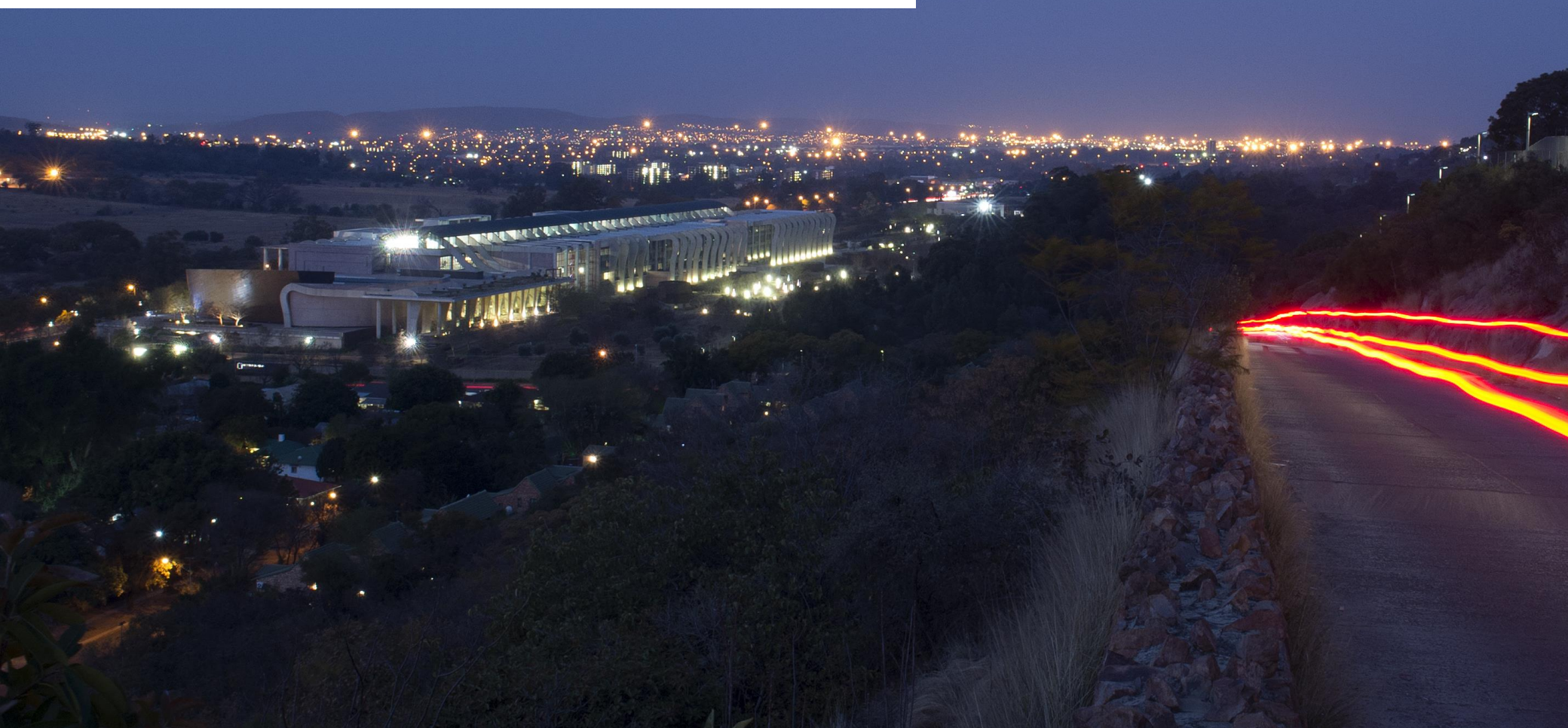


IT'S YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International
Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat



EDITORIAL TEAM

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Editor-in-Chief | Ndivhuwo Mabaya |
| Managing Editor | Mathapelo Monaisa |
| Copy Editor | Delien Burger |
| Photographers | Jacoline Schoonees Yolande Snyman Kattholo Maifadi Yandisa Monakali |
| Content coordination | Busisiwe Kubheka Mathapelo Monaisa |
| Publisher | The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Tel: +27 12 351 1000, www.dirco.gov.za , Private Bag X52, Pretoria, 0001 460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084, Republic of South Africa |

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Editor's Letter

Dear Diplomats,



MM

Mathapelo Monaisa

The year of Nelson Mandela has come to an end and what an eventful year it has been. It was a year befitting the stature of South Africa's first democratically elected President. It was a year that echoed once again, the Madiba Magic as South Africa occupied prominent positions within multiple international organisations. 2018 marked South Africa's first year as Chair of IORA, with the term ending in late 2019. South Africa also chaired BRICS with the 10th annual Summit taking place in Sandton in July, aptly coinciding with Mandela Month under the theme, "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".

The country took centre stage globally throughout the year with the BRICS Summit being a highlight as Heads of State/Government of Member States descended upon Johannesburg to attend this important meeting, where business leaders and other stakeholders also participated. Given the commendable collaboration undertaken by government departments across the board, Team DIRCO can declare with the utmost confidence that South Africa hosted an outstanding world class event.

