



IT'S YOUR VOICE

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ubuntu diplomat

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EDITOR'S

LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

What a year it has been! We are drawing towards the conclusion of the second year of a pandemic that has captivated the international community and completely altered our social behaviour, further exposing the myriad existing societal inequalities, particularly in developing communities. When 2020 came to a truly perplexing end, so did 2021 usher in its own barrage of complexities. However, the positive is that the previous year prepared the world for what is now increasingly being coined the "new normal", and thus possibly a simpler year to navigate.

As we reflect on this, the Year of Charlotte Manna-Maxeke, we remember the valuable work that this extraordinary liberation stalwart did for South Africa locally and internationally, and her legacy that continues to benefit subsequent generations. Minister Naledi Pandor has often reminded us of Mme Maxeke's incredible attributes of among many, being an internationalist and promoter of solidarity, a champion of the women agenda and a visionary. A prime example of her brilliance being the co-founder and first president of the Bantu Women's League, which fought against the unjust pass laws of that era.

With this in mind, it is important to reference as one of the highlights of 2021, the Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative, which is South Africa's contribution to the Global Acceleration Agenda for the empowerment of women and girls. A worthy initiative that has the potential of contributing to addressing the ills of gender-based violence, including children.

DIRCO, led by Minister Pandor, supported President Cyril Ramaphosa during his four-nation visit to West Africa, which included the republics of Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal. Our Mission in Abuja included in the President's visit to Nigeria, the launch of the South Africa-Nigeria Youth Dialogue, which further signals that the two nations recognise the positive role and influence of society, in particular, the youth.

Deputy Minister Alvin Botes participated in the 45th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the Group of 77, where he gave an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the world.

In this edition, Ambassador Vusi Mavimbela also reflects on the late liberation leader, Steve Biko's legacy in Brazil.

November is also Children's Month. To observe this very important month, *It's Your Voice* spoke to the incredible Mankgara Maime who is 15 years old and represented South Africa at the inaugural United Nations Children's General Assembly. She shared her experience with us and gave insight into what today's children are thinking about issues such as



mental health, education and climate change.

Despite the continued effects of COVID-19 on our way of work, humanity remains resilient. But, what is vitally important is that South Africa continues to promote multilateralism as government tirelessly advocates for mutual cooperation on vaccines and access to the intellectual property. While the implementation of South Africa's vaccination programme has long been in force, education and encouragement in this regard have to remain a priority, so that we can begin to see efforts towards economic recovery coming to fruition.

Let us continue to adhere to COVID-19 regulations over the holiday season, stay safe and look forward to a productive 2022.

Happy holidays!

MM

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Outcomes of the 21st IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting

- By the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Directorate

The Minister of International Relations, Dr Naledi Pandor, supported by a delegation of senior DIRCO officials, led by Ambassador Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General for the Branch: Asia and the Middle East, attended the successful 21st COM on 17 November 2021. The COM was preceded by the 23rd Meeting of the IORA Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) from 15 to 16 November 2021, in preparation of the COM. Both the 21st COM and 23rd CSO meetings were held in hybrid format with a number of member states' ministers attending in-person, including; Iran, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, Kenya, Somalia, Madagascar, France, Maldives, Sri Lanka and

the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with the remaining member states and dialogue partners attending the said meetings in virtual format. Both the outgoing Chair, the UAE and the incoming Chair, Bangladesh, as well as a number of member states, expressed appreciation for South Africa's role as Troika member for the past two years (2019 – 2021), as well as their gratitude for South Africa's work as Coordinating Country for the Blue Economy cross-cutting issue and as Chair of its Working Group.

Both the 21st COM and 23rd CSO were held in a spirit of multilateralism and within the existing healthy relations between IORA member states, considering the negative

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Indian Ocean region. All the issues presented, with the exception of the application by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an IORA Dialogue Partner, were approved by the COM. The Dialogue Partner application by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be decided at an inter-sessional CSO scheduled for early 2022.

The IORA COM, the apex decision-making body of IORA, approved a number of important issues, which included:

1. The appointment of the next IORA Secretary-General that was based on the recommendation made by the Selection and Recruitment Committee (SRC) of IORA, consisting of the UAE (IORA Chair), Bangladesh (IORA Vice Chair) and South Africa (Past Chair), as well as Australia, Comoros, France (Reunion) and India. Consensus was reached by the SRC, at the conclusion of an extensive interview process where senior ambassadorial candidates from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia were considered. The nominee of Indonesia and current Ambassador to South Africa, Ambassador Salman Farisi, was recommended by the CSO and approved by the COM. It is expected that Ambassador Farisi will join the IORA Secretariat at the beginning of January 2022.
2. The COM approved the new IORA Action Plan (2022 – 2027), developed by the Ad-hoc Working Group (AhWG), chaired by Sri Lanka, the newly appointed IORA Vice-

Chair, and which constitutes a high-level political document with the details of the proposed actions being elaborated in the work plans of the respective working groups and core groups of the association.

3. The approval of the Russian Federation as the 10th IORA Dialogue Partner. The application by the Russian Federation, which was supported by South Africa, ensured that all P5 states are now dialogue partners of IORA.
4. The effective engagement with the dialogue partners was developed under the South African IORA Chairship (2017 – 2019) and where the focus was placed on the value dialogue partner countries could add to the association. All existing dialogue partners, as well as new applicants were requested to submit plans of action to the association, indicating which priority areas they want to support, as well as the proposal of potential projects under the priority areas. The CSO utilised the meeting to thank the dialogue partners for their engagement, with specific reference to the valuable contributions made by China, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Italy.
5. Feedback on the IORA priority areas and cross-cutting focus areas, where South Africa will continue to be the Coordinating Country and Chair for the Blue Economy cross-cutting Priority Area, as well as taking responsibility, in support of India (as the Coordinating Country for Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation Priority Area), for chairing the IORA Academic Group (IORAG). South Africa will continue as a cluster member of several cluster groups, including Maritime, Safety and

Security; Disaster Risk Management; Tourism and Cultural Exchanges; and Women's Economic Empowerment.

6. The COM was updated on the Nelson Mandela "Be the Legacy" Internship Programme, a South African initiative launched at the end of the South African IORA Chairship in 2019. The programme will take place over a period of six months at the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius, but was delayed by the lockdown regulations implemented by the Government of Mauritius, and the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is envisaged that, COVID permitting, the first programme will commence in 2022.
7. IORA recognised the importance of the Indo Pacific Concept and has developed a draft Concept Note on IORA's vision of the Indo-Pacific. The draft Concept Note was discussed in a workshop chaired by the IORA Chair, the UAE, where the draft was finalised for consideration by the CSO. However, since the CSO could not reach consensus on the draft Concept Note and the envisaged role IORA should play in the Indo Pacific, it was recommended that more work needed to be done before it could be submitted to the COM for consideration, possibly in 2022.

The UAE will assume the position as past Chair, with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka constituting the Troika membership for the next two years (2021 to 2023). Although no longer an IORA Troika member, South Africa will continue to play a leading role in IORA, not only because it was an initiative of late president Mandela and South Africa has been a founding member of the association



in 1995, but because we have realised the huge value and potential of the Indian Ocean and its important future political influence on the world. The Indian Ocean region is geo-strategically important and a valuable resource with great potential for innovation, job creation and sustainable socio-economic development, being a major transit area for international trade; it is the third-largest ocean; carries half of the world's container ships; one third of the bulk cargo traffic and two thirds of the world's oil shipments. It is a lifeline for international trade and economic development; has a third of the world's population; produces goods and services worth over US\$1 trillion of which intra-IORA trade amounts to about US\$777 billion.



