against poverty and to establishing a pilot group of countries ready to implement such financing in a short time. Various options, such as the international financing facility, co-development and facilitation of transfers of migrants, the tax on financial transactions and the fight against tax evasion were considered.

Many of the commitments to be undertaken to ensure the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus could be undermined by restrictive policies such as the imposition of political conditions in providing development assistance and concessionary financing. South Africa will continue to promote their removal as they impede further progress in recipient countries.

### European Union (EU)

South Africa's relations with the EU are governed by the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), which was signed in 1999 and came into force in January 2000. The Agreement is to be reviewed within five years of its entering into force, in order to address the possible implications of other arrangements or events that may affect it. The process of the Review of the TDCA commenced in 2005 and a Joint Progress Report was presented to the 2005 Joint Co-operation Council (JCC) Ministerial. The 2005 JCC gave the mandate for formal negotiations for the Review of the TDCA to commence, with a view to final adoption of the changes before the end of 2006. The parties were subsequently to establish the working groups following the granting of a negotiation mandate to the EU interlocutors. The working groups have yet to be established, as the European Commission's mandate for the Review remains outstanding.

The TDCA was fully ratified on 1 May 2004 and co-operation on the Articles of the TDCA that were put in abeyance pending the completion of ratification procedures must now be activated. The 2004 Ministerial



JCC decided that the Full Implementation of new areas of co-operation of the TDCA should be pursued. Consequently, the Department held a series of inter-Departmental meetings, after which the South African proposal for new areas for Full Implementation were communicated to the Delegation of the European Commission. The Delegation indicated that the European Commission was not yet in a position to enter into discussions on the proposed new areas of co-operation, pending a Council mandate.

### Western Europe

During annual donor consultations with the countries of Western Europe it was ensured that socio-economic issues in South Africa and the region were pertinent on the agenda and this led to several trilateral development aid projects being initiated. South Africa also participated in the Helsinki Process to promote the MDGs.

Similarly, the annual consultation mechanisms with these countries were used to facilitate dialogue and consultations in support of the multilateral programme on the WTO Doha (Hong Kong) Round, ODA and Debt Relief.

Co-operation with Germany in the field of knowledge and skills transfer regarding the 2010 World Cup Soccer intensified in preparation for the 2006 World Cup Soccer. In this regard, several visits by delegations from all spheres of government to Germany were successfully facilitated.

### Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Bid

South Africa is committed to playing a constructive role in advancing international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Department of Science and Technology has identified astronomy and space science as a key strategic focus and the Department of Foreign Affairs has identified the bid to host the SKA as one of its priorities. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is a US \$1 billion

international project to construct a radio telescope with a receiving surface of a million square metres, which would make it one hundred times larger than the largest receiving surface currently in existence anywhere in the world. South Africa has indicated that if its bid is successful, it intends to host the SKA in the Northern Cape. A comprehensive bid document was submitted during December 2005 with additional supporting technical documents submitted during March 2006. The country's bid enjoys the support of neighbouring countries on the continent.

Australia, China and Argentina have also submitted bids to host the SKA. This mega-project requires that many nations pool their expertise and resources, but the telescope must ultimately be constructed in the best possible location. An independent international site selection committee, made up of international experts, has been established and has now been tasked with evaluating and comparing the bids of all four countries in order to rank the potential sites and ultimately select the host country. A final decision on the outcome of the bid is expected in 2008.

Southern Africa is fast becoming a hub of activity in the field of astronomy and related technologies. Winning the SKA bid would be a major step forward for the government's Astronomy Geographical Advantage Programme (AGAP).

### World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

It is widely acknowledged that information communication technologies (ICT) play a pivotal role in socio-economic development as defined by Nepad and as an instrument for achieving the MDGs. To give effect to this objective, the Department actively participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The WSIS took place in two phases: the first was hosted in Geneva in 2003 and the second phase took place in Tunisia from 16 - 18 November 2005. Various preparatory meetings were held during 2005 to finalise the texts of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which were adopted by the



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sue van der Merwe with the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom attending the National Climate Change Conference in Midrand, October 2005.

Heads of State and Government at the WSIS on Friday 18 November 2005.

Three important issues dominated the last preparatory meeting which was held prior to the Summit, namely, internet governance, financing mechanisms and implementation mechanisms for the Plan of Action developed during the first phase of the WSIS in Geneva.

During the Summit itself, Internet governance and the WSIS Plan of Action became the recurrent themes in many of the statements by heads of state and government and leaders of delegations. President Thabo Mbeki, who led the South African delegation to the WSIS, emphasised the need to establish a system for Internet governance that is legitimate, transparent and accountable.

### Climate Change

The Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the First Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1) took place in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November - 10 December 2005. At COP/MOP1, parties discussed and adopted decisions on the outstanding operational details of the Kyoto Protocol, including a package of decisions known as the "Marrakech Accords". These decisions contain guidelines on how the Protocol will function, such as those relating to the flexible mechanisms intended to help parties reach their emissions targets in a cost-effective way and a compliance mechanism. Adv S De Wet, Chief State Law

Advisor (International Law) of the Department was elected as a member of the Compliance Committee. COP/MOP1 also took decisions on a process for considering further commitments for post-2012, when the Protocol's first commitment period will end.


COP11 addressed issues such as capacity building, technology development and transfer, the adverse effects of climate change on developing and least developed countries and several financial and budget-related issues, including guidelines for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which serves as the Convention's financial mechanism. The COP also agreed on a process for considering future action beyond 2012 under the UNFCCC.

A joint COP and COP/MOP high-level segment was held from 7 - 9 December 2005, in which the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism participated.

### South African Extended Continental Shelf Claim Project

Good progress continues to be made by the Steering Committee (Project Team) on which the Department is represented, in the preparation of South Africa's claim for an extended continental shelf. In terms of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), coastal states would be entitled to an extended continental shelf beyond their national jurisdiction, provided such claims could be substantiated in accordance with the provisions of said Convention. South Africa is one of more than 55 coastal states that have potential claims.





States have until 13 May 2009 to prepare and submit their claims to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). The South African continental shelf claim project started in 2003 and has six (6) potential claims situated on its west, south and east coasts as well as around Marion and Prince Edward Islands. It is estimated that a successful claim will add many thousands of square kilometres to South Africa's existing landmass. A successful claim will also allow South Africa to exploit natural resources such as oil, gas and diamonds, and biological organisms on the seabed for pharmaceutical purposes.

### International Maritime Organisation

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is the UN's specialised agency responsible for international maritime matters with the primary objective of ensuring high standards of safety and security at sea and preventing the pollution of the oceans caused by ships. South Africa's involvement in IMO matters has increased considerably over the past few years, especially since it was elected to the IMO Council in 1997.

In order to enhance its involvement in the IMO, South Africa accredited the South African High Commissioner in London as South African Permanent Representative to the IMO on 26 May 2005. A permanent representative of a member government is the official link between the organisation and the government in respect of all political, diplomatic, administrative and technical issues. An official from the Department of Transport based at the South African High Commission in London was accredited as South Africa's Alternate Permanent Representative to the IMO.

During the Regular Session of the IMO Assembly, which was held from 21 November - 2 December 2005, South Africa was re-elected to serve in Category C of the IMO Council for the 2006 - 2007 biennium. The South African Alternate Representative to the IMO was elected as Vice-Chair of the IMO Council.

### The UN Convention on Biodiversity

The Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) of the

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Curitiba, Brazil, back-to-back with the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP3). The large number of participants is seen as an indication of the growing importance of the conservation of biodiversity as a tool in global actions to alleviate poverty, transfer knowledge, capacity building in especially developing countries and the protection of traditional knowledge systems globally. Furthermore, this COP also created new ground for the G77 and China to pursue common positions on substantive issues. South Africa chaired all G77 and China meetings.

South Africa's policies and programmes recognise that the conservation of biodiversity goes hand-in-hand with meeting its social and economic obligations as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), Nepad and the UN MDGs.

One of the most important recent achievements in addressing South African biodiversity concerns was the publication in 2005 of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment. It revealed that many of South Africa's terrestrial ecosystems; main rivers and estuarine biodiversity are critically endangered.

As required by Article 6 of the CBD, and to reinforce the protection of South Africa's natural heritage and in keeping with South Africa's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which guides the conservation and management of biodiversity in South Africa, has been launched. The NBSAP aims to ensure sustainable and equitable benefits for all communities. It also provides for the entrenchment of biodiversity considerations in the production sectors, for example the agricultural, forestry and mining industries.

Publishing a National Biodiversity Framework will mark the first time that an ecosystem approach to biodiversity management will be introduced and secured in South Africa.

### Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP3)

On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an advanced informed agreement procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the importation of such organisms into their territory. The Protocol contains reference to a precautionary approach and establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House to facilitate the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is an information exchange mechanism established to implement its provisions and to facilitate sharing of information on, and experience with, living modified organisms (LMOs).

As a party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, South Africa participated in the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP3) in Curitiba, Brazil. The implementation of the Cartagena Protocol is of great importance to South Africa since the country is a producer, importer and transit country of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

COP/MOP-3 considered several reports on ongoing activities within the Protocol's mandate and adopted decisions on requirements for the handling, transport, packaging and identification (HTPI) of living modified organisms (LMOs); risk assessment and risk management; liability and redress; compliance; the need to establish subsidiary bodies; monitoring and reporting; and assessment and review of implementation.

The South African government adopted a national biotechnology strategy in 2001 and committed an initial R450 million from 2004 - 2007 for biotechnology development. The strategy highlights the importance of a "bio-economy" calling for the development of commercially viable biotechnology products. South Africa has made huge strides in developing agricultural biotechnology and has approximately 500 000 hectares under genetically modified crops.

South Africa is leading the way in Africa in the field of GMOs by commercialising the production of GM crops in agriculture.

The percentage of crops that are genetically modified is as follows:


• White maize	:	8.2%
• Yellow Maize	:	24.1%
• Soya	:	50%
• Cotton	:	85%

The traits approved in South Africa for commercial cultivation are insect-resistant cotton, herbicide-tolerant cotton, herbicide-tolerant Soya, and insect-resistant white and yellow maize.

