

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International **Relations and Cooperation**

31 May 2021 • Vol 4





CREDITS

Editor-in-Chief	Nthabiseng Makuwa
Managing Editor	Mathapelo Monaisa
Copy Editor	Delien Burger
Graphic Designer	Reratilwe Aphane
Photographers	Jacoline Schoonees Yolande Snyman Katlholo Maifadi Yandisa Monakali
Content coordination	Mmakgotso Chuene Mathapelo Monaisa
Publisher	The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

EDITOR'S



Dear Colleagues,

On 25 May 1963, a group of 32 African states that had achieved independence at that time, convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the development and unity of the continent and further agreed to establish the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). As the years progressed and more countries gained independence, a further 21 members joined gradually, reaching a total of all 55 states now being included. In 2002, the OAU was relaunched as the African Union (AU). Various countries on the continent and the African Diaspora continue to observe Africa Day annually on 25 May to celebrate African unity.

The aim of Africa Day is to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the OAU (now the AU) since its creation as well as the progress that Africa has made, while also reflecting upon the common challenges that the continent faces in a global environment. With this in mind, it is important to remember our role as South Africa on the continent. South Africa, in line with DIRCO's vision of championing an African continent, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which aspires to a world that is just and equitable, continues to advocate for peace and equality on all fronts. These aspirations are present in our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, calling for their independence and selfdetermination; and facilitating the realisation of peace and stability through mediation and negation across Africa. South Africa has recently

provided support to Mozambique in efforts to secure the safety of people, thus contributing to the broader security of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Furthermore, on 27 May 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa led a delegation, which included Minister Naledi Pandor, at the Extraordinary Double Troika Summit of SADC in Maputo, Mozambique, where a resolution was discussed, and progress made towards the establishment and operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre, which will enhance regional capabilities in risk and disaster management as one of the measures to address similar issues.

The emergence of the need to increase the use of digital platforms proved to be beneficial as DIRCO was able to continue its work in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our missions abroad continued to commemorate Africa Month and Africa Day by hosting various events, including webinars.

In the Mission Accomplished section, our Ambassador to the Ukraine, Mr Andre Groenewald, gives feedback on the conversation that the Embassy held on "Opportunities in Africa and Eastern Europe: The African Continental Free Trade Agreement". Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini delivered a public lecture in hybrid fashion at the University of Limpopo, where she engaged students on "The Importance of Academia in the Formulation and Implementation of our Foreign Policy". This was a well-attended event as the discussion reached an audience beyond the university through DIRCO's various digital platforms.



Dr Pandor, supported by Deputy Ministers Mashego-Dlamini and Mr Alvin Botes delivered the department's Budget Vote virtually to Parliament, and further hosted a post-Budget Vote online Imbizo on Ubuntu Radio, joined by several community radio stations across the country. While some of DIRCO's functions have been temporarily affected, digital diplomacy has proven to be a viable option, as is evident across the globe.

In celebrating Africa Month, it is opportune to recall the words of the first Prime Minister and President of Ghana, Mr Kwame Nkrumah, who at the first meeting of African Heads of State that birthed the OAU, said: "Unite we must. Without necessarily sacrificing our sovereignties, we can forge a political union based on defence, foreign affairs and diplomacy, and a common citizenship, an African currency, a monetary zone and a central bank. We must unite in order to achieve the full liberation of our continent."

Afrika kuungana! / Africa unite!





11

19

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

Building Back Better to Advance the Legacy of Charlotte Maxeke

DIRCO Digital Exhibition

The Importance of Academia in the Formulation and Implementation of our Foreign Policy

Africa Day and Week in the Ukraine

The African Heads of Missions coorganised an online Africa Day Conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Activities at the South African Embassy in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

21

Te Tai Tokerau Taumata Regional Hui

Voices from DIRCO: Support for Cuba, Venezuela: South Africa will continue to build multilateralism in its foreign relations with Europe and the Americas

29

31

32

33

Your Health and Wellness

SA at the UN

Responsibility to Protect Debate – 17 May 2021, New York, USA

United Nations General Assembly plenary meeting on the Middle East, Palestine

Globe at a Glimpse



HEAD OFFICE

Building Back Better to Advance the Legacy of Charlotte Maxeke

- Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

We return to Parliament for this Budget Vote debate following an unexpectedly tumultuous financial year. While we have made every effort to act on the priorities we signalled in 2019, much of our work had to be adjusted to focus on supporting government in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Adjustments also had to be made due to significant budget cuts.

2020/21 was our African Union (AU) Chairship year and we had plans to advance our policy agenda of a better Africa and a better world. The key focus for 2020 was the priority of silencing the guns in Africa and advancing the economic participation of women. We were also committed to ensuring implementation of all the steps necessary to give effect to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) and further implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Our budget for 2020/21 was R6 850 179 000 in April 2020; it was reduced to R6 314 968 000. The DIRCO budget for 2021/22 was announced as R7 038 531 000 in the 2021 budget speech and was finally reduced to R6 452 372 000 for the current financial year. The funding pressures we continue to experience have caused severe cutbacks in key areas. Low levels of economic growth and declining investment in South Africa and Africa are a severe constraint on our international ambitions.