Minister Pandor with the South African delegation



The plenary

The 45th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the Group of 77

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, participated in the 45th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the Group of 77, on 30 November 2021, which like many events over the past two years, took place against the backdrop of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been particularly severe on developing countries.

The destructive and disruptive effect of COVID-19, not just on global health systems, but also the economic, financial and social impacts, have compelled us to build back differently and better. Deputy Minister Botes said that South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan stated that building back meant that: "We are determined not merely to return our economy to where it was before the Coronavirus, but to forge a new economy in a new global reality."

"The pandemic has further rolled back the progress we have made in the urgent tasks confronting our generation. This includes our agenda as the Group of 77 of fostering implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; Financing for Development; and addressing the effects of climate change", added Deputy Minister Botes.

The pandemic has also highlighted the urgency with which we must strive to meet all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but more importantly Goal 1 – to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. The Deputy Minister said, "We must strive to eradicate global poverty or fall short of realising our vision of the 2030 Agenda."

African economies have been severely damaged and growth prospects are greatly diminished. Many of the continent's develop-

mental gains may be reversed as the fight against the pandemic takes precedence over other national priorities like poverty eradication. According to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 41 developing countries had no choice but to reduce their total expenditures in 2020 amid the global health crisis.

South Africa is committed to global responses, global challenges and solidarity. "We join efforts to help the world recover better by ending the pandemic as a priority, first to ensure that developing countries have access to the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics; addressing food security and hunger; getting all children back to school; and protecting the most marginalised", he said

The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered economic activity around the world and has resulted in weakening the public financing mechanisms and resource mobilisation capacities of developing countries. Rather than finding ourselves in the closing decade of implementation, we are at ground zero and back at the starting line of the 2030 Agenda. This grave situation is further compounded in the African continent because we are also experiencing a severe liquidity and debt crisis. An increasing proportion of least-developed as well as middle-income countries are in debt distress or high risk of debt distress.

Key in reversing this human tragedy is accelerated investment in the SDGs and to accelerate the provision of the means of implementation, as well as addressing the short-term and long-term debt sustainability framework for debt treatment.

The G20 Debt Standstill Initiative provides a welcome and useful initial response to the

fiscal and liquidity challenge of least developed countries. However, it should broaden its scope to include middle-income countries, which have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic and have experienced increasing debt vulnerabilities.

Deputy Minister Botes stated that South Africa further welcomed the new general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the IMF, which has made available the equivalent of US\$650 billion in additional reserves globally and the recent SDRs pledges worth around US\$45 billion, as a step towards a total global ambition of US\$100 billion of voluntary contributions for countries most in need. Given the significant global liquidity and debt challenges faced by developing countries, more, however, will be required.

Many G77 countries are confronted by the increasingly severe climate change and global environmental crisis, which directly impacts the ability of developing countries to achieve any of the SDGs. "The key to addressing climate change is to secure international collaboration to take the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures, and to ensure that all developing countries that require means of implementation support, or assistance in responding to loss and damage caused by climate change, receive such support", said Deputy Minister Botes.

"Developing countries require time, policy space and most importantly, support, in the context of an equitable and just transition, in addressing this complex challenge," he added.

South-South cooperation remains an important pillar of South Africa's foreign policy and the Group of 77 is an ideal and critical platform where this finds expression. It is also of paramount importance to stress that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather complement to, North-South cooperation, in line with the

forementioned outcome document, fondly referred to as BAPA + 40.

The pandemic has proven that no country can isolate and act alone to address these cross-cutting and cross-border challenges. The United Nations (UN) and its member states should seek practical ways of building back better through multilateral cooperation.

Key to the reform of the global governance system is securing an enhanced voice and equitable geographical representation for developing countries at all levels of international organisations, including decision-making structures, in accordance with Article 101 of the UN Charter. Furthermore, South Africa attaches a lot of importance to the issue of gender parity in the UN and commends the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard.

South Africa supports efforts by the UN to ensure that all member states pay their financial obligations in full, on time and without preconditions. We also note that this year, the UN will once again adopt a new Scale of Assessment of contributions both to the Regular Budget and Peacekeeping Operations.

"We wish to underscore that the existing methodology as a whole and all its elements for the preparation of the scale of assessments of the UN must be kept intact, especially at a time when most developing countries are facing unprecedented health, economic and social challenges amid a global pandemic.

"It is critical that the G77 remain true to its founding principles of unity and solidarity within the group. We must also continue to work together towards placing developing countries on an accelerated trajectory of rebuilding, recalibrating and recovering," concluded Deputy Minister Botes.



THE 45TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF 77 (G77)

30 November 2021

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Alvin Botes, today virtually participated in the 45th Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the G77.

The G77 is the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the United Nations, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South cooperation for development.

"It is critical that the G77 remains true to its founding principles of unity and solidarity within the Group. We must continue to work together towards placing developing countries on an accelerated trajectory of rebuilding, recalibrating and recovery."



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The State Visit to Nigeria by President Cyril Ramaphosa is a game-changer for the youth of South Africa and Nigeria

- By Bobby Moroe

Minister Plenipotentiary, Abuja, Nigeria

Since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria in 1994, there has never been a formal structure in place to connect or organise the youth of both countries to work together on issues of common interest and mutual benefit.

When people are organised as a group, they begin to share the same ideals, values and aspirations. They begin to appreciate each other and the value they bring into a group or collective. Without strong people-to-people relations between the two countries, their relations run a risk of disintegrating.

It is as a result of people that society can generate ideas and influence each other towards a particular course. When individuals modify society by habits and behaviour, they create a strong social impact.. Human behaviour can only be properly understood if it is thought of as being directly or indirectly influenced by others. We change our behaviour if we are with others rather than alone.

Identity formation and evolution are impacted by a variety of internal and external factors like society, family, loved ones, ethnicity, race, culture, location, opportunities, media, interests, appearance, self-expression and life experiences.

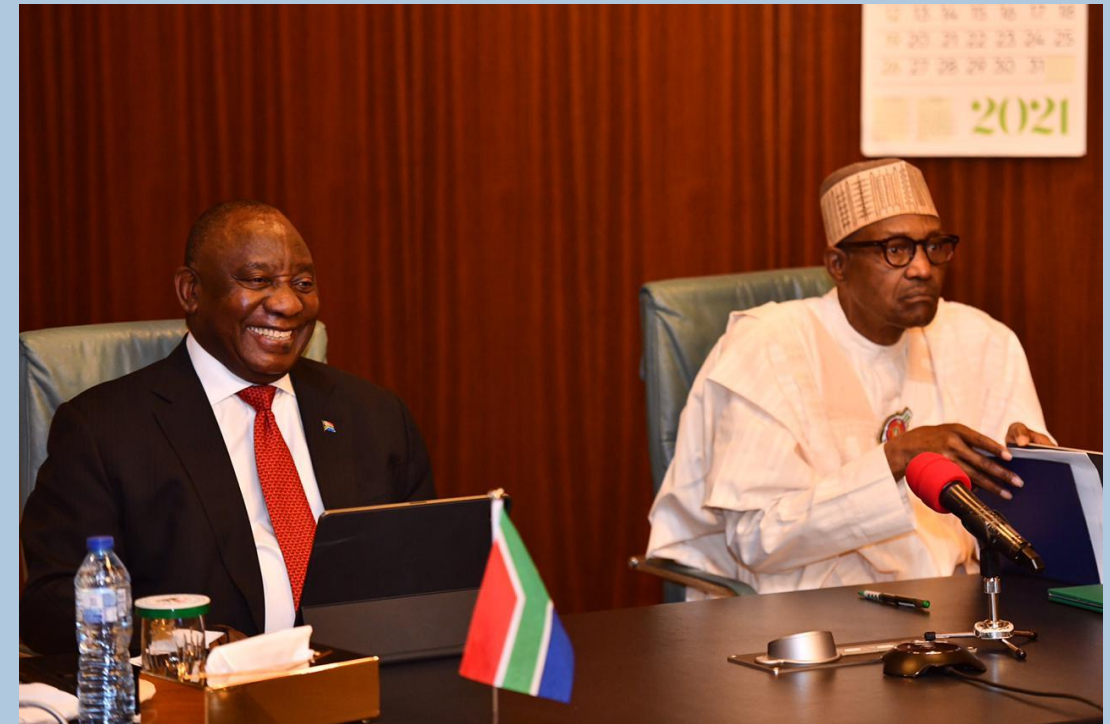
Society plays a key role in determining the direction of relations among states. It is society that can either make or break those relations – Nigeria and South Africa are no exception.

