



IT'S YOUR VOICE

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Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

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IT'S YOUR VOICE

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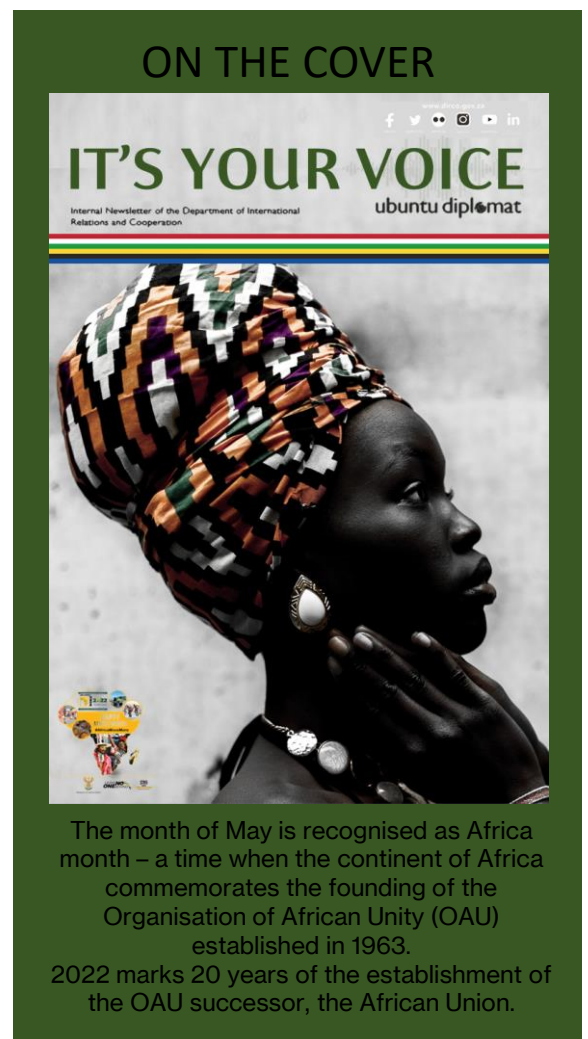
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international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



IT'S YOUR VOICE

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Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

The month of May is recognised as Africa Month, when our continent commemorates the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established in 1963. Through the formation of the OAU, Africa became the first continent to focus on continental unity and encourage nation-building through unity and freedom from oppression. On 9 July 2002, the OAU's successor, the African Union (AU) was founded in Durban, South Africa. The objective of the relaunch was borne out of the consensus of African leaders that for Africa to realise its potential, it is necessary to refocus attention from the fight for decolonisation and the end of apartheid, and look towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development.

The year 2022 marks 20 years since the AU was formed. This was a significant moment for Africa's unity and further enhanced the Pan-African values shared across the Diaspora. South Africa, through DIRCO, hosted a number of public lectures during Africa Month and will hold a commemoration event later in the year.

I am reminded of the words of the great African leader and one of the founding fathers of the OAU, Kwame Nkrumah, who had a vision of an Africa that is advanced, prosperous and economically self-sufficient. He said in his 1961 speech titled, ***I Speak of Freedom, It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.*** These words further fortified the decision made by the continental leaders of 2002 to move towards growth and economic development.

At DIRCO, we celebrated Africa Week. We were treated to some fine attire throughout the week, with colleagues stepping into OR Tambo, proudly representing the continent in regalia. Congratulations once again to Ms Gugu Ngwenya who pulled out all the stops daily to claim her place as the best dressed. Thank you to everyone who participated, enjoyed themselves and looked good while doing it.



In this year's Budget Vote speech, Minister Naledi Pandor reiterated South Africa's commitment to continue using our membership in various multilateral fora to champion the interests of the African continent. The African Agenda remains a cornerstone of South Africa's foreign policy. Most importantly, Africa's development is dependent on peace and stability and silencing the guns on our continent.

Our colleague, Adv Thembele Joyini, has been nominated by South Africa's Cabinet for candidature for Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the period 2023 to 2032. This nomination was further ratified by the AU. The elections will be held in June 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. We wish Adv Joyini well during the lobbying period. Team DIRCO is behind him all the way!

2022/23 Budget Vote

12 MAY 2022

#DIRCOBudgetVote



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The DIRCO Budget Vote speech was tabled to Parliament on 12 May 2022, by Minister Naledi Pandor, supported by Deputy Ministers Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Alvin Botes. Due to lingering COVID-19 regulations, the Budget Vote was hosted in hybrid format.

In her remarks to Parliament, Minister Pandor reiterated that South Africa had continued to conduct its foreign relations in accordance with the values and principles set out in our Constitution. As DIRCO, we strive to be a positive contributor to the global family of nations and to promote our aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa in a just and equitable world. These are difficult goals to pursue, challenged by complex shifts in global relations and unprecedented global instability. “Some believe we are at an inflection point in history and that we have an opportunity to reshape and rethink global institutions and mechanisms”, said Minister Pandor.

