

South Africa within the United Nations Security Council



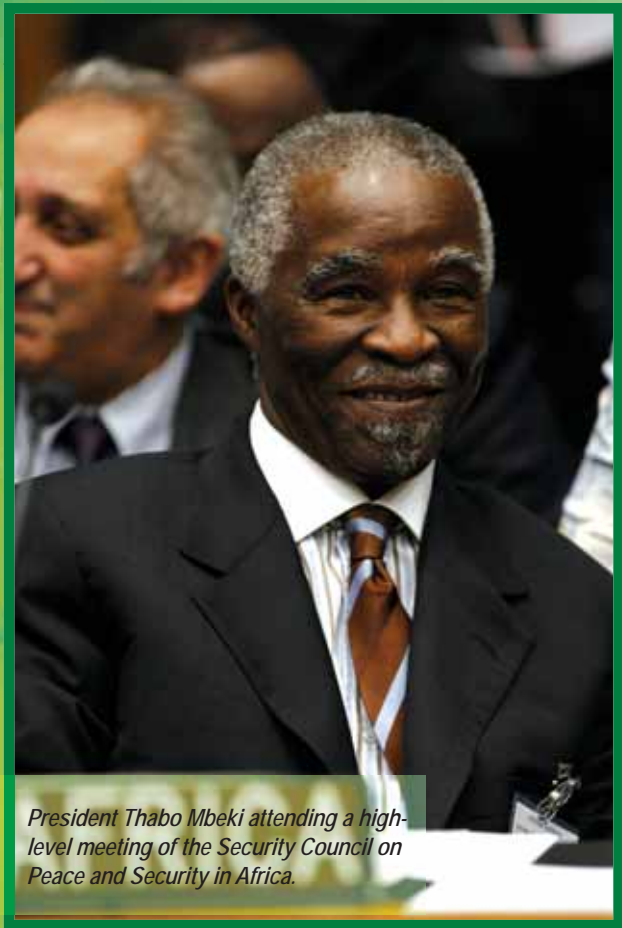
South Africa – promoting a better life for all



the dfa

Department:
Foreign Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





President Thabo Mbeki attending a high-level meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa.

Vision

OUR VISION IS OF AN AFRICAN CONTINENT that is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united, and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable.

Mission

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING South Africa's national interests and values, the African Renaissance and the creation of a better world for all.

Values

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS adheres to the following values:

- Patriotism
- Loyalty
- Dedication
- Ubuntu
- Equity
- Integrity
- Batho Pele

South Africa's membership of the UN Security Council

South Africa – promoting a better life for all

ON 16 OCTOBER 2006 South Africa was elected by 181 Member States of the United Nations General Assembly onto the Security Council as a non-permanent member for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008.

This is South Africa's first ever Council membership. Consequently, a whole of government approach has been adopted and government has also actively consulted the wider South African public. An important and ongoing part of the Security Council project is outreach to civil society, specialised think tanks and the media.

South Africa seeks, through its membership of the Security Council, to help promote multilateralism and respect for international law as the most appropriate means of achieving global political and economic stability and security.

South Africa utilises the Security Council seat to advance and consolidate the African Agenda. South Africa has prioritised African conflict resolution and improving the relationship and coordination between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN), which was the theme of the South African Presidencies of the Council in March 2007 and April 2008. This theme is of particular importance to Africa at a time when both the African Union and the UN are involved in complex peacekeeping operations on the African continent.

President Thabo Mbeki convened a Summit-level meeting of the Security Council in April 2008 on this theme, which led to the unanimous adoption of a resolution that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the AU's Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council, including financing mechanisms to ensure that African peacekeeping operations are fully operational and sustainable. South Africa also arranged a second joint meeting between the AU's Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council and these joint meetings are now expected to be held annually.

South Africa has been a key role player in the Council on Sudan/Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda and co-sponsored a process with Slovakia aimed at advancing the collective understanding of Security Sector Reform, especially in Africa. Other achievements include drawing attention to the role of women in peacekeeping operations and securing Council actions to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, issues particularly relevant to Africa.

At the same time that it focuses on Africa, South Africa has assumed its responsibility as a Security Council member for the maintenance of peace and security internationally, for example in the Middle East, Kosovo and Timor-Leste.

