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#UNGA74



Minister Naledi Pandor meeting with the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Antonio Guterres ahead of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly





STATEMENT BY MINISTER NALEDI PANDOR DURING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON “COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANISATION (CSTO), COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS) AND THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO) IN COUNTERING TERRORIST THREATS”. 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Minister Lavrov,

Let me start out by thanking Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his briefing as well as expressing my appreciation for the briefings of Secretary-General Vladimir Imamovich Norov, of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Secretary-General Valery Semerikov, of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and Deputy Executive Secretary Sergey Ivanov, of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

This debate today affords us an opportunity to reaffirm the value of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations to address peace and security challenges, including the scourge of terrorism.

Terrorism continues to threaten our populations and deprive us of the genius and creativity of our children and youth. On the African Continent it has the potential to derail our collective efforts to bring about peace, security and sustainable development.

Continued terrorist attacks across the world have shown us that no nation or region is immune to its threat and there is no short-term solution to countering the threat of terrorism and its devastating consequences. If we are to triumph over this scourge we need, in addition to our national efforts, to strengthen international, regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordination efforts.

A multilateral framework, anchored in the United Nations, remains critical to preventing and countering the diverse and evolving aspects of this threat. With near universal membership, the United Nations is best placed to foster cooperation across the globe, as well as in supporting Member States and regions to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars.

The collective sharing of experiences and information and the adoption of best practices in dealing with our common threats, contribute positively to the development and enhancement of our capabilities. It also improves the effectiveness in addressing our specific contexts in countering terrorism.

Regional organisations are key partners of the United Nations in this important task. South Africa has consistently prioritised an enhanced strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations, not only in countering terrorism, but also in conflict prevention and resolution. As a member of this Council, my country continues to strive for closer partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. This takes into account the volume of African conflict situations on the agenda of the Security Council, as well as the growing threat of terrorism across Africa.

Different regions of the world experience the threat posed by terrorist groups and/or the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, differently. We encourage the development of partnerships with regional organisations, given their understanding of local and regional dynamics and their understanding of what would be required to address the issue. In this regard the international community must find ways to support efforts by regional organisations aimed at fighting terrorism and violent extremism, including through sharing experiences and providing technical assistance and adequate resources for capacity-building.



Minister Pandor anchored by Ambassador Matjila, Ambassador Nkosi, Professor Dangor, and Mr Marthinus Van Schalkwyk during her address at the UNSC



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



As we ponder solutions to this awful threat, it is essential that we understand and address the root causes and conditions that give rise to terrorism. We should aim to seek political solutions aimed at resolving long-standing conflicts to create the conditions for stability and a better future over the long-term. We should seek to address the marginalization of some sectors of the population and address socio-economic and political disparities. More often than not, where there is conflict, there might also be a deficit of the rule of law, thus allowing terrorists the space to entrench themselves and expand their activities. We have seen this on the African Continent with the devastating effects of terror activities in the Sahel following the conflict in Libya associated with the flow of arms and the rise of terror groups.

The African Union has been proactive in dealing with the threat of terrorism as evidenced by its normative frameworks developed since 1999, primarily the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its related Protocol of 2004 as well as its counter-terrorism strategy adopted in 2015. Likewise, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) also adopted its counter-terrorism framework and strategy in 2015. At the domestic level, South Africa adopted its National Counter-terrorism Strategy in 2013, and has an accompanying Action Plan.

South Africa believes that, due to its very nature, it is difficult to defeat terrorism militarily or solely through the use of coercive measures. South Africa therefore remains supportive of counter-terrorism initiatives that focus on prevention measures, on addressing conditions that give rise to terrorism, on promoting dialogue, tolerance, diversity and understanding among peoples, cultures and religions.

South Africa will continue to work with all members of the United Nations, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and other relevant parties in addressing the scourge of terrorism and all its attendant manifestations at the regional and international level.

I thank you.



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“Terrorism continues to threaten our populations and deprive us of the genius and creativity of our children and youth. On the African Continent it has the potential to derail our collective efforts to bring about peace, security and sustainable development”

- Minister Naledi Pandor



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While President was unable to attend the 74th United Nations (UN) General Assembly, he handed over his statement for the Climate Summit to the UN Secretary General, Mr Antonio Guterres. In his statement, President Ramaphosa outlined South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 which identifies poverty, inequality and unemployment as our most serious national development challenges. Overcoming these triple challenges fundamentally informs our approach to addressing climate change. Building resilience must strengthen development. In shifting to a low-carbon, inclusive, climate change resilient development path and embracing the global energy transition, we must ensure that we leave no-one behind. At the same time, we must create new opportunities for all in our economy.

