

PROGRAMME 2

1. CONSOLIDATION OF THE AFRICAN AGENDA MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

Africa Unity and Integration

The consolidation of the African Agenda remains the principal focus of South Africa's foreign policy. In this regard, South Africa continued its engagements in the African Union (AU) processes during the reporting period, to promote African Unity and integration.

It is against this backdrop that South Africa has continued to contribute towards the rationalization and harmonisation of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) deemed to be the building blocks of the continental integration process through economic and political integration, leading to the eventual establishment of the Union Government of sovereign States.

South Africa actively participated in the Extraordinary meeting of the AU Council of Ministers as well as the Committee of 12 Heads of State and Government meeting on the Union Government. Both were respectively held in Arusha, Tanzania on 5-7 and 22-23 May 2008. Furthermore, South Africa participated in the 11th and 12th Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly held in Sharm El Sheikh and Addis Ababa in July 2008 and February 2009 respectively. The latter Summit resolved to transform the AU Commission into the AU Authority.

The Executive Council endorsed the Strategy for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa as well as the Declaration adopted by the Conference of AU/African Ministers of Industry held in Durban, South Africa on 28 October 2008. It also underscored the importance of availing the necessary financial resources for the operationalisation of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

South Africa, as host country to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), provided the required technical and logistical support to the Parliament during its 9th and 10th sessions held in May and November 2008 respectively.

South Africa participated in the African Union Council of Ministers in January 2009 during which discussions were held with regard to the progress made by PAP since its establishment five years ago. Particular emphasis was placed on PAP's readiness to progress from an advisory body to a legislative institution. South Africa will continue to engage with the members of PAP directly or through South Africa's Parliamentary representatives in PAP to ensure that these discussions are completed.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Chairperson of the African Union Commission Professor Alpha Konare during the 10th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held at Zimbali Lodge, Durban



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and SADC Executive Chair Dr Augusto Salomao at a SADC meeting

As part of its support to the operationalisation of the AU structures, South Africa remains committed to contribute towards the operationalisation of the African Court of Justice and the African Court on Human and People's Rights. The merger instruments for the two institutions were not released during the period under review and South Africa will consider the signing and ratification of these Instruments once released.

South Africa also participated in high level meetings between the AU and its development partners, these being the Africa-India Partnership Summit, the Africa-Turkey Partnership Forum as well as Africa-South America Technical Experts meeting.

South Africa continued to promote and support the operationalisation of the AU Financial Institutions by among other things, attendance of meetings of Experts Group on Operationalisation. These Financial Institutions and the modalities are yet to be finalised. To this end, the Department is co-operating with National Treasury towards ensuring a common approach in the gradual establishment of these institutions.

The 9th Congress of the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO) was hosted by South Africa in February 2008. At the moment the Department is engaged with all relevant stakeholders in exploring the possible hosting of PAWO's Headquarters in South Africa.

During the reporting period and in preparation for the second African Diaspora Summit, South Africa co-ordinated, hosted and participated in the African Diaspora's Regional Consultative Conferences as well as the Technical Workshop to finalise the key Summit outcomes, the latter being the Draft Declaration, the Programme of Action and its Implementation Mechanism.

Promote the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

South Africa continued to support NEPAD as a programme of the AU that provides a framework for a continent-wide holistic socio-economic renewal. The overarching objectives of NEPAD are self-reliance, sub-regional and continental economic integration, economic growth and sustainable development.

An Intergovernmental Task Team on Regional Infrastructure which is one of the NEPAD priority sectors was established in December 2008 following the NEPAD Implementation Conference hosted by South Africa in August 2008. The following are other NEPAD priority sectors: agriculture, health, environment, tourism, ICT, human resources, and science and technology.

During the reporting period the Department undertook to integrate the 2008 African Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN) outcomes into the Action Plan of the NEPAD Environmental Initiative and as such contributed and assisted the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in hosting the 12th session of AMCEN.

With regard to NEPAD Global Partnerships, South Africa actively pursued the promotion of the African Agenda in various multilateral fora which included the G8-Africa dialogue, the EU-Africa dialogue, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the UN system, the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). A key challenge has been to aggressively negotiate for the concretisation of political commitments into bankable NEPAD priority projects on the continent.

South Africa concluded a host country agreement for the NEPAD Office in October 2008 through which the country will intensify the promotion of the centrality of NEPAD as Africa's socio-economic development programme and increase national, bilateral, regional and international awareness.

The African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM)

With regard to the operationalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) and the implementation of the Addis Ababa Africa Peer Review Forum decisions, South Africa participated in the APRM Summits held in Egypt in July 2008, in Benin in October 2008 and in Addis Ababa in January 2009.

A host country agreement for the APRM Office to be hosted in South Africa was concluded in October 2008. Steps are underway in terms of the implementation of this agreement.

The Department supported South Africa's Focal Point during the period under review in preparing and presenting the country's first implementation report and advised other APRM member states on the preparation of their Country Review Reports.

Promote Regional Integration and Development

South Africa assumed the Chairship of SADC during a Summit held in South Africa in August 2008 during which the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) was launched to enhance the integration agenda of the region. South Africa's strategy of chairing the SADC rests on three pillars, namely: restoring and strengthening the political unity and cohesion within SADC; deepening regional economic integration; and intensifying regional infrastructure development. South Africa has

participated in SADC Troika meetings as incoming Chair as well as the Chair, hosted the SADC Council of Ministers and SADC Summit.

South Africa participated in the first COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite Summit, held on 22 October 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, as the chair of SADC. The Summit provided a platform for the three Regional Economic Communities (REC) to discuss and take decisions on areas that enhance integration among themselves and the possible formation of a pan-regional Free Trade Area (FTA). South Africa has agreed to develop the Tripartite Roadmap regarding the closer cooperation and infrastructure development as part of the Summit outcomes.

The beginning of the restructuring of SADC took place during the reporting period and has impacted on the review process of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). In this regard the review of RISDP will commence once the restructuring of SADC is completed. South Africa continues to work towards the full implementation of the RISDP.

The International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development of the SADC was held in Mauritius during the period under review and South Africa participated in drafting the SADC Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development.

During the reporting period, South Africa continued to participate in the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations and has maintained that it will consider joining the partnership once unresolved issues such as market access have been satisfactorily resolved.

PEACE MISSIONS

South Africa has continued to participate in the AU/UN peace missions on the continent and this work is coordinated by the National Office for the Coordination of Peace Missions (NOCPM) in the Department. South Africa played an important role during the reporting period in peace missions in the DRC (MONUC), the Sudan (UNAMID) and Burundi (ONUB).

During its tenure as Non-Permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), South Africa played an important role in the establishment of the UN/AU panel entrusted to consider how best to support peacekeeping in Africa, considering that Africa faces challenges with regard to funding of peace operations. South Africa continued to engage the European Union governments to support efforts for peace, stability and security in Africa.

South Africa commissioned a research institution to prepare a paper on the "best practices and lessons learnt during South Africa's participation in peace missions". This research is



Minister of Defence Charles Nqakula greeting SA soldiers at the AU base in Burundi

expected to feed into the process of revising the White Paper on South Africa's participation in international peace missions.

With regard to South Africa's involvement in Burundi, the Department has begun consultations with Cabinet regarding the country's future engagements in the Burundi Peace Process. The peace making process in Burundi has been successfully completed, the Facilitation Office was closed and members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) commenced with preparations to return to South Africa.

POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD)

South Africa continued to contribute towards Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa, in particular in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and the Burundi.

During the period under review, South Africa continued to coordinate peace processes including funding under the African Renaissance Fund (ARF) for Burundi and the DRC, chaired the AU PCRD Committee for Sudan and facilitated trilateral co-operation projects with Germany in Sudan. Offers of trilateral PCRD cooperation projects in Burundi are being considered.

MANAGEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The Department continued with the management of the African Renaissance Funds (ARF) and during the reporting period chaired five ARF Advisory Committee meetings during which the following nine projects were recommended for funding: The Burundi Peace Process, Timbuktu manuscripts project, SADC observer missions, capacity building in Uganda, Zimbabwe agricultural project, Lesotho road upgrading and the Lesotho Metolong Dam project. Assistance was therefore provided to other government departments responsible for the implementation of these nine ARF projects in Africa with a financial value of R475 million.

With regard to the required establishment of the International Development Assistance Unit, the Department contributed to the draft framework proposal for South Africa's development assistance which was presented to the Cabinet by the National Treasury. Cabinet has further requested the Department to re-draft a framework for South Africa's development assistance and this process is currently underway.

2. STRENGTHEN SOUTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

IBSA

In May 2008, South Africa successfully hosted the 5th IBSA Ministerial Trilateral Commission in Somerset West. In addition, the first Joint IBSA Naval Exercises successfully took place in South African waters in May 2008 on the margins of the 5th Ministerial Meeting. Prior to as well as subsequent to the Ministerial, the various IBSA Sectoral (Intergovernmental) Working Groups met to advance the IBSA trilateral cooperation programmes.

