

IT'S YOUR VOICE



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SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

African Union



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EDITOR'S

LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

If South Africa were personified, she would tell of her ability to overcome grave adversity in the face of inequality and a gross disregard for basic human rights where certain groups of her population were concerned. She would detail how those rights discouraged diversity and the freedom of expression, choice, movement, of speech and to choose her own government through a free and fair election process that included all of her inhabitants and almost led to her destruction and demise.

South Africa would count her numerous achievements of her ability to host multiple nations of the world for a myriad sports heroes and events, cultural performances, world leaders during events for multilateral fora in addition to being not only a member but chairing those various bodies. These are only some of the many wins in South Africa's story, and counting. Given its history and with one of the most widely-revered Constitutions, South Africa also places human rights as one of the pillars central to its foreign policy, and thus the country has played a pivotal role in peace talks, mediation and negotiation causes, promoting human rights across the African continent towards a better world.

As we celebrate Human Rights Month, we remember the brave and commendable efforts of the country's forebears who fought tirelessly towards the realisation of a free and fair South Africa to be enjoyed by all who live in it. It is heroes such as Mme Gertrude Shope, Mme Lilian Ngoyi, Mme Winnie Mandela, including the OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award recipient during the 2018 Ubuntu Awards – Mme Sophie de Bruyn.

De Bruyn and so many more come to mind every time that together with the world, South Africa commemorates International Women's Day. International Women's Day, which was first celebrated in 1908 as an initial labour movement, is today reserved to observe how far women have come in society, politics and economics as the fight against gender inequality continues, with some progress being made.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted in 1995 during the Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing, China. The Beijing Platform for Action is today recognised as the most progressive roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls, across the globe.

The theme "I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights" for International Women's Day 2020 is apt



as it is a fundamental year for the advancement of gender equality worldwide, at a time when the world is reviewing the progress made for women's rights since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. Among these achievements is the work towards the Sustainable Development Goals; and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Although, for most women and girls, change has been incredibly slow, the global community continues to strive for women empowerment, and this year, the UN observed the day by bringing together generations of women and girl leaders and gender equality activists to put in place actionable goals that will lead to the realisation of the aforementioned objectives.

In 2020, while we celebrate South Africa's human rights milestones, we also acknowledge, however challenging, the strides made by women over centuries.

MM

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Capacity Building programme
on Conflict Resolution,
Mediation and Negotiation



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH 2020



The Year of unity, socio-economic renewal and nation building

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SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

- by Ambassador Anil Sooklal



7 March 2020 marked 23 years since the establishment of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), now known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), in 1997. As such, since last year, the 22 IORA member states have declared 7 March as "IORA Day", which allows us to take stock of what the association has achieved since its inception and how we could further chart the way forward.

As part of this organisation's many milestones, South Africa recently completed two years of chairing the IORA from October 2017 to November 2019, when Minister Dr Naledi Pandor handed over the Chairship of the association to the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Abu Dhabi on 7 November 2019.

Many people would ask the question; what is IORA and why is this issue important to South Africa? The answer is very simple: IORA is the foremost organisation in the Indian Ocean, an ocean that provides critical sea trade routes that connect the Middle East, Africa,

Asia and Australasia; through which half of the world's container ships, one-third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the world's oil shipments pass.

It contains heavy mineral deposits and is rich in energy reserves, producing nearly 40% of the world's offshore petroleum; a valuable resource and a main driver for the Indian Ocean Rim economies. It holds great potential for innovation, job creation and sustainable socio-economic development. Therefore, the Blue Economy, as highlighted in Operation Phakisa, is a source of huge potential income for countries whose shores are washed by the Indian Ocean, including South Africa. The IORA region is a huge market of more than three billion people, with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at US\$9 trillion, in 2017, and therefore represents 10% of the global GDP.

The Indian Ocean is the "inheritance" of these countries and IORA is perceived as the "custodian of this inheritance", with a focus on bettering the lives of all the people of the region, based on the principle of the Indian Ocean being characterised as a region of peace and stability for sustainable development.