South Africa is fortunate to have a dedicated body of DIRCO men and women who work very hard to ensure that we do achieve our objectives and who tolerate significant sacrifices to ensure we succeed. We have done even more to focus missions overseas on economic diplomacy as we must secure more growth and jobs in South Africa. We observed the positive character of DIRCO officials in the COVID-19 crisis. Our Consular Services Branch ensured the successful repatriation of thousands of South Africans stranded overseas. The department's efforts benefitted from support of Portfolio Committee members and from the general public. I wish to thank all who played a role in the repatriation efforts.

With respect to our AU Chairship, President Cyril Ramaphosa gave sterling leadership to the Bureau, the AU Commission and our continent. The AU Chair ensured a coordinated African response to the pandemic, developed an Africa Strategy and secured the support of African leaders through an open consultative approach. Agreement that Africa should use its own resources to support the African Centres of Disease Control as the scientific adviser on our pandemic response was a critical factor in Africa addressing the pandemic's effects. Furthermore, the decision of the Chair to create an African Medicines Platform as a web-based platform for equal access to health equipment, treatment and diagnostics was innovative and impactful.

The role of Chair went beyond the health response and also focussed on the economic impact of the COVID virus. The economic envoys appointed by the AU Chair and the commission engaged financial institutions and government leaders to secure debt relief and debt standstill for indebted African countries so they could focus on the pandemic and have liquidity for focussed socio-economic recovery. We have not yet secured new funding sources to provide investment for growth on the continent. We continue to engage multilateral financial institutions to provide such new funding and not more debt loans. While focussing on our COVID-19 response, much was done to continue our engagements with the globe, including support to the President's annual investment conference. The objective of securing recovery funding is still being pursued



Charlotte Maxeke – liberation struggle heroine and human rights campaigner

Charlotte Maxeke (1874 – 1939) was a South African religious leader and social and political activist. She was the first black woman to graduate with a university degree in South Africa with a B.Sc from Wilberforce University, Ohio in 1901.

"The struggles of Maxeke have left us a legacy to never allow your circumstances to determine your destiny. Throughout her life, she has fought for the restoration of human rights to Africans, both at home and across the globe. She understood the nexus of race, class and gender in our struggles, both at home and elsewhere in the world." - Sport, Arts and Culture Minister, Nathi Mthethwa.

by President Ramaphosa and other leaders. The Financing Africa Summit in Paris focussed on the urgent need for the International Monetary Fund to finalise the matter of Special Drawing Rights and the issue of vaccine production as well as the call for the World Trade Organisation's temporary waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

It is pleasing to indicate that even in the worst effects of the pandemic, the one feature that was prominently confirmed was the vital importance of multilateralism in global collaboration. Faith was restored in multilateral institutions that had been confronting negativity for several years. COVID-19 revived and affirmed global cooperation. The multilateral and other regional bodies enjoyed a long denied prominence and leadership. This reality has assisted our long-held belief that multilateral institutions matter and are a more inclusive and equitable global option for managing global affairs. We have continued to engage in the United Nations (UN) and to uphold the rights of the people of Palestine to statehood, those of Western Sahara to self-determination and the need for the UN and the AU to assist Africa to finally achieve continent-wide peace and focus on development.

Our 2019/20 Annual Report and that of 2020/21 show the progress we have made in meeting our goals and objectives. They show that while our strength is diminished by inadequate resources, we continue to punch above our weight in international cooperation. We will seek even greater impact in 2021/22. We will do more to support Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt to negotiate an agreement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. We will also work closely with South Sudan and Libya to promote and support post-conflict reconstruction and finally, much more will be done to achieve the gender agenda mandated by the AU adoption of 2020 – 2030 as the Decade of the Financial Inclusion of Women in Africa.

The impact of COVID-19 resonates strongly with the legacy we have inherited from Mama Charlotte Maxeke. She was a woman who believed that it is possible to build back better. In the unquenchable spirit of this great woman of Africa, it is imperative that we focus this year on building back better.



HEAD OFFICE



The negative impact of COVID-19 has clear directives for our future agenda. We will continue to promote the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all our contributions in the UN and AU. Working closely with the AU special envoy on gender and the commission for peace and security, we will consult women leaders in post-conflict areas and work with them to ensure their full contribution to reconstruction and development in their countries.

We are pleased to be serving in the UN Peacebuilding Commission for 2021 - 2022 as this will help us contribute towards the maintenance of international peace and security just as we did during our term in the UN Security Council (SC). Peace and security are extremely fragile or absent in many parts of the globe. The recent vicious attacks by Israel on Palestinian people and the forced removal of Palestinians from their homes are clear evidence of the absence of peace and security for millions worldwide. Sadly, we all watched as Palestine suffered more and more brutally. Greater effort must be exerted to achieve peace in the Middle East. Powerful nations must accept that we all depend on each other and even the most powerful will not achieve peace and security through unilateral actions and neglect of the poor, the oppressed and marginalised. We call on the UN and the Gulf Council to be more resolute in pursuing freedom for the people of Palestine.

Charlotte Maxeke was a bold agent of change. We must be as bold and determined in seeking concrete practical reform of the UNSC. I am pleased that early steps towards text-based negotiations are in motion in the UN. There is significant resistance to changing the status quo and we must continue to insist that change is urgently necessary. We need a representative and 21st century-relevant UNSC responsive to today's challenges. There were 51 member states in 1945; we have grown to 193, yet, the most important mechanism of the UN remains untransformed. Building back better also means we should utilise our global cooperation to secure Africa's ability to effectively respond to complex challenges such as a global pandemic. We must increase our research and innovation capacity and be more ready to rely on our ingenuity, our products and our institutions in future. Charlotte Maxeke and all our great heroes and heroines believed in our innate abilities; let us use them to free ourselves from post-colonial dependency.

