

PART 3:

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE



Jubilant performers celebrating the African Union.

PART 3: PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

AIM OF THE VOTE

To be appropriated by Vote: R 2 479 623 000

Statutory appropriations: R1 000

Responsible Minister: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

Administering Department: Department of Foreign Affairs

Accounting Officer: Acting Director-General, Mr AS Minty

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the lead agency responsible for the formulation, co-ordination, implementation and management of South Africa's foreign policy and international relations programmes throughout the world.

KEY OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES

Our foreign policy objectives are anchored on the theoretical and conceptual framework of the African Renaissance. The vision of the African Renaissance has enabled us to develop

a programme of Africa's renewal, NEPAD. The latter will fundamentally alter the relationship between Africa and the developed world, and strengthen the bonds of solidarity between Africa and the South. Its successful implementation will help lift Africa from the abyss of poverty and underdevelopment, thereby drawing us closer to the realisation of the vision of the African Renaissance. The implementation of NEPAD is therefore a major priority.

The AU, and its building blocks, the Regional Economic Communities, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will be



NEPAD will bring Africa closer to the realisation of the African century.

the main engine driving the implementation of NEPAD. As the first Chairperson of the AU, South Africa has major responsibilities on its shoulders to ensure that the main Organs of the AU, especially the Commission (Secretariat) are operational as soon as possible. This will lay a firm foundation for the development of the continental organisation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs projects and protects the interests of South Africa, Africa and the developing world through a range of bilateral and multilateral engagements. It aims to ensure that those interests are heard, understood and promoted in the exercise of international affairs and global policy-making processes.

South Africa's engagement with these processes is shaped and guided by five broad themes captured in the vision of the African Renaissance. Accelerating growth and development to address the basic needs of the poor in the developing world; building the South African economy; combating international and cross-border crime; promoting democracy and good governance; and building a better Africa and a better world.

The Department's objectives were realised through five programmes:

- *Administration* provides for the overall policy development, execution and management of the Department.
- *Foreign relations* involve the promotion of relations with countries, and participation in international organisations and institutions, in pursuit of South Africa's national values and foreign policy objectives.
- *Public Diplomacy and Protocol* promote an understanding, both domestically and internationally of South Africa's foreign policy objectives, project a positive image of South Africa's role and position in international relations, and provide protocol services.
- *Foreign Properties* provide secure, economical housing and office accommodation to all staff members abroad, and maintain immovable property abroad.
- *Auxiliary and Associated Services* provide for the payment of membership fees to international organisations, transfer payments and support services for all officials on transfer abroad, make provision for the inauguration of the President .

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our Foreign Policy objectives, priorities and activities although broad, nevertheless support the country's five key strategic priorities, namely:

- speeding up delivery of basic needs and developing human resources;
- building the economy and creating jobs;
- combating crime and corruption;
- transforming the state;
- building a better Africa and a better world.

These fundamental priorities inform and direct the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs as we go about our business of projecting South Africa's domestic values and national interests abroad. All these elements are captured within the holistic vision of an African Renaissance bringing its wake peace, prosperity, democracy, sustainable development, progressive leadership and good governance.

The African continent and, in particular, the Southern African

region therefore commands the highest priority for the Department.

Our focus is shifting from the conceptualisation of the African Renaissance to its operationalisation through the initiative currently known as "NEPAD" – the New Partnership for African Development. South Africa has been involved in developing the NEPAD, and together with key African partners, is in the process of elaborating a programme of action for its practical implementation and is the host of NEPAD secretariat. Beyond Africa, the Department's multilateral engagements and its leadership within the South bloc of developing countries, are driven by its desire to contribute towards the creation of a more equitable and humane world for all of humankind. The Department identified six key strategic priorities for 2002/03 financial year:

- Facilitating the successful transition from OAU to AU and hosting the Inaugural Summit of the AU and ensuring that those programmes which are transferred to the AU are in line with NEPAD objectives.
- Working towards the restructuring of SADC and physical creation of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Institutions.



Working towards peace, stability and security: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and United Nations Special Envoy for Congo, Mr Moustapha Niasse, at the Signing Ceremony of the DRC peace accord.

- Focusing on the implementation of NEPAD with particular reference to the five priorities identified by Heads of State Implementation Committee, namely:
 - Capacity Building
 - Economic and corporate governance
 - Banking and financial sector
 - Regional infrastructure project
 - Market Access and Agriculture
- Working towards peace, stability and security through conflict management, arms control and reduction, disaster management,

sovereignty and territorial integrity, and protecting South Africans abroad.

- Facilitating sustainable foreign direct investment, international trade, tourism, multilateral co-operation, environmental conservation and building regional and international co-operation on human resource development and health.
- Focusing on Imaging and Branding by projecting a positive image of South Africa and Africa, enhancing understanding of the country's foreign policy objectives, and ensuring that the message of its leaders is better understood across the world.

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND KEY POLICY

DEVELOPMENTS: 2002/03

A significant implication of the democratic process that took place during the 1990's was the re-admission of South Africa to the community of nations. As a country, this re-admission held many important challenges. It demanded that South Africa consolidate international support through the establishment of diplomatic relations, and by securing membership to continental and international institutions. Essentially, this period was used to position South Africa's foreign policy to protect our sovereignty and to promote our national interests. However, as our profile in the region, on the continent and in the rest of the world grew phenomenally, the responsibilities of government multiplied.

Internally, the Department, like all others in the public service had to be reconstituted in order to align with the policies of the government of the day and the new Constitution. Among the challenges in this regard was the integration of the various administrations

and the realisation of foreign service that is representative of the country and its demographic profile.

During this period, attention also had to be paid to review and refocus the principles and priorities that govern our foreign policy. In addition, South Africa, our region and continent is faced with the challenges of rapidly changing and evolving international system. The phenomenon of globalisation has come to take on an ever increasing significance to nation states and the region in which they belong. Our focus and pursuit of the vision of the African Renaissance is predicated upon this understanding, that as South Africa our success and prosperity is inextricably linked to

the well-being and progress of our region and continent.

Subsequently, South Africa has become a key negotiator on global issues and in contributing to the development of a more equitable and just world. This pattern of engagement and role for South Africa shows no sign of abating, on the contrary all indication point in the direction of an increased role, hence the need for more resources if South Africa is to meet those challenges.

South Africa has become a key negotiator on global issues and in contributing to the development of more equitable and just world.

FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

South Africa's leadership roles in pursuit of its foreign policy objectives included:

- Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 2001, the Commonwealth from 2000 to 2001, and the Organisation of African Unity in 2002.
- Host of the World Conference on HIV/AIDS in 2000, the Non-Aligned Movement Conference in 1999 and the World Conference Against Racism (UN) in 2001, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.
- Supporting the establishment of the AU and the hosting of AU summit in 2002.
- The Department has been involved in the functional improvement of both regional and continental structures, i.e. the review of the OAU and SADC and its institutions.
- Promoting peace and stability in countries such as Sierra Leone, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Angola, Comoros and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Promoting the interests of developing countries with regard to poverty reduction, debt relief and the democratisation of international relations, in high-level interaction with developed countries through its work at the G-20 of the International Monetary Fund, discussions with the G-8 at their Summits, and initiatives at other United Nations fora.
- South Africa played a significant role in obtaining pledges of support for NEPAD that have taken the form of Declarations of Intent and offers of political and material assistance that will advance its objectives.
- South Africa played a significant role in the successful conclusion of the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).



*Forging new partnerships:
Deputy President
Jacob Zuma,
President Olusegun
Obasanjo and
President Thabo
Mbeki.*

New co-operative partnerships and alliances have been developed with states, regions and organisations including Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria, the United States of America, Brazil, Argentina, Britain, Malaysia and China, among others. Regional

and multilateral alliances include the Southern African Development Community, the European Union, the Economic and Custom Union of Southern American States, the Caribbean Community, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

AIM

The programme conducts the overall policy development, execution and management of the Department. It provides for policy formulation by the Minister, Deputy Minister, Director-General and other members of the Department's management. Other functions include organising the Department; rendering streamlined and co-ordinated administrative, office support and parliamentary services; managing Departmental personnel and finances; determining working methods and procedures; and exercising control. The programme also provides for the consular and agency services in Pretoria and abroad, and the purchase of vehicles for Departmental use.

PROGRAMME POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The Ministry and Department focused on the enhanced working of the IRPS Cluster as part of government's collaborative governance system to ensure that all relevant parties participate in foreign policy planning and implementation. The Ministry and Department have taken the lead in defining the elements of the African Renaissance for Continental and international action, and focused on the implementation of the plans and strategies related to this policy focus.