Whether in the West of Africa, like Nigeria, or the southern tip of Africa, like South Africa, people remain the most potent force in society. Accordingly, the first call for action between the two countries is to bring their people together towards a common and mutually beneficial goal.

By launching the South Africa-Nigeria Youth Dialogue, the two countries recognised the positive role and influence of society, in particular, the youth. Young people have the ideas, the creativity and great energy to shape a better world.

Young people are full of hope and through innovation and imagination, they are problem solvers and have a great potential to generate a positive social change in the world.

When the formal launch of the youth dialogue was announced on 1 December 2021 in Abuja, three instruments of cooperation were signed. All these instrument seek to organise and bring the youth of both countries together as influential members of society.



In this piece, I outline a brief overview of each one of the three instruments, and how they will not only benefit the youth directly, but influence the social construct of the youth in a way that they can unite, work together and appreciate each other's diversity.

Firstly, the Agreement of Cooperation in the Field of Youth Development seeks to strengthen the existing ties of friendship between the countries for the mutual benefit of their people on a long-term basis. In addition, it is aimed at developing, facilitating and promoting cooperation on youth development, based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and full respect for each other's sovereignty and heritage. According to the agreement, it's scope of cooperation will include, among others: youth exchange programmes; notable national, international and historic events; National Youth Service initiatives; and sport, arts, culture and heritage programmes, including the creative industry. These are low hanging fruits in the realm of people-to-people relations.

Secondly, the Audio-Visual and Co-Production Agreement will enhance cooperation between the two countries in the audio-visual sector. It will further expand and facilitate the co-production of audio-visual works, which may be conducive to the audio-visual industries of both countries and to the development of their cultural and economic exchanges. These exchanges will contribute to the enhancement of relations between the two countries and give more impetus to bringing people together. It will give them an opportunity to produce movies together, and such movies will reflect the diversity of their respective cultures and influence tolerance among them. In is anticipated that filmmakers will spend a good amount of time in both countries, interchangeably, study society and write inspiring stories that reflect the real life of the people. It is through the film industry that we are taken to places we have never been, just like reading books.

Thirdly, in the fields of Arts and Culture, the Programme of Cooperation seeks to expand the arts and culture relations between the two countries in accordance with the Agreement in the Fields of Arts and Culture, signed in March 2001.



It is anticipated that, under this agreement, the two countries will participate in technical seminars, exhibitions and conferences on the development of cultural industries. In this regard, it would be commendable if South Africa can consider establishing a "South African Cultural Centre" in Lagos in order to give effect to this agreement.

Furthermore, it is expected that South Africa will invite Nigeria to send representatives from the Nigerian music industry and officials from the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to participate in the annual Moshito Conference, which will focus on the area of technical and logistical support in the organisation of music business conferencing, exhibitions, talent showcasing, live performances, technical skills transfer and training. In return, Nigeria will invite South Africa to participate in the Annual International Arts and Crafts Expo to be held in Nigeria.

In the field of fashion, Nigeria will invite South Africa to participate in the Annual Lagos Fashion Week, and South Africa will reciprocate by inviting Nigeria to participate in the South Africa Fashion Week. Fashion shows are an integral part of the fashion industry event where fashion designers, brands or houses display their latest collections in runway fashion shows to buyers and the media. These events influence trends for the current and upcoming seasons. This year, to adapt to the restrictions of COVID-19, Lagos Fashion Week took place in a series of digital showcases, off-site runway presentations and a physical runway show at the Federal Palace Hotel on Lagos Island from the 27th to 31st of October 2021.

During this event, South Africa's Department of Arts and Culture invited some South African designers to the week-long event, and the South African Consul-General in Lagos was invited to grace the occasion. In the first week of December 2021, the founder and owner of Bathu, a shoe manufacturing company in South Africa, Theo Baloyi, flew all the way from South Africa to Lagos, Africa's fashion capital, to receive an award for Male Entrepreneur of the Year presented by Choice Africa Awards. It is clear that the movement of people between the two countries is already taking place at an informal level and formalising such movements will therefore give effect to this agreement.



On heritage matters, the two countries will participate actively in programmes supported by the Africa World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and other regional and continental entities. South Africa will invite Nigeria to send speaker(s) to a Conference on the Provenance of Museum Objects, to be held in South Africa during 2022, while Nigeria will provide comprehensive training in Strategic Heritage Conservation to practising South African heritage professionals during 2023. Furthermore, the two countries will engage in professional knowledge exchange and dialogues between the South Heritage Resources Agency of South Africa and the cultural and heritage institutions of Nigeria through joint workshops in the following areas during 2023 and 2024: (a) cultural heritage conservation promotion and (b) protection and conservation of sacred cultural resources/sites.

Clearly, these instruments will bring people of both countries together to understand and appreciate each other's cultures. Our people will have an

opportunity to share a meal together, listen to music together and even discover similarities between their cultures, regardless of the geographic divide. This formalised union between the people of the two countries will change the way they think about each other. They will know each other better, and this will lead to a gradual move to appreciate each other.

The success of Nigerian filmmakers will equally be the success of South African filmmakers. The success of Nigerian artists will equally be the success of South African artists. The success of Nigerian youth programmes will equally be the success of South African youth programmes.

The two countries have their job cut clear for them with these instruments of cooperation. Whether they will rise to the occasion and deliver on their commitment remains to be seen when they report again during the 11th Binational Commission, likely to take place in 2023.



Information Security Tips for Remote Working

ONCE UPON A TIME, WORKING FROM HOME WAS A LUXURY. NOW, IT HAS BECOME A NECESSITY FOR EMPLOYEES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, YOU MAY START TO BE EXPOSED TO NEW FORMS OF CYBERSECURITY RISKS AS CRIMINALS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, WHILE YOU WORK FROM HOME. IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE THAT YOU START TO THINK ABOUT YOUR HOME OFFICE SECURITY.

WORKING FROM HOME PRESENTS A NUMBER OF SECURITY CHALLENGES YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF. THE GOOD NEWS IS, BY FOLLOWING BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING REMOTELY, MOST OF THESE THREATS CAN BE MITIGATED QUITE EASILY.