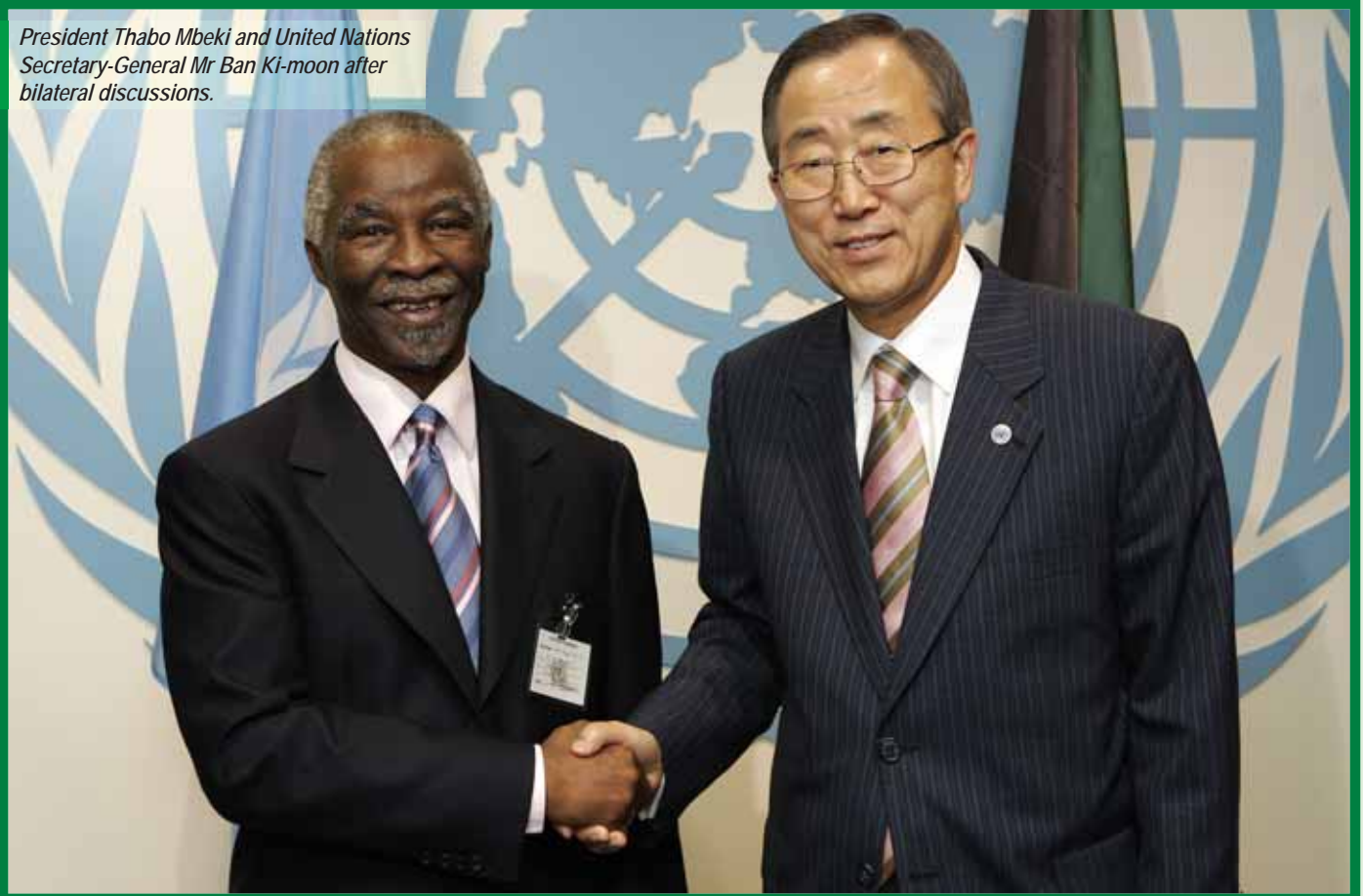
Notwithstanding the positive contributions that South Africa and its partners from the developing and developed world alike have made, it is clear that much work remains to be done if the Council is to fully discharge its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security. The crisis in Palestine and the resolution of the situation in Western Sahara are examples where the Council has yet to take meaningful action and the Council's working methods and practices need to be democratised.