In May, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu delivered her maiden Budget Vote Speech as head of the Department of International Relations and underlined the focus for the department for the year 2018. Key to the improvement of DIRCO, Minister emphasised the fact that we are entering a new dawn and further highlighted the following critical success factors – Renewal, Responsiveness, Re-energise, Adherence To Good Governance, and Change. Throughout 2018, all Branches worked tirelessly to ensure the implementation of the above points with a renewed energy and in the spirit of reigniting the Madiba Magic.

Our Missions hosted a number of events that reflected the legacy of the late Former President of South Africa, thus ensuring that across the globe, the centenary of one of the greatest leaders the world has had is celebrated. 2018 was indeed the year of Madiba not only at here at home, but also internationally.

Many months of South Africa's campaign to lobby for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council came to fruition in June when the country was elected to the seat by members of the Council. A fantastic culmination of hard work done by our colleagues at Global Governance. South Africa's tenure in the Security Council is strategically dedicated to the legacy of President Nelson Mandela. It will also be an opportunity to work towards the African Union's goal of "Silencing the Guns" on the Continent by 2020. South Africa joins fellow elected members, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Germany and Belgium on the Council for the period 2019-2020.

In his speech during his first visit to DIRCO, President Ramaphosa reaffirmed the department's duty as the face of the country internationally, to go out and tell the world that South Africa is open for business, to share the good news of the existence of a myriad of possibilities and investment opportunities the country has to offer. With this in mind, we look forward to working together to realise this objective in 2019.



UBUNTU AWARDS

**SOUTH AFRICA
2018**

UBUNTU AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN DIPLOMACY

Minister Sisulu hosts annual Ubuntu Awards

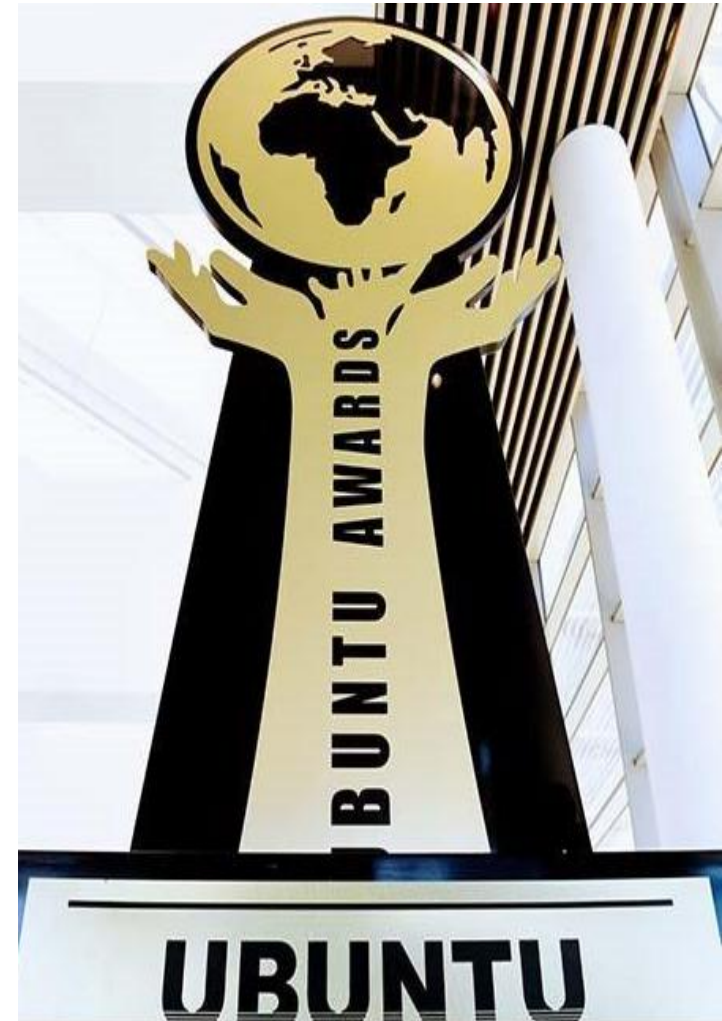
The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu hosted the Ubuntu Awards 2018 on 10 February 2018. This year's awards were themed "Honouring Madiba; A Global Champion of Human Rights, Peace and Reconciliation."

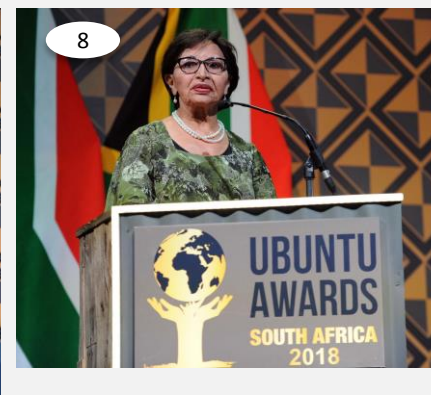
In 2015, the annual Ubuntu Awards were launched to celebrate South African citizens who play an active role in projecting a positive image of South Africa internationally. Through excellence in their chosen fields, these proud South Africans serve as global ambassadors of our nation.

The President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a keynote address at the awards in Cape Town and said the work of the award recipients was very important as it kept the legacy of the late former statesman Nelson Mandela and struggle stalwart Albertina Sisulu alive.