➔ MAKE SURE YOUR PASSWORDS ARE STRONG AND SECURE

One of the simplest but often most overlooked ways to protect yourself when working from home is to strengthen your passwords and ensure that you have maximized password protection across your devices.

- Use passwords on all your devices and apps.
- Make sure the passwords are long, strong and unique: at least 12 characters that are a mix of numbers, symbols and capital and lowercase letters.”
- Avoid using the same password for different (work and personal) accounts.
- Ensure passwords are changed regularly at least once a month. It is also recommended to add a password screen every time you access your laptop and other devices, so that if your device is breached or falls into the wrong hands, it will be harder for a third-party to access your sensitive files.
- Where possible, users are encouraged to use two factor authentication when logging onto the devices or accessing sensitive information in their devices. Two factor authentication can be a combination of password/passcode and either fingerprint/facial recognition/One Time Pin (OTP), etc.



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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Visit to Brussels and Belgium by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor

- By Sewela Nkgapele
Counsellor Political: Bilateral Relations

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, held consultations with Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, in Brussels. The discussions focussed on further strengthening the South Africa-European Union (EU) Strategic Partnership; cooperation on combatting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa; the outcomes of the COP26 deliberations; peace and security matters in Africa; and further engaging on African Union (AU)-EU relations in preparation for the Sixth AU-EU Summit.

The meeting with Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, focussed on enhancing South Africa-EU development cooperation linked to the new EU financial instrument – the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI); and cooperation on the combatting of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa.

The discussions with Meryame Kitir, the Minister of Development Cooperation and Major Cities Policy, focussed on Belgium's involvement in the mRNA transfer hub in South Africa and local vaccine production, and enhancing collaboration in education, science, research and innovation exchange programmes, in particular Masters' and PhD students.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and Belgium are cordial and based on a shared commitment to the values of freedom, democracy and a similar approach to a broad range of international issues.

Belgium is one of South Africa's most important economic partners. Many of South Africa's exports enter Europe through the Belgian Port of Antwerp. In 2020, Belgium was South Africa's 11th-largest export market and sixth-largest source of foreign direct investment, with trade in favour of South Africa.

Belgium is considered the hub of vaccine manufacturing in Europe. The Pfizer/BioNTech plant in Puurs was the first in the world to start large-scale production of the mRNA COVID vaccine. South Africa purchased consignments of the COVID-19 vaccines from Belgium early in 2021, which contributed towards the vaccination of the people of South Africa.

Manufacturing vaccines locally is important towards South Africa and Africa's self-reliance. South Africa has demonstrated capability in the form of the Biovac Institute and Aspen, a sector in development.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is already being produced in South Africa. Aspen Pharmacare's factory in Gqeberha is making the vaccine in the same "fill and finish" process and has the capacity to annually make more than 200 million vaccine doses, which is also being distributed across the African continent.

In July 2021, Pfizer announced that a South African firm would begin producing the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine, the first in Africa. The Biovac Institute, based in Cape Town, will manufacture the vaccine for distribution across Africa to combat the desperate need for vaccine doses.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Minister Pandor in consultations with Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

The production of 100 million doses annually is set to begin in 2022. The process will allow an opportunity for skills transfer of Pfizer-BioNTech's technology and know-how. South Africa has world-class research capacity where local scientists played a significant role in identifying the Delta variant and the development of COVID-19 vaccines. Through consultations with partners such as Belgium and the EU, the request for support to the proposal made by South Africa and India for a temporary waiver of certain provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to allow more countries to produce COVID-19 vaccines, will continue to be discussed on the agenda.



Minister of Development Cooperation & Major Cities Policy, Ms Meryame Kitir.



Ms Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for Development, Brussels, 19 November 2021

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Visit by Ambassador Vusi Mavimbela to the State of Bahia, Brazil, 18 – 22 November 2021

- By Denisha Reddy
First Secretary Political, Brasilia, Brazil

Ambassador Vusi Mavimbela paid an Official Visit to the State of Bahia on the east coast of Brazil, from 18 to 22 November 2021.

Brazil is home to the largest population of African descendants outside the African continent. The majority of Afro-Brazilians are based in Bahia, given that its capital city, Salvador, was the also the capital of the Portuguese colony of Brazil and a major centre for the African slave trade during Portuguese occupation. Salvador is Brazil's third-largest city, and one of its oldest, having been founded in 1549.

Ambassador Mavimbela held meetings and interactions with a wide range of interlocutors, including political leaders (the Governor, Senators, the Secretaries of Culture and Tourism, and the Mayor), leaders of organised business (the Federation of Industries of Bahia), cultural and community-based organisations (Olodum, the Steve Biko Institute and Ile-Aye), universities (the State University of Bahia and the Federal University of Bahia) and tourism stakeholders (media and tour operators).

Highlights of the visit included:

- Participating in the Black Consciousness March on 20 November 2021, with an incredible rendition of "Nkosi Sikelela iAfrica" by the Olodum band, mixed in with shouts of "Mandela" and "Biko". Ambassador Mavimbela also laid a wreath at the statue of Brazilian slave and later hero of the struggle against slavery, Zumbi dos Palmares.
- Hearing testimonies from former students on how the Steve Biko Institute has changed their lives for the better. Ambassador Mavimbela also delivered an impromptu lecture on the legacy of Steve Biko in South Africa.
- Meeting Brazilian singer Margareth Menezes after watching her live performance. The singer performed at the FIFA2010 World Cup in South Africa
- Attending a capoeira school where youth from disadvantaged communities are trained in this unique form of martial arts, first practised by African slaves
- Watching a live football game between Bahia and Cuiabá during which a South African Tourism video was played across the stadium at half time. The drums, the singing and dancing, the thunderous applause and the general excitement in the stadium were exactly what one experiences in soccer games in South Africa (except the vuvuzelas of course!).



Ambassador with representatives from the Steve Biko Institute

African slaves and their descendants have contributed to many of the folkways, costumes, religious practices and distinctive foods that Salvador is known for. The city's multicultural past survives to the present day in the historic centre's colourful and rich tangible and intangible heritage. One easily felt at home, not only because of the diverse population, but also because of the many other striking similarities. The blue waters of the Atlantic ocean and the multi-coloured attached buildings are reminiscent of Cape Town and the colourful homes, which housed free slaves in the Bo-Kaap, the humidity and delicious and spicy local food resonates with Durban cuisine and the new cafes and bars filled with young and chic Baianos would fit right into Maboneng.

Ambassador Mavimbela and officials from the Embassy were most warmly welcomed by the friendly and hospitable people of Bahia. Names like Mandela, Biko and Tutu, as well as South African liberation movements, are all well-known and have inspired and influenced local organisations striving for the rights of black people, who continue to face structural inequality in Brazil.

TOP 7

BAHIA HIGHLIGHTS

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The South African flag being flown outside Olodum's head office in Salvador, on Black Consciousness Day



The Governor of Bahia and the President of Olodum, with the Secretary of Culture (in front) showing her Ndebele Blanket gifted by Ambassador Mavimbela

6



The President of Olodum, the Secretary of Tourism (standing) and Ambassador addressing the media and tour operators from Bahia

7



Amb with Brazilian singer Margareth Menezes

1



Amb and the President of Olodum laying a wreath at the status of Zumbi Dos Palmares



Ambassador in front of the statue of Zumbi Dos Palma.