South Africa's activism in the Council and its subsidiary bodies has made it an instrument for institutional reform. South Africa is the first developing country to lead a Security Council delegation to Africa and to be appointed as a 'lead nation' for one of the issues on the Council's agenda (Timor-Leste).

As an elected member of the Council, South Africa regards itself as being accountable to the wider UN membership. For this reason, South Africa actively consults with interested parties to an issue on the Council's agenda, shares information on proceedings in the Council with non-members and regularly consults with the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

South Africa's experiences in the Council have therefore heightened its resolve to press for Security Council reform, as well as its determination to continue working for positive outcomes to the Council's deliberations for the remaining months of South Africa's membership.

President Thabo Mbeki and United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon after bilateral discussions.

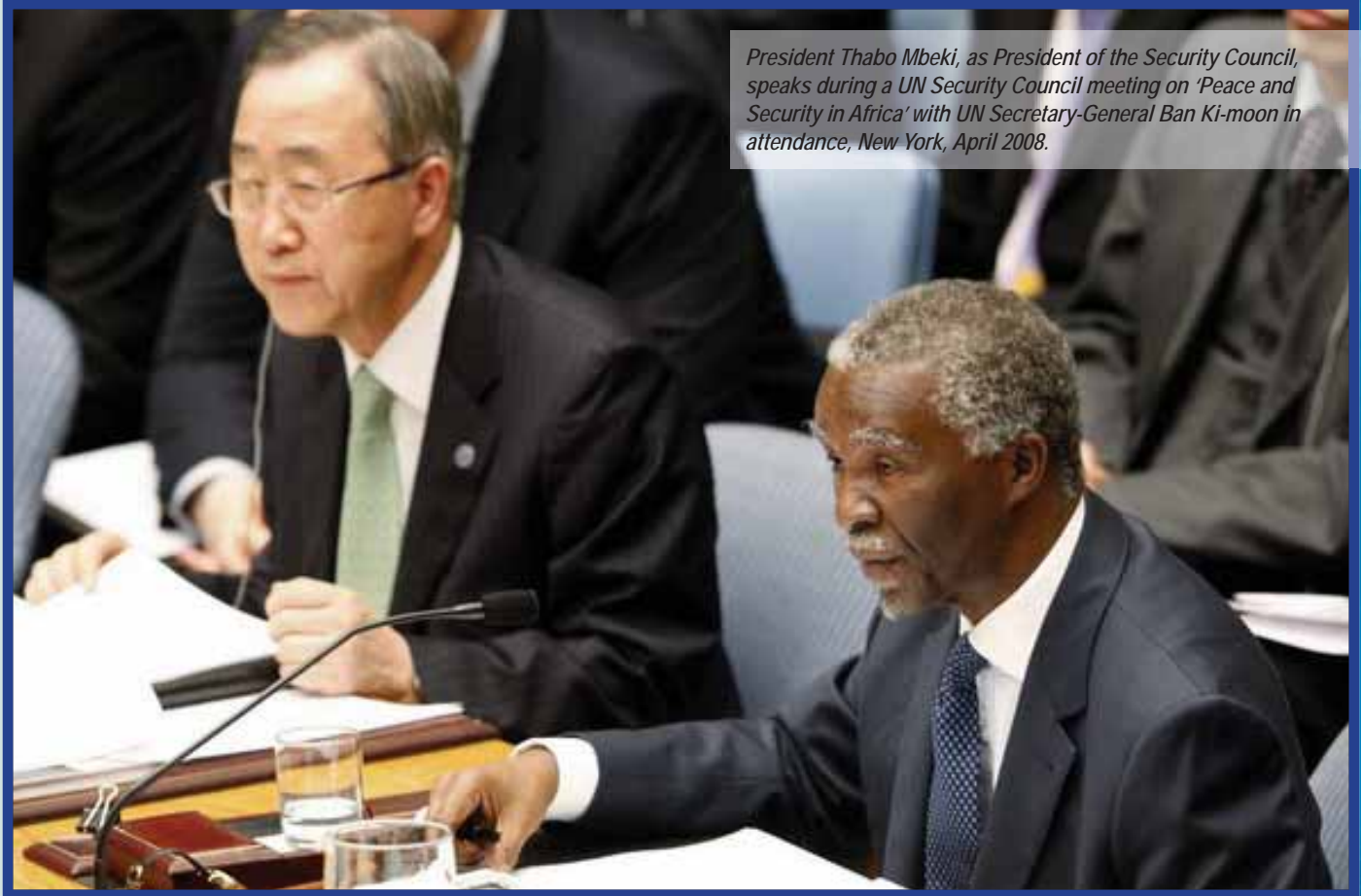




President Thabo Mbeki addressing the UN General Assembly on “Climate Change” and the UN Security Council on “Peace and Security in Africa” during his visit to New York, 2007.