Developments internationally and in particular on the Continent mean that the Minister was increasingly and more frequently involved in the search for peaceful solutions to the problems of Africa, in particular regarding the DRC conflict; the tensions in the Great Lakes region; the Sierra Leone conflict; the Ethiopia/ Eritrea war; Burundi and Angola.

The Ministry and Department was actively involved in the preparations for World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)- 2002, the development towards establishment of the AU as South Africa was preparing to take over the chair of OAU in 2002 and the hosting of the AU Summit.

With the return of South Africa to the international community of nations, the demands made on the Department and its missions abroad for consular and agency services and support grew at



South African citizens and businesses are increasingly active in all corners of the globe: Dr Danisa Baloyi, among others, participated during the AU Business Summit.

an increasing rate. South African citizens and businesses are increasingly active in all corners of the globe, and regularly required support from the Department. Furthermore, South Africa was being visited by an increasing number of tourists, businesspersons and delegations who likewise required support and advice prior to arrival in South Africa.

• CORPORATE SERVICES

Mindful of the importance of a corporate service function in supporting management in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities, we state the following key objectives we undertook to pursue as well as reflect on the outputs produced for the financial year under review.

KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Facilitation and execution of Department's transformation objectives
- Implementation of robust network infrastructure
- Delivery on Training and Development
- Conclusion of Foreign Property Bill
- Performance Management System.

OUTPUT AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS:

The past year has seen a number of developments and initiatives in the Branch Corporate Services in its endeavour to provide quality support services to Departmental management and staff responsible

for delivering other business lines. Despite the chronic capacity problems that the Branch had to contend with, the achievements attained during the year under review would not have been possible had it not been for the selfless commitment, passion, perseverance, loyalty, dedication and tenacity of staff in the Branch.

Achievements and outputs produced during the financial year 2002/03 are covered under the respective business units as follows:

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The Public Finance Management Act and the Treasury Regulations, and the need to improve financial management inform the strategic intent of the Chief Directorate.

The Chief Directorate comprises the following components viz Directorates Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Supply Chain Management, Support Services Asset and Lease Management and a PFMA Monitoring Unit. The major outputs that the chief directorate accomplished in the realisation of the key strategic objectives of the Branch are outlined out below.

- The relevant sections of the Foreign Service Administration Code which is a reference and guideline document to support the foreign missions has been revised in line with the Public Finance Management Act and the Treasury Regulations.
- As for the prospective Heads of Management, Heads of Missions as well as Foreign Affairs Assistants taking up their respective positions, training on the relevant sections relating to Finance were provided. To further enhance good corporate governance, the Department also finalised its financial delegations, which were approved and signed off by the Acting Director-General.
- The Department was committed and forged aHead to acquire a new financial accounting system to link missions to Head Office. This will provide on line expenditure on a daily basis, affecting Programme 2: Foreign Relations, which will ensure that realistic and reliable financial information is provided to National Treasury on a monthly basis. The implementation will be fast tracked during the 2003/2004 financial year.
- Production of the Departmental Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2004-2006.
- Presentation of financial performance and budget to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.
- Training of Foreign representatives on budget preparation and control.
- Databases of SMMEs and BEEs were developed to empower these target groups and are currently used for the procurement of goods and services.
- The Departmental fleet of vehicles consisting of 80 vehicles, most of which were provided by the Government Garage, but were not in very satisfactory condition. This fleet was reduced to 40 vehicles during 2002/2003.
- Industry best practice was followed to ensure that the current fleet of vehicles was managed in a manner that promotes the principle of cost effectiveness.
- **The Department embarked on a process of replacing all GG vehicles. Analysis found that it was more economical for the Department to purchase/maintain/ manage it's own fleet of vehicles than to rent vehicles.**
- During 2002/2003 the Department purchased 4 vehicles to augment the fleet. The newly acquired vehicles have contributed to a more reliable service delivery to Department's officials.

Chief Information Officer

ICT was in the process of updating all computer systems at missions from a text-based, terminal environment based on UNIX to networked graphical workstations based on Windows NT. This was to improve the functionality of the missions by providing updated office programs such as MS Word, Excel and Outlook. This was also meant to bring the missions in line with the functionality at Head Office thus doing away with double training.

Conference support: AU, WSSD, Congolese dialogue and Heads of Mission (HOM).

ICT Chief Directorate has provided the data, computer and communications infrastructure at major government conferences such as the Inaugural Summit of the AU, WSSD, the Congolese Dialogue and the HOM. ICT also provided user support during the events to delegates, the media and Department's staff. Secure, encrypted links were also established to enable secure communications for staff between the venues and Head Office in Pretoria.

Presidential visits: Operations room support

ICT technical staff provided remote operations rooms for the Presidency on visits abroad. These operations rooms were sometimes located in areas where there was no reliable telecommunications. In these situations portable satellite terminals were installed to provide reliable communications.

Relocation to Tulbagh Park

Approximately 50% of Department staff were housed in the Northvaal and Ad Astra buildings. This staff was relocated to Tulbagh Park during October/November 2002.

ICT was responsible for the installation of the cable infrastructure, telephone and network facilities for this project. In order to ensure that the Department did not lose its primary telephone number, provisions were made for the replacement of the primary node telephone system and its installation in the Hamilton Street building. This relocation required the redirection of the inter-building PABX links. The whole project had to be planned to provide a minimum down time for the Department. A



One of Department's office buildings: Tulbagh Park.

special operations room was set up at Tulbagh Park to enable users to access their messages while their furniture, etc., was being moved. A temporary telephone service, using the same extension numbers was set up to enable users to be reachable

during the move. There was no downtime for the users during the relocation. This was achieved in spite of the staff shortage in ICT. This success is a tribute to the dedication of the ICT staff.

Conversion to BAS

National Treasury determined that all Departments should have converted to the new BAS (Basic Accounting System) with effect from 1 April 2003. This placed much strain on personnel who had to devote attention to book closure for the financial year 2002/03. Despite this the ICT together with National Treasury and directorates within the Office of the CFO undertook the conversion. Numerous problems were encountered and innovative solutions had to be put in place to facilitate the transfer. BAS has been successfully implemented but a backlog exists on the processing of payments due to the shortage of IP addresses. A server has been installed that will address this issue.

Challenges and Projects

The Secure Virtual Private Network (SVPN) network to allow basis for Knowledge and Information Management:

The continuing development of the SVPN in conjunction with SITA, is aimed at providing missions with a faster and more cost-effective medium for communications. The SVPN will make use

of the Internet and satellite communications systems to provide the service. This will also pave the way for a more efficient financial management system and the introduction of knowledge management at missions that will further improve efficiency. The equipment for the Test Lab is being procured through SITA who will also assist with the setting-up of the Test Lab. The test lab will verify and confirm the functionality of the SVPN.

Development of a Master Systems Plan for the Department

The Department decided that it was necessary to develop a Master Systems Plan (MSP) and hence appointed a consortium made up of Kgorong Investment Holdings, African Legend Technologies and PriceWaterHouse Coopers, to undertake the MSP investigation. The investigation has reached the stage of the first interim report being submitted by the consortium. This process is being managed for the Department by SITA. A SLA has been concluded with SITA in this regard. It is expected that the MSP investigation will be completed by July 2003.

Aggressive recruitment and training of appropriate personnel

A major challenge facing ICT was and continue to be the recruitment and training of appropriate technical and IT skilled people to join the ICT team in supporting the Department's Strategic Goals. Suitable candidates for vacancies continue to be aggressively sought. The successful candidates will be placed on accelerated training to be able to make them productive in the DFA ICT environment as quickly as possible.

Planned Projects for next year

The next year will see the completion of the Master Systems Plan and the start of the implementation of the recommendations. The SVPN project will also be implemented at the major overseas missions and the SADC missions.

A new project will be initiated to update and replace the current foreign currency system. The new system will utilise the SVPN for communications, and enable the missions and the Department to more readily meet the financial reporting requirements of National

Treasury. This project will also be run in conjunction with SITA.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources exists to provide support and ensure that Business Units are in a position to deliver on their objectives. This is achieved through various facilitative HR processes, some mentioned below.

Training and Development

In the year under review the training and development of staff was looked into, through a training needs analysis. The results highlighted specific developmental areas and informed the process of sourcing appropriate courses and service providers. It is our intention next year to intensify this. Focus will also be given to learnerships.

HR Administration

This component ensured that the Department complied with all the necessary administrative prescripts and requirements,



The Foreign Service Institute continued to ensure that South Africa's diplomatic corps is well trained.

and also implemented directives from DPSA accordingly. In partnership with the Labour Relations component, the Section ensured that the Department fully implemented Resolution no. 7. It provided administrative support and information which enabled the Departmental Task Team on Resolution 7 (DTT) to function effectively. In the process the Persal System was cleaned up and

now has accurate data.