South Africa recognises the potential benefits that can arise from the use of biotechnology and to this end it has adopted a National Biotechnology Strategy that identifies biotechnology as a tool for sustainable development. South Africa believes that in future the application of biotechnology may contribute to the mitigation of environmental impacts on agriculture and therefore continues to invest in capacity-building initiatives to this end. The positions that South Africa has adopted under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety have been informed by the policy imperatives of eradicating poverty, food security, the Nepad goals, and promoting the sustainable development agenda and the MDGs.

### **UNESCO : African Heritage Experts meeting and the creation of an African Fund**

Relevant authorities and Departments were preparing for an African World Heritage Fund donor Conference and launch in May 2006. Heritage Experts from around the Continent gathered in South Africa in March 2005 to discuss the state of African World Heritage and to finalise an African Position Paper. The African Position Paper is both a vision and a 10-year action document with specific recommendations designed to enhance the preservation and promotion of Africa's heritage, as well as the sustainable usage thereof in promoting economic development and the eradication of poverty. At the AU Special Summit on Culture and Education in



January 2006 the mandate was given to go ahead with the creation of an African World Heritage Fund.

### **UNESCO : The 29th World Heritage Committee Meeting in Durban, 10 - 19 July 2005**

South Africa was elected as the Chair and host country for the World Heritage Committee's 29th Session, which was held in Durban in July 2005 by the signatories to the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, popularly known as the World Heritage Convention, at the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Suzhou, China in July 2004.

Forty African States Parties to the Convention resolved to draft an African Position Paper and a 10-year Plan of Action to deal with challenges facing Africa in conserving its World Heritage. It was agreed that South Africa's hosting of the 29th Session was an African event that provided an opportunity not only to give profile to pertinent issues related to the conservation of Africa's heritage, but also an opportunity to link Africa's cultural and natural heritage with the socio-economic development of the Continent.

### **UNESCO: 33rd General Conference**

Three South African ministers attended the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO in October 2005 thus providing a high profile to the country's efforts within the organisation.

The Minister of Education, Ms N Pandor, participated in the Plenary, plus parts of the discussions of Commission II (Education), as well as the Ministerial Round-Table on Education for All. She also attended meetings of the African Group; and held a number of bilateral meetings with her counterparts from strategically important countries. By a large majority, speakers in the Plenary voiced their support for refocusing UNESCO's attention and resources on implementation of the Education for All Programme, the major flagship programme of the organisation, especially in Africa, to meet the MDGs related to education. Also to receive more focus and attention are

teacher training in Africa; the provision of quality education; and capacity-building in education in Africa.

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr P Jordan, attended the debate in Plenary on the draft Cultural Diversity Convention and held bilateral meetings with his Brazilian and Canadian counterparts.

The Minister of Social Development Zola Skweyiya was elected President of the Inter-Governmental Council of UNESCO's MOST Programme (Management of Social Transformations). He was elected specifically to regenerate the MOST Programme, which has been neglected for the past few years.

South Africa is part of a steering group formed at the initiative of Member States, to liaise with the Secretariat to work at ensuring that the needs of the developing countries are actually addressed in the programmes implemented by the Sciences Sector of UNESCO.

### **UNESCO : Drafting of a new Convention on the Protection of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expression**

Former Minister Kader Asmal chaired the UNESCO Intergovernmental Meeting to draft a new Convention on the Protection of Cultural Content and Artistic Expression. The Intergovernmental Committee met during 2004/05 and presented the draft convention for adoption to the UNESCO General Conference. The Convention seeks to protect national cultural goods, including film production, radio, traditional properties, book publications, and music, by way of national policies, subsidies and support for indigenous cultural goods. African and G77 countries were strongly in favour of the Convention that was finalised in time for adoption in October 2005 by the UNESCO General Conference. The Convention was adopted under the name Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

### **UNESCO Conventions Ratified**

The General Conference adopted three normative instruments, namely the:



The family is a powerful agent for political, economic and social change as evidenced by President Thabo Mbeki during his visit to this family during an *Imbizo* to the Northern Cape, March 2005.

- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Diversity
- Convention against Doping in Sport. This was adopted unanimously and is the first legally-binding, universal instrument aimed at eradicating doping in the sport environment
- Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (adopted by acclamation).

The General Conference also decided to develop a standard setting instrument, in the form of a Declaration of Principles, on the cultural objects displaced during the Second World War, and to develop a strategy to facilitate the restitution of stolen or illicitly-exported cultural property.

A number of Member States have called for a period of cooling-off in the drafting and adoption by UNESCO of new normative instruments, and the focus for the future will be on seeking to ensure ratification and implementation of those Conventions already adopted.

**African World Heritage Fund:** Regarding cultural heritage, at the Plenary Session the resolution approving the African Position Paper and the creation of the African World Heritage Fund was adopted. The fund will provide capacity-building for African governments to conserve their World Heritage sites, and to protect those sites that are on the Endangered List.

### UNESCO Executive Board and Subsidiary Bodies

South Africa was successful in lobbying support for her

election to the Executive Board: Professor Brian Figaji was elected to serve from 2005 – 2009 and Minister Z Skweyiya was elected to serve on the Inter-Governmental Council (IGC) of the MOST Programme, and the Council of the International Hydrological Programme. South Africa was successful by wide majorities in the above mentioned positions and was also re-elected to the International Oceanographic Commission. Minister Skweyiya as Chair of the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST), which is a subsidiary body of UNESCO, participated in the successful International Forum of Social Sciences that was held in Argentina and Uruguay in February 2006.

### UN Commission for Social Development (UNC-SocD)

The UN Commission for Social Development met in New York in its annual session as a follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, from 8 - 7 February 2006. The priority theme for the 44th Session was the Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997 – 2006). Delegates also discussed:

- The relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups;
- World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
- World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;
- Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;
- Family Issues; Policies and Programmes.



**President Thabo Mbeki addressing young people's issues during Youth Day celebrations in the Northern Cape**

At the conclusion of the Commission, it adopted the following resolutions by consensus: Methods of work, youth employment, ageing, disability and family. The only outstanding issue was the outcome (Chairman's text) on the priority theme "Review of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997 – 2006)".

The Group of 77 and China (G77 + China) and the European Union's attempts to produce an outcome were successfully defeated by the US delegation. The main objection of the delegation from the US was centred on the notion that social development issues should be separated from economic issues.

South Africa will introduce a resolution, containing all the important issues related to poverty reduction, during the Third Committee (September/October 2006)

### **Five-year strategic plan for families in South Africa**

The family is a powerful agent for political, economic and social change. The government of South Africa is overseeing the process to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for Families in South Africa that is aligned to the Plan of Action for Families in Africa, endorsed by the African Parliamentary Union in 2004. A National Family Policy that will promote integrated services for families in order to address the needs of families is due to be finalised by the end of 2006. South Africa is committed to strengthening and preserving families within communities for a better life for all. The most vulnerable

members of families are identified as children, youth, older people, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, as well as members of child-headed households and households affected by disasters. The strategy will soon be finalised and will guide service delivery to families.

### **International Meeting of Delegates/Experts of the Commission for Social Development, "The Family: Care-Giving and Social Integration"**

The International Meeting of Delegates/Experts of the Commission for Social Development took place in Murcia, Spain, from 27 - 30 June 2005. The Conference was organised by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family, in collaboration with the UN Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). This was a follow-up to the Tenth Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family. The programme focused on the family within the framework of the UN Commission for Social Development. The main objective of the Conference was to assist governments and international organisations in identifying priority needs, concrete measures and recommendations for action to promote the role of the family in social integration. South Africa reported at the aforementioned Conference on the Regional Conference on Families held in Durban, from 1 - 4 March 2005. This Regional Conference sets the tone for the implementation of the AU Plan of Action for Families in Africa. The United Nations Commission for Social Development (38th Session) re-affirmed the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action in its Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the World

Summit for Social Development and recommitted itself to promoting social integration. The Commission also reiterated that one of the major challenges towards “a society for all” was to develop and implement effective policies, strategies and partnerships, which this International Conference successfully achieved.

### Rights of Older Persons

The 1982 Vienna Plan of Action on the Aged was the first international agreement to commit governments to act on the rights for older persons, to end age discrimination, protect the human rights of older persons and specify that ageing should be mainstreamed into the global development agenda. It was replaced by the 2002 Madrid Plan of Action on the Aged. The UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid in 2002, was a turning point in international policy debate and action on ageing. The Assembly recognised ageing as a global development phenomenon and supported the inclusion of ageing in the international development agenda. The Madrid Plan clearly focuses on developing countries that will have to respond to ageing with limited economic resources and an increasingly strained social base.

### Older Persons Bill

The Madrid Plan provides a policy framework for governments to develop country-specific plans of action on ageing. In August 2004, South Africa hosted an Africa workshop in which the Africa Declaration on Ageing (“the Africa Declaration”) was developed. Pursuant to these policy frameworks the Older Person Bill was passed in June 2005 and public hearings conducted with civil society. However, the National Assembly must still approve the draft Bill.

### The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) to the Year 2000 and Beyond

The UN General Assembly recommends that Member States include a youth representative in their delegations to the annual general assembly sessions. A youth delegation from South Africa participated in the 10th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action

for Youth (WPAY) to the Year 2000 and Beyond (5 - 6 October 2005).

The Charter of the United Nations commits all member countries to work towards enabling young men and women to enjoy full participation in all societies. The declaration of 1985 as the United Nation’s International Year of the Youth (IYY) was an important development that sought to place youth development in the context of human development and rights and as an important sector in all societies.


To further this objective, the UN adopted world action plans for youth, the most recent of which is the World Action Plan for Youth (WAPY) to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1995. The WAPY aims to foster the well-being of all young people, and their full and active participation in the society in which they live.

As a member of the United Nations, South Africa is also a signatory to a number of other international covenants that incorporate youth development goals , including Goal 16 of the MDGs that calls for member countries to develop strategies to ensure ‘decent work for young people’. Another significant covenant is the Copenhagen Summit for Social development.

With regard to the African Agenda, the human developmental and rights thrusts of the African Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad) should contribute to providing an enabling environment for the development of the continent’s young people. These institutions are still in the process of developing youth policy frameworks, which would provide a basis for mainstreaming youth development in continental and regional institutions and policies .

### 2005 UN Youth Assembly 3 - 5 August 2005

South Africa participated in the 2005 Youth Assembly from 3 - 5 August 2005. The Youth Assembly was a gathering for and about youth and their future relations to the UN. The Assembly was organised by the Friendship Ambassadors’ Foundation, in collaboration with the Executive



Committee consisting of non-government organisations affiliated to the UN Department of Public Information, and the UN Foundation.