At present, the shadow of COVID-19 still continues to affect activities and movement across the world. Minister Pandor pointed out that the pandemic exposed poverty and inequality in our own society and worldwide. “We must ensure that we continue to respond effectively and to prepare for future crises and new pandemics. Our country has been hit hard by the effects of COVID-19, but we responded speedily as a nation and as government, and this led to the saving of many lives” said the Minister, adding that the challenging crises that have affected South Africa since 2019, impacted negatively on our economy and led to continuing low growth and inadequate productivity.

This has resulted in government having to adjust budgets and redirect funds toward the COVID-19 response and to react to the effects of the riots of 2021. These changes have affected the resources available to us as DIRCO and government departments in this new financial year. “We are allocated over 6.6 billion for this financial year, which is an extremely modest increase of around 1.3% from the 2020/21 allocation. As we have said previously, our department requires greater allocation of resources in order to carry out the assigned work in the 116 diplomatic missions in the 102 countries in which South Africa has representation”.

DIRCO has made progress in advancing South Africa’s foreign policy agenda and has worked hard at consolidating the progress achieved in the past two decades. South Africa is committed to using its foreign policy to contribute to a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world as stated in goal seven of our Medium Term Strategic Framework. Our country showed this commitment through implementing a comprehensive strategic framework in combatting the pandemic and its effects and sharing our programmes and our experiences with the entire continent.

South Africa used its participation in the G20, the G7 and BRICS to secure practical actions to address the fallout from the pandemic. “We were able to achieve important outcomes. One of these was an agreement that multilateral financial institutions would implement a yearlong debt standstill to provide liquidity for the economies of low- and middle-income countries and funding for businesses that experienced losses under COVID-19 restrictions”.

2022/23

Budget Vote

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

12 MAY 2022

#DIRCOBudgetVote

“We recently launched the Coordination Mechanism for Economic Diplomacy (COMED) as a platform in South Africa to exchange information between government departments, the private sector, and civil society, on economic opportunities on the continent and to coordinate efforts for export promotion.”

Dr. Naledi Pandor
Minister: International Relations and Cooperation



Minister Pandor highlighted to Parliament that South Africa actively argued in these fora for Africa to be a vaccine producer to reverse inadequate vaccine access for Africa. “Today, six African countries are developing vaccine production processes and establishing facilities for this. This is a major advance for Africa and we are pleased that President Ramaphosa gave leadership on these issues and advanced Africa in its research and innovation initiatives”, said the Minister.

In 2021, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General (SG) gave the global community new hope when he presented a global vision of inclusive and transformed multilateralism. Minister Pandor added that “he proposed the adoption of a common agenda for humanity that will see us address climate change, conflict, poverty and insecurity in a manner that promotes inclusion, shared development and equality. The SG further proposed that the UN and its institutions would serve as the strategic multilateral body supporting the globe in acting on this common agenda.

The Russia and Ukraine war once again brought to the fore the glaring fact that there is an urgent need for reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the UN itself. She said that, “Despite our calls for a ceasefire, and for UN-led negotiations, the war rages on, with millions displaced and thousands maimed and dead. We remain steadfast in our belief that war benefits no one and that all efforts should focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes”.

Minister Pandor also announced South Africa's campaign to return to the Human Rights Council in 2023 and the African Union has endorsed our candidature. “We regard the Human Rights Council as an important multilateral body where South Africa can pursue its foreign policy objectives and promote the human rights enshrined in our Constitution. Minister Pandor also highlighted South Africa's promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality at the heart of its foreign policy. Minister Pandor announced that “this year, we have assumed co-chairship of the Global Network of National Focal Points on Women, Peace and Security, and we are working to close the implementation gaps in our UN resolutions”.

A major initiative that we recently launched as DIRCO, is the Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights programme. Mme Charlotte Maxeke was one of our earliest ambassadors, a true internationalist forging relations across the globe and was one of the first women in southern Africa to attain a Bachelor of Science degree in 1901. Her commitment to social justice at home and abroad should inspire a new generation of women ambassadors in diplomacy.

DIRCO has worked hard to coordinate South Africa's economic diplomacy on the African continent and to have a coordinated approach to it. Earlier this year, DIRCO launched the Coordination Mechanism for Economic Diplomacy (COMED) as a platform in South Africa to exchange information between government departments, the private sector and civil society on economic opportunities on the continent and to coordinate efforts for export promotion. “We hope that COMED will assist us in ensuring a coherent South African response to economic opportunities. The common agenda of the SG aspires that all of us will embrace global solidarity”, said Minister Pandor.

2022/23

Budget Vote

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

12 MAY 2022

#DIRCOBudgetVote

“We continue to support the revolutionary causes of those who suffer under the yoke of colonial oppression. We believe time has come to exert maximum diplomatic pressure to ensure that the promised referendum on Western Sahara's self-determination is finally held.”