Employment Equity

The Department continued ensuring that Employment Equity requirements are met, through the various processes of Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development. The inability to recruit and select due to Resolution No. 7 impacted on the Department's ability in order to fully utilise Recruitment and Selection to impact on the Departmental Employment Equity Profile.

Management Consultancy Unit

The Management Consultancy Unit (MCU) strives to promote the successful and optimal functioning of South African Missions abroad, which includes the optimal utilisation of mission resources, including staff.

During the reporting period, the MCU produced three reports on the reporting performance of missions abroad. In addition, the MCU visited the following missions to do performance evaluations:

Port Louis, Accra, Kuala Lumpur, London, Budapest, Warsaw, Lagos and Abuja. Comprehensive output reports with findings, specific recommendations and action plans to achieve optimal functioning of the above-mentioned missions were compiled after each visit and submitted for implementation.

Foreign Service Institute

During the period under review the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) offered several training programmes, which provided participants with management, administration, language and leadership skills to enable them to manage missions competently and to meet the challenges of global diplomacy. The FSI equipped participants with the necessary skills to effectively function in a mission environment. The following programmes were offered: Heads of Mission Orientation, Diplomatic Training, Mission Administration, and Mission Foreign Affairs Assistants Training. English and Foreign Language Training was offered not only to officials in the Department but also to other Departments and diplomats from SADC countries. Orientation Programmes for Spouses and

Partner Departments were facilitated to familiarize participants, prior to their first posting, with the role and functions of South African missions abroad as well as to sensitize them to key issues pertaining to their role as South African representatives abroad.

The FSI made significant progress in the following areas:

- The Standards Generating Body (SGB) for Diplomacy and Mission Administration was established and launched. Draft unit standards and Learnership Programmes were produced and are in the process of being finalised.
- The Language Institute initiated the establishment of an SGB for Foreign Languages with the support and participation of specialists from the Further and Higher Education and Training sectors representing seven foreign languages. Unit standards are currently being drafted.
- All training programmes offered were redesigned and aligned with the outcome based education approach (OBE).
- A draft training policy was developed.
- Training in terms of equity targets was improved.

Having realized the challenges facing the FSI, the Department initiated a project to reposition and transform the FSI. In the coming year the challenge for the FSI will be to drive this transformation agenda, which is aimed at increasing its capability to become a leading and recognized Training Institute that is well positioned to contribute towards creating outstanding diplomats who will continue taking a leading role on the African continent and in the international arena.

SECURITY

In the coming year the challenges for the newly established Security Directorate, is to establish a Departmental Security Committee in accordance with the approved Departmental operational structure:

- To compile all the necessary security policies to ensure that the Department complies with and adheres to all the relevant Acts of Parliament, Minimum Information Security Standards and all

other relevant rules and regulations.

- To conduct continuous security awareness programmes within the Department to inform and sensitize all officials of the content of prescripts and forthcoming actions, ensuring participation and compliance regarding the protection of personnel, property, information and all other assets
- To restructure the Directorate into sub directorates Operational Security, Administration Security and Mission Security and appoint competent personnel to render services to Head Office, Missions abroad and the public at large.

CONSULAR AND AGENCY SERVICES

Consular and Agency Services strive to provide a world class consular service to South African citizens abroad in accordance with the Batho Pele Principles and in line with the Department's strategic direction. The following selection of consular interventions are highlighted:

- Assistance to 713 SA citizens detained or imprisoned abroad;
- Return of mortal remains of 86 deceased SA citizens;
- General assistance to about 764 distressed SA citizens abroad and their relatives in RSA;
- Assistance rendered in 5 712 cases of service of process, evidence on commission, extradition, maintenance orders, etc;
- Determined the whereabouts of approximately 242 SA citizens abroad and that of 29 foreign nationals in the RSA;
- Assisted with 64 social welfare cases, e.g. with cases involving abductions and adoptions;
- Assisted in dealing with scams and other fraudulent activities, approximately 589 cases;
- Legalised/authenticated approximately 14 807 documents;
- Assisted after the 12 October Bali bomb blasts. An inter-Departmental task team was constituted and Foreign Affairs

(Consular) played a leading role in:

- located 90 reportedly missing citizens and informed family members;
- liaison and arrangements with forensic experts in Bali, Australia and South Africa;
- arrangements to enable family members to be by the bedside of the injured in Australia;
- liaison and arrangements with various airline companies, hotels, foreign missions in RSA, and private individuals, for family members of two victims to attend a memorial service in Taiwan;
- arrangements for the transport of mortal remains to RSA for burial; and
- lending constant moral support to affected families throughout their ordeals.

PROGRAMME 2: FOREIGN RELATIONS

AIM

To promote relations with foreign countries, and to participate in international organisations and institutions, in pursuit of South Africa's national values and foreign policy objectives.

While all the objectives are applicable to all regions, the emphasis may differ depending on current circumstances and/or anticipated developments within the region. The focus or priority areas for the Department for each region, and international organisations and institutions, is outlined under the Sub-Programmes below:

SUB-PROGRAMMES:

Bilateral relations with Africa and the Middle East, Asia and Australasia, and Europe and Americas

The following focus or priority policy objectives varied according to region/country:

- Implementation of NEPAD programmes
- The effective and efficient functioning of the AU
- Conflict prevention, management and resolution and peace building
- Economic Development and co-operation
- Poverty Alleviation
- Increased bilateral co-operation
- Imaging and branding.



The South African pavillion at the WSSD, where the Department's stand won "the best small exhibition" award.

Multilateral Relations

These relate to groups and instances where a number of states agree to co-operate to address common issues. As such numerous global and regional institutions and organisations have emerged and require that the Department engage these to protect and

promote South Africa's national values. Common approaches and solutions result in the adoption of resolutions and/or the signing of Protocols, Conventions and Regimes.

The Conventions, Protocols and Regimes that South Africa becomes party to become domestic law in terms of the South

African Constitution. Hence the Department participated in the Regimes and in the implementation of the relevant obligations, in order that we did not breach or come into non-compliance with our legal obligations.

The scope of activities undertaken included the following:

- Ensuring that the agenda and programme of WTO are in support of Africa's initiatives such as NEPAD.
- Securing support and commitment from the developed world for the objectives of the South,
- Playing an active role in shaping the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) process, the Summit itself and its outcomes, taking into account innovative South-South co-operation and North-South partnerships on sharing responsibilities for sustainable development in a fair and equitable manner.
- Actively participating in the International Institutions and Organisations to promote the needs of the developing world and the agenda of the South.
 - Dealt with bilateral and international legal matters, and

rendered legal advice on request.

PROGRAMME POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Bilateral Relations with Africa and the Middle East:

- Continued to promote and implement NEPAD especially in five key sectors and projects: capacity building, economic and corporate governance, the banking and financial sector, regional infra-structural project and market access and agriculture.
- Hosted the first AU summit and played a leading role in the establishment of AU structures and management of the transition.
- Assisted in the promotion of peace, stability and security in Africa and the Middle East.
- Promoted regional co-operation and integration by ensuring the early implementation of SADC protocols, especially those on Free Trade, as well as Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation and the decisions of the SADC Review and Rationalisation process.

- Enhanced bilateral relations with all countries in Africa and the Middle East.
- Promoted trade with African and Middle East countries and worked towards attracting higher levels of foreign direct investment into South Africa.
- Promoted and ensured the smooth functioning of the African Renaissance Fund.

Bilateral Relations With Asia And Australasia

- Focused on the promotion of trade, investment, tourism and skills development, emphasised on the Greater China region, Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Australia
- Aligned economic co-operation/ programmes with China, Japan, India and IOR-ARC with the objectives of NEPAD
- Continued to combat transnational crime through the negotiation and conclusion of co-operation agreements with China, India and Thailand
- Developed ties between SADC, Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Asia's regional organisations, including

ASEAN

- Utilised opportunities in China, Japan, Australia and Pakistan, for intelligence co-operation and skills development which better equipped South Africa to execute its international peace-keeping responsibilities.

Bilateral Relations with Europe and the Americas:

- Continued promoting NEPAD in Europe and the Americas and securing the involvement and ongoing commitment of targeted countries in Europe and the Americas (particularly the G8) in NEPAD projects
- Increased investment from Europe and the Americas
- Promoted trade with the countries of Europe and the Americas
- Promoted South-South co-operation with Latin American and Caribbean countries
- Co-operated in human resource development and capacity building
- Promoted tourism in countries of Europe and the Americas.