The 2005 Assembly was a special conference aimed at addressing and celebrating the youth movement in taking action to make the MDGs a reality on an international scale. It came at a crucial time when the UN was set to undertake a 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the 60th UN Anniversary and International Youth Day celebrations.

During the Assembly, respective youth delegates met members of the UN Secretariat, Missions, and NGOs affiliated with the UN, and heard presentations from UN Agencies, such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The delegates also learnt about major issues facing the UN during its period of major reform and at the time of its 60th anniversary. The Youth Assembly further focused on young people championing humanitarian causes around the world and how youth can be involved in helping to achieve the MDGs.

### **Visit to South Africa by the UN Special Rapporteur on Disabilities, Hissa Khalifa A Al Thani, November 2005**

The UN Special Rapporteur on Disabilities visited South Africa from 21 - 25 November 2005 to fulfil her mandate under the UN Standard Rules on the Equalisation of People with Disabilities, which is to monitor the implementation of these rules. The Special Rapporteur met with five government ministers, the Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission, parliamentarians, NGOs and visited facilities for people with disabilities. She acknowledged that South Africa's Constitution and legislation lend support to the promotion and protection of rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. The Special Rapporteur encouraged South Africa to fast-track the implementation of its disability legislation. She was impressed that 4.5% of members of parliament are people with disabilities.

### **Women's Rights and Children's Rights**

The Department has been actively involved in global efforts to improve the protection and promotion of women and children's rights. To this end, South Africa attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York from 27 February - 10 March 2006 and also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 18 October 2005. South Africa also held three consultative meetings in South Africa with stakeholders to prepare responses to the questionnaire from the United Nation's Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children.

### **The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**

South Africa participated in the 50th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in New York from 27 February - 10 March 2006. During the Session, action was taken on all but one of the five resolutions which were adopted by consensus. These included texts on a draft resolution on the:

- Future Methods of Work,
- Azerbaijan-sponsored resolution on the release of women and children taken hostage,
- G77-sponsored resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,
- Slovenia and Rwanda-sponsored resolution on the Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, and the
- SADC resolution on Women, the Girl Child and HIV/AIDS.

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period of 2002 - 2006, the Commission focused on two themes during the 50th session, namely:

- Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account inter alia, the fields of education, health and work;
- Equal participation of women-and men in decision-making processes at all levels.



President Thabo Mbeki at the National Children's day celebrations in Soweto.

During the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Group of 77 and China (chaired by South Africa) decided not to have a position on the two thematic issues, as consensus on a number of issues could not be achieved. The African Group also did not reach a common position considering the fact that North African countries such as the Sudan and Egypt already supported the positions of the Like-Minded Group as well as the Arab Group. As a result, Member States of this Group negotiated in their national capacities or supported the positions of representatives of their regional groups.

### Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

On 18 October 2005, South Africa acceded to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Optional Protocol to the Convention empowers the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider communications submitted by individuals or groups of individuals alleging violations of the Convention in state parties and the Optional Protocol.

### Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy

South Africa, as a Friend of the Helsinki Process, was identified in 2005 as the facilitator for the development of a roadmap and base document on 'gender equality and violence against women'. South Africa drew on its

own challenges and experiences to introduce the following elements into the road map:

- A national score card based on the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) introduced in March 2003, a working document for the production of the African Women's report, a publication of the Economic Commission for Africa;
- Strengthening the existing international and regional mechanism, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women ((INSTRAW), the United Nations Population Fund, and the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO);
- An International Coalition led by influential women in the global arena, for instance Nobel prize-winners, current and former women heads of state and government, and prominent women in business and the private sector;
- The idea of a development agenda for women, to empower women and allow them to better protect themselves against violence and other abuses;
- The South African Thuthuzela Centres as an example of a one-stop support mechanism for female victims of violence; and
- A linkage to the roadmap on human trafficking, a scourge women are more susceptible to suffering due to their vulnerability.



### **Consultation meetings on information gathering to respond to the Questionnaire from the United Nation's Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children**

The Department of Foreign Affairs participated in national consultation meetings in March, June and July 2005 respectively that were aimed at gathering information to respond to the questionnaire received from the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children. These seminars aimed at gathering information on government's legal, institutional and policy framework to how it response to violence against children. The information is being collated into a formal response that will be forwarded to the UN.

### **World Good Programme (WFP)/ Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)**

During 2005, the Department conducted discussions with the National Department of Agriculture to find the best way of addressing food shortages in the region. The objective of South Africa's aid package is to support the Nepad objectives and the MDGs by concentrating on interventions that safeguard the sustainable development of affected communities thus assisting in reducing their dependency on long-term aid. The South African government has contributed R140 million to the Food and Agricultural Organisation and World Food Programme (FAO and WFP) to support food relief and rehabilitation projects in seven Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries namely, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

### **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) CONFERENCE**

The Department participated in the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, which was held in Rome from 19 - 26 November 2005. Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs Ms AT Didiza the led the South African delegation. The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Ms B Sonjica, also participated in the Conference, particularly in the roundtable discussions on the issue of water for agriculture.

The Conference discussed and reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the world; reported on policy issues, evaluated budgetary matters and discussed legal, administrative and financial matters.

The current Director-General of the FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf of Senegal, was re-elected for the period 2006 - 2011 during the 33rd Session. The AU endorsed his candidature. The Iranian candidate was elected Independent Chair of the Council and South Africa was elected to the Council to take up the seat that will be vacated by Angola for the period 1 January 2007 - November 2009.

### **Migration, Refugees, Internally Displaced People and Human Security**

#### **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

South Africa served as a member of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR. South Africa also co-chaired the Convention Plus strand on the irregular secondary movement of asylum seekers and refugees with Switzerland. The Convention Plus Initiative was launched by the former UNHCR with the objective of establishing more effective and equitable systems to address and resolve refugee problems globally by international burden-sharing and durable solutions to refugee situations. Significant progress was achieved during the negotiations on the sensitive issue of irregular secondary movement before the Convention Plus Initiative was suspended.

A senior South African delegation, led by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, participated in the 56th Executive Committee (Excom) of the UNHCR in Geneva during October 2005. The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs stated that only a holistic approach to the challenge of refugees and IDPs, which placed development at its core, would yield durable solutions. He cautioned against seeing development and humanitarian assistance as mutually exclusive options. He finally called for the early involvement of all UN actors (security, humanitarian and development) in pursuing comprehensive solutions.

The DFA supported humanitarian projects of the UNHCR in order to contribute to the consolidation of the African Agenda. South Africa also participated in the UNHRC's annual donor consultations.

### **Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Angolan Refugees from South Africa**

The signing of the MoU between the Government of Angola and UNITA during April 2002 heralded a new era of peace in Angola and paved the way for the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees and asylum seekers. The South African government, the Angolan government and the UNHCR held the Second Tripartite Commission meeting in Luanda, Angola, 23 - 24 June 2005 to discuss the Plan of Operation for the Voluntary and Organised Repatriation of Angolan Refugees in the Republic of South Africa. It is estimated that there are approximately 13 626 Angolan refugees and asylum-seekers in South Africa and that 4 000 may avail themselves of the opportunity presented by the tripartite voluntary repatriation process to return to Angola before October 2006.

### **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**

South Africa served on both the Council and Executive Board of the IOM where it participated, among others, in negotiations concerning the IOM's annual budget. The South African delegation to the 90th Session of the Council highlighted progress towards achieving policy coherence at national, regional and continental levels.

The Deputy Director-General of the IOM, Ms Ndioro Ndiaye, met with Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe on 22 April 2005. They agreed that the issue of international migration was growing in importance and briefed each other on important regional and continental developments.

The Department contributed to hosting and actively participating in the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshop on "Building Capacity to Manage Migration" in Centurion from 18 - 22 July 2005, as well as the MIDSA workshop on "The Report of the Global Com-

mission on International Migration and the Harmonisation of Policies and Practices on Migration in Southern Africa" in Sandton, from 12 - 14 December 2005.

The DFA financially supported IOM projects aimed at policy development, such as the MIDSA process, as well as for IOM humanitarian projects in southern Africa.

### **High-level Dialogue on International Migration**

The United Nations will host a high-level dialogue (HLD) on international migration and development at the start of the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly, from 14 - 15 September 2006 in New York. South Africa will also be chairing the G77 and will lead this group of 132 countries both in preparing for and participating in this important dialogue on migration and development. The Department established an interDepartmental sub-committee on migration, under the auspices of the G77 InterDepartmental Co-ordinating Committee. The aim of the sub-committee is to facilitate co-operation between Departments to ensure an integrated South African approach to the events and issues in preparation for the HLD as well as the international events preceding the HLD.

### **Population and Development**

South Africa is playing an increasingly important role in international and development affairs. Specifically, South Africa was a member of the UN Commission on Population and Development until 2001, and served on the Bureau of the Commission in 2001/02. South Africa was elected to the Commission again in April 2006, for a four-year term. South African delegations have participated in bureau meetings throughout. South Africa will also Chair the African Union's Population Commission from 2005 - 2007. As Chair, the country led the review and adoption of a new set of rules and procedures for the Commission, as part of the overall review of the AU, its structures and functions.

### **UN Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD)**

The 39th Session of the UN Commission on Popula-



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad with his Iraqi counterpart M Talib Hamid Al-Bayati, during a media briefing after holding discussions in Pretoria, October 2005.

tion and Development was held at the United Nations Headquarters from 3 – 7 April 2006. The special theme for the 39th Session was “International Migration and Development”. The Session also reviewed the “Methods of Work of the Commission on Population and Development”. The formal resumed session was held on 10 May 2006, during which the resolutions on international migration and development, working methods and themes were adopted, by consensus.

The importance of the resolution on Migration and Development lies in the fact that for the first time issues that span both the Second and Third Committee were adopted, by consensus. The report of the 39th Session will now also be part of the High-level Dialogue on Migration that will be held in New York from 14 – 15 September 2006.

### United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), visited South Africa from 18 – 25 October 2005. Deputy Minister Sue Van der Merwe met Ms Obaid on 24 October 2005. The purpose of her visit to South Africa was to interact with the government on population and development matters; engage with key leaders on general UN matters; represent the UN Secretary General at the UN 60th Anniversary Celebrations hosted by the South African government; and represent the UN Secretary General at the opening session of the Common Country Assessment-United Nations Development Assistance Framework Symposium.