The awards celebrate South African citizens, who, through their Integrity, Passion, Patriotism and Humility, have raised the South African flag high on the international stage.

Ubuntu awards were attended by Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of Parliament and award recipients from different walks of life.





1. *Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global): Standard Bank and Old Mutual*
2. *Amanda Dlamini: Ubuntu Sport Diplomacy Award*
3. *Siba Mtongana – Youth Diplomacy award*
4. *Thato Kgatlhanye – Youth Diplomacy award*
5. *Jam Foundation: Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award*

6. *Ladysmith Black Mambazo: Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran)*
7. *Aspen Pharmacare: Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa)*
8. *Sophia Williams-De Bruyn: O.R. Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award*
9. *Ambassador Lindiwe Mabuza, Minister's Lifetime Achievement in Diplomacy Award Winner*

BUDGET VOTE 2018

BUDGET VOTE 2018



Renewal



Change



Adherence to good governance



Responsiveness



Re-energise



ARGENTINA 2018



Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, participated at the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting, which took place from 20 to 21 May 2018 in Argentina.

The G20 consists of the leading developed and developing economies with an intention of seeking a collective response to global economic and financial challenges, issues of peace and security, and global governance.

South Africa used its participation at the G20 to, among other things, advance the country's economic interests and promote and strengthen the interests of the African continent.

Minister Sisulu also held bilateral meetings with various ministers on the margins of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting including BRICS Ministers in preparation for the BRICS Ministerial Meeting and BRICS Summit. The bilateral meetings were also used to lobby for South Africa's candidature for the non-permanent seat in the United Security Council for 2019-2020.

Cyril Ramaphosa President, South Africa



This is a significant and historic year for South Africa. Our country is celebrating the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, our iconic leader, a global humanist and the founding president of our country.

At the international level, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the global financial crisis that brought together the leaders of the G20 members at the summit level. This is also the 10th anniversary of the BRICS group of countries, which South Africa is currently privileged to chair.

The outcomes of the BRICS summit held in Johannesburg in July 2018 provided an important contribution to efforts to address several of the issues that will be on the agenda of the G20 summit. The overlap in the BRICS and G20 agendas should come as no surprise, as both formations seek to address the global challenges facing the international community.

In the same way that the G20 of 2008 enjoined leaders to collectively defeat one of the most severe financial crises in our recent history, 2018 demands that we direct our collective efforts to warding off the looming crisis in trade and unilateralism.

SAFEGUARDING MULTILATERALISM

BRICS leaders are unanimous in their commitment to safeguard and strengthen multilateralism. This commitment extends to our support for the centrality of the United Nations as the universal multilateral organisation entrusted with maintaining international peace and security, advancing global development and promoting and protecting human rights. This commitment was endorsed by the core BRICS members as well as the leaders from the 22 other states who participated in the BRICS Outreach Programme.

In the face of unilateralism and the advent of trade tensions, the BRICS leaders further committed to the strengthening of multilateral institutions of global governance and reaffirmed their commitment to the World Trade Organization. We can only advance our individual and shared prospects for a better future and a better world economy by participating constructively in a rules-based, transparent, non-

The G20 must demonstrate leadership and build consensus



discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system.

Such an unequivocal commitment on the part of the G20 will be essential to instil confidence and demonstrate unity. It will demonstrate the ability of the G20 to maintain its leadership role and status as the premier forum to deliberate on issues of global economic and financial concern.

The BRICS commitment to multilateralism also found expression in the call by leaders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are able to give effect to equitable, inclusive, innovation-driven and sustainable development.

The BRICS summit emphasised that the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – should be addressed in a balanced and integrated manner. Leaders reiterated the importance of strengthening cooperation to deal with the challenges brought about by climate change and of adherence to the Paris Agreement.

BRICS-G20 OVERLAP

The overlap in the agenda of BRICS and the G20 under Argentina's presidency is mutually reinforcing. This overlap finds expression in the ongoing discussion in both forums on health, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and peace and security.

Aware of the potential benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, but alive to the potential negative impact of this development on employment and dislocation within society, the BRICS summit endorsed the establishment of the BRICS Working Group on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

On health, a significant achievement was the establishment of a BRICS Vaccine Research Centre in South Africa, recognising the need for innovation in the health sector and the need to effectively combat critical health challenges.

The Argentinian G20 presidency directed specific focus on infrastructure development. I am therefore pleased that the BRICS Development Bank will open its second regional office, in Brazil, at the end of this year.

The mutually reinforcing agendas of BRICS and the G20 are a welcome and encouraging illustration of our shared interests and shared desire – across geography and different levels of development – to address the vexing global challenges that face us collectively.

As with the 2008 crisis, we need collective action and unity of purpose in 2018 that will change the course of history by improving the lives of the more than four billion people who live in the countries we represent, and the lives of the three billion more with whom we all share this planet.

This is the essence of the fairness and sustainable development on which the Buenos Aires Summit has been conceptualised, and that we, as South Africa, wholeheartedly embrace. 🌍

Leading up to the most important event on the group's annual agenda, the G20 Leaders' Summit, the Argentine G20 presidency organized over 60 meetings in 10 cities across Argentina. Meetings held in different provinces allowed the G20 presidency to showcase the country, its culture, diversity and tourist destinations, and support the work of local producers and manufacturers, entrepreneurs and artists

In 2018, over 4,000 delegates from G20 member and guest countries, together with representatives from international organizations, visited Buenos Aires and other Argentine cities

San Carlos de Bariloche, in northern Patagonia, hosted the first meeting under the Argentine G20 presidency, the First Meeting of Finance and Central Bank Deputies, held from 30 November to 2 December 2017. 250 delegates from the world's main economies began to address key issues on the global economic agenda.