IORA was an initiative of the late President Nelson Mandela when, during an official visit to India in 1995, he said: "*The natural urge of the facts of history and geography should broaden itself to include the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim for the socio-economic cooperation ...*" This has resulted in Former President Mandela being regarded as the "Founding Father" of IORA. In this way, he secured a leading role for South Africa in IORA from its establishment in Mauritius in 1997 to date. As a result, South Africa held the IORA Chairship for the period 2017 to 2019. The current Secretary-General, Ambassador Nomvuyo Nokwe, is a South African citizen.



The Indian Ocean region is one of the most diverse regions of the world, with a heterogeneous mix of developed countries (such as Australia), developing countries (such as Sri Lanka), small island states (such as the Comoros) and least developed countries (such as Yemen). With the exception of Australia, all IORA Member States are members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Today IORA boasts 22 Member States, namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and with ten Dialogue Partners: China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Turkey, South Korea and Italy.

IORA is essentially an economic cooperative community of littoral and island States whose shores are washed by the Indian Ocean. It is a Charter-based regional multilateral organisation that is collegial in nature. It seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach.

The cooperation is based on the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, and mutual benefit.



International Women's Day
8 March
2020
IORA Secretariat

IORA Secretary General, Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe (middle) with the IORA Secretariat staff commemorating International Women's Day 2020

The South African Chairship of IORA was guided by an overarching theme: **“IORA – Uniting the Peoples of Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East through Enhanced Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development”**. It prioritised the strengthening of trade and investment cooperation to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth; stressed the importance of the empowerment of women and the youth; and the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This resulted in the signing of an IORA Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Indian Ocean region.

South Africa focused on the maximisation of commonalities and opportunities arising from South Africa's Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy programme and IORA's Blue Economy strategic outlook; promoted the advancement of women's economic empowerment and gender equality within IORA and secured the establishment of the IORA Working Group on Women's Economic Empowerment within IORA.

Considering the importance of tourism, South Africa prioritized the establishment of a Core Group on Tourism as a formal mechanism for IORA member countries to develop the tourism sector in the Indian Ocean region. Under South Africa's guidance the importance of water and the management of water were recognised as a crucial resource for economic development in the Indian Ocean region. The Water Research Commission (WRC) was identified as a potential IORA Centre of Excellence in advancing this important theme within the Indian Ocean region.

Under South Africa's guidance, IORA supported UN Resolution 2832 on the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, established the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security and, through the IORA Academic Group, secured a proactive research and innovation agenda to support the work programme of IORA.

At the conclusion of the South African IORA Chairship in 2019 and to commemorate the lasting influence of President Mandela on IORA, a Special Declaration was released to not only commemorate President Mandela's Centenary, but also to enhance the legacy of President Mandela as the Father of IORA by establishing the **IORA Nelson Mandela “Be the Legacy” internship programme** at the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius. The Internship Programme is aimed at empowering and capacitating the youth of the Indian Ocean region to ensure the continued priority being placed on the protection of our inheritance through IORA as the foremost organisation in the Indian Ocean.

The future of IORA is inextricably linked to the commitment of the IORA Member States in ensuring that this important organisation becomes a global voice for peaceful and sustainable development; that its principles are premised on advancing multilateralism, particularly in the context of the current global environment, which is characterized by the rise of populism and nationalism.

South Africa views IORA as an important platform for the articulation of our Foreign Policy, which upholds the importance of multilateralism and global collaboration in resolving the intricate challenges facing the World. In this regard, we wish IORA Members States, our Dialogue Partner countries and all our specialised agencies a “Happy IORA Day”.

Listen to the interview here:
<https://bit.ly/2UwTJiY>



South Africa's Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe – Secretary General of IORA, based in Mauritius



Ambassador Anil Sooklal in an interview with Ubuntu Radio discussing IORA Day



INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

2020



@IORAofficial

COVID-19 21 DAY NATIONAL LOCKDOWN



The COVID-19 outbreak has been declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a Global Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The number of countries and people affected by COVID-19 increases daily at a very alarming rate. Consequently, WHO and public health authorities around the world are taking action to contain the outbreak.