Africa lies at the heart of our international agenda. We firmly believe we should ensure Pan-African ability to determine our affairs and shape Africa's future. We have begun a process of reviewing our Africa strategy in an effort to respond to the new realities on the continent through a new approach and consistent with Agenda 2063. We have comparative advantages that can support and promote increased African success. We intend to build strategic partnerships and political alliances in a far more rigorous manner. We will strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation and build strategic partnerships with clear goals and objectives. We plan to begin in southern Africa, and to ensure that Southern African Development Community plans are reinforced and concretely implemented.

2020 was our second year as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. The feedback we received indicates that the role of South Africa in the Security Council was deeply appreciated due to South Africa's principled position on issues on the council's agenda. This relatively independent position, together with a compelling commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes and a fair and balanced approach in engaging with member states, allowed South Africa to play a bridgebuilding role in a divided Security Council. During our tenure, we continued to advance UN and AU cooperation on peace and security matters, especially with reference to Libya, the Sahel region, and the transitional process in South Sudan. We note with hope the positive progress in Libya and further actions on the comprehensive Agreement in South Sudan. DIRCO will remain closely attentive to

support for post-conflict reconstruction in South Sudan and we are in constant contact with the Government there. We also welcome the efforts by various organisations in South Africa to assist Sudan in the transition and constitution-making processes.

Our focus in international relations includes our promotion of the values and ethos of our Constitution through advocating for human dignity, democracy and equality. We continue to stand in full solidarity with the people of Palestine and will work even harder to persuade the AU and the UN to robustly pursue freedom for the people of Palestine. The cruel bombings and killings of the innocent we witnessed in the past two weeks are a sad testimony of the cruel impunity the world has granted to Israel. The international community must stop this impunity. South Africa should support the International Criminal Court in the planned investigation of the abuse of human rights by the Israeli Government. We hope sanctions and other measures to show the world's offence at this brutality will soon be evident.

A better Africa continues to be the key foreign policy focus of South Africa. Working closely with Trade, Industry and Competition, we will support implementation of the AfCFTA. We must do everything possible to ensure successful implementation of the free trade area. For many African countries, the AfCFTA means more productive capacity, economic infrastructure and new trade opportunities. We must ensure evidence-based planning as we implement projects for increased African trade.

While pursuing our Africa Agenda vigorously, we will also build on the excellent trade relations with the United States of America, the European Union member states and the United Kingdom. These are also significant trading partners for South Africa and we plan to grow the trade, people and cultural links through our embassies. Several ambassadors have drawn my attention to the inadequacy of our cultural diplomacy. I am told Black Coffee could fill Wembley Stadium and profile South Africa, but when he performs overseas there is an insufficient association to his South African identity. We have immense talent in a range of fields and could mount international cultural events with a diversity of talents worldwide. This is an area of diplomacy I would like to focus on more as we begin to free funds from other areas of activity. I also hope we can work closely with Arts and Culture on this aspect of our work.

We are working hard to build back better as Charlotte Maxeke expected us to. We must provide skills opportunities to young people, enhance our innovation and digital capabilities so we rank with the best and ensure we continue the work to build a South Africa, Africa and world that will be of service to humanity and responsive to the most progressive human development goals.





BUILDING BACK BETTER: FOLLOWING THE LEGACY OF CHARLOTTE MAXEKE

DIRCO: Working for a Better South Africa, in a Better and Safer Africa, in a Better World





international relations & cooperation

Department: International Relations and Cooperation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Click here to view the DIRCO Budget Vote Exhibition:

https://youtu.be/k_dUgAh02ds

HEAD OFFICE

The Importance of Academia in the Formulation and Implementation of our Foreign Policy

- By Surprise Malehase Assistant Director: Public Participation Programmes

Foreign policy in practice requires an effecting interface among various stakeholders whose activities abroad have a bearing on whether South Africa achieves its goal. There is growing realisation in international relations that civil societies, NGOs, business and the whole of government have a reinforcing effect on a country's foreign policy. As one of the objectives of Public Diplomacy is to build a socially, politically and economically viable nation, it is imperative for South Africa to be able to create a competitive identity or a brand that enables it to become the country of choice for business and trade on the global market.

"...countries have now become brands that can be marketed to a targeted audience in order to achieve desired results."

In this regard, countries have now become brands that can be marketed to a targeted audience in order to achieve desired results. Institutions of higher learning and education in general play an important role, and can contribute towards development. It is for this reason that DIRCO's principals, the Minister, Deputy Ministers and the executive of the department, from time to time interface with non-traditional audiences. This practice serves DIRCO well as it provides the department with opportunity to assess the impact of our foreign policy, not only to the domestic audience, but the foreign audience as well. On 26 May 2021, Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini led a panel discussion at the University of Limpopo. Panel members were academics from different disciplines, including our own Ambassador in New York, Amb Mathu Joyini.

The theme of the event was: "The Importance of Academia in the Formulation and Implementation of our Foreign Policy". There is a general perception that the fundamentals of South Africa's foreign policy have not changed since 1994. However, there has been a change in how we administer our foreign policy. A popular opinion from panellists was that the objective of a country's foreign policy is to advance national interests, though they challenged the department to articulate South Africa's national interest.