Multilateral Relations:

- Promoted South African leadership and interests in international, regional and sub-regional fora
- Continued promoting NEPAD and people centred sustainable development, including the hosting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
- Promoted peace, security and stability, including conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as the combating terrorism, transnational crime, extremism, and the prevention of arms proliferation
- Promoted democracy and good governance
- Focused on World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Investment Council
- Developed a co-ordinated strategy in consultation with the DTI to promote expeditious ratification of TDCA
- Promoted the role of other multilateral/regional institutions
- Prioritised participation in the reform of the United Nations (UN) and its various organs, including the Security Council
- Pursued contact with the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in

both the commercial and defence fields as well as supported the development of links between SADC and the GCC

- Explored possibilities of further co-ordination with ASEAN countries on multilateral issues

OUTPUTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

TRENDS:

- **AFRICA**

South Africa's foreign policy programme is aimed at supporting the rapid delivery of basic needs to our people; developing human resources; building the economy and creating jobs; combating crime and corruption; transforming the state; and building a better Africa and a better world. Therefore, South Africa's role within the vision of Africa's rebirth is aimed at promoting peace, prosperity, democracy, sustainable development, progressive leadership and good governance. Thus, Africa, and in particular, the Southern African region, remains the core focus of our foreign policy.

The rebirth, revival and renewal of Africa are encapsulated in



Aiding Africa to re-emerge as a significant partner in a new world order: Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Minister Alec Erwin and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma consulting during the Seventy-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU.

the vision of an African Renaissance and in the belief that this will truly be the African Century. The African Renaissance vision is an all-embracing concept that draws its inspiration from the rich and diverse history and cultures of Africa. It acknowledges Africa as the cradle of humanity, whilst providing a framework for the modern Africa to re-emerge as a significant partner in the New World order. This framework touches on all areas of human endeavour; political,

economic, social, technological, environmental and cultural. The concept of the African Renaissance has been transformed into a tangible reality through the development and the adoption of the African Union's principal agenda for development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

In order to give practical expression to our foreign policy objectives, the priority areas of the International Relations, Peace and

Security (IRPS) Cabinet Cluster committee in 2002/03 included:

- **AFRICAN RENAISSANCE**, through:
 - (i) the Launching and Operationalisation of the African Union;
 - (ii) Restructuring the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU); and
 - (iii) Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
- **PEACE, STABILITY AND SECURITY**; and
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION.**

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

Launching and Operationalisation of the African Union

The Inaugural Summit of the African Union held in Durban from 28 June to 10 July 2002, and the adoption of NEPAD as Africa's principal agenda for development, were significant developments. The Summit launched the African Union with some of its key Organs in place. This happened during the 1st Session of the Assembly of

the Union. Three of the eighteen Organs of the AU have already been established, namely the Assembly, the Executive Council, and the Permanent Representatives Committee. The Assembly has also adopted the Statutes of the Commission.

During the Summit a number of far-reaching decisions were adopted, including the establishment of a Peace and Security Council; the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action Plan; the African Peer Review Mechanism, the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance; the need for a Common African Defence and Security Policy; the Conference on Stability, Security, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA) Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation; and decisions on conflict situations in Africa as well as the Middle East. The Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretaries-General and the Staff of the General Secretariat of the OAU were designated as the Interim Commission until this organ is formally established at the next Summit in Maputo in July 2003.

The 5th Extraordinary Summit in Sirte adopted the Protocol

establishing the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on 2 March 2001. During the past year, the following eleven member states had signed and ratified the said Protocol: Botswana, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Togo. Nineteen other states had signed the Protocol, but are yet to ratify it. The Interim Chair of the Commission, in consultation with the Speaker of the National Assembly, will, on 28 April 2003, meet with representatives of countries that have ratified the Protocol in order to discuss the operationalisation of the PAP.

With regard to the establishment of the remaining organs of the AU, South Africa's National Treasury is leading the process of



Peace and Security is a prerequisite for Africa's development: Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Ambassador Mamabolo and the AU Director for Peace and Security during the Common Defence policy meeting of experts held in Randburg, Johannesburg.

developing the South African position on the policies/ Protocols for the Financial Institutions. Thus far, offers to host all three Financial Institutions have been received from Ghana and Togo. In addition, Botswana and Kenya have offered to host the African Investment Bank, whilst Namibia offered to host the African Monetary Fund.

In 2002, the Interim Commission was requested to convene a meeting of continental legal experts and Ambassadors to develop Terms of Reference and parameters for the African Court of Justice by May 2003. A Ministers' meeting in Mauritius may follow immediately after the meeting. within the same context, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Tanzania and Mauritius have each

offered to host the Court of Justice.

The organs of the AU that have been launched so far are all “state related” and none of the ‘Peoples Organs’ had become operational during the reporting period. This situation is critical, because in the various meetings held during 2002, concern about alienating the people in the establishment of the Union had been expressed, and a commitment had been given to ensure the urgent involvement of civil society organisations and professional bodies in the process. To this end, it is necessary to finalise the proposals for the launching of ECOSOC and also to find ways and means of expediting the process of states ratifying the Protocol relating to the Pan-African Parliament.

During the year under review, proposals for amendment of the Constitutive Act of the AU by member states focussed on two main themes, namely, the strengthening and technical ‘clean-up’ of the Constitutive Act (proposals were received from Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania and Côte d’Ivoire); and enhancing the continental integration process towards the early establishment of a ‘United States of Africa’ or a ‘Federation of African

States’ (proposals were received from Libya and Senegal). An Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa took place from 3 to 4 February 2003 to consider the proposed amendments of the Act. Only technical and clean-up amendments were made, e.g. relating to the gender sensitisation of the Constitutive Act. No changes were adopted that would have changed the face of the AU.

During the past year, two crucial matters impeded the process of funding within the AU, namely the state of arrears in terms of membership contributions, and the inadequate and/or outdated financial administrative procedures used by the Interim Commission and its regional offices. Consequently, the following member states are currently under sanctions (mainly prohibiting them from speaking at meetings): Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

Financial experts are expected to propose innovative ways and means for the AU to utilise resources taking into consideration the



Creating stronger links among SADC members: a cultural group from Botswana performing at the SADC multi-disciplinary concert held in Pretoria.

capacity of member states to contribute funds as well as funds from co-operating partners. This could include a review of the scale of assessments as a source of funding for the programmes and projects of the AU and the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The matter was considered by the Executive Council meeting in Chad during March 2003, but another meeting of the relevant Ministerial Committee has been proposed to consider the matter further at Sun City during the next financial year.

Restructuring of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

Great progress has been made in the restructuring of SADC. The objective of the restructuring of SADC was to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its policies and programmes and to implement a more coherent and better co-ordinated strategy to eliminate poverty in the region. The salient features of the

restructuring included a more streamlined and centralised structure for the organisation that moves away from the sectoral approach of the past, in favour of an integrated and co-ordinated programme of activities for the region.

The twenty-one SADC sectors have been grouped into clusters, under four Directorates at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone. Within the SADC Secretariat the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Policy Harmonisation (comprising the four directorates mentioned above) was established as the core of SADC's programmes and projects.

At the national level, SADC National Committees and cluster-based sub-committees worked to co-ordinate their respective individual member state interests relating to SADC in the areas of policy development, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. In South Africa, the InterDepartmental Co-ordinating Committee (IDCC) was set up to fulfil the function of the SADC National Committee.

At the regional level, an Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) was established on 3 March 2003, to co-ordinate the work of the

different clusters. The ICM is tasked with the development of a five-year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) as the overall regional NEPAD programme. The RISDP is intended to provide SADC member states with a coherent and comprehensive development agenda on social and economic policies over the next decade, with clear targets and time frames.

President Thabo Mbeki signed the new SACU Agreement in October 2002, which makes provision for a Council of Ministers; a Customs Union Commission; a Secretariat; a Tariff Board; a Tribunal; and a number of Technical Liaison Committees. The above institutions will be launched after the Agreement has been ratified by member states. The new Agreement will, to a large extent, equip SACU with democratic institutions, a dispute settlement mechanism, and a sustainable and equitable revenue sharing arrangement.

At the close of the 2002/03 year the ratification of the new Agreement had not yet been done by the SACU member states. There were issues that needed to be addressed before the signed agreement was submitted to Parliaments for ratification. This

included setting up of tariff boards in the respective countries, drafting of the Annexes of the Agreement, etc. The SACU Commission met in December 2002 in Windhoek and welcomed the decision by the SACU Ministers to grant the hosting of the SACU Secretariat to Namibia.

The Commission also welcomed a move to establish the Common Negotiation Team, which should operate at Ministerial and Senior Official level, as directed by SACU Ministers in their meeting that was held in Pretoria in October 2002.

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

NEPAD was globally endorsed as the development programme of the AU by the following: the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the Bretton Woods Institutions (i.e. International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank), the Group of eight (G8),



Delegates to the TICAD III workshop held in Pretoria.

the European Union (EU), the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the China-Africa Co-operation Forum, the Non Aligned Movement (NAM), the MERCOSUR and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

As AU Chair, South Africa had proposed a one-day High-Level Plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly during its 57th Regular Session held in October 2002 to focus on NEPAD. During the meeting, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on NEPAD that will ensure an annual agenda item on NEPAD in the General Assembly.