3



Ambassador addressing media and tour operators from Bahia

Consul General attends Société de Traitement de Terril de Lubumbashi event

- By Amata Mutiri Bwando
Social Secretary, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

On Saturday, 13 November 2021, Ms Nosiselo Mbele, Consul General (CG) of South Africa in Lubumbashi, attended the celebration of the second anniversary of the partnership signed between Gécamines (one of the largest state-owned mining companies) and STL ("Société de Traitement de Terril de Lubumbashi"), the DRC smelter company.

STL produces alloy of zinc, copper and cobalt. STL is a good example of the economic benefits between the DRC and South Africa. In its perspective to expand its activities, STL is building a new plant for which the construction material, expertise (technicians, trainers, projects managers) and funding (Guma Group) are outsourced from South Africa.

It should be noted that Grant Dempsey, the current General Manager of STL, is a South African national.

This anniversary was celebrated with the local community in a form of a marathon in which approximately 400 men and women participated. The event was sponsored by many local companies and several prizes were offered to the participants.

CG Mbele graced the event by handing over prizes to the winners of the marathon.

Important moments of the event:



The starting point of the marathon



CG Mbele handing over a medal and other prizes to one of the winners



CG Mbele; Grant Dempsey, General Manager of STL (on the left); and Chantal Mobangolo, the Deputy General Manager of STL (on the right)



Participation of the South African Embassy in Doha at the 2021 Hospitality Qatar and Tourism Destination Pavilion

- By Ketlareng Sybil Matlhako
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.

The Mission participated in the Hospitality Qatar and Tourism Destination Pavilion, held from 8 to 11 November 2021, which saw the participation of key industry players from both the hospitality and tourism sectors.

The twin event provided an opportunity for the Mission to further explore opportunities for trade and investment for South African businesses active in the hospitality sector as well as explore areas of cooperation and promote South Africa as a tourism destination of choice. Throughout the event, there was a display of some South African products, artefacts and tourism brochures reflecting various destinations within the country and hospitality industry. Several exchanges were also conducted with visitors to the stall, focussing on the ease of doing business in South Africa, sharing information on how the South Africa tourism sector has evolved during the pandemic and adapted to the “new normal”, the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan and the SA Tourism Recovery Strategy. The twin event remains critical on the Mission’s tourism calendar whose objective is to:

- further strengthen and expand business partnerships in the hospitality and tourism sectors
- network with key players within the industry, leading to an expansion of the Mission’s database within the local hospitality industry
- deal with trade enquiries and establish trade leads related to the hospitality and tourism sectors, which expressed willingness to trade with South Africa
- learning new innovations within the sector.



Mission officials at the Hospitality Qatar and Tourism Destination Pavilion



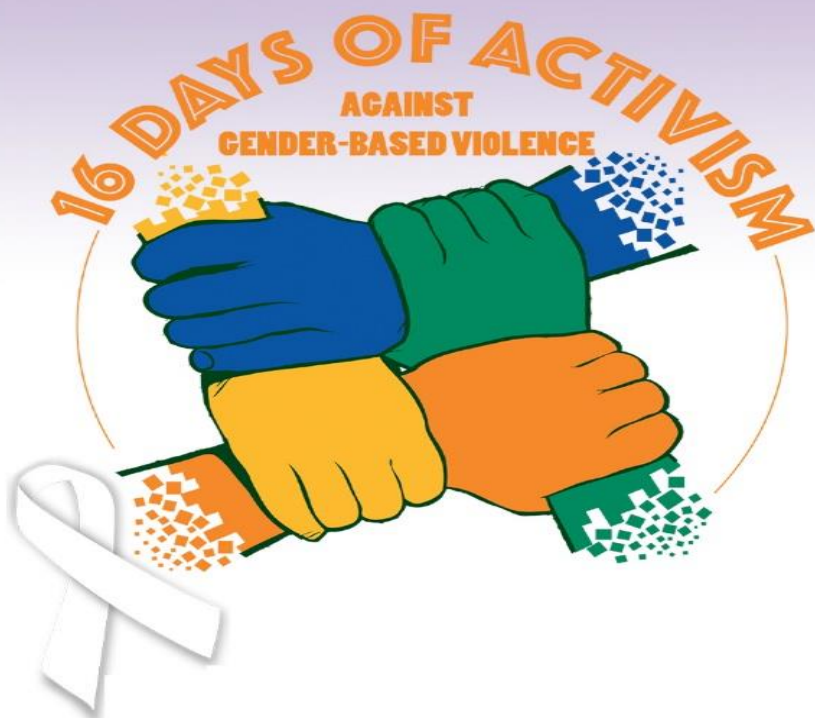
The South African stall at the Pavilion



A display of publications promoting South Africa



The South African lounge



16 DAYS

of **Activism** for **No Violence** against
Women and Children 2021



**The Year of Charlotte Mannya
Maxeke: 16 Days of Activism –
moving from awareness
to accountability**



The Future We Want



Voices from DIRCO

Steve Biko's Legacy in Brazil

- By Ambassador Vusi Mavimbela

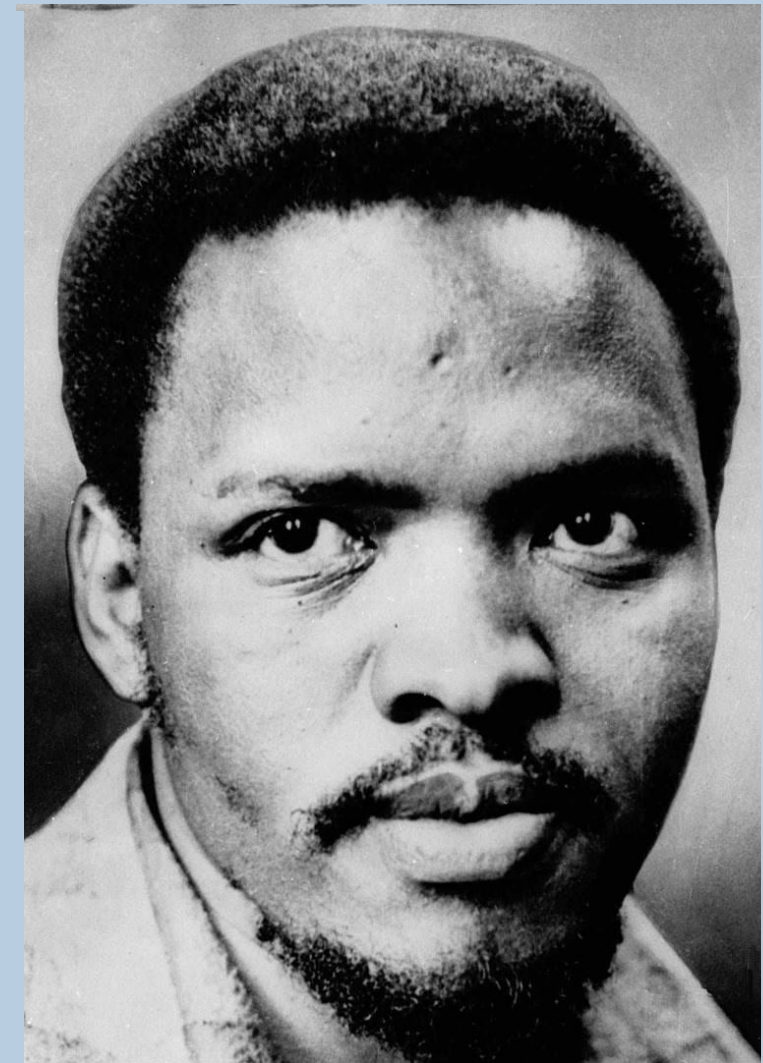
On 19 November 2021, I was led up a flight of black staircases into a building and then into a classroom whose wall is emblazoned with Steven Biko's pensive big graphic face. I had arrived at the Instituto Cultural Steve Biko (ICSB – Steve Biko Cultural Institute). The institute is located along cobbled black narrow streets in a United Nations-declared heritage precinct called Pelourinho. Pelourinho means "pillory" and it takes its name from an awful practice during slavery. Slaves who were condemned to be pilloried by their slave masters were taken to an open square in this part of old Salvador where they were sjamboked or guillotined in full view of the public.

