

# FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL

Reflecting on 2018



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

[www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za)



@DIRCO\_ZA



DIRCOza



DIRCO Flickr



DIRCOZA



thedircoza

**Executive editors**

Ndivhuwo Mabaya  
 Zane Dangor  
 Mpho Mmutle  
 Lloyd Mhlanga  
 Adv. Menzi Simelane

**Content managers**

Dr Sharon Horton-Herselman  
 Tuso Zibula  
 Michelle Greeff

**Editing and proofreading**

Delien Burger

**Photography**

Jacoline Schoonees  
 Yolande Snyman  
 Katholo Maifadi  
 Yandisa Monakali

**OR TAMBO BUILDING**

Private Bag X152, PRETORIA, 0001, Republic of South Africa  
 460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084, Republic of South Africa  
 Tel: +27 12 351 1000, www.dirco.gov.za

© The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)  
 Prepared by Branch: Public Diplomacy. Published by DIRCO.

FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL REFLECTING ON 2018

# CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION****CHAPTER 1:  
SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN  
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)  
2017 – 2018**

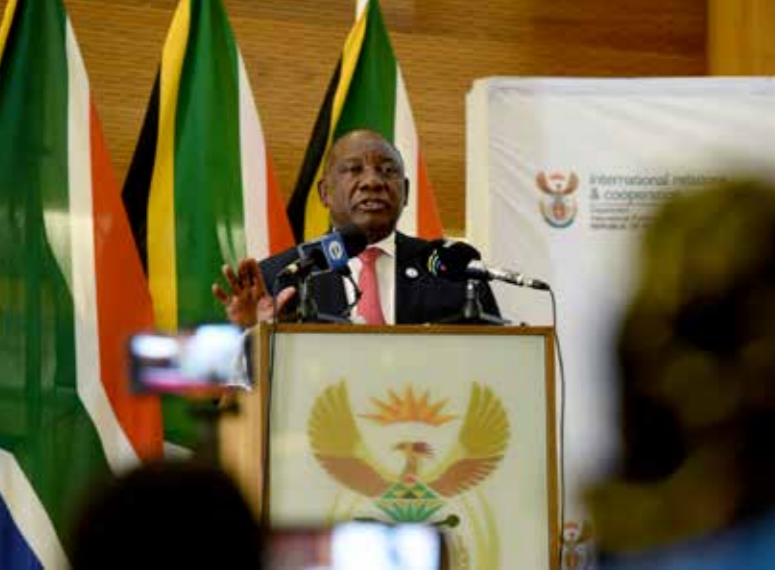
- Opening remarks by Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary, on the occasion of the Official Opening of the SADC Council of Ministers, OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 26 March 2018
- Welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, 26 March 2018
- Opening remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the SADC Double Troika Summit, Luanda, Angola, 24 April 2018
- Opening remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the SADC Double Troika Summit, Luanda, Angola, 24 April 2018
- Official remarks by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, at the Official Opening of the Meeting of

the SADC Council of Ministers, 13 August 2018, Windhoek, Namibia

- Maiden speech by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 38th SADC Summit, Windhoek, Namibia, 17 August 2018
- Keynote address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 38th SADC Summit, Windhoek, Namibia, 17 August 2018

**CHAPTER 2:  
SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE BRAZIL,  
RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA (BRICS)  
FORUM**

- Opening remarks by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu at the Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 4 June 2018
- Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Open Session of the 10th BRICS Summit, Sandton International Convention Centre, Sandton, 26 July 2018
- Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the Post-10th BRICS Summit Media Briefing, 27 July 2018, Sandton



**CHAPTER 3:  
SOUTH AFRICA AS MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) 2019 – 2020, THE UNVEILING OF THE MANDELA STATUE, THE NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- Media remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, following South Africa's election to the Non-Permanent Seat in the UNSC, 8 June 2018
- Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa following the UNSC elections, 8 June 2018
- Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the unveiling of the Nelson Mandela Statue, UN General Assembly, 24 September 2018, New York, United States of America
- Political Declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit
- Statement by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly
- Remarks by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN
- Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa
- Statement by President Miguel Diaz Canel of Cuba
- Speech by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister of Ireland
- Speech by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand
- Speech by the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras
- Address by Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka
- Speech by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji
- Remarks by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau
- Speech by Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi



- Statement by President Danny Faure of the Seychelles
- Speech by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda
- Statement by Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica
- Speech by President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria
- Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the UN General Assembly, United Nations, New York, United States of America, 25 September 2018

**CHAPTER 4:  
SOUTH AFRICA AS CO-CHAIR OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)**

- Welcoming address by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, at the Opening Session of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC, Beijing, China, 2 September 2018
- Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the FOCAC, Beijing, China, 3 September 2018

**CHAPTER 5:  
HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE**

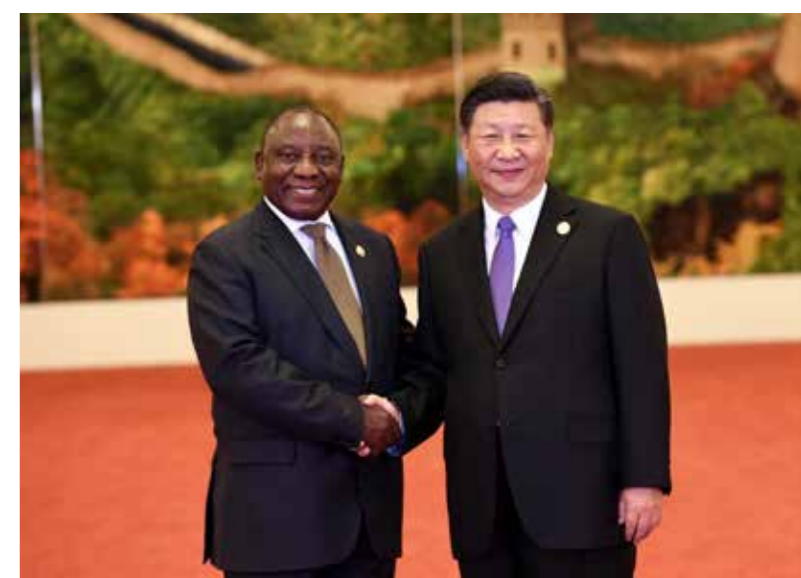
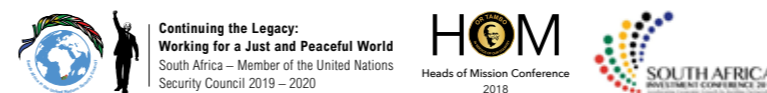
- Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the South African Heads of Mission Conference, OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 23 October 2018

**CHAPTER 6:  
SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)**

- Opening remarks and country statement by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, at the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting, Durban, 2 November 2018

**CHAPTER 7:  
SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE**

- Opening address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the South Africa Investment Conference, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, 26 October 2018





---

## INTRODUCTION

---

This year marks the centenary of the world icon Nelson Mandela. This is one year in which we should once again use the space created by Madiba to leapfrog into a future that we all dreamt of. It is an especially important year for us as we invite the world to focus on the example we have set for the rest of mankind. We need to drive this celebration of the man who not only led us into this democracy, but one who captured the world's imagination on what is possible. We had the most fertile ground on which to build further on the immense work done by Oliver Tambo in our international relations. Mandela picked up the baton and charted our foreign policy in the new dispensation and we remember him for what he bequeathed to us: freedom, peace and forgiveness. And the world opened its arms to us.

We once were a giant in the world and our reputation was well known, because of what South Africa represented. The world was richer for having given us support and for us having given them the miracle of 1994. In Mandela's memory and in his honour, we have a responsibility to regain that stature that he left for us. That stature that allowed us to punch above our weight and succeed. We'll regain that stature and put all out efforts in making sure that we make the world a better place for all. We should not be in a world where our children will inherit the ruins of Syria. Our children should not live in fear of extremist militants. Our children should not die at the hands of heavy-handed soldiers. Our children should not die of poverty.

We are faced with major external challenges: poverty, where an *Oxfam Report* indicates that eight billionaires own the same wealth as half of the poorest countries in the world; extremism, resulting in an increase in defence spending, abuse or disregard of international law and the unravelling of the global governance system; the weakening of diplomacy; the increasing tendency of some countries to reduce the complex and interrelated problems of the world to narrow national interests; and a global crisis of leadership and governance, resulting in corruption, abuse of state power and resources.

Our domestic policies are changing very rapidly and we have to respond by reconfiguring our foreign policy. We want to usher in a new era where South Africa can lift itself out of poverty and inequality and regain its stature in the world as a model of what can

be achieved when you stretch human endeavour and make possible that which seems unattainable.

We want South Africa to be once again a moral compass and a voice of reason in a world increasingly overcome with selfish, narrow interests. We want to be the hope for all in times of despair.

Our foreign policy has evolved over many years, crafted by Oliver Tambo as he sensitised the world about the struggle of South Africa; and crystallised and given expression by Nelson Mandela as he put South Africa firmly on the international stage. All of this is summarised very aptly in the African National Congress' (ANC) 54th National Conference Declaration: "We remain committed to the founding values of the struggle for a humane, just, equitable, democratic and free world". We have over time been consolidating it and it boils down to this: a better life for all, a better life for all of us equally as South Africans, a better life for our continent, and a better life for the world, embedded in a desire to create and preserve peace.

Our Constitution determines that our foreign policy must be driven by seven major principles:

1. fundamentally transform and achieve sustainable growth of the economy to empower the people and create a better life for all
2. deal with the legacies of apartheid colonialism
3. maintain the stability and security of South Africa, including its constitutional order and institutions
4. develop a peaceful, prosperous and integrated southern Africa
5. develop a stable and prosperous African continent, which is not marginalised in world affairs
6. resolve conflicts by negotiations
7. develop a multipolar just and equitable world order.

South Africa's approach to and implementation of our foreign policy must be based on an understanding of the current regional and global political and economic realities.

Our contribution and support to the President in implementing our country's international programme seeks to practically change the lives of our people for the better. We remain guided by our domestic priorities

---

---

and aspirations in the formulation and consequent implementation of an independent and democratic foreign policy, which is premised on the values of our Constitution. Our work, however, recognises the importance of improving the living conditions of our fellow Africans on the continent as well as creating conditions for human fulfilment across the globe.

In essence, our aspirations, which are encapsulated in the National Development Plan Vision 2030, provide an overarching vision that guides our foreign policy imperatives and our international relations programme.

Suffice to state, that our purview of work is increasingly challenging, considering the faster dynamism of the international environment, which has in the recent past witnessed efforts to entrench protectionism and elitism in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. While the said era has its advantages, we cannot shy away from the reality that it has demonstrated the potential to further alienate the majority of the poor worldwide and for that reason we must proactively manage its effects.

We can only leverage its opportunities and avert compounding the persistent economic hardships by investing in our populaces and ensuring that Africa is not left behind as the digital era further evolves.

We must also be conscious that our continent and the region will progress towards improved manufacturing capacities and reduce its dependence on exporting raw materials only to buy furnished products later at higher prices. This perpetuation of neo-colonial relations undermines our continental and regional efforts to bolster prosperity through product value and increased intra-Africa trade.

We, however, must double our efforts to counter the effects of an unpredictable and economically sluggish environment. Thus, we remain cognisant of the fact that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is our immediate and biggest trade partner of which our future is intertwined with that of the region and the continent.

As such, we utilised our Chairship of SADC for the period 2017/18 under the theme, "Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains", to continue to bolster economic growth in the region, with a dedicated focus on harnessing

the participation and enhanced cooperation of the regional private sector in the implementation of the SADC Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

In a similar vein, our objectives of regional integration within SADC are also intertwined with our objectives of the African Union (AU) and enhancing the African Agenda. The adoption and launch of the Continental Free Trade Area, as well as the signing of the Kigali Declaration, took us a step closer towards a regional and continentally integrated economy.

Our region is stable although we shall continue to impress on partners and work with them to consolidate democracy and peace for development. We have accordingly discharged our SADC sanctioned mediation responsibility in Lesotho, which culminated in the elections which were declared free and fair.

Complimentarily, we witnessed the establishment of the AU Peace Fund during the reporting period and are confident that this will support African solutions and strengthen peace mechanisms of the AU Peace and Security Council. We believe that stronger continental mechanisms are indeed required to ensure that the aspirational goal of "silencing the guns" by 2020 is realised.

We are not just an African country considering our strong roots and orientation as a country of the South. Our partnerships and formations within South-South relations are therefore historic and as such remains important. Thus, to furthering our economic imperatives, the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries continued to be the leading sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) among emerging investor countries. Flows from these five economies rose from US\$7 billion in 2000 to US\$145 billion in 2012, accounting for 10% of the world total.

We assumed Chairship of BRICS on 1 January 2018 and will conclude this role on 31 December 2018. As such, the 10th BRICS Summit was chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Sandton International Convention Centre from 25 to 27 July 2018 under the theme, "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution". All BRICS leaders participated. President Ramaphosa also chaired the

BRICS Outreach programme with African leaders in attendance and the BRICS Plus interaction.

With regard to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), South Africa assumed the Chair of the association for the period October 2017 until October 2019. This provides us with an opportunity to build on the Jakarta Summit outcomes and propel the implementation of the IORA Action Plan (2017 – 2021). Importantly, we focussed and will continue to do so, on enhancing the institutional mechanisms necessary to advance important priorities for South Africa and the region. These include but are not limited to women's economic empowerment, maritime safety and security, the Blue Economy and tourism.

Our bilateral relations with countries in the region, on the continent, the Global South and the North continue to grow and strengthen within the difficult economic climate. Notably, we managed to place Africa's development agenda in the G20 purview of work during the reporting period. We have also impressed upon our partners in the world the need to work together to create a conducive world environment for humanity to thrive.

Our bilateral relations have served as a key driver of Economic Diplomacy and yielded tangible dividends for the South African economy. The southern African region continued to be of great importance to South Africa, not only politically, but more so in the area of trade and economic development. In 2016, South Africa's trade with the region amounted to R336 billion, which is estimated to be more than 70% of the total trade with Africa.

Western Europe accounted for about 25% of South Africa's total global trade in 2016 and remained South Africa's largest source of FDI. The United States of America (USA) and Canada continued to be important trade and investment partners for South Africa, with 863 companies from the region trading in South Africa, creating over 120 000 employment opportunities. South Africa is also the USA and Canada's most important commercial partner in Africa.

South Africa's presence in the Asia and the Middle East consisted of six missions in 1994. In 2014, South Africa had diplomatic relations with all 57 countries in the region, with 32 missions.

Consequently, in 1994, South Africa's total trade in the region stood at approximately R5 billion for the Middle East and R40 billion for Asia. In 2014, this figure grew rapidly and substantially to R760 billion for Asia and R116 billion for the Middle East.

We therefore committed to advance this objective once provided with the opportunity to serve on the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member from 2019 to 2020 as endorsed by the AU in January 2018.

We believe in a global system that has been developed and structured to ensure that never again will we experience a war. This system is established to ensure that we never again slide to the levels of destruction we have had over so many years.

The fundamentals of our foreign policy are based on human rights, peace, equality and freedom from oppression, racism and poverty. This is our focus; first and foremost on the African continent. We remain an important player on the African continent and our role has been aptly described as pivotal, and we intend to keep it that way.

The renaissance that we dreamed of is still possible in our lifetime. In fact, the African Renaissance remains a key objective of the ANC, confirmed at its 54th National Conference. However, our importance as a role player depends on getting ourselves out of the problems that surround us right now. A country mired in its own problems can hardly expect to make any impact on the world stage.

Our potential to influence for good is enormous, based on our history. We can continue to be the moral compass of the world and we need to. We continue to fight against injustice, because we have to. We who have suffered so much, can ill afford suffering in any part of the world.

A better South Africa, a better Africa, in a better world!

---

---

**Lindiwe Sisulu**  
**Minister of International Relations and**  
**Cooperation**



**CHAPTER 1**  
**SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) 2017 – 2018**



**CHAPTER 1**  
**SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**  
**(SADC) 2017–2018**

**Opening remarks by Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary,**  
**on the occasion of the Official Opening of the SADC Council of Ministers,**  
**OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 26 March 2018**

Honourable Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials,  
SADC Deputy Executive Secretaries,  
Senior Officials from SADC Member States,  
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
SADC Secretariat Staff,  
Representatives of the Media,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by congratulating Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu for her appointment as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and thus, Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers. We look forward to working with you and I have no doubt that in you, we shall find an able steward who will continue guiding the SADC region in its transformative agenda to industrialise. May I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the meeting of the Council of Ministers, and to the people of South Africa for your hospitality and the traditional warm welcome.

Allow me to also congratulate Honourable Domingos Augusto, Minister of External Relations of Angola; Honourable José Condungua Pacheco, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique; Honourable Joseph Malanji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia; and Honourable Dr Lieutenant General (Rtd) Sibusiso B Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe; for their appointments, and welcome them as members of the Council of Ministers. We also welcome and congratulate the Comoros for being accepted to join SADC as the 16th member of SADC.

On a sad note, the SADC Secretariat has received with sorrow the news on the passing of the father to Mr Sandile Schalk, the Chief Director

in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa and the SADC National Contact Point. Our deepest condolences, and may the Almighty continue to comfort them, and rest in peace the soul of our late father.

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

The main objective of this Council of Ministers Meeting is to receive progress on the implementation of the 2017/18 plan, and to consider the proposed plan and budget for 2018/19. In this regard, allow me Honourable Ministers to present a few milestones achieved during the year under review. Tremendous progress has been made in a number of areas in our quest to regional integration. In line with the 37th SADC Summit theme of "Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains", value chains in areas that were profiled in 2016/17, namely: mining, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing sectors, were identified. The priority value chains identified in the following subsectors are: leather, soya, aquaculture, iron and steel, copper, cement and ARV manufacturing. In the coming financial year, detailed mapping and feasibility studies on each of these identified value chains will be undertaken, based on which bankable projects will be developed.

May I thank the SADC Chairperson, the Republic of South Africa, for spearheading this progress.

I am also glad to report that during the year, drafts of the SADC Regional Mining Vision and Protocol on Industry were prepared and consultations were held with relevant stakeholders. The Regional Mining Vision will optimise the benefits from mineral extraction through extended mineral beneficiation and the development of strong economic linkages between the mining sector and other economic sectors, especially manufacturing. The Protocol on Industry will provide for a supportive policy environment for the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy across sectors.

Recognising the pivotal role of the private sector in the achievement of the region's development objectives, during the year, the Secretariat continued to work with private-sector organisations in member states to finalise the development of an effective public-private engagement mechanism. This will ensure that our programmes and activities are informed by the needs and experiences of the private sector. The draft mechanism was presented and deliberated by the Industrial Development Forum in February 2018, and is due to be finalised during 2018/19.

In our continued efforts to consolidate the SADC Free Trade Area and strengthen the financial sector, the region continued with the implementation of the cross-border payment system through the SADC Integrated Regional Settlement System (SIRESS), which currently settles transactions using the South African Rand. To date, over a million transactions, representing R4,09 trillion have been settled using the system. In order to ensure that the system is inclusive and caters for all the currencies in the region, a multicurrency and low-value framework was developed during the period under review. The multicurrency platform will also have the US Dollar as an additional currency of settlement and is expected to be operational by October 2018.

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

A healthy and vibrant human capital is a key enabler of industrialisation; as such, strengthening the manufacturing base for essential medical supplies and commodities in the region is critical for human capital development and health. I am glad to report that a feasibility study on Regional Manufacturing of Medicines and Health Commodities was completed during the year. This study will facilitate the setting up of mechanisms to facilitate manufacturing of the much-needed generic medicines and health commodities

for communicable and non-communicable diseases within the region. Having completed this important study in the fiscal year 2018/19, the Secretariat will coordinate the development of a five-year SADC Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Action Plan.

In relation to HIV and AIDS, it may be recalled that the funding from the Global Fund towards the Cross-Border Wellness Initiative came to an end in December 2017. Consequently, member states are expected to take over all the 32 wellness sites that have been established. The sustainability of these sites is imperative to ensure that the investment gained over the past four years to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on long-distance truck drivers, sex workers and affected communities around the border areas is maintained. Allow me to use this opportunity to call upon member states to take up, and prioritise this critical initiative.