President Thabo Mbeki in conversing with the Minister of State at the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom, Mr Kim Howells, during South Africa's Presidency of the UNSC in April 2008.



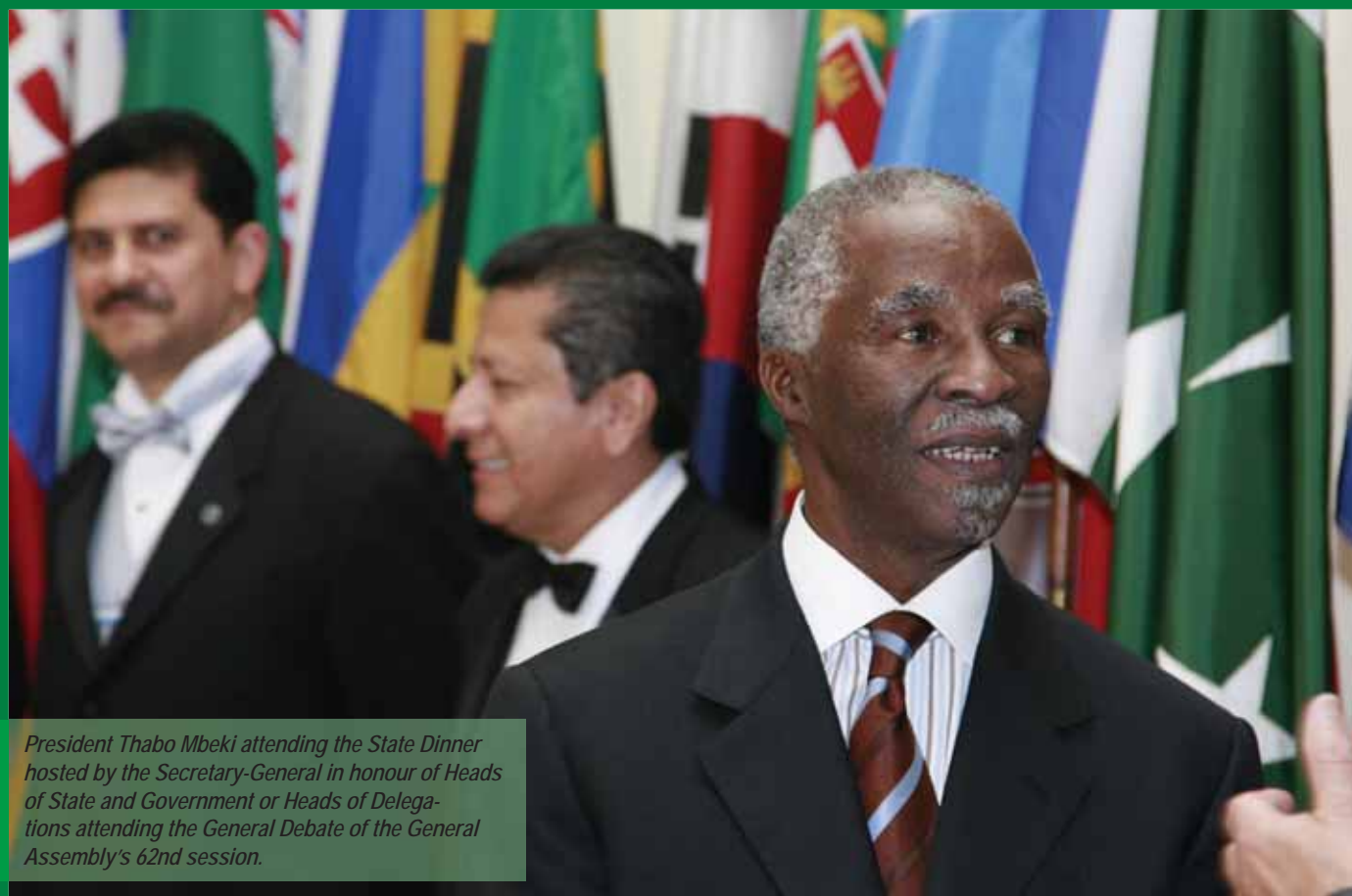
President Thabo Mbeki, as President of the Security Council, speaks during a UN Security Council meeting on 'Peace and Security in Africa' with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in attendance, New York, April 2008.