As one of Argentina's major tourist destinations, Bariloche also hosted the First Sherpa Meeting (14-16 December 2017), the Second Meeting of the Energy Transitions Working Group (13-15 June 2018) and the Meeting of Energy Ministers (14-15 June 2018).

Rosario, the third most populous city in Argentina, hosted the First Meeting of Agriculture Deputies, as well as the Rapid Response Forum of the Agricultural Market Information System.

Officials representing world leaders from G20 countries and organizations met again in May, this time in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, to take part in the Second Sherpa Meeting. In a break between working sessions, G20 officials enjoyed an eight-kilometre trip on board an old steam locomotive known as the Train at the End of the World, journeying through breath-taking landscapes in the Tierra del Fuego National Park.

With a focus on sustainability in farming systems, agricultural research and development officials attended the Meeting of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS-G20) in late May in San Salvador de Jujuy, in the northern tip of Argentina. Tucumán, also in the North, hosted the Second Meeting of the Development Working Group in July, while Salta was the chosen location for the G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting in August.

On 28-29 August, the Second Meeting of the Climate Sustainability Working Group took place in Puerto Iguazú, with the magnificent Iguazú Falls a perfect backdrop. The meeting's agenda included tackling adaptation to climate change, creating long-term strategies and mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and mobilizing climate finance flows.

Senior trade and health officials from G20 countries held their respective meetings in the coastal city of Mar del Plata. The breakthrough declaration of the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting, signed on 14 September, called for keeping markets open, addressing economic development and reinvigorating the international trading system, while the document agreed on 4 October at the G20 Health Ministerial Meeting acknowledged the importance of health for sustainable development.



UN Security Council



8 June 2018 will be remembered in history as the day on which the United Nations (UN) General Assembly elected South Africa, along with four other countries for a two-year term on the Security Council starting on 1 January 2019. Guided by its own national experience of peacefully dismantling apartheid and achieving a negotiated settlement, South Africa will pursue the following priorities in its third term on the UN Security Council:

- utilise its experience in the prioritisation of preventative diplomacy, mediation, the pacific settlement of disputes, conflict resolution and peacebuilding through inclusive dialogue and negotiations with the ultimate aim of supporting parties to achieve sustainable peace, national unity and reconciliation,
- further strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations, and regional and sub-regional organisations, specifically between the UN and African Union,

**Continuing the Legacy:
Working for a Just and Peaceful World**

South Africa – Candidate for Non-Permanent Membership of the United Nations Security Council 2019 – 2020

ON 8 JUNE, ELECT SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

South Africa as Candidate:

- Endorsed by the African Union (AU).
- A capable and responsible Member State of the UN.
- Working for peace and justice towards uniting "our strength to maintain international peace and security" in line with Charter.

South Africa's foreign policy is guided by a commitment to:

- achieve international peace and security through peaceful resolution of global conflicts
- focus on preventative diplomacy
- respect for the rule of law both at national and international level
- women and children as primary consideration in preventing and resolving conflicts

- advance human rights
- advance cooperation among Member States.

South Africa will use its tenure to promote the maintenance of international peace and security through:

- promoting the pacific settlement of disputes
- working towards achievement of the AU's Agenda 2063 and aiming to "silencing the guns" on the African continent by 2020
- fostering closer cooperation between the UN, regional and sub-regional organisations
- addressing the root causes of conflict
- promoting inclusive dialogue.

"The world today needs respectful and equitable partnerships between nations everywhere. We also need international institutions that equitably serve the needs of nations"

— President Nelson Mandela, Michigan State University, 29 April 2008

- emphasise and actively work towards the involvement of women in matters related to peace and security including UN peacekeeping, mediation, and support,
- emphasise the issue of nuclear non-proliferation as a means to curtail the most devastating threat to international peace and security based on South Africa's experience in voluntarily dismantling its own nuclear weapons programme,
- develop closer working relations between all Members of the UN Security Council and act as bridge-builder in the interest of fulfilling the central mandate of the Council; this is especially important in light of the fractures between Council members, particularly among the permanent members over issues such as Syria and Palestine,
- improve working methods.



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS



The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Lindiwe Sisulu, at the UN General Assembly Elections for the non-permanent seats in the Security Council, New York, USA.



The General Assembly elected five non-permanent members for two-year terms on the Security Council: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.



Minister Sisulu giving brief remarks on the outcome of the elections.



Minister Sisulu with Mr Miguel Vargas Maldonado, Minister for Foreign Affairs the Dominican Republic.



Pictured are (left to right): Heiko Mass, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany; Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa; Miguel Vargas Maldonado, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic; Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi, and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium.



Minister Sisulu pays a call on the President of the UN General Assembly, Mr Miroslav Lajcak, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia.