Chairperson,

It is also worth reporting that, working through various project-preparation facilities, the Secretariat continued to engage the private sector through public-private dialogues, including through Southern African Business Forum thematic working groups and the World Economic Forum (WEF). Through such engagements, we have been able to identify projects that have the potential for private-sector investment or public-private partnerships, including in the energy, transport and water sectors, out of which seven have been submitted to the WEF Africa Sustainable Development Investment Programme. The Sustainable Development Investment Programme members are committed to mobilising blended finance worth US\$100 billion for projects supporting sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure programmes and projects.

I am also happy to report that in February 2018, the Secretariat signed an *aide memoire* with the African Development Bank, where the bank has committed to support SADC in a number of areas, including the identification and categorisation of priority bankable projects from SADC's Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP); development of financial instruments and frameworks that are relevant to SADC regional projects such as infrastructure bonds, partial risk guarantees, insurance guarantees and partial credit guarantees for use in member states; development of bankable value chains; development of SADC economic

corridors aimed at supporting infrastructure projects to facilitate regional value chains; and development of insurance to mitigate and address the impacts of climate change-related risks. May I at this juncture, recognise the presence of Ms Moono Muputola, the bank's Director for Regional Integration and her team. May I also express our sincere appreciation to the bank for its continued support to SADC.

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

Implementation of the SADC priorities requires sustainable sources of funding. To this effect, the Secretariat, in collaboration with member states, has developed a Resource Mobilisation Framework, and a progress report will be presented and discussed during this meeting. One of the critical aspects of the Resource Mobilisation Framework is the identification of innovative and sustainable financial instruments. In this regard, the Secretariat is working with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to help develop these instruments. So far, the AfDB has pledged to support the Secretariat to operationalise phase one of the SADC Regional Development Fund.

During the year, the Secretariat has also continued to collaborate with international cooperating partners, and notable progress in this area includes programming under the 11th Cycle of the European Development Fund (EDF 11), where project identification in the identified areas that include trade and industrialisation, agriculture, trade facilitation, migration and peace and security have been completed and the related action plans approved. Under the EDF 11, the European Union has agreed to extend US\$90 million for a period of four years.

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

Political stability, peace and security remain a key enabler for deepening regional economic integration. During the period under review, focus was placed on the facilitation and consolidation of mediation, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy initiatives. Following the attainment of full operational capability in 2015 with the conduct of the Amani Africa II Exercise, the SADC Standby Force deployed in November 2017, a multidimensional contingent mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho with the objective of supporting Lesotho in restoring political and security stability. This is clear evidence

that the region has put in place the necessary structures and mechanisms that enhance our cooperation and ensure peace, security and political stability in the region.

Honourable Ministers,

These are a few highlights of the year under review; a comprehensive report of achievements recorded in the year will be presented during your meeting.

Chairperson,

The region continues to be affected by poor weather and adverse climatic conditions that continue to stifle growth of the agriculture sector with a negative impact on food security. The region has just experienced a poor rainfall season in 2017/18. Notwithstanding, some notable improvements in January and February, the 2018 agricultural production will be negatively affected, and result in food insecurity for many households. Furthermore, the region has also experienced the outbreak of the fall armyworm that has had devastating impacts on cereal production, particularly in Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and is likely to result in food shortages, particularly in the staple maize crop in these countries. These developments emphasise the need to have a robust and resilient agricultural sector. It is for this reason that our industrialisation agenda has prioritised development of value chains, in among others, agro-processing, supported by other mechanisms to complement household food security. Our cooperation in this area remains critical.

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

Our focus for the financial year 2018/19 as will be presented during your meeting remains on our priorities, namely: industrialisation and market integration, infrastructure development to leverage industrialisation, and peace and security.

As I conclude, I wish to thank the Council of Ministers for the continued guidance, and the member states for supporting the Secretariat by availing the needed resources in a timely manner. May I also express our gratitude to our strategic partners and international cooperation partners for their technical and financial support in our development efforts.

My deepest gratitude also goes to my Deputy Executive Secretaries, SADC management and all staff at the Secretariat for the support, dedication and hard work, which have contributed to the achievements that the Secretariat has been able to record during the year under review. Steve Jobs once said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do". As we begin 2018/19, let us keep the momentum and maintain the Team Spirit.

---

---

**Welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Lindiwe Sisulu,  
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, 26 March 2018**

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Deputy Ministers,  
SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax,  
SADC Deputy Executive Secretaries,  
Heads of Senior Officials' Delegations,  
Officials from our Member States,  
Officials from the SADC Secretariat,  
Members of the Media here present,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my singular honour and privilege to welcome you all to this, the SADC Council of Ministers' Meeting. As I welcome you, allow me to extend a special word of welcome to the following foreign ministers who are, like me, attending the Council Meeting for the first time:

1. Hon Minister, Mr Manuel Augusto of the Republic of Angola
2. Hon Minister, Mr José Pacheco of the Republic of Mozambique
3. Hon Minister, Mr Joseph Malanji of the Republic of Zambia
4. Hon Minister, Retired Lieutenant General Dr Sibusiso Moyo of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

I am also pleased to welcome to the SADC family, our 16th new member, the Union of Comoros, represented by the Honourable Minister, Mr Souf Mohamed El-Amin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

I hope that those of us who are new to the club will find this meeting refreshing and fulfilling. I can at least attest that in my previous engagements with the council as the Minister of Intelligence and Minister

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers,

With these few remarks, it is my honour and privilege to invite the Chairperson of Council to deliver her opening remarks, Madam Chairperson, the floor is yours.

I thank you very much!

Muito obrigado!

Merci beaucoup!

Ke a leboga!

Asanteni sana!

of Defence, I always found our SADC meetings focussed, result-orientated and very fulfilling.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe it is important to start from the beginning. What is the beginning? The beginning is the founding Treaty establishing our own Southern African Development Community (SADC). The 1992 SADC Treaty correctly outlines foundational principles under which we as member states ought to act. For purposes of emphasis, it is important that I list these principles:

1. sovereign equality of all member states
2. solidarity, peace and security
3. human rights, democracy and rule of law
4. equity, balance and mutual benefit
5. peaceful settlement of disputes.

These are the principles that guide us all the time in our journey towards regional economic integration. We gather here this morning to think and strategise together on how best and how fast we can improve the lives of all our peoples. We have clear and common objectives towards regional economic



integration and sustainable development. Our experience in Kigali was truly uplifting. We should therefore continuously seek to unlock our regional potential and opportunities to effectively address the core issues of unemployment, underdevelopment and poverty alleviation and contribute fully to the upliftment of the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am exceptionally pleased that this Council Meeting takes place in the year that we celebrate the centenary year of the birth of one of the fathers of our nation, Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. To our people and I am sure to many in the region, he will always be affectionately known as Madiba!

Former President Mandela stands out as one of the most notable leaders of our liberation struggle who mobilised international solidarity against apartheid and contributed to establishing and shaping a post-apartheid democratic South Africa. As we celebrate the centenary of Madiba, we draw inspiration from his exceptional wisdom, humility and resilience and ability to rise above his circumstances and chart the path towards a free, non-racial democracy. He was a true international statesman and we will continue to draw invaluable lessons from his outstanding leadership and compassion, for decades to come.

When South Africa joined the SADC community in 1998, President Mandela shared with us the following words: "Our vision for the SADC region is therefore the highest possible degree of economic integration, consistent with our socio-economic and political reality. Our tasks as governments are to provide the environment that will release the creative abilities of our people to produce wealth to create development".

As we enter our 26th year as a SADC family, we must continuously reflect on our progress. Our objectives in SADC are informed by the SADC Common Agenda, which seeks to advance peace, stability and sustainable development in our region. It is important to note that the political and security situation in the region remains stable, though there are some political and security challenges which the region must continue to address.

As you are aware, the SADC Common Agenda has also guided us to develop economic blueprints such as the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic

Development Plan, the Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015 – 2063, the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ and the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

In our pursuit of a common SADC future, it is clear that in our region there is a critical need for industrial development underpinned by a sound infrastructure. As SADC Chair, South Africa is working towards ensuring the practical implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Plan as adopted by the SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit in March 2017. As a result, South Africa's theme for her Chairship year, titled: "Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains", further emphasises the importance of regional industrialisation.

Industrialisation remains a core prerequisite for prosperity in the region and has to be achieved through a strong partnership with the private sector. It is therefore clear that all SADC members should focus on the need to strengthen the region's capabilities, both inside and outside of government, in order to advance regional industrialisation. It is our belief that SADC governments should identify priority value chains and take steps to attract the private sector into these specific sectors.

As part of our regional strategy, South Africa is also working on a set of deliverables, which will focus on some high-impact cross-border projects in order to support manufacturing and the creation of new regional value chains. We will report back to the next SADC Summit in August this year on progress in this respect.

Our vision for our Chairship is to provide for ourselves policy direction and for all of us an enabling environment for a sustainable programme that prioritises the preparation of high-impact cross-border projects that are pragmatic, enhance skills, create jobs and boost regional trade.

As indicated, we have all committed to improving the quality of life for our people to advance sustainable economic development. To this end, we have a long journey to travel and we cannot be found to be wanting or to have failed. It is therefore fundamental that we unleash the appropriate resources and make a concerted effort to work together towards the SADC our people deserve and a SADC we can be proud of. Our gratitude to the SADC Secretariat, ever so passionate about their work.

We pledge our continued support as it delivers on its annual work programme and mandate and to strengthen its governance and institutional capacity in order to enhance its effectiveness.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have an extensive agenda ahead of us. Let us accord the work before us the required attention and provide the necessary political direction on the way forward.

---

---

**Opening remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the SADC Double Troika Summit,  
Luanda, Angola, 24 April 2018**

Your Excellency João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation,  
Your Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of eSwatini and Outgoing Chair of SADC,  
Your Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Incoming Chair of SADC,  
Your Excellency, Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Incoming Chair of the Organ,  
Honourable Augustine Mahiga, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, representing His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania,  
Honourable Ministers here present,  
Your Excellency, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary,  
Senior Government Officials,  
Members of Staff of the SADC Secretariat,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Members of the Media,

Good morning to you all.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to His Excellency, President João Lourenço, Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, the Government and people of the Republic of Angola for the warm welcome, hospitality and courtesies accorded to us since our arrival in Luanda. Angola has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of our region.

Your Excellencies,

We meet here this morning on the occasion of the Extraordinary Session of the SADC Double Troika essentially to review the political and security situation in the region. We note with great satisfaction that our region, notwithstanding a few political and security challenges in a few sister countries, remains stable.

I welcome you once more and trust that you will find the arrangements put at your disposal conducive to our successful deliberations.

Thank you.  
Merci.  
Obrigada.

The political and security challenges in the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Madagascar correctly continue to occupy our attention. The timely convening of this summit demonstrates our commitment to assisting these member states in their search for a lasting political and security solution.

In the Kingdom of Lesotho, we have practically demonstrated our resolve in bringing about stability through the work of the SADC Facilitator, deployment of the Oversight Committee and the deployment of a SADC Preventive Mission. While acknowledging some progress on the implementation of the SADC decisions and the submission of a Roadmap on Reforms, we nonetheless urge the Government, the opposition parties and the people of the Kingdom to start the reform process in earnest. In this regard, we advise the people of Lesotho to prioritise the constitutional reforms and complete this process in the shortest period of time. Constitutional reforms

remain a cornerstone towards political stability that will constitute the edifice of all other sectoral reforms, including security.

Having said that, let me commend the Preventive Mission and the Oversight Committee for the sterling work done thus far in their cooperation with the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho and all other stakeholders.

On the DRC, we note the progress made in the implementation of the December 2016 Political Agreement as demonstrated by the National Independent Electoral Commission publicising the Electoral Calendar, voter registration and the general preparations for the December 2018 elections. The people of the DRC deserve support in their quest to find a lasting solution to the challenges facing their country.

We also call upon all stakeholders in the DRC to work together as they prepare for these important elections. We equally express our concern about the continued security instability in some parts of the country. We wish to assure the Government and the people of the DRC of our continued support.

On Madagascar, there is certainly an urgent need for our organisation to make a timely intervention, given the current unfolding situation. We should not allow the country to slide back to political instability, particularly now that it is preparing for elections. We call on all stakeholders in the country to exercise restraint and have the best interests of the country at heart.

Your Excellencies,

Let me conclude by wishing those member states that are going to hold elections this year success as they prepare for the elections.

I would like to thank you, President Lourenço, for convening this important summit and also wish the summit productive deliberations. It is my pleasure therefore to open this Extraordinary Double Troika Summit.

I thank you.

---

---

**Official remarks by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, at the Official Opening of the Meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers, 13 August 2018, Windhoek, Namibia**

Honourable Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers,  
Honourable Ministers,  
SADC Senior Officials,  
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Your Excellency, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC,  
Heads of Continental and Regional Organisations,  
Heads of International Organisations,  
Colleagues from the Media,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel extremely delighted to stand here this morning, to say a few words before I hand over the mantle to my successor and dear sister, Honourable Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Before I go any further, permit me to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for their warm reception and hospitality, as well as the excellent facilities that have been put at our disposal since our arrival in this historical city of Windhoek. This is, indeed, a “place by streams” that has several fountains of invigorating waters and

fresh air – characteristics that will certainly make for fruitful meetings.

For South Africa, August is Women’s Month and every year during this time, we remember the sacrifices and the contribution of women in the struggle for a democratic and free nation. At regional level, women continue to enhance our shared vision of attaining a stable, peaceful, secure and prosperous SADC community.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

When South Africa was afforded the opportunity to Chair SADC, taking over from the Kingdom of eSwatini, we resolved to build on the initiatives that were started at Victoria Falls, were taken to Gaborone and later to Lozitha.

We needed to maintain the focus on industrial development, promotion of regional value chains and value addition in the region. In this regard, the theme for our tenure of office, “Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains”, was chosen with the full realisation that our goals can only be met if we focus on strong and meaningful partnerships with the private sector, which is part of the engine for sustainable economic growth.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the time that the historic decision, to frontload industrialisation in the regional development framework, was taken in August 2014 by our heads of state and government at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, we have collectively and tirelessly worked to ensure that the dream becomes a reality through the implementation of our various blueprints.

Not only has our community produced the best strategy for our region and the first of its kind, the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, we have also taken concerted efforts to ensure that we are able to build productive capacities within member states.

Through this strategy, we recognise that trade liberalisation can meaningfully contribute towards sustainable and equitable development while meeting the goals for poverty alleviation. Production

should not only be in terms of quantities, but also quality, based on effective and efficient systems, while being mindful of the comparative advantages of member states.

Honourable Ministers,

We all know that for a long time regional industrial growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector, has been less impressive, and our economies are insufficiently diversified. We have, for a long time, relied on very few primary commodity exports, making our member states extremely vulnerable to price shocks.

It is now time that we diversify our economies, increase the participation of member states in regional value chains and promote value addition. We must collectively work towards accelerating economic integration processes that will promote specialisation and the development of regional value chains.

I am delighted that we have progressively put in place policies and institutions that will promote the adoption of technological know-how, ensuring modernisation of production systems, as well as embracing skills development, science and technology. To further realise these objectives, we will have to continue strengthening financial systems that would facilitate availability and movement of capital. Above all, we will continue to ensure that the region has well-developed infrastructure to facilitate trade and the easy movement of goods and services.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to optimally achieve the objectives as set out in our work programme, we need to further strengthen and cultivate private-sector involvement. The role of our governments is to put in place policies and initiatives that would create an enabling environment for the private sector to grow.

We are catalysts, something which should be appreciated by member states, so that our investment, trade and industrial policies are able to shape incentives to attract private-sector involvement. It is for this reason, that we have taken a very proactive approach to engage the private sector in the SADC regional integration agenda. In this regard, efforts are underway to develop a cooperation framework for

private-sector participation of businesses operating in SADC.

To this end, the SADC Industrialisation Week, recently held from 30 July to 1 August 2018 in Windhoek, has been running for the third year successfully. The event provides a useful platform for private-sector companies domiciled in SADC member states to showcase their products produced as a result of regional value chains and the promotion of value additions. It is also an excellent platform for engagement and continues to foster opportunities for intra-regional trade and investment.

As we move forward, there is more work to be done on SADC industrial development initiatives. We therefore need to prioritise trade-facilitation bottlenecks such as inadequate infrastructure and customs procedures, as well as weak logistics systems which raise trade costs and hinder the ease of doing business. Transport costs and transit delays in southern Africa are reported to be particularly higher than in most other regions, and have a potential to reverse the gains in regional industrial development.

Without resource mobilisation, which provides options for funding our programmes and agenda, we cannot achieve envisioned objectives as outlined in our approved strategic blueprints. Regional integration is not an option and, as such, we must strive to establish sustainable funding mechanisms for the implementation of SADC programmes and projects.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I mentioned during my speech in March 2018 in Pretoria, the SADC region remains relatively peaceful and stable. Peace, security and stability are essential ingredients for sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, addressing inequalities and underdevelopment in the region.

The region's democratic footprint and its prevailing positive security and political climate are undoubtedly conducive to the promotion of investment inflows into the region and contribute towards intra-regional trade and the movement of capital.

We will, therefore, continue to guard our hard-won freedom by ensuring that member states continue to adhere to good governance and the rule of law, and ensuring that regular national democratic elections are held. We remain seized with political developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Madagascar, in order to find lasting solutions to achieve peace and stability.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, let me once again express my profound appreciation on behalf of my Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa. It has indeed been a great honour and privilege to steer the affairs of the Council of Ministers. The cooperation and support I received from honourable ministers and the SADC Secretariat, led by Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, gave me and my team the energy to drive our SADC work agenda.

As I hand over the Chairship to Namibia, I take comfort that my dear sister, Honourable Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, will continue to successfully advance the regional integration agenda.

I implore each one of us to render unwavering support to the Incoming Chairperson of Council as we demonstrate to the continent and the rest of the world our collective commitment to the ideals and values of SADC.

I thank you all for your attention, and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Merci.

Obrigada.

## **Maiden speech by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 38th SADC Summit, Windhoek, Namibia, 17 August 2018**

Your Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chair of SADC,  
Your Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of eSwatini,  
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,  
Your Excellency, President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda and Chairperson of the African Union,  
Your Excellency, Mr Moussa Mahamat Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,  
Honourable Ministers,  
SADC Executive Secretary,  
Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
Senior Officials,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to be welcomed here as part of the SADC family.

Our bonds of friendship and solidarity go back to the formation of the Frontline States, whose resolve to strengthen historical, social and cultural relations among our people continues to this day.

It was these formidable bonds that led to the destruction of the apartheid regime and ended its destabilisation of the region.

Today, we are proud that SADC has matured into a fully-fledged organisation whose focus is to advance the prosperity of the region and its people.

It is important to remind ourselves about the treaty establishing SADC, particularly its objectives to forge regional integration, better the lives of our people, promote democracy and economic prosperity and ensure peace and security.

Despite the clear intent in the treaty, our region is still confronted with many challenges, including a lack of adequate infrastructure, underdevelopment, poverty, the effects of climate change and the spread of communicable diseases.

In responding to these challenges, we can say with confidence that our regional organisation is on a positive trajectory.

In the recent past, we have developed key plans that guide our efforts to realise our mandate.

These include the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015 – 2020), the Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap,

the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ.

Together, these plans are critical for deepening regional integration among SADC member states and ensuring the sustainable development of our region.

Our priorities are inextricably linked to the Continental Agenda, and in particular the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

These priorities require that we continue with our efforts to support the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area as an important building bloc towards the achievement of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Your Excellencies,

We note with appreciation that our region remains relatively peaceful and stable.

Elections are held at regular intervals as we strive to entrench and consolidate democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

South Africa has aligned its National Development Plan to the vision of the SADC Common Agenda, which seeks to bring about peace, stability, security and sustainable development in the region.

In promoting our own national objectives, South Africa values the critical role SADC plays as an instrument of regional development and integration.

I am certain that our deliberations at this summit will serve to further strengthen the bonds between us

and reinforce our determination to realise the vision of this organisation.

Only through collective action and shared accountability, will we be able to advance our integration agenda.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for the warm welcome and the great support I have received

since becoming the President of South Africa and a member of the SADC collective.

South Africa is firmly committed to play its part in building a better SADC, a better Africa and a better world.

I thank you.