I hold a belief, which is supported by the objectives of the National Development Plan of building a sustainable economy, which has the capacity to address government's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and therefore DIRCO has the responsibility to advance and promote government priorities, which include education, security and infrastructure development. Officials in our diplomatic missions have a particular responsibility to influence foreign audiences and to promote our national interest.

The development of every policy requires proper research, and hence, DIRCO values the contribution of academics and think-tanks. DIRCO practitioners need different knowledge, expertise and experience from those who are more exposed to international relations matters. Thus, the relationship between DIRCO and academics is critical, not just on policy development, but the administration of policy. This view came to life when one of the academics from the university's School of Law suggested that we needed to do more to clarify our foreign policy strategies and objectives, and further acknowledge that our foreign policy is a reflection of what is in the Bill of Rights and as such, we do need to meet our international obligations.

He also raised the role and importance of Public Diplomacy in the context of international relations; and how Public Diplomacy should work with agencies like Brand South Africa and Tourism South Africa. I tend to share the sentiment that although Brand SA and Tourism SA do not entirely have the policy mandate to communicate our foreign policy objectives, their role and inputs are still important. The capacity and knowledge of those who are serving in our diplomatic missions was part of the discussion, and the general consensus was that our Diplomatic academy has to do more.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini delivers the keynote lecture



Attendees at the hybrid virtual public lecture on foreign policy, University of Limpopo

Virtual DIRCO Symposium



DUR VOICE 12

Virtual DIRCO Symposium

The Importance of Education (Academia) in the Formulation of South Africa's Foreign Policy

The AfCFTA will boost intra-Africa trade, enhance Africa's industrialisation prospects and facilitate Africa's integration into the global economy on terms which are more equal and fair."

Ms. Candith Mashego-Dlamini Deputy Minister: International Relations and Cooperation



international relations & cooperation

Department: International Relations and Cooperation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





NISSION Accomplished



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Africa Day and Week in Ukraine

- By Mr Andre Groenewald, South Africa's Ambassador to the Ukraine

As part of the Mission's Africa Day 2021 celebrations, the South African Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, hosted three events, namely an Africa Art Exhibition, the South African Ambassadors Rugby Cup in Ukraine as well as a webinar on trade opportunities between South Africa and Ukraine (and regions). The events were hosted with the aim of attracting interest and focus on South Africa and Africa. To further ensure a wider reach, popular venues and partners were invited to join in the celebrations. These included the Ukrainian National Museum of Literature, African Council in Ukraine (with members from all over Africa), as well as the Ukrainian Rugby Federation. The events ensured a broad outreach to different sectors of the Ukrainian society, reaching all ages in business, art, culture and sport. The events were reported on widely in the media.

The main event was the webinar on Opportunities in Africa and Eastern Europe: The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The Mission has been placing considerable efforts into promoting trade and investment between South Africa and Ukraine, as well as the respective regions, including Africa, Eastern Europe and the economies around the Black Sea. It is common knowledge that Africa, through the AfCFTA, provides access to a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$3 trillion, which will be US\$29 trillion in 2050 and currently a market of more than 1.2 billion people, half of whom will be under 25 years old by 2050. In addition, Africa remains well endowed with natural resources that will present incredible trade and investment opportunities to international business, particularly after the lull brought about by COVID-19 and the expected bull market. What is not always known is that the Black Sea basin comprises a territory of 834 719 km², and the wider Black Sea area includes a population of 332 million people living in the territories of the 12 member countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation.

In comparison, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has a total territory of 556 781 km², a population of 345 million with 16 members. As a region, the Black Sea has an estimated GDP of around US\$3.6 trillion, producing 4.3% of global GDP. The SADC region has an estimated GDP of USD \$721.3 billion. There are serious complementarities, affinities, competitive and comparative advantages to be explored. The speakers list of the webinar provided most of the information to get a process of better linking Africa and Eastern Europe started.

Mr Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, as the keynote speaker, provided an overview of the latest developments, progress and economic and commercial opportunities expected to be unlocked by the AfCFTA. Mr Wesley Timm from the think tank, Institute for Security Studies, and Dr Volodymyr Sidenko from the Razumkov Centre provided the audience with a futuristic overview of some of the opportunities, as well as the challenges in Africa and Eastern Europe, while Mr Issa Diallo of the Africa Council shared a more practical view from the business community in Ukraine doing business between Africa and Eastern Europe. Mr John Rocha from the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition contributed the South African perspective, as an important economy on the African continent, but also as a possible springboard and facilitator through its business connections and infrastructure. Finally, Ukrainian Deputy Minister Taras Kachka informed the audience of the Ukrainian view on doing business in Africa. This was made even more interesting in view of the fact that in April 2021, he led a Ukrainian Trade Mission to South Africa. The next steps are to increase trade and investment between not just South Africa and Ukraine, but also to take advantage of the opportunities provided by economies of scale in linking regions.