Travel smart with DIRCO

#TravelSmartWithDIRCO

www.dirco.gov.za

Tel: +27 12 351-1000 (24-hours)

SA Gov News @SAGovnews · Jul 3
 DM @DIRCO_ZA Mhaule briefing the media on the #TravelSmartWithDIRCO Consular Services Campaign and responding on what assistance is currently given to the remaining two SA, who are still in China regarding the visa irregularities of the group of students. tinyurl.com/y8psaynk



1 reply 1 like

DIRCO South Africa @DIRCO_ZA · Oct 18
 On tuesday 3 July 2018, DIRCO launched the #TravelSmartWithDIRCO Campaign which aims to encourage South Africans to be informed travellers. It also raises awareness on non-financial services offered by the Department for South African citizens in distress abroad @pjchudson



1 comment 2 likes

Show this thread

DIRCO South Africa @DIRCO_ZA · Jul 3
 Mr Charl Venter speaking about the experience of the South African students who were recently detained in prison, in China. He said to the guests: "Always remember that the money the scam recruiters offer you is not worth your freedom" #TravelSmartWithDIRCO



7 replies 5 likes

First Take SA #FirstTakeSA @FirstTakeSA · Jul 4
 @DIRCO_ZA to embark on a nationwide awareness campaign, to educate citizens about consular services provided by South Africa's missions abroad #FirstTakeSA #sabcnews #TravelSmartWithDIRCO



1 reply 1 like

South African Government @GovernmentZA · Jul 31
 Are you planning to travel abroad? Make sure that all your vaccinations are up to date and find out about any other suggested medical advice by visiting your healthcare provider. #TravelSmartWithDIRCO dirco.gov.za/department/con...



5 replies 10 likes

DIRCO South Africa @DIRCO_ZA · Jul 3
 "We continue, to work with our own sister departments like Home Affairs, South African Police Service and Social Services to help us in their areas of expertise." - Deputy Minister Mhaule #TravelSmartWithDIRCO



8 replies 12 likes

DIRCO South Africa @DIRCO_ZA · Jul 3
 "A week ago, we dealt with arrest of 51 SA citizens for violation of visa laws in China. As I address you, 49 have returned home safely & the remaining 2 as informed by our Mission, remain in custody as they served as recruiters." - DM Mhaule #TravelSmartWithDIRCO

6 replies 6 likes

Trends for you

- #TravelSmartWithDIRCO
@HomeAffairsSA and @Tourism_gov_za are Tweeting about this
- #CNLSA
- Uber and Taxify
- #SWESUI
21.7K Tweets
@CocaCola_ZA and @Official_SABC1 are Tweeting about this





Travel Smart with DIRCO

Travel Tips

YES

NO



Know the contact details of the SA Embassy at your destination



Know the laws and rules of the country of destination



Valid passport and correct visa



Health and travel insurance



Travel advisory of the country you are travelling to

#TravelSmartWithDIRCO

Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)

Chief Directorate: Consular Services

Tel: +27 12 351-1000 (Switchboard) – (24-hours)

Fax: +27 12 329-1752

E-mail: consular@dirco.gov.za

For more information, consult our website at

www.dirco.gov.za – Consular Services

For a list of South African diplomatic, consular and other representatives (South Africa) in foreign countries, visit www.dirco.gov.za

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



TRAVEL TIPS



Do you know the contact details of the SA Embassy/ Consulate in the country you are visiting?



Do you know the laws and rules of the country of destination?



Do you have the correct documentation?



Is your health and travel insurance taken care of?



Be informed about the culture and customs of the country you going into?

www.dirco.gov.za

Tel: +27 12 351-1000 (24-hours)



BRICS

JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

2018



BRICS INFO

“South Africa this year took over the chair of the BRICS group of countries, and will give priority to the promotion of value-added trade and intra-BRICS investment into productive sectors.” – President Cyril Ramaphosa, State of the Nation Address, 16 February 2018

BRICS is an acronym for a formal association of five major emerging national economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa joined the group in 2010 and assumed the chair of BRICS on 1 January 2018 for the period until 31 December 2018. The 10TH BRICS Summit will be held in Johannesburg on 25-27 July 2018.

#BRICSZA #BRICS2018



BRICS INFO

SA hopes to further its international agenda while simultaneously retaining the focus on SA's domestic and regional priorities. For South Africa, the priorities for 10TH BRICS Summit are:

- establish a *Working Group on Peacekeeping*
- establish a *Vaccine Research Centre for Collaboration* with BRICS partners as a physical research centre focused on research and development and vaccine innovation
- establish a *BRICS Gender and Women's Forum* as a dedicated track for gender and women's issues in the context of the economic benefit of the socio-economic empowerment of women in developing countries
- leveraging the Strategy for *BRICS Economic Partnership* and advancing the *BRICS Partnership on the Fourth Industrial Revolution* to pursue inclusive growth and to bridge the digital divide and leapfrog development
- establish a *BRICS Tourism Track of Cooperation*.

#BRICSZA #BRICS2018



BRICS INFO

BRICS advocates for:

- The reform of the *UN Security Council* including representation for the developing world,
- a fair international agricultural policies with reduced agricultural subsidies in the US and the EU, which would make agricultural products from the developing world more competitive.