In October 2008, South Africa successfully participated at the 3rd IBSA Summit that took place in New Delhi, India. As part of civil society interaction at the 3rd Summit, representatives of academic institutions, business, women and editors met. Trilateral culinary and cultural festivals coincided with the Summit. The 2nd Colloquium of the Deans of IBSA Diplomatic Academies took place in September 2008 in India.

Apart from further strengthening trilateral cooperation at the 3rd Summit through the signing of an additional seven Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or Action Plans, IBSA countries renewed their commitment to collective efforts to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), as well as the international financial architecture and to take joint steps to mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis. The three countries have also agreed to redouble their efforts to promote transport inter-connectivity through the adoption of cooperative maritime and aviation frameworks that will assist in facilitating the new intra-IBSA trade target of US\$ 25 billion by 2015. A review of the operations of the IBSA Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund has been completed and new project guidelines have been adopted in an effort to fast-track the implementation of proposed projects. Approved projects include the second phases of projects in Haiti and Guinea-Bissau, as well as new projects in Cape Verde, Palestine, Lao People's Republic and Burundi.

The next Summit is scheduled to take place in Brazil on 8 October 2009, preceded by Focal Point meetings and a Ministerial Trilateral Commission Meeting on 17 July 2009.

IOR-ARC

After years of a decline of interest, a positive mood has begun to emerge at all IOR-ARC meetings. The 8TH Council of Ministers that took place from 29 April to 4 May 2008 in Iran, approved a recommendation by the Committee of Senior Officials that the Working Group of Heads of Missions (WGHEM), merited continuity as it was a useful tool for the Association



Former President Kgalema Motlanthe with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the 3rd IBSA Summit, New Delhi, India



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with Indian Vice Admiral Jagjit Singh Bedi and Brazilian Vice Admiral Joao Alfonso Maia de Faria during the IBSA naval exercise

as was demonstrated by the Sun City Outcome Document of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held at Sun City in January 2008. The implementation of the Sun City Outcome document is starting to achieve results. A small number of projects are currently being focused on with a good chance of success. Firstly, South Africa participated at a meeting in Oman to discuss the establishment of a Maritime Transport Council. During these discussions, South Africa succeeded in including a representative from the African Maritime Charter in the proposed Maritime Council with the status of an observer. A Senior Officials' meeting is scheduled to take place in June 2009, in South Africa. Secondly, the establishment of the Fisheries Support Unit (FSU) has attracted nine of the 18 member countries during the meeting in Oman to discuss the implementation of the FSU. Yemen takes over as the new IOR-ARC Chair in mid 2009 and India as the Vice-Chair.

NAASP

The 1st NAASP Summit was initially scheduled to be held in South Africa during February 2009. Due to a lack of funds, it is now foreseen that this will only take place in the second half of 2010. To keep the momentum, Indonesia offered to host a NAASP Senior Officials' meeting in mid-2009. At the Co-Chairs meeting in March 2009 in Tshwane, a decision was taken to revitalise the involvement of regional organisations in Asia and Africa with the NAASP.

The Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine (a joint initiative by the Co-Chairs Indonesia and South Africa), took place in July 2008 in Indonesia. At this Conference, South Africa pledged to contribute to Capacity Building in Palestine by providing diplomatic training for Palestinian Diplomats, providing medical training, as well as a course in Constitutional Law.

The NAASP Matrix of projects was revised at the Bali Co-Chairs meeting in 2008. It was also decided that 16 Champion countries, eight from each continent would be approached to anchor the projects.

FOCAC

With regard to the Consolidation of the African Agenda, a Senior Official's meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) took place in Cairo in October 2008 where the implementation of several development projects in Africa was agreed upon. In March 2009 the PRC pledged US\$ 5 billion through the China-Africa Foundation to alleviate poverty on the African Continent.

Active engagement in the NAM and G77 and China

South Africa's foreign policy seeks to promote South-South cooperation, with a special focus on the development needs of Africa in particular and the South in general. To achieve this, South Africa continued to contribute towards the advancement of the development agenda of the South through active participation in groupings of the South, such as the Non-Aligned Movement and Group of 77 and China. Of major importance in these debates, was the focus on the consolidation of the African Agenda, the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals, advocacy for the reform of the United Nations and its organs and the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Department continued to promote the development and strengthening of co-operation among developing countries through the exchange of technical, financial and institutional knowledge and expertise for the solution of development challenges.

South Africa participated at Ministerial level in various NAM and G77 and China meetings, amongst others, in New York on the margins of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly, the XV NAM Ministerial Conference (Mid-term review), NAM Second Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women and the 7th Conference of NAM Information Ministers. South African delegations also participated in various other multilateral meetings that contributed towards the development of positions of the South on key development-related issues.

Engagement with Middle-Income Countries

South Africa attended the Third International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries (MICs) held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 4 to 6 August 2008. The Conference was convened as an effort to provide authorisation to MICs to pursue their development agenda further in the United Nations through introducing a resolution for adoption by the 63rd United Nations General Assembly.

Effective participation in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The Department convened regular meetings of the Expanded UN Working Group, as part of the process of co-ordinating South Africa's preparations for participation in the UNCTAD XII Conference which was scheduled to be held in Accra, Ghana from 20 to 25 April 2008.



Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel at the Doha Review Conference



Former President Thabo Mbeki with Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda during a TICAD meeting

UNCTAD XII was held in Accra, Ghana, from 20 to 25 April 2008 under the overall theme “Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development”. The South African delegation was led by Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Rob Davies. South Africa's position was informed by the preliminary work done by the Expanded UN Working Group in Pretoria, which was chaired by the Department, which co-ordinated the inter-departmental preparations for the conference. Throughout its participation, the South African delegation supported UNCTAD's mandate of addressing the key global economic needs particularly of developing countries, given the growing importance of regional and interregional initiatives.

After protracted and difficult negotiations, agreement was eventually reached in the Committee of the Whole on the UNCTAD XII outcome text, known as the Accra Accord. In the final analysis, UNCTAD XII reaffirmed the vital role UNCTAD continues to play within the multilateral arena, particularly in providing analytical support to developing countries on key issues of development in a globalizing world economy. Its role as a forum for consensus and confidence building and for technical cooperation was also firmly endorsed.

Follow-up of the implementation of international agreed development goals

South Africa participated in the Follow-up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2009. The Conference sought to identify ways of improving the international mechanism of Financing for Development. It culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, which builds on the shared responsibilities of developed and developing countries for mobilising resources for development, which includes a specific reference to the development needs of Africa, and calls for the convening in 2009 of a United Nations High Level Conference on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development.

3. STRENGTHENING NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Engagement with the European Union (EU)

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU, Africa-EU and SADC-EU

Significant progress has been made within the ACP programmes in the Education, Migration and Finance sectors in the year under review including the ACP legislative programme. During the reporting year, the department has worked tirelessly in rendering value added support and insight to SA Members of Parliament on the bilateral and the multilateral engagement fora that are with and include the EU. Such support with regards to the multilateral relationship included the successful facilitation of a workshop of ACP research institutions to solicit insight and contributing to the resolutions and report of a paper titled “Challenges to the Democratic Accommodation of Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Diversities in ACP and EU Countries” which was the responsibility of an SA MP representing the ACP within the Political Committee of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. The Assembly adopted the inputs submitted out of the outcome of the ACP research institutes’ outcome in April 2009, Czech Republic.

South Africa’s presence and participation in SADC-EC EPA negotiations has allowed the country to advance within Southern Africa and within the ACP in general, the outlook that is premised on the primacy of fostering regional economic integration within the Southern Africa. Though marked progress has been made in the negotiations, pertinent matters to SA’s interests still need to be arrived at before the committing to the EPA agreement.

A programme of engaging South African civil society on the multilateral relationship with the EU was initiated in the period under review with the objective of establishing and enhancing the relationship with non-state actors and fostering engagement on policy decisions. Such an initiative advanced the priority of ensuring that when in discussions with the EU, considerations and interests of civil society are tabled.

Strengthen relations with the G8 to advance the African Agenda

South Africa engages with the G8 in the context of the African and the G5 Outreach programmes to promote the African Agenda and contribute to the development of a more equitable system of global governance. During the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Summit held in Japan, South Africa prioritised the implementation of past G8 commitments to Africa whilst pressing for adequate and effective responses to address challenges of food and energy security in Africa; presented a proactive



President Jacob Zuma with Mexican President Felipe Calderón at the G5 meeting in Italy

position on climate change which required an ambitious long term goal with equitable burden sharing, mid-term targets for developed countries; and sought a balanced agenda for the Heiligendamm Dialogue Process that reflected the development concerns of South Africa, Africa and the rest of the developing world.