President Thabo Mbeki and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma listening to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon addressing the UN Security Council (UNSC) during South Africa's Presidency of the UNSC April 2008.

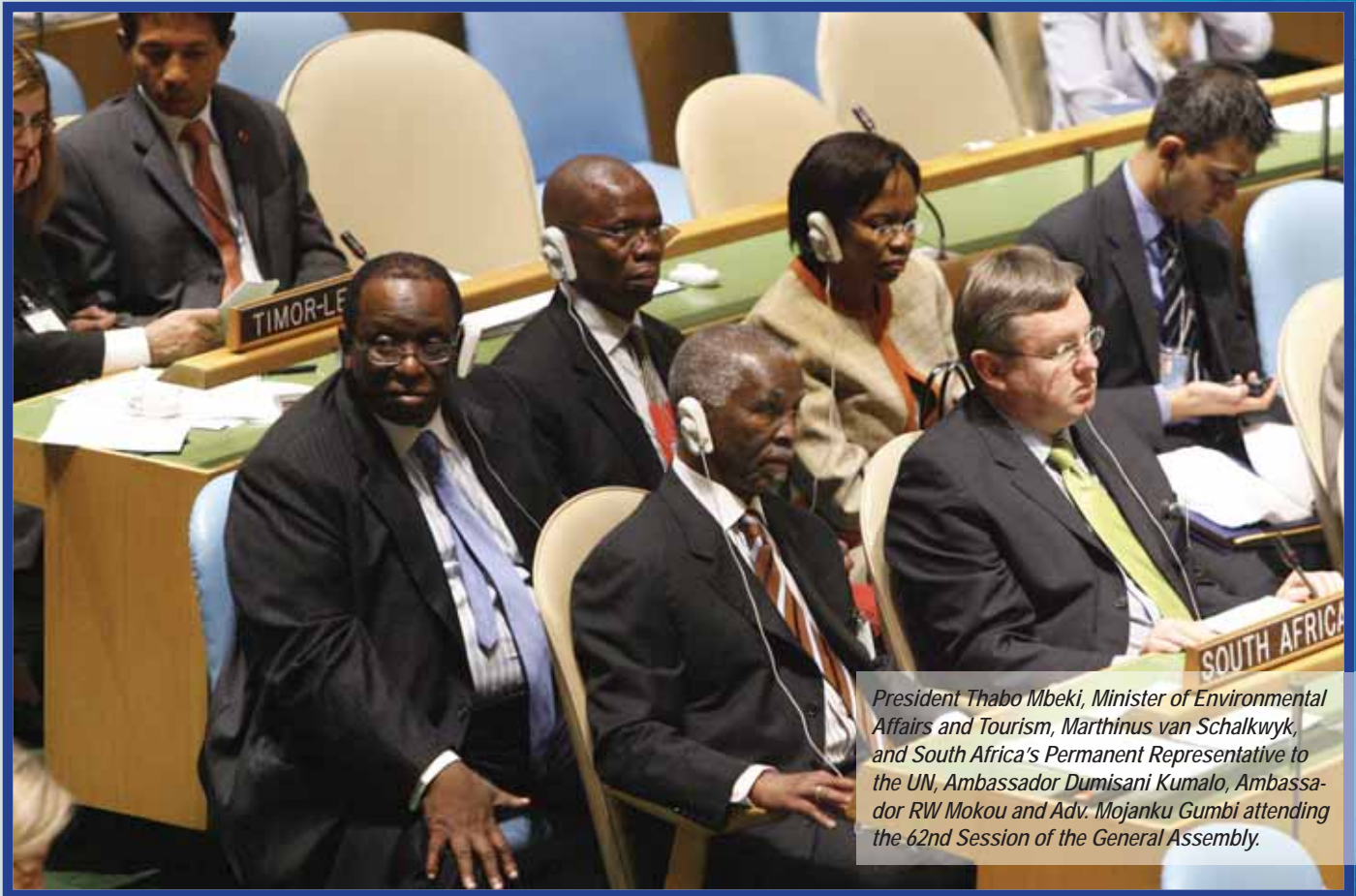




President Thabo Mbeki and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in conversation.