During the year under review, the EU placed emphasis on NEPAD principles of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, political and economic good governance as well as conflict prevention as cornerstones for the creation of a more conducive environment for peace, stability and development. The European Commission offered to finance a NEPAD Capacity-Building Project.

Canada, as the chair of the G8 from June 2002 to June 2003, took a strong lead in coordinating the G8 response to NEPAD. President Thabo Mbeki met with the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during the latter's visit to South Africa in April 2002. During his visit, Prime Minister Chrétien also participated in a mini Summit in Pretoria, along with SADC leaders, to discuss the direction of the new partnership between the industrialised countries and Africa. The Prime Minister also announced that Canada would be establishing an Africa Fund of 500 million Canadian dollars (R3 billion) to support the NEPAD projects.

The proposed US Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) commences in 2004. The MCA provides for official development assistance to developing countries amounting to US\$5 billion in



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Thabo Mbeki during a bilateral meeting in Pretoria.

the first three years and to US\$5 billion in the year thereafter. The US Administration is inclined to allocate a significant portion of the fund in support of NEPAD, subject to meeting political and socio-economic eligibility requirements. In this respect, the Department facilitated the USA Congressional Hearing on NEPAD by the Africa Subcommittee of the House of

International Relations Committee, which took place in Washington, on 18 September 2002, and Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad provided a comprehensive testimony on NEPAD.

South Africa, as Chair of the AU, also engaged countries and organisations of the South on NEPAD, through the NAM, MERCOSUR, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Within the Southern African region, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and

Finance adopted the linkage between NEPAD and the SADC RISDP at their meeting in Blantyre, Malawi, on 13 September 2001. The Ministerial Meeting also decided that the development of the RISDP and the SADC restructuring process should take NEPAD into account, and where appropriate, SADC and NEPAD programmes should be harmonised.

The Private Sector, both in the North and the South, continued to support NEPAD. Conferences with the private sector were held throughout the past year in Dakar, Senegal, and there were also discussions at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Durban during June 2002, as well as during the Lugano Conference held in Switzerland on 12 October 2002. The latter conference proposed to establish a NEPAD Headquarters for Europe in Lugano.

During the past year, the NEPAD Secretariat budget was approved at the Sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of NEPAD in Abuja, Nigeria, on 9 March 2003. At the Summit, member states of the AU were urged to make voluntary contributions towards financing and staffing of the NEPAD Secretariat, particularly for the proposed

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The HSGIC noted that the UN system had decided to assist NEPAD with the creation of an office to co-ordinate programmes related to Africa Headed by an Under Secretary-General. The HSGIC welcomed the establishment of the global initiative on the transparency of payments made for the exploitation of natural resources and urged the NEPAD Secretariat, and the NEPAD Steering Committee, to remain engaged with this matter. The HSGIC also noted the Report on the Implementation of NEPAD, especially with regard to the Infrastructure Short-term Action Plan and Agriculture. The HSGIC endorsed the six priority areas identified by the e-Africa Commission, such as the e-Schools Project, East-Coast African Submarine Cable Project and the e-Readiness Project.

It may be noted that the HSGIC approved, as operative guidelines for the APRM, the documents on Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the APRM; Organisation and Processes and the Outline of the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Assessments and the Country Review Visit. Moreover, the HSGIC

approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as framework for a formal accession to the APRM. Consequently, Algeria, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda signed the MoU.

The APRM is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the member states of the AU as an African self-monitoring mechanism, with the primary purpose to ensure the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration. This will be through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies, and assessing the needs for capacity-building of participating countries. At the Fifth Summit of the HSGIC held in Abuja on 3 November 2002, the HSGIC emphasised the fact that, while the accession to the APRM was voluntary, compliance with all decisions of the AU by member states was obligatory.

During the year under review, the NEPAD Secretariat identified an infrastructure plan comprising a number of short-term

infrastructure projects to be implemented continentally. During the HSGIC meeting in Abuja, the African Development Bank (ADB) made a presentation on the state of infrastructure on the continent

By acceding to the APRM, the AU member states:

- committed themselves to taking such steps as may be necessary for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the completion of the review process, within the specified time frame, and the integration of these recommendations into the respective national Programmes of Action;
- committed themselves to co-operate and assist each other through sharing best practices and strengthening their capacity to rectify identified shortcomings, including requesting co-operation of external development partners; and
- accepted that constructive peer dialogue and persuasion must be exercised, where necessary, in order to encourage improvements in country practices and policies in compliance with agreed African and international best practices where recommended.

and announced that it had presented to its Board of Directors a total of 17 projects from the Secretariat's infrastructure plan for funding.

PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY

The task of promoting peace, stability and security in Africa, and in particular Southern Africa, is a compelling necessity and a priority concern in the promotion of South Africa's foreign policy goals as well as its own well-being. Our own destiny as a nation is irrevocably tied to that of the Southern African region, and generally to Africa as a whole. Long-term sustainable development cannot be achieved without an integrated and holistic approach to peace, stability and security. Based on this premise, South Africa has, during the past year, actively engaged in a variety of processes aimed at realising these objectives.



African experts discussing a common defence policy at a meeting held in Randburg, Johannesburg.

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Within the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (OPDS), the Inter-state Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) held its first meeting in Maputo in May 2002, where Draft Work Programme and the Rules of Procedure were adopted. The Inter-

state Defence and Security Committee (IDSC) also convened in August 2002 and is now fully part of the OPDS.

A framework for the formulation of a Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) was adopted at the 2nd meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ. The inception paper of the SIPO was drafted in January 2003 in Dar es Salaam and was subsequently followed up by a Task Team Workshop in Maseru on 17 to 21 March 2003, during which significant progress was achieved. Currently, another workshop has been scheduled to take place in the next year to finalise the SIPO document that would in turn be adopted during the next high-level meeting of Member States.

THE AFRICAN UNION (AU)

The Protocol Establishing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) was adopted by the 1st Summit of the AU, held in Durban from 9 to 10 July 2002. The ratification of the Protocol in South Africa is progressing well and has been discussed extensively in the National Assembly. Thus far, only Algeria and Mali have signed

and ratified the Protocol, while 33 other member states have signed the Protocol but have not yet ratified it. Until such time as the Protocol establishing the PSC has entered into force, the Central Organ, which was the political organ of the OAU, will still be operational.

South Africa sent an expert to work with the Interim Commission and an expert from the Sudan to develop a concept document on the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CASDP). The Experts Meeting on the CASDP held in Randburg from 27 to 29 March 2003 considered this draft policy, which will be presented to an Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers meeting in the next year.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

During the year under review, it became clear that peace in Angola could only be guaranteed if massive amounts of humanitarian assistance are forwarded to Angola. It was estimated that there were about 4,5 million of internally displaced people in Angola, 85 000 demobilising ex-combatants plus nearly 370 000 members of their families, as well as 480 000 refugees

in neighbouring states, mainly in Zambia, the DRC and Namibia. South Africa recognised that the future of democracy and good governance in Angola hinged on the success of the peace process. Following an appeal for humanitarian assistance by the Angolan Government on 13 June 2002, President Thabo Mbeki personally intervened and during his budget speech at the National Assembly on 18 June 2002, told the House:

“We stand ready to assist (Angola) in whatever ways possible so that together we can embark on an important course of economic recovery and development. At the request of the Government of Angola, steps are also being taken urgently to meet the humanitarian needs of the people who are gathered at assembly points from areas previously controlled by UNITA”.

To this end a Committee was set up, in accordance with a mandate from Cabinet Lekgotla in July 2002, under the chairpersonship of the Department of Social Welfare, with the active participation of the Department of Foreign Affairs to devise a strategy for South African humanitarian assistance to Angola. During October 2002, a large consignment of humanitarian aid

was shipped to Angola. At the close of the reporting period, another large consignment was awaiting shipment during April 2003.

Humanitarian assistance was also required in Zimbabwe and South Africa donated funds through the World Food Programme (WFP), to improve the food security in Zimbabwe. South Africa also donated funds for the purchase of vaccine/drugs in order to curb the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Zimbabwe and the SADC region. South Africa continued to act as part of the international collective to encourage dialogue among all the political and other role-players in Zimbabwe in an effort to create an environment conducive for reconciliation, reconstruction and development in that country.

In 2002/03, the Department, in co-ordination with and through the South African High Commission in Maputo, maintained its continuous constructive interaction with key Ministers and Senior Officials in the ruling Frelimo Party, as well as opposition parties and various groups, thereby assisting to convince all parties of the political and socio-economic benefits of sustained peace and

stability in Mozambique and the need to cement the democratic gains made since the 1999 Second General Elections.