On 15 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a State of National Disaster due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak. Following this decision, precautionary measures such as good hand hygiene and social distancing were promoted widely by the National Command Centre. A week later, on 23 March 2020, the President instituted a 21-day lockdown period in response to the exponential growth of the number of confirmed cases in South Africa.

During the lockdown period, South Africans are encouraged to stay home so as to limit movement and the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

A 21-day national lockdown has been declared.

The lockdown started on the evening of Thursday, 26 March 2020, at 23:59. The lockdown will remain in force for 21 days. All South Africans will have to stay at home until midnight on Thursday, 16 April 2020.

- The categories of people exempted from this lockdown are as follows:
 - health workers in the public and private sector
 - emergency personnel
 - security services – such as the police, traffic officers, military medical personnel, soldiers
 - other persons necessary for our response to the pandemic.
- It will also include those involved in the production, distribution and supply of food and basic goods, essential banking services, the maintenance of power, water and telecommunications services, laboratory services, and the provision of medical and hygiene products.

Will I be able to leave my house?

- There is no need for panic, as lockdown does not mean a shutdown.
- People will still be allowed to get to shops and access essential goods and services but in small numbers.
- It is up to all of us to minimise our movement.
- Only undertake essential trips outside your home such as to get food, seek medical care or access supplies.
- When leaving your home, try and go out alone, plan your trip and get in and out of your destination as quickly as possible.
- Practise hygiene when you go out, wash your hands when leaving home, do so again at your destination and before you depart for home.

What about homeless people and those who cannot self-quarantine?

- Temporary shelters that meet the necessary hygiene standards will be identified for homeless people.
- Sites are also being identified for quarantine and self-isolation for people who cannot self-isolate at home.

We are all in this together

- All sectors and citizens are working well together to fight the Coronavirus and we must continue to do so.
- Aggressive containment measures are essential to ensure that the virus does not spread any further.

- Please continue to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel.
- We call on everyone to cooperate with government and other sectors to implement the measures.

What services will remain open?

- Most shops and businesses will be closed.
- The police, metro police, military and emergency services will continue to operate.
- Healthcare services such as hospitals, clinics, doctors, pharmacies and laboratories will remain open.
- Banks and essential financial and payment services, including the JSE will remain open.
- Supermarkets will remain open so that citizens can continue to care for themselves and their families.
- Petrol stations will remain open.
- Companies that are essential to the production and transportation of food, basic goods and medical supplies will remain open.

We are expanding efforts to contain the virus.

- This nationwide lockdown will be accompanied by a public health management programmes which will significantly increase screening, testing, contact tracing and medical management.
- Community health teams will focus on expanding screening and testing where people live, focussing first on high-density and high-risk areas.
- South African citizens and residents arriving from high-risk countries will automatically be placed under quarantine for 14 days.
- Non-South Africans arriving on flights from high-risk countries will be turned back.
- International flights to Lanseria Airport will be temporarily suspended.
- International travellers who arrived in South Africa after 9 March 2020 from high-risk countries will be confined to their hotels until they have completed a 14-day period of quarantine.



Intern-Ministerial Committee media briefing on the COVID-19 State of National Disaster, at OR Tambo Building



President Ramaphosa briefs media after his meeting with political parties on the COVID-19 State of National Disaster



National Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize updates the media on Government's plans for the nation-wide 21-day lockdown due to COVID-19 Coronavirus



PresidencyZA stateofthenation.gov.za

“From midnight on Thursday 26 March until midnight on Thursday 16 April, all South Africans will have to stay at home.”


WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0600 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za



EMERGENCY NUMBERS
to keep during
21 DAY LOCKDOWN
#SOUTHAFRICALOCKDOWN

COVID-19 TESTING
KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SYMPTOMS. IF YOU HAVE A SEVERE FEVER, COUGH OR CANNOT BREATHE
CALL THE COVID-19 HOTLINE
0800 029 999

AMBULANCE 10177	FIRE BRIGADE 998 or 999	POLICE 10111
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STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY. STAY INDOORS. SASSA CALL CENTRE
0800 60 1011

RAPE CRISIS CAPE TOWN TRUST 021 447 9762	STOP GENDER VIOLENCE HOTLINE 0861 322 322
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POLICE CHILD PROTECTION UNITS 08600 10111	CHILDLINE 0800 055 555
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SA DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY GROUP SUICIDE LINE 0800 567 567 SMS 31393	MARIE STOPES CLINIC 0800 117 785 info@mariestopes.org.za
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
0861 435 722
www.covidcomms.org.za



The inter-ministerial media briefing on the COVID-19 national lockdown held at DIRCO, 24 March 2020

A number of economic interventions are being put in place.

- We have set up a Solidarity Fund, which South African businesses, organisations and individuals, and members of the international community, can contribute to.
- The Fund will focus efforts to combat the spread of the virus, help us to track the spread, care for those who are ill and support those whose lives are disrupted.
- The Fund has a website – www.solidarityfund.co.za – and contributions can be deposited via the fund.
- The Fund will be administered by a reputable team of people, drawn from financial institutions, accounting firms and government.
- To get things moving, government is providing seed capital of R150 million and the private sector has already pledged to support this fund with financial contributions.
- We will be spending money to save lives and to support the economy.
- We must applaud the commitment made in this time of crisis by the Motsepe Foundation, the Rupert and Oppenheimer families of R1 billion each to assist small businesses and their employees affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

We are assisting businesses.

- We will be assisting businesses in the informal sector such as spaza shops.
- Registration is now open, on www.smmesa.gov.za, for small and medium-sized businesses that require help during the coronavirus crisis.
- The department of Small Business Development has a debt-relief fund for small businesses.
- Small businesses affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus will be required to produce proof of negative impact as a result of COVID-19.
- We will further be assisting small businesses to avert job losses through the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).
- Government has urged malls and retailers to consider rent and payment holidays to tenants negatively affected by the lockdown.

There is no need to stockpile food.

- Government calls on everyone in the country to avoid panic buying.
- We are aware that many South Africans are worried about the impact of the coronavirus on essential supplies and food in the country.

- As government, we are doing everything we can to ensure that we have enough food and all essentials we need.
- Government has had discussions with manufacturers and distributors of basic necessities, who have indicated that there will be a continuous supply of these goods.
- Let us be considerate and responsible to ensure that we have enough for everyone especially the most vulnerable in our society.

Our social safety net remains in place.

- All grants will continue to be paid.
- To alleviate congestion at payment points, old age pensions and disability grants will be available for collection from 30 and 31 March 2020, while other categories of grants will be available for collection from 01 April 2020.
- All channels for access will remain open, including ATMs, retail point of sale devices, Post Offices and cash pay points.

Let us stand and face this together.

- The actions we are taking will challenge us as a nation.
- But we are convinced that the cost of not acting now would be far greater.
- In the days, weeks and months ahead our resolve, our resourcefulness and our unity as a nation will be tested as never before.

- Let us all play our part and ensure that we emerge stronger and more united.

You are not alone!

- It is important that you stay connected via the phone, social media or email.
- Maintain your networks and speak to friends or family regularly.
- Keep doing enjoyable and relaxing activities such as reading, pc, board or card games, social networking or watching television.
- Stay informed by getting the facts, not rumours or fake news.
- Engage children in your care in creative ways; create fun learning activities, play games and try to keep their daily routine going.
- Stay active by doing simple exercises within your home or garden.
- Or create an exercise plan specifically to suit your environment.

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

What will I be able to do under lockdown?



You will be able to:

- Seek medical care
- Buy groceries
- Visit the pharmacy
- Access banking services
- Get petrol
- Collect a social grant

The full national lockdown will begin at **midnight on Thursday 26 March**, and will continue for **21 days**.