Engagement with the Commonwealth

South Africa continued to participate in meetings of the Commonwealth's Board of Governors and Executive Committee. At these meetings, South Africa remained a leading advocate for the African Agenda and development-related issues. The Department also facilitated the participation of several South African Cabinet Ministers in relevant Commonwealth ministerial meetings as well as the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers meeting on the margins of the 63rd session of UNGA.

Engagement with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation (OECD)

South Africa heightened its participation in the OECD, following a decision by the OECD Ministerial Council to place South Africa on an Enhanced Engagement status. South Africa is playing a key role in working towards the successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations where agricultural liberalisation remains a key objective.

South Africa participated in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee's (OECD-DAC) 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra, Ghana from 2 – 4 September 2008. The Forum adopted the Accra Agenda for Action which provides impetus for the acceleration of the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. South Africa ensured that the principles of national ownership and mutual accountability were upheld. South Africa also contributed towards the inclusion of recognition of the importance of South-South Cooperation and the lessons that could be gained from it.

TICAD IV

Former President TM Mbeki supported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr N Dlamini Zuma and the Minister of Tourism Mr M van Schalkwyk participated in the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development Summit in Yokohama during May 2008. Three documents were negotiated and adopted by the Summit. The Yokohama Plan of Action outlined measures for support of development in Africa to be implemented through the TICAD process during the next five years; the Yokohama Declaration confirmed the continuing political commitment of Japan and other partners (African states, UN and other international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and eminent individuals) to African development; and the TICAD Follow-up Mechanism provided, for the first time, a mechanism by which to monitor implementation and assess the impact of support provided by Japan in terms of the TICAD process. The Declaration also noted the Japanese Government's commitment to present the outcome of TICAD IV to the G8 Hokkaido (Tokyo) Summit (7-9 July 2008).

In Gaborone during March 2009 a delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Sue van der Merwe and the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industries Dr Rob Davies participated in the Africa – Japan Ministerial Review Conference on implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Action. In the Gaborone Declaration the Government of Japan committed to henceforth co-ordinate more closely with the African Union and the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), to ensure that the assistance provided by Japan in support of African development supports the programmes and projects prioritized by the AU/NEPAD and the RECs themselves, in order to create the basis for sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and the sub-regions. The Gaborone Declaration also noted the Japanese Government's commitment to present to the London G20 Summit in April 2009 the message of Gaborone on the impact of the current global financial and economic crises on African economies, and the joint appeal by the African Governments and Japan for appropriate action from the G20 partners for relief from crisis as it affects Africa. The Declaration also noted Japan's recommitment to provide substantially more development assistance to Africa over the next four years despite the impact of the current global financial and economic crises.

4. PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Maximise the effectiveness of the UN presence in South Africa

The Government and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) undertook a joint evaluation of the impact of the presence of the UN in South Africa. This is the first time that an evaluation was conducted at the country level on a system-wide basis. The overall objective of South Africa's foreign policy, namely to work towards "a better South Africa", within "a better Africa" and "a better world" was used as the conceptual framework for the evaluation. The joint evaluation was concluded in December 2008 and the findings will be submitted to the Government and the United Nations in early 2009.

Engagement with the Group of Twenty (G-20)

In the wake of the Global Financial and Economic crises, the G-20 for the first time ever met at Summit-level to discuss the "Financial Markets and the World Economy" in Washington, the USA, in November 2008. President Motlanthe, Minister T Manuel and senior officials participated in the Summit, which culminated in the adoption of a Declaration and Action Plan outlining immediate and medium-term actions needed to address the impact of the crisis and reform the financial systems and institutions.

South Africa, as the only African country in the G-20, at the Summit raised issues of concern to Africa with other G-20 leaders. President Motlanthe stressed the need for developed countries to meet their commitments of increased aid to developing countries, as well as to ensure a stronger voice and representation for developing countries in the IMF and World Bank. South Africa also stressed that the crises pose significant dangers to development, which are particularly acute in low income countries, especially in Africa. South Africa called for additional resources to be made available in order to prevent liquidity constraints from turning into crises of solvency, including by complementing the resources of the IMF and Multilateral Development Banks.

Participation as a non-permanent member of the UNSC

During her second year as non-permanent member of the Security Council, South Africa continued to prioritise the promotion and safeguarding of multilateralism and the observance of international law. South Africa also continued her active participation in a full range of thematic and country specific issues, including the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, which are designed to enable the Council to explore some issues in greater depth, to monitor/facilitate implementation of some of its decisions and to oversee the implementation of sanctions.



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane addressing the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development



Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with Department's officials at the United Nations, New York

During the reporting period, South Africa paid particular focus to African issues that were on the agenda of the Security Council in line with its foreign policy objectives to support conflict resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and development activities on the African continent. South Africa directly and positively influenced a number of Council resolutions and presidential statements on these issues.

One of the key highlights of South Africa's membership of the Council was its contribution to the revitalisation of the debate on the relationship between the UN and regional organisations in terms of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, as well as efforts to enhance the co-ordination of positions between the UN and the African Union (AU). In this regard, South Africa utilised its last year in the Security Council to preside in April 2008, over a joint meeting of the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in New York. The Security Council later adopted Resolution 1809 which requested the Secretary-General to establish an AU/UN panel that will come up with recommendations on how the relationship between the two institutions could be strengthened. The report of the panel was adopted by the Security Council in March 2009. Following the adoption of the report, the Secretary-General has instituted a committee to unpack these recommendations in consultations with the AU Commission.

In view of the fact that the changed realities since the establishment of the Security Council have highlighted the need for a comprehensive reform of the body, South Africa continued to support calls for the reform of the Security Council. In this regard, South Africa is actively engaged in the inter-governmental negotiations that have begun in March 2009 on Security Council reform

Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control

In the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, South Africa participated in meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the annual General Conference of the IAEA, the IAEA Board of Governors meetings and various technical meetings. The most important issues considered by the IAEA Board included the implementation of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Other important activities included proposals related to the multilateralism of the nuclear fuel cycle and the IAEA's technical co-operation programme.

South African nuclear experts participated in various IAEA technical 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.

As previous Chair and member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Troika, South Africa participated in a number of outreach activities with non-NSG Partners in an effort to promote wider adherence to the NSG Guidelines on Nuclear Transfers.

South Africa was one of the 94 states that signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway in December 2008. At the same time, South Africa has continued to participate in the Group of Governmental Experts deliberations of High Contracting Parties to the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) on the cluster munitions, as well as in the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW and in Meetings of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxins Weapons Convention.

Reform of the UN system in order to strengthen multilateralism

South Africa continued to participate in the broader debate of UN reform, including reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs). SA continues to regard UN Secretariat and Management reform as an important area to strengthen multilateralism and therefore fully participated in debates on the subject, including the General Assembly thematic debate on management reform.

As a further commitment to the strengthening of multilateralism, South Africa ensured that assessments for membership of international organisations and other assessed obligations were met promptly and in full.

Adherence to and Promotion of International Law

The importance of International law as a mechanism for enhancing a rule-based international order, especially in view of the greater uncertainties in international politics, remains as important as before. The past two decades saw a radical transformation of international politics resulting in fundamental changes in the international legal order. Thus the contribution to the formulation of international law and the enhancement of respect for its provisions remains a key principle underlying the strategic foreign policy objectives of the Government. In Africa, the continent's multilateral systems have been developed and overhauled based on the principles of international law. International law will continue to play a role in support of the Africa Agenda and to enhance Africa's own initiatives in developing architecture to ensure peace, security and stability on the continent and to address the challenges of under-development, poverty alleviation, democratisation and good governance. In this regard the establishment and integration of the African Court on Human and People's Rights and the African Court of Justice and the strengthening AU structures through international law will be important.

Through the negotiation of various agreements in the area of strengthening South-South and North-South Co-operation, respect for international law will continue and form an important basis for strengthening relationships through the work of the Joint Commissions, etc. The same remains true for the area of strengthening political and economic relations. The promotion of international law will continue through participating in the formulation and codification of international law that takes place inter alia in the work of the International Law Commission, the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations, the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee and in the newly established African Commission on International Law. Legal advice on matters dealt within the United Nations will be provided. The advancement of international law in ongoing issues and topical areas such as, sustainable development issues, law of the sea, international environmental law, human rights law, international space law, international humanitarian issues, terrorism, international criminal law, disarmament and non-proliferation, economic relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes will also continue.

Legal advice in respect of South African law concerning all departmental issues has been and will continue to be provided in support of the Department.

With Cabinet's endorsement of the Department as the official Treaty Custodian of South Africa, the maintenance and administration of a complete and up to date record of the Treaty collection of the Republic of South Africa remains a priority and the Department will continue to render an information service specialising in international law.

Promotion of SA candidacies for election to international organisations

The Department served as a focal point for the diplomatic corps to register requests for support of their candidatures to UN organs and programmes, specialised agencies, and autonomous bodies. It further co-ordinated the interdepartmental process to consider these requests for support and in order to be consistent developed a policy and criteria to guide all South African role players in this process.