Dr. Naledi Pandor
Minister: International Relations and Cooperation

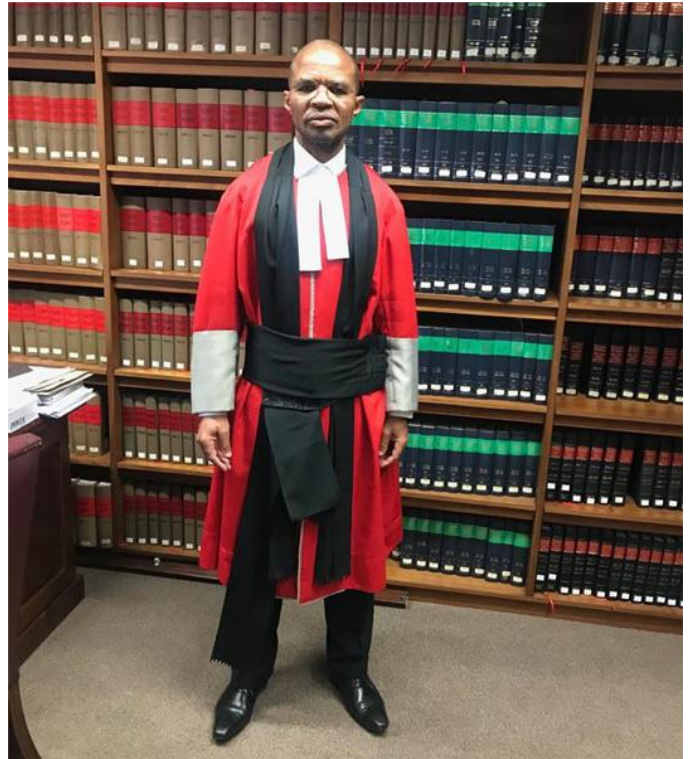


South Africa's candidate standing for election as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter "the Convention OR UNCLOS") provides the paramount and most comprehensive legal regime for the oceans in history. Its adoption in 1982 constitutes one of the most significant developments in global ocean governance. The Convention is frequently quite rightly called the "constitution for the oceans". According to its preamble, it establishes "a legal order for the seas and oceans, which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment".

To achieve its goals, the 1982 Convention, among others, establishes three main institutions, namely: the International Seabed Authority (ISA), through which state parties to the Convention organise and control all activities of exploration for, and exploitation of, mineral resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond limits of national jurisdiction (articles 1, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, 157, paragraph 1); the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, whose main task is to make recommendations to coastal states on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf (article 76, paragraph 8); and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (hereinafter "the Tribunal" or "ITLOS"), whose jurisdiction comprises all disputes and all applications concerning interpretation or application of the Convention and all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement, which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal (article 288, paragraphs 1 and 2; Annex vi, article 21). The Tribunal may also give an advisory opinion on a legal question if this is provided for by "an international agreement related to the purposes of the Convention" (Rules of the Tribunal, article 138). The Tribunal has its headquarters in Hamburg, the Federal Republic of Germany.

While judicial institutions do not play a forefront



role in global governance, they constitute an integral element of this process by providing authoritative guidance on what the law is and by fostering the progressive development of international law. This is particularly true in the case of the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea because of special responsibilities assigned to it under the Convention. In performance of these responsibilities, the Tribunal has accumulated a body of jurisprudence, which constitutes its contribution to the progressive development of international law of the sea and thus global ocean governance. In exercising its jurisdiction, the Tribunal on several occasions has had an opportunity to provide such contribution to global ocean governance. Peaceful settlement of international disputes is a fundamental principle of international law of a peremptory character. It is formulated as such in the United Nations (UN) Charter (Article 2.3), and developed in UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV) on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

According to Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Statute,

the Tribunal "shall be composed of a body of 21 Judges, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea."

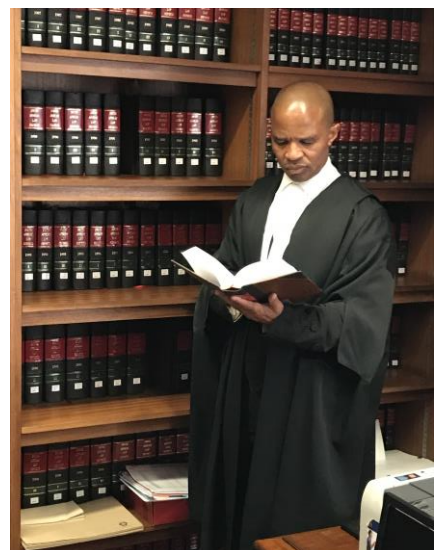
In terms of the rules, the positions for judges on the Tribunal have been allocated as follows: Africa - five; Asia-Pacific - five; Eastern Europe - three; Latin America and Caribbean - four; Western European and other states - three; and a floating seat for one member from among Africa, Asia-Pacific and Western European and other states. Currently, Africa is represented in the Tribunal by five judges and the terms of the two judges are coming to an end, creating the two vacancies.