The president continued to mention that South Africa is a good global citizen and that our National Climate Change Response Policy requires us to make a fair contribution to the global effort in the context of our national development priorities. This is what informs our Nationally Determined Contribution.

South Africa places a high priority on the role of all countries to enable and support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, and build economic and social resilience to these impacts, particularly for those most vulnerable.

The mitigation challenge posed to South Africa is considerable. About 80% of our emissions are from our energy sector. Like all countries of the world, we recognise the urgency with which we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and move towards a carbon-neutral future.

Read the full speech here: <https://bit.ly/2mjm4ul>



President Ramaphosa attending the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in 2018





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“Terrorism continues to threaten our populations and deprive us of the genius and creativity of our children and youth. On the African Continent it has the potential to derail our collective efforts to bring about peace, security and sustainable development”

– Minister Naledi Pandor

Watch the full speech here: <https://youtu.be/xEGEEQqqJDc>



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Ms Khamina Johnson Smith: Foreign Affairs Minister of Jamaica



Mr Stef Blok: Foreign Affairs Minister of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

Minister Naledi Pandor in Bilateral Meetings on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



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Mr Kalia Ankouro: Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Niger



Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian: Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister of the French Republic

Minister Naledi Pandor in Bilateral Meetings on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



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Mr Lesego Makgothi: Foreign Affairs and International Relations Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho



Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji: President of the International Criminal Court

Minister Naledi Pandor in Bilateral Meetings on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



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Honourable Minister Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia
Honourable Minister Ernesto Araújo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil
Honourable Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India
Honourable Minister Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China

Your Excellencies,

Firstly, allow me to express our condolences to you Minister Jaishankar, the government and people of India on the loss of our dear sister, former Minister of External Affairs, Ms Sushma Swaraj. She will be sorely missed in the BRICS family.

Secondly, allow me to join my colleagues in thanking our host, Minister Lavrov, for arranging our meeting today as incoming BRICS Chair in 2020. Our customary meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly provides a unique opportunity to collectively evaluate the state of multilateralism and to strengthen our coordination on issues of international peace and security, as well take stock of our collaboration on socio-economic development.

The contemporary global political and economic situation is setting an alarming tone. The world today is characterised unfortunately by increasing levels of poverty and inequality in both the developed and developing world. Undoubtedly, in the current global political, economic and security landscape, there is no single organisation or country that can address all its challenges alone. Our annual BRICS meeting here acknowledges this fact, and our partnership remains critical to advancing a global order based on international law, mutual cooperation and respect for multilateralism.

I. Global and Regional Political and Security Issues

Last year, the General Assembly endorsed the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace in which we have been called upon to intensify our efforts to pursue international peace and security, development and human rights. We are committed to using the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace to promote the strengthening of multilateralism and diplomacy as effective tools for addressing the challenges facing the world today.

In the words of former President Mandela, "All conflicts, no matter how intractable, are capable of peaceful resolution". Therefore, we support the promotion of peaceful resolution of conflict through mediation, peace-making, peace-building and reconstruction efforts. South Africa's theme for its term on the Security Council is: "Continuing the Legacy: Working for a Just and Peaceful World". We are using our tenure on the Security Council to promote the maintenance of international peace and security by championing the principles of multilateralism; respect for the centrality of the United Nations Charter; preventative diplomacy; the peaceful settlement of disputes and inclusive dialogue.

We will also continue to encourage closer cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and other regional, sub-regional and continental organisations. Our second year (2020) at the UNSC coincides with our Chairship of the African Union and we hope to bring more effective synergy between these organisations. The majority of the issues on the Security Council's agenda are related to peace and security on the African Continent, and South Africa is committed to working with our partners towards the African Union's goal of "Silencing the Guns" on the Continent by 2020.

We cannot deal decisively with threats to international peace and security without addressing the root causes of conflicts, strengthening political processes and respect for the rule of law, as well as the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, many countries, including our own, continue to grapple with the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

II. Key Issues on the UNGA-74 Agenda

The theme of this 74th Session of the General Assembly is aptly “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate change and inclusion.” As we move into a decade of concerted efforts and actions to achieve the SDGs by 2030, as partners in BRICS, we have a unique opportunity to shape multilateral responses to the developmental challenges that face our nations, and more broadly the challenges of the Global South.