Because South Africa believes that through participation in subsidiary bodies and committees of the UN system, a valuable contribution can be made to strengthen multilateralism and promote the agendas of Africa and the South, it currently serves on a number of bodies, functional and expert committees of the United Nations system. The Department therefore co-ordinated the identification of vacancies for possible submission of South African candidatures in this regard.

Identify initiatives in the field of socio-economic development

South Africa's participation at the Commission for Social Development in February 2008 led to the inclusion of employment issues into the United Nations system. The Comprehensive Social Security Conference for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa held in Cape Town during March 2008 adopted the Cape Town Declaration, outlining a plan to set up an African Network and Centre of Excellence, in order to advance the objective of expanding social security in Africa.

Humanitarian Affairs

South Africa contributed in the provision of humanitarian assistance globally, with a particular focus on the African continent. Contributions of R17 million were made, which included contributions to countries such as Southern Sudan (R1.8 million), the Democratic Republic of Congo (R1.3 million), Horn of Africa (R2.3 million), Guinea Bissau (R500,000), Caribbean (R3 million), People's Republic of China (R1.5million) and Gaza (R1 million), assisting these countries to deal with complex emergencies and natural disasters. South Africa also continued to contribute to the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) aimed at providing immediate relief in case of disasters. South Africa's firm support of the ideals of CERF is emphasized by the fact that South Africa, as an emerging economy, is the 27th largest contributor and remains one of the largest contributors of the South.

South Africa continued to participate in the debate on the reform of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) aimed at making FAO more effective in dealing with food security issues and to ensure that the UN system could better address the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable; particularly promoting the African Agenda, to address food insecurity in Africa.

The Department also co-hosted the 8th Regional International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Seminar on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law during June 2008. By co-hosting this Seminar with the ICRC, South Africa sought to encourage African countries to consider acceding to and locally integrating International Humanitarian Law instruments.

The European Union Mission on Migration was hosted successfully in Pretoria on 11 September 2008. The aim of the Mission was to commence negotiations towards the establishment of the Migration Dialogue Forum between South Africa and the European Union.

International crime

South Africa continued to facilitate the implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols, namely: Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons; Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea; and Protocol against the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. South Africa continued to facilitate its implementation of the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as the main instrument in the war against illicit drugs. However monitoring mechanisms for the UN Convention Against Corruption continues to remain a challenge.

Environment

South Africa continued to contribute to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular poverty reduction, through participating in the various United Nations Conventions for the environment such as, the UNCCD (desertification), UNFCCC (Climate Change) and the CBD (biodiversity-covering all fauna and flora).

During the 2007 Conference of the Parties (COP14) of the UN Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), South Africa together with two of its SADC partners obtained international approval to trade in elephant tusks with Japan as only trading partner. In 2008 the CITES Standing Committee on Animals approved China as additional trading partner to trade in elephant tusks. A total of 51 tons of ivory were sold in a once off sale in November 2008.

South Africa participated in the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 3rd Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP3) of the Kyoto Protocol held from 1 to 12 December 2008 in Poznan, Poland. COP14 failed to agree on the share of proceeds for funding, which resulted in the faltering of the Article 9 (Kyoto Protocol) review. A more positive conclusion at COP14 was the conferral of legal capacity to the Adaptation Fund Board, which allows for direct access of funds without specific World Bank prerequisites. The COP14 also agreed to on a work plan for the conclusion of negotiations at the 15th COP in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

Former President Thabo Mbeki with Nigerian President HE Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua during the latter's State Visit to South Africa



5. BILATERAL RELATIONS

Southern Africa

The Southern African region remains relatively peaceful and politically stable despite security and post conflict reconstruction and development challenges in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). South Africa as an integral part of the SADC region will continue to support peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. Political and economic stability in the region would contribute immensely to regional economic integration.

In the DRC, South Africa continued to be involved in institutional and human resource capacity building. The Bi-National Commission (BNC) between South Africa and the DRC was held in April 2008 and October 2008 in South Africa and the DRC respectively. The BNC is utilised as a mechanism to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

On 09-11 June 2008 the South Africa-Malawi Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) was inaugurated in Lilongwe, Malawi during which bilateral projects in areas of Agriculture, Health, Home Affairs, Defence and Science and Technology were identified.

The Annual Heads of State Economic Bilateral meeting between South Africa and Mozambique was held on 10 April 2008 as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. The South Africa- Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation convened from 20-22 August 2008. During the reporting period, South Africa continued to engage Mozambique regarding the Memorandum of Understanding on regular diplomatic consultations and a suitable date for signing is yet to be identified by the two parties. South Africa hosted the inaugural session of South Africa-Mozambique Joint Commission on Defence and Security in December 2008.

South Africa-Zimbabwe Joint Commission for Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation (JCC) meeting convened in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe from 13-16 March 2009. The meeting paved the way for an enhanced cooperation in various fields following a long lull in bilateral interaction between two countries. The negotiations between the two countries on the establishment of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) commenced during the period under review and are yet to be finalised.

South Africa and Angola signed an Agreement on Science and Technology in April 2008 and the two countries continue to share business and investment information within the framework

of the Joint Commission for Cooperation Agreements. In this regard there has been continuous interaction between South African and Angolan Chambers of Commerce.

The implementation of the South Africa-Lesotho Joint Bilateral Commission for Cooperation (JBCC) Infrastructure Development Projects in Lesotho gained momentum during the reporting period as evidenced by the further funding of Metolomg Dam and Sani Top to Mokhotlong Road Projects by the South African Government.

The South Africa-Namibia Heads of State Economic Bilateral meeting was held in Namibia on 05 August 2008. The meeting provided an opportunity for both countries to deepen economic relations and cooperation. On 09-13 September 2008 South Africa held a Joint Commission on Defence and Security with Namibia.

The South Africa-Botswana Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was in held in Cape Town from 22 – 24 October 2008.

Former President Mbeki undertook a Working Visit to the Kingdom of Swaziland from 23-24 April 2008. During the visit, the two countries reiterated the importance of good neighbourliness as a cornerstone for sustained regional economic development.

West and Central Africa

In 2009 South Africa and Nigeria will celebrate 10 years Anniversary of the establishment of the structured bilateral relations between the two countries. The South Africa-Nigeria Bi-National Commission (BNC) was established in 1999 as a mechanism to strengthen and expand relations. In this regard a 10 year Anniversary Celebration Committee was set up in December 2008 to plan and coordinate the celebrations.

The relations between South Africa and Nigeria were further strengthened by the Visit of President Yar' Adua to South Africa on 03-04 June 2008. The Joint Presidential Advisory Council on Investment (JPACI) was inaugurated in Nigeria in February 2009 during the BNC Review Council meeting and will be utilised to enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries.

On 24 January 2009, President Kgalema Motlanthe participated in a hand over ceremony of Timbuktu archives and library building to the Government of Mali. The South African government agreed to support the conservation of the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu and undertook to build a new library to house these historic documents.

South Africa continued its focus during the reporting period on the implementation of capacity building projects in the region. These range from the electricity generation project, and the rice and vegetable production project conducted jointly with Vietnam, all in Guinea-Conakry, the IBSA Livestock Development and Agricultural project in Guinea-Bissau and the Cuban Medical Brigade in Mali.

North Africa

The extensive legal framework for co-operation that exists between South Africa and the North African region provides for the expansion of political and economic relations. During the period under review South Africa has continued to strive to enhance its political and economic interaction with these countries in order to consolidate bilateral and multilateral relations.

Owing to the political developments in Mauritania and its suspension from the AU during the reporting period South Africa took a position in support of the AU and remains committed to the normalisation of bilateral relations between the two countries when the country returns to constitutional order, and gains readmission to the AU.

Bilateral political and economic relations between South Africa and Egypt were further strengthened by the visit of President Hosni Mubarak to South Africa in July 2008 during which discussions were held with President Mbeki. The visit offered the two presidents an opportunity to evaluate the status of bilateral political, economic and trade relations between the two countries and to identify other areas of cooperation to be implemented through the Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) mechanisms.

In respect to Western Sahara (SADR), the Department has in partnership with the University of Pretoria hosted a Conference in International Law with Western Sahara as a case study in December 2008. South Africa continues to support the Saharawi Arab Republic to achieve the right to self-determination. South Africa continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the SADR.

East Africa

South Africa has existing Structured Bilateral Commissions with the Republics of Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan. The 5th South Africa-Rwanda Joint Bilateral Commission (JCC) was held at Groote Schuur, Cape Town, South Africa on 25 March 2009, during which existing bilateral cooperation projects were reviewed and new areas of cooperation were identified.