President Thabo Mbeki undertook a State Visit to the Republic of Mozambique from 2 to 3 May 2002. President Mbeki was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma; Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin; Minister of Agriculture, Ms Thoko Didiza; Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mrs Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; as well as the Minister in the Office of the President, Dr Essop Pahad. During the visit President Mbeki held fruitful discussions with his Mozambican counterpart, President Joachim Chissano on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.



The Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Stan Mudenge, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, exchanging a bilateral agreement at the joint South Africa-Zimbabwe meeting on Economic, Scientific and Cultural co-operation.

The highlights of President Mbeki's visit was his address of a Special Session of the Mozambican Parliament and a live radio-broadcast address on NEPAD to a Seminar attended by Mozambican academics, Government officials, business people, the diplomatic corps and civil society.

Also, during the past year, the close bilateral relations facilitated the successful implementation of the next phases of Operation Rachel, the joint South Africa/Mozambique security forces' non-proliferation of small arms combating initiative, as well as that of other cross-border crime and security-related operations.



Delegates to the final session of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue held in Sun City.

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

During the review period, a major pre-occupation of South Africa in the West African region in terms of peace and security, was the eruption of a civil war in Côte d'Ivoire, a country which for most of its independence represented an island of stability and prosperity in the often turbulent West African region. South Africa's engagement in efforts to seek a solution to the crisis saw President Mbeki, as the Chair of the AU, attending the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summits in Accra in September, and in Abidjan in October 2002, as well as the Summit in Paris at

the end of January 2003, which saw the conclusion of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, which provides the way forward to a durable political settlement in Côte d'Ivoire.

South Africa also continued to fully engage in the search for a peaceful political solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD), which resumed at Sun City on 25 February 2002 and continued for more than the planned 45 days, adopted 40 important resolutions on the integration of opposing armed forces, the economic reconstruction of the country, national reconciliation and a humanitarian assistance programme.

South Africa fully participated in the activities of the Third Party Verification Mechanism, a mechanism flowing from negotiations in Pretoria, and which was to oversee the withdrawal of foreign military forces present on the territory of the DRC.

In terms of South Africa's Binational Commission with Nigeria, bilateral consultations in preparation for the inaugural African Union Summit, were held in Durban from 26 to 27 June 2002. This allowed South African and Nigerian experts to exchange views on the emerging AU structures.

EAST AFRICA

During 2002/03 South Africa contributed significantly to the Burundian peace and reconciliation process. Deputy President Zuma, as peace facilitator, held numerous meetings with various role-players to advance the peace process in Burundi and has continuously emphasised the importance of an integrated regional approach on the Burundian issue. President Mbeki, as Chair of the AU, former President Nelson Mandela, as the Burundi peace process facilitator, Deputy President Jacob Zuma and the Minister

of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, attended the Great Lakes Regional Heads of Government Summit in Tanzania from 6 to 7 October 2002. The Summit culminated in the signing of a cease-fire agreement on 7 October 2002 between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD (Jean Bosco) and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL (Alain). The leaders of the two Armed Political Parties and Movement returned to Bujumbura on 13 February 2003 to join the Transitional Government. During the same period, South Africa also accredited its Ambassador in Kigali to Bujumbura on a non-residential basis, and opened a Liaison Office in Bujumbura.

Another cease-fire agreement was signed on 2 December 2002 between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD. This agreement makes provision for the establishment of the African Union Mission to supervise, monitor and verify the implementation of cease-fire. South Africa has appointed Ambassador Nhlapo as the Deputy Head of the African Union Mission in Bujumbura. Deputy President Zuma continues to facilitate the peace process.

During 2002, the deployment of the South African Protection

Service Detachment (SAPSD) continued to constitute a significant confidence-building measure as well as a strong consolidation base for the peace process. Some 700 SA soldiers were seconded to Burundi to protect political leaders returning from exile. The Department of Defence, with assistance from the UK, Netherlands, Norway, Italy and EU, facilitated the signing of agreements on the financial contributions to the Southern African Protection Support Detachment (SAPSD) in Burundi. At the close of the reporting period, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on practical issues regarding the presence of the SAPSD in Burundi was in the process of being negotiated.



Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in a meeting with the Security Minister of Sudan in Khartoum.

During the year under review, the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement guided South Africa's engagement vis-à-vis Rwanda/DRC relations as well as Rwanda/Uganda relations. President Kagame paid official visits to South Africa in March and June 2002. The Governments of the Republic of Rwanda and the DRC signed the Pretoria Agreement on 30 July 2002, in which the sovereignty of the DRC and the security concerns of Rwanda were addressed. The total withdrawal of the Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) was completed in 2002 and confirmed by the Third Party Verification Mechanism (i.e. UN/South Africa and MONUC).

South Africa continued to support the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development-led (IGAD-led) Sudanese peace

process. The Machakos Protocol was signed in July 2002 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. This Protocol sought to deal with the differences on the two main stumbling blocks, namely, the Separation of State and Religion, and Self-Determination for South Sudan. South African expertise was, inter alia, sourced to assist in taking the peace process forward.

A Sudan cease-fire agreement was signed on 15 October 2002, but was subsequently violated. The parties signed a further cease-fire MOU on 4 February 2003, in an attempt to avoid further violations. The MOU provides for an International Verification and Monitoring Team, to assist the existing civilian Protection Monitoring Team in investigating future cease-fire violations. The Machakos Peace Talks are continuing under the aegis of IGAD, and South Africa, as Chair of the AU, strongly supports this regional peace process. South Africa has formally approached all parties concerned with a view to being granted formal observer status at the IGAD-led peace process.

The IGAD sponsored talks that began in October 2002 were

beset by several problems. The Transitional National government (TNG) indicated its displeasure at the lack of progress and has threatened to withdraw from the reconciliation process. South Africa urged all parties in Somalia to continue with the peace process and further called for the implementation of the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities adopted in Eldoret, Kenya, on 22 October 2002. South Africa remained in support of the establishment of a UN peace-building Mission for Somalia.

The Comoran process of returning to constitutional order and ending secession was facilitated by the OAU, with South Africa acting as the OAU-mandated Co-ordinator of the Countries of the Region. In order to further facilitate the democratisation process, a regional Council of Ministers meeting took place in the Comoros on 28 to 29 January 2003, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, as part of the AU mandate. The AU stressed the cardinal importance of realising the Fomboni Agreement by, inter alia, the holding of legislative elections throughout the Comoros and the establishment of democratic institutions such as a Constitutional Court and Parliament. The

aforementioned is necessary in order to resolve the current impasse over the conflict of powers and to prevent any possible conflict between the Islands. The AU also indicated that the organisation will need financial support for the electoral process and would send an observer mission to the Comoros to monitor the envisaged elections.

In order to help advance the democratisation of the Comoros and to assist the AU in realising its objectives, South Africa as Chair of the AU is continuing with the monitoring of the democratisation process there, and is in the process of investigating several bilateral projects to assist in the post-conflict reconstruction and development process.

NORTH AFRICA

In multilateral fora, especially on matters concerning the Continent, the South Africa-Algeria partnership remains strong, based on a like-minded world-view. Algeria is a member of the NEPAD steering committee, a founding member of the AU and remains South Africa's strategic partner.

During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA56) in New York, Mr Mohammed Benaissa, the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, held discussions with President Mbeki. Morocco also showed an interest in pursuing the principles of NEPAD.

DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION

In order to achieve the social and economic regeneration of the Continent, the pre-eminent issue of poverty alleviation, through sustained people-centred development, must be vigorously pursued, so as to provide an improved quality of life for all of Africa and her people. The engine for poverty alleviation is people-centred economic development coupled with conditions of peace and stability that are essential for a growing economy.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The First Draft of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) was considered by the InterDepartmental Co-ordinating Committee (IDCC) on 7 February 2003, and was

followed by a regional workshop held from 12 to 14 February 2003. The Council of Ministers, on 9 to 10 March 2003, considered the revised draft RISDP document and directed that the comments made by Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) as well as the Council of Ministers meeting should be included in the document. The revised RISDP document should then be circulated to member states for further national consultations.

In SADC, approximately 14,4 million people require emergency food supplies. The World Food Programme (WFP) opened a regional office in Johannesburg to co-ordinate the initiative by the international community to establish an emergency food pipeline in the SADC region. The food pipeline continued to work well. During the past year, SADC member states have been requested to complete the enactment of legislation pertaining to Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) by 2004. Member states that have developed GMO legislation have been requested to share information with others. During the year under review, SADC member states have been urged to accelerate the liberalisation

process for a SADC free trade area as it will facilitate the negotiation of Economic Partnership Agreements by SADC as a group, as well as the notification of the Trade Protocol to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under Article 24 of the WTO Agreement.