Financing for development is fundamental to the success of countries meeting their developmental needs, and achieving the SDGs. Yet, it is the one area that has received neither the appropriate attention, nor the requisite priority from the developed world. South Africa continues to call for collective action to energise growth and tackle challenges in the global economy, encourage public and private investment to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promote new and innovative initiatives that target gaps in financing sustainable development.

Today, we are confronted by the most significant changes in global climate in human history. Africa is experiencing devastating weather events and several regions of my country are facing their worst drought in decades. We recognise that those living under conditions of poverty and vulnerability will be hardest hit by drought, floods and extreme temperatures, and have the least capacity to adapt to climate change. In fact, we are seeing it as we speak. We look forward to working with all our partners on a coordinated and integrated response to climate change, growth and social development in a mutually supportive manner.

South Africa is also committed to working towards the attainment of target 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the objective of achieving universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. Access to health services should be easily accessible to all people irrespective of the economic status. At the same time, people need to be protected from being pushed into poverty because of the cost of health services.

III. Intra-BRICS Cooperation

Our five nations come together at a time when the international community requires an alternative narrative to global issues. We have to maintain our role as leaders on a path to a more balanced, representative and equitable international order. Our journey must continue based on friendship, mutual benefit, trust and understanding, inclusivity and solidarity. Our journey must, however, not be exclusive to the rest of the global South. We believe that the BRICS Outreach and BRICS Plus initiatives must continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the global South, particularly in our respective regions.

We welcome the initiatives of our current Chair and undertake to support the existing programme of work. The theme of the 11th BRICS Summit, namely "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future", is clearly beneficial to the national interests of our countries and our peoples. Therefore, we look forward to the conclusion of agreements between our trade and investment promotion and customs agencies as concrete steps to facilitate deepened trade and investment between our nations.

We strongly believe that all deliverables must serve both our national and our collective interests, and, once agreed, must be implemented to ensure that our common will becomes common action. Therefore, South Africa will continue to work with the Chair and the incoming Chair on ensuring the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration outcomes, including the Vaccine Research Centre in South Africa.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate my Brazilian counterpart on Brazil's Chairship of BRICS. South Africa looks forward to the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia in November 2019 and will work together with all partners to realise tangible and substantive Summit outcomes. South Africa also wishes to convey our message of support to our Russian colleagues and assure you of our commitment to actively participate in all BRICS activities during your tenure as BRICS Chair in 2020. We thank you for your briefing today on your planning for 2020.

Obrigado / Spasiba / Bahut / Xiexie / I thank you



**Minister Naledi Pandor meeting with the President of the United Nations General Assembly,
Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**



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Minister Naledi Pandor led the South African delegation to the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



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South Africa wishes to congratulate you, and we are pleased to have a leader from our sister country, Nigeria, presiding over the Assembly for its 74th Session. I assure you of South Africa's full support in the implementation of your priorities and responsibilities during this term.

We welcome the theme that you have chosen. It is indeed timely and relevant, especially given the complex challenges facing the world today. Far too many of the world's population remain poor jobless and hopeless we need to intensify the efforts directed at fundamentally changing their lives.

Mr President, this debate holds special significance for South Africa as it coincides with the 25th anniversary of South Africa's freedom and democracy. Our anniversary is due in large measure to the solidarity we enjoyed from most UN member states and it is because of this history that South Africa is also vested in the ideal of a robust and coherent UN as it is this organization that has the ability to ensure that all who yearn for freedom achieve it. We know from our experience and history that it will only be through the determined efforts of the UN family that freedom for the people of Palestine can be achieved and only through the UN that the people of Saharawi can enjoy freedom.

As early as 1946, shortly after the creation of the United Nations, the issue of Apartheid South Africa's discriminatory policies was included as an agenda item in the first session of the UN General Assembly.

It was therefore with no great surprise that a democratic South Africa eagerly pursued its new international role, and enthusiastically took up its responsibilities as an active member of the UN. We have sought to participate in all aspects of the UN, including by serving in its principal organs. The principles that motivate our action derive from a firm belief in multilateralism – especially a global governance system that is fair, equitable and representative; the promotion of peace and security through global disarmament, the pacific settlement of disputes and the promotion of good governance; the promotion of human rights; and the fight against poverty through the promotion of sustainable development. We strongly believe that a purposive system of multilateralism is necessary to deal with the global challenges we face. We are all inter-dependent in an ever globalising world, and can ill afford the pursuit of narrow self-interests.