### Report on the International Union of the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) International Population Conference

The IUSSP in partnership with the Government of France held an International Population Conference in Tours, France from 18 - 23 July 2005. This Conference was the second in the new millennium and as such it took on particular significance given the global community’s renewed commitment this year to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs. The MDGs are a unifying global force for action to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, to combat high levels of maternal and child mortality and the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to promote gender equality and sustainable development. This Conference was also of significance because it took stock of 11 years of implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by governments in Cairo at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

### Health

South Africa committed itself to the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the 26th Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001. In line with goals and targets emanating from these international commitments, South Africa’s position is outlined in its HIV, AIDS and STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) Strategy Plan (2000 - 2005), which focuses on a multi-sectoral and comprehensive response to HIV, AIDS and STIs. South Africa re-affirmed its position contained in the Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment Programme.

The Global Fund is a public-private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. South Africa has pledged to contribute R36 million over the next three years to the Fund. Also, South Africa supports the Roll-back Malaria Partnership in terms of the agreed Roll-back Malaria Global Strategic Plan 2005 –2015. This includes establishing universal protection of young children and pregnant women in areas in Africa where malaria is endemic.

Because no country is exempt from the spread of avian flu and because preventing a pandemic depends on countries' ability and willingness to share information about outbreaks, co-operation is essential. A Multilateral Meeting on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza took place from 7 – 9 November 2005 in Geneva at the World Health Organisation's (WHO) headquarters. In South Africa, the Department collaborated with the Department of Health on an Influenza Preparedness Plan.

Furthermore, the Department provided health inputs upon request, to be used in bilateral and multilateral forums, among them to the Netherlands and for the February 2006 Human Security Network Meeting in Bangkok.

## **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: SECURITY ISSUES**

### **Concrete Actions to Combat International Terrorism**

South Africa remains committed to combating international terrorism within the framework of the UN and contributes to the efforts of regional and other multilateral organisations in this regard (e.g. the AU, SADC, NAM and the Commonwealth).

The Department chairs the Inter-Departmental Counter-Terrorism Working Group, which meets monthly to co-ordinate South Africa's efforts on counter-terrorism related to the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. South Africa submitted its

fifth report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373.

All national reports on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on terrorism submitted by South Africa have been posted on the UN website ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) together with those submitted by other member states.

### **Disarmament and Non-proliferation**

South Africa continued playing an active role in the meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the Annual General Conference (GC) of the IAEA, the IAEA Board of Governors' meetings and various technical meetings.

The most important issues considered by the Board of Governors included the implementation of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreements in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Since 2002, the question of the nuclear programme in Iran has continued to dominate discussions at meetings of the Board of Governors. In this context, South Africa continued to emphasise the need for the Board to distinguish between the legal obligations of Iran under its NPT Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and the voluntary confidence-building measures that Iran had undertaken. In the context of the Paris Agreement and the ongoing negotiations between the EU3 (the UK, Germany and France) and Iran, South Africa has worked with all parties involved to find a lasting solution to the current impasse. While noting that this matter was reported to the UN Security Council, South Africa believes that this matter can only be resolved peacefully within the context of the IAEA. Therefore South Africa has continued to urge all parties to refrain from any actions that could further escalate conflict and confrontation over this matter, which can only be resolved through dialogue and negotiations.

South Africa has also continued to work closely at various levels with a number of countries involved in investigations into the so-called AQ Kahn network, as well as



the relevant experts at the IAEA. The successful prosecution of those involved in the contravention of relevant South African non-proliferation legislation is expected to be the first of its kind internationally in the context of the Kahn network. South Africa will continue to co-operate closely with the IAEA, relevant governments and others involved in investigations into the illicit international network to ensure its complete elimination.

Relevant South African nuclear experts participated in various IAEA technical meetings and expert meetings that hold potential benefits not only for the nuclear industry in South Africa, but also for accelerated economic growth on the African continent in the context of Nepad. South Africa also hosted a number of meetings and training courses during the last year. In addition, South Africa hosted various inspection visits undertaken by the IAEA in accordance with South Africa's Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol with the Agency.

South Africa participated as an observer at the IAEA Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material Amendment Conference from 4 - 9 July 2005. South Africa has signed and is in the process of ratifying the Convention and its amendment.

South Africa played an important role in the Article XIV Conference to Facilitate the Early Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). South Africa continued to call on Annex 2 states to ratify the CTBT to ensure its entry into force. South Africa also actively participated in discussions on the proposals for the CTBTO to exchange seismic data for an early warning system for natural disasters. In addition, South Africa was elected to serve as Vice Chairperson of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission until June 2006. During 2005, South Africa was one of nine selected countries that served on the External Review Team, established to review the organisational structure of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO. As part of the CTBTO's International Monitoring System, one of the monitoring stations in South Africa, an infrasound monitoring station at Boshof, was formally certified and included in the CTBTO's monitoring network in December 2005.

South Africa successfully participated in the 2005 meetings of Experts and States Parties of the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC). These meetings focused on codes of conduct for scientists working in the field of biosciences. South Africa also participated in the Tokyo Seminar on "Future measures for strengthening the BTWC Regime" from 14 - 15 February 2006, where a group of states parties and NGOs discussed possible approaches to the Sixth Review Conference of the BWC, due to take place during November and December 2006.

South Africa actively participated in the Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), during December 2005. During February 2006, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the OPCW for a year. The Executive Committee, in co-operation with the OPCW Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management of the OPCW.

During December 2005, South Africa became a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), which is the first global multilateral arrangement on export controls for conventional weapons and sensitive dual-use goods and technologies. In terms of the other supplier arrangements, South Africa continued to participate in the work of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Zangger Committee and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

South Africa was an active participant in the Second Continental Small Arms Experts Meeting of the African Union, held in Windhoek, Namibia from 14 - 16 December 2005, which resulted in the adoption of an African Common Position for the Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The main purpose of the development of this Common Position was to obtain a unified AU position in advance of the UN review process on the UN Programme of Action on small arms in January 2006, with the actual Review Conference taking place in June and July 2006.

South Africa also actively participated in the UN Open-ended Working Group on an International Instrument for the Identification and Tracing of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which concluded in June 2005 with the adoption of a politically binding instrument on the issue.

In deliberations of the Certain Conventional Weapons Group of Governmental Expert Sessions and the Meeting of States Parties, the South African proposal on compliance enjoyed continued wide support among states parties.

## Iraq

Three significant events during 2005 contributed to the democratisation process in Iraq and the constitutional restoration of Iraq's sovereignty. These events were the election of a Transitional Government in January 2005, the adoption of Iraq's new Constitution in a referendum held in October 2005 and the national elections for the Council of Representatives that took place in December 2005. The expected outcome was the selection of a four-year coalition government and restoration of sovereignty during the first half of 2006. These developments took place amidst ongoing political and sectarian violence in that country.

In principle, South Africa supported constitutional and democratic efforts to restore peace, sovereignty and prosperity to the Iraqi people. Opportunities to explore participation in reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Iraq regrettably have been undermined by continuing insecurity and instability. South Africa has nevertheless been able to contribute in a concrete manner to the restoration of Iraq by contributing financially to capacity-building programmes for trauma relief under the auspices of the Iraqi Red Crescent.

During a visit by the Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Talib Hamid Al Bayati in October 2005, the South African Government reiterated its intent to establish a mission in Baghdad as soon as possible. President Mbeki was among the first world leaders to host an Iraqi parliamentary delegation in March 2006.

## Middle East Peace Process

The current government inherited strong bilateral relations with Israel that have been constructively transformed and built upon. The South African government is also held in high regard by the Palestinian people and their leadership for its achievements in the struggle against apartheid and in nation building. South Africa contains sizeable Jewish and Muslim minorities, both of which ensure that South African civil society is concerned with the issues that dominate the region.

South Africa has remained consistent in its approach and, due to our own experience of negotiating a comprehensive, just and lasting peace has credibility with those Israelis and Palestinians who are genuinely committed to forging their own peace agreement.

On 25 January 2006, the Palestinian people cast their vote to elect members of the Palestinian Legislative Council for the first time in 10 years. A South African observer mission was deployed in all election districts. There was unanimity among members of the observer mission that the election, during which Hamas gained an overwhelming majority, was well organised and conformed with all the technical and procedural requirements for holding a free and fair election.

These elections marked an important milestone in the process aimed at the realisation of an independent Palestine, co-existing side-by-side with Israel in conditions of peace and mutually beneficial co-operation. The South African government has urged the PLO and Hamas to ensure that the transition in government proceeds swiftly and smoothly.

The South African government remains committed to the view that the Road Map provides the best mechanism to address the Israeli Palestinian Conflict. In this vein, government views the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1515 as a very important milestone on the way to establishing a viable and independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

The key strategic engagement of South Africa with the



Middle East Conflict, as clearly shown by the Spier Presidential Peace Retreat of January 2002, remains the strengthening of the “peace camps” in both Israel and Palestine; sharing the South African experience with a wide cross-section of Israeli and Palestinian civil society and government; assisting the Palestinian reform process and supporting international peace efforts, in particular through the UN system. In keeping with this policy, President Mbeki invited Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to pay a state visit to South Africa during March 2006.

The two presidents reiterated their commitment to working towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Palestine and Israel. President Mbeki also publicly accepted an invitation from President Abbas to visit Palestine.

### International Crime

The Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three supplementary Protocols on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and on Firearms, have reached the implementation stage. By August 2006, 110 member states of the United Nations had ratified the Convention. South Africa participated in the Second Conference of the Parties in this regard, in October 2005. The meeting concentrated on measures to improve the capacity of states parties to combat transnational organised crime and measures to promote and review the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

Last year, at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the UNGA attended by heads of state, the UNGA adopted a resolution on various issues pertaining to the MDGs. The issue of Transnational Organised Crime was also included in the resolution. The resolution emphasised the threat of the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational organised crime and affirmed the need to work collectively to combat transnational organised crime. The resolution further recognised that trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international re-

sponse. In the Resolution, the heads of state reaffirmed the determination to overcome the world narcotic drug problem through international co-operation and national strategies to eliminate both the illicit supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

The Anti-Corruption Convention entered into force in December 2005. In this respect, the High-level Plenary of the UNGA called upon member states of the UN to become Parties to the Convention. By August 2006, 55 countries had ratified the Convention, with South Africa being one of the first countries to do so and looking forward to participating in the first Conference of the Parties in December 2006.