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA AND EASTERN EUROPE: THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)







16:00 to 17:30 (South African time) 17:00 to 18:30 (Ukrainian time) 14:00 to 15:30 (GMT)





Mr. Andre Groenewald, South Africa's Ambassador to the Ukraine



Mr Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General, AfCFTA Secretariat



Ms Liubov Abravitova, Ambassador of Ukraine to South Africa







The African Heads of Missions co-organises online Africa Day Conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece

- By John Kgopotso, First Secretary: Political, Athens, Greece



On 26 May 2021, the African Group of Ambassadors, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organised an Africa Day Online Conference under the 2021 African Union (AU) theme:. "Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building an African We Want" Mr Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, honoured Africa Day as the keynote speaker of the online celebration.

Prominent speakers included: Ms Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development; Mr Nicholas Yatromanolakis. Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic; Mr Spyros Kouvelis, former Minister of State for Foreign Economic, Cultural and Environmental Affairs of the Hellenic Republic; Mr Michalis Saris, former Minister of Economic Affairs of Cyprus; Mr Sotiris Mousouris, President of the Hellenic Africa Chamber of Commerce and Development; and Mr Ismail Khairat, Ambassador of Egypt.

In her opening remarks, Ms Beryl Sisulu, South African Ambassador and Dean of the African Group of Ambassadors, stated that: "Africa Day is a recommitment to the enduring Pan-African vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Africa recently recorded history when the world witnessed the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This is one of the flagship projects under the AU's Agenda 2063 – "The Africa We Want."

In his keynote address, Mr Nikos Dendias Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, welcomed the role of the AU for promoting peace and prosperity on the continent. He also said: "AU's achievements and one of the greatest endeavours of the continent has been the creation of the AfCFTA. This landmark development paves the way for Africa, with its 1.2 billion people, to become the world's largest common market, thus creating new opportunities for development and business across the continent". The Minister highlighted the traditional bonds between Greece and the countries of Africa and the long-standing excellent relations they enjoy.

South African Embassy in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan



The Embassy participated in the launch of the House of D'Licacy's non-alcoholic wines on 20 May 2021. Ambassador Keitumetse Matthews presented her remarks virtually since the event was held in Cape Town.





The Embassy participated in the Unity Day at the Spectrum International School on 31 May 2021. The event gave the Embassy an opportunity to market South Africa as a tourism destination.



YOUR VOICE 20

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Te Tai Tokerau Taumata Regional Hui

- By Amanda Nomana, Third Secretary: Administration, Wellington, New Zealand

High Commissioner Vuyiswa Tulelo was invited to attend the Te Tai Tokerau Taumata Regional Hui (Conference) in Kerikeri, New Zealand, held on 1 May 2021.

The Te Tai Tokerau Taumata Regional Hui of Trade brought together key trade negotiators and policy-makers from New Zealand; ministers, among others, Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, foreign diplomats; and Māori businesses.

The Hui was preceded by the High Commission's Business Reception, held on Friday, 30 April 2021, in Kerikeri.

The High Commission's Business Reception brought together:

- key trade negotiators and policy-makers from New Zealand
- senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials
- Māori businesses
- Iwi (tribal) leaders
- a representative from Te Taumata Board
- a representative from Te Arawa Fisheries
- a representative from Cognitus Economic Insight
- Peter Rice from NEW ZEALAND/UK FTA and Māori Interests & Analysis.

It brought together an outstanding calibre of speakers discussing the importance of trade for Māori businesses such as:

- Matua Dover Samuels, who is one of the Iwi elders and was Minister of Māori Affairs in the Helen Clark Cabinet from 1996 to 1999
- Pita Tipene, Chair of the Waitangi National Trust Board
- Shane Jones, former Minister for Infrastructure
 and Iwi leader
- Honi (Johnny) McGregor, director of Wakatu Incorporation.

During her remarks at the reception, the High Commissioner indicated that Africa was ready for Māori investments. She indicated that what the Moari had achieved in New Zealand was of particular significance for the previously disadvantaged majority in South Africa and the ground was fertile for joint ventures and investment.

Ms Tulelo further noted that areas of agriculture and agro-processing, forestry and fisheries, aquaculture and tourism were the perfect space for future collaborations among the Māori and previously disadvantaged people in South Africa. Furthermore, she added that the shared value systems and cultural values made it easier for business to be strengthened between the two groups. She ended her korero (speech) by inviting the guests to board the waka (canoe) destined for South Africa as an ideal and preferred destination for investment.

During the Te Tai Tokerau Taumata Regional Hui (Conference) on 1 May, presentations were received from the following key people:

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta: International Trade and Indigenous People

Foreign Minister Mahuta gave a presentation on "International Trade and Indigenous People". The minister explained that they were currently looking into how the conversation about the Māori economy could be included in trade dialogues. She noted that the Māori economy continued to grow and a third of the work was based on primary industries.

Māori has taken a keen interest in digital technology advancements and this shows growth in business and the economic development of families. Government has decided to reserve 5% of its procurement for Māori and Pacifica. This, with the view to ensure that Māori values are added to economic growth, which will have a positive impact on New Zealand's Economy. This will be done by:

- linking Māori enterprises to the innovation system
- supporting Māori enterprises in accessing export markets
- ensuring Māori cultural distinctiveness is a key part of New Zealand's brand "story".





Matua Dova Samuels: former Minister of Maori Development in the Helen Clark Cabinet (1996 to 1999)

Minister Mahuta in the red t-shirt ; Chris Insley, Te Taumata Board (Middle); Allister Ferris MFAT officer of Maori Policy Unit (glasses).