Salvador is the capital city of the State of Bahia in Brazil. It sits on the northeast coast of the country. The first Portuguese explorer reached Bahia in 1501. By 1549, it had been turned into a Portuguese settler fortress. That marked Bahia as the first transatlantic slave port in South America. Brazil received the largest number of African slaves during the entire time of the slave trade, well beyond those who were shipped to North America. It is estimated that between 1520 and 1850, the number of slaves who reached Brazil was in the range of 4,4 million. Portuguese settler slave culture was tolerant to miscegenation and that led to a phenomenal growth of what came to be called *mulattos* – those who were considered neither white nor black by the Portuguese slave masters.

By the middle of the 19th Century, Africans and *mulattos* constituted the majority population in Brazil. By 1872, Afro-Brazilians had outnumbered white people by two to one and had also outnumbered the indigenous Indian population. As Portuguese slave settlements grew in the country, internal slave trade spread from the northeast to the south. The official abolition of slavery in Brazil in 1888 did not result in a radical change to the status of black people in the country largely because they did not have access to any land, they had no formal education and they had no political representation in the governance of the country.

Nonetheless, the Portuguese white colonial regime remained gravely concerned that the dominant complexion in the population of the country had become the shade of "black" and "brown". The Portuguese had largely exterminated the aboriginal Indian population through war and imported diseases but Brazil had become black in colour. The dominant pigmentation had become that of black people and *mulattos* – people who traced their blood back to what the white order considered the dark African continent of slaves and savages.

To reverse what they saw as the stigma of black colouring in the population, they introduced the policy and practice of *embranquecimento* (*whitening the population*). To put this into practice, Brazil



financed more than five million European immigrants to come and settle in the country. The idea was that through miscegenation, over time, the black shade in the population's complexion would be reduced into insignificance. This led the Brazilian white liberal elite to proclaim that Brazil was a "racial democracy" and a "racial paradise" where the race mixture would eventually nullify the racial, social and economic dichotomy of inequality.

Bahia and Salvador, however, remained the State and the city with the highest concentration of Afro-descendants. Up to this day, with 70% of its population being black and proudly tracing their roots to Africa, Salvador is a majority black city and is *de facto* the capital of African consciousness and culture in South America. In Brazil as a whole, 55% of the population acknowledge that they contain an amount of black blood in their veins or they consider themselves black.

By 1946, black political cultural movements like the National Convention of Brazilian Blacks began to talk openly and defiantly against the concept of racial democracy that they saw as the white regime's attempt to mask racial inequality and to entrench marginalisation of black people. In the decade of the 1960s, the *movimento negro* (black movements) drew further inspiration from the intensification of national liberation struggles in Africa as well as the Civil Rights movement in the United States of America (USA). In the 1970s, the *movimento negro* experienced a renewed renaissance in the assertion of African identity

and its Diaspora and saw the founding of cultural groups like Ilê Aiyê in 1974. It was founded as a carnival block and was hugely responsible for revolutionising the carnival in Salvador and infusing it with explicitly African culture and political history.

Olodum, a now famous drumming musical school that backed Michael Jackson in his famous music video "They Don't Care About Us", was founded in 1979. The *Batuque* (Brazilian African drumming and dance) is a traditional medium for expressing protest through the self-affirmation of African history and pride.

In 1992, a group of activists emerged out of *movimento negro* and founded the Biko Institute. These activists were younger in the decade of the 1970s when Biko's ideals began to spread and when he was assassinated in 1977. But they had been influenced, not only by Biko's ideals and conscientised by his assassination. In the 1960s, they had also heard the rumblings of the national liberation struggle in Africa and the Civil Rights Movement in the USA.

The Biko Institute draws its philosophy from Biko's philosophical teaching that "The most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed". The idea is to infuse the black mind with a sense of black pride, independence, assertiveness and solidarity. The institution uses Steve Biko's ideals in the context of the "pedagogy of the oppressed" to cultivate a proudly independent black mind in a black child in Bahia. The founders of the Biko Institute were initially motivated by their conclusion that, while black people were 70% in the majority in Bahia, they were nowhere to be found in tertiary colleges and universities in the State. So in Bahia, as well as in the whole of Brazil, they assessed that lack of education and access to tertiary and universities levels as well as absence in high positions in society in general, correlate to the colour line. They

said: the whiter your pigmentation is, the likely you are to rise higher in the echelons of education, the economy and politics. The blacker you are, the opposite is the case. For them, this was another example that racial democracy and the racial paradise as advocated by the white liberal elite were a myth.

The curriculum of the Biko Institute stands on three legs. The first one is what they call a *vestibular focus* that teaches pre-university black students in the subjects that prepare them to pass university entry examination. This leg is not only academic but also involves career guidance and mentorship.

The second one focusses on science, technology and professionalism and they call it OGUNTEC. This term is taken from the African deity who is considered in West Africa as the god of fire, war and science. This focus recognises the importance of these subjects in the future success of the students. These subjects have largely been made to look inaccessible to black students from Brazilian *favelas* and poor communities. OGUNTEC is deliberately based on an Afro-centric pedagogy. For example, one of the teachers explained during a chemistry class that *cachasa*, a popular and highly potent alcoholic drink that is now dominated by German beverage companies, came through to Brazil on slave ships and found its way to slave settlements in Brazil.

Such history would not be taught in conventional school pedagogy. By exposing the students to such knowledge, the teacher infuses a sense of pride about themselves, the indigenous chemistry knowledge from Africa and the continent of their forebears.

The aspect of professionalism is designed for students who have recently graduated from university or tertiary institutions and are about to enter the job market.

The third leg is *Cidadania e Consciencia Negra* (CCN – black consciousness and citizenship). This is a compulsory course that targets the black consciousness of the student. This entails relocking the student's consciousness to the African continent, an African landmass that is the birthplace of humanity and culture, a continent that bears fundamental significance to the civilisation history of Brazil. It is about getting back the mind of the students from the possession of the oppressor, as Steve Biko instructed. This is not to ignore the class nature of Brazilian society and economy, but it is to highlight and emphasise the aspect of black consciousness, which is often downplayed in politics and the economy of Brazil. As one Biko Institute teacher puts it; "I can sleep poor and wake up rich, but I can never sleep black and wake up white".

As a result of activism by different Afro-Brazilian groups and institutions like the Biko Institute, by the end of the 1990s, politicians and white academics had largely come to acknowledge that Afro-Brazilians were sorely absent in positions of power throughout Brazilian society. The appreciation and recognition of Afro-Brazilians' contribution seemed to be acknowledged and confined only for enjoyment in exploits such as soccer and samba. It was because of the acknowledgement of this black marginalisation that President FH Cardoso, who was in office between 1995 and 2002, found it necessary to issue a decree to federal ministries instructing them to establish affirmative action quotas for personnel recruitment of Afro-Brazilians, minorities and women. As a consequence of this decree, in 2002, a National Affirmative

Action Programme was established. By 2012, a quota law was approved mandating that by 2016 all federal universities should have established a quota system.