In Africa, a Programme of Action to combat Crime was agreed upon by ministers and senior government officials at Abuja, Nigeria in September 2005. Donors and development partners also attended the meeting hosted by the government of Nigeria and organised by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The Programme of Action is a strategic and operationally-oriented framework for technical co-operation over the next five years, directed towards reducing the impact of crime and drugs as impediments to security and development. A strong South African delegation played a prominent role during the deliberations and participated in discussions pertaining to the rule of law and criminal justice reform, measures to prevent and counter all serious forms of conventional crime, organised crime, money laundering, corruption, trafficking and terrorism, measures to prevent drug abuse, measures to improve data collection, analysis of trends and the dissemination of information and the promotion of public awareness and the role of civil society.

South Africa, which held the Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) from June 2005 to June 2006 in the person of Prof. K Asmal, hosted the Plenary Meeting of the FATF in Cape Town in February 2006. This was the first time that the Plenary meeting of the FATF was held on African soil. The work of the FATF has come to be recognised as the authoritative international benchmark for the substance and quality of measures against money laundering and financing for terrorism. Among other issues raised was that of the importance of closer collaboration



South African rescue workers assisting a victim of the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, October 2005.

with FATF-style regional bodies. For this reason, the FATF invited the member countries of the Eastern and Southern Anti-Money Laundering Group to participate in a joint session in the Plenary.

The 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice took place in April 2006 in Bangkok. A South African delegation under the leadership of Minister of Safety and Security, Mr C Nqakula, participated in the meeting. The outcome document of the Congress, known as the Bangkok Declaration, addressed issues on transnational organised crime, international co-operation against terrorism, corruption, economic and financial crimes as challenges to sustainable development and standards and norms in crime prevention. The UNGA endorsed the Declaration and called upon member states of the UN to implement those measures by formulating legislation and providing for tools and training manuals to enable them to implement those measures.

### The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) for rough diamonds

The KPCS is a tripartite international technical negotiating forum comprising states, known as participants, and the diamond industry and civil society, respectively known as observers. 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 to protect the legitimate diamond trade. The economies of many countries, most notably African diamond producers, depend on the legitimate international diamond trade. These objectives

are 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.

Russia served as the Chair of the KPCS in 2005 and hosted a Plenary Meeting in Moscow in November 2005. Botswana, as the Vice Chair during 2005, automatically assumed the Chair of the KPCS on 1 January 2006.

The Russian Chair of the KPCS hosted a successful intersessional meeting of all standing bodies of the KPCS in Moscow from 7 - 9 June 2005, in which South Africa participated. Participants in the meeting took part in wide-ranging discussions aimed at assessing the ongoing development of the KPCS and the further strengthening the international implementation of the Scheme. South Africa participated actively in the standing bodies of the KPCS on which it serves, namely the Working Group on Monitoring, the Working Group on Statistics, the Working Group of Diamond Experts and the Participation Committee. In addition, South Africa played an active role in the ad hoc working group on the review of the KPCS, which facilitated the process of conducting a mandatory review of the KPCS, which was scheduled for completion by July 2006.

Section II of the Administrative Decision on the Implementation of Peer Review, was adopted at the Sun City Plenary Meeting of the Kimberley Process in October 2003, and provides for review visits to be undertaken by the Kimberley Process to Participants who volunteer





to this end. South Africa made a meaningful contribution to implementing the peer review mechanism during the period under review, leading review visits to Ghana and Togo in December 2005. South Africa also participated in review visits to the US and China during 2005. The overwhelmingly positive response by participants to invite review visits underscores the effectiveness of the peer review system as adopted at Sun City and the ongoing commitment of participants to providing assurances to each other and the wider international community that the KPCS is being effectively implemented.

Although the KPCS is in the early stages of implementation, the Scheme has clearly demonstrated its ability to influence the international trade in rough diamonds positively and deal effectively with the problem of conflict diamonds. The encouraging progress achieved through the international implementation of the KPCS continues to bear testimony to what can be achieved through multilateralism.

## Europe

During annual meetings of the consultative mechanisms established between South Africa and the countries of Europe, South Africa's approach and policies regarding UN reform, the Middle East Peace Process and Weapons of Mass Destruction were elucidated continuously and support for them solicited by her high-level participants in these consultations.

## Peace, Stability and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Africa

Increasingly, the focus is on active engagement and providing tangible support to Africa's regional peace initiatives and processes. This is based on the need to create an enabling environment that is conducive to sustainable peace and socio-economic development in Africa. The revised White Paper on South Africa's involvement in International Peace Missions and the draft AU Post-Conflict and Reconstruction Policy Framework are major instruments that will facilitate South Africa's effective engagement in the continental peace and development agenda. Furthermore, as part of the AU and

SADC collective, South Africa is involved in creating an African Standby Force, the regional SADC Brigade and SADC and National Early Warning Centre. In this regard, South Africa has established strong strategic partnerships with Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As part of the AU collective, South Africa is mandated by the AU to mediate a peace settlement in Côte d'Ivoire. South Africa is also chairing the AU mandated Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sudan and continues to support and contribute to AMIS. In addition, through multilateral, continental, regional and bilateral engagements, South Africa continues to support peace building and reconstruction endeavours in Burundi, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, the Comoros, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Mauritania, the Central Africa Republic, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

## Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Department played an important role in promoting International Humanitarian Law by co-hosting, with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Fifth Annual Regional Seminar on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, from 13 - 15 June 2005. Countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as the Comoros, Kenya, and Seychelles participated, with the aim of ensuring that the principles of International Humanitarian Law are prioritised and implemented in the region.

The Department participated in the Meeting of National Committees of International Humanitarian Law of Commonwealth States, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 - 21 July 2005. The objective of the meeting was to update participants on developments in International Humanitarian Law and its implementation, as well as to increase capacity, commitment, and activities of Commonwealth Governments in the field of International Humanitarian Law, through the use of their IHL Committees.

Following South Africa's commitment to the implementation and promotion of International Humanitarian Law, the Department has approved the establishment of a

national IHL Committee within the International Relations, Peace and Security Cluster (IRPS), and is in the process of operationalising the committee.

The Department provides vital support to the Department of Health, which is the lead line-function Department in hosting and co-ordinating the Seventh Pan African Conference on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which will be held in South Africa in 2008.

The Department also participated in Informal Discussions during September 2005 among the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions as well as in the subsequent Diplomatic Conference during December 2005 on the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol on the Third additional emblem for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## LIST OF COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND THEIR NON-RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITATIONS

(Total number of diplomatic missions as at March 2006)

COUNTRY	MISSION	HEAD OF MISSION	NON-RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITATION TO
<b>AFRICA - 36 missions in 34 countries</b>			
Algeria	Algiers	Ambassador	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
Angola	Luanda	Ambassador	
Botswana	Gaborone	High Commissioner	
Burundi	Bujumbura	Ambassador	
Cameroon	Yaoundé	Ambassador	
Comores	Moroni	Ambassador	
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Kinshasa	Ambassador	
	Lubumbashi	Consul-General	
Congo, Republic of	Brazzaville	Ambassador	
Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	Ambassador	Benin; Burkina Faso; Niger; Togo; Sierra Leone; Liberia
Egypt	Cairo	Ambassador	Lebanon
Equatorial Guinea	Malabo	Ambassador	
Eritrea	Asmara	Ambassador	
Gabon	Libreville	Ambassador	Central African Republic; Chad*; São Tomé & Príncipe
Ghana	Accra	High Commissioner	
Kenya	Nairobi	High Commissioner	
Lesotho	Maseru	High Commissioner	
Libya	Tripoli	Ambassador	
Madagascar	Antananarivo	Ambassador	
Malawi	Lilongwe	High Commissioner	
Mali	Bamako	Ambassador	
Mauritius	Port Louis	High Commissioner	Seychelles
Morocco	Rabat	Ambassador	
Mozambique	Maputo	High Commissioner	
Namibia	Windhoek	High Commissioner	

COUNTRY	MISSION	HEAD OF MISSION	NON-RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITATION TO
Nigeria	Abuja	High Commissioner	
	Lagos	Micro Mission	
Rwanda	Kigali	Ambassador	
Senegal	Dakar	Ambassador	Cape Verde; Guinea*; Guinea-Bissau; The Gambia; Mauritania
Sudan	Khartoum	Ambassador	
Swaziland	Mbabane	High Commissioner	
Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	High Commissioner	
Tunisia	Tunis	Ambassador	
Uganda	Kampala	Ambassador	
Zambia	Lusaka	High Commissioner	
Zimbabwe	Harare	Ambassador	

\* Plans for the opening of new missions in Africa in the next financial year: Chad (N'djamena); Guinea (Conakry)

#### AFRICA MULTILATERAL - 1 mission in 1 country

Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Ambassador	Djibouti
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#### AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN - 16 missions in 11 countries

Argentina	Buenos Aires	Ambassador	Paraguay; Uruguay (micro mission)
Brazil	Brasilia	Ambassador	
	Sao Paulo	Consul-General	
Canada	Ottawa	High Commissioner	
	Toronto	Consul-General	
Chile	Santiago	Ambassador	
Cuba	Havana	Ambassador	Dominican Republic
Jamaica	Kingston	High Commissioner	Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; St Kitts & Nevis; St Lucia; St Vincent & The Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago*
Mexico	Mexico City	Ambassador	Costa Rica; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua
Peru	Lima	Ambassador	Bolivia; Ecuador; Panama
United States of America	Washington DC	Ambassador	
	Chicago	Consul-General	
	Los Angeles	Consul-General	
	New York (CG)	Consul-General	
Uruguay	Montevideo	Micro Mission	
Venezuela	Caracas	Ambassador	Colombia

\* Plans for the opening of new missions in the Caribbean in the next financial year: Trinidad & Tobago (Port-of-Spain)

#### ASIA & MIDDLE EAST - 29 missions in 25 countries/territories

Australia	Canberra	High Commissioner	Cook Islands; Marshall Islands; Micronesia; New Zealand; Samoa
China	Beijing	Ambassador	Korea (North); Mongolia
	Shanghai	Consul-General	
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Consul-General	