WHATSAPP SUPPORT
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EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za



THE 21-DAY NATION-WIDE LOCKDOWN (MARCH 26 – APRIL 16) GUIDELINES



YOU MAY ONLY LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR THE FOLLOWING:



To seek
medical care



To buy food, medicine
and other supplies



To collect a
social grant

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini, addresses a symposium on South Africa's Chairing of the African Union at the University of Venda, Limpopo

- Daisy Motsisi

Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini attended a symposium at the University of Venda (UniVen) on 13 March 2020 where she spoke about South Africa's Chairing of the African Union (AU)

The aim of the symposium was to contextualise South Africa's Chairship of the AU, to stimulate debate on international obligations and national priorities and to give the participants a platform to interact with the Deputy Minister on international relations issues. To this end, in her address during the symposium, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini focussed on South Africa's priorities as Chair of the AU.

Upon arrival, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini was received and welcomed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UniVen, Prof. Jan Crafford. Also in attendance were Prof. Rachidi Molapo and Prof. Bheki Mngomezulu whose book, "Foreign Policy Posture in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Consistencies and Ambiguities" was also launched during the same event.

In February 2020, at the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, which convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, South Africa assumed the Chairship of the AU, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as well as the

Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini kicked off her address during the DIRCO symposium by reminding the audience about the theme for the AU during 2020 - "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". She reiterated the fact that South Africa's goals for the African continent included the resolution of conflict and building a framework in which socio-economic development could take place.

"Socio-economic development cannot take place without peace and stability", added the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister emphasised South Africa's agenda of promoting peace on the continent. "Holding these positions means that as a country, South Africa will be compelled to redouble efforts to build strong, sustainable and resilient regional and continental mechanisms able to support our national efforts to deliver durable and inclusive economic opportunities for our people, in particular women and youth. It also means that we need to serve as a buffer against unrest, instability, terrorism and violent extremism on our continent."

Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini impressed on the students in the audience that the African continent was less about its political leadership and more about its people who are Africa's greatest asset. "South Africa's goals for the African continent are



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini addressing the DIRCO symposium on South Africa's Chairship of the African Union in 2020. The event was held at UniVen in Limpopo.

the resolution of conflict and building a framework in which socio-economic development can take place."

Africa has recently registered notable progress with a wave of democracy growing as indexed by more African countries holding peaceful elections. "We are also pleased with the resolution of the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2019." said the Deputy Minister. However, she said that the conflicts and political instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Libya, and South Sudan continues unabated.

"Trends in conflict and violent events during 2019 have indicated an increase in the number of conflict actors and the transnational nature of threats and vulnerabilities."

She further said that South Africa was concerned about the proliferation of rebel and extremist groups, bolder linkages between transnational organised crime and violent extremists in Africa and the Middle East, and a rise in the frequency and scale of riots and protests. "South Africa's current Chairship of the AU means increased focus on this monumental task in this year," she added.

In closing, the Deputy Minister said: "The event taking place today is a measure of our keen interest to expand our knowledge base about our continent's political governance systems as well as the strategic direction it has chosen to take", highlighting the intention of the symposium, which would not only contextualise South Africa's Chairship of



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini receiving a warm welcome by UniVen's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jan Crafford

the African Union, but also spark robust interest and debates on international relations of the country without losing sight of the national domestic priorities.

In his response to the Deputy Minister's speech, Mr Tshedza Sikhwaria, a Masters in Political Science student at UniVen, focussed on infrastructure, observing that Africa faced infrastructure challenges, which made trade within the continent quite challenging.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini receiving a warm welcome by UniVen's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jan Crafford



Director at the African Union section, Mr Luvuyo Ndimeni addresses students during the symposium held at UniVen

In addition to the discussions that followed the Deputy Minister's address, Ubuntu Radio's presenter, Mr Tali Munzhedzi, who was the programme director for the day and himself a product of UniVen, spoke fondly about the institution and lauded it for the extensive work that it was doing with regard to giving youth opportunities to excel in various sectors.

Mr Luvuyo Ndimeni, Director: AU, added to Mr Munzhedzi's comments and encouraged the UniVen students by telling them that they could still become diplomats even if they came from a previously disadvantaged university. He further said that in his diplomatic experience, he noted that diplomats coming from rural areas were more able to speak on practical issues such as poverty than those who didn't have first-hand information on the subject.