At the end of the intense session with teachers and students of the Biko Institute, I walked down the long narrow staircase that took me out of the Biko Institute into the cobbled black streets. I had just been pleasantly reminded that Steve Biko bequeathed the black race, both in South Africa and in Bahia, the very same philosophy of a *vestibular focus*, an OGUNTEC pedagogy and a *Cidadania e Consciencia Negra*. In Bahia, through institutions like the Biko Institute, Olodum and Ilê Aiyê, Afro-Brazilians have woven that philosophy into every aspect of the community. In South Africa, we the black educated class, can also emulate teachers and students of Instituto Cultural Steve Biko. Where government falters, we can do our part to use our educated skills to help lift the poor black child over many barriers of racial and class marginalisation that are still prevalent in our country.

China and the United Nations: 50 Years of Friendship and Solidarity

- By Prof. Anil Sooklal
Deputy Director General: Asia and Middle East

25 October 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758, which restored China's legitimate right to its UN seat. In his statement at the 76th Session of the UNGA on 21 September 2021 President Xi described this year as truly remarkable for the people of China. Firstly, it marks the centenary of the Communist Party of China and secondly, the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the People's Republic of China (PRC) of its rightful seat at the UN.

In underlining the importance of the UN in the global governance architecture, President Xi stated, "... in the world, there is only one international system, i.e. the international system with the United Nations at its core. There is only one international order, i.e. the international order underpinned by international law. And there is only one set of rules, i.e. the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter."

Following the victory of the Communist Party of China in 1949 over the nationalist KMT, the PRC was universally accepted by the people of China and the international community as the legitimate Government of China. In 1950, Premier Zhou Enlai wrote to the UN Secretary-General as well as the President of UNGA, requesting that the Government of the PRC be recognised as the sole legitimate government representing the people of China. He further called for the expulsion of Taiwan from the UN. However, the just and legitimate demand of the PRC was met with deliberate obstruction, mainly by the United

States of America, which continued to recognise Taiwan as the sole representative of China. Between 1950 and 1971, China made 21 attempts to have the question of the restoration of its UN seat addressed. It is unfortunate that the politics of containment prevailed in keeping the PRC outside the UN system and it is this very same policy of containment that is being used today to frustrate the re-emergence of China as a global power.

On 15 July 1971, Albania and Algeria as well as 17 UN member states requested that the question of the "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" be placed on the provisional agenda of the 26th Session of the UNGA. The 17 UN members observed that for years they had protested against what they considered a "hostile and discriminatory policy followed by several governments about the communist government of mainland China, which they considered to be the genuine representative of the Chinese people. The existence of the PRC, they declared, was a reality which could "not be changed to suit the myth of a so-called Republic of China, fabricated out of a portion of Chinese territory."

In his opening remarks at the 76th Session of UNGA, President Xi committed to take China's cooperation with the UN to a new level and make new and greater contributions to advancing the noble cause of the UN.



He further urged the UN to hold high the banner of true multilateralism and remain committed to ensuring a stable international order while enhancing the representation and voice of developing nations and advancing democracy and rule of law in international relations. He urged the UN to ensure balance and work in all the three areas of security, development and human rights.

On 25 October 1971, the UN adopted Resolution 2758, which stated that the PRC was the only legitimate government of China. The resolution replaced the Republic of China (ROC) (Taiwan) with the PRC as the legitimate and sole representative at the UN, including as a permanent member of the UN Security Council (SC). The resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of 76 votes in favour of China and only 35 against with 17 abstentions. Twenty-six African countries voted in favour of China, marking the largest regional bloc of votes in favour of China, once again underlining China-Africa solidarity.

Over the past 50 years, China has played a significant role in the UN system; from its initial focus on development activities, China has expanded its role in all areas of the UN. China's visible presence and contribution is seen in all UN structures and specialised bodies. China's commitment to the UN was further witnessed during President Xi's statement in 2015, marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN. On that occasion, President Xi announced a US\$1 billion fund for peace and development. He further pledged US\$100 million in support of the African Union's Africa Standby Peacekeeping Force. China is a significant contributor to the UN peacekeeping activities. It has the highest number of troops and peacekeeping personnel serving the UN Peacekeeping Operations, including in Africa. In addition to its major financial contributions, China has also deployed several of its experts within the UN. Today, four of the 15 UN specialised agencies are headed by Chinese nationals.

There is an uneasy thinking among some Western policymakers that China's increasing presence in the international community is part of a foreign policy "dilemma" confronting Western influence in the East Asian region. In recent years, the growing tensions between China and the West has sent shockwaves around the world. The 5G technology and recent trade tensions and rivalries are being stoked to create a situation that is less than ideal.

Any analysis of the implementation of Resolution 2758 requires a contextual understanding of the terrain in which the PRC was given its rightful chair at the UN and the UNSC in 1971. Calls for increasing support for an independent Taiwan is worrying as it undermines the basic tenets of statehood and sovereignty. UN Resolution 2758 is unambiguous and the global recognition of the PRC as the sole representative of the people of China and the subsequent establishment of diplomatic relations with the PRC by the international community leave little doubt that the current disjuncture being advocated by some is opportunistic and in violation of international norms and law governing sovereignty.

For decades, the global balance of power was maintained by diplomatic efforts that sought to ensure peace, security and stability. This balance is increasingly fluid and complex, thus creating newer and greater threats to the international community.

The reality is that China is a sovereign state governed by the rule of law, international norms and best practice. China's commitment to multilateralism and dialogue has been a recurrent feature of its foreign policy for decades. Over the past 50 years, China has made a positive contribution to the global community as a respected member of the UN.

Despite being denied its rightful seat at the UN for over two decades, China extended a hand of friendship to its detractors upon assuming its UN seat. It has been a champion in articulating the interests of the global South, including Africa. The world has evolved at a tremendous pace since the creation of the UN in 1945. One of the most remarkable developments in the modern era has been the meteoric rise of China as a major global power, President Xi has repeatedly called for the creation of a community with a shared future for mankind and building a better world for all. The UN must be at the core of creating such an inclusive and equitable global community as envisaged by President Xi and also echoed by several global leaders at the recently concluded 76th Session of the UN. China's presence within the UN over the past 50 years is a moment of celebration that should be embraced by the international community as we seek to collectively build a more resilient, equitable and inclusive UN representing all of humanity.

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#ABOUTME

Interview with Mankgara Maime – South Africa’s Representative at the United Nations Children’s General Assembly

The first-ever international Children's General Assembly was held this year on the sidelines of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. During the assembly, global leaders listened to children representatives from across the world presenting their ideas on creating a better future. The meeting, which was virtual, took place between Billund, Denmark, the Capital of Children, and New York, United States of America (USA).

The 15-year-old Mankgara Maime represented South Africa. She delivered the children’s manifesto on 21 September, which focussed on climate change, education and poverty, and called on world leaders to invest more time and money in education rather than the military, and invest more in green energy and technology than in monetary growth.

1. What sparked your interest in global issues, especially climate change

My love for History as a subject is one of the aspects in this regard, because if you look back at world events, one can say that history is repeating itself. Although climate change was not such a big problem back then due to reduced gas usage, it is still a factor in our politics and education systems despite advancements. Understanding that nothing is perfect – they could be better. Another aspect is that I realised that we are one day going to be adults ourselves and all of these issues are going to be a problem in the future, and

we are going to have to deal with them. So, I feel that it is better for us to start dealing with them now, while we are still able to maintain them before they avalanche. It is better to help adults now to create a better future for us children, and for us to create a better future for ourselves and our potential children.