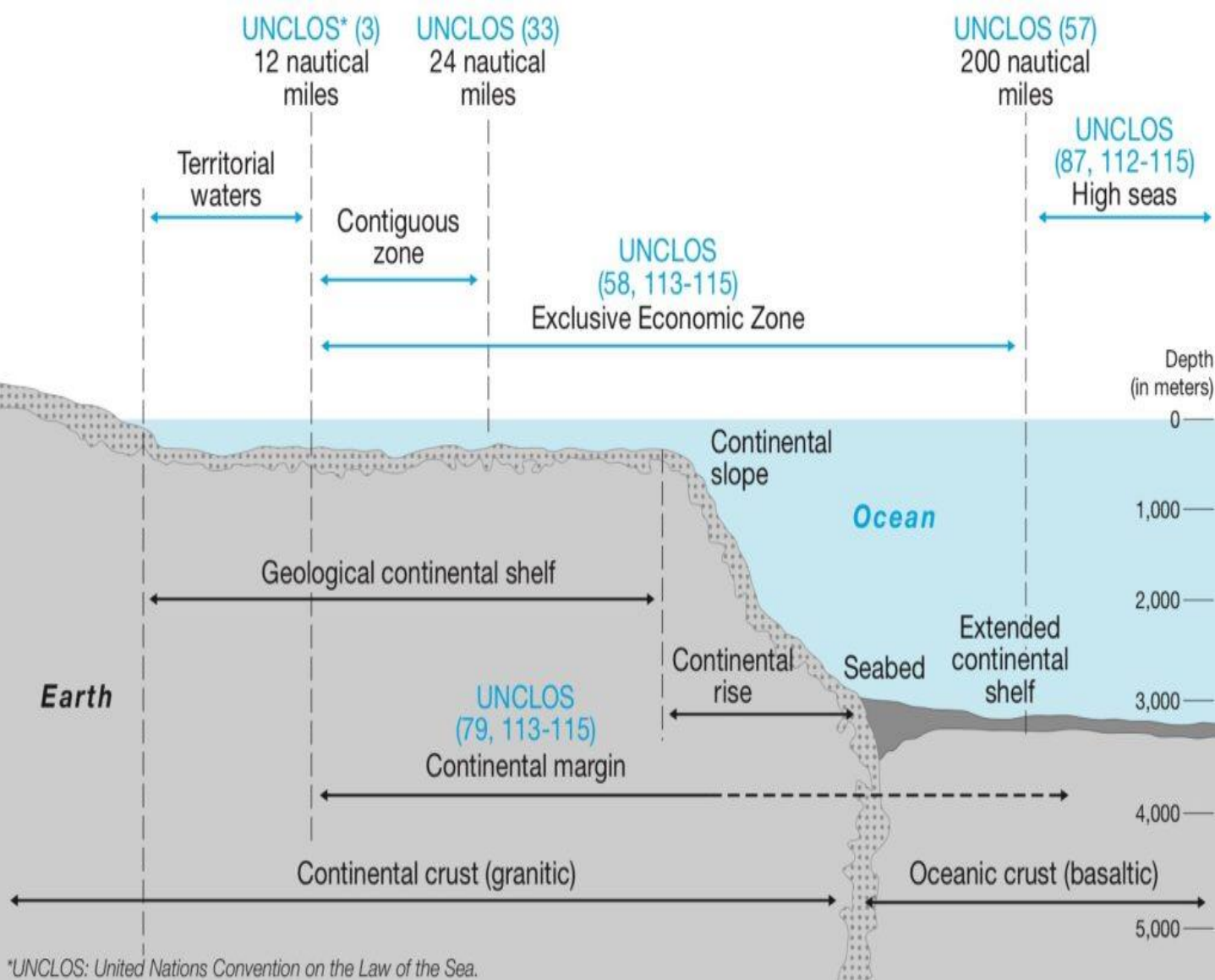
Each State Party may nominate not more than two persons having the qualifications prescribed in Article 2 of the Statute to serve in the permanent positions of judges for a term of nine years. It is important for South Africa to be represented in the Tribunal. In this regard, Adv Thembele Joyini is South Africa's candidate duly nominated by South Africa's Cabinet to stand for election as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He has also been endorsed by the African Union during the AU Summit in February 2022. Elections are scheduled for June 2023 at the Headquarters of the UN in New York for the first term from 2023 to 2032.