COUNTRY	MISSION	HEAD OF MISSION	NON-RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITATION TO
India	New Delhi	High Commissioner	Bangladesh; Maldives; Nepal; Sri Lanka*
	Mumbai	Consul-General	
Indonesia	Jakarta**	Ambassador	
Iran	Tehran	Ambassador	
Israel	Tel Aviv	Ambassador	
Japan	Tokyo	Ambassador	
Jordan	Amman	Ambassador	
Kazakhstan	Almaty	Ambassador	
Korea (South)	Seoul	Ambassador	
Kuwait	Kuwait City	Ambassador	
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	High Commissioner	Brunei Darussalam
Oman	Muscat	Ambassador	
Pakistan	Islamabad	High Commissioner	
Palestine	Ramallah	Ambassador	
Philippines	Manila	Ambassador	
Qatar	Doha	Ambassador	
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Ambassador	Bahrain; Yemen
	Jeddah	Consul-General	
Singapore	Singapore	High Commissioner	
Syria	Damascus	Ambassador	
Taiwan	Taipei	Representative	
Thailand	Bangkok	Ambassador	Cambodia; Laos Myanmar
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	Ambassador	
	Dubai	Consul-General	
Vietnam	Hanoi	Ambassador	

Roving Ambassador resident in Pretoria: Fiji\*; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands

\* Plans for the opening of micro missions in Asia in the next financial year: Fiji (Suva); Sri Lanka (Colombo)

\*\* Timor Leste to be non-residentially accredited from Jakarta

#### EUROPE - 25 missions in 23 countries

Austria	Vienna	Ambassador	Slovakia; Slovenia
Belgium	Brussels	Ambassador	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Sofia	Micro Mission	
Czech Republic	Prague	Ambassador	
Denmark	Copenhagen	Ambassador	Lithuania
Finland	Helsinki	Ambassador	Estonia
France	Paris	Ambassador	Monaco
Germany	Berlin	Ambassador	
	Munich	Consul-General	
Greece	Athens	Ambassador	Bulgaria (micro mission); Bosnia & Herzegovina; Cyprus; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (designate); Serbia

COUNTRY	MISSION	HEAD OF MISSION	NON-RESIDENTIAL ACCREDITATION TO
Hungary	Budapest	Ambassador	Croatia; Romania
Ireland	Dublin	Ambassador	
Italy	Rome	Ambassador	Albania; Malta; San Marino
	Milan	Consul-General	
Netherlands	The Hague	Ambassador	
Norway	Oslo	Ambassador	Iceland
Poland	Warsaw	Ambassador	
Portugal	Lisbon	Ambassador	
Russian Federation	Moscow	Ambassador	Belarus
Spain	Madrid	Ambassador	Andorra
Sweden	Stockholm	Ambassador	Latvia
Switzerland	Berne	Ambassador	Holy See (Vatican); Liechtenstein
Turkey	Ankara	Ambassador	Azerbaijan; Kyrgyzstan; Tadjikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan
Ukraine	Kiev	Ambassador	Armenia; Georgia; Moldova
United Kingdom	London	High Commissioner	
<b>MULTILATERAL - 2 missions</b>			
Switzerland	Geneva	Representative	
United States of America	New York	Representative	



Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi being escorted by the Chief of State Protocol Ambassador BIL Modise during the Progressive Governance Summit in Hammanskraal, February 2006.

### PROGRAMME 3: Public Diplomacy and State Protocol

**AIM:** This programme markets South Africa's foreign policy objectives, projects a positive image of South Africa and Africa, and provides State Protocol services. Activities are organised into two sub-programmes:

**PUBLIC DIPLOMACY** addresses media liaison, engagements with national stakeholders, and the promotion of South Africa's policies and programmes at 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:

#### STATE PROTOCOL

##### INTRODUCTION

During the period under review, the Department accelerated its efforts to enhance the capacity of State Protocol to provide seamless and high-quality protocol products and services. The service improvement programme focused on the following two pillars:

- State events management system and
- Diplomatic accreditation process

A sharpened focus on service standards was necessitated by increased demand for services by the accredited diplomatic community, a need to respond to a growing number of state events and outgoing and incoming presidential and ministerial visits.

#### STATE EVENTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

##### State Visits

The Department facilitated a significant number of outgoing and incoming visits by heads of state or government. South Africa continued hosting such high-profile visits as part of her drive to strengthen bilateral relations with strategic partners abroad. Similar reciprocal visits were undertaken in the context of promoting and advancing South Africa's foreign policy agenda.

During the period under review, 369 visits were facilitated, of which the highlights include the following:

- State or official visits to Chile, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville), Uganda, Greece and Italy, among others. The logistics for these visits were compounded in some instances by infrastructural challenges on one hand and the sizes of the delegations on the other.
- Similarly, South Africa also hosted high-profile state visits by the President of Botswana and the President of India and an official visit by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN.

## Ceremonial and Guesthouses

Protocol has become increasingly relevant and pivotal to the effective facilitation of all state, ceremonial and official functions and events. In this regard, the Department hosted and provided protocol support for the following important events during the period under review:

- Organised 17 farewell functions for departing foreign heads of mission. These functions are hosted by the Department in appreciation of the positive contributions made by these envoys in promoting bilateral relations between their countries of origin and South Africa. They are of symbolic value and if well organised have the potential to create a lasting positive impression about South Africa and its people for a departing diplomat.
- Hosted the presidential briefing meeting for all foreign heads of mission accredited to South Africa. Through this briefing, the President was able to communicate key government policies and programmes directly. This was the second time the Department arranged the Presidential briefing for diplomats.
- Hosted 66 high-level meetings, workshops and conferences as well as special events. These included, bi-national commissions, presidential consultations, and state and official dinners.
- Provided protocol support during official and semi-official funerals.

The Department processed 483 official messages of congratulation or condolence to various foreign governments. These messages were processed on time and treated with utmost sensitivity. Furthermore, 1 693 diplomatic messages were processed and distributed to relevant authorities.

## State Protocol Lounges

The State Protocol Lounges in Cape Town and Johannesburg create a possibility for the Department to facilitate the dignified arrival and departures of senior guests of government. In this regard, the Department implemented the following measures to improve the image of the Lounges:

- Acquired new state-of-the-art vehicles for the Lounges
- Acquired uniforms for the staff at the Lounges
- Renovated staff members' offices at the Johannesburg International Lounge to boost morale

A total number of 30 000 guests passed through the Lounges during the period under review. This target was reached with limited resources.

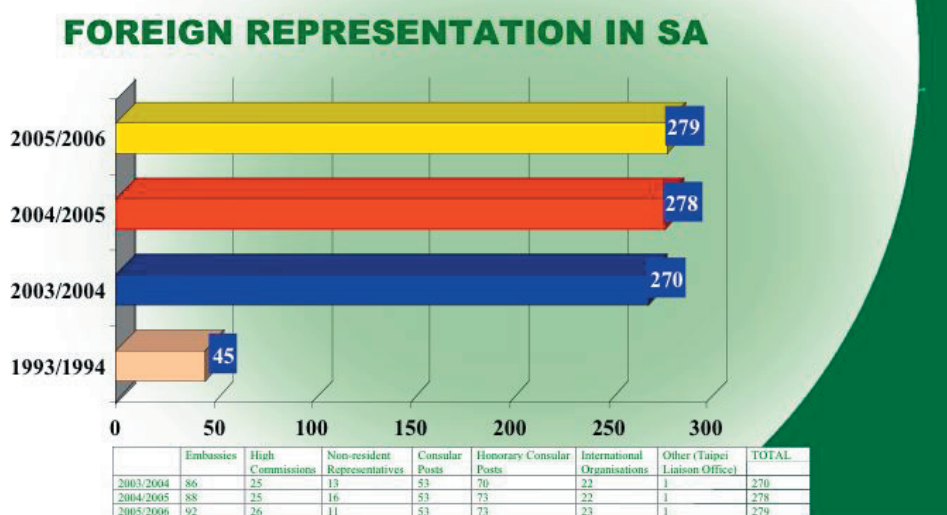
## International Conferences

The Department continued to co-ordinate logistics for major international conferences that government hosted. The Progressive Governance Summit was one of the major highlights in this regard. The Summit brought together seven heads of state or government representing all regions of the world and more than 40 international guests.

Furthermore, the Department co-ordinated protocol and logistics for the following events during the period under review:

- IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting
- The Diaspora Conference in Jamaica
- Heads of Mission Conference
- Pan African Parliament

## DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION SYSTEM



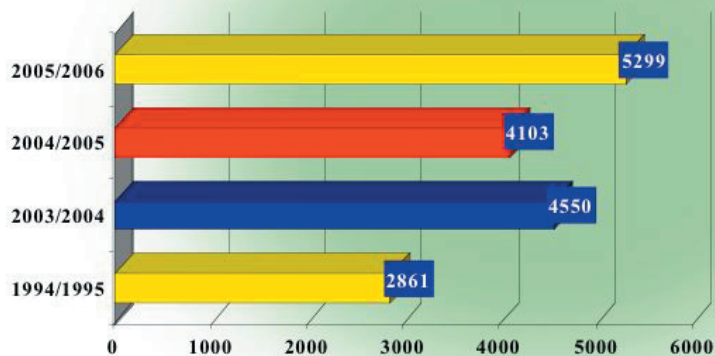
### Foreign Representation in South Africa

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 at 279 foreign missions. Although foreign representation in South Africa did not expand significantly (see above table) the number of departing diplomats who were deregistered was proportional to those who were accredited. The following bilateral missions and multilateral organisations were established during the period under review:

- Embassy of the Republic of Mauritania
- Embassy of the Republic of Suriname
- Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)



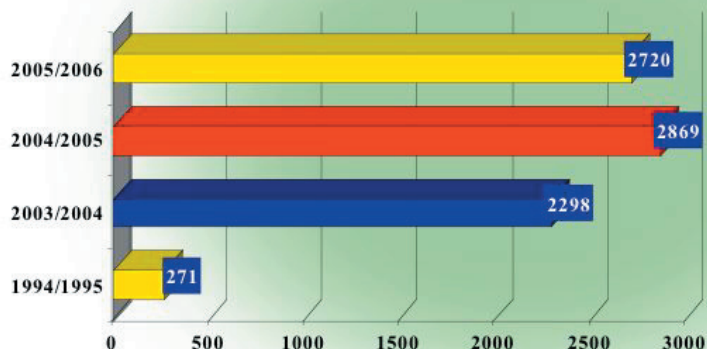
## DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE PERMITS



### Diplomatic Residence Permits

A total of 723 diplomatic, 133 consular, 190 international organisations and 306 administrative requests for identity certificates were processed. A total of 5 299 diplomatic residence permits were issued.