2. How did you get selected to represent South Africa at the UN Children’s General Assembly?

My mom was sent a link by a colleague and shared it with my cousin and I applied, and I had actually completely forgotten about it because of the onset of the pandemic and school being so hectic. So, when I received an e-mail that read “Yay!



You’re in Group I”, I thought, “What is this for?!”. I then realised that it was for the UN Children’s General Assembly. It was great! We had workshops every weekend, which were about three to four hours long. But as the saying goes, when you are having fun, time flies.

As part of the application, we were requested to write a paragraph on a problem that affects you and how it will impact our future, and further explain how you would try to solve the problem. Then according to your input, we were placed in groups (10 in total) with children from all over the world that you share interests with, and in the online workshops we did activities. At the end of all the meetings, they selected 10 representatives, one from each group. Each representative had to write a speech based on their group’s topic, and from the 10 representatives, they picked the person who was going to read the manifesto, and that person was me. We then went to Denmark and we presented our speeches and manifesto.

3. Tell us about your experience presenting to a room full of world leaders and telling them what children globally want to be done, especially considering that this was your first time ever leaving South Africa.

It was very intimidating actually because I am talking to adults, and to adults, we are just children. We don’t really have a say as what we say, some do not grasp. Some adults still have the olden-day mind set where they believe that an adult is always right, so children always have to follow adults. So, it was quite intimidating to see their reactions and how they were going to respond to what I had to say, because a lot of these problems were big ones that not even adults had noticed. Therefore you wonder: “Will they believe me? Will they agree with me, or will they say that ‘no, it’s something very small’, or will they actually work with us and take action?”. Being a learner from South Africa, we don’t get many opportunities to do such massive things for our country, and one of them is not giving children a voice. We are so focussed on this thought that children are meant to go to school, then tertiary and then start to work. It will continue to be this way until we actually change this narrative. That is something that I learned through this journey. Much as it was scary to address them, I felt good because I knew that I was doing something that is going to help me and children in my country and the world.

4. In your speech you highlighted statistics on some of the problems that today's children face and some of those were education and mental health. How do you think that climate change factors into all of these issues because it does touch so many aspects of our lives?

Climate change affects everyone. It affects our workspace. It affects the way we adapt to different environments and that in turn can affect our mental health because you have become accustomed to a particular way of living that is suddenly changed by the weather altering. As we go to school, it makes it difficult because we are so used to knowing that in Term 2 and 3, we wear winter uniform, and now we have to feel the heat while wearing stockings, a huge blazer or tracksuits. That affects our thinking because you are thinking about how cold you are and how you are not dressed for this weather, or thinking about how hot you are and it is quite difficult to think with so much heat. You are suffocating yourself in so many thoughts because you are thinking about your temperature, while also thinking about schoolwork. It impacts us as people a lot as we wonder how climate change is going to affect us in the future and how bad is it going to turn out. As we speak right now, it might seem like it is not that bad, but if we look at the USA with the campaigns that they are doing around climate change, it shows that people are starting to see the effect that it has today and the effect it will have tomorrow.

5. I was asked by a group of 11-year-olds to pose to you this question – “how can adults learn from children?”

Oh, that's a very good question! I love this question. Us, as children, we have a,

like adults say, very weird way of thinking. We always think outside the box. So, I believe that adults can take this lesson from children. Think outside the box and try to find new ways to solve the problems we are facing now. If we try to stick to the way governments have solved their problems in history, it is not going to work properly for us because we are living in a new day and era. It is going to affect people in many different ways and it might not be good; we are not living in the past anymore. Like we said in the manifesto, we are very creative children. We are so curious about everything.

So, I think that adults should try and be similar. Most adults stick to what they are used to do, like going to work, raising and feeding their families, and getting a salary, but they should also try to have fun, which will help them to be more creative. This can also help them in their workplace, because if you are more creative, you are building yourself, the people around you and your entire organisation. Thinking curiously and creatively will help so many people in so many ways. It doesn't mean that when you get to certain age, you have to stop being and having fun because you are just restricting yourself from expanding your mind. Adults are consumed with the stereotypical way of being serious and only working.

Like children, adults need to play more. Playing can actually teach you a lot. I learned that from my experience in Denmark where we interacted with the Lego Foundation, and we were taught that playing is something very essential in life because it is not advisable to live a very serious life. Have fun. Be creative. Be curious. With all of that, you can think better.



Mankgara delivers remarks in Denmark



Children's General Assembly representatives from all over the world



6. On 2 November 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa, along with other leaders from the governments of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the USA, as well as the European Union signed a historic international partnership to support a just transition to a low-carbon economy and a climate-resilient society, which will also ensure that South Africa is able to access funds that will assist us in reducing our carbon footprint. How do you see the youth of South Africa being involved and making a contribution in this regard?

We once had this conversation in class, where we spoke about how we don't use solar power enough. South Africa is an incredibly hot place, and if we make more use of solar panels, more people will be provided with sufficient access to electricity. It will be very helpful and will also help decrease our taxes because that is where the majority of our money is going – to electricity and water. It will be less heavy on the pocket because it comes from a natural resource.

In Russia, for instance, they convert their waste into energy. The machine they use is really expensive to operate but it also decreases carbon footprint. Coal is a non-renewable resource and will be depleted soon. That machine burns the waste, while filtering the gas it uses and it becomes cleaner and that is how it is released into the air. I asked my teacher why we cannot use it in South Africa and she explained that it would be quite costly and difficult to utilise in the current economic climate. But essentially, the use of solar panels could be very beneficial.

GLOBE AT A GLIMPSE



Amb Mxolisi Nkosi delivers SA's National Statement reiterating SA's support to the process of elaborating a Legally Binding Instrument on the Right to Development during the 22nd session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development. 22 Nov 2021



Left: High Commissioner H.E General (Rtd) S Nyanda, accompanied by Counsellor: Political Mr P Chaba and Mission Officials met with the CEO of Standard Bank, Mr William Le Roux; Chief Economist: Mr Fausio Mussa; & Head of Investment Banking: Mr Fanile Shongwe.. Maputo 30 Nov 2021



The South African Ambassador had an interview on 16 November 2021 with journalists from the National Television ORTB about the IBSA funding she acquired for the Djegbadji, Ouidah salt project.



Right: Ambassador Selly Ramokgopa and State Secretary Thune, had a bilateral meeting to discuss areas of mutual interest including Norway's commitment in assisting developing countries with the capital and technology to jumpstart the green transition of the economy. 30 Nov 2021

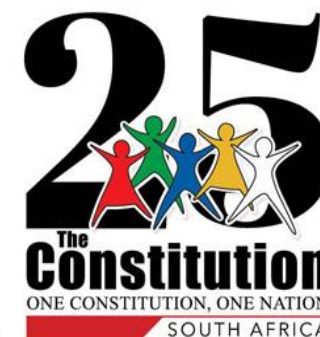


Minister Naledi Pandor hosted a dinner at the O.R Tambo Building for the Heads of Mission from the Americas and Europe





Ambassador Thokozile Xasa accompanied by the South African Honorary Consul to Luxembourg, Mr. Carlo Cravat visiting the South African stand at the International Bazaar and interacting with the SA Community based in Luxembourg. Photo by President of the SA Community in Luxembourg, Mr Michael Haller

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