

## AMERICAS

The North American region, which includes the most economically powerful country in the world, is of great importance to South Africa. To a large extent, the economy of the United States determines the state of the global economy.

The United States and Canada have pledged and reiterated their strong support for the NEPAD process, both bilaterally and within the context of the G-8. The challenge is to ensure that

this political goodwill is translated into a sustainable and tangible programme of action. Of critical importance will be the active bilateral engagement of the US and Canada on issues such as the need to increase official development assistance as a means to building the necessary capacity to access developed markets; increased foreign direct investment into Africa; and deeper and wider debt relief.

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*SA President Thabo Mbeki and US President George Bush, accompanied by SA First Lady Mrs Mbeki and US First Lady Mrs Bush during a State Visit to South Africa*

for improvement. It is therefore of critical importance and priority with regard to North America to re-double our efforts to increase South African exports, to improve Africa's market access into North America and to increase the number of tourists from North America. In this regard, the branding of South Africa will be of critical importance.

A significant priority will be to ensure a beneficial outcome of the proposed comprehensive (free) trade agreement negotiations between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the US. Given the fact that such comprehensive trade agreements establish long-term relationships

beyond technical issues of trade, the Department must play an integral and pro-active part in the negotiation process together with the DTI.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a total population of 543,4 million inhabitants, are of importance to South Africa in terms of, inter alia, closer South-South cooperation. South Africa, together with Cuba and Jamaica, are members of the NAM Zimbali Working Group, tasked with investigating the relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement in the current global environment, including a possible war in Iraq. Cuba has requested South Africa's support in its bid to host the XIV NAM Summit



*Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Celso Amorim, pays a courtesy call to President Thabo Mbeki*

Conference.

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Amongst these countries, Brazil remains by far the largest economy in South America and is a driving force in Mercosur. President Lula da Silva has given a strong commitment to strengthening that organisation since his inauguration on 1 January 2003. At the invitation of the Brazilian Foreign Minister, South Africa was represented at the June Summit, when the six-month pro-tempore presidency of the organi-

sation passed to Uruguay. The next round of negotiations between SACU and Mercosur had been due to take place on the fringe of the summit, but was eventually held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 9 October 2003. The Montevideo talks have provided new impetus, with specific target dates and actions agreed upon by all sides.

Once the SA/SACU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement is concluded, Mercosur (with more than 260 million people) will become an important market for South African products.

The current Brazilian administration has accorded a significant status to Brazil's relations with Africa. In his first public speech after being elected,

President Lula da Silva emphasised the fact that Africa would occupy an important position in his foreign policy, with South Africa being foremost in that regard. This sentiment was echoed by Foreign Minister Celso Amorim on more than one occasion during the Second Meeting of the South Africa-Brazil Joint Commission in May 2003. The fact that Brazil agreed to participate at that meeting, barely four months after the assumption of the new administration, testified to their commitment in this regard.

Brazil's desire to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation was further demonstrated during the visit by Minister Dlamini Zuma to Brazil in June 2003. The Brazil-Africa Forum, a joint initiative of the group of African Embassies and the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, showcased NEPAD and opportunities for Brazilian engagement in that endeavour; and the tripartite India, Brazil, South Africa Forum (IBSA) instituted through the Brasilia Declaration of 6 June 2003, laid the foundation for

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strategic South-South co-operation on a structured basis.

South Africa's relations with Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile have steadily improved and it is expected that with Argentina's new Presidency and current economic recovery, after a lengthy period of severe economic meltdown, new opportunities for trade will arise. Specifically in Argentina and Chile the democratisation process is now firmly entrenched, which augurs well for building firm relations with like-minded partners in that part of the world.

Government has also increased its focus on the strengthening of relations with the important Caribbean region. In July 2003 President Mbeki met with CARICOM leaders at the CARICOM summit in Jamaica. Since then Haiti and Trinidad & Tobago have taken steps to open diplomatic missions in South Africa. South Africa is presently in a negotiating stage with Jamaica and the Bahamas to conclude bilateral co-operation agreements.

The 2003 Joint Binational Commission meeting with Cuba was successfully held in Pretoria in December 2003. The Consultative Mechanism, a further instrument in the development of relations with Cuba, will take place during 2004.