#BRICSZA #BRICS2018



10th BRICS SUMMIT, 26 July 2018

Key points

1. The technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution provide developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to leapfrog the technologies of the preceding revolutions.
2. Innovation has potential to improve productivity and to place entire countries on a new trajectory of prosperity.
3. In support of the manufacturing sector, a new industrial revolution advisory group comprised of policy makers and experts from all BRICS countries will be established.
4. Hand prints of BRICS leaders were preserved for peoples of the world. The hand prints will be taken to Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind as a demonstration of linking the present with the past and looking into the future as Nelson Mandela once said "the future is in your hands."
5. Two MoUs were signed during the 10th BRICS Summit: MoU on Environmental Cooperation and MoU on Regional Aviation Partnership. An agreement was signed between Brazil and the New Development Bank on hosting of the costing of the New Development Bank Americas Regional office.



BRICS SHERPA MEETINGS

Leading up to the 10th BRICS Summit in July 2018, BRICS member countries held a number of meetings and consultations, including the BRICS Sherpa Meetings. South Africa hosted four Sherpa Meetings, chaired by Professor Anil Sooklal. The first Meeting of the BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas was held from 4 – 6 February in Cape Town, followed by the second meeting of the BRICS Sherpas/Sous Sherpas from 24 – 26 April in Bela Bela, Limpopo; the third BRICS Sherpa/Sous-Sherpa Meeting from 2 – 3 June in Pretoria and the Fourth BRICS Sherpa/Sous-Sherpa Meeting from 20 – 24 July in Johannesburg.





10TH BRICS SUMMIT



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

25 – 27 JULY 2018, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



10TH BRICS SUMMIT

A great partnership takes time to forge. The vision of BRICS was never an overnight achievement but a long-term goal that's meant to last.



Special Retreat Session

South Africa introduced a Special Retreat Session at the 10th BRICS Summit to allow BRICS leaders to reflect on a decade of BRICS cooperation and strategise for the future.



Resolving common challenges

BRICS leaders engage in peer learning and share best practices to seek solutions and resolve the common challenges we face as nations.

BRICS Outreach

A BRICS platform for greater interaction and partnerships amongst emerging and developing countries to shape the agenda and effect changes in the global economy



BRICS Outreach family photo: 10th BRICS Summit, 27 July 2018

BRICS Leaders Africa Dialogue Forum

The BRICS Leaders Africa Dialogue Forum Retreat draws African Leaders into an inclusive association with the Leaders of the BRICS Member States by means of an event at the BRICS Summit.





Contingent Reserve Arrangement

The Contingent Reserve Arrangement is a reserve pool of funds to support any possible financial crisis in BRICS member countries

The New Development Bank



The New Development Bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies to complement existing financial institutions

BRICS promotes global peace

All BRICS members are United Nations peace contributing countries.

Peacekeeping is critical to the stability of the global community.



BRICS has a Think Tank



The BRICS Think Tank Council aims to facilitate exchange of ideas among researchers, academia and think tanks – and make policy recommendations to the BRICS Leaders

Skills development opportunities

BRICS countries play an important role in facilitating skills transfer, capacity development and training opportunities.



Increased people-to-people interaction



BRICS has fostered meaningful socio-cultural interlinkages between peoples of the BRICS countries



Resolving common challenges

BRICS leaders engage in peer learning and share best practices to seek solutions and resolve the common challenges we face as nations.

BRICS supports Africa's development



South Africa has prioritised advancing the African Agenda in BRICS.

BRICS supports peace, security and development in Africa, and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

BRICS OUTREACH



BRICS Outreach

A BRICS platform for greater interaction and partnerships amongst emerging and developing countries to shape the agenda and effect changes in the global economy



BRICS Outreach family photo: 10th BRICS Summit, 27 July 2018





President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum on 25 July 2018. He cited the Forum as an important platform for the development of economic cooperation between the BRICS countries.

The President said the BRICS Summit takes place during the Centenary celebrations of our first black President, late President Nelson Mandela. "We invoke his name because the work that we are here to do requires us to build on the foundations that Nelson Mandela laid for advancement of democracy; world peace, human solidarity, international cooperation and mutual respect"



"The BRICS Business Forum provides a platform to showcase the economic prowess of the continent with a focus on advanced manufacturing, energy, technology, rail, aviation, information and communication technology, financial services and beneficiation, as well as to enhance the flow of FDI from the BRICS bloc into the continent" – Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies



"Delegates who are captains of industry, heads of state-owned entities and government leaders are deliberating on strategic economic matters affecting the future of BRICS" - Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies

25 July 2018

The 2018 Summit is milestone for BRICS cooperation, as it represents a decade of BRICS cooperation at the highest diplomatic level





10TH BRICS SUMMIT



25 – 27 JULY 2018, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

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



LEADERS OF THE BRICS COUNTRIES: HE XI Jinping (China), HE Narendra Modi (India), HE Cyril Ramaphosa (South Africa), HE Michel Temer (Brazil) and HE Vladimir Putin (Russia) – at the *BRICS Summit* in Sandton, Johannesburg, 26 July 2018



BRICS_10



@BRICS_10



@brics_10



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BRICS_10



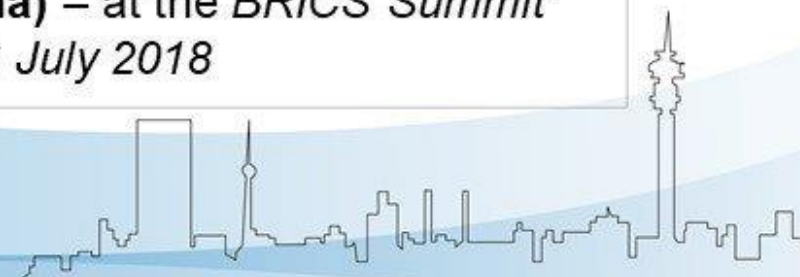
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Dialogue on Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

Women's Day Message

By Hon Lindiwe Sisulu
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Greetings to all the hard-working DIRCO Staff!