African/Euro relations in terms of the Cairo

Declaration

Regarding the follow-up of the Africa-Europe Summit, the Executive Council meeting in Chad from 3 to 6 March 2003 took the opportunity to respond in strong terms to the unilateral decision by the European side to postpone the Summit indefinitely. The meeting urged the two parties to pursue the dialogue through the two Commissions and to resort to the Troikas in order to take the process further. The decision also calls for a meeting of experts on the external debt of the continent. The Ministers also insisted that all African countries should be invited to participate in the next Africa/Europe Summit.

Popularising the AU and NEPAD

The South African government launched the Presidential Outreach Programme in August 2001, aimed at popularising the AU and NEPAD within Parliament, provincial and local government structures, traditional leaders, the business community, research and academic institutions, the media and the diplomatic corps represented in South Africa. Participants of the Outreach Programme include representatives from the Presidency, Foreign Affairs, Government Communications and Information System (GCIS), the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) and the South African Chapter of the African Renaissance (SACAR). All Government Ministries, Departments and Premiers of Provinces have been requested to identify programmes and activities that can be undertaken to popularise the AU and NEPAD in South Africa.



Rwandese performers during the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the OAU in Johannesburg.

Outreach activities undertaken in the past year included meetings and/or workshops with members of the various political parties in Parliament; traditional leaders; provincial and local government, including associates; the business community; youth and women's organisations; other NGOs; church organisations;

universities, schools and research institutions; the media; and specific occasions such as sporting events.

Pro-South African or pro-African organisations of a variety were also targeted for the same activities in many countries abroad i.e. former anti-apartheid structures, South African/African Chambers of Commerce, friendship organisations, African cultural organisations, etc. In this regard, South African missions abroad evaluated the opportunity to harness the energy and interest of these organisations to promote the objectives of the NEPAD in

appropriate ways. As part of this process, the engagement of the African Diaspora was also important because the Diaspora includes groups of people whose skills, talents, financial resources and influence (lobby groups and political constituencies) represent potentially powerful allies in Africa's effort to implement NEPAD and this for the benefit of all the peoples of Africa.

Southern Africa

During the reporting period, the first meeting of the Joint Commission of Co-operation between South Africa and Angola took place in Pretoria on 28 February 2003. During this meeting, which also involved Government Departments other than Foreign Affairs, several co-operation proposals were discussed and an agreement on the waiving of visas for diplomatic and official passports was signed by the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and the Angolan Minister for External Relations, Dr J B de Miranda. During the visit, President Mbeki also received Minister De Miranda.

Defence and security co-operation between South Africa and

Namibia was further boosted by the second meeting of the South Africa/Namibia Joint Commission on Defence and Security which took place in Windhoek between 15 and 18 October 2002. Furthermore, economic co-operation was the subject during a "Heads of State Economic Bilateral" meeting between President Mbeki and Namibia's President Sam Nujoma in Pretoria on 18 March 2003.

In October 2002, Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her Lesotho counterpart, Minister Kenneth Tsekoa, agreed that a donor conference should be convened to assist in moving Lesotho out of its current status of Least Developed Country, in line with the objectives of a Joint Bilateral Commission for Co-operation (JBCC) agreement which was signed on 19 April 2001. At the close of the reporting period, consultations were in progress in this regard.

President Mbeki and the First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki paid a State Visit to Botswana from 11 to 13 March 2003, accompanied by a delegation of six Ministers and Senior Officials from the various Departments. During the visit, the two countries entered into an Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Permanent

Commission for Co-operation (JPCC), which was signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. History was made when President Mbeki addressed the Botswana Parliament on 11 March 2003. He was the first foreign President ever to be accorded this honour.

The Department revived the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Co-operation between South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Department also facilitated the visits of the Head of State, Presidential Envoys, Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentary Portfolio Committees, as well as Senior Government Officials to Zimbabwe in an effort to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Bilateral co-operation with Mozambique saw the Department



The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin, and His Namibian Counterpart, Mr Jesaya Nyamu, briefing the media.

participating in the legal and facilitative processes which resulted in the signing of the following bilateral Agreements between SA and Mozambique: Sport and Recreation; Customs Administration; Maritime Air- Search and Rescue; Air Services; Agriculture; the Protection and Utilisation of the Water resources of the Inkomati and Maputo Water courses; the

Trilateral Treaty on the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park; the CFM/ Spoornet Concession on the Ressano Garcia railway line; Labour Co-operation.

In addition, the Department of Foreign Affairs successfully initiated and co-ordinated the Governmental and private sector processes which resulted in the timeous rendering of substantial life-saving logistical and medical assistance to the Mozambican

Government in the aftermath of the train disaster which occurred on 25 May 2002 in Mozambique and left 195 people dead and in excess of 300 injured.

The Department further facilitated the convening of the quarterly South Africa/Mozambique Heads of State Economic Bilateral meetings, which play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of all the respective bilateral macro-economic projects in Mozambique. During 2002, South Africa also gained the position of being Mozambique's largest global trading partner and investor.

Central and West Africa

During the reporting period, South Africa's bilateral relationship with Nigeria continued to expand with the holding of the 4th Session of the Binational Commission, co-chaired by Deputy President Zuma and Vice President Atiku Abubakar of Nigeria. To date, Nigeria continues to represent South Africa's largest trade partner in the West African region, with two-way trade amounting to R3, 7 billion in 2002. Notwithstanding this, the joint venture between South

African Airways and Nigeria Airways on the Lagos-New York route was terminated after the route suffered a significant financial loss. South African Airways, however, refocused its priority in the region to Senegal, with flights commencing to Dakar in January 2003.

Nigeria continued to play a leading role as a member of the Implementation Committee of NEPAD. As a sign of the mature relationship between South Africa and Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo paid a State Visit to South Africa in February 2003, during which him and President Thabo Mbeki re-committed their countries to even greater bilateral co-operation and to the operationalisation and implementation of the AU and NEPAD programmes.

As a direct result of President Mbeki's State Visit to Mali in 2001, an agreement was entered into between South Africa and Mali, which would lead to the preservation of Mali's ancient manuscripts. Minister in the Presidency, Essop Pahad signed the Agreement on the Preservation of the Ancient Manuscripts in the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu on 6 August 2002. As part of the Agreement, South Africa will train a number of Malian officials in the conservation of documentation and

manuscript management.

In an effort to expand South Africa's contacts with the region, the Department led a multi-Departmental task team to Equatorial Guinea in September/October 2002 to examine possibilities for bilateral co-operation. With a view to the expansion of South Africa's diplomatic representation, task teams undertook preparatory technical visits to Lubumbashi in the DRC and Yaounde in Cameroon. It is anticipated that South African resident missions will open in these two cities during the first half of 2003. A new South African Embassy in Bamako, Mali was established in November 2002, which reflects the increasing political and economic exchanges between the two countries.



Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Thabo Mbeki at a joint press briefing.

During July 2002, a high level Cape Verdian ministerial delegation led by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Manuel Sousa, visited South Africa to explore new areas of technical co-operation. This focused on transportation issues as well as prospective infrastructure developments in the island nation. The

decision by South African Airways to migrate its United States-bound flights to Dakar, after some 40 years of the use of Sal Island, was not welcomed, but understood by the Cape Verdians.

The dislocation caused to the Ivorian economy by the present crisis, significantly affected their main commodity exports, however, South Africa's economic relations with Ghana remained stable, with two-way trade totaling some R452 million in 2002.

East Africa

Apart from conflict resolution/management, socio-economic reconstruction and upliftment featured as the predominant concern of the region in 2002/03.

A primary focus of the Department, in concert with other key stakeholders, was the development and implementation of post-conflict reconstruction programmes and inward investment in countries of the region. The main focus of South Africa's engagement with Rwanda related to the development of post-conflict reconstruction programmes with special emphasis on capacity-building within the critical sector of constitutional reform and national reconciliation. This process was managed within the framework of the South Africa-Rwanda Joint



Strengthening political ties: Prime Minister José Maria Neves of Cape Verde and Deputy President Jacob Zuma.

Commission of Co-operation (JCC), which served as an effective forum for facilitating delivery in identified programmes/projects.

The second meeting of the South African/Rwanda Joint Commission of Co-operation (JCC) was held in Kigali, Rwanda, in December 2002. Four representatives of the Rwandan Human Rights Commission visited South

Africa during August 2002 and met with the South African Human Rights Commission, the Constitutional Court and other relevant institutions and representatives of civil society.

A trilateral agreement in the area of education involving South Africa, Rwanda and Sweden was also pursued. South African academic institutions agreed to provide tuition to 200 Rwandese

students at SADC rates, while Sweden agreed to provide funding for this project. The Rwandan Government also proposed a trilateral agreement between South Africa, Rwanda and Cuba for the training of Rwandan medical personnel in both basic and specialised health care sectors. At close of the reporting period, a draft agreement in this regard was being considered.