With regard to Sudan, South Africa continued to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during the prize handing over ceremony after the match between the Kings Punjab and the Mumbai Indians in Durban



Movement (SPLM). During the reporting period, South Africa's former President Thabo Mbeki has been leading the AU High Level Panel on Darfur. In this regard South Africa continued to support the efforts of the AU High Level Panel on Darfur as well as the UN, Qatar and the Arab League initiatives.

The Department of International Relations–GOSS-UNISA human resource capacity and institution building programme has registered significant achievements during the reporting period as evidenced by the completion of phase three which brought the number of trained participants to over 1500.

During the period under review, South Africa continued to support Somalia's reconciliation process and will, as part of the international community assist the Somalis to find a peaceful and lasting solution to their crisis. The Department has participated in the International Contact Group on Somalia meeting in Brussels on 26-27 February 2009 during which South Africa mooted possible capacity and institutional building engagements in Somalia.

ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST CENTRAL AND EAST ASIA

Japan

Despite the global economic crisis, Japan has continued to pledge financial support for African development and committed itself to doubling ODA and private investment in Africa by 2012. In recognition of the growing importance of African issues in the international environment, Japan has demonstrated its commitment to peace building by expanding its role in PKO missions in Africa: of its 16 PKOs internationally, seven were in Africa.

The Republic of Korea (ROK)

The ROK also demonstrated a growing commitment to Africa, and hosted the Korea – Africa Economic Conference (KOAPEC) in October 2008, during which development assistance agreements were concluded with nine African states. These include inter alia: infrastructure

development, sustainable natural resources development, agriculture and rural development and capacity building for ICT excellence. On a bilateral level, the ROK hosted South Africa to the 4th Policy Consultative Forum in Seoul, in December 2008.

Central Asia

A Senior Officials' delegation paid a working visit to Kazakhstan in December 2008. Discussions with the Foreign Ministry included mechanisms to strengthen the bilateral relationship in both the political and economic fields.

The People's Republic of China (PRC)

In order to celebrate ten years of diplomatic relations, a phased marketing strategy was developed ensuring the participation of Ministers and other spheres of Government through programmes, speeches and seminars during the Ten Years Celebration. This included trade expos, cultural shows and a hospitality suite in China. To ensure South Africa's participation in the Shanghai World Expo 2010, a national interdepartmental Steering Committee was established and a task team was appointed to propose a South African theme and sub themes for the South Africa pavilion.

In securing a common RSA-PRC position in the UN Security Council, a meeting took place between Presidents HU Jintao and K Motlanthe on the margins of the G-20 meeting in November 2008 in Washington DC. These issues were revisited during the PRC Minister's visit to South Africa in January 2009 and also included discussions on peace building in the African Continent with special reference to Sudan and Zimbabwe. A Strategic Dialogue (meeting) took place in January 2009.

SOUTH ASIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

Bilateral relations with South Asia, South East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands remained steady and cordial in the 2008/09 fiscal year. Total trade with the above region grew by 18.8%; however, the massive trade deficit has not been adequately bridged.

Bilateral relations with South Asia continued to grow in the 2008/9 financial year and the trade statistics between South Africa and India particularly reflects this reality with an increase from USD 4.6bn in 2006-07 to USD 6.0bn in 2007-08.

Key countries in the region are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, all with which South Africa has cordial relations. During the reporting period, the escalation of terrorist activities in

the region have become a major threat to regional stability and economic growth, as well as to international security.

India is South Africa's major partner in South Asia – both within the bilateral and multilateral / trilateral context. The inaugural Africa-India Summit in April 2008 was witness to the possible advent of a welcome opening of Indian markets for African products. Similarly, the IBSA Dialogue Forum continued to provide a valuable impetus to South-South relations.

India's investments in South Africa have grown remarkably in quantity as well as diversity through companies such as Mittal (steel), Tata (vehicles, IT, ferro-chrome); Mahindras (utility vehicles); and a number of pharmaceutical companies including Ranbaxy and CIPLA. South African companies with investment interests in India include ACSA (airport infra-structure and management), SASOL (energy) and Firstrand (finance). Following the Mumbai terrorist attacks and the March 2009 attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team in Pakistan, the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament was moved to South Africa, confirming the excellent bilateral relations between South Africa and India.

The Mumbai attacks in particular have increased tension between India and Pakistan. Both countries have continued to seek South Africa's mediation to help defuse tensions between the nuclear neighbours.

Trade with South East Asia continued to grow, totalling around R18 billion annually. The region is 8th overall in terms of South African exports, and 7th in terms of imports. Thailand has emerged as the most important trading partner, although the trade balance remains hugely in favour of South East Asia.

A number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers visited the region either bilaterally or to attend international meetings, amongst them Deputy Minister Hajaig who participated in the Islamic World Economic Forum hosted by Indonesia in February 2009.

Following the normalisation of relations with Thailand in January 2008, a successful Senior Officials Meeting was held in Bangkok in October 2008.

The trilateral project between South Africa, Vietnam and the Republic of Guinea relating to the production of rice and vegetables in Guinea was implemented during 2008. It is progressing well, contributing to food security in Africa and is receiving international interest.

While South Africa was a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (2007-8), it was appointed as Lead Nation on Timor Leste. At UNGA63, South Africa signed a

Framework Agreement for Technical Co-operation with Timor Leste, paving the way to assist the country in its development. The opening of a Mission in Dili has been deferred until budgetary constraints have eased.

Following the devastating cyclone that struck Myanmar in May 2008, South Africa made a donation to the United Nations Humanitarian system to alleviate the plight of the people of Myanmar.

In the South Pacific, Australia remains South Africa's major partner in terms of political, social and economic co-operation. The significant expatriate community of more than 120 000 contributes significantly to South Africa's revenue in terms of remittances and tourism. In 2007, 96 000 tourists from Australia visited South Africa, which made Australia the largest single provider of visitors from Asia.

Total trade with Australia amounted to R20 billion in 2007, with the trade balance slightly in Australia's favour. South Africa is the 17th largest foreign investor in Australia. At the same time, Australian foreign direct investment in South Africa has increased, particularly in the mining and agricultural sectors. Major Australian investors in South Africa include mining giants like BHP Billiton and mining consultancy companies like RSG Global from Western Australia.

There is productive cooperation with Australia across a wide range of issues, e.g. Commonwealth, WTO, Cairns Group, New World Wine Producer's Group and the Kimberley Process. Australia is also an important provider of development cooperation – both to South Africa and to the region.

The Rudd Government's new foreign policy approach to Africa and the achievement of the MDGs, its concern for environmental issues like climate change and maritime conservation and the distinctive shift towards multilateral solutions to conflict have moved the antipodean state significantly closer to South Africa's International Relations policy priorities.

It can be expected that relations with New Zealand will grow in intensity with the opening of a new High Commission in Wellington in April 2009. New Zealand is home to approximately 60 000 South African expatriates who are making a positive contribution to commercial relations in terms of remittances and tourism.

Although bilateral trade is relatively modest (R 1.8 billion in 2007), the trend is showing a consistent upward trajectory. Tourism too will in all likelihood increase, particularly in the light of sports tourism (international sporting events in South Africa like Super 14 Rugby, the IPL, ICC World Cup and Confederation Cup competitions) and the re-negotiated Air Services Agreement, which makes provision for an increase in weekly flights to 7 by 2010.

MIDDLE EAST

Gulf States

Bilateral relations with countries in the Gulf region continued to grow with co-operation expanding in several fields. The region remains the source of some 60 percent of South Africa's crude oil, mainly from Saudi Arabia and Iran, with smaller quantities from Oman and Yemen. The Gulf region is also an important market for South Africa's goods and services and a source of investment, even though growth in these areas is likely to be affected by the global financial crisis.

Political relations with the region have been characterised by several high-level visits, in particular the State Visit paid by then President Thabo Mbeki to Qatar at the invitation of the Amir, His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. The President's delegation included five Ministers, who conducted negotiations with their respective counterparts on ways to enhance bilateral relations. In order to ensure that decisions taken during the State Visit are implemented, the first round of Bilateral Ministerial Consultations between the two countries was held in Cape Town in February 2009.

The South African Government manages its relations with several of the Gulf States through structured bilateral mechanisms such as Joint Commissions. In this regard, the Tenth Meeting of the SA-Iran Joint Commission was held in Tehran in July 2008 and the Third Meeting of the SA-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission was held in Sandton in February 2009. Similar structures with all the other Gulf States are either in place or agreements establishing them ready for signature, but meetings did not take place during the financial year. In addition, several ministerial and provincial visits were exchanged during the year.

South Africa recognises the importance of the Gulf region as a source for tourism and facilitates participation by South African companies in the annual Arabian Travel Market in Dubai. While the total number of tourists from the region remains below 10,000 per year (with Saudi Arabia and the UAE accounting for the bulk of these), travellers from the Gulf are generally higher per capita spenders than visitors from elsewhere in the world. The increase in the number of flights by Gulf airlines to South Africa is also expected to stimulate further growth.