Prof. Bheki Mngomezulu hands over a copy of his book to Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini



A UniVen student participates in the debate on South Africa's Chairship of the AU



(Above): Mr Tshedza Sikhwari shares his observations during the discussion on South Africa's Chairship of the AU

(Left): Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini delivers remarks during the DIRCO Symposium on South Africa's Chairship of the AU at UniVen

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



SOUTH AFRICA- GERMANY BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION



On 20 March 2020, Dr Naledi Pandor and her German counterpart, the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Heiko Maas, co-chaired the 10th Meeting of the South Africa-Germany Bi-National Commission (BNC). This was the second meeting after the Southern African Development Community Ministerial Meeting, that Minister Pandor participated in, via video conference since the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa regarding travel restrictions due to #COVID19 Coronavirus.

Ministers Pandor and Maas discussed and exchanged views on political and high-level bilateral issues. These include:

- South Africa's priorities as Chair of the African Union (AU)
- Germany's priorities as incoming chair of the European Union
- climate change and vocational training.

Also on the agenda was a discussion on peace and security in Africa and the Middle East, as well as how both South African and Germany could cooperate to promote the resolution of conflicts, address the impact of COVID-19 on their respective communities and measures each country is taking to curb the spread of the pandemic.

The ministers received reports on the work that the working groups had done and expressed their satisfaction with the depth of the relationship and the opportunities for further collaboration.

The eight BNC working groups met earlier to review the status of relations between South Africa and Germany.

The working groups are as follows:

- Foreign and Security Policy
- Economy and Energy
- Development Cooperation
- Environment, Science and Technology
- Arts and Culture
- Labour and Social Affairs
- Vocational Education and Training.

South Africa and Germany enjoy a historical strategic relationship. Bilateral ties are multi-faceted and mutually beneficial. They are both non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2019 – 2020 and cooperate well on issues that are on the UNSC agenda.

The BNC followed the successful visit to South Africa by the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Dr Angela Merkel, in February 2020. The meeting took note of the outcomes of Chancellor Merkel's visit and agreed on measures to ensure that the decisions made during the meeting between President Ramaphosa and Chancellor Merkel were implemented.



Minister Heiko Maas and the German delegation during the video conference



Minister Pandor and Minister Maas and their delegations hold the SA-Germany BNC via a video conference



Minister Pandor with Chief Director: Central Europe, Ms Linda Shongwe (left), as well as the Minister's special adviser, Prof. Zane Dangor

SA-Indonesia High-level Delegation on Foreign Policy and Global Health

Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi chaired a High-level delegation from the Republic of Indonesia on Foreign Policy and Global Health on 9 March 2020 at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

In March 2007, the ministers met in Oslo, Norway, where they adopted the Oslo Ministerial Declaration on Global Health, which acknowledges the need to place a strategic focus on health in foreign policy in order to create new paradigms of international cooperation.

The purpose of this visit by the Indonesian delegation was to present their priorities and explore possible cooperation in the health sector ahead of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Ministerial Retreat that Indonesia is expected to convene in Bali from 8 to 10 July 2020.



Above: Ambassador Nkosi (middle) pictured with the Ambassador Salman Al Farisi along with the delegation of the Republic of Indonesia led by Ambassador Sunu M Soemarno and Ms Sindiswa Mququ, Chief Director : South, Central and South East Asia

During the meeting, the Indonesian Delegation made a presentation on the Indonesia's Chairship of the Foreign Policy on Global Health as well as delivered an invitation to the Government of South Africa to attend the Ministerial Retreat to be held later this year.



Right: Ambassador Nkosi (middle) met with the Indonesian delegation consisting of Ambassador Salman Al Farisi and Ambassador Sunu M Soemarno



Below: The delegates of the SA-Indonesia High-Level Meeting on Foreign Policy and Global Health

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



AU on COVID-19 Teleconference

President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, conducting a teleconference with the Bureau of the African Union Heads of State and Government, ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit video-teleconference on 26 March 2020.