He is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) of the ISA from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2022. He acted as Judge of the High Court of South Africa in Pretoria sometime in 2019. During his acting stint, he presided over a number of cases and penned 12 judgments. He is well equipped with a wealth of experience accompanied by his academic and professional qualifications respectively. He has a strong academic foundation in the form of an LLM (Labour Law), University of South Africa (2007); LLM (International Law), University of South Africa (2000); LLB, Walter Sisulu University (the then University of Transkei) (1995); B Juris, Walter Sisulu University (1993) and BA, University of South Africa (1989). He has also been admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa since 2007. Since 2008, he has been serving as Principal State Law Adviser (International Law) in the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (International Law). He is responsible for, among others, international law

Issues, including various aspects of the oceans and law of the sea issues. He is also a seasoned negotiator in the international law of the sea space and in this regard, he is currently seized with, among others, the following:

- facilitator of the institutional arrangements in the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Conference that is currently developing/elaborating an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction since March 2022 to date
- leading in the negotiations on cross-cutting issues on behalf of the African Group in New York in the Intergovernmental Conference that is currently developing/elaborating an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction since 2020 to date
- leading in the negotiations on behalf of the African Group under the auspices of the ISA Open-ended Working Group in respect of the development of the payment regime of the draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the area since 2022 to date
- leading the South African delegation in the Intergovernmental Conference on the development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction from 2018 to date
- leading the South African delegation in the Council and Assembly meetings of the ISA in Kingston, Jamaica, from 2017 to date; etc.





Law of the Sea Legal Regions



UNCLOS

Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini co-chairs the 10th Session of the South Africa-Iran Deputy Ministerial Working Group

By Mr Fernando Slawers

Directorate: Gulf States II



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini visited Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), from 21 to 24 May 2022, to co-chair the 10th Session of the Deputy Ministerial Working Group (DMWG). Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs responsible for the political affairs of Iran, co-chaired the DMWG, representing the Islamic Republic.

The primary objective of the DMWG is to contribute to providing strategic impetus to initiatives to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries in various areas of cooperation, by serving as an intersessional mechanism of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC).

The 10th Session of the DMWG assessed and reviewed the progress achieved in the work plans of the various technical committees that have been established between the two countries, and identified new potential areas of cooperation aimed at further strengthening political, economic and cultural relations. The Deputy Ministers also exchanged views on global and regional developments, among others, the progress on the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Ukraine-Russia conflict, global terrorism and extremism, human rights, and the BRICS' grouping.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini also paid a courtesy visit to Dr Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, as well as engaged with Dr Mehdi Safari, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs responsible for economic affairs, and Dr Ensieh Khazali, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs. These engagements provided further opportunities to explore areas for possible strengthened cooperation.

Following the attainment of a democratic South Africa in 1994, South Africa and Iran formalised relations through the signing of the South Africa-Iran JCC in 1995. South Africa and Iran continue to share strong fraternal bonds of friendship built on the foundation of historic fraternal relations. Relations with the current Islamic regime were initiated in 1979 following the Islamic Revolution in Iran, when the former Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, supported South Africa's liberation struggle through the application of sanctions (economic and diplomatic) against the apartheid government. The South Africa-Iran JCC is the longest-running and most established structured bilateral mechanism that South Africa has with any country in the Middle East Region, having concluded 14 Ministerial-level sessions up to 2019.

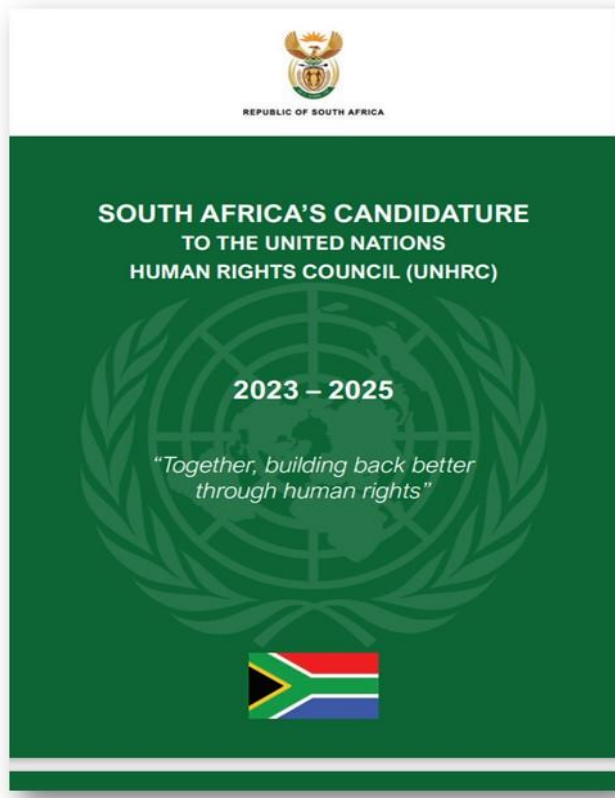
The JCC, although primarily engaging on political relations, covers the full spectrum of South Africa-Iran relations, including 10 sub-committees responsible for a wide range of technical areas of cooperation.