## BRASILIA DECLARATION

- I. The Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Celso Amorim, of South Africa, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and of India, Yashwant Sinha, met in Brasilia on June 6, 2003, following ongoing consultations and after the respective Heads of State and/or Government of their countries held conversations during the G - 8 meeting, in Evian.
- II. This was a pioneer meeting of the three countries with vibrant democracies, from three regions of the developing world, active on a global scale, with the aim of examining themes on the international agenda and those of mutual interest. In the past few years, the importance and necessity of a process of dialogue amongst developing nations and countries of the South has emerged.
- III. The Foreign Ministers of Brazil, South Africa and India gave special consideration to the importance of respecting the rule of International Law, strengthening the United Nations and the Security Council and prioritizing the exercise of diplomacy as a means to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with the legal instruments to which Brazil, India and South Africa are parties.
- IV. They agreed on the need to reform the United Nations, in particular the Security Council. In this regard, they stressed the necessity of expanding the Security Council in both permanent and non - permanent member categories, with the participation of developing countries in both categories. They agreed to combine efforts in order to enhance the effectiveness of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
- V. They noted that new threats to security - such as terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, drugs and drug - related crimes, transnational organized crime, illegal weapons traffic, threats to public health, in particular HIV/ AIDS, natural disasters, and the maritime transit of toxic chemicals and radioactive waste - must be handled with effective, co-ordinated and solidary international cooperation, in the concerned organizations based on respect for the sovereignty of States and for International Law.
- VI. The Ministers highlighted the priority placed by the three governments on the promotion of social equity and inclusion, by implementing effective policies to fight hunger and poverty, to support family run farms, and to promote food security, health, social assistance, employment, education, human rights and environmental protection. They recalled that social empowerment makes better use of human potentials, contributing to economic development in a significant manner. The Ministers recommended that the exchange of experiences in combating poverty, hunger and disease in the three countries would be of immense use to all of them. They recognized the importance of international effort to combat hunger. The three countries recognized and undertook to explore a trilateral food assistance program.
- VII. The Foreign Ministers stressed the importance, for equity reasons as well as for development goals to address issues related to the elimination of all kinds of racial discrimination and to promote gender equality and mainstreaming a gender perspective in public policies.
- VIII. The three Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the approval of the Convention on Tobacco Control, in the 56th Health World Assembly, and committed themselves to promote the main objectives of the Convention - to protect present and future generations against devastating consequences of the consumption of tobacco and against exposure to tobacco smoke.
- IX. The Foreign Ministers identified trilateral cooperation among themselves as an important tool for achieving the promotion of social and economic development and they emphasized their intention to give greater impetus to cooperation among their countries. While noting that their societies have diverse areas of excellence in science and technology and offer a broad range of potential opportunities for trade, investment, travel and tourism, they stressed that the appropriate combination of

their best resources will generate the desired synergy. Amongst the scientific and technological areas in which cooperation can be developed are biotechnology, alternative energy sources, outer space, aeronautics, information technology and agriculture. Avenues for greater cooperation in defense matters should also be explored. The Ministers agreed upon putting forward to their respective governments that the authorities in charge of the portfolio for science and technology, defense, transportation and civil aviation, among others, also hold trilateral meetings, aiming at the creation of concrete cooperation projects.

- X. The Ministers noted that the new information and communication technologies are transforming the world at a rapid speed, and in a fundamental way. At the same time, a vast digital divide exists between the developed and developing countries, which is adversely affecting the capacity of developing countries to derive optimum benefits from the globalisation process. They agreed to intensify their cooperation in ICT, including in international efforts and initiatives towards narrowing the digital divide.
- XI. With respect to environmental issues and sustainable development, they recognized that the Rio Conference and its Agenda 21, the Millennium Summit and the Monterrey and Johannesburg Summits, and the Program for the Implementation of Agenda 21, contain fundamental guidelines to orient the action of their governments and cooperation initiatives. They reaffirmed the call contained in Agenda 21, which identifies the major causes of continuing deterioration of the global environment as unsustainable patterns of consumption and production call for the necessary action as contained in the Johannesburg Program of Implementation. They also highlighted their concern over the results of atmospheric warming due to the emission of greenhouse gases and encouraged countries having emission reduction goals in the Kyoto Protocol to work to bring them into force and fully implement them as well as urged the countries which have not signed or ratified the Protocol to do so.
- XII. They also reiterated their efforts for the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially the rights of countries of origin over their own genetic resources, as well as the protection of associated traditional knowledge. The fair and equitable of benefits arising from the access to, use and management of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge must be assured as a way to stimulate social and economic development, as well as the adding of value and the processing of biodiversity - based resources in megadiverse countries. In this context, they placed special significance on the negotiation of an international instrument on benefit sharing the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as agreed at the Johannesburg Summit. They thus expressed their agreement that the activities of the Group of Like - minded Megadiverse Countries, of which Brazil, South Africa and India are founding members, should gain even greater importance. They also emphasised the need to render the relevant parts of the TRIPS Agreement compatible with the Biological Diversity Convention.
- XIII. While welcoming the expansion of economic growth, employment, and social development, and the accompanying rise in standards of living, in several developing countries as a result of freer movements of trade, capital and technology, the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, India and South Africa expressed their concern that large parts of the world have not benefited from globalisation. They agreed that globalisation must become a positive force for change for all peoples, and must benefit the largest number of countries. In this context, they affirmed their commitment to pursuing policies, programmes and initiatives in different international forums, to make the diverse processes of globalisation inclusive, integrative, humane and equitable.