Principles of partnership in Teriti must become an integral part of how New Zealand does trade. The Minister noted that APEC 2021 and the World Expo Dubai would provide opportunities for New Zealand to showcase its unique and diverse ways of doing business.

APEC must provide opportunity to showcase lessons on collaboration learned during COVID. They are working towards launching the APEC Indigenous People's trade agreements, which are critical for New Zealand.

High Commissioner Tulelo

High Commissioner Tulelo took the opportunity to thank the organisers of the Hui to present South Africa with an opportunity to showcase investment opportunities in our country. She shared with the conference that like former President Nelson Mandela, she wished to speak to the heart of the participants and proceeded to introduce herself in Te Reo Māori. The High Commissioner shared with the conference that South Africa was a perfect hub to house headquarters of companies looking to expand into Africa. She stated that Africa was fast becoming the next best destination for investment with a significant part of its population 25 years and younger. This presents a perfect opportunity for sustainable sourced and fair trade products to become popular. She further shared that Africa was on the rise as it held itself accountable through multiple platforms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism aimed at promoting good governance, peace and security, upholding the rule of law and other related aspects. She shared with the meeting that the African Continental Free Trade Area ratified by 22 of the 55 African states provided a massive opportunity for expansion of businesses for the Māori. She noted that since Māori were negotiating for all New Zealand trade agreements to have a clear Māori voice and reflect their value system, now is a perfect opportunity for them to look towards Africa.

The High Commissioner recognised the long history between South Africa and New Zealand as well as the contribution of Māoridom to the transformation of South Africa. "Now is the time for this significant relationship to yield financial fruits to both previously disadvantaged people."



66

As we observe Africa Day, let us deepen our efforts to achieve a sustainable and lasting social and economic recovery for the citizens of Africa.

Ours must become a continent that is thriving and prosperous, not one from which its people are dying in an attempt to leave".

H.E President Cyril Ramaphosa







International relations & cooperation

#AfricaMyHeritage





VOICES FROM DIRCO

Voices DIPCO from DIPCO

Support for Cuba, Venezuela: South Africa will continue to build multilateralism in its foreign relations with Europe and the Americas

- By Deputy Minister Alvin Botes

The values that inspire and guide South Africa as a nation are deeply rooted in decades of struggle for liberation. As a beneficiary of many acts of selfless solidarity in the past, South Africa believes strongly that what it wishes for its people should be what it wishes for the citizens of the world. Our foreign policy therefore draws on the spirit of internationalism and is intertwined with our pursuit of a better Africa in a better world.

As we celebrate 27 years of freedom, as a generation, we should always be conscious that there is a dialectical relationship between our 27 years of freedom and the 27 years of imprisonment, which sought to break the resilient spirit of Nelson Mandela.

As we celebrate the silver jubilee of South Africa's Constitution, we are conscious of the constitutional values reflected in the Bill of Rights. Our foreign policy aims should not conflict with the realisation of these rights.

The rights to self-determination, social justice and freedom are inalienable rights. Political freedom is at the apex of our envisaged vision for a just and equitable world, which errs on the side of the most vulnerable.

The objective of global solidarity and to deepen South-South cooperation is an important attribute in our foreign policy repository.

We pause to mark 119 years of the independence of Cuba from the Spanish empire and the end of the first United States (US) military occupation on 20 May 1902. Cuba remains a historical and strategic partner and our relations continue to display a good model of South-South cooperation and human solidarity. South Africa condemns the continuation of unilateral sanctions against Cuba and will continue to support the annual resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the "Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade against Cuba".

On 23 June 2021, the UNGA will again consider the resolution to put an end to the US blockade against Cuba, which includes the Helms-Burton Title III Extra-territorial Act, and it is a resolution that will receive South Africa's support. We trust that the leadership of President Joe Biden will be inspired by the US foreign policy initiative of 2015, when President Barack Obama authorised a process of back-channel negotiations and normalised diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cuban people and Henry Reeves International Medical Brigades have been an inspiration to humanity with their commitment to support other countries in their battle against this deadly virus.

Even before the pandemic began, Cuban doctors and health professionals were already providing medical support in 59 countries; during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba deployed 187 of her most skilled medical practitioners to assist the South African people in our fight against COVID-19; treated 239 411 patients; and performed 40 391 nursing procedures and 1 215 surgical interventions. They saved the lives of 1 423 patients.

The Cubans provide this solidarity and ask for nothing in return, because they believe in global solidarity and possess a genuine commitment to make our world a better place for everyone. They are instinctively multilateralist and progressive internationalists.

We must reiterate our unwavering support for the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We call on the US to reconsider



its stance on Venezuela, considering the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Sanctions and Human Rights, Alena Douhan. She published her initial recommendations in February 2021, which called for the lifting of US unilateral coercive measures.

Within the Western hemisphere, the Americas and Caribbean span a vast geographical area that includes developed, developing and least developed economies as well as regional and global powers. Stark contrasts exist among these countries, inter alia, in terms of territorial size, populations, economies, technologies and military power. The diversity within this hemisphere necessitates a nuanced foreign policy approach and offers a wide range of opportunities for engagement that spans the whole spectrum of South Africa's foreign policy priorities.

The US is a strategic partner for South Africa and a major export market for value-added products, as well as a significant source of foreign direct investment (FDI), technology transfer, development assistance and tourism. The bilateral relationship continues to grow and we must regain the momentum that was lost because of the COVID-19 pandemic and policy shifts under the Trump administration.