---

---

**Keynote address by President Ramaphosa at the 38th SADC Summit,  
Windhoek, Namibia, 17 August 2018**

Your Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia,  
Your Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of eSwatini,  
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,  
Your Excellency, President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda and Chairperson of the African Union,  
Your Excellency, Mr Moussa Mahamat Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,  
Honourable Ministers,  
SADC Executive Secretary,  
Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Representatives of the Regional and International Organisations, Senior Officials from the SADC Member States,  
SADC Secretariat Officials  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to welcome you to the 38th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government.

It is a particular honour to do so on SADC Day, 17 August. This day marks 26 years since we signed the treaty that established our organisation – a treaty that I had the privilege to sign on behalf of the African National Congress.

Let me express my gratitude to my brother, His Excellency, President Hage Geingob and the people of Namibia for the warm reception and gracious hospitality accorded to all of us.

I wish to thank you, Your Excellencies, for the guidance and support you accorded South Africa since our country took over the Chairship of SADC last year.

It has been an honour to work with fellow member states in advancing all areas of the SADC agenda.

Let us continue to work in unity to do more for our people, together with our people.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2017/18 marked the third year of implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015 – 2020. While we recorded significant achievements in the implementation of programmes across all priority areas, there are still areas that require our urgent attention.

As regional leaders, we have a responsibility to prioritise the needs of our people and find lasting and sustainable solutions to poverty, inequality and underdevelopment. That is why the 37th SADC Summit, held last year in Pretoria, adopted the theme of “Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains”.

Member states were urged to operationalise the theme through implementation of projects in the focus areas of agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, energy and pharmaceuticals. Members states were also called upon to work to develop skills and create mechanisms for the involvement of the private sector.

South Africa hosted the second SADC Industrialisation Week during 2017, which created a platform for targeted engagement with the private sector and deepened the focus on key investment opportunities in the region.

The Industrialisation Week that was recently held in Windhoek is a further testimony to our collective efforts to strengthen public-private partnerships within our region.

Over the period of our Chairship, we have been able to secure more than US\$500 million of committed productive investments by South African companies in each of the priority value chains across the region. The investments cover forestry, agriculture and agro-processing, fertilisers, mining and mineral processing, and pharmaceuticals. They reflect South Africa's commitment to moving from a trade-based to an investment-led development strategy for the region.

The previous summit directed the Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a regional Natural Gas Committee to promote the inclusion of gas in the regional energy mix.

The Terms of Reference on the Working Group for the Inter-State Natural Gas Committee were approved, culminating in the signing of a Statement of Intent on Cooperation on the Development of Regional Gas Market and Infrastructure during the joint meeting of SADC ministers responsible for energy and water in June 2018

There have been a number of concrete initiatives over the last year that now form part of the SADC work programme:

- The framework model on the control and management of the fall army worm is being rolled out with the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Capacity-building workshops have been held in Mozambique, Madagascar and Zambia.
- A programme to develop capacity in industrial policymaking has been initiated, with South Africa hosting a SADC Industrial Policy for Policymakers Training Programme in September 2017 as a pilot initiative.
- The SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System has gained significant momentum, establishing a firm platform for

increased intra-SADC trade and investment and further strengthening regional financial integration.

- The SADC Energy Foresight and Assessment Study in support of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap is underway, with data having been gathered from six of the member states.
- A SADC Engineering Needs and Numbers Study is close to completion. It aims to obtain a better understanding of the engineering capacities in the SADC region to allow for better planning and implementation of infrastructure programmes.
- As part of World Food Day, a model has been developed for regional food security. The model will be launched during this year's World Food Day in Namibia.
- Progress has been made in addressing tuberculosis in the mining sector across 10 SADC countries. More than 10 000 claimants received payment and one-stop service centres were opened in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and eSwatini, thereby increasing access of ex-mineworkers to decentralised services.
- The shared procurement of essential medicines and commodities in SADC has been identified as a priority with the aim to establish an autonomous non-profit organisation called the SADC Pooled Procurement Services.
- The Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Project is focussing on establishing and strengthening regional and subregional networks of regulatory authorities.
- The implementation of Phase III of the SADC Roam-Like-At-Home Initiative began in October 2017. This entails the development of a harmonised cost model for wholesale and retail roaming tariffs to be used by all national regulatory authorities in SADC.
- A task team was appointed to work on a framework to operationalise the SADC Declaration on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Your Excellencies,

Over the years, SADC member states have acknowledged that the private sector should play a leading role in creating jobs, driving trade and industrialisation and fostering regional integration.

We therefore need to ensure that we create a conducive environment for business to thrive, and to deepen our engagement with the private sector.

Collaboration with the private sector is important not only in designing SADC regional strategies and initiatives, but also in identifying impediments to greater regional economic integration. The ability of SADC countries to establish a competitive industrial sector and promote greater industrial linkages has been hindered by the lack of infrastructure in areas such as energy, transport and communications.

Regional cooperation in the development of infrastructure will lower transaction costs, enhance regional markets and make production and exports more competitive.

Investment in infrastructure must therefore be a central priority. Through our joint efforts, the region has now established a healthy pipeline of bankable projects, which we now need to see through to completion. The region remains peaceful and stable, underlining the value of the successful mediation and conflict-prevention strategies undertaken by member states in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat.

We should continue to be guided by adherence to democratic values and practices, good governance and credible and regular national elections. The consolidation of democracy and the elevation of the rule of law across the region are a sign of the improved effectiveness of our regional institutions and mechanisms. Parliamentary democracy is at the centre of our collective mission to give expression to the will of the people.

Our colleagues in the SADC Parliamentary Forum have indicated their readiness to transform the forum into a SADC Parliament. The establishment of a SADC Parliament is therefore a matter to which we need to give due consideration.

With the expiration of both the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ by the end of 2020, SADC needs to begin formulating a long-term vision and a strategic plan, in line with the decision of the June 2012 Summit.

It should identify where the region wants to be by 2050, and should direct our resources and mobilise our people towards the achievement of our shared

goals. We should aim to have the strategy presented at our summit in 2019.

Your Excellencies,

Our region offers a young demographic and growing consumer class and great opportunities for industrialisation. We need to harness the youthfulness of our region to develop our human capital, speed up economic growth and foster sustainability.

There are an increasing number of young entrepreneurs who are exploring a range of business possibilities. We need to support them by promoting the development of small businesses, creating vocational training programmes and preparing them with the skills they need for a rapidly changing economy. Key to realising this, is the introduction of regional centres of excellence and specialisation, which can equip the youth with skills and expertise.

The growth and diffusion of digital technologies is another key area which SADC needs to promote to secure the future of its people. The digital economy is an increasingly important driver of economic growth and can play a significant role in accelerating development, enhancing productivity of existing industries, cultivating new markets and industries, and achieving inclusive, sustainable growth.

Many countries are increasingly embracing innovation and using information and communications technology (ICT) to deliver public services and involve people in decision-making processes. The ICT sector is powering growth and change in areas such as banking, retail, health, education and entertainment.

While the economic potential associated with the digital economy is undoubtedly significant, not all countries are equally equipped to capitalise on such opportunities.

It is therefore critical that digital cooperation should be an important part of our regional integration agenda. Progressing towards a digital economy is a critical step in the region's path to sustainable development.

A regional strategy for a digital economy would include the promotion of digital innovations and technologies, sharing experiences on e-government,

promoting e-commerce, promoting regional digital payments, strengthening broadband infrastructure, building cloud computing infrastructure and moving towards a digital single market.

Excellencies,

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the role played by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomona Lawrence Tax, her deputies and the staff of the SADC Secretariat for their dedication and commitment in ensuring that SADC continues to pursue its mandate.

SADC continues to cherish the collaboration and support of our international cooperating partners, who continue to make a significant contribution towards sustainable development in our region.

I wish to thank Your Excellencies for the confidence you placed in South Africa during the period of our Chairship.

When we took the baton from our predecessor, His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of eSwatini, we chose a theme that builds on the foundation laid by previous chairs.

I have no doubt that with His Excellency Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, at the helm of our organisation, the SADC integration agenda will be advanced even further.

I wish all of us very productive deliberations.

It gives me great pleasure to hand over the Chairship of SADC to his Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.

I thank you.




# CHAPTER 2

**SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA (BRICS) FORUM**



## 10TH BRICS SUMMIT

*"BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution"*

26 JULY 2018, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



**CHAPTER 2**  
**SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA**  
**AND SOUTH AFRICA (BRICS) FORUM**

**Opening remarks by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu at the Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 4 June 2018**

Honourable State Councillor Mr Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Honourable Minister, Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Honourable Minister, Ms Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, Honourable Ambassador Marcos Galvão, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Delegations of the BRICS Countries here present, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my sincere honour to welcome you to South Africa on the eve of the Second Formal Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations. Honourable Ministers, your presence here reaffirms and strengthens the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation we have built in the decade of our strategic partnership.

Over the last 10 years, the BRICS Agenda has evolved and expanded beyond the economic focus that initially brought us together, to also include global political, security and social matters.

There can be no doubt that our shared commitment to BRICS will bear fruit and we will make advances in confronting our common challenges and realising our common objectives for peace, harmony and greater representation in global governance institutions.

Following the successful First Formal Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, organised by the People's Republic of China last year, I think we can all agree that there is a need for the continuation of a meeting of this nature. We should acknowledge the initiative as a very sound one that has given us more time to plan better and work closer. Through this forum, we are uniquely poised to make further concrete contributions to BRICS cooperation through our deliberations.

Furthermore, the current global geopolitical realities make a meeting of this nature not only necessary but timely. We meet in the face of multilateralism under siege; when the integrity of international agreements can be hastily and expediently compromised; when more and more countries take an inward-looking position at the expense of others. South Africa remains deeply committed to multilateral diplomacy, in principle and in our demonstrable actions – and

we hold true to this stance in the United Nations system; in our regional interactions, and in particular through our close collaboration in BRICS.

The BRICS Forum must reassert its collective responsibility of providing new perspectives and solutions to the current international order. As we work collectively, not only in our interest but in also advancing the interests of our shared global community, we must do so with a view to protect the sacred and shared values of multilateralism and international law that underpin our union.

We meet at a time when the world is undergoing serious seismic changes in many spheres. The strife in Turkey, the migration to Europe, the intensification of conflict between Israel and Palestine and the re-emergence of national protectionism that threatens multilateralism. Against these challenges, we each face our own national challenges and our own continental challenges. We have earned our place of pride in this august body to represent the broader interests of the peoples and countries of the African continent.

The evolving world in which we live requires of us to keep track with its multifaceted and dynamic changes. We are also beholden to our resolutions and ensuring that we realise them in this changing world. This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of BRICS, the new multilateral forum that holds the hope of most developing countries.

It is fortuitous for South Africa to hold the Chairship of this august forum, and to have the responsibility of hosting the 10th BRICS Summit in this year that coincides with the centenary commemoration of a world icon, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Throughout the year, we will honour the life and legacy of our leader, a distinguished global

statesman and father of our nation. We are excessively proud that out of a deplorable inhuman system, we produced one as he. The life of this remarkable human being urges us to recall that nothing is impossible to achieve, no matter the magnitude of the task and irrespective of how daunting it may seem at the time.

South Africa's BRICS Chairship in 2018 is thus anchored in this belief. We intend to build on the legacy of Madiba, as well as on the achievements of the past decade of BRICS summits in order to further enhance BRICS cooperation in the next decade that will guide our countries and peoples, as well as those of the Global South into the new era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in a way that maximises opportunities and minimises threats, and

especially in an era where we all seek prosperity for all, inclusivity, equality, good governance and economic development.

We remain conscious, however, that the prospects of inclusive growth and shared prosperity that we strive for, cannot, and will not, be realised in the absence of lasting regional and international peace and security.

Colleagues, I am encouraged that this platform has gained momentum, and I am excited that we are hosting it. We are committed to make the summit worthy of what our peoples collectively expect from us. I look forward to our robust deliberations.

I thank you.

---

**Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Open Session of the 10th BRICS Summit, Sandton International Convention Centre, Sandton, 26 July 2018**

Your Excellency, President Temer,  
Your Excellency, President Putin,  
Your Excellency, Prime Minister Modi,  
Your Excellency, President Xi,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

From its formation, the BRICS partnership has had its sights firmly set on the future. It is itself the product of a rapidly changing world, which has seen the emergence of new economies, the realignment of old alliances and shifts in the balance of global power.

It is therefore appropriate that at this moment in the evolution of BRICS, we should focus on collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Quantum leaps in technology and innovation present enormous opportunities for growth, development and human progress. This surge in innovation has the potential to dramatically improve productivity and to place entire countries on a new trajectory of prosperity.

It has the potential to solve many of the social problems we face, by better equipping us to combat disease, hunger and environmental degradation. However, unless it is approached in a collaborative

manner, underpinned by a developmental agenda, rapid technological change could merely serve to entrench existing disparities within and between countries.

It could also create new fault lines in our societies. This places a great responsibility on all of us.

Through our collective effort, by working together, I am certain that we will be able to confront the challenges and seize the opportunities that this new age of development presents.

We proceed from the understanding that this is not simply a digital revolution, but a fundamental shift in the way people live, work and relate. It is a phenomenon that cuts across all industries and technologies. There is no area of economic activity that is immune from technological disruption.

According to Professor Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Fourth Industrial Revolution "is characterised by a fusion of

technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres”.

This means that our response needs to be comprehensive and integrated. As BRICS countries, we should not become mere adopters of new technologies. Rather, we need to combine our resources and expertise to become innovators. We should not allow technology to shape our societies.

We must instead ensure that the needs of our societies shape the technologies that we develop. We must ensure that mastery of the Fourth Industrial Revolution does not become the exclusive preserve of just a handful of countries.

We must promote inclusivity, diversity and cooperation.

Excellencies,

The technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution provide developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to leapfrog the technologies of the preceding revolutions. The rapid adoption of mobile telecommunications in Africa and other parts of the developing world, for example, demonstrates how innovation can ignite sudden bursts of development.

It demonstrates that, properly harnessed, new technologies can ensure more efficient processes and more reliable systems of service delivery. They can expand economic participation by ensuring that knowledge and information are more broadly disseminated across the population.

To succeed, however, we need to equip our people with the necessary skills to thrive in such a society and in such an economy. The WEF predicts that the three most important skills for an employee by 2020 will be complex problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity.

Without adequate training, only a few emerging economies will possess these skills in sufficient numbers, while others will see their prospects stifled by automation.

There is a need to develop more agile and applied education models.

While this must start even before a child enters primary school and continue right through to our universities and colleges, there is an urgent need in developing and emerging economies to re-skill a significant portion of the current workforce.

Governments should formulate and institute policies that are supportive of these processes.

Such policies should provide a favourable environment for foreign investment in the development of new sectors and technologies.

Such investment improves the supply of relevant skills, expands the capacity for research and development and contributes to an environment that nurtures innovation. Equally important are policies that support and stimulate local industries, especially small, medium and micro enterprises.

It is against this backdrop that BRICS ministers of industry resolved to establish the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution.

It aims to translate the vision of the second decade of BRICS cooperation into reality through deepened cooperation on industrialisation, innovation, inclusiveness and investment. Under the partnership, and in support of the manufacturing sector, a new industrial revolution advisory group comprised of policymakers and experts from all BRICS countries will be established.

Excellencies,

As the BRICS Forum, we can neither ignore, nor take for granted, the reality that is the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the impact that it will have on the global economy. As we enter the second Golden Decade of BRICS, we need to look to the future and place ourselves at the forefront of the extraordinary changes that are taking place.

In conclusion, our officials must engage in robust discussions to develop concrete actions. As a bloc, we should use this opportunity to ensure that we fully appreciate and exploit the opportunities presented by this wondrous new age of technology in building a brighter shared future for humanity.

I thank you.

## **Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the Post-10th BRICS Summit Media Briefing, 27 July 2018, Sandton**

We have just completed a successful 10th BRICS Summit that was held from 25 to 27 July 2018 in Sandton, South Africa, under the theme: “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution”.

It was attended by the heads of state and government of South Africa, Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICS), Rwanda, Ethiopia, Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Senegal, Gabon, Togo, Uganda, Jamaica, Argentina, Turkey, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The BRICS Summit took place during a period when we are commemorating the centenary of the birth of two of South Africa’s struggle icons, Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. The values they represent served as an inspiration for our discussion on key issues affecting the international community, as well as the rich discussion with our outreach partners.

The agenda of the BRICS Summit was extensive, which is a direct reflection of the diversity and depth of interaction between the five countries. We discussed issues of mutual concern aimed at achieving development, economic growth and prosperity, as well as peace and security. We acknowledged that we have travelled a remarkable path over the course of the last 10 years and we remain committed to growing our economies and improving the lives of our peoples. We also highlighted our commitment to building responsive, inclusive and collective solutions to the world’s economic challenges, including poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The BRICS countries are firmly in agreement on the need to safeguard and strengthen multilateralism. In this regard, we support the centrality of the United Nations (UN) as the universal multilateral organisation entrusted with the mandate for maintaining international peace and security, advancing global development and promoting and protecting human rights, so as to build a brighter shared future for the global community.

We reiterated in our discussions the strengthening of multilateral institutions of global governance and the

need for comprehensive reform of the UN, including the Security Council. We affirmed our commitment to the World Trade Organisation to ensure a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system.

We are committed to the full implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals to ensure equitable, inclusive, open, all-round, innovation-driven and sustainable development. We emphasise that the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – should be addressed in a balanced and integrated manner. We furthermore discussed the importance of strengthening our cooperation to deal with the challenges brought about by climate change and assure the world of our commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In respect of global security matters, we noted, with concern, the challenges and threats faced by the international community and committed to enhance communication and cooperation among BRICS countries in international fora. In this regard, we also highlighted the need for BRICS countries to enhance cooperation on peacekeeping matters.

It was evident from our discussions that we stand united in our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever committed and by whomsoever. In this regard, we are committed to countering terrorism in accordance with the principles of international law.

We received a positive report from the BRICS Business Council on its activities since September 2017 and we commend them and the BRICS Business Forum for their collective efforts toward strengthening economic cooperation in infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, agriculture, financial services, e-commerce, alignment of technical standards and skills development.

During our deliberations, we also reaffirmed our commitment to BRICS industrial cooperation, including on industrial capacities and policies, new industrial infrastructure and standards, as well as small, micro and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs).



We noted that the notion of the Fourth Industrial Revolution sets us on a path to further development in key sectors of information and communications technology (ICT), digitisation and the growth of SMMEs. We therefore committed to jointly seize the myriad of opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. While recognising the potential positive impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we are also aware of the growth of the criminal misuse of ICTs and in this regard, reiterated the need to develop an international universal legally binding instrument on combatting criminal use of ICTs within the UN.

In continuation of the BRICS tradition of Outreach, first initiated by South Africa during its first tenure as BRICS Chair in 2013, the BRICS leaders met with African leaders, including the chairpersons of the African Union (AU), of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) heads of state and government of the recognised regional economic communities and of the AU Commission, as well as with the Southern African Development Community leaders. Following the BRICS Plus initiative of China in 2017, we also met with leaders of the Global South, namely Argentina as G20 Chair, Jamaica as Caribbean Community Chair and Turkey as Chair of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

In this regard, our discussions represented a continuation of the 2013 BRICS-Africa discussions, wherein BRICS pledged to support African development, industrialisation and infrastructure development, as contained in the NEPAD programmes and the AU's Agenda 2063. There was also discussion around the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the building of broad partnerships for development. The rationale behind this engagement is to create a platform for greater interaction and partnerships among countries of the Global South to shape the agenda to effect changes in the global economy, notably for (i) development and economic growth through trade and investment integration, and (ii) cooperation in global governance financial, economic and political institutions.

In seeking to improve the lives of our people, we endorsed the initiative of enhancing BRICS

cooperation in health through the establishment of a BRICS Vaccine Centre, which is key in the promotion of research and development of medicines and diagnostic tools to end epidemics and to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines.

Having recognised the potential inherent in the tourism sector for all the BRICS countries, and the need to foster enhanced people-to-people relations among our five countries, we have endorsed the establishment of a BRICS Tourism Track within BRICS. The promotion of tourism is essential to addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty, which are common to all our countries. In this regard, we welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Tourism Track as it is key to fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

Women must play an integral role in society, and we dedicated ourselves to ensuring their full participation in the economy and society. The BRICS members are in agreement on the important economic benefit to be derived from the socio-economic empowerment of women, particularly in developing countries. In support of this ideal, we agreed on the establishment of a BRICS Women's Forum.