At the conclusion of the DMWG on 23 May 2022, the two Deputy Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in implementation of the outcomes of the 14th JCC, which was concluded in October 2019 in Tehran. The Deputy Ministers also agreed to further deepen cooperation in preparation for the 15th JCC, which will be hosted by the Republic of South Africa during November 2022. It was further agreed that the 11th Session of the DMWG will be hosted in South Africa at a date yet to be determined.

Together, building back better through human rights

By Lihle Mabuza

Directorate: Human Rights



At the 49th Session on the Human Rights Council (HRC) in March 2022, South Africa joined a core group of cross regional countries on a resolution on “Promoting and protecting economic social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic”. This was one of various resolutions that South Africa has driven within the HRC since the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of these resolutions was to bring to the attention of the council the unprecedented threats that the Coronavirus pandemic has brought to society, negatively impacting on a wide range of human rights such as the rights to health, food, housing, water and sanitation, social security, education and work. But most importantly, how it has eroded years of progress and drastically increased global poverty and exacerbated existing inequalities.

What was most disconcerting, however, was that at a time when international cooperation should have been at the forefront, we saw a self-defeating reversion to primitive nationalism and the exponential growth of the divide between and within countries. Developing countries, particularly

African states, found themselves on the backfoot, as it became apparent that vaccination regimes had left them behind, culminating in vaccine apartheid. It was also during this time that the scourge of racism reared its head as the rights of black people were shamefully violated.

It was George Orwell’s book *Animal Farm* that said, “all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others” and this could not have been more true during this pandemic. It became crucial for countries such as South Africa to fight for developing countries such as itself. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) specifies that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and just like freedom, some things “are never really won, you must earn it and win it in every generation” as asserted by Coretta Scott-King. Despite it being a relatively young democracy, the struggle for human rights and fundamental freedoms is not new to South Africa.

By its very nature, and for historical reasons, South Africa takes the international human rights agenda very seriously, hence the country believes it can contribute to the human rights discourse as a member of the HRC. Multilateralism remains as an important tool to solve global challenges and human rights can play a significant role as nations try to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is true that the pandemic has tested humanity, and after two years of economic and social turmoil, South Africa’s membership will be underpinned by solidarity and cooperation for the full realisation of human rights. As the world builds back, it is important that it is done in a way that addresses the inequalities of the past and is aligned with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular the notion of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights. South Africa believes that the recovery period should be predicated on human dignity, the achievement of equality, the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This must be fought for; it will not be handed to us, we “must earn it and win it”.





Job Shadowing and Career Pathing in the 21st Century

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Education's Tshwane South District Office will host a hybrid E-learning and Career Indaba.



The event included presentations from DIRCO's Talent Management section, on career opportunities in international relations and diplomacy.

AFRICA

25th May

DAY



African
Union



20
YEARS

AFRICA WEEK AT DIRCO



DIRCO celebrated Africa Week from 23 to 27 May 2022. Colleagues put their various African attire on display. Ms Gugu Ngwenya (centre), who dazzled each day in her multiple outfits, was the overall winner.



South African participates in Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Kigali, 17 to 21 May 2022

Malose Kola

High Commission of the Republic of South Africa Rwanda, Kigali



Thando Piliso of Thando Piliso Emporium and George Malelu of Georges Malelu, participate in the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, held in Kigali.

This year, two designers from South Africa participated in the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, held in Kigali, namely Thando Piliso of Thando Piliso Emporium and George Malelu of Georges Malelu. A total of 27 fashion designers participated in the event. Other designers who graced the show were from Canada, France, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Rwanda.

While this was Thando's debut at the Kigali Fashion Week, he is not new to the fashion industry. In February this year, he showcased at the Nook International Fashion show in Lagos, Nigeria. Thando has dressed well-known South African stars such as Nomcebo Zikode, Somizi Mhlango, Amanda Black, Zikhona Sodlaka and Zandile Msutwana.

Georges was part of the inaugural Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, Kigali in 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event did not take place in 2020, and last year, the occasion was cancelled at the last minute when George was already in Rwanda.

Thando showcased 15 garments, including a Xhosa wedding gown and a suit with full Rwanda-beaded patterns. George's collection consisted of eight pieces, including a showstopper in honour of his late business partner and designer, Lebohang "Quiteria" Kekana. Both Quiteria and George have appeal outside our continent, having dressed American female pop musician Beyonce Knowles during her performance at the Global Citizen Festival: Mandela 100.

The participation of South African designers elicited additional interest to the event, with more people appreciating the traditional Xhosa beadwork and colourful garments. The four-day event was well attended by a wide spectrum of Rwandan society and other African countries, and it also allowed the South African designers to put the spotlight squarely on South Africa.