Kenya is a significant regional role-player in East Africa and a leading member of the East African Community. During the reporting period, the country boasted the largest economy with capacity for diversity. The port of Mombasa services the entire region including the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. Nairobi was the hub of regional economic activity in the past year. Kenya



Kenyan Foreign Minister, Mr SK Musyoka, and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during bilateral discussions held in Pretoria.

remained South Africa's largest trading partner on the continent outside SADC. South Africa's engagement with Kenya has thus strongly focused on the establishment of bilateral instruments such as General Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, linked to regular multi-sectoral

technical/ business visits.

A South African inter-Departmental technical team paid a visit to their Ugandan counterparts in Kampala on 24 and 25 March 2003 for the purpose of identifying areas of co-operation and to propose specific projects for development and implementation within the framework of NEPAD. It is envisaged that the Agreement to establish the South Africa-Uganda Joint Commission of Co-operation (JCC) will be signed between Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her

Ugandan counterpart during the coming year.

South Africa's engagement with Tanzania was managed within the framework of an inter-Departmental planning committee as an instrument towards achieving a higher level of engagement in priority areas. These efforts formed part of the strategic focus of the management of South Africa's bilateral relations with Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, thereby ensuring the effective delivery on identified programmes and projects.

Relations with Mauritius continued to be sound. During the reporting period, trade between the two countries showed a steady increase, and, when the "invisible export" of South African tourism to Mauritius is taken into account, the trade was balanced. Total trade between South Africa and Mauritius was about R 2.5 billion in 2002, as compared to 2 billion in 2001. Co-operation between the financial sectors of the two countries also increased, and the IT sector showed promising opportunities for further development. Various delegations were exchanged between South Africa and Mauritius. Co-operation between police services, especially in the field of forensics, took place in the past year.

South Africa considered a number of projects to support the development of the Comoros as part of post-conflict reconstruction. While project proposals for pre-electoral support were also on the books, South Africa studied the possibility of getting involved in the development of electricity generation and distribution, infrastructure, improvement of roads and ports, as well as development of the agricultural sectors and communications. The development of the agriculture sector meant to reinforce the mainstay of the Comoran economy, and provide secure livelihood for many inhabitants of these islands.

North Africa

The 3rd Session of the Binational Commission of Co-operation (BNC) between South Africa and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the only BNC at presidential level in Africa established by the Agreement of 22 September 2000, was held in Algiers from 17 to 23 October 2002. The BNC serves as a framework for bilateral relations between the two countries in various sectors.

The two Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the quality

of the relations of friendship, solidarity and co-operation that exist between the two countries.

The reporting period also witnessed various exchanges between South African and Algerian delegations, in line with the commitments made in the Plan of Action. These included a visit to South Africa by a delegation from the Algerian National Archives (3 to 11 March 2003), a visit to Algeria by a delegation from the South African Department of Health; and a visit to South Africa by a delegation from the Algerian Ministry of Transport (20 to 28 January 2003). An Algerian delegation also travelled to South Africa from 26 February to 2 March 2003 for the first meeting of the Joint Algeria/RSA Committee on Water and Forestry.

A delegation of Algerian Scientists from the Algerian High Commission for Atomic Energy (COMENA) visited South Africa in January 2003. Programme of Co-operation (PoC) in the field of Science and Technology was signed on 1 April 2003 by Dr Rob Adam on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology and the Algerian Ambassador in South Africa, H E Fatiha Selmane on behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The Merchant Shipping Committee meeting was held in Durban on 27 March 2003. Views on the Maritime co-operation were shared by both delegations during the meeting.

During the year under review, the Algerian Government offered South African students scholarships in Islamic Science and in Arabic literature in exchange for South African scholarships in the fields of Economic Sciences, Computing, Mines and Metallurgy, Biotechnology, Industrial Security and Veterinary Science.

The past year also saw both South Africa and Algeria undertaking to expedite the production of the video on war and liberation struggle veterans of both countries.

During the reporting period, our Mission in Cairo focussed much of its attention on developments in the Middle East and Egypt's role in the region. Egypt as a member of the NEPAD steering committee, continued to play a role in the implementation and functioning of NEPAD. An Egyptian official has been seconded to the NEPAD Secretariat.

Both the South African Ministers of Intelligence, and Water Affairs and Forestry visited Egypt for bilateral and multilateral

purposes respectively. Similarly, members of the Mpumalanga portfolio committee for agriculture, tourism and environment visited Egypt on a fact-finding Mission.

Our Mission in Cairo together with the bilateral desk arranged a programme for a group of journalists to visit South Africa in an attempt to promote South Africa as a tourist destination. On the other hand, the cultural exchange between the two countries grew from strength to strength. Following the successful visit of South Africa's Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Miriam Makeba, who rendered a superb performance during the last Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) in Cairo, the Egyptian Embassy in Pretoria organised a successful tour of a Nubian Dance Group to South Africa in 2002.

The First Session of the SA-Libya Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) was held in Tripoli from 12 to 14 June 2002. This session presented an opportunity to further strengthen bilateral relations between South Africa and Libya and to jointly promote unity, peace, security and development in the African continent.

On a bilateral level, co-operation in the following areas was

discussed: Minerals and Energy; Agriculture and Animal Health; Transport; Communications; Trade and Industry; Investment; Tourism; Higher Education; and Arts and Culture. On a multilateral level, the AU, NEPAD and the NAM were discussed.

The following bilateral agreements were signed at the conclusion of the JBC: Bilateral Trade Agreement; Agreement on the Reciprocal Protection and Promotion of Investments; Agreement on Merchant Shipping and Maritime Related Matters; Letter of Intent for co-operation in the field of Transport and Transportation; Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services; and Protocol of Intent on Co-operation in the Fields of Science and Technology.

During the year in review, the Joint Bilateral Commission was followed by a State Visit by President Mbeki to Libya. The two leaders agreed on the necessity of promoting bilateral co-operation between our countries to realise the mutual aspirations of the people of the two countries.

The Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Susan Shabangu, led a delegation to the SA-Libya Energy Sector Business Workshop held in Tripoli from 22 to 23 October 2002.

Libya is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and handed over the Chair of the Community of Sahel - Saharan States (CEN-SAD) to Niger in March 2003.

The first Joint Bilateral Commission (JBC) Meeting with Morocco took place in Pretoria during 1998. Negotiations are underway to finalise dates for the second Session of the JBC.

At the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Conference held in Marrakech from 23 September to 18 October 2002, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Valli Moosa, led the South African delegation.

At the Fourth Global Forum on Re-inventing Government held in



*Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.*

Marrakech from 10 to 13 December 2002, the South African delegation was led by the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Durban, in July and August 2002, the Moroccan King, His Majesty Mohammed VI, led the Moroccan delegation and had bilateral talks with President Mbeki.

During July 2002 South Africa participated in the Africa Sailing Regatta, which was held in Morocco, and a South African won the Sailing Championship.

In the past year, South Africa also participated in the Fifth Biregional Africa/ Europe Meeting which was held

in Rabat during September 2002.

The Soweto Dance Group participated in the Rabat International Festival during June 2002 and was a great success.

President Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya of Mauritania attended the inaugural summit of the AU in June /July 2002 in Durban, as well as the WSSD in August/September 2002 in Sandton.

In January 2003 President Taya sent a Special Envoy to South Africa for consultation on multilateral issues.

A meeting of Senior Officials, in preparation for the Fourth Session of the Joint Bilateral Commission between the Republic of Tunisia and South Africa, was held in Tshwane, from 27 February 2003 to 1 March 2003.



The Department has assisted a number of cultural groups to perform abroad as part of efforts to promote a positive image of the country abroad.

Parallel to the Senior Officials meeting, a meeting of the Tunisia-South African Business Forum was held. This meeting brought together business leaders from the Food Processing, Textiles, Telecommunication, Automotive Services (Engineering, Technical), Electrical parts, Steel and Leather products sectors.

The session accorded both Delegations the opportunity to review the state of bilateral relations between the two countries, and to

compare notes on the global and regional situations. Bilateral co-operation in the following areas was discussed: Agriculture; Trade and Industry; Arts and Culture; Minerals and Energy; Health; Immigration; Co-operation in the field of Sport; Vocational Training and Employment.



**4th South Africa – Tunisia
Joint Bilateral Commission**
27 – 28 February 2003
Tshwane, South Africa

Delegates' Handbook

The Delegations noted with satisfaction the progress made with regard to the implementation of existing agreements.

During the reporting period, the South African Embassy hosted

a South African Tourism Week in Tunis during October 2002 to expose the Tunisian public, media and tourism industry to South Africa as a potential tourist destination.