The following agreements were signed during the course of the summit:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology in the Context of the Development of the Digital Economy
- MoU on BRICS Regional Aviation Partnership
- Agreement for Establishment of the Regional Office of the New Development Bank for the Americas in the City of São Paulo, Brazil.

We concluded our deliberations with the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration and Action Plan, which highlight the great strides that BRICS has made in terms of establishing institutional mechanisms for tangible cooperation. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration as we usher in the Second Decade of BRICS Strategic Cooperation.





**Continuing the Legacy:  
Working for a Just and Peaceful World**  
South Africa – Member of the United Nations  
Security Council 2019 – 2020

# CHAPTER 3

**SOUTH AFRICA AS MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY  
COUNCIL (UNSC) 2019 – 2020, THE UNVEILING OF THE MANDELA  
STATUE, THE NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT  
AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



### CHAPTER 3

#### **SOUTH AFRICA AS MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) 2019 – 2020, UNVEILING OF THE MANDELA STATUE, THE NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

##### **Media remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, following South Africa's election to the Non-Permanent Seat in the UNSC, 8 June 2018**

Excellencies,  
Delegates,  
Members of the Media,

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the member states of the UN General Assembly for supporting South Africa's candidacy for the Non-Permanent Seat on the Security Council for the period 2019 to 2020.

We are honoured and humbled by this gesture of confidence.

As you will know, this will be South Africa's third term on the UNSC having previously served in 2007 to 2008 and 2011 to 2012. Our tenure in the Security Council will be dedicated to the legacy of President Nelson Mandela and his commitment to peace. In marking his centenary this year, a Summit on Peace will be held on the eve of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly in September.

South Africa will use its tenure in the Security Council to promote the maintenance of international peace and security through advocating for the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue. We will continue to enhance close cooperation between the UNSC and other regional and subregional organisations. During our two previous tenures, we advocated for closer cooperation between the UNSC and the African Union Peace and Security Council, which culminated in the adoption of the landmark Resolution in 2012 on strengthening cooperation between these two bodies.

South Africa's diplomatic efforts over the past two decades include conflict resolution, prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We firmly believe that, while we must strengthen the

tools at the Security Council's disposal in addressing conflicts as they arise, the focus should be on preventative diplomacy and on addressing the root causes of conflicts.

We believe that peace cannot be achieved without the participation of women in peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. During our tenure, we will ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all Security Council resolutions in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.

As we assume the Non-Permanent Seat, we look forward to collaborating with the members of the Security Council in promoting the maintenance of international peace and security and the social well-being and advancement of all the peoples of the world.

We are guided by the Resolution of the AU to "Silence the Guns" by 2020. Only when we have peace and a culture of peace, can we have sustainable development and we in Africa need that and resources most. Our energies now have to be directed at the betterment of the lives of our people.

#### **Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa following the UNSC elections, 8 June 2018**

The UN General Assembly has today, Friday, 8 June 2018, elected South Africa to serve in the UNSC for the term 2019 to 2020 as a non-permanent member. This will be the third time that South Africa will be serving in the Security Council since the dawn of democracy in 1994. We are humbled and honoured by the confidence the international community has demonstrated in our capability to contribute to the resolution of global challenges.

We express our unreserved gratitude and appreciation to the Southern African Development Community that nominated us and our continental body, the African Union (AU), which endorsed our candidature.

The overwhelming support South Africa received from members of the UN is significant in the year of the centenary of the birth of our global icon and the founding father of our nation, President Nelson Mandela. This election comes after a unanimous resolution by members of the UN to convene a Global Peace Summit in honour of President Mandela to be held in September 2018.

South Africa will use its membership of the UNSC in 2019 and 2020 to advance the interests of Africa, particularly the priorities of the AU Agenda 2063.

South Africa's tenure will be guided by our commitment to resolve regional, global and international conflicts and promote inclusive growth as part of the effort to ensure a better Africa in a better world. We are committed to addressing the root causes of conflict, including inequality and underdevelopment, and promoting inclusive political dialogue.

South Africa remains deeply concerned about the emergence of unilateralism and its attendant threat to the international rules-based system. South Africa reaffirms the centrality of the UN Charter and the primacy of the UNSC on issues of international peace and security.

We reaffirm our commitment to enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organisations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

This will include the strengthening of effective partnerships between the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council. We reaffirm our commitment to the peaceful resolution of global disputes and the advancement of inclusive development in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

---

---

#### **UNVEILING OF THE MANDELA STATUE**

##### **Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the unveiling of the Nelson Mandela Statue, UN General Assembly, 24 September 2018, New York, United States of America**

Your Excellency, the President of the General Assembly,  
Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Your Excellencies and Your Majesties,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the Government and people of South Africa, the enthusiasm with which the international community has embraced the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela is truly humbling.

The people of our country, united in their diversity, revere Nelson Mandela as the founding father of our democratic nation – whose life, sacrifices and

extraordinary contribution to freedom continue to inspire successive generations.

For those of us gathered here at the UN, Nelson Mandela will forever hold a special place in our hearts because of his dedication to the service of humanity and the promotion of peace throughout the world.

The values by which he lived and to which he dedicated his life are universal.

We are honoured and grateful that the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit has been convened in his memory.

Your Excellency, Secretary-General António Guterres,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you and the UN, on behalf of the Government and the people of South Africa, this life-size statue of President Nelson Mandela.

We recall with great appreciation and gratitude the leading role of the UN in championing the struggle

of the South African people against apartheid and in calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

President Mandela firmly believed that the UN was the most valuable and effective instrument for the advancement of peace, development and equality that humanity had conceived.

We trust that this statue will remain a constant reminder to the international community of the dedication of Nelson Mandela to the mission of the UN and a constant affirmation of South Africa's commitment to contribute to a better world for all.

I thank you.

and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

5. We also reaffirm our commitment to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and the duty of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

6. We recognize that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

7. We reaffirm the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We remain committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. We reaffirm our pledge that no one will be left behind.

8. We recognize that respect for the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights, as well as the fundamental freedoms, of all members of

the human family is the foundation of inclusivity, justice and peace in the world. We declare that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance represent the very opposite of the noble purposes of the United Nations. We recognize that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity is essential for lasting peace, understanding and friendship among peoples, nations, civilizations, cultures and individuals. We all constitute one human family. We therefore commit to not let our differences limit our common purpose and universal vision, to build on what unites us and explore creative ways to bridge what divides us.

9. We resolve to move beyond words in the promotion of peaceful, just, inclusive and non-discriminatory societies, stressing the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women and the meaningful participation of youth in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and to redouble our efforts to ensure that women, youth and children are free from all forms of violence, fear, discrimination and abuse.

10. We recognize the contribution of women to the advancement of societies and their contribution to the prevention and resolution of conflicts at different levels. We are committed to the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights of all women and girls, working to ensure full gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as empowering them to realize their full potential.

11. We resolve to ensure the protection, rights and well-being of children, especially in armed conflict, so they can realize their dreams and grow up without fear, discrimination and exclusion. Protecting children contributes to breaking the cycle of violence and sows the seeds for future peace.

12. We affirm the responsibility of each individual State to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and recognize the need to mobilize the collective wisdom, capabilities and political will of the international community to encourage and

---

---

## UNITED NATIONS (UN) NELSON MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT, 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

### Political Declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit

*The General Assembly adopts the following political declaration:*

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, meet at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2018, at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit to reflect on global peace, in honour of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela.

1. We salute his qualities of humility, forgiveness and compassion, his values and his dedication to the service of humanity, as a humanitarian, in the fields of conflict resolution, disarmament, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality, the rights of children and people in vulnerable situations, as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities. We acknowledge his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.
2. We commit to redouble our efforts to build a just, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and fair world, and to revive the values for which Nelson Mandela stood by placing human dignity at the centre of our actions. We commit to demonstrating

mutual respect, tolerance, understanding and reconciliation in our relations.

3. We recognize that the world has changed significantly since the founding of the United Nations, and acknowledge that global peace eludes us to this day. We, the leaders of the world today, more than ever assume a special responsibility for our words and actions in shaping a world free of fear and want. Conflict is born out of the minds of humanity, and we are the people who can find sustainable solutions to bring a lasting peace, today and for future generations. We recognize the importance of our addressing threats to global peace and security, including challenges to the primacy of multilateralism.
4. We reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that serve as our common and universal vision. As we observe the 70th Anniversary of the Declaration, we recall its foundational principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and are endowed with reason and conscience

help States to exercise this responsibility at their request. We need to strengthen our capacities to prevent, contain or end conflicts in accordance with the Charter and international law.

13. We acknowledge the incontrovertible truth that conflict is in all ways more costly than preventive diplomacy. No effort should be spared to settle conflicts through peaceful means. We therefore express our full support for the work of the United Nations and strive to support peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution efforts, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development.
14. We encourage parties to armed conflict to take immediate, concrete measures to end cycles of conflict and to prevent relapse. We recognize the role of multiple actors in armed conflict, including non-State actors, and urge all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law. We declare our good offices available to those who need them.
15. We recognize that there is no single template for peace, but there is a long and varied history of the successful and unsuccessful resolution of conflicts that can serve as best practices for the negotiated settlement and peaceful resolution of conflicts. We commit to making available our best practice to those who seek different models for peace. Dialogue is key, and courage is needed to take the first steps to build trust and gain momentum. We therefore declare our full support to good-faith negotiations.
16. In this regard, we note that the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations have a multitude of tools and mechanisms to support peace, and express our desire to continue to review the effectiveness of the tools at our disposal to address the armed conflicts at hand. We commit to ensuring that lines of communication are maintained between parties during conflict resolution efforts to prevent unnecessary escalation and loss of trust. We commit to finding credible interlocutors to engage with all the parties to an armed conflict to ensure a just and lasting peace.

17. We acknowledge that civil society can play an important role in preventing conflicts, contributing to peacebuilding and advancing efforts to sustain peace. We also recognize that, depending on the nature of the conflict, a wide range of good offices exist that can play an important role across the peace continuum, including current and former Heads of State and Government, groups such as the Elders, the African Union's Panel of the Wise, traditional leaders, religious leaders, cultural leaders, community leaders, business leaders, women's and youth representatives, academics, sports personalities and celebrities. Sports and the arts in particular have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict.

18. We emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, in particular by preventing conflict and addressing its root causes, strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels and promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity, including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice and transitional justice, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, gender equality, and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We reaffirm the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders.

19. It is clear that lasting peace is not realized just by the absence of armed conflict, but is achieved through a continuing positive, dynamic, inclusive and participatory process of dialogue and engagement that resolves all outstanding issues in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding, cooperation and long-term vision. We recognize that, to prevent the recurrence of crises and ensure social cohesion, nation-building, ownership and inclusiveness, ending impunity

and ensuring accountability, including through international justice mechanisms, transitional justice and reconciliation, are key to post-conflict nation-building and development.

20. We recognize that peacebuilding and sustaining peace require significant post-conflict support for moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. The cycle of conflict should not be allowed to continue, including through the unintended consequences of the premature withdrawal of support and international attention. Sustainable peace requires sustained attention, commitment and investment.
21. We welcome the example set by South Africa in unilaterally dismantling its nuclear-weapon programme and recall the firm plea made by Nelson Mandela in favour of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Our common humanity demands that we make the impossible possible. We seek the conversion of hearts and minds that can make a difference for future generations. We therefore:**

22. Recognize the period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace and call upon all Member States to redouble their efforts to pursue international peace and security, development and human rights in the Decade; Member States are encouraged to continue activities in support of the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace through voluntary contributions.
23. Welcome the establishment of the United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation and

encourage its further efforts and contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of armed conflicts, including through the use of its good offices;

24. Reaffirm the aims of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights, and encourage the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to work together to raise awareness of these prizes in order to strengthen the recognition and celebration by the United Nations of its values, purposes and principles, which reflect the values for which Nelson Mandela stood;
25. Recommend, in the spirit of Nelson Mandela's legacy and recognizing the intergenerational pledge of dignity and security which underpins the Charter, that the United Nations explore means to systematically consider the needs of present and future generations, including through intergenerational dialogue, in its decision-making processes.

As we rise from the General Assembly today, we collectively hold ourselves accountable to the values and principles of the present declaration, to strive for a just, peaceful, prosperous, democratic, fair, equitable and inclusive world. We call upon our people to celebrate the richness of our diversity and the collective creativity and wisdom of our elders, and the well-being and survival of Mother Earth, and call upon our youth, artists, sports personalities, musicians and poets to breathe new life into the values and principles of the United Nations.

**Statement by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés,  
President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly**

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be here with you today to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, one of the greatest leaders of our time. A leader who taught us that it is possible to forgive, that it is possible to make reconciliation and peace prevail over hatred and revenge.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of Dr Helena Ndume of Namibia, who was awarded the first-ever Nelson Mandela Prize alongside the former President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, who unfortunately could not join us today. Their efforts to provide inclusive access to healthcare and education are an inspiration and they honour Nelson Mandela's legacy in today's world.

Excellencies,

The extraordinary legacy of Nelson Mandela lives on today more than ever, five years after his death.

Mandela was always guided by the principles underpinning the UN. He represented the values of peace, solidarity, cooperation and respect for all human beings, regardless of their race, political views or religious beliefs. Mandela once said: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others".

I had the privilege of meeting President Mandela during the Rio+10 Summit, held in Johannesburg in 2002. Madiba's love for South Africa was reflected in his eyes. His profound respect for human dignity permeated his interactions with those around him. Mandela refused to accept the injustices of his time and, as a result, his legacy represents a beacon of hope for a world still ravaged by conflict and suffering.

Excellencies,

The threat of the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons still looms large. Tensions

between nuclear-weapon states, territorial disputes, ethnic conflict and oppression of minorities persist. This bleak outlook poses a serious threat to peace and security and is one that we must tackle and resolve together.

We are at a point where certain principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the UN have been called into question. The very principle of multilateralism is being challenged. There are fears about our capacity for collective action to address the most pressing global issues, such as poverty, hunger, climate change, conflict and war.

A move away from multilateralism would jeopardise the future of our species and of our planet.

The world needs a social contract based on shared responsibility, and the only space we have to achieve this global compact is the UN. That is why this year I am calling on the international community to reaffirm its commitment to the founding principles of the UN and to multilateralism.

And the UN General Assembly is the most representative and most legitimate forum for dialogue and reconciliation aimed at building collective peace and security.

Excellencies,

The political declaration that we will adopt today, thanks to the commitment of states and the wise leadership of South Africa and Ireland, demonstrates the central role played by this forum in achieving global agreements for peace and security in the world.

The declaration represents a reinvigoration of our commitment to peace and a renewal of the willingness of states to build a peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and fair world, and it calls on us to reflect on the thousands of victims of the conflicts around the world who need immediate help from us, states.

The declaration reaffirms our commitment to the sovereignty and sovereign equality of states, their territorial integrity and their political independence.

Respect for state sovereignty and the self-determination of peoples is the starting point for the maintenance of peace and harmony among nations.

It is clear that we can uphold and respect self-determination and the sovereignty of our countries while also committing to collective and coordinated action to build more peaceful, sustainable and resilient societies. Madiba knew that there could be no peace if millions were still without access to quality education, healthcare and decent employment and if there were still hunger and suffering. But such action requires strong global leadership, which is so well represented here this morning.

It is an honour for me to preside over this General Assembly as we adopt a declaration that will undoubtedly give hope to the world and that reaffirms that, only through multilateralism and its most important expression, the UN, will it be possible

---

**Remarks by António Guterres,  
Secretary-General of the UN**

Nelson Mandela was one of humanity's great leaders. He embodied the highest values of the UN. He devoted his life to serving his community – as a lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, a peacemaker, President and a respected elder. He cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all people live together in equality and harmony.

This was a bedrock cause for which he was prepared to fight and die.

He faced his oppressors in court, knowing they had the power of life and death, and he refused to back down.

As a political prisoner, he steadfastly refused to allow his dignity to be undermined, and he became a rallying point for a global movement that led to the dismantling of the apartheid regime.

The role played by the UN is a milestone in our proud history.

to achieve the peace and security that we all yearn for in the interests of development and prosperity.

The challenges we face in achieving peace are many, and we must ask ourselves how we are going to address them. Whether we act together or alone and divided, the response is entirely in our hands. Personally, I believe that we always need to work together to make progress on the path towards peace. There is no other option. As Nelson Mandela said, "It always seems impossible until it is done."

Excellencies,

As a Latin American poet said, "Some people transcend death". The gentle, wise face of Madiba and his serene strength that transformed violence into peace and aggression into forgiveness are alive today, more than ever before.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you attending this summit.

Thank you.

As President of South Africa, Madiba championed women's rights and South Africa's landmark 1996 Constitution, which remains a beacon for human rights and equal opportunity.

Under his leadership, South Africa expanded access to healthcare, education, housing, water, sanitation and electricity.

And, beyond South Africa's borders, Madiba was a profound influence for peace and democracy.

For example, in Burundi, he played a key role in brokering the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation.

And, everywhere, he was a champion for peace, forgiveness, humility, compassion and dignity and human rights.

This year, we mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Almost exactly 20 years ago, Nelson Mandela spoke about that landmark document in this hall.

He urged all leaders to “have the courage to ensure that, at last, we build a human world consistent with the provisions of that historic declaration”. Those were the words of Nelson Mandela.

Today, with human rights under growing pressure around the world, we would be well served by reflecting on the example of this outstanding man.

We need to face the forces that threaten us with the wisdom, courage and fortitude that Nelson Mandela embodied.

This is the only way to build the just, peaceful and prosperous world envisioned in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Madiba was a global citizen whose legacy must continue to guide us.

To honour this legacy, the Government of South Africa has generously donated a statue of Madiba that I was honoured to unveil this morning.

In 2015, the UN also decided to award the Nelson Mandela Prize every five years to two individuals who have made significant contributions to the service of humanity.

The first recipients were Namibian philanthropic eye surgeon Helena Ndume and my good friend Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal.

Each year, we also observe Nelson Mandela International Day by promoting and engaging in community service.

Today, we remember a man of great wisdom, quiet dignity and towering achievement, who worked tirelessly for peace and human dignity for people everywhere.

This is our organisation’s purpose and – as leaders – it is our responsibility.

Let us commit to build on Nelson Mandela’s legacy so that all people everywhere can enjoy peace, prosperity and inclusive and sustainable development.

Thank you.

For these noble ideas to be realised, however, they needed to find expression in the actions of those who took up the mantle of leadership at the most trying of times.

One such leader was born in the small village of Mvezo in the eastern parts of South Africa in 1918. He would come to represent the hopes of millions of South Africans who dreamt of a life unshackled from a system that would limit their potential and stifle their possibilities based merely on the shade of their skin.

The story of South Africa’s transition from apartheid to democracy, and the role played by leaders such as Nelson Mandela, is well known.

It is a story about humanity’s great capacity for goodness and hope.

It was this capacity that led to the establishment of the UN, which served as an important platform for the anti-apartheid movement, and which continues to be a platform for other struggles against oppression, war and global injustice.

Since the formation of the UN, the world has been faced with several crises that have tested the limits of diplomacy and the multilateral system.

Throughout these crises, the UN has endured as a force for stability and cooperation, and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

While it has done much to ensure that the world would never go to war with itself again, the organisation faces more intricate and complex challenges.

Over the past seven decades, millions of people worldwide have been killed, maimed, displaced and starved as a result of war and conflicts.

Of these, women and children continue to bear a disproportionate burden.

While we have managed to avoid another world war, we continue to grapple with the haunting spectre of modern atrocities such as the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica.

We are confronted by intra-state armed conflicts in Syria, South Sudan and Yemen; the protracted

turmoil in Somalia and other parts of the African continent; and struggles for self-determination in Western Sahara and Palestine.

These reveal that the current threats to international peace and security result more from conflicts within states and the effect that these have across nations that have become increasingly interdependent, rather than the traditional conflicts between states.

Terrorism, transnational organised crime, illicit flows of finance and the growing number of refugees pose significant threats to global order.

No longer can we ignore the troubles of those in distant parts of the world, or fail to address the root causes of conflicts we often imagine are foreign to us.