Participation of the South African Embassy in Doha at the 2022 AgriteQ and EnviroteQ

Ketlareng Matlhako

Counsellor: Political

South African Embassy, Doha, State of Qatar



The South African Embassy staff attending the expo

The Mission participated at the 2022 AgriteQ and EnviroteQ held as a twin-event under the auspices of the Qatar Ministries of Municipality, as well as Environment and Climate Change. The event saw the participation of key industry players with a specific focus on export/import of agro-processed foods and related products (finished and raw) such as cattle fodder, irrigation technology, livestock husbandry and management, landscaping, yield management, FMCG and retail, apiaries and fish farming. The event also saw the participation of businesses with a focus on greenhouse technologies, environmental CSR, alternative energy, energy efficiency in construction, industrial technologies that reduce raw materials, recycling technologies, water conservation techniques and other areas of environmental sustainability.

The 2022 AgriteQ and EnviroteQ saw the participation of four (4) South African companies (Harvest Chemicals, BioLabMe, Regulatory for Africa and Wistek). The Mission’s participation was also supported by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Export Promotion Unit), with a view to achieving the objectives set out in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP). Some of the key achievements in relation to the Mission’s participation at the 2022 AgriteQ includes the following:

- showcasing South Africa’s potential in providing agricultural technologies, solutions, equipment and related products;
- facilitating B2B matchmaking for South African companies leading to more than 30 tangible trade leads;
- gain valuable insights on best practices and solutions;
- networking and establishing new partnerships in the agricultural sector and agro-processing; and
- raising awareness in the local market and capitalising on the event as a pillar for achieving objectives in both the ERRP and the Mission Approved Plan



The South African stall at the expo

National Day Celebrations at the South African Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe

Tshenolo Manamela

3rd Secretary (Political)

South African Embassy, Harare, Zimbabwe

The South African Embassy, in partnership with South African companies in Harare, celebrated its National Day on 13 May 2022. The theme promoted Ndebele culture: various arts, crafts and bags imported from South Africa were showcased as well as South African alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages offered for tasting. Various South African companies such as Old Mutual, Nestle, Tiger Wheel and Tyre, SAA, PPC, Stanbic Bank, Delta, Nedbank and Zimplats supported the event and promoted their material and products.

Ambassador Rejoice Mabudafhasi hosted Dr David Musabayane from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as a guest of honour, as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Zimbabwe Defence Force, business and Industry, including various stakeholders.





Introduction: Heads of Mission Designates



Mr Mahdi Basadien

Minister Plenipotentiary - Beijing, People's Republic of China

Mr Basadien is a career diplomat who has served in bilateral areas of engagement in both the Middle East and Asia. He has held numerous posts, among others, former Deputy Director: Middle East; as well as BRICS and IBISA; Director: China and Director: BRICS in the Branch: Asia and Middle East; Acting Chief Director: East Asia and Oceania; and was previously the South African Consul-General in Saudi Arabia. Other posts include Bahrain, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Other areas of responsibility included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) for strategic negotiations during numerous BRICS Sherpa meetings, large consultation and text negotiation of the 10-Year Strategic Programme for Cooperation between South Africa and China (2020-29). During his time in the branch, Mr Basadien was at the forefront of organising incoming and outgoing state visits between South Africa and China and various Middle East countries. He also played a pivotal role in organising and facilitating the 2015 FOCAC Summit and 2018 BRICS Summit. Mr Basadien has been the BRICS Secretariat Coordinator and member of the FOCAC Secretariat. In-house training and development include: management courses; Arabic and Mandarin courses; FOCAC Orientation Course; Diplomatic Training Course for Senior Managers (Singapore); and trade and investment courses.



Mr Cedrick C Crowley

Minister Plenipotentiary - New Delhi, India

Mr Crowley joined the then Department of Foreign Affairs in 2005, where he served in various capacities. His most recent position was that of Director: Economic Development, where he, among others, was responsible for United Nations (UN) based global economic-related organisations, as well as coordinating South Africa's engagement within the G20. The directorate is also responsible for managing the relationship with the UN Development Programme present in the country. Previous assignments include South Africa's Permanent Mission to New York from 2006-2013 where he served as Counsellor/Deputy Political Coordinator during South Africa's stint on the UN Security Council in 2011-2012. From 2013 to 2015, Mr Crowley was seconded to the UN Department of Political Affairs where he was Head of the UN Political Affairs Liaison Team to Southern African Development Community.