South Africa believes that agreements reached through multilateral forums must be implemented in good faith. We are pleased, therefore, to note that the new administration in the US, under President Biden, has taken steps to return to the multilateral fold by rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organisation, and her leadership on negating the matter of vaccine nationalism.

South Africa and the US have extensive relations that cover a wide spectrum of issues that are aligned to South Africa's domestic priorities, including areas such as health (Pepfar), education, science and technology, water and the environment. It should be noted that the Pepfar allocation for 2021 to 2024 by the US has been cut by 11%,.



but still amounts to US\$465.9 million.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act agreement continues to facilitate trade between South Africa and the US and amounts to R173 billion.

Our citrus exports increased by 30% in 2020 due to the international need for vitamin C nutrients as a result of the pandemic. South Africa will be using the opportunity to reset the bilateral relationship with the US in pursuit of our national interests. South Africa is unequivocal in her view that the deepening of multilateralism is paramount to world peace.

In addition, contact with the African Diaspora in the region would serve to enhance relations with South Africa and the African continent, especially with respect to the Caribbean countries. The African Diaspora in the Americas, particularly in the Caribbean, continues to have significance for South Africa, considering their support for Africa's liberation and a shared vision of an equitable world.

Canada remains a vital ally in helping address our national priorities, including support for our efforts to build a capable state. South Africa and Canada have a shared commitment to multilateralism, gender empowerment and building social cohesion. We are also seeing continued strong investments by Canada in the mining sector and will be strengthening this cooperation further in the areas of mineral beneficiation, value addition and support for junior miners.

Similar to South Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact in Latin America and the Caribbean, with significant regional economic decline that has resulted in rising unemployment, poverty and inequalities and a significant loss of lives.

South Africa will build on the existing solid relations with the region to facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation in several areas such as agribusiness, biotechnology, blue economy, education and skills, energy (especially biofuels and renewable energy), mining, health, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, water and waste management, human rights, South-South partnerships and multilateral cooperation to advance the development agenda of the South.

The countries of Western Europe are well placed to support South Africa's post-COVID-19 economic recovery. This applies both to our bilateral relationship with these countries, as well as to the

South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, which continues to serve as the main platform of engagement between South Africa and the European Union (EU) and its member states. This region includes some of our major trading partners, sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) and tourism and providers of development assistance.

In the year ahead, we will focus more on developing relations in those areas that will assist us to address our domestic challenges. These include the promotion of investment, skills development, promoting exports, protecting our market share and promoting our country as a preferred tourist destination.

We will be working with the countries of Western Europe to support President Cyril Ramaphosa's target to attract US\$100 billion in investment. Total investment from Europe is estimated at around R1.4 trillion, which represents about 77% of total FDI in the country. It has made a significant contribution to job creation and industrialisation in South Africa.

The apex event in terms of our relations with Western Europe will be South Africa's hosting of the eighth South Africa-EU summit, which will revitalise the strategic partnership between South Africa and the EU. The strength of this partnership is based on shared values and interests, including effective multilateralism, the promotion of peace and security, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free and fair trade and sustainable development across both regions.

We trust that in the new South Africa-EU multiannual indicative programme for the period 2021 to 2028, which will be under the EU's newly created neighbourhood development and international cooperation instrument, the EU's development support for South Africa's national programmes will continue.

For us, the critical aspects to be considered by the EU and its member states in terms of development cooperation are the targets as expressed in our National Development Plan, and our recently adopted Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

South Africa's trade relationship with the United Kingdom continues unchanged after the UK left the EU and the country remains one of South Africa's key trading partners. The strong and historic relationship that we have with this region will be an important advantage as we look towards rebuilding our economy and pursue our domestic, regional and international priorities.

Celebrating Multilateralism and South Africa's role on the United Nations Security Council and Chairship of the African Union

12 MAY 2021 | 11:00-13:00



Global Solidarity is when we speak of

- the plight of the people of Palestine, that have been a recipient of an occupying force since the time of the 1967 border dispute;
- the fact that in Africa we need to be seized with the continued colonisation of the people of Western Sahara by one African State;
- the plight of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to self-determination;
- the extra-territorial sanctions propelled against the people of Cuba."

Mr. Alvin Botes Deputy Minister: International Relations and Cooperation



& cooperation













© who.int

World Hand Hygiene Day, celebrated annually on 5 May 2021, is themed "Seconds Save Lives -Clean Your Hands!" This global campaign was launched in 2006 and it aims to maintain global promotion, visibility and sustainability of hand hygiene in healthcare and to "bring people together" in support of hand hygiene improvement around the world.

Hand hygiene has never been more emphasised as during the COVID-19 pandemic where you are reminded constantly to wash your hands or to sanitise. The theme, "Seconds Save Lives -Clean Your Hands!" is so apt for the times we are finding ourselves in. Washing your hands properly is one of the most important things you can do to help prevent and control the spread of many illnesses, including COVID-19. Good hand hygiene will reduce the risk of things like flu, food poisoning and healthcare associated infections being passed from person to person.

We have heard so often while trials for COVID-19 vaccines were underway that we should adhere to Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) to slow the spread of COVID-19. These important NPIs to slow the spread are:

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay at least 1,5m apart from others who do not live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitiser containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and

water are not available. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel drv.