It was a great pleasure to meet the women in our department on the occasion of the DIRCO Women's Day event, on Monday, 6 August 2018.

This event took place against the backdrop of the Fourth Annual Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum on Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking which was held on 1 August 2018, in Pretoria, under the theme: "Celebrating a Legacy of Liberation by the Pan-African Women: Taking Forward the Struggle for Gender Equality". It coincided with the Pan-African Women's High-Level Panel on the Revitalisation of PAWO (Pan-African Women's Organisation), which was attended by gender activists from South Africa, Africa and various parts of the world. These include representatives of governments, members of the Diplomatic Corps and the NGO sector. For 56 years, PAWO has been at the forefront in mobilising for the emancipation of women and it remains a strong continental voice for their cause.

The DIRCO Women's Day event was not only an occasion to celebrate the strides our country, government and the department have made in the struggle for gender equality, but also to reflect on the current challenges. In this regard, DIRCO women have spoken!

I sincerely appreciate the candour and passion displayed by DIRCO women, as well as the constructive suggestions made during our deliberations.

I have instructed the Acting DG to develop a comprehensive response to all issues raised, including but not limited to, mentoring/coaching targeted at women, gender equality – with a specific focus on the middle and top management echelon of the Department, action against sexual harassment, and career progression.

I believe that all of us, including the men in DIRCO, should be agents for gender equality. In this regard, I have committed to meeting the men in our department to discuss gender issues in the workplace. We also have a responsibility to create an environment and climate that value others.

Happy Women's Day / Month!





Casual Day

FRIDAY 7 SEPT 2018

BE AN
**EVERYDAY
HERO** ★

WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



The Casual Day Campaign encourages South Africans to donate R10 for a sticker and at the same time champion the cause for the full inclusion and equity of persons with disabilities. The campaign does not only raise funds, but it also raises awareness on the challenges and the potential of the disability community in an exuberant way.



The office of the Chief Operations Officer, Chief Directorate: Transformation and Transversal Programmes took it upon themselves to campaign big for Casual Day in 2018. With the theme for Casual Day 2018 being “Be an Everyday Hero with Persons with Disabilities”, the Transformation Team deemed it ideal to create an atmosphere where employees can become protagonists for change with persons with disabilities on 7 September 2018.

Employees had fun by participating in the Disability Awareness Quiz, Maze Race, Blindfold, Quick Draw, Mystery Box and 30 Seconds games. In the mix, we had two exceptional guest speakers from the disability sector: Comrades Marathon amputee runner, Mr Xolani Luvuno, and Albinism activist, Ms Esther Motlhabane. Both speakers shared their life stories, daily challenges and their achievements with staff members.



NELSON

MANDELA PEACE SUMMIT

United Nations General Assembly - 24 September 2018



MANDELA
PEACE SUMMIT
100
YEARS



MANDELA
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President Ramaphosa leads SA Delegation at the 73rd UNGA session

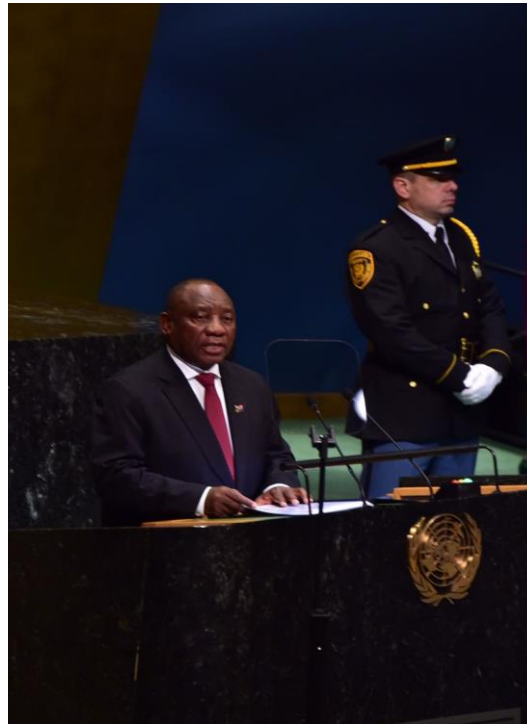
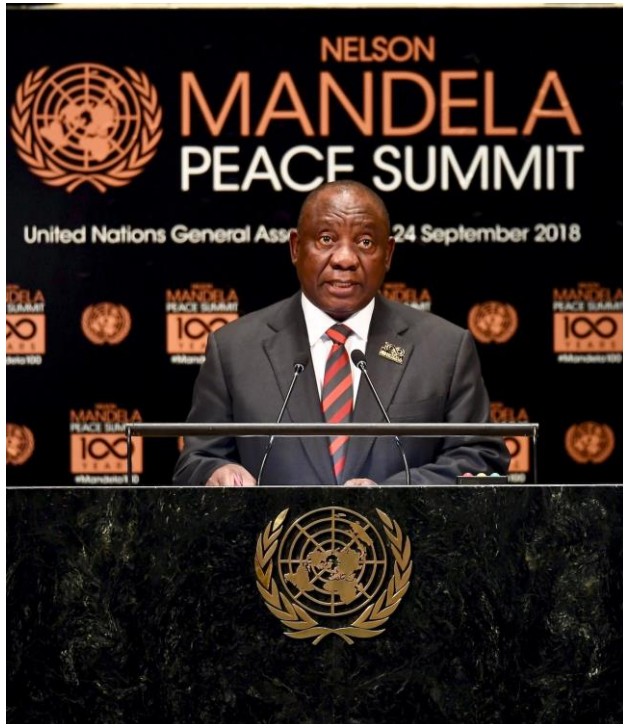
President Cyril Ramaphosa led a South African delegation to the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA73) from 23 to 27 September 2018. The General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the UN and most representative policymaking organ of the 193-member organisation. The theme of the UNGA73 was: “Making the United Nations Relevant to all People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies”.