President Ramaphosa emphasised that a continental coordinated response was more important than ever before in order to arrest the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the development and spread of the COVID-19 has stretched public health systems beyond limits and caused an enormous global economic, social and humanitarian meltdown.

President Ramaphosa underscored the fact that poverty, poor sanitation, an existing disease burden, overstretched health systems and extreme urban population density mean that the pandemic could explode in an even more catastrophic way than has been seen thus far in Africa. Hence the need for urgent action in order to stem the tide. President Ramaphosa emphasised that the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and all health institutions should direct their efforts at stopping the spread of the virus.

World leaders have agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic is a world war where the global community must come together in the fight against Coronavirus. Various businesses and organisations have responded to the call to collective arms and made donations towards combating the spread of the Coronavirus. Among them are:



The Motsepe Foundation has donated R1 billion to the fight against COVID-19 Coronavirus



Ali Baba's Mr Jack Ma has also handed over the first batch of Coronavirus test kits and prevention materials to 54 African countries.



Minister Naledi Pandor and the Minister of Tourism, Ms Nkhensani Kubayi-Ngubane; during a video conference meeting with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers, at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Pretoria, South Africa, 18 March 2020.

Dr Naledi Pandor, attends the Presidential Inauguration and 30-Years Anniversary Celebration of the Independence of the Republic of Namibia

Minister Naledi Pandor represented South Africa on behalf of President Ramaphosa at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Independence of the Republic of Namibia, on the 21st of March 2020.

Dr Pandor congratulated Namibia as she conveyed South Africa's message of acknowledgement of all those who contributed to freedom in Namibia, and spoke to the fact that their courageous role remains an indelible part of Namibia's history. "When Namibia attained its freedom on this day back in 1990, the people of Africa and the globe celebrated, because this was a victory not only of the people of Namibia but also a victory of all freedom-loving people of the world." she said.

For South Africa, Namibian independence communicated a clear message that the path to freedom for South Africa was assured and irreversible.

Yet another notable event was being celebrated on the same day, which was the Namibian Presidential inauguration.

Minister Naledi Pandor delivers remarks during the occasion of the 30-year anniversary of the independence of Namibia



This event marked Namibia's further entrenchment of the successes of the post-apartheid and post-colonial democratic era. Minister Pandor congratulated President Hage Geingob on his inauguration for a second term as the President of the Republic of Namibia. The Minister said: "I can assure you that Africa and the developing world at large regard Namibia as one of the premier African democracies, both in word and in deed."

Since achieving liberation thirty years ago, Namibia has been a beacon of democracy, peace and stability, clearly demonstrating post-colonial Africa's determination to define its own destiny – on its own terms.

"As South Africa, we can attest that our relationship remains anchored on mutual respect, shared values, solidarity and understanding, within the context of Pan-Africanism. It is also informed by the need to defeat our common enemy, poverty and underdevelopment, in both our countries and the continent as a whole." added Dr Pandor

South African and Namibia also share responsibility for continued efforts to strengthen SADC as a necessary building block for continental unity and development.

When it comes to the African Union (AU), South Africa views Namibia as an integral partner in advancing the African Agenda and indeed remains committed to working closely with President Geingob, the government and the people of Namibia in pursuit of greater regional integration through the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) as well as continental political and economic integration as articulated in the AU's Agenda 2063.

Minister Pandor continued to reiterate the fact that during its Chairship of the AU, South Africa will continue to rely on the support of Namibia as it pursues the strategic goals that underpin its role as chair of the AU.

On the economic front, Dr Pandor highlighted South Africa's support for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) saying: "We remain confident that the AfCFTA will be implemented seamlessly in our region, where we hope to use our neighbourliness to give effect to this landmark African development which, along with other regional integration policies, will constitute a building block towards an Africa-wide integration, bolstering intra-Africa trade."

South Africa and Namibia also share responsibility for continued efforts to strengthen SADC as a necessary building block for continental unity and development.