XIV. The Ministers regretted that major trading partners are still moved by protectionist concerns in their countries' less competitive sectors. They stressed the need to fully carry out the Doha Development Program and emphasized how important it is that the results of the current round of trade negotiations provide especially for the reversal of protectionist policies and trade - distorting practices, by improving the rules of the multilateral trade system. They reiterated their expectation that negotiations will gain new political impetus and that it will be possible to overcome deadlocks on issues of fundamental interest to developing countries, before the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun. Furthermore, Brazil, India and South Africa decided to articulate their initiatives of trade liberalisation.

XV. The Foreign Ministers noted with concern the increased economic vulnerability of developing countries to fluctuations in global prices of commodities. They affirmed the importance of a predictable, rule - based, and transparent international trading system, to enable the developing countries to maximise their development, through gains from enhanced exports of goods and services of their competitive advantage.

XVI. They drew attention to the economic and social impact suffered by many developing countries in recent years, as a result of volatile global financial flows. They agreed to strengthen their cooperation towards making the international financial architecture responsive to development, and towards increasing its effectiveness in preventing and addressing the national and regional financial crises.

XVII. They reiterate their belief that success in globalization with equity requires good governance, both at the national and in particular at the international levels, in recognition of the fact that, as a result of globalization, external factors have become critical in determining the success or failure of achieving sustainable development.

XVIII. The Ministers recommended to their respective Chiefs of State and / or Government the convening of a summit meeting of the three countries. They also decided to further intensify dialogue at all levels, when needed to organize meetings of top officials and experts responsible for issues of mutual interest.

XIX. They decided to hold regular political consultations on international agenda items, as well as to exchange information on areas of mutual co-operation in order to coordinate their positions on issues of common interest. To give expression to issues discussed and all other matters emerging out of consultations, the Ministers further agreed to establish a Trilateral Joint Commission. The Foreign Ministries will be the focal points of the Trilateral Joint Commission and the meetings will be co-chaired by the three Foreign Ministers. The secretariat facilities will be co-ordinated by the Secretary in charge of this area in the Foreign Ministry of the host country.

XX. The Ministers decided to call this group `` India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum `` (IBSA). At the invitation of the Indian Government, the next meeting is going to take place in New Delhi, within twelve months.

***The Ministers of India and South Africa thanked the Brazilian Minister for convening this first trilateral meeting.***

***Brasilia, June 6, 2003***

## EUROPE

South Africa relates to Europe at various levels and in many forums. Historically there are long-standing bilateral relations of varying degrees with Western Europe, as well as new relations with Central and Eastern Europe, which commenced during the post-Cold War era. A significant challenge remains of extending relations with Central Europe.

Following the first democratic elections of 1994, the South African government began a process of reintegration into the world economy as a fully-fledged member of the international community. One of South Africa's foreign policy priorities was to stimulate its economic growth by attracting foreign direct investments and securing market access in Europe.

In addition, South Africa viewed the region as a strategic partner for political and socio-economic co-operation.

Because of this, South Africa has rapidly expanded both its bilateral and multilateral engagements with the region. Existing relations were consolidated and enhanced, and relations with the Nordics

and with Central and Eastern Europe were established and expanded. Mechanisms for bilateral interaction were initiated with more than 12 European States through Structured Dialogue, resulting in major advances in co-operation in respect of such areas as trade, investment, science and technology, minerals and energy, education, health, and so forth but embracing all spheres of our national interests.