To respond to these threats, we need a UN that is responsive, adaptable and able to deal with challenges its founders could not have imagined.

It should not rely merely on the political interests of a few, as an impasse between the major powers often impedes the entire organisation’s ability to act.

Instead, we should draw on the strength of the collective in resolving complex challenges.

The UN can only succeed to the degree that we, as global leaders, provide visionary leadership that transcends our ideological differences and narrow national interest.

Through this Peace Summit, the current generation of global leadership is given an opportunity not only to reflect on peace in the world, but to take those measures necessary to end the wars that continue to take millions of innocent lives.

We are called upon to act decisively to end the exposure of women and children to untold suffering, including displacement, torture, rape, mutilation and murder.

We are called upon to ensure that women are afforded a special role in peace negotiations, political transition and in ensuring durable security.

We must be unanimous in our support for the work of the UN Secretary-General and the Executive Director

---

---

### **Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa**

Madam María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, Your Majesties, Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mandela family and the people of South Africa, allow me to express our humble appreciation to the UN for convening this special summit in honour of the founding President of our democracy, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

In 1994, during his inaugural address to the UN General Assembly, President Mandela said:

“The great challenge of our age to the United Nations Organisation is to answer the question – given the interdependence of the nations of the world, what is it that we can and must do to ensure that democracy, peace and prosperity prevail everywhere!”

The signing of the UN Charter over 70 years ago, took place in a world very different from our own.

It was a world still reeling from the clash of great powers in the Second World War that cost the lives of close to 5% of the world’s population at the time.

It is from this collective trauma that the UN was born.

Countries sought to re-imagine a world where nations would cooperate rather than clash, and where friendly relations would lead to social progress, development and a better life for all.

for UN Women in ensuring that women take centre stage on issues of peace and security and provide leadership in peace operations.

We welcome efforts towards achieving equal representation of women in leadership positions in UN peace missions.

Madam President,

In our search for peace, we dare not ignore the continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, whose capacity for human devastation is too dreadful to contemplate.

Twenty years ago, almost to the day, President Mandela addressed the UN General Assembly for the last time.

He said:

“We must ask a question, which might sound naïve to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying weapons of mass destruction – why do they need them anyway?”

To this day, his question has been met with no satisfactory answer.

The truth is that there can be no justification for the existence of weapons that carry with them the potential to extinguish life on this planet.

We therefore applaud the adoption by the General Assembly last year of the groundbreaking Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

South Africa will soon deposit its instrument of ratification of this historic treaty.

We call on all peace-loving states to ratify the treaty so that it comes into force without delay.

As we strive for peace, we cannot escape the reality that conflict and hostility have their roots in poverty, exclusion and marginalisation.

Unless we confront the conditions under which the poor of the world live, we will not succeed in building a peaceful and stable world.

It is for this reason that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also very much an agenda for peace.

The Sustainable Development Goals entail a set of interdependent objectives whose fulfilment would be the ultimate act of conflict prevention.

We must ensure that the UN – in its form, operation and orientation – is able to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights and achieve sustainable development for all.

Today, we are gathered as world leaders, representing the hopes of billions for a peaceful, prosperous world.

It is the desire for such a world that prompted this Peace Summit, to take stock of how the UN has performed in the pursuit of peace.

It provides a moment for us as heads of state and government to recommit ourselves to achieve the social and economic development necessary for the prevention of conflict.

It is an opportunity to pledge to each other and to our people our determination to seek peaceful solutions to our political differences; and to building peace in those countries emerging from the destruction of war, violence and the perpetuation of hate.

It is our deepest hope that this summit, in the name of one of our greatest exemplars of humanity, serves as a new dawn for the UN.

We hope the summit will give expression to the Secretary-General’s call for a “surge in diplomacy”.

We hope we will rediscover the strength of will to save successive generations from war, and to overcome the hatred of our past and the narrow interests that blind us to the vision of a common future that is peaceful and prosperous.

We hope we will prove ourselves worthy as the bearers of the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

I thank you.

## Statement by President Miguel Diaz Canel of Cuba

We are so happy and take comfort in the fact that the UN General Assembly is convening a peace summit, and that such summit has been named after Nelson Mandela.

Less than 30 years ago, beloved Madiba was a political prisoner in the apartheid jails, serving a life sentence as a result of his noble struggle for justice and equality among all men and women in South Africa, where a white minority was subjecting the black majority to the scorn of segregation.

We do not forget that during the dark apartheid years and even long after being elected President, Mandela and the most brilliant and honest African freedom fighters were still kept on lists of alleged terrorists.

Cuba is honoured to recall that we shared in their struggles, on the first line of combat, together with its African brothers and sisters from Angola and Namibia.

And there was not greater acknowledgement than the embrace of a freed Nelson Mandela to our historic leader, Fidel Castro, on Cuban soil.

I intend that our tribute to Mandela is not only to South Africa’s first black President and the Nobel Peace Laureate, but we should also think about the rebel who had to fight against injustice when peaceful ways were shut down; the political prisoner, the advocate for human rights and for the rights of his people, and the politician who changed the history.

We are pleased that in remembering Mandela, the struggle of the South African people against the opprobrious apartheid regime is also recognised. That struggle was waged under the leadership of the African National Congress and many other combatants who gave their lives for the cause of freedom in Africa.

The First Secretary of our party, Army General Raul Castro, called Mandela a “prophet of unity, reconciliation and peace”. On the other hand, the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, defined him as an example of “an absolutely honourable man (...), unyieldingly

courageous, heroic, calm, intelligent and capable ...” This is how the Cuban people also remember Nelson Mandela.

Mrs President,

Recent announcements about military expenditure are alarming, which is pushing the world into a new arms race, to the detriment of the enormous resources that are needed to build a world of peace.

There cannot be development without peace and stability, nor can there be peace or stability without development. There cannot be peace and security for the people with high levels of poverty, chronic hunger and malnutrition, lack of sanitation and limited access to drinking water, illiteracy, high levels of infant mortality, deaths due to preventable diseases and a low life expectancy.

To achieve a world where peace and peaceful solution of conflicts prevail, it is imperative to address the root causes that create them. The millions of excluded people as a result of the unfair economic international order, the displaced persons, the hungry, those fleeing wars and lack of opportunities towards lands of abundance built on the plundering of our peoples, have become victims of a noiseless and silenced segregation.

A lot remains to be done in order to make Mandela’s dreams come true. The only tribute worthy of his memory is to promote development in underprivileged nations. Actions rather than words. Cooperation, not intervention. Solidarity, not plundering.

Mrs President,

Cuba and Africa are united by bonds of blood. The cultural heritage of the African continent in the idiosyncrasy of Cubans is undeniable. The culture and the best values of the African peoples nurtured our own. We were inspired by their courage, nobility, wisdom and resilience.

Cuba’s collaboration with the African peoples has been maintained for over 50 years as a priority of the foreign policy of the Cuban Revolution.



International peace remains threatened by the philosophy of domination. Therefore, we endorse Mandela's words when he said: "We also want to be masters of our own destiny".

Let us then work for the future of peace that our peoples are entitled to in their own right. Let us really

---

---

### Speech by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister of Ireland

Madame President of the General Assembly,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
President Ramaphosa,  
Excellency Madame Machel,  
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to join you today as we adopt the Nelson Mandela Political Declaration. It reminds us all that Mandela is a living legacy, entrusted to us so we can be the torch-bearers for peace and reconciliation, for this and future generations.

Side by side with our great friends from South Africa, Ireland was privileged to co-facilitate the work that has led to today's Political Declaration.

With each of you today, I reaffirm that Ireland will continue to uphold the ideals of the UN and work with the international community to achieve the aims that Mandela himself worked so tirelessly for during his lifetime.

In Mandela's story, we recognise the struggles and triumphs of one individual, and the challenges and hope for mankind.

His fight for freedom and dignity for all – irrespective of race, gender, sexuality, colour or creed – spoke to our vision of our common humanity and proved that the seemingly impossible can indeed become reality. It was reflected in South Africa's first democratic Constitution, written for a rainbow nation. It is a template for new democracies today.

Dear friends, this year in Ireland, we mark 20 years of the Good Friday Agreement, which after decades of bitter violence, brought peace to Britain and Ireland,

and fully honour unforgettable Mandela, whom the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution called "an apostle of peace".

Thank you very much.

closer cooperation between North and South and power-sharing in Northern Ireland, at least, most of the time.

The Northern Ireland Peace Process was advanced with the wisdom and assistance of friends from around the world, including you, President Ramaphosa. For this, we will always be grateful.

We have witnessed firsthand the profound truths that Nelson Mandela showed. Through his words and through his actions:

- violent conflict is not inevitable
- peace is made, not with your friends, but with your enemies
- reconciliation is achieved by moving beyond the hurts and pain of the past towards truth and forgiveness.

And, perhaps most profound of all, we can free the prisoner, and we can free the jailer as well.

Twenty-eight years ago, just months after being released from prison, an occasion etched in my memory as a young boy, Nelson Mandela was accorded the special honour of being invited to speak before the Irish Parliament. There, he inspired us with his words as he attacked "the arrogance of racism" and honoured those who "dared to cry freedom".

In our native Irish language, we say of truly remarkable individuals:

"Ni bheidh a leithéid ann arís."  
"We will never see the likes of him again."

And I can think of no better way to describe the uniqueness of Mandela.

I believe the legacy of Nelson Mandela points to a deeper truth.

A voice may be silenced by death, but its message can never be suppressed. It is heard for all time. And it finds a home in the hearts and the minds and the values of those who follow afterwards.

Inspired by the message of Nelson Mandela again, we should provide a voice for the oppressed around the world. Finding shared solutions guided by shared

---

---

### Speech by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand

Mr Secretary-General,  
Madam President of the General Assembly,  
Distinguished Colleagues,

I am honoured to be here to mark the legacy of Nelson Mandela in this 100th year since his birth.

Nelson Mandela was a global icon for the fight for equality, freedom and human rights. He led the struggle against apartheid and division. But not only that, he personified the values of forgiveness and reconciliation.

When I say his impact was global, I mean it. Nelson Mandela had a profound impact on New Zealand. His struggle against apartheid was supported in New Zealand through a mass protest movement that opposed sporting contact between our countries, culminating in major protest events in 1981.

My father missed my first birthday because of it – he was a policeman and was called upon to work during the protests that surrounded the tour.

The 1981 Springbok Tour protests were a lesson in solidarity, and its impact.

values like our belief in multilateralism, freedom of the individual, human rights, democracy and protecting our planet.

We should look to the words of this Declaration as we face the challenges of the 21st century.

Recognising what has been done in the area of gender discrimination, we must renew our efforts to further advance gender equality around the world. And we must give young people a greater say in the decisions that will affect them – the future of our planet.

War and hatred come in many guises, peace has the same face the world over. It is the image of those who open their hearts and minds and make the impossible possible, and build a future worth living for.

Thank you.

When Madiba visited New Zealand in 1995, as the elected President of South Africa, he described the news of the protest actions in New Zealand as being like the sun coming out.

I remember that 1995 visit; his dignity and his inspiration. Mandela was a living embodiment of the UN's values. It is these values and Mandela's moral example that we must look to promote in a world that is more fragmented and fractured than ever before.

It's an example that calls for justice, peace and forgiveness.

For many New Zealanders, our most vivid memory of Mandela was his appearance on the field following South Africa's 1995 Rugby World Cup victory over New Zealand while donning a Springbok jersey and presenting the trophy to the South African captain. This was a seminal moment. If Mandela could make peace, so could the rest of South Africa. That one act of both triumph and reconciliation said so much about

who Nelson Mandela was: his capacity to forgive, his commitment to reconciliation, and his ability to lead and inspire against all odds.

It is these same values towards peace that we committed to when we signed the UN Charter. We collectively bound ourselves to the “pacific settlement of disputes”, and to diplomacy.

This means that when we see a worsening security situation, we act. For too long, the UN and the international community have waited to react. Instead, we must be proactive and place greater focus on conflict prevention.

We must get better at identifying high-risk situations and warning signs, before the conflict starts. We must not be silent in the face of intolerance, hate and discrimination. We must speak for those who do not have a voice. We must pursue equal rights for all.

---

---

### **Speech by the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras**

I come from a country far away from Nelson Mandela's.

Nevertheless, a place that inspired the democratic ideals that he fought for and was ready to risk his life for.

But in the century that passed, it was Nelson Mandela who inspired these democratic ideals and kept them alive under the most difficult conditions.

Today, his vision and actions are more relevant than ever, as our world is experiencing existential challenges: an increase in wars and conflicts, a widening in regional inequalities, a strengthening of racism and the emergence of religious fundamentalism.

The current state of affairs requires a Mandela-kind of leadership: A relentless fighter for independence, peace and human rights.

And – at the same time – a responsible leader and formidable diplomat, who was ready to make the compromises necessary to ensure these goals.

Today, let us remember Mandela and the values he devoted his life towards on his long walk to freedom. But, let us not forget that there is still work to do. We must ensure that the just, peaceful, prosperous, democratic, fair and inclusive world which Mandela strived for is fully realised. New Zealand's commitment to this work remains unwavering.

Above all else, Madiba taught us that no issue in the world, whether it be racial inequity or indifference, is insurmountable. That none of us are too small, or too far away to be relevant in the collective struggle for justice.

As we remember Madiba, my hope is that we all give reason for the sun to come out.

Thank you.

I think this was his power.

He was a fighter who had proved his commitment to the rights of his people, as he rose from the radical left, the anti-colonial struggle and 25 years of imprisonment.

And yet, he became a statesman who transformed his anger and conviction into an unmatched energy aimed at reconciliation, unity and peace.

“If we can learn how to hate, we can learn how to love,” Mandela said.

At a time when the political momentum is moving us rapidly backward, we must believe that we can turn things around.

Social progress and peace are not given. They are earned through struggle and compromise.

My country, Greece, during the difficult period of the last few years, went through both. And now Greece is:

- exiting economic programmes of austerity, while protecting the most vulnerable
- consolidating citizenship rights to the children of migrants, reinforcing the rights of the Muslim minority, protecting the rights of the LGBT community
- managing unprecedented refugee flows, while respecting human rights

- resolving international differences, such as the name issue with our Northern neighbours, FYROM.

I believe strongly that, either it is through overcoming conflicts such as in Syria or the Palestinian issue, or achieving the UN millennium goals, or supporting African development, Nelson Mandela's example should inspire us today, on a national and international level, to do much better.

---

---

### **Address by Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the people and the Government of Sri Lanka, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General of the UN and the General Assembly for organising the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit.

We speak today of Nelson Mandela, a great humanitarian, a leader who exemplified reconciliation and a leader who guided humanity towards a nobler path, at a time when the contemporary world lacks such leaders.

Nelson Mandela demonstrated to the world how one should act humanely when in power; when setting limitations to that power; and relinquishing power.

Today's world is not traversing the path that was taken by the great Nelson Mandela. It is because of this that the world needs to be reminded of the journey

of Nelson Mandela. The question arises regarding to what extent the nationalities and leaders of today who guide and chart the political paths of the world embody the noble qualities and characteristics of Nelson Mandela.

It is my belief that world leaders in particular, must study and reflect on the life of Nelson Mandela, a great leader who taught the world about peace, reconciliation, harmony among communities and a humane journey.

While the people and the Government of Sri Lanka pay utmost respect to Nelson Mandela for the depths of his humanity, his love for fellow human beings and his lack of greed for political power, we invite all world leaders to emulate this great man.

I thank you all.

## Speech by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji

Madame President of the General Assembly,  
Ms María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés,  
Mr António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Mr Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,  
Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa,  
Mr Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister of Ireland,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin, I would like to add my congratulations to the distinguished representatives from South Africa and Ireland; His Excellency, Jerry Matjila; Her Excellency, Geraldine Byrne Nason; and all of our distinguished delegates for their commitment to this consultation process.

Madame President, my fellow delegates have given full and inspiring accounts of the life of service that His Excellency, Nelson Mandela, lived and the legacy he bequeathed to humanity – a legacy of tolerance, reconciliation, equality and kindness.

As a political activist, then through 27 years of imprisonment, as a national leader and finally as an international statesman, he held firm to his principles and acted with supreme wisdom.

Through his life and legacy, Madiba is an inspiration to all of us who strive to respect and protect the human rights of all people. That legacy should mean a great deal to every person on earth. But it holds special meaning for the nation and people that I lead, because like South Africa, Fiji and the Fijian people suffered for decades under a political culture of division, hatred and disunity.

It is only in recent years, that we've begun to shed that legacy and unshackle ourselves from our difficult history of ethnic division.

We've done that through a strict and unrelenting adherence to the same principles that Madiba so nobly sacrificed to defend in his life; a commitment to equal opportunity, common and equal citizenry, mutual understanding and inclusive, wide-reaching prosperity. These principles lie at the heart of Fiji's Constitution.

So, it is with the greatest pride that I give my support to this Political Declaration, a pride I know is shared

by the Fijian people – a people that stand together and united, today like never before in our history.

Madame President, the journey of human progress is unending. And yes, we still face a world afflicted by conflict, racism and intolerance. But, even in the bleakest of situations, Mandela showed us that we can always forge common ground – and we can always find understanding in the shared experiences of our common humanity. At home, abroad, in every encounter and exchange, we must engage with an open mind, we must strive for acceptance and understanding, and we must remain committed to peace and democratic ideals. That was Mandela's vision, and that is what is captured by the Mandela Declaration.

Madame President, sometimes we have to make sacrifices to forge enduring and just solutions to long-standing problems. Mandela knew that. In fact, that is how he lived his life.

It is a truth we in Fiji recognise as well. That is why thousands of brave Fijians have served on the frontlines of conflict areas around the world as UN peacekeepers over the past 40 years. We're deeply proud of that legacy. We're proud to make such a large commitment to global peace for a nation of our size and population. And we are equally proud to lead the world in confronting some of the great challenges facing humanity, like that of climate change and the degradation of our oceans and seas.

We've led those important campaigns, as President of COP23 and co-chair of the UN Ocean Conference, as part of our commitment to the global human family, and we have built bridges to nations, state and local governments, civil society, business leaders and ordinary citizens to overcome what differences we may have in order to realise common goals – a stated objective in the declaration.

In that way and so many others, the Nelson Mandela Political Declaration and this summit amplify our own national priorities and with how we Fijians see ourselves in the world, as champions of peace, able and willing to forge bonds across the global stage, and as committed partners in uplifting and protecting all people, irrespective of who they are or where they may come from.

Madame President, with those few words, I am pleased to support this Political Declaration on behalf of Fiji, and together with other leaders here, give my full support to ensuring that we build a better, more peaceful, a more equal and more inclusive world – a world that lives up to the example of the great Nelson Mandela.

Thank you.

---

---

## Remarks by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau

Nelson Mandela's message of peace was rooted in the conviction that we are part of the same community.

That our fate is tied to that of our fellow citizens.

He famously held that "to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others".

Made an honorary Canadian in 2001, his example touched the lives of millions, defying both time and place.

Former prime ministers Mulroney and Clark were among the many Canadians who firmly opposed the apartheid regime, pressing world leaders and international forums.

I remember the profound impact he had on my father, who greatly admired his character and his relentless fight for justice. They actually spoke at length about this when they met in the 1990s.

From the dock of the defendant to the confines of Robben Island to the floor of the UN, Nelson Mandela always appealed to our common humanity.

That must be the foundation of any lasting peace.

100 years after his birth, it is fitting that Madiba be remembered here, by leaders of all nations.

Leaders who recognise that their challenges are shared. Leaders who, despite their differences, harbour the same hopes for their countries – the same dreams of peace, prosperity and opportunity for their people.

That is not to say that our solidarity is unquestioned and unshaken.

Armed conflict, emerging threats, a changing climate – all have tested the strength of our commitment and the bounds of our compassion.

In times like these, we must remember the example of Nelson Mandela, who believed that we should not despair, for our troubles only bear witness to a job unfinished.

As we pay tribute to the legacy of Nelson Mandela, Canada reaffirms its resolve to push forward the work he began.

Canada will continue to call out the unfair treatment of racial and ethnic minorities, of women and girls, of indigenous peoples.

We will continue to speak up for the refugees of Rohingya, for the Yazidis of Northern Iraq, for the people of Venezuela.

Canada will always stand tall for democracy, the rule of law and human rights at home and abroad.

Peace is the work of many generations.