As the Chair of the AU South Africa has embraced the theme, "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". Minister Pandor confirmed South Africa's appreciation for the good relations it has with Namibia, and mentioned that South Africa leans on the exemplary leadership of Namibia in ensuring that this important AU objective becomes a living reality.



Minister Naledi Pandor in attendance at the 30-year anniversary of the independence of Namibia



Namibia's President Hage Geingob being sworn in for his second term as president of the Republic of Namibia (Photo: allafrica.com)

"We trust that through the entrenchment of democracy on the African continent, of which Namibia is among the leading lights, as well as the creation of sustainable peace and stability, Africa will steadily but surely advance towards its defined vision." she added.

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The Seventh International Women's Capacity-Building Programme on Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Negotiation

DIRCO, through its Mediation Support Unit and the International School in the Diplomatic Academy, in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in South Africa, co-hosted the Seventh Women's Capacity-Building Programme from the 24 February to 6 March 2020.

This highly beneficial partnership in capacity-building for women in conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation began in 2014 to address the need to capacitate women, resulting from South Africa's ratification of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000.

The training was given to women across the continent, ranging from diplomats, businesswomen and academics. The Deputy Director-General of DIRCO's Branch: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development, Ambassador Matu Joyini, anchored by Ms Tinyiko Khumalo, Chief Director: Diplomatic Training, ran the two-week programme, which culminated in a graduation ceremony. The Norwegian Embassy was represented by a delegation led by Ambassador Astrid Emilie Helle.

A wealth of information and education was shared throughout the duration of the Capacity-Building Programme, with one of the highlights being a session with Dr Sithembile Mbete of the University of Pretoria's Political Science Department, on the contribution of women towards stable societies.

Dr Mbethe's discussion focussed on the following:

- the meaning of being a citizen and the importance of making contributions to your society and community
- citizenship and contributing to society
- defining citizenship
- citizenship and Ubuntu
- citizenship and the National Development Plan
- Women's and citizens' roles.



DIRCO Director-General, Mr Kgabo Mahoai, addresses the Women Capacity-Building Programme graduates



Ambassador Matu Joyini delivering the opening remarks during the Women Capacity-Building Programme graduation ceremony

Former South African diplomat, Ambassador Welile Nhlapo, shared valuable insights based on his extensive experience in the field. The Ambassador gave an overview of the broad context of conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation in Africa, and enlightened delegates on conflict in Africa, political, economic and social aspects, case studies considered, what are the mistakes, development of an African architecture for negotiations and mediation.

As one of the contributors/sponsors, the Clingendael Academy was represented by its Director, Prof. Ron Ton, who is a renowned international negotiations and mediation expert. A major highlight of the course, Mr Ton gave an in-depth talk with a view on exploring the key elements of international negotiations. The aim of his presentation was to identify the main features, concepts and strategies of negotiations and the dynamics of the negotiation process.

The outcome of this session was to further enhance and develop the delegates' personal skills in negotiation, arming them with a better personal insight in a multilevel approach to negotiations.

Prof. Ton outlined the essence of international negotiations, exploring:

- Concepts in negotiations
 - universal negotiation theories, concepts and practices
 - dealing with perceptions in negotiations
- Competencies of a negotiator
 - to understand the psychology of negotiation and how to use appropriate strategies and skills to influence a favourable outcome
 - how to get the best out of the negotiations

- how to overcome obstacles in negotiations
- how to effectively manage and coordinate across and behind the negotiation table.

To further enhance the delegates' knowledge and competence management in negotiations, participants were taken through the fundamental skills and competencies needed for conducting successful negotiations by applying a competence model in practical negotiations, working with a four-dimension model to stay in control of complex negotiations.



Ms Tinyiko Khumalo speaking to the Women Capacity-Building Programme graduates



Prof. Ron Ton addressing the Seventh International Women's Capacity-Building Programme graduation ceremony, 6 March 2020



7th Women's Capacity Building Programme hosted by South Africa in partnership with the Norwegian Embassy in South Africa was held at DIRCO from the 24th February to 06th March.



IT'S YOUR VOICE



Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

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