One of the most significant developments during this period of expanding relations was the further strength-

*Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr NC Dlamini Zuma and Foreign Secretary for the United Kingdom Jack Straw at a press conference in Cape Town*



ening of the European Union. South Africa's relations with the EU were strengthened with the signing of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, which is the basis for cooperation between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the EU. Bilaterally, the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) governs South Africa's relations with the EU. At the regional and continental levels, several processes relate Africa (including South Africa, which plays a very significant role) to the EU. These include the Berlin Process (SADC), the Cairo Process (Africa), the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The EU Council of Ministers called for a package of immediate measures to support South Africa's transition to democracy. The EU Council of Ministers meeting of June 1995 adopted negotiating directives proposing progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade with South Africa in order to establish a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The finalised SA-EU TDCA

was signed on 11 October 1999 and provisionally came into effect in January 2000. The TDCA still has now been ratified by all EU member states. The TDCA is expected to substantially increase South Africa's trade with Europe. The EU is already South Africa's largest trading partner, while South Africa ranks as the EU's 15th largest trading partner.

Article 4 of the TDCA provides for Structured Political Dialogue between South Africa and the EU. During Spain's EU Presidency in 2002, the EU Commission's legal experts confirmed that the mutual consent of South Africa and the EU would suffice to provisionally implement Political Dialogue between the two Parties. On 20 June 2002, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs met with representatives of the EU Troika to discuss the issue of Structured Political Dialogue. Both Parties agreed that Political Dialogue should be an ongoing activity and that the next Cooperation Council would include Political Dialogue as an agenda item. In the interim several adhoc meetings took place between South Africa and EU



*Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad with his Russian counterpart Minister Satornova at the diplomatic guest house during a working visit*

Ambassadors resident in South Africa. Political Dialogue took place in Pretoria on 8 December 2003 and covered a wide range of topics.

It was intended that the TDCA be complemented by three sectoral agreements, namely the Science and Technology Agreement, the Wines and Spirits Agreement, and the Fisheries Agreement, in addition to the development cooperation instrument, the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD).

Multilateral interaction with the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is continuously taking place on issues such as economic

globalisation, market access, debt relief, the reform of the UN Security Council, disarmament, and human rights - on a bilateral basis as well as in multilateral forums.

The establishment of a constructive North-South dialogue is also of particular importance to South Africa. The EU remains South Africa's largest trading partner, our main source of FDI and a significant source

of tourists, as well as being the world's leading provider of development aid. Regular consultations with the EU and its member countries take place on the maintenance and possible expansion of their constructive involvement in South Africa, Africa and NEPAD.

South Africa's bilateral relations with the European Union (EU) have significantly improved since the first democratic elections in 1994. The scope of South Africa's relations has deepened continuously, both in the context of high-level political consultations and of growth in terms of economic relations and development assistance. Some of the key features of these interactions are highlighted below.

The accession in May 2004 of five Central European countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia) and three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) to the European Union is expected to further enhance South Africa's political and economical relations with the region. As new EU members, these countries become competitors for trade, investment and EU ODA. These countries are economies in transition within a European Union that consists of highly developed economies as well as developing economies. This dichotomy presents both challenges and opportunities to South Africa in the formulation of our foreign relations within the new EU during the next five to ten years.

To meet the challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities created, South Africa must maintain and further strengthen bilateral, political and economic ties with these countries. High-level reciprocal visits by senior government leaders such as Heads of State, Deputy Presidents, Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs or other senior politicians will be an important instrument in raising the level of interaction and building relations.

With regard to other countries in the region expected to join the EU by

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2007, consideration will have to be given to the finalisation of the outstanding legal framework, involving issues such as co-operation in the fields of science and technology and arts and culture, as well as consular matters.

Promotion of South African goods and services needs to be prioritised due to the accession of five Central European countries and three Baltic countries to the EU. The new members automatically become compliant with the SA/EU TDCA, which concomitantly offers vast opportunities for the South African private sector to gain market access with preferential



*Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder during a State Visit to South Africa*

trade status.

The Joint Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) between South Africa and the Russian Federation is the most important mechanism and the core element ensuring that South Africa's national interests in our bilateral political, trade and economic rela-

tions with the Russian Federation are achieved. As a direct result of ITEC, bilateral relations between South Africa and the Russian Federation have been enhanced to a higher qualitative plane than that of a strategic partnership.