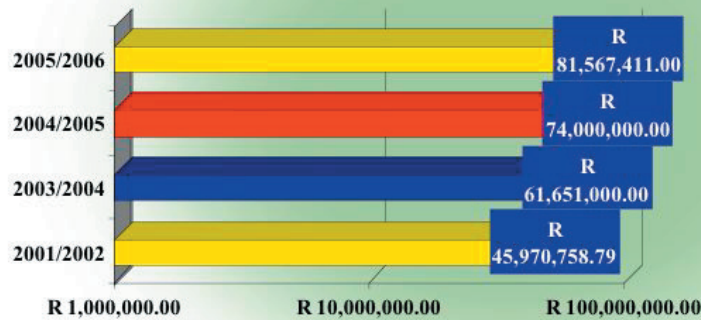
## DIPLOMATIC MOTOR VEHICLES



### Diplomatic Vehicles

Approximately 2 720 official and privately-owned vehicles belonging to the diplomatic community in South Africa are registered with the Department. The registration process is long and protracted. The Department has successfully persuaded the City of Tshwane to open a single service point dedicated to the diplomatic community to streamline the registration process. The Department will continue to regulate the acquisition and disposal of diplomatic vehicles and allocate the diplomatic registration numbers while the City of Tshwane will issue vehicle registration certificates and license documents.

## VAT REFUNDS



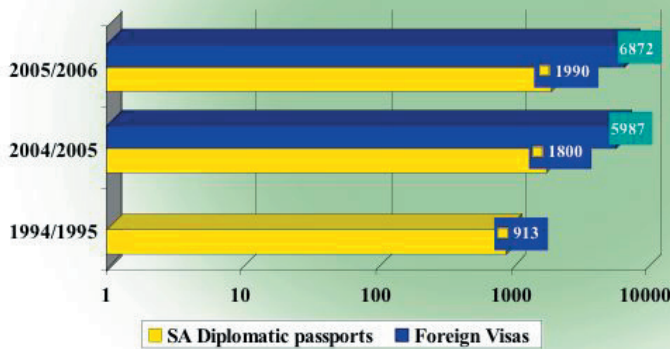
### Property Taxes and VAT Refunds

Missions are exempted from transfer duties and municipal rates in respect of properties for offices and residences for heads of mission. During 2005/06, the Department paid local authorities R9 123 856. 51 in diplomatic property taxes. Meanwhile, diplomats were refunded VAT totalling R81 567 411.00.

## South African Diplomatic Passports and Foreign Visas for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports

The Department continued to facilitate travel documents for diplomatic and official passport holders nationally. Approximately 1 990 diplomatic passports were issued in 2005/06 and 6 872 visas were requested from foreign missions in South Africa in respect of South African diplomatic and official passport-holders. A total of 5 299 diplomatic permits were issued to accredited holders of foreign passports and their dependants (see table below).

### SA DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS & FACILITATION OF FOREIGN VISAS



### Annual Stakeholder Conference

The annual stakeholder conference took place on 2 September 2005 to inform missions of new developments relating to the conferment of diplomatic immunities and privileges to the diplomatic corps. Missions were also informed about the development of a new interactive diplomatic web site.

### Interactive Diplomatic Web Site

To deliver a world class, integrated and professional State Protocol service to clients and stakeholders, the State Protocol Branch commenced the development of an interactive web-based system to institute simplified processes according to international best practice.

The system will allow the diplomatic community to apply for accreditation through the Internet. The system will manage routine tasks and guide DIAP staff through the processes, thus enhancing service delivery. This will enable the Directorate to focus on strategic objectives and stakeholder management.

The system will provide real time reporting facilities that are often required by the management of the DFA and parliament. The system will also allow the DFA to manage and implement reciprocity.

Deliverables of a new system:

- Business continuity

- Value-adding processes
- Knowledge transfer
- Business intelligence
- Empowerment
- Geographical focus
- Flat structure
- Enhanced service delivery

The following services will be developed as part of the new system:

- Office establishment
- Staff establishment and accreditation
- Vehicle management
- Property management
- Signature audit
- Duty-free imports and purchases
- Security management
- Dispute management
- South African diplomatic passport visas
- Customised reporting tool
- Reciprocity management

It is anticipated that the first phase of the system will be in place early in the new financial year. The first phase comprises the following processes:

- Office establishment
- Staff establishment and accreditation
- Vehicle management
- Signature audit
- Duty-free imports and purchases
- Customised reporting.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma hosting a group of School girls at her home during the 'take a girl child to work' campaign.

## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The reporting period evidenced the enhancement of the Department's internal communications capacity. In this regard, the Department restructured the internal communications unit into Content and Product Development Directorates. This ensured a more effective approach to and execution of internal communication initiatives that include the production of quality user-friendly publications, strategised audio-visual products and improved use of radio in communicating with the Department's stakeholders. Furthermore, this move will ensure that there is enough capacity for the launch and distribution of the Department's monthly newsletter in the coming financial year, that will allow both management and staff to be informed of issues that affect them daily.

During the reporting period, Public Diplomacy, working in conjunction with GCIS, was at the epicentre of communications for the following key activities:

- The secondment of its official to provide communication support to the SADC Elections Observer Mission Head, then Minister Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the SADC Observer Mission to the 31 March Elections in Zimbabwe until 14 April 2005.
- The secondment of its official to the Fourth Session of the sitting of the Pan-African Parliament through the secondment to serve as communications support personnel (November 2005)
- The secondment of an official to the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone to assist in interviewing and short-listing candidates for the SADC Media Co-ordinator.

- The Progressive Governance Summit (11- 12 February 2006), which focused considerable media attention on South Africa and the African continent.

The Department marshalled its energies to provide media and communication support services to the following:

- President Mbeki and his delegation's participating in the Second Festival of the Cultures and Civilizations of World Deserts, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 16 April 2005
- Budget votes, post-vote ministerial diplomatic function (media liaison and communication support to principals)
- Asian- African Ministerial Meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia, April 2005
- London Solidarity Conference, 3 - 4 June 2005
- Assumption of the Chair of the G77 and China Handover Ceremony to South Africa in New York, January 2006
- Profiling work done by the AU Ministerial Post-Conflict Reconstruction on the Sudan, which Minister Dlamini Zuma chairs
- NAM Foreign Ministers Meeting, Hermanus, 26 – 27 January 2006
- The Pretoria Agreement on the Peace Process in the Cote d'Ivoire and various Working Group Activities since then (disseminated contents thereof on its website)
- Third Session of the IBSA Ministerial Trilateral Commission in Rio de Janeiro, March 2006.
- Activities of the Ministerial Meetings on the Asian-African Sub Regional Organisations Conference (AASROC) held at home and abroad

Key campaigns in which Public Diplomacy participated substantively due to the mobilisation of the media:

- Cell C's 'Take a Girl Child to Work' Campaign by ensuring media coverage for the hosting of 20 Grade 12 girls from Saulsridge High School in Atteridgeville, Pretoria
- Africa Day Celebrations, May 2005
- Inaugural Imbizo of the DFA, Jameson Hall, University of Cape Town, 29 August 2005
- 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children, October – November 2005
- Coverage of the SADC Summit, Gaborone, Botswana, August 2005
- Assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina at Howard University, supported by the South African Embassy in Washington DC, January 2006.
- Activities of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC) mainly led by the two Deputy Ministers, Aziz Pahad and Sue Van der Merwe.

During the year under review, the Department continued producing targeted information material such as the Annual Report 2004/05, Strategic Plan 2005/08, Foreign Affairs Budget Vote speech 2005 booklet, Inaugural Imbizo information leaflets and posters, and the 2006 Desk Calendar. In addition, the Department produced and distributed the first Braille (for the blind) progress report booklet on "The operationalisation of the African Union and implementation of Nepad programmes"; thus ensuring that more people are informed about these valuable African development initiatives.

The continuous growth of South Africa's global influence in international relations was documented by audio-visual and photographic means. The documentation included incoming visits and strategic outgoing visits of President Thabo Mbeki, Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. The Department continued distributing footage to local and international print and audio-visual media on an ongoing basis, usually within one hour of an event taking place, to keep the public and other stakeholders informed of these activities.

In addition, the Department continued to make avail-

able various video programmes as well as photographs, in hard copy and on compact disk, to South African missions abroad for use during celebrations and other publicity events. The annual year-end party and other Departmental activities were also documented in both audio-visual and photographic forms. Furthermore, the South African National Anthem and the AU Anthem were transferred to separate CDs for official use by South Africa's missions abroad and offices of foreign representatives in Pretoria.

During the reporting period, the Department complied with the Cabinet requirement of appointing corporate identity managers to introduce and guide the implementation of the Department's corporate identity programme as approved by Cabinet. The activities included roadshows to various branches in the Department as well as advice and support regarding technical requirements and specifications.

Public Diplomacy, through media monitoring, provided the following information services to the Minister, other principals and the Department at large and missions abroad:

- Early morning news highlights documents: 120 of these were compiled from articles in the daily media and transmitted electronically by 08.00 to all HO end-users, since the beginning of 2006
- Daily News Bulletins: 300 were compiled through the assessment and selection of news stories covered in South African newspapers and websites
- Weekend News bulletins introduced at the end of 2005 through assessment and selection of news stories covered in South African newspapers and websites and distributed to Minister and principals after hours
- About 1 500 daily regional media reports and reviews for Africa; the Americas; Asia and Australasia; and Europe were sourced from international media news sources
- About 50 weekly mission reports were supplied to all end users, with edited information of political reports received from missions abroad;
- Ad hoc reports on international events

The 24-hour Operations Centre, staffed by 12 dedicated staff members and supported by 12 additional after-hours staff members selected from all branches also acted as an

early-warning centre for the principals reporting on major incidences or crises and international events. This included the compilation of the two-hourly International News Scans by monitoring the media after hours. These were sent to key principals at head office and on visits abroad. The International News Scans give principals updates on political, diplomatic and economic developments around the world; major government changes or cabinet reshuffles abroad; the opinions of world leaders and developments in the UN, AU, SADC and other multilateral organisations.