Madiba took up the cause of peace and it is now up to us to keep carrying the torch forward.

The flames of his ideals must live on in each and every one of us.

### **Speech by Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi**

One hundred years after his birth, it is historic to commemorate the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his role in global peace.

The global peace agenda is at the very heart of Malawi. Malawi is a peace-loving country.

We are therefore committed to ensuring that there is total peace and tranquility in the world.

Every human being deserves to live in a peaceful environment and with peace of mind.

We therefore support the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by 2020.

Malawi will always go out to defend peace wherever peace is under threat. We will continue participating in peacekeeping missions wherever duty calls us.

Malawi has moved to develop counter-terrorism legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention.

However, the UN will make more progress protecting and maintaining peace by involving Africa in its decision-making processes.

We therefore call upon the UN to expedite the debate on the Security Council reform.

We call upon the UN to adopt the African Common Position from the Ezulwini Consensus.

We call upon the UN to accommodate African representation through two permanent seats in the UN Security Council.

As we celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela, a man with whom we share the same birthday, I urge us all to reflect on the role Mandela played in peacebuilding.

Let us also reflect on the role Africa can play in this cause. The world needs Africa more than ever. Let us rise up and take our place in the global community.

I thank you for your attention.

---

### **Statement by President Danny Faure of the Seychelles**

Your Excellency, President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Your Excellency, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Moussa Faki, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, a true son of Africa and a giant of history, would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Today, we have come together to commemorate the memory of a man who stood for social justice and universal peace, while also acknowledging his enduring legacy.

When Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was growing up in a small village named Qunu 100 years ago, there was no reason to think he would change the course of history. But, through his sacrifice, leadership, and most importantly, his belief in the human spirit and its infinite capacity for good, he set an example to the world.

It is not enough that we preach the great ideals for which he stood and practise the opposite. We have

an unprecedented opportunity as leaders to ensure that we govern with the philosophies of peace and equitable progress he championed. Today, I renew my commitment to living by the ideals of the late Nelson Mandela and ensuring that his message of equality, democracy, dignity and goodness lives on through the people I have been entrusted to serve.

I also believe that to fully achieve Madiba's vision for the world, the state of our planet, our only home, must be protected at all costs. If we fail to take responsibility for our actions and the impact that we are having on our environment, we run the grave risk of condemning our children to a fate, which he struggled during his lifetime to abolish.

Madame President,

A common thread unifies all our people – a longing for peace, prosperity and an equitable future. We must work hard to ensure that this becomes a reality. Nelson Mandela said: “To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom

of others”. We must live and lead by this truism. Only then, would we have fulfilled his legacy.

As I conclude, I wish to join Seychelles to the values and principles of the Nelson Mandela Political Declaration that we adopt today.

I thank you.

---

### **Speech by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda**

Nelson Mandela's centenary presents an ideal moment to reflect on the meaning that the legacy of this great African freedom fighter and statesman holds for us today.

Nelson Mandela understood that the politics of confrontation and division impedes a nation's social cohesion and progress. Even though the wounds were still fresh, he endeavoured to show that the suffering endured by him and countless other South Africans could be re-directed toward building a more positive future for the country.

This was not an easy message, but President Mandela was a true leader and an inspiring communicator. He did what was right, even when it was not popular.

In Rwanda, our tragic history has taught us the importance of unity and inclusivity for reconciliation

and nation-building. We work to ensure that all citizens have equal rights and opportunities and are able to participate actively in shaping our country's direction in meaningful ways. This approach has allowed us to restore trust in public institutions, and also in each other.

Inclusive and non-sectarian politics is not only advantageous in Africa or in post-conflict situations. As the world has been seeing, national unity is a good thing, wherever it takes hold.

We are fortunate to have Nelson Mandela's example to keep bringing us back to this fundamental truth.

I wish to thank you all for your kind attention.

---

### **Statement by Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica**

Madam President,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I commend the UN, the greatest global peace alliance, for convening this Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in commemoration of the centenary of his birth.

Jamaica is proud of the strong leadership role we played in driving efforts to dismantle the apartheid system in South Africa. Under that system, Nelson Mandela was unjustly incarcerated for 27 years and millions of Africans oppressed.

We were the first country in the Western hemisphere and second in the world, along with India, to ban trade and travel with the racist regime.

Indeed, Jamaica's support for the fight against racial injustice in South Africa preceded the official start of the apartheid system.

Over many years, with support from countries all across the globe, many Jamaicans, including

academics, politicians, clergy, iconic artists, such as our own reggae legend and freedom fighter, Bob Marley, and people from all walks of life, were joined together in a clarion call to free Mandela.

It is in this context, that I am deeply honoured to participate in this summit, which comes at a time of heightened global concern about hostility and conflict within some of our societies; with some regimes focussed on the use of might rather than the protection of right.

The centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth provides space for us as world leaders to affirm the need for healthy and meaningful dialogue to engender peace, reconciliation and communal accord. These I believe are principles that Mandela would very much wish us to promote on this occasion.

Admittedly, these goals are not easily achieved without significant sacrifice from leaders. No one understood this more than Nelson Mandela. He asserted that: "Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people". That was his mantra, and sacrifice he did.

Nelson Mandela understood, however, throughout his long walk to freedom, that full freedom could only be achieved if he left bitterness behind. In his own words: "What counts is not the mere fact that we lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead".

Like Mandela, we too must commit to the consolidation of peaceful coalitions. What better occasion than this summit, to do just that.

Let that be our legacy in his honour!

---

---

### **Speech by President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria**

Madam President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour to participate in this historic event that reflects on global peace and commemorates the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela – a man whose lifetime symbolised uncommon humility, compassion, courage and forgiveness.

Our sincere appreciation goes to President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Prime Minister Leo Varadkar of Ireland, and their teams for nurturing and finalising the Political Declaration that would be adopted here today. This declaration will undoubtedly set forth commitments that would honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

Madam President,

We are witnessing a time when the world is facing diverse challenges, ranging from conflicts, climate change, terrorism, desertification, poverty, arms

trafficking and violent extremism, among others. Yet, it is a time of great hope and renaissance. On facing the death penalty, Nelson Mandela spoke from the dock at the end of the Rivonia Trial in April 1964. He said:

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to see realised. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

It is within this ethos of the great Mandela that we place this declaration. We must therefore make concerted efforts to build a just, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and fair world, and revive the values for

which Nelson Mandela stood for by placing human dignity at the centre of our actions. This centenary celebration provides an avenue to reflect on the legacies of Nelson Mandela and his unwavering advocacy for human rights, social justice and peace. It also affords us the rare privilege to rededicate ourselves to the service of humanity by championing democracy, conflict resolution, disarmament, mutual respect, reconciliation, gender equality and the fight against poverty. There is no doubt that in the quest to attain peace and development, the world will draw inspiration from the life of Nelson Mandela.

Madam President,

As we herald the Nelson Mandela decade of peace, Nigeria calls on all states to recognise that the UN is built on the pillars of peace and security, development and human rights, which are the foundations for our collective well-being, and emphasise that there can be no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development without peace and the full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

By this declaration, we recognise the contribution of women to the advancement of societies, and their contribution to the prevention and resolution

of conflicts. We are committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of all women as well as providing an enabling environment for them to realise their full potential.

We also recognise that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all peoples of the world are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. We declare that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance represent the very opposite of the noble purposes of the UN.

Madam President,

We recognise that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversities is essential for lasting peace, understanding and friendship among peoples, nations, cultures and individuals. As Mandela passes into history, we stand with him in his aspirations for a better world. It is our duty to live up to his indelible legacy by collectively holding ourselves accountable to the values and principles of this declaration by striving for a just, peaceful, prosperous, democratic, fair and inclusive world.

I thank you for your attention.

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the UN General Assembly, UN, New York, United States of America, 25 September 2018

Madame President of the 73rd Session of UN General Assembly, Ms María Fernanda Espinosa,  
Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres,  
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Majesties,  
Heads of Delegation,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to address this august body, the UN General Assembly, for the first time as President of the Republic of South Africa.

It is nearly a quarter of a century since the founding father of our democracy, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, stood at this podium to declare that: “The millions across our globe who stand expectant at the gates of hope look to this organisation [the United Nations], to bring them peace, to bring them life, to bring them a life worth living”.

As we mark the centenary of the birth of this great global leader, we are bound to ask whether the UN has met the needs and the expectations of the millions who stand at the gates of hope.

We are bound to ask what contribution the UN has made to a more peaceful, more prosperous and more equal world.

More importantly, we are called upon to ask – as we did yesterday during the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit – what the UN and the assembled global leadership must do to secure lasting peace, reconciliation and stability across the globe.

Allow me to express the deep gratitude of the Government and the people of South Africa to the international community for convening the Peace Summit to honour the memory of Nelson Mandela and advance his legacy.

We applaud the Political Declaration of the Summit, which recognises the period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace.

This reflects a new and sincere commitment by the world’s leaders to comprehensively advance peace and security and resolve all conflicts and wars. To succeed in giving effect to this commitment, the UN must become what billions of people across the world want it to be – a representative and truly democratic global parliament of the people.

Throughout its seven decades, the UN has been a source of hope for the oppressed, exploited and poor.

During the dark days of colonialism and apartheid, we drew strength, inspiration and encouragement from the UN and its Charter in our quest for self-determination. With the support of the UN, we were able 24 years ago to bring an end to the nightmare of apartheid.

Nelson Mandela led us to freedom and gave us the great opportunity to transform our country.

We have embarked on a journey of transformation, and work is in progress to deal with the ugly legacy of apartheid.

Madiba’s vision continues to guide us as we seek to improve the lives of our people in many respects, through improving the educational outcomes of

our youth and transforming an economy that was constituted to serve the interests of a few.

We have started a comprehensive dialogue on the question of land reform, which is guided by our Constitution and the rule of law as we seek ways to ensure that the land is shared among all who work it, as set out in our Freedom Charter.

Even as our country is going through difficult economic challenges, we have made progress.

We are reforming our economy and creating an environment that is conducive to investment, and have embarked on an investment drive to attract US\$100 billion in the next five years.

To the poor, vulnerable and marginalised, the UN today is a beacon of promise in a landscape of doubt.

To billions across the world, the UN is the most powerful instrument we possess to achieve a more equal, more humane and more inclusive world.

They are men and women with dreams and aspirations that transcend the hardships of the present, who want to contribute to a new global civilization defined by care, justice and solidarity. They want an end to the greed, ignorance and conceit that are driving the destruction of our only home, the earth. It is within our hands, as the leaders assembled here today, to forge a more representative, equal and fair UN that is empowered and equipped to lead the struggle to end poverty, unemployment and inequality in the world.

We are a young world, where more than half the global population is under the age of 30 years.

This is even more pronounced on our continent, Africa, where two-thirds of its people were not yet born when Nelson Mandela was released from prison.

We are living in the Age of Youth.

This places a responsibility on us, as leaders, not only to put the interests of young people at the centre of our efforts, but also to empower women and young people to be more prominent in directing the course of global affairs.

It is young people who are fighting the wars that we started.

It is women who are bearing the brunt and hardships of the wars that continue to destroy their families and lives.

As we speak, young lives are being lost and futures are being destroyed.

There is an urgency to the measures we must take to end conflict and war.

Not only must we stop the death, destruction and human suffering that are visited daily on millions of people, but we must act with purpose to prevent the loss of another entire generation to its aftermath.

We must accept our shared responsibility – and our shared interest – in ending conflict, and, using the outcomes of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, to empower the UN to be a more effective instrument for mediation, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

Our resolve to end ongoing conflicts and our determination to root out terrorism must be matched by action and by the appropriate deployment of resources. We must act with the same urgency to resolve some of the world’s most protracted and intractable disputes.

The fact that the people of Palestine have endured occupation and suffering for nearly as long as the UN has existed, makes their plight no less pressing, nor their suffering any less acceptable.

We must similarly intensify our efforts to secure the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and full national sovereignty.

One of the greatest challenges to the achievement of global prosperity and development is the continued exclusion of millions of women and young people from meaningful economic participation.

It is therefore vital that we deploy every means at our disposal to address youth unemployment and ensure universal access to educational opportunities that are appropriate to the changing world of work.

We need a deliberate programme to ensure that the digital revolution – which carries such great potential for both disruption and empowerment – is effectively harnessed to promote social justice and human progress.

The call to leave no one behind requires that we strengthen the institutions of global governance and make them more responsive to the needs of young people, particularly in the developing world.

Institutions like the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation need to be reshaped and enhanced so that they may more effectively meet the challenges of the contemporary world and better serve the interests of the poor and marginalised.

Reform of the UN, and particularly its Security Council, is a priority if we are to give full effect to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

We must resist any and all efforts to undermine the multilateral approach to international trade, which is essential to the promotion of stability and predictability in the global economy.

The history of the global economy informs us that no country can prosper at the expense of all others, and that no people can hope to live in comfort and security for as long as millions of others languish in poverty.

It is therefore essential that we take collective responsibility for the development of all nations and for the improvement of the lives of all people.

This responsibility is manifest in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement

on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on the financing of development, among others.

Together, they represent our common commitment to tackle poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation.

They represent our common commitment to tackle diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diabetes and cancer.

Our task as global leaders is to pursue the policies that are required to turn intent into implementation and mobilise the resources needed to turn implementation into impact.

Your Excellencies,

As Africans, we have made significant strides in addressing the challenges that have confronted our continent over many decades. We continue to vigorously implement our commitments contained in the African Union Agenda 2063, which is our collective plan to rid our continent of underdevelopment, poverty and conflict and improve democratic governance, the rule of law and the promotion of human rights.

We have reached agreement on the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area, which will fundamentally transform African economies, giving rise to a new industrial age on the continent.

We are working to silence the guns in Africa by 2020, to bring an end to conflicts that have cost the lives of millions of our people, displaced many more and stunted economic growth and human development.

As the continent with the youngest population in the world, Africa has the potential to be the next great frontier for global growth.

With effective investment in education, improved healthcare, good governance and greater economic integration, Africa has the potential to develop its productive capacity on a scale and at a rate that will lift tens of millions out of poverty.

The youth of Africa are poised to transform their continent.

As the people of South Africa, we are committed to be part of this transformation.

From the ashes of a system that was described by the UN General Assembly as a crime against humanity, we are building a new democratic nation, united in its diversity. We are working to correct the injustices of our past and to build a society that is free, inclusive and sustainable.

We are pursuing an economic path that draws on the resources and capabilities of all our people to eradicate poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We are determined through our international relations to be a force for progress and peace and global equality, and will continue to advance the interests of the African continent and the Global South.

Allow me to conclude by once more drawing on the wisdom of Nelson Mandela, when he said: "Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great".

This is not the generation that will stand expectant at the gates of hope. This is the generation that will change the world. This is their time, and this is their age.

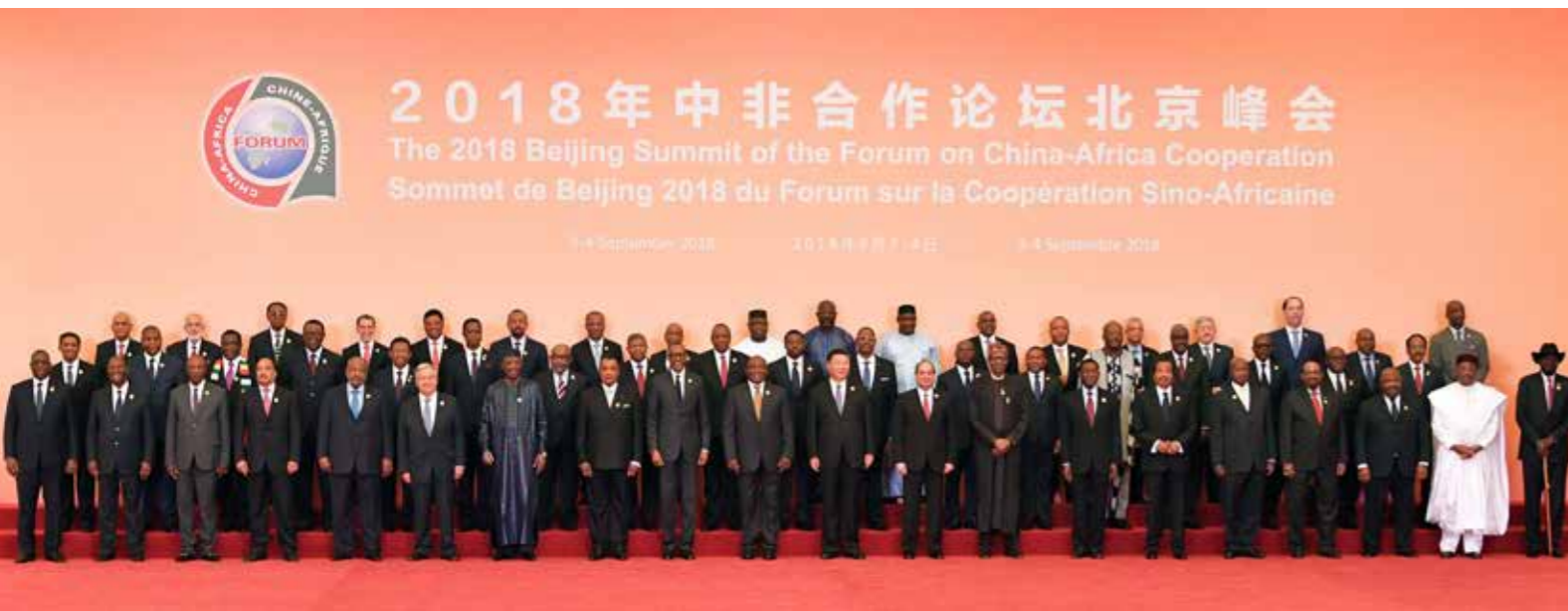
Let their greatness blossom.

I thank you.



# CHAPTER 4

**SOUTH AFRICA AS CO-CHAIR OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)**





## CHAPTER 4

### SOUTH AFRICA AS CO-CHAIR OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)

#### Welcoming address by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, at the Opening Session of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC, Beijing, China, 2 September, 2018

Honourable State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Yi, and Honourable Minister of Commerce, Mr Gao Hucheng, Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Rob Davies, Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Relations and Cooperation, Economic Affairs and Commerce representing Africa, Honourable Heads of Delegation, Honourable Representatives of Observer Nations and Organisations, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank Minister Wang Yi and the people of the People's Republic of China for their warm welcome and the facilities provided, indeed excellent by any standard.

We gather today to reflect on how the FOCAC Forum has performed since the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Action (2016 – 2018) at the last summit in South Africa in 2015. We find that the record of implementation is most satisfactory, with approximately 90% of the US\$60 billion pledged now allocated to projects. We also find that many of the commitments undertaken under the 10 new cooperation measures announced by President Xi have been implemented or are in the process of being completed.

We also gather here today to see how the FOCAC Forum can be further strengthened to continue to advance common growth and development even more effectively – growth and development that is mutually beneficial to the peoples of the People's Republic of China and the African continent – and achieve the win-win outcome envisaged by my counterpart, Minister Wang Yi.

We hope that, through our engagements today, we can continue to forge closer cooperation, and exchange experiences and best practices to assist our respective regions to progress.

In the People's Republic of China, we are partnering with a country of huge manufacturing capacity, strong technological advancement and capacity in industrialisation. Our relations with China have already made great strides in addressing Africa's developmental challenges,

ranging from education and training, to healthcare, infrastructure development, tourism and skills exchanges. We need to further strengthen these important facets of human development.

In the coming years, both China and Africa aspire to reach new milestones. The quest for industrialisation, skills development, foreign direct investment in manufacturing, beneficiation, agro-processing and skills transfer programmes will provide ample opportunity for advancing the interests of our two regions in a mutually beneficial manner.

For our part, Africa has taken decisive and tangible steps to determine its own destiny and we have adopted Agenda 2063, which is our vision to place the continent on a developmental path that will address Africa's key challenges of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.

In this regard, Agenda 2063's flagship programmes are designed to achieve the following key deliverables, among others:

- improving railway connectivity
- improving road infrastructure, sea ports and air transportation
- investing in a well-developed ICT and digital economy
- developing agriculture and agro-processing.

We need to ensure that, going forward, FOCAC continues to be an effective cooperative partnership that serves the core interests of all its members. We need to ensure that FOCAC

also serves to support our continental and regional initiatives, programmes and projects.