Trade between South Africa and the Russian Federation will increase in 2004 in view of South Africa having recognised the Russian Federation as a Market Economy and the Russian Federation having issued a Decree

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placing South Africa on the list of Developing Countries with Preferential Trade Status. We need to provide impetus and maintain the momentum of the decisions made at the 2nd and 3rd ITEC Sessions. This will require a sustained active follow-up on the work programme for 2004, as well as preparations for the 4th ITEC Session to be held in Pretoria during 2004.

The bilateral relations with Turkey, especially at the political level, have been enhanced as a direct result of Deputy President Zuma's official visit to Turkey during October 2003. Active follow-up needs to be sustained so as not to lose the momentum

gained in view of Turkey's important geo-strategic position within Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

South Africa's established relations with most of the countries that constitute Western Europe also include structured bilateral mechanisms through which a multiplicity of issues of mutual importance are discussed.

Western Europe has also maintained relations with many of its former colonies on the continent. The region remains the major source of FDI and ODA into Africa. This is likely to continue to the mutual benefit of Europe and Africa. The common history, proximity and geo-strategic importance of both regions will continue to create a need for mutual sustained relations, either bilaterally or through Nepad. In the case of the latter, South Africa in partnership with other African countries will need to continue to lobby within the EU region for the full implementation of the G8 Africa Action plan.

## MULTILATERAL

"The need for an effective multi-lateral institution – one dedicated to the service of humanity as a whole – has never been more acutely felt than in the current era of globalisation. This new age of interdependence and inte-

gration offers many opportunities to all peoples of the world, but it also poses many dangers. The challenge ahead is to strengthen [our] capacity for collective action and thus forge a common destiny in a time of accelerating global change.” – United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) in his report submitted to the 57th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Even though the current multilateral system of governance serves to create a rules-based global economic, social and political system that provides security, certainty and predictability, recent international developments have undermined this system of governance and the pre-eminent role of the UN as the primary organisation for the maintenance of international peace and security. These events have placed a renewed focus on the need to protect and strengthen multilateral mechanisms to address global issues in the field of economic and social development on the one hand and peace and security on the other.

Bearing in mind the call of the UNSG and recent events, the need to reinforce rules-based multilateral approaches to problems of international peace and security has been identified as a new priority that the Multilateral Branch will pursue and



*South African rescue team returns from the Iranian city of Bam. After assisting in rescue operation after a devastating earthquake that killed more than 20 000 people.*

champion.

The attainment of optimal results with the multilateral system is closely related to the reform/revitalisation of the UN. While the reform of the UN has been under discussion for the past decade, this matter has taken on a new urgency due to the UN's inability to address modern-day security threats. Although the UN as a whole needs to be reformed, the United

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Nations Security Council (UNSC) in particular is being undermined and along with it, the UN's pre-eminent role in maintaining international peace and security. This is mainly due to the willingness of some member states to act outside the confines of the UN Charter in order to protect their national interests from modern-day threats.

This threat was recognised by UNSG's



*Former President Nelson Mandela and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the World Summit against Racism in Durban*

Kofi Annan, who appointed a High-level Panel “to recommend clear and practical measures for ensuring effective collective action (on) future threats to peace and security”. The work of this Panel now constitutes the focus of attention of the UN reform activities that are under way. In order for South Africa to make a meaningful contribution to these efforts, the development of a

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) derived from these world summits and global conferences established a framework to manage development and poverty eradication.

national position on UN reform has been identified as one of the multilateral priorities for the Department.

In the area of economic and social development, the world summits and global conferences of the 1990s have built and expanded the common international understanding of development issues. They also served to re-enforce and mobilise political commitment and to provide

benchmarks for measuring progress in promoting human development and poverty eradication.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) derived from these world summits and global conferences established a framework to manage development and poverty eradication. These summits and conferences further clarified certain issues and set numerous other International Development Goals (IDGs), which need to be pursued by all the relevant multilateral actors in government. The focus of the Department is on monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the outcomes of major international events and translating them into tools to help focus, from a national position, the work of the United Nations in development issues.

The Department's Multilateral Branch is the primary interface of the Government with the UN system in all issues on the global agenda. It follows that, as participants in the UN system, the Branch must be active in the protection and promotion of South Africa and Africa's interests in the current global geopolitical power configuration, which tends to be unilateral and thus to endanger the centrality of the United Nations