The Levant

Two major events that had and will have bearing on the Middle East Peace process over the course of 2009 were the Israeli invasion of Gaza and the election of a new right wing



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Fatima Hajaig with the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran Dr Behrouz Alishihri, during a bilateral meeting held in Pretoria

government in Israel. Concerning the Israeli invasion, the South African Government remained abreast of developments and issued numerous press statements in response to the Israeli military assault against Hamas in Gaza during November 2008 and January 2009. In these, the SA Government unequivocally condemned the Israeli military assault on Gaza and the death of almost 1,500 Palestinians, the majority being women and children. The Department also facilitated humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza following the Israeli assault, such as that arranged by the Gift of the Givers, the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, the South African Council of Churches, Cosatu as well as other SA non-governmental organisation.

During the period under review, South Africa was a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council where the Middle East Peace Process was an important issue on the agenda. South Africa regularly expressed itself on the need for a peaceful negotiated settlement to the Middle East Peace Process.

The Middle East Peace Process formed an important agenda item during a number of structured bilateral meetings with countries in the Middle East and also outside the region.

During November 2008, South Africa successfully co-hosted the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The event is held annually to demonstrate the continued solidarity of the South African Government and people towards the struggle of the Palestinian people for self determination and a viable Palestinian state.

The Minister of Education of the Palestinian National Authority, Ms Lamees Al-Alami, visited South Africa during October 2008. During her visit she met with her counterpart Minister Naledi Pandor and positive steps were taken to strengthen relations between the two countries.

South Africa continued to strengthen relations on all levels with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq and successfully hosted two delegations from Iraq to exchange views on national reconciliation, with South Africa's experiences in this regard as a point of reference. Syria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Walid Moalem, visited South Africa from 18 to 20 May adding weight to the two countries' developing bilateral relations.

THE AMERICAS

NORTH AMERICA

Bilateral relations with the countries of North America remained strong with co-operation expanding on matters of common interest and mutual benefit. Ongoing interaction with the developed countries of North America served to highlight their important role in supporting key initiatives of national importance, such as NEPAD and the fight against communicable and infectious diseases, including HIV and AIDS.

United States of America (USA)

The SA-USA Annual Bilateral Forum was held in May 2008 to assess the progress made on bilateral co-operation activities, to identify areas for further co-operation enhancement, as well as to serve as a forum for addressing various challenges in the bilateral relationship.

Interaction within the bilateral relationship strived to further the understanding on both sides of the respective countries' policies and thus enhance co-operation on issues of mutual importance. These actions were underscored by various high-level visits.

Following the 2008 US Presidential elections, the Democratic Administration under President Obama presented new opportunities for the bilateral relationship and global interactions. Whilst domestic issues dominated the Obama Administration's agenda, a central theme in the short to medium term was the serious challenges posed by the global economic meltdown, and the role that the US should play in mobilising a co-ordinated and truly inclusive global response. Within this global economic recessionary environment, South Africa remained one of the US' leading trading partners in Africa and accounts for the most diverse trade flows. Total trade with the US amounted to approximately R100 billion with SA enjoying a trade surplus of approximately R20 billion.

Due to the impasse reached with the SACU/US FTA negotiations, it was agreed by the Trade Deputies that the comprehensive FTA would remain an objective in the long term, but that the parties would develop a joint work programme to address a broad range of FTA and other trade and investment related issues and seek to conclude concrete trade and investment enhancing agreements. Such a framework (Trade and Investment Development Co-operation Agreement, TIDCA) form the building blocks for pursuing the FTA over the longer term and was signed on 14 July 2008.

The building of local capacity for research and effective delivery in the continuing battle against communicable diseases through the US Presidential Emergency Programme for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) received augmented commitment with South Africa remaining one of the PEPFAR's

15 focus countries. Collectively, these countries comprise approximately 50 percent of HIV infections worldwide. Under PEPFAR, South Africa received nearly R 2.9 billion (USD 397.8 million) in 2007, while for 2008, the programme committed R 4.3 billion (USD 591 million) to support comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care programmes.

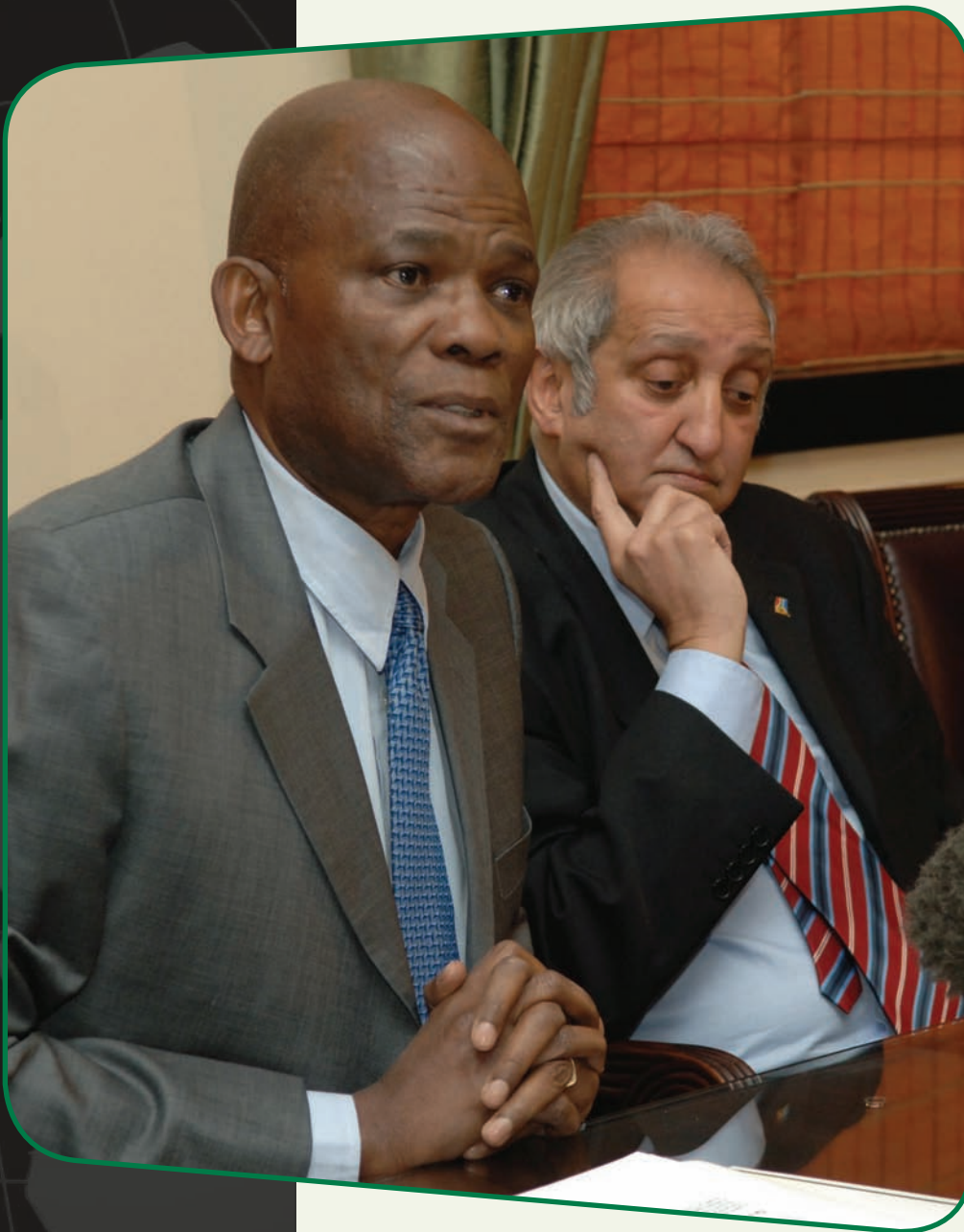
With regard to military-to-military co-operation, SA and the USA continued bilateral interaction regarding military medicine research within the PHIDISA programme and the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance programme (ACOTA), which is aimed at enhancing South Africa's peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance intervention capabilities. Emphasis was placed on achieving enhanced capacity, as well as the creation of the necessary mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of such ability throughout Africa.

A further important pillar of South Africa's bilateral relations with the US is people-to-people interaction. In this regard, a wide range of individuals and institutions continue to interact on a regular basis; notably through the process of engaging the Diaspora, increasing training and capacity-building, and concluding MoUs in areas such as Science and Technology, Education, Agriculture, Sister City Agreements, etc.

Canada

In May 2008, the Fifth Annual Consultations (AC) between SA and Canada took place at senior officials' level in Pretoria. The AC is the primary forum in which issues of mutual interest and concern receive specific focus on an annual basis. It also serves to direct and focus all areas of cooperation between the two countries. As over the past five years since its inception, the agenda continued to increase in terms of scope, including issues such as Africa, peace and security co-operation, trade and investment, mining and nuclear co-operation, science and technology, Arts and Culture, Policing, and capacity-building in the context of JIPSA and ASGISA. Six National Departments participated in the back to back ODA discussions. There was progress on both the draft Mutual Customs Cooperation and Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreements and a Sports Exchange Programme, including cooperation on the hosting of sport events such as the 2010 World Cup, was signed.