In this regard, we continue to look at the People's Republic of China as a trusted development partner with a long-term strategic commitment to the African continent, which equally supports Africa's needs, while looking to its own.

Your Excellencies,

We are all well aware that Africa is endowed with vast resources of mineral, natural and human wealth. However, the challenge is to utilise these assets more effectively to transform the lives of all our people by not merely extracting, but by also processing and beneficiating at the source; by modernising how we utilise our land; and by ensuring that we provide our people with the skills and opportunities that will ultimately lead to quality job creation, particularly for the youth and women.

We are living in an era of global competitiveness and cutting-edge technological advancement. It is the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The People's Republic of China has proven to possess the competitive edge, technological innovation and workmanship capable of partnering with Africa to advance the cause of peace, prosperity and mutual benefits. The FOCAC partnership appreciates the complementarities that can be harnessed between Africa and China in this regard.

In conclusion, it is within us collectively to elevate the FOCAC partnership to a high-performing, results-based mechanism. In the coming few days, through positive and constructive engagements, we will provide the future we seek together. I have the utmost faith that we will not disappoint our peoples in this process. Future generations need to agree that it was here that we ensured the sustainable prosperity of China and Africa.

I thank you.

---

#### Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the FOCAC, Beijing, China, 3 September 2018

Your Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, Your Excellency Paul Kagame, Chairperson of the African Union and President of Rwanda, Your Excellency Moussa Mahamat Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Honourable Heads of State and Government, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express our profound gratitude for the generous hospitality accorded to all of us since our arrival in the ancient city of Beijing.

Africa and China enjoy a rich history characterised by friendship and solidarity. We recall the historical visit of Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai to Africa in the 1960s, where he articulated the key principles underpinning our comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership. He spoke of a relationship founded on equality, trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

Now, more than 50 years later, these principles remain at the centre of cooperation between the continent of Africa and China. These are the principles that

underpin FOCAC; they inform our decisions and guide our actions.

Since its launch in 2000, FOCAC has grown both in extent and scope. It serves as an effective platform for South-South cooperation focussed on the tangible improvement of the quality of lives of all the people of Africa. In the values that it promotes, in the manner that it operates and in the impact that it has on African countries, FOCAC refutes the view that a new colonialism is taking hold in Africa, as our detractors would have us believe.

The progress that has been made over the last 18 years demonstrates the tangible and lasting benefit of FOCAC to the people of Africa and to the people

of China. The relationship that we have forged through FOCAC is premised on the fundamental and inalienable right of the African people to determine their own future.

It is premised on the African Union's Agenda 2063, a vision that has been crafted in Africa, by Africans. It is a vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. It is a vision of a continent where commerce, trade, investment, skills and knowledge move freely across the borders that were imposed on us by our colonial rulers.

We are working to build an Africa that is defined by good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. It is an Africa where the guns have been silenced, and where all its people live in peace and security. It is an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics.

Importantly, it is an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the capability and potential of its people. We look to China as a valuable and committed partner in advancing Agenda 2063.

It is in pursuit of this vision that we embrace China's "Belt and Road" initiative. We are confident that this initiative, which effectively complements the work of FOCAC, will reduce the costs and increase the volume of trade between Africa and China.

It will encourage the development of Africa's infrastructure, a critical requirement for meaningful regional and continental integration.

Yesterday, our ministers of foreign affairs and trade deliberated on the implementation of the Johannesburg Action Plan. We are greatly encouraged by their assessment that the 10 cooperation plans announced in 2015 have been fully implemented, for it shows a partnership that is hard at work to advance the mutual interests of Africa and China.

The China-Africa industrialisation plan has driven industrial development in many parts of the continent and contributed to economic transformation. The agricultural modernisation plan has promoted greater agricultural productivity and the infrastructure plan has boosted African connectivity and integration.

These plans have also contributed to environmental conservation, sustainable development, improved public health services, and peace and security.

Through FOCAC and other forums, China has worked to ensure that Africa's development is prominent on the international agenda. Building on these remarkable achievements, we welcome the announcement today by President Xi of new FOCAC initiatives that will have a significant and lasting impact on peace, stability and sustainable development on the African continent.

We appreciate the decision to provide new funding to African countries to the value of US\$60 billion and to invest in initiatives in areas such as industrial development, infrastructure, human resource development, healthcare, the green economy, and peace and security, among others.

Your Excellencies,

Through this partnership, we are working together to advance growth and development on the African continent. We have observed with interest and admiration China's remarkable economic ascendance, making it the world's second-largest economy and third-largest foreign investor.

We applaud its achievements in social development, lifting millions of people out of poverty and meeting almost all of the Millennium Development Goals. There are many valuable lessons that Africa can learn from China's impressive growth model and its approach to meeting the needs of its people.

Significantly, China has used its substantial capacity and resources as a catalyst for development in other markets.

As a result, FOCAC has become an essential platform to contribute to Africa's social and economic advancement. There has been rapid growth in Sino-African trade, with China now being Africa's largest trade partner.

Much of what is exported from Africa are raw materials and primary products; much of what is imported from China are finished goods. We export to China what we extract from the earth; China exports to us what it makes in its factories.

This obviously limits the ability of African countries to extract the full value for their abundant natural resources and to create work for their people. It is through platforms like FOCAC that we should work to balance the structure of trade between Africa and China.

We welcome the fact that, in addition to trade, China has become a major investor in the continent.

As we look to expand Chinese investment in Africa, we need to encourage more local partnerships between Chinese and African entrepreneurs.

Through the transfer of knowledge and technology, such partnerships can contribute to the development and sustainability of African businesses. They will be contributing to the expansion of Africa's productive capacity and the creation of new industries.

It is important also that we promote investment-led trade between Africa and China, which addresses the nature and quality of investment in Africa. We should seek inward investment that enables industrial development and the export of more value-added products.

Developments on the African continent are further expanding the potential benefits of cooperation.

We urge Chinese investors to take advantage of the great opportunities that will be created through the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It will establish a single market of more than a billion people with considerable economic potential.

It will promote the industrialisation of African economies and position the continent as a global competitor. Chinese companies that invest in Africa's productive capacity will be able to reap the benefits of a massive continental market.

The economic value of FOCAC – to both Africa and China – is particularly important in the context of an increasingly uncertain global environment. Global economic volatility and heightened concerns about peace and stability render developing countries particularly vulnerable.

There is a renewed threat to the rules-based multilateral global trading system, which although imperfect, does provide stability, predictability and a greater degree of fairness. We should be using platforms such as FOCAC to reaffirm our shared commitment to multilateralism, a fair and transparent system of international trade and a global economic architecture that promotes the interests of the developing world.

Africa is the next frontier growth market in the world.

In the coming decades, it will create many opportunities not only for its people, but also for economic partners such as China. China's investment in Africa, its strengthening trade ties and its consistent support for Africa's development will benefit the people of Africa and the people of China well into the future.

As we strengthen political and economic ties, we need to place greater emphasis on people-to-people cooperation. We need, through such cooperation, to nurture and empower the youth of China and Africa.

This is a forward-looking partnership, concerned not only with the challenges of the present, but preparing for the opportunities of the future. We should be using FOCAC as an instrument for youth development, to invest in building their capabilities and exposing them to the great possibilities that the world has to offer. Our objectives extend beyond the peoples of Africa and China.

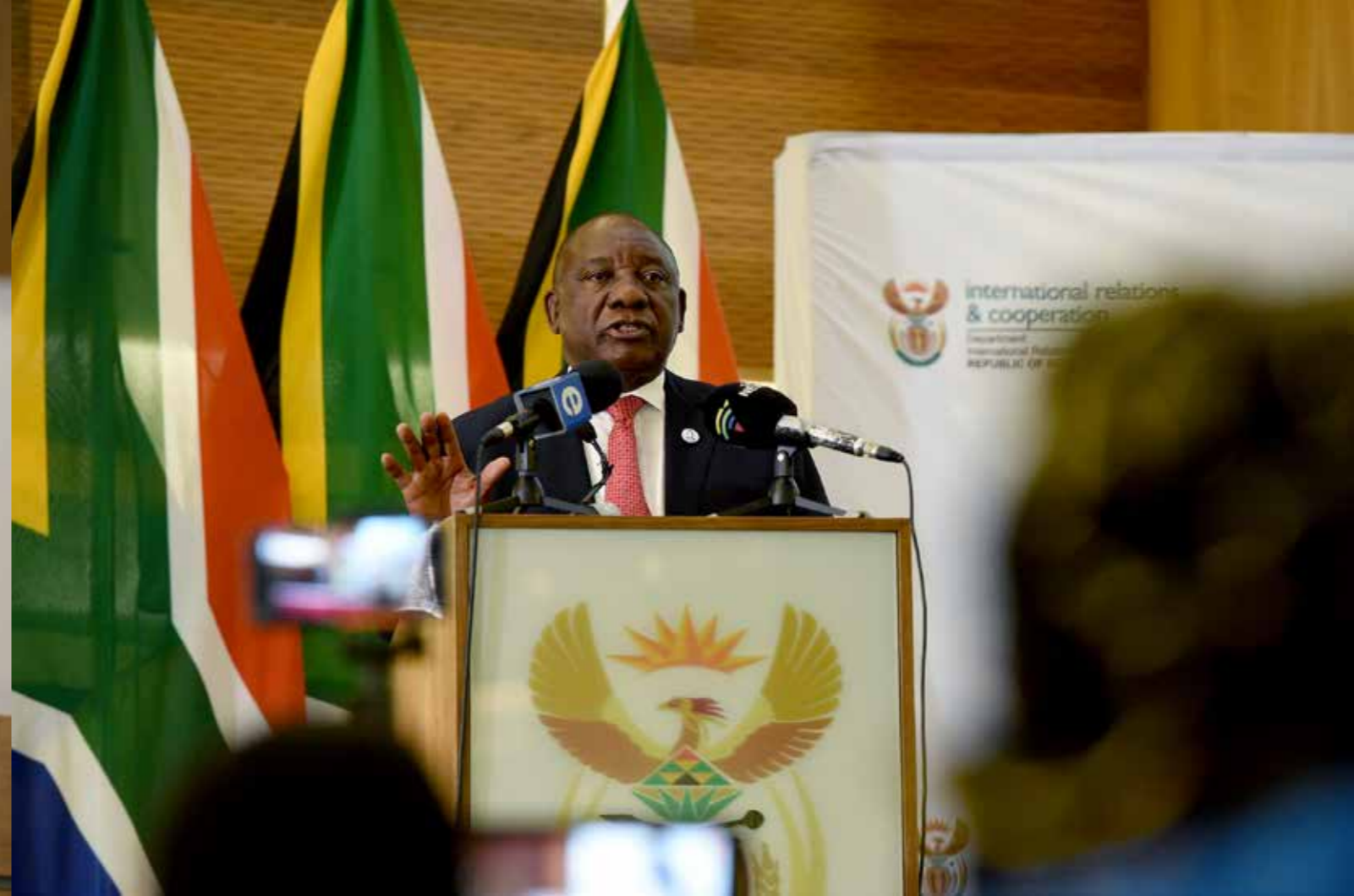
Together, we are working to build a community of shared future for all humankind.

This requires leadership, vision and partnership.

It requires dedication to building the capabilities of our peoples and a resolute commitment to the cause of development and progress.

With the foundation we have built through FOCAC, with the relationships we have established between our governments, leaders and people, I am certain that we will succeed.

I thank you



# CHAPTER 5

HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE



**CHAPTER 5  
HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE**

**Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the South African Heads of Mission Conference,  
OR Tambo Building, Pretoria, 23 October 2018**

Programme Director,  
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu,  
Deputy Ministers, Mr Luwellyn Landers and Ms Reginah Mhaule,  
Members of the Portfolio and Select Committees,  
Director-General,  
Members of the Ministerial Review Panel,  
Your Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join you at this biennial gathering that brings together our country's global envoys to assess our progress in advancing our country's interests on the continent and around the world.

We strive to advance our national interest in a global landscape that is in a constant state of flux, where political, social and economic forces beyond our control have a direct bearing on our efforts.

Like any other country, South Africa is not immune to tremors in the global economy or to shifts in geopolitics.

In the midst of global uncertainty, we are fortunate to have at the helm of our diplomatic service an experienced and capable corps of people who can be relied upon to steadfastly promote our progressive international agenda.

In all our efforts, we are guided by the National Development Plan 2030, which provides a roadmap for unleashing the energies of our citizens, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities and enhancing the ability of the State.

At the same time, we wholly identify with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful

Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena".

South Africa and its fortunes are inextricably linked to those of the continent.

In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961, Inkosi Albert Luthuli said:

"I accept this also as an honour not only to South Africa, but for the whole continent of Africa, to this continent, Mother Africa!"

It was the people of Africa who extended the hand of friendship and solidarity to us during the dark days of apartheid, and today it is African countries who are our valued allies and trade partners.

When Africa falters, South Africa falters. And when Africa prospers, South Africa prospers.

We are guided by the words of Kwame Nkrumah, who said:

"Divided we are weak, united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world."

This year marks the centenaries of two titans of the liberation struggle, Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

As we reflect on their respective legacies, we are ever mindful of the sacrifices they and many others made for our liberation.

We carry a weighty responsibility to ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain and to realise their vision of a South Africa free from discrimination, inequality and want.

Although we have registered notable progress in the 24 years since democracy, we still grapple with the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

To address these challenges, government is on an ambitious drive to grow our economy, anchored in cooperation between government, business, labour and civil society.

We want to get our economy going following a period of stagnant growth.

We want to regain public and investor trust, and thereby unlock private capital and promote investment.

Above all, we want to see our people secure dignified, meaningful employment to ensure that all South Africans benefit from economic growth.

In just two days from now, we will open the South Africa Investment Conference in Johannesburg; a critical intervention to showcase opportunities for both domestic and foreign investors.

The conference is an integral part of government's ambitious drive to raise US\$100 billion in new investment over five years, stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

The conference will discuss opportunities in sectors like agriculture, minerals, manufacturing, transportation, energy, water, ICT, tourism and film.

This Heads of Mission Conference therefore takes place at an important moment, for it is you, our diplomats, who must play a pivotal role in driving the message that South Africa is open for business.

It is our missions abroad that are leading our Economic Diplomacy, that need to ensure that the outcomes of the conference are conveyed around the world, and that are responsible for assisting the expansion of trade and investment links with partner countries.

The Investment Conference follows the successful Jobs Summit held earlier this month, where more than 70 interventions were identified to protect existing jobs and create new ones.

The framework agreement adopted by social partners at the summit focusses on empowering women and the youth, stimulating demand in the local economy and expanding our export capacity.

The summit agreed that the "Buy South Africa" should be significantly upscaled and that we should take advantage of new opportunities in Africa through regional and continental integration.

As part of our investment-friendly approach, we are focussing on addressing structural weaknesses in the economy, rebuilding investor confidence, restoring good governance in public institutions and creating a supportive environment for those who want to invest and those who have invested already.

South Africa's advanced infrastructure has long been one of the country's strongest attractions for investors.

As part of the work that we must undertake now to stimulate growth and create employment, we are consolidating our R400-billion Medium Term Expenditure Framework infrastructure budget into an Infrastructure Fund.

This will be used to address infrastructure gaps in areas such as roads, water infrastructure, schools, human settlements and public transport.

Additional resources from development finance institutions, multilateral development banks and private lenders and investors will also be leveraged through this fund.

Over the past few months, we have already achieved a number of milestones in our quest for improved investment, resulting in renewed levels of business confidence.

For example, we have initiated changes to our visa regime to attract more skilled workers and tourists.

Processes to restore confidence in our institutions and organisations of governance are underway.

We are investigating and prosecuting cases of corruption.

The governance and management of key state-owned enterprises are being overhauled to ensure they are held accountable to fulfil their economic and developmental mandates.

Our ability to generate foreign investment in our country depends in large measure on the image of our country abroad, which is one of the core responsibilities of our diplomats.

We must acknowledge that there are some negative perceptions about South Africa, its government and its economy that we need to work to correct.

It is important that we should not overlook the challenges we have, nor deny that we are emerging from a period of difficulty.

But it is clear that our democracy is resilient, that we are making progress in addressing the immediate challenges we face, and that we are establishing a foundation for lasting growth and fundamental transformation.

We should locate the South African narrative within the context of a continent that is on the rise.

It is estimated that over the next 20 years, the working population of Africa will increase to more than a billion.

Ours is a young, active and increasingly connected continent.

With favourable demographics, high productivity potential and ideal positioning as a springboard into the rest of Africa, our country is an attractive destination for growth-seeking investors.

Ranked 61 out of 147 in the World Economic Forum's latest *Global Competitiveness Report* and as the continent's second-biggest economy, South Africa offers investors the stability of a well-regulated and developed country, an effective legal environment, cost competitiveness and reliable infrastructure.

Our banking system is solid, well-capitalised, well-regulated and internationally respected.

There is no doubt that we have a very solid base to work from.

Your Excellencies,

The advent of globalisation heralded a new future that is highly connected and interdependent.

This means that there are a vast set of issues – from climate change to cross-border crime – that cannot be address by individual countries acting alone.

It is only through collective effort, supported by multilateral institutions like the United Nations (UN), that we have been able to address some of our world's most complex challenges.

As we witness the rise of extreme nationalism in some parts of the world, and neo-isolationism takes root in others, it is clear that the need for an effective, rules-based multilateral system is greater than ever.

The very essence of the UN Charter is respect for international law and the principles of international justice as we seek, as a global collective, to live in

harmony, maintain international peace and security and respect the human rights of all.

Good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law are also among the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

If we are to safeguard our security and prosperity, if we are to silence the guns in Africa, we have to work to consolidate rather than erode the international rule of law.

It is international law that informs the exercise and limits of the use of state power, and that enforces cooperation over conflict, and collaboration over confrontation.

The challenge before us is to transform global politics from a power-based hierarchy to a rules-based international system where each country can advance and protect its national interest without provoking animosity.

The centrality of the UN to South Africa's foreign engagement is based both on a strong belief in collective and equitable global governance, but also because of the UN's role in the fight against apartheid.

South Africa enthusiastically embraces its responsibilities as an active member of the UN.

This is particularly the case as South Africa prepares to enter the UN Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member from 2019.

Our election provides us with an opportunity to align the work of the UN with that of the African Union (AU) and to promote the positions we have adopted when we campaigned for this non-permanent seat, including the priorities of Agenda 2063.

South Africa's third term on the UNSC should build on President Nelson Mandela's legacy of working towards a peaceful, just and prosperous world.

We must honour his legacy by serving as a bridge-builder, bringing together divergent perspectives and seeking peaceful resolution of any conflict.

We must continue to campaign for the reform of the Security Council.

The current formation is antiquated, unrepresentative and prejudicial to developing and smaller states.

The UNSC remains the primary international organ mandated to promote international peace and security.

It is essential that it remains true to its mandate and moves beyond the paralysis brought on by the geopolitical interests of a few member states.

The only way this can happen is if world leaders, including those who represent the permanent members of the Security Council, are bold and courageous and commit to enlarging the UNSC urgently.

Failure to do so will encourage states to start acting unilaterally, with disastrous consequences for all.

As South Africa, we need to pay particular attention to the intersection of the work of the UNSC and that of the Peace and Security Council of the AU.

We should encourage greater cooperation and collaboration to ensure a common approach to ending conflict on the continent.

We will need to continue to be engaged with the ongoing challenges in Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, South

Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic, Mali and Libya.

The AU has established and consolidated a comprehensive peace and security architecture. The architecture is based on a paradigm that recognises preventive diplomacy as central to eradicating conflicts on our continent.

We will use our term in the UNSC to highlight and advance the cause of the Palestinian and Saharawi peoples.

Peace and security in Africa are inextricably linked to its economic and social development.

The most effective way to ensure lasting stability is to achieve economic growth that benefits all of Africa's people.

At the same time, peace and stability are a necessary condition for faster and more inclusive growth.

South Africa played an active role in remodelling the Organisation of African Unity into the AU, specifically with the aim of strengthening Africa's ability to resolve conflict.

We will continue to support the institutional reforms of the AU to ensure that it retains its agility in an ever-changing and complex world.

We are resolute that such reforms should conform to the AU Constitutive Act and not betray the Pan-African philosophy of the founding leaders.