President Thabo Mbeki attending the State Dinner hosted by the Secretary-General in honour of Heads of State and Government or Heads of Delegations attending the General Debate of the General Assembly's 62nd session.



President Thabo Mbeki, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, and South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Ambassador RW Mokou and Adv. Mojanku Gumbi attending the 62nd Session of the General Assembly.

President Thabo Mbeki and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon greeting at the State Dinner hosted by the Secretary-General in honour of Heads of State and Government or Heads of Delegations attending the General Debate of the General Assembly's 62nd session.



President Thabo Mbeki and First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki welcoming the President of the Union of the Comoros, Mr Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed SAMBI at a luncheon, during South Africa's Presidency of the UN Security Council, April 2008.





President Thabo Mbeki in conversation with the former African Union Chairperson Professor Oumar Konare.



President Thabo Mbeki, the First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki and South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo welcoming the then President of Botswana, Mr Festus Mogae at a luncheon, during South Africa's Presidency of the UN Security Council, April 2008.

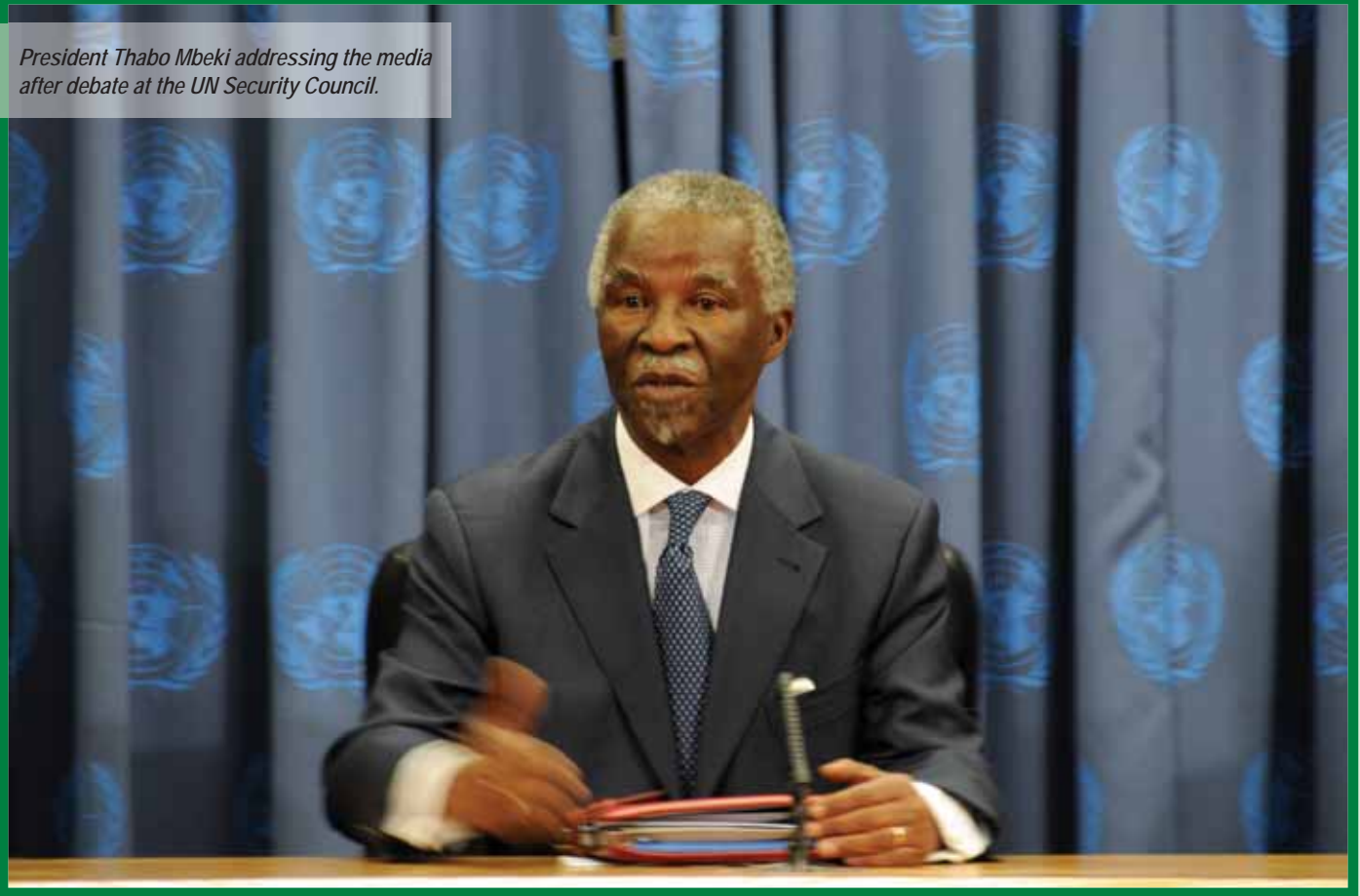


President Thabo Mbeki and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the Office of the President of the Security Council, New York.



President Thabo Mbeki flanked by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo in lighter spirits at the Office of the President of the Security Council, New York.

President Thabo Mbeki addressing the media after debate at the UN Security Council.





Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during a meeting and briefing with the then newly appointed United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 9 January 2007.



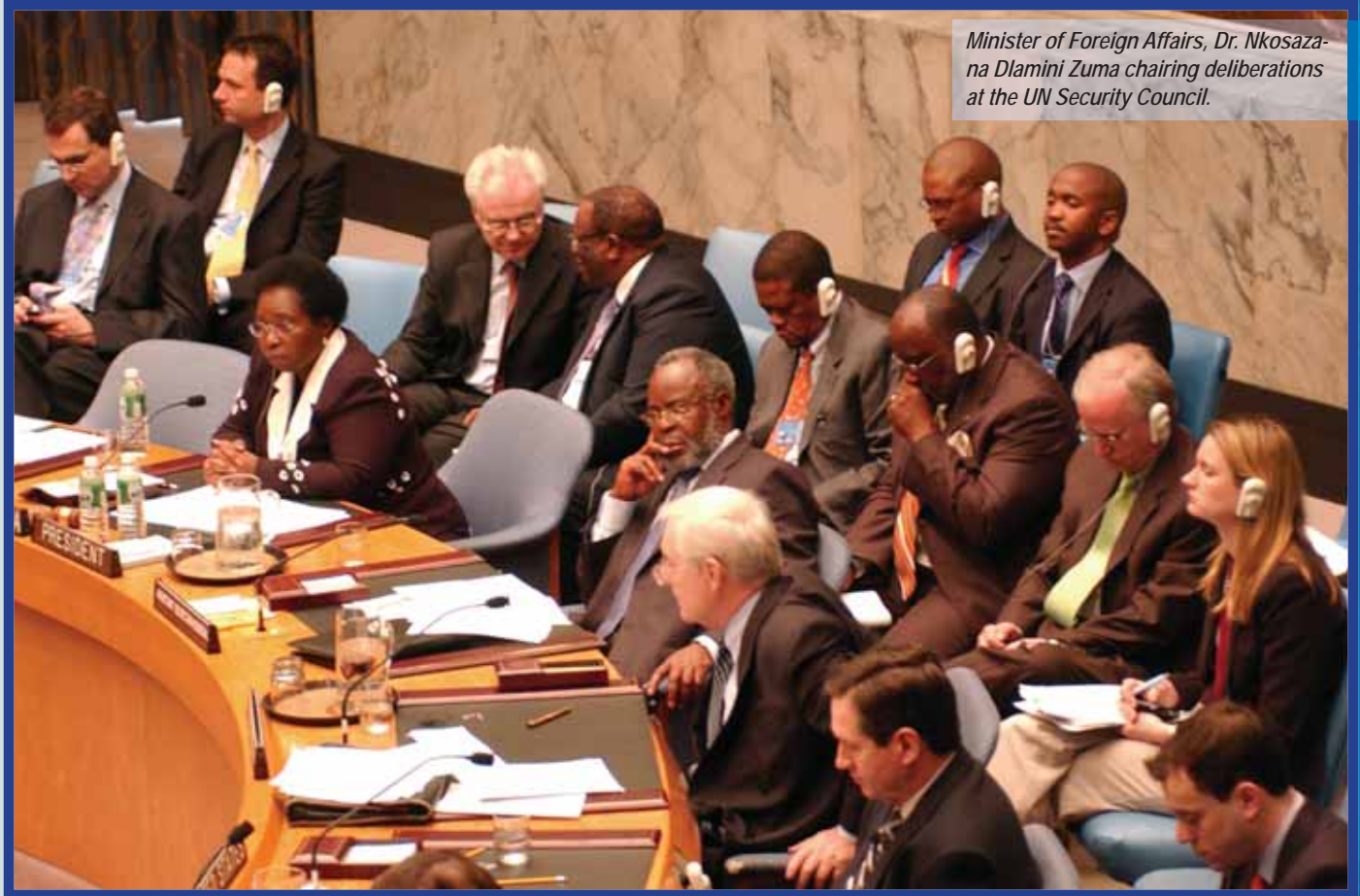
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the UN Headquarters.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosa-zana Dlamini Zuma handing over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 to Minister Bakhtyar of Pakistan during the Ceremonial Meeting.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma chairing a meeting of the UN Security Council in 2007.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma chairing deliberations at the UN Security Council.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Director-General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dr A Nt-saluba and South Africa's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Sanqu meeting the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.





Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad and Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba at work at the UN.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (centre), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) and South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo (right) at the Ceremonial Meeting to mark the formal handover of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 from South Africa to Pakistan.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during a press briefing at the United Nations.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the UN Headquarters.





Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma with UN Deputy Secretary-General Dr Asha-Rose Migiro and SA's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Slovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ján Kubis during bilateral political, economic and trade discussions in Cape Town. The two ministers also co-hosted an International Workshop on Security Sector Reform (SSR) with the theme being, 'Enhancing United Nations Support for SSR in Africa'





South Africa's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dumisani Khumalo during a meeting and briefing with the new United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, January 2007.



South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo speaks at the United Nations Headquarters about a Security Council statement condemning the assassination attempt on the East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta, February, 2008.

(AP Photo/Ed Betz)

South Africa's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Baso Sangqu, addresses a Security Council meeting on the situation in Timor-Leste, United Nations Head Quarters, Security Council Chamber, 13 December, 2007



UN Photo: Eric Kamalstein



The UN Security Council in session.

PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The principles which serve as guidelines in the conduct of our foreign relations include:

- A commitment to the promotion of human rights
- A commitment to the promotion of democracy
- A commitment to justice and international law in the conduct of relations between nations
- A commitment to international peace and to internationally agreed upon mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts
- A commitment to Africa in world affairs, and
- A commitment to economic development through regional and international co-operation in an interdependent (and globalised) world

In addition to the above principles the following tenets have been enunciated as guidelines to instruct our approach to foreign policy:

- Foreign policy is an integrated part of government policy, aimed at promoting security and the quality of life, of all South Africans
- A commitment that South Africa, as a member of the United Nations and as a responsible citizen of the world, will live up to its obligations in this regard and contribute to a peaceful world
- Commitment to the African Renaissance through the African Union and its programme for Africa's development, namely the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
- Commitment to economic development through regional integration and development in the Southern African Development Community and the Southern African Customs Union.
- Interact with African partners as equals
- Pursue friendly relations with all peoples and nations of the world
- Peace making and conflict prevention should receive priority consideration.
- Actively engage in efforts to secure international peace and security, promote disarmament, prevent genocide, restrict the proliferation of arms and secure a new world security compact through the United Nations (as the primary global security body), the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Commonwealth and other multilateral fora.
- Promote multilateralism to secure a rules-based international system
- Promote the democratisation and reform of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods Institutions (i.e. International Monetary Fund and World Bank).
- Promote a rules-based international trading regime through the World Trade Organisation.
- Combat racism, sexism, xenophobia and other related intolerances.
- Promote the Agenda of the South through South-South Co-operation and North-South Partnerships.
- Eradication of poverty through the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and through the implementation of agreements such as the WTO Doha Development Agenda, the Monterrey Finance for Development, World Conference Against Racism and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- Promote sustainable and people-centred development
- Support efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees and children in Africa, and elsewhere, and particularly support the work of the UNHCR
- Promote a positive image of South Africa.
- Safeguard South Africa's territorial integrity and sovereignty.



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