The Canadian G8 Sherpa, Mr David Angell, engaged with Deputy Minister van der Merwe regarding African priority issues such as Zimbabwe and the G8. Canada is particularly involved in Africa in areas such as the Great Lakes and Sudan. During a visit to Sudan in March 2008, the then Canadian Foreign Minister announced that Canada would invest up to \$275 million in Sudan during 2008-09 in three areas: security, diplomacy and aid. The first SA/Canada trilateral co-operation projects in the region were also identified and implemented. SA and Canada also co-operated on preparations for the Ghana Conference on Aid Effectiveness.



Minister of Social Development Zola Skweyiya with
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad

Canada's ODA to South Africa amounts to approximately R 250 million for the period 2008-2013. The ODA is aimed at fostering social upliftment, policy development, welfare transformation, training programmes, capacity building, education, health and skills exchange. Canada is also one of the largest foreign investors in the South African mining sector, with 17 Canadian exploration and mining companies active in South Africa, representing capital assets of approximately R 14, 5 billion. The DTI has also indicated that Canada has become one of the largest overall foreign direct investors in South Africa over the past year to an amount of approximately R 30 billion. According to the latest statistics available (2008), South African imports and exports amount to R 6, 2 and R 5, 8 billion respectively. This left South Africa with a negative trade balance of R 373 628 million.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Latin America

South Africa's Bilateral relations with Latin America and the Caribbean continued through the strengthening of co-operation. In the bilateral sphere a wide range of contacts and exchanges took place. Brazil also remained a significant player in the multilateral context. Increased co-operation in a number of fields also continued with other like-minded countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America such as Chile, Uruguay and Argentina.

Following discussions between Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her Chilean counterpart, Minister Alejandro Foxley, held in Santiago in March 2009, South Africa and Chile agreed to expand economic and trade links. Additionally, the Second Meeting of the SA-Argentine Bi-National Commission in Buenos Aires in December 2008 reinforced bilateral cooperation in a variety of spheres.

The Caribbean

South Africa endeavoured, in conjunction with the African Union (AU), to strengthen co-operation between Africa and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean which gave added impetus to relations, both bilaterally, as well as at a multilateral level. A Regional Diaspora Conference was hosted in Barbados in preparation for the 2nd AU-CARICOM Diaspora Conference to be hosted by South Africa.

The 5th Joint Bilateral Commission between South Africa and Cuba was held in Cape Town in November 2008. Negotiations aimed at the cancellation by South Africa of Cuba's outstanding debt continued during the reporting period.

The Foreign Minister of Suriname paid a visit to South Africa during which the Suriname Diplomatic Mission was opened. Humanitarian assistance was rendered to Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti.

EUROPE

The African Agenda remained central to the work of the Department as it relates to the interaction with Europe. To meet this objective, bilateral mechanisms, high-level visits, multilateral fora and activities of Missions such as Africa Group meetings, Africa Day celebrations and mobilisation of the Africa Diaspora were utilised. Several joint conflict prevention and peace keeping operations were carried out and several trilateral co-operation agreements in the field of Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) were implemented.

Western Europe

Support for NEPAD was placed on the agenda of a series of structured bilateral interactions, including the SA/Belgium Joint Commission, the South African/Swedish Bi-national, the South Africa/France Forum for Political Dialogue as well as during the visits by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair in June, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in January and that of Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to Switzerland in March.

The African Agenda as well as the reform of the United Nations were also promoted by the President, Deputy President, the Minister and other principals to G8 and EU countries during visits to France (April and October), Portugal (December), Germany (April and October), Italy and Sweden (October) and with French President Nicolas Sarkozy during his State Visit in February.

South Africa's objectives were similarly promoted during structured bilaterals with Belgium (October), Sweden (October), France (February) as well as Dutch Deputy Minister Timmermans (February).

South Africa hosted a Preparatory Seminar on Minerals and Conflict in June in preparation for a thematic debate on this topic initiated by Belgium during their chairship of the UNSC.

Several government delegations visited France and Germany to study best practices on how these countries organised the 1998 and 2006 FIFA Soccer World Cups and the 2008 IRB Rugby World Cup, in particular how to promote tourism on a sustainable basis.

The visit to SA by Dutch Interior Minister Ter Horst in February led to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation.

Co-operation between South Africa as host of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the UK as host of the 2012 Olympic Games continued during the reporting period with reciprocal visits and exchanges. The UK agreed to fund assistance for sustainable training grounds and facilities.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sue van der Merwe with the Minister of Foreign Trade of Sweden, Dr Ewa Bjorling

Trade statistics and tourism arrivals climbed to new highs due to continued efforts by South African Missions in Europe. EU and EU Member States collectively emerged as the largest contributors to ODA in SA and on the Continent in general. Significant offers of support for JIPSA were obtained and utilised, e.g. Germany, the Italian working group on JIPSA and the training by the French nuclear company AREVA of South African engineering graduates in project management at post-graduate level. Major initiatives in this regard have been agreed upon and implementation started from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Flemish Regional Government, in the areas of port training, diamond beneficiation and middle management best practices. JIPSA projects with both the UK and Ireland are ongoing, including training in the printing industry by Independent Newspapers and programmes implemented by the Royal Agriculture College to train fifty emerging farmers from South Africa.

A series of structured bilaterals were held with various countries at Senior Official's level focused on support and co-operation in the field of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

The Department supported relevant line-function departments and sectors of South Africa's cultural industries during their participation in international film festivals and other major art and culture events, including the annual Cannes International Festival (May) and the World Music Market (January). South Africa was guest participant in the Ghent Festival (June) as well as in the Vakantiebeurs in Utrecht (January).

SA Ministers and civil society participated in the commemoration of the SS Mendi and of OR Tambo (October) in the UK.

Central and Eastern Europe

Bilateral political consultations between South Africa and Bulgaria took place in March at Deputy Minister level. The Director-General, Dr A Ntsaluba, paid a visit to Romania in March where he reopened the Embassy in Bucharest.

The Third and Fourth South African/Russian ITEC Intersessionals took place in Sochi (July) and in Moscow (February) respectively where outstanding issues and challenges to co-operation were discussed.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Ivanov, accompanied by the Ministers for Natural Resources and for Transport, paid a courtesy call on President Mbeki during March 2008. Discussions were also held with Deputy President Mlambo Ngcuka, Minister Lekota, Minister Sonjica and Deputy

Minister Pahad during which co-operation between the two countries in the fields of science and technology and defence matters were further consolidated.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr Ndebele, accompanied by a business delegation visited Moscow and the Krasnodar region to discuss regional and future economic co-operation. KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Finance and Economic Affairs, Dr Z. Mkhize, accompanied by a business delegation, also held business seminars in St Petersburg and Krasnodar in the Russian Federation.

The Belarusian/South African Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Co-operation was inaugurated in Minsk in July. It was chaired by Deputy Minister Rob Davies of Trade and Industry, while Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Minister Sonjica of Minerals and Energy also participated.

Minister Pallo Jordan of Arts and Culture visited Belarus to discuss the Cultural Programme of Action as well as the holding of a Cultural Month in South Africa. The Chairperson for the Belarus House of Representatives attended the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town and interacted with South African Parliamentarians.

The Joint Commission for Defence between South Africa and Ukraine was held in Kyiv, Ukraine to discuss defence co-operation.

The Turkish Minister of Energy visited South Africa in March to co-chair the First Joint Economic Co-operation (JEC). The JEC promotes and facilitates trade and economic co-operation between the two countries.

EUROPEAN UNION

SA-EU Bilateral Relationship

SA-EU bilateral relations were considerably strengthened during 2008/2009, with the primary focus being on fully implementing the SA-EU Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) and implementing the SA-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan. In this regard, political dialogue between South Africa and the EU was significantly increased, with the highlight being the first SA-EU Summit, which was held on 25 July 2008 in Bordeaux, France. In addition, three highly successful SA-EU Ministerial Troika meetings were held during the period under review, namely on 3 June 2008 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 25 July 2008 in Bordeaux, France, and on 16 January 2009 in Kleinmond, South Africa. A Peace and Security dialogue was also held at senior officials level on 4 November 2008 in Cape Town.

One of the key outcomes of the Summit was the decision to engage in a regular Peace and Security Dialogue at senior officials level through the EU's Peace and Security Committee in troika format. The Summit furthermore committed itself to further deepening the SA-EU relationship through, inter alia, the establishment of functional dialogue fora in the areas of energy, transport, ICT, health, etc.