Your Excellencies,

On the multilateral level, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the G20 being held at summit level.

The meeting this year takes place in the context of uncertainty, increased unilateralism and protectionism by some G20 members.

South Africa will continue to use its membership of the G20 to promote inclusive growth and development and support the Argentinian Presidency in its efforts towards consensus-building and fair and sustainable development.

I will be departing for Berlin later this week where I will participate in the G20 Africa Conference, hosted by Chancellor Merkel, where we will reflect on the G20 Africa Partnership, inclusive of the Compact with Africa that seeks to enhance private-sector investment in Africa's infrastructure.

Earlier this year, we successfully hosted the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries, establishing the foundation for a decade of greater cooperation, development and progress.

In addition to reaffirming our shared commitment to multilateralism and the interests of the countries of the Global South, we developed an ambitious agenda for cooperation on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the opportunities provided by rapid advances in technology.

We are also taking the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation grouping towards a strategic

partnership, in which China will be a significant partner in developing African infrastructure and promoting regional integration.

South Africa will also be chairing the Indian Ocean Rim Association, which we view as the pre-eminent regional organisation linking Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia.

We will focus on uniting the diverse countries that constitute the association behind an agenda of peace, stability and sustainable development.

Your Excellencies,

We exist in an ever-changing and complex global environment.

As a country, as a brand, as a trade partner and as an investment destination, South Africa has what it takes to compete on the world stage.

It is up to us to make sure we take full advantage of the opportunities that exist for the benefit of all our people.

We have emerged from a difficult decade, which has dampened confidence and slowed our progress.

As we undertake the critical task of renewal and rebuilding, we draw strength from the knowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants like Tata Mandela and Mama Sisulu.

Their examples have shown us that we can triumph over adversity.

They taught us that the race will never be won until all South Africans are able to lead lives of dignity, in peace and in prosperity.

Their lives provide ample evidence of the limitless potential of the human spirit to persevere and to prevail.

Working together as South Africans – and in concert with partners across the globe – we can be certain that we will indeed build a better Africa and a better world.

I thank you.



## CHAPTER 6

SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE  
INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)



## CHAPTER 6

### SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAIRSHIP OF THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

#### Opening remarks and country statement by Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, at the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting, 2 November 2018, Durban

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Senior Officials and Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin, let me express our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Indonesia in respect of the Lion Air JT610 airplane crash and the deadly earthquake and tsunami in the Central Sulawesi Island, as well as to the other member states that have experienced tragic national disasters recently. My fellow sisters and brothers, please be assured that the council's thoughts and prayers are with you and your people during this difficult period, and we extend our sympathy to those families who have lost their loved ones. I would like to ask that we observe a moment of silence as a sign of respect.

It is a tremendous honour for me to welcome you all once again to the beautiful port city of Durban in the majestic Zulu Kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal for the 18th Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers (COM).

This is a very special year, not only for South Africa, but also for some of our member countries. In our country and all across the world, we are celebrating the centenary of former President Nelson Mandela. We remember Madiba as our founding father, having served as the first President of a democratic South Africa. He will forever hold a special place in our hearts because of his values and dedication to the service of humanity as well as acknowledging his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela was a true icon of democracy.

We also remember the role that Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi played in leading India to independence from

British rule. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world, including in South Africa, where we acknowledge and celebrate his contribution to our struggle through his Satyagraha movement. He came to South Africa in 1893 and stayed here until 1914, while continuously opposing discrimination in South Africa's four British colonies at the time.

This year, we also celebrate the centenary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who is remembered for his deep religious faith, vision, determination and hard work; his generosity at home and abroad; and the way in which he devoted his life to the service of his people and the creation of a better world.

Therefore, to my Vice Chair HE Ahmed Ali Mohamed Abdulla Alsayegh of the UAE, a special welcome to South Africa. We look forward to working closely with you on a common trajectory to take IORA forward before we hand over to the UAE at the next COM. We also look forward to confirming the new incoming Vice Chair at this time.

To the Secretary-General of IORA, Ambassador Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, we have taken note of the good work that you and the Secretariat are engaged with, and once more we look forward to working closely with you in strengthening IORA even further.

We gather here during a historic year in South Africa's post-apartheid history. We celebrate the centenary year of two of our heroes and icons: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela under the theme: "Be the Legacy", and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo

Sisulu who dedicated her life to the service of her people under the theme: "A Woman of Fortitude". These celebrations are a major milestone in the incredible story of our nation's journey to freedom and liberation.

The legacy of former President Mandela lives on with us as he left an indelible mark on our society, having laid the foundation for a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society in South Africa. Internationally, President Mandela believed in working towards a peaceful, just and prosperous world. Similarly, for us in the Indian Ocean region, he left a legacy through his vision of an Indian Ocean Rim for socio-economic cooperation and other peaceful endeavours. Therefore, I am extremely pleased that this year's COM will honour and pay tribute to its founding father and global icon.

In this regard, I am delighted to introduce to you Her Excellency and HRH Princess Zenani Mandela-Dlamini. As the daughter of former President Mandela, and South Africa's current High Commissioner to the Republic of Mauritius where IORA is based, we could think of no better person to invite to attend the COM as a special guest, and with whom to engage at our special luncheon retreat on ways of "Enhancing the Mandela Legacy in IORA". We are humbled by your presence, Excellency.

Dear Colleagues,

This year's COM takes place at a critical time in global politics and international relations. The geostrategic importance and profile of the Indian Ocean region are growing rapidly, with an unprecedented focus and attention on the potential contribution that the region can and should be making towards global security, economic growth and sustainable development.

At a time when the coherence and stability of the global multilateral system are being tested severely, IORA provides us with a unique opportunity to enhance the spirit of multilateralism within one of

the most diverse regions of the world, comprising a heterogeneous mix of developed countries, developing countries, small island states and least developed countries.

IORA can become a beacon of hope for multilateralism and regional cooperation in the world. As a collective, we are taking this opportunity to build and expand our understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through IORA's consensus-based evolutionary and non-intrusive approach. As a group, we must use this approach to promote cohesiveness and unity within the region, while resisting the emerging and very real threat of geopolitical rivalry taking root in the Indian Ocean region. As member states of IORA, it is our space to protect and develop for the mutual benefit of all our peoples. We cannot do this alone.

Our vision for the region is encapsulated in our theme for our Chairship: "IORA: Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development". This theme encompasses South Africa's view that the Indian Ocean region should be characterised as a region of peace, stability and development; and we consider IORA as the pre-eminent regional organisation within which to pursue this ambitious goal.

Over the past year of our Chairship, we have been working tirelessly to strengthen the institution, including the Secretariat, and we were delighted to have hosted a Technical Workshop in Mauritius in March that was aimed at improving the capacity and efficiency of the Secretariat in supporting the IORA member state activities going forward. We would like to see such an engagement regularised on the calendar of IORA events annually.

As an association, we must be dynamic and make sure that our structures and processes can adapt to the shifts in global trends and our own priorities. The association's institutional structure, through the Charter, is thus also being reformed to ensure that



it is able to accommodate and respond to the new priorities and goals that we have identified in the Jakarta Concord and its Action Plan (2017 – 2021) to take the association into its third decade and beyond. A revised charter will give us this necessary flexibility and longevity.

To this end, we are establishing new dedicated functional bodies to deal specifically with IORA's priorities in areas such as maritime safety and security, the Blue Economy, women's economic empowerment and tourism. At the same time, we are also looking to revitalise existing institutional mechanisms to enhance trade and investment facilitation, with a focus on the promotion of small and medium enterprises, while also strengthening and increasing the role of academia in IORA, as was envisaged at the founding of the association.

As we have seen in Indonesia and around the world recently, the importance of improving resilience and responses for disaster risk management in the region cannot be overemphasised. This is an area of priority focus that we will need to take forward with haste, including the implementation of the IORA Memorandum of Understanding on Search and Rescue.

Sustainable and responsible fisheries management and development, including dealing with the important issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, are also priority issues that will receive attention during the remaining time of South Africa's Chairship.

Further, we are focussed on consolidating IORA's membership and look forward to considering the applications of countries wishing to join the association as full member states, along with an increasing interest among countries outside of the region to join IORA as dialogue partners. This is testament to the growing importance and relevance of this organisation globally, and we are developing mechanisms and criteria to deepen and broaden our engagement with, and support from, our dialogue partners.

Likewise, IORA continues to also develop and expand its relationships with international bodies and agencies, and we welcome a number of memoranda of understanding between IORA and international institutions, as well as among IORA member states for cooperation in areas such as search and rescue, and in promoting small and medium enterprises.

In conclusion, IORA is an organisation on the ascendency and one that cannot and should not be ignored.

Once more, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to South Africa. In the event that you may wish us to attend to any of your concerns during your stay in Durban, please do let us know and we shall do our best to respond accordingly. As I conclude, I would also like to thank the province of KwaZulu-Natal and the City of Durban, eThekweni, for their generosity and collaboration with us in hosting this meeting in this beautiful province.

I thank you.





# CHAPTER 7

SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE



**CHAPTER 7**  
**SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE**

**Opening address by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the South Africa Investment Conference,  
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, 26 October 2018**

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to this inaugural investment conference.

We are pleased and humbled that you have responded to the call by the Government and the people of South Africa to participate in this conference and thus be part of a new dawn in our country.

As representatives of the domestic and international investment community, as representatives of business organisations and international financial institutions, by your presence here, you have chosen to walk with us along the path of growth, employment and shared prosperity.

Like us, you believe that South Africa is a land of opportunity – a land where the soil is rich and the oceans teem with life, where the beautiful vistas of our country are spectacular and its diverse people are vibrant and resilient.

For you know that its people are its great wealth.

Like us, you believe that there is vast potential in South Africa; and that it has enormous potential that has been constrained for decades by narrow prejudice and debilitating human neglect.

Together with us, you celebrated the miracle of our peaceful transition to democracy.

You were there when we began to rebuild our economy and fundamentally change the fortunes of our people.

You witnessed both our achievements and our missteps.

You supported us and wanted us to succeed as you wished us well.

And when we stumbled, you looked on with concern and disillusionment when it seemed that we may

squander the remarkable inheritance of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Yet, throughout these difficulties, you have retained an abiding interest as both domestic and international business in the fortunes of this country.

We know that, like the people of South Africa, you have harboured a profound hope that we will prevail. This inaugural South Africa Investment Conference is therefore an expression of a shared hope and a renewed confidence.

It is a bold and unequivocal statement that we are determined to put behind us the period of uncertainty and discord and embrace a future of cooperation and partnership.

We are here to declare that we are determined to build a country that is driven by enterprise and innovation, to develop an economy that is diverse and resilient and prosperous, and to create companies that achieve sustained returns not only for their shareholders, but also for the workers that drive them and the communities that support them.

We are a country that is rich in ways that we often do not appreciate.

There are few places in the world that have the abundance of minerals that lie beneath the ground on which we now stand, that have the soil to sustain such a diversity of plants, crops, livestock and game, where the sun shines nearly all year around and where the golden beaches stretch on forever.

We have an incredible natural inheritance, whose economic and social value we have not yet even begun to effectively explore.

Our political and social inheritance, by contrast, is deeply contradictory.

Through decades of deliberate underdevelopment, the majority of South Africans were dispossessed of their land, assets and livelihoods, and denied the education and the skills that make meaningful participation in the economic life of the country possible.

The devastating effects of this manifest injustice still define our society and severely constrain our economic development.

The continued exclusion of millions of South Africans – particularly as it relates to skills and to ownership of assets – is the single greatest impediment to the growth of our economy and the development of our society.

It explains the persistence of poverty, unemployment and inequality nearly 25 years into our democracy. It is for this reason that we have placed economic growth and job creation at the centre of our national agenda.

It is for this reason too that we have prioritised the education of our children and the skilling of our workforce, and it is for this reason that we are accelerating the provision of land and other assets to the poor and marginalised.

And it is for this reason that in April this year we launched an ambitious and, in the history of our country, unprecedented, drive to raise at least US\$100 billion in new investment over five years.

We did so understanding that no meaningful growth and no significant job creation would be possible without a massive surge in productive investment in the economy.

Over the last half year, as we have prepared for this Investment Conference, our four Presidential investment envoys – Phumzile Langeni, Jacko Maree, Mcebisi Jonas and Trevor Manuel – have travelled across the country and around the globe to meet potential investors.

Invest SA, our award-winning investment promotion and facilitation agency, has compiled an investment book of projects that represent great potential.

Today, a number of local and international companies will make announcements on investments to expand

existing operations in the country or establish new ones.

In addition to the announcements that will be made at this conference, we have received investment pledges from a number of countries.

We have appointed task teams to work with these countries to convert these pledges into investments. We have emphasised the need for more South African companies to lead the investment charge, demonstrating that they have confidence in this economy and in its ability to deliver decent and reliable returns.

In furtherance of this, I call upon South African companies to engage with our investment envoys on their investment plans, including capital expenditure programmes, so that we can have a better idea as a nation what the future portends for our country on the economic growth landscape.

This conference takes place in the wake of a number of decisive measures we have embarked upon in the last few months to improve the investment environment.

Following thoroughgoing consultations with various role players in our economy, we have been addressing issues of policy uncertainty and regulatory obstacles that have impeded investments in a number of industries.

We have been working with the World Bank to improve the ease of doing business in South Africa and crafting a new Foreign Direct Investment strategy for the country.

Invest SA is intensifying its facilitation and aftercare service in terms of international best practice.

Together, we are working to fast-track investment projects and reduce red tape.

As part of the decisive measures that we have had to take, we have had to confront challenges in some of our largest and most strategic state-owned enterprises, which have experienced years of poor governance, a decline in financial and operational performance and corruption.

Given the crucial role of these state-owned enterprises in the economy, as providers of critical infrastructure

and bulk services, it is essential that they be restored as engines of growth and development.

We have replaced the leadership in several state-owned enterprises, ensuring that we have people with experience, integrity and the relevant skills who are now leading the development and implementation of sustainable business models.

As a country, we have also had to confront the bitter reality that several public entities have been severely affected by corruption and the phenomenon of state capture.

One of the urgent measures we have had to take is to end such corruption and hold those responsible to account.

We have established a commission of inquiry into state capture that has begun a thorough and far-reaching investigation into these practices.

We have also established a commission of inquiry into the South African Revenue Service and the Public Investment Corporation, institutions that are both vital to the effective functioning of our economy.

We are certain that these commissions will not only unearth all instances of malfeasance and governance failures, but will help to restore the integrity, credibility and effectiveness of these entities.

As we put in place the pillars of sustained growth into the future, we are working to address immediate concerns, specifically the effects of two quarters of negative economic growth.

Last month, government announced an economic stimulus and recovery plan that aims to restore growth, save existing jobs and create new ones.

As part of this plan, we are taking immediate steps to finalise reforms in key sectors like mining, oil and gas, tourism and telecommunications – all of which are sectors that have great potential for growth, but which have been constrained by policy uncertainty.

The revised Mining Charter has been finalised.

This is the outcome of extensive and meaningful consultation between government, community, labour and business and represents evidence of our commitment to solving the challenges in the sector collaboratively.

Government has decided to draft separate legislation for the oil and gas industry, settling a long-standing dispute that will provide direction and certainty to an industry with great potential.

Through the publication of a new Integrated Resource Plan for public comment, we have provided detail on the country's future energy requirements.

Government also signed off a number of outstanding renewal energy supply agreements, bringing significant further investment into a growing sector of our economy.

We have finalised consultations with the telecommunications industry and other stakeholders to ensure the allocation of spectrum reduces barriers to entry, promotes competition and reduces costs to consumers.

Our independent communications regulator is now preparing to license available high-demand spectrum.

We have initiated a review of our visa regime to facilitate greater arrivals of tourists, highly skilled individuals, business people and investors.

We are reprioritising our budget – within the existing fiscal framework – to invest more in those activities that will boost growth, including agriculture, township and rural businesses, and infrastructure.

We do so in a severely restricted fiscal environment. As the Minister of Finance indicated when presenting his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement earlier in the week, we are determined to ensure public spending remains within sustainable levels – and that we generate greater revenue by pursuing growth with a single-minded determination.

We see infrastructure investment as a critical enabler of growth and job creation, and are therefore

consolidating government infrastructure spending into a single Infrastructure Fund.

We intend to use that fund to leverage investments from development finance institutions, multilateral development banks, asset managers and commercial banks.

A dedicated team will oversee the implementation of an extensive infrastructure programme covering areas like water, transport, energy, telecommunications and social infrastructure.

Despite the challenges of the present, our economy has several fundamental strengths that make it a suitable destination for investment.

South Africa has established a diversified manufacturing base that has shown its resilience and potential to compete in the global economy.

Yesterday, I had occasion to open the R1-billion Gibela passenger train manufacturing factory in this province.

The investment is a collaboration between Alstom from France and a local consortium made up of black businesses and the community.

The factory employs 800 workers, of whom half are women.

We applaud this investment as it confirms South Africa's manufacturing capability.

Multinationals with a presence in South Africa cite numerous advantages, from excellent financial systems to world-class infrastructure.

South Africa is a regional manufacturing and services hub on the African continent, and, for many companies, serves as a base to export products globally.

We have done much work in recent years to improve investment incentives, establishing, for example, several special economic zones across the country, each having unique offerings for investors.

These include ready infrastructure for business development, reduced costs for key inputs such as land, water and electricity, and reduced corporate tax rates.

We are determined that our economic policy must facilitate inclusive growth.

Given our country's history of dispossession, and the continued economic exclusion of millions of our people, we have a responsibility to bring all our people into the economic mainstream.

Earlier this month, we convened a Presidential Jobs Summit, which brought together government, business, labour and the community sector to determine a set of practical, achievable interventions that would increase the pace of job creation.

The Jobs Summit agreed on more than 70 focussed interventions that will, among other things, boost domestic demand, increase and broaden exports, create pathways for young people into work and develop sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and the waste economy.

In addition, we are intensifying work to build a robust and effective education and skills development system that equips our youth for the workplace of tomorrow.

It is important to note that seven of South Africa's universities are in top 500 in the world.

There are nearly a million students in higher education, and there has been a marked increase in science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates.

We have implemented policies to promote black economic empowerment, to provide black people, women and people with disability with the assets and opportunities they need to participate more meaningfully in economic activity.

Another area that is critical to economic transformation is land reform, which is currently a focus of intense debate across South African society.

There is general agreement among most South Africans that we need to accelerate land reform not only to redress a historical injustice, but also to effectively unlock the economic potential of the country's land.

We have appointed an Advisory Panel on Land Reform, which comprises people with extensive experience in farming, policy development, academia and law.

The panel will advise government on the implementation of a fair and equitable land reform process that redresses the injustices of the past, increases agricultural output, promotes economic growth and protects food security.

We are committed as government to pursue a comprehensive approach to land and agrarian reform that ensures transformation, development and stability, while providing certainty to those who own land, to those who need land and to those who are considering investing in the economy.

Our approach reaffirms the constitutional protection of property rights, which, among other things, prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of property.

Together with robust legislation to protect foreign investments, an independent judiciary and the firm rule of law, our Constitution should allay any fears that investors may have of factories being expropriated. South Africa's strategic position at the tip of Africa, makes it a key investment location, both for opportunities that lie within its borders and as a gateway to the rest of the region.

Earlier this year, African heads of state agreed to the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area that will provide access to a market of more than 1,2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of more than \$3,4 trillion.

This will fundamentally transform the economies of many African countries and will further enhance the attractiveness of South Africa – with its diverse manufacturing base, advanced infrastructure and sophisticated financial sector – as a compelling investment destination.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As South Africa emerges from a period of great difficulty and uncertainty, as it confronts challenges that are immense – but not insurmountable – we can declare with confidence that South Africa is a land of untold opportunity.

It is a land that has known the pain of division and conflict and deprivation.

But, equally, it has experienced the exhilaration of liberation and knows very well the value of partnership and collaboration.

It is therefore our great pleasure to invite you to become our partners in realising the great possibilities that this country has to offer.

We invite you to invest in our mines and factories, farms and game parks, call centres and technology hubs, refineries and solar farms.

We invite you to invest in our people, to harness their energy and unleash their latent capabilities.

We invite you to become valued partners in realising the vision – and sharing the benefits – of a new era of renewal, an era of discovery, an era of prosperity and progress and promise.

I thank you.