The Centre also provided continuous logistical support to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs especially on official visits abroad and while they attended international conferences and summits.

During the reporting period, the Department undertook media research, analysis and speechwriting. The Department continued managing its official web-site: [www.dfa.gov.za](http://www.dfa.gov.za) and the Intranet. A new development is the Web Portal Project. The objective of this project is to integrate the Department's website, Intranet, and foreign mission web-sites and other information sources to form a highly interactive and informative web portal. The Department has begun work in partnership with SITA and GCIS on this project. Tendering processes are finalised, with the development of the portal due to start in the next reporting period.

The Department responded promptly to various inquiries regarding consular issues, letters perpetuating fraud and trade-related issues that were sent to the Department by e-mail. In addition, the Department undertook the following activities:

Additions to the Department's web-site and Intranet:	3 764
Updates to the diplomatic representation lists:	4254
Information bulletins disseminated to missions (Bua News, cabinet statements, Letter from the President, EU Newsletter, Commonwealth News, World Bank News, ISS Seminars, speeches and media statements):	585
E-mail inquiries responded to:	337

During the year under review, the Department undertook the following marketing and promotional initiatives:

### FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

- Procured promotional material to assist missions in branding and celebrating Freedom day. The missions in Harare, Tehran, Maputo, Prague, Budapest and Jakarta were assisted.
- Cultural Expressions: Assisted in identifying South African artists to perform during celebrations organised by various missions, for example the Ntombizodwa String Quartet performed in Seoul from April - May 2005.

### BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

- Planned and co-ordinated the Minister's Budget Vote Speech Luncheon on 15 April 2005
- SABC Africa interviewed the Minister following her Budget Vote Speech during the luncheon; questions and answers from guests and members of the media who attended were welcomed.
- Distributed the Annual Report and the Strategic Plan document of the Department to all who attended the Luncheon.

### AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS

- Assisted with image and branding of the seminar on the morning of the celebrations,
- Gala dinner followed in the evening hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Culture, Religion, and linguistic Communities. Some 600 guests attended the dinner.
- Assisted in securing sponsorship from Eskom and secured a performance by Gloria Bosman during the dinner.

### IMC

- Continued to procure and distribute IMC kit to missions that placed orders.
- Introduced new and updated material to missions such as Chapter 2 of the New South African Storybook and updated banners.
- Handled payments on behalf of missions.



### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - DECEMBER 2005

- Assisted in planning and co-ordinating the event at the Union Buildings. The Directorate secured the venue, catering, poets, artists as well as the children who read the pledge of the campaign.
- Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe hosted the event and a panel discussion was broadcast on SABC Africa.

### YEAR-END FUNCTION

- The Directorate planned, and co-ordinated the Departmental annual year-end event for all staff members. Tasks ranged from securing the venue, catering, artists, branding and the programme for the day.
- Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe who addressed all members during the event held at the CSIR in December 2005 hosted the event.

### SOUTH AFRICA WEEK CELEBRATIONS

- The Directorate assisted various missions in procuring South African artefacts and musical groups for different platforms:
- Moscow held their celebrations in August 2005
- Ramallah in July 2005
- Zambia, 19 - 24 Sept 2005
- Kingston, August 2005

### MINISTER'S OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

- Planned and co-ordinated the banquet hosted by the Minister at Vergelegen Wine Estate in Somerset West, Cape Town, on 4 February 2005.
- Event attended by 600 people ranging from

cabinet ministers, diplomatic corps, private sector, sponsors and other VIPs.

- Tasks ranged from planning meetings with relevant stakeholders, raising sponsorship for the event, securing the venue, catering, gifts, décor, draft programme and arranging performing artists for the event.

### PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE SUMMIT – FEBRUARY 2005

- Participated in all planning meetings of the IDLC for the summit
- Assisted in procuring branded conference and promotional material for heads of state, shepherds and other VIP guests who attended the summit.

### MISSION'S REQUESTS

- El Corte Ingles: Assisted in procuring promotional material .
- Doha and Muscat: Assisted the missions in procuring various artefacts for their planned charity bazaars.
- Assisted in procuring and distributing promotional material for these missions for events planned by them throughout this financial year: Lisbon, Amman, Yaoundé, Bamako, Vienna, Tunis, Tel Aviv, Moscow, Kuwait, Berne, Rabat, Antananarivo, Buenos Aires, Brazzaville, Canberra, Tripoli, Budapest, Abidjan, New Delhi, Mumbai, Prague, Brasilia, Copenhagen, Rome, Geneva, Lisbon, Sofia, and Riyadh.
- Assisted the mission in Paris in procuring authentic South African traditional music instruments in 2005.
- Assisted in procuring different artefacts to be sold at the Amman Christmas Bazaar on 15 December 2005

## **PROGRAMME 4: International Transfers**

**AIM:** This programme provides for the payment of fees and contributions to various international organisations.

### **OUTPUT AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS:**

Contribution to Multilateral development and co-operation

The transfer payments provided for and paid for during the reporting period are reflected in the annual financial statements section of the Report (please refer to the contents page).

## PART 4: REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

In terms of its obligations according to Treasury Regulation 3.1.12, the Audit Committee reports as follows on certain events as well as its actions and findings in respect of the financial year ended 31 March 2006.

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

An Audit Committee for the Department has been established in accordance with the requirements of Sections 38 (1)(a)(ii) and 77 of the Public Finance Management Act. Currently the Audit Committee comprises 3 members, all members being from outside the public service. During the year under review 2 members left the Audit Committee and the replacement posts were advertised during March 2006 for appointment early in the new financial year.

The following 2 members left the Audit Committee during 2005/6:

- Ms SW Magojo
- Advocate N Gomomo

The Audit Committee meets 4 times per annum and on an "ad hoc" basis to consider specific matters, as per approved terms of reference. The Audit Committee furthermore met with the Office of the Auditor-General and the Director-General during the year under review. 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 14 meetings, including meetings for specific purposes, were held and attended as follows:

Name of Member	Number of Meetings attended
Ms L B R Mthembu, Chairperson)	14
Ms S W Magojo, (Member)	0
Mr. Z Jojwana, (Member)	7
Adv N Gomomo (Member)	2
Mr E Cousins, (Member)	14

### 2. AUDIT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

The Audit Committee has complied with its responsibilities arising from section 38(1)(a)(ii) of the PFMA and Treasury Regulation 3.1.13. The Audit Committee adopted the Audit Committee Charter read in conjunction with the Internal Audit Charter, as its terms of reference in discharging all its responsibilities as regulated therein.

### 3. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

The systems of internal control was evaluated by both Internal Audit and Office of the Auditor-General (external audit), and in various cases the quality of the implementation and execution of adequate control and work procedures were not yet of an acceptable standard. This is evident from reported instances of non-conformity with prescribed internal control and best practice. The Audit Committee directed two forensic investigations pertaining to mission cash transfers and transport management tender procedures, which indicated deficient internal control measures with an emphasis on sub standard record keeping, although no fraudulent/corruptive irregularities could be proved.

The Audit Committee together with Internal Audit developed a comprehensive detailed plan as an intervention measure to remedy the matters of emphasis of the annual financial statements, reported by the Auditor-General in the 2004/5 financial year. Issues were prioritised in accordance with their materiality and fundamental effect on the overall management of the department. The plan includes Management's contribution of the details of action on the plan, scheduled target dates for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan, as well as agreed critical performance indicators. Management implemented measures that were monitored on a regular basis by the Audit Com-

mittee to ensure that planned targets were achieved.

The following achievements were noted during the year under review:

- Agreements were concluded with commercial banks to manage the treasury cash flow and foreign exchange management.
- Implementation of an integrated electronic Fixed Asset Register including bar-coding of assets and listing of asset values in the asset register, in accordance with National Treasury guidelines.
- Approval and formalisation of efficient and effective policies and procedures.
- Comprehensive re-designing and re-engineering of overall training and professional development strategy of mission and local departmental staff.
- Restructuring of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to establish Corporate Services Branch of the Department as a separate division.

The Director-General through his dedicated leadership, with the support and assistance of National Treasury, co-operative effort of executive management, has made considerable progress in improving the management and functioning of the Department as a whole. The benefits derived from these dedicated inputs and outputs have borne fruit as can be observed from improved compliance with legislation and adherence to due dates by the Financial Department.

#### Specific Focus Areas Going Forward

During the ensuing 2006/7 financial year, the Audit Committee will develop comprehensive and integrated intervention programme to focus more attention on the following areas:

- The development and implementation of integrated information management systems in accordance with the Departmental Master System Plan.
- The enhancement and further development of the Human Resources Business Unit.
- Enhancement of skills development and succession planning strategy and implementation.
- Quarterly reporting on the performance of the Department against approved annual business plan.

- Improvement of safe record keeping capacity, policies and procedures in compliance with the prescripts for archiving by establishment of an electronic registry system.
- Motivate and encourage the culture of risk management and compliance to policies and procedures.

#### **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 has noted progress in the content and quality of monthly and quarterly reports prepared and issued by the Accounting Officer and the Department during the year under review, in compliance with statutory reporting framework requirements such as the PFMA and the Treasury Regulations. It remains a challenge in the Department to fully implement the control basis for the monitoring and attaining of strategic goals and business objectives within a structured framework, a process that has been specifically targeted for 2006/2007.

#### **5. INTERNAL AUDIT**

Internal Audit was effective for the year under review and achieved its annual operational plan targets. The capacity of Internal Audit has been comprehensively increased and consolidated through the filling of further internal audit positions. 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.

Internal Audit undertook a comprehensive Risk Management Assessment of the department and the resulting Risk Profile was discussed and adopted by both the Management of the Department and the Audit Committee. The Department is currently developing a comprehensive strategy to respond to significant identified risks. Control self assessment schedules will be devel-

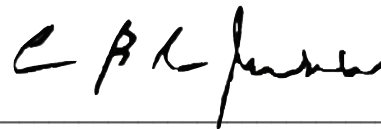
oped to assist managers in monitoring and controlling significant identified risks. The results of the risk assessment were used to direct Internal Audit effort and enhance management function. Furthermore, Fraud Prevention Plan is being executed in an orderly manner under the control of a Fraud Prevention Committee and should soon achieve full functional output.

## 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.



**Londiwe Mthembu**  
**Chairperson of the Audit Committee**  
**Date: 31 May 2006**