Today South Africa is able to partner with the UN in addressing the injustice and imbalances that are a legacy of our past. As government and civil society in SA we respect and act on the decisions of the UN. This includes actions in response to the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which are a transformative global development agenda. South Africa's National Development Plan is the policy we have adopted to execute our commitment to achieve the SDGs. Our plan complements our efforts to support peace development and security on our continent and the aspirations of our African Union's Agenda 2063.

We believe that in order to achieve these goals, all member states should establish partnerships, primarily with the private sector and civil society organizations,



to ensure a joint commitment aimed at realizing a world free of poverty and underdevelopment.

Intolerance is exhibited most gruesomely by the evidence of gender based violence and exclusion of women from many sectors in society.

One of the biggest obstacles to building a world free from poverty and inequality is intolerance. This includes intolerance of other nations, intolerance of our fellow human beings as well as inadequate care for the natural environment that's sustains us all.

Intolerance is exhibited most gruesomely by the evidence of gender based violence and exclusion of women from many sectors in society. South Africa is taking urgent steps to address the scar of gender bed violence. All of us need to act urgently to ensure that we all enjoy full access to human rights and bodily security. We also face an existential threat due to our intolerance, disrespect and veritable violence we inflict on the planet which we all depend on.

This organisation, however, is a manifestation of the rejection of intolerance. It was created in the aftermath of a devastating world war as a global forum where nations of the world can address differences and work together for the common good of all people. Our annual gathering here in this assembly hall should provide us an opportunity to recommit to these values.

Mr President, I firmly believe that we are all here because we are committed to the ideal of multilateral solutions to the



Minister Naledi Pandor addressing the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

world's problems, which draws on strength through diversity - diversity of perspective born from differences in upbringing and culture. By being here, we recognise that we need each other and we need to work together.

We must thus use this opportunity to rally against intolerance of any kind so that nations can live in peace and respect each other irrespective of nationality, religion, ethnic or social origin, gender or any other status. Through our differences we should find strength and not division.



Mr President, our country South Africa has not been immune from evidence of intolerance and division in some parts of our nation, the incidents of violence and looting that erupted in parts of our provinces of Gauteng and Kwazulu Natal were regrettable and shameful for a nation with such a proud history of struggle and international solidarity support. The Government of South Africa strongly condemned these tragic actions and is working hard at ensuring we address the security lapses and intolerance that led to this violence. We are working tirelessly to tackle crime and lawlessness and to ensure that the arrested criminals face the full might of the law. We are also committed to addressing the inadequacy of our immigration administration in order to curb illegal migration and to make sure everyone who comes to South Africa is documented and safe. We plan to work with all countries of the continent to ensure that we implement our development strategies and use them to create increased economic opportunities for all our people so that we diminish feelings of resentment and antipathy.

Working with civil society we will build bridges that allow all who live in South Africa to reach out to each other to build bonds of friendship and Pan Africanism.

Mr President, I am pleased that I can honestly confirm to this important global body that South Africa has an unwavering commitment to our continent Africa. We have made dedicated efforts to contribute positively in support of peace and development and we will continue these activities even as we work to address the inadequacies I have referred to.

Our country, South Africa, has enjoyed democracy for twenty-five years, and in that time the leaders and the people of South Africa have consistently acknowledged the immeasurable contribution the people of Africa rendered in support of the struggle against apartheid. Our neighbouring states in particular and the rest of the countries in Africa made great sacrifices in support of the liberation movements and the oppressed citizens of South Africa.

We wish to reiterate that South Africa does not condone any forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. In fact, South Africa has embraced millions of migrants and refugees from all over the continent of Africa, and the majority of our people have warmly embraced their brothers and sisters from Africa. We are determined to ensure it becomes a national embrace and not one limited to some communities.

Mr President, It is an honour for us to address the General Assembly in the first year of the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace, which this Assembly last year agreed to would be from 2019 to 2028. This is a decade in which we have been called upon to intensify our efforts to pursue international peace and security, development and human rights. South Africa thus commits to use the Nelson Mandela Decade for Peace to promote the strengthening of multilateralism and diplomacy as effective tools for addressing the challenges facing the world today.

Read the full speech here: <https://bit.ly/2mRDezS>