It is especially important to wash your hands:

- Before eating or preparing food.
- Before touching your face. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- After using the bathroom/ toilet.
- After leaving a public place.
- · After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- After handling your mask.
- After changing a baby's nappy.
- After caring for someone that is sick.
- After touching animals or pets.

Employee Health and Wellness is encouraging each and every one to do their part in slowing the spread of any illnesses, especially COVID-19, by religiously practising good hand hygiene. "Seconds Save Lives - Clean Your Hands!"

The World Health Organisation indicates the right technique to wash hands or to use sanitisers (see opposite page).









WITH SOAP AND WATER

apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



Rub hands palm to palm

backs of fingers to opposing

palms with fingers interlocked

5





palm to palm with

fingers interlaced



forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa

...and your hands are safe





.once dry, your hands are safe

WHO acknowledges the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), In particular the members of the Infection Control Programme, for their active participation in developing this material.

World Health

Responsibility to Protect Debate – 17 May 2021, New York, USA

"We must work with women peacebuilders to end inequality and discrimination and protect and empower women and girls, which can prevent atrocity crimes." – Mr António Guterres

Ambassador Mathu Joyini made her remarks at the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) Debate where the Ambassador called on the international community to strengthen the tools provided by the Charter for the pacific settlement of disputes.

South Africa highlighted that the international community had access to a multitude of tools provided by the United Nations (UN) Charter on Preventative Measures for Conflicts and Atrocity Crimes and called for the full implementation of the three-pillar strategy for the implementation of RtoP.

Furthermore, South Africa underscored the importance of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, echoing the words of UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres in his RtoP report, saying that we must work with women peacebuilders to end inequality and discrimination and protect and empower women and girls, which can prevent atrocity crimes.

During the RtoP Debate, Ambassador Joyini also indicated that our collective efforts as the international community must also include support for nationally and regionally led initiatives as well as grassroots and civil-society organisations

Moreover, Ambassador Joyini reassured the meeting that South Africa would continue to use its role as a member of the Global Network on R2P, the Peacebuilding Commission and as the co-chair of the Group of Friends on Security Sector Reform to promote and prioritise negotiations and mediation to address challenges faced by countries affected by conflict.



United Nations General Assembly plenary meeting on the Middle East, Palestine

- South African Permanent Mission, UN, New York



On 21 May 2021, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) in New York, Ambassador Mathu Joyini, participated in the UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Middle East and Palestine.

Ambassador Joyini indicated that the Security Council, which was mandated to maintain international peace and security, had failed to act: "If the Security Council is quick to act in some cases and not in others, this selective application of its mandate undermines its credibility and is all the more reason for its urgent reform."

She further highlighted the need for a peace plan to focus on a lasting solution that must be premised in a just settlement with just laws that are rights-based and that facilitate equality and equity for all who have a right to live in the territories of Israel and Palestine.

In addition, Ambassador Joyini underscored the gross dereliction of international law by Israel, saying that: "It is South Africa's view that Israel's actions are a blatant violation of International Law and show a total disregard of successive United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions."

The South African Permanent Representative reiterated South Africa's solidarity and support for the plight of the Palestinian people. "We stand with the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination, but also in their resistance against the deprivation of their human rights and denial of their dignity."

"It is our collective hope that the people of Israel and Palestine will build an inclusive society rooted in human rights for all," said the Ambassador.



GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the keynote address during the Africa Day webinar hosted by the South African High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica.



Left: "South Africa is a reference point for the struggle for justice and self-determination." - Deputy Minister Alvin Botes

Click here to listen to the interview on Ubuntu Radio: <u>https://tinyurl.com/3t5na8</u> 24 May 2021





Minister Naledi Pandor visited Zimbabwe to hand over relief packs to those affected by Cyclone Idai



Handover of relief aid from South Africa to Zimbabwe for those affected Cyclone Idai

Left: DIRCO Minister Dr. Naledi Pandor welcomed the Members during the Opening of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Fifth Pan-African Parliament.





His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, supported by Minister Naledi Pandor, participates at the Extraordinary Double Troika Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Maputo , Mozambique., 27 May 2021



Minister Naledi Pandor delivers the Budget Vote for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, 20 May 2021



SA's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Amb. Xolisa Mabhongo participating in the Ambassador-level meeting of the Peace Building Commission (PBC) on Institution Building. 17 May



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini participates in the Ubuntu Radio Imbizo on Women, Peace and Security, 06 May 2021



GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



South Africa's Ambassador to Ghana, Ms Grace Mason delivering remarks at the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, 27 May



President Cyril Ramaphosa attends the the Summit for the Financing of African Economies in Paris, France, 17 May 2021



Your Guide to the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS)

citizens aged 60 years and above need to register for their COVID-19 vaccination through the EVDS self enrolment platform

6 steps to register for vaccination if you are 60 years or older:



When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the system will send you another SMS with a date and the venue for your vaccination.

If you put in the correct address, you will be sent to the vaccination centre that is closest to your home

#IChooseVacciNation

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999









COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN COMPLETE THE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE?

Please submit the completed questionnaire at all times when entering the building. Access the link to the questionnaire on the homepage of the DIRCO website, under "Links".



Advertised Tenders

Please

WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES TO PROTECTYOURSELF AND OTHERS



international relations & cooperation Department: International Relations and Cooperation

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





For contributions to the magazine, submit your article to internalcomms@dirco.gov.za