In this regard, the 9th SA-EU Joint Cooperation Council, meeting of 4 November 2008 endorsed respective terms of reference for the establishment of a SA-EU Migration Dialogue Forum; a SA-EU Health Dialogue Forum; as well as a regular SA-EU Space Dialogue. Furthermore, the 8th meeting of the SA-EU Ministerial Troika on 16 January 2009 in Kleinmond, South Africa, endorsed terms of reference for the establishment of a SA-EU Maritime Dialogue Forum as well as a SA-EU Energy Dialogue Forum. In addition to the existing dialogue forums on Peace and Security, Trade, Science and Technology; as well as Development Cooperation, there are now ten structured SA-EU dialogue fora, with another six possible fora under consideration.

The period under review also saw agreement being reached with the EU on the draft Amending Agreement for the revised TDCA. The Amending Agreement covers all the non-trade chapters under the TDCA, and includes new and revised texts for 35 articles under Title IV (Economic Cooperation), Title V (Development Cooperation) and Title VI (Cooperation in Other Areas). It is foreseen that the Amending Agreement will be signed during the 2nd SA-EU Summit, which is scheduled for September 2009.

The Science and Technology Agreement, signed in 1997, continued to go from strength to strength. South Africa is now the fourth (4th) largest foreign participant in the 7th EU Framework Programme (FP7) after the United States, Russia, and Japan. The Wine and Spirits Agreement has, unfortunately, shown no further progress towards final conclusion due to continued disagreement over Geographical Indications (GIs). Negotiations towards a SA-EU Fisheries Agreement have not commenced.

Cape Town State Protocol Lounge



PROGRAMME 3

STATE PROTOCOL

During the period under review, the Department developed the capacity to manage and organise a large number of incoming and outgoing Visits. The character of State and Official Visits is marked by great measure of reverence and honour. It is within this context that Heads of State or Government and visiting dignitaries were accorded comprehensive protocol services with enduring customs of protocol expressed through a multiplicity of courtesies. Similarly, South Africa's international profile continued to grow with the increase in the volume of interaction with the international community.

Consequently, the demand on the services of State Protocol expanded; the Branch State Protocol became a central point in providing protocol advice and support to Government Departments, Non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector and the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup Local

Organising Committee. The Branch further provided training on protocol institutional capacity to other Governments on the Continent

As South Africa's role gained more prominence, the number of ceremonial events and official functions increased dramatically. In addition to this core function, sister departments increasingly requested the Branch's services for ceremonial, conferencing, training and other ad hoc support.

All these activities placed considerable pressure, but with the strengthening of management capacity in the Branch, there was more focus both in terms of planning and execution of the tasks. There has also been a concerted drive to fill vacant posts which alleviated some of the acute capacity shortage.

Regardless of the increase in events and demand in Advisory Services from Sister Departments and other Stakeholders, clients' expectations were exceeded. To further elucidate the above, the Branch coordinated 160 ceremonial events, managed 255 incoming and outgoing visits

and assisted in 2010 related events. Assisted Provinces and Local government in managing 364 outgoing visits and 51 incoming visits and further deployed officials on special projects in Provinces

Increasingly, South Africa has become a preferred destination to host International Conferences, injecting a huge amount of revenue into the economy. This inevitability compelled the branch to enhance and develop its capacity to manage and organise very large summits and conferences. Below are highlights and few summits and meetings managed by State Protocol:

- 118th Assembly on the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- SADC Summits and Extraordinary Summits
- SADC Council of Ministers Meeting and
- Senior Officials Meetings

The Branch further offered advice and support during the following events:

- 5th IBSA Ministerial Meeting
- AU Summit, Fact finding visit to Madagascar
- Seminar for the Commission for Sustainable World Society

New State Protocol Lounges were inaugurated at the Oliver Tambo International Airport and the Cape Town International Airport to service an ever-increasing flow of dignitaries on visits to the RSA. The facilitation of 27 427 VIPs both in Johannesburg and Cape Town and 8367 Diplomats further confirms the increasing number of dignitaries that pass through our Lounges.

The Branch manages Guesthouses with the responsibility to provide Catering and Décor services for local and foreign guests during functions hosted by our principals including the usage of Banquet Hall for outside functions. Related to the increase in the number of ceremonial events undertaken, the Guesthouses demands tremendously increased.

Similarly, the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup, 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and all associated events will draw in a significant number of Heads of States and Foreign dignitaries. In line with one of the strategic objectives of the Branch, State Protocol has become a major driver for the success of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup event. The Branch organised a comprehensive Training session on Protocol Etiquette and FIFA Protocol for the 2010 Host Cities and Premier's Offices in the Host Provinces. The Branch partnered with the Diplomatic Academy and the LOC to deliver a 'Train the Trainer' programme, where a total of 93 officials attended the training. In addition to the training provided, the Branch also actively participated in a number of FIFA 2010 and FIFA 2009 Confederations Cup related events such as the FIFA Confederations Cup Draw Show; 500 Days Countdown Celebrations and the INWENT Protocol Workshop where the Branch was invited to deliver a paper on state protocol matters.

Regulated by Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act and the Vienna Convention and all other related acts, the Department placed importance in the management of the Diplomatic Community. The Department embarked on a process to analyse functions for the development of a Business Process Management system to institute simplified processes according to international best practice.

The diplomatic community in South Africa consist of 292 accredited foreign offices, during the reviewing period, the following offices were established:

- Embassy of Ecuador
- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and
- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

31 Foreign Heads of Missions presented credentials to the President of South Africa, whilst the department processed appointments of South African Heads of Missions to 51 countries (resident and non-resident) and 16 South African and 21 foreign consular appointments

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad briefing the media at the media centre, Union Buildings, Pretoria



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

The year under review witnessed major developments within the Department's Public Diplomacy Unit. Of great significance in this regard was the transition of the Unit into a full Branch after review process that identified capacity short-comings with the previous structure. This move will allow for an improved approach to the communication output of the Department and will ensure that there is enough capacity to participate fully in publicising the priorities and work of the ICTS Cluster and in support of the International Marketing Council (IMC) objectives.

During the reporting period the Public Diplomacy continued with the production and distribution of publication materials including the Annual Report 2007-08, Foreign Affairs Budget Vote speech 2008 booklet, Desk Calendar 2009, dfa Now (monthly newsletter), 'Who's who in the Department as well as promotional banners and posters for the various conferences and workshops.

Public Diplomacy continued to undertake marketing initiatives through participating and assisting in a number of conferences, shows and exhibitions with the aim of building and projecting a positive image of South Africa..

The main marketing and branding activities during the period under review included the following: SADC Heads of State Summit, SADC Ministerial Summit, SA Tourism Indaba, ITEC Conference, two Imbizo Outreach Campaigns in KZN, Exhibition during 2008 Budget Vote and 2009 Investment Conference in the Eastern Cape.

Public diplomacy also drafted and project managed the departmental communication strategy for the following: 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, farewell of the former Deputy Minister Pahad and the Minister's dinner.

During the reporting period, Public Diplomacy established and maintained partnerships with a number of companies within corporate South Africa which led to the securing of sponsorship for major departmental events.

In addition to producing daily news bulletins, Public Diplomacy maintained a 24-hour Operations Centre that also acted as an early-warning centre for the Political Principals reporting on major incidences or crises and international events.

As the custodian of the accurate historical recording, documentation and dissemination of South Africa's international relations engagements, Public Diplomacy undertook both audiovisual and photographic coverage of engagements of the President, Deputy President and the Principals and distributed these to both local and international print and audiovisual media.

Public Diplomacy prepared speeches for strategic national, continental and international events for the Principals, including such events as the State of the Nation Debate, SADC Council of Ministers meetings, SA-China 10 Year Celebrations of Diplomatic Relations in Shanghai, Freedom Day Celebrations in Beijing and the Tribute to the late Goodwill Ambassador Miriam Makeba at the Old Assembly Building in Parliament.

In terms of conducting media research and analysis, Public Diplomacy continued to assess media trends, especially the coverage and portrayal of the Department and the country's international relations engagements through the services of professional service providers.

Furthermore, Public Diplomacy continued with the management of the Department's official website: www.dfa.gov.za and intranet. The Web Portal Project continued to work towards the integration of the Department's website, intranet, and Foreign Mission websites and other information sources to form a highly interactive and informative Web Portal. The project planning, functional, technical specifications and project roll-out were done with the involvement of the service provider and the Department's information Communication Technology unit.

During the year under review daily media engagements were undertaken and Public Diplomacy provided ongoing media liaison and communication support to the Ministry. Focused attention was paid to engagement with the media through sectoral briefings (led by Deputy Directors-General and addressed regional or event specific issues), pre-event media awareness (undertaken to generate publicity prior to events or visits) and engagements on South Africa's tenure as the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In addition Public Diplomacy also provided media and communications support during Cabinet Lekgotlas and when Heads of Missions to South Africa provided their Letters of Credence to the President.