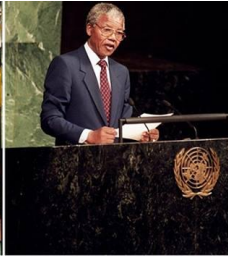
As part of marking the Mandela Centenary, President Ramaphosa, on behalf of the people and Government of South Africa, presented to the UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres, and the world at large, a Nelson Mandela statue, which was unveiled on Monday, 24 September 2018. During the unveiling, President Ramaphosa reflected on the life and values of former President Mandela and the symbolism of handing over this gift to the UN.

The unveiling of the statue was followed by a day-long Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, hosted by the President of UNGA at the initiative of South Africa and co-sponsored by the Republic of Ireland. The summit was an opportunity for all UN members to rally behind the global support for sustainable peace and curbing violent conflict on the African continent and other hotspots in the world, as espoused by former President Mandela and in line with the African Union’s (AU) aspirations of silencing the guns by 2020 and the broader development objectives set out in the AU’s Agenda 2063.



UNVEILING OF THE NELSON MANDELA STATUE & PEACE SUMMIT





INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE

1.

At 1.8m tall, this is the only life size statue at the United Nations. This signifies the role that he played in uniting the world under a banner of peace and resolution of conflict.

Follow the conversation

#UNGA #BetterAfricaBetterWorld



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE

2.

The statue was created by the same sculptors who worked on the Mandela statue that towers over the gardens at the Union Buildings in Tshwane.

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE

3.

The statue is modeled after the day Nelson Mandela delivered his speech to the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid on 22 June 1990 where he urged the United Nations to maintain sanctions against South Africa until apartheid was abolished.

Follow the conversation

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE

4.

The statue is fitted with former President Nelson Mandela's prison shoes that he wore during his days as political prisoner 46664 on Robben Island in Cape Town, where he served a jail term of 27 years.

Follow the conversation

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE

5.

The statue will be located at the entrance of the UN General Assembly Hall and serve as a reminder to world leaders and all those who enter the UNHQ of the ideals that Mandela dedicated his life fighting for - freedom, human rights, peace and justice for all.

Follow the conversation

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Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



8 DECEMBER 2018

PRETORIA PIONEER MUSEUM

FREE ENTRANCE

LIVE PERFORMANCES
CULTURE * KIDDIES * FOOD
EXHIBITIONS AND MUCH MORE



Honouring Madiba
– A global champion of human rights,
peace and reconciliation



DIPLOMATIC
FUN FAIR
2018





On Saturday, 8 December 2018, hosted the Diplomatic Fun Fair 2018 in honour of the global icon, Nelson Mandela.

The Diplomatic Fun Fair 2018 served as a key platform to educate the general public about diplomacy by bringing together embassies accredited to South Africa to showcase and promote their respective countries through creative expressions such as arts, music, culture and global cuisine.



MINISTER
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DIRCO Annual Year-End Staff Address



Dear Team DIRCO,

In 2018, we embarked on a journey to restore the image and voice of South Africa in the world. We also started a process to address systemic administrative challenges in the Department and also to address the conditions of service of all our diplomats and staff.

As we cross over to 2019, I call on all of you to return with new energy to implement all our priorities and to build a Department that will be a model for corporate governance, sound financial systems and coordination of international relations and cooperation across the state and society.

In 2018, we also lost a number of our leading diplomats and staff. We remember them for their contribution to building a better Africa and a better world.

From 1 January 2019, we will take our non-permanent seat in the UNSC and continue to play a critical role in BRICS, IORA, SADC and the AU. I count on you to continue to represent us and to deepen our multilateral and bilateral relations.

On behalf of the Deputy Ministers and the Director-General, we wish you safe travels as you return back to work and a year of hard work, dedication and commitment to the country.

Kind regards,

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



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