Mr Ismail Esau

Minister Plenipotentiary - Washington DC, USA

Mr Esau is a career diplomat who has served in both bilateral and multilateral areas of engagement. He has held numerous posts within DIRCO, and before his current assignment, served as Director: Levant and Director: Southeast Asia. Since joining DIRCO in 2005, Mr Esau also served as Deputy Director in the Directorates: Mediterranean Europe (2012-2014); Economic Development-Finance for Development (Oct 2005-Jan 2008) and Economic Relations (Jan 2005-Sept 2005). He was posted as Counsellor in South Korea (2014- 2017) and Berlin (2008-2011). Prior to joining DIRCO, Mr Esau served as policy adviser in the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and as SA's Economic Representative to Germany at the South African Consulate in Munich. He holds an Economics degree from the University of Cape Town and a postgraduate degree from the University of Western Cape. Training and development courses include: Leadership and Economic Diplomacy Course through Singapore's Cooperation Programme; Public Management Development Programme, University of Pretoria; Multilateral Diplomacy, UN Institute for Training and Research and the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft Management Training Programme, Germany.





Mr Andrew Tsepo Lebona
Ambassador - Dubai, UAE

Mr Tsepo Lebona was born in Durban, spent his formative years in Lesotho and attended boarding school in Swaziland. A hotelier by profession, he is an alumni at Schloss Klessheim, Austria, and Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, which included various internships in Switzerland and The Carlton in Johannesburg. He pursued a Master's in Tourism in Rome, courtesy of Africa's most senior clergy at The Vatican, Cardinal Bernardin Gantin. Mr Lebona is proud of his legacy in student, sports, political and social activism spanning over 3 decades. He honed his skills in Economic Diplomacy at the French Embassy in Sandton soon after our democracy and later as a consultant for SAA, DBSA, the Shanghai World Expo and a host of private tourism projects. A new entrant to DIRCO, Mr Lebona speaks French, German and Italian with ease and eloquence.

Ms Matheko Letsie
Minister Plenipotentiary – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ms Matheko Letsie is a career diplomat with 14 years of experience within DIRCO. She has served in various positions in branches Africa and Public Diplomacy. Previously Director: Public Participation Programmes, Ms Letsie was until her current deployment, Director: West Africa II, with a focus on countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and The Gambia. Ms Letsie has a passion for Africa with a vast knowledge of our continent. An avid traveller, she studied International Communication.



Ms Mmathari J Mashao
Minister Plenipotentiary - Rome, Italy

After training as a lawyer for two years, with three law degrees, Ms Mashao joined the public sector. Her 29-year career in the public sector commenced at three tertiary institutions as a law lecturer. This was followed by service as a manager at institutions created to support democracy in terms of the provisions of chapter 9 and 10 of the Constitution of Republic of South Africa. She joined DIRCO in 2000. Throughout her career, she enhanced and developed her skills, acquiring knowledge along the way, from representing clients in courts on litigation matters, has advocated and promoted human rights and led investigator teams in women's human rights and gender-related matters.



A seasoned researcher and investigator in human resource management practices, she is an expert in alternative dispute resolution processes, among others, and gave guidance to teams in the tasks allocated by the institutions in which she served, but also contributed to policy and development, especially at the Commission for Gender Equality and Office of the Public Service Commission.

Ms Lindi Mminele **Minister Plenipotentiary - Abuja, Nigeria**

Ms Lindi Mminele has been nominated to serve in Abuja, Nigeria, as Minister Plenipotentiary. She currently holds the position of Director in DIRCO where she served in various positions for the past two decades. Her experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy has been acquired through serving in Branch: Africa Branch and then Africa Multilateral. Her previous posting was in 2010, where she served as a Counsellor Political in Paris, France, until 2014. Academically, she holds a Master's in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Pretoria.



Ms Thandi Mgxwati **Minister Plenipotentiary - Moscow, Russia**

A diplomat with over 25 years of experience, Ms Thandi Mgxwati started in 1995 as a Foreign Service Officer and progressed through the ranks. She has had the privilege to serve as a South African Diplomat in two assignments, i.e. Brussels, Belgium, from 2000-2005 as a junior diplomat (1st Secretary: Political) and in Lagos, Nigeria, as the Head of the SA Office (2010-2012) (then Deputy High Commission Office). She subsequently served as Counsellor: Political when the office in Lagos was converted into a fully-fledged Consulate-General, from 2012-2015. Her work experience includes serving in the Africa Branch as Foreign Service Officer; Assistant Director: Foreign Service covering Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Swaziland; Marketing Division

for Africa and the Middle East Asia Branch: South East Asian countries as Deputy Director: Foreign Service. She also served as the PA to the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma from 1999-2000 and 2005-2007. Before her deployment to Russia, Ms Mgxwati has been serving as Director: Foreign Service, leading the Directorate: Eastern Europe in strengthening and managing SA's bilateral relations with the countries of that region, including former USSR states.

Mr Mojalefa Mogono **Consul General - Hong Kong, PRC**

Mr Mojalefa Mogono is a traditional leader of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, serving as a permanent member of the Royal Bafokeng Nation Supreme Council. A result-oriented leader with a strong sense of urgency, Mr Mogono is passionate about forging relations to develop youth. He is also an entrepreneur in the mining industry and a business development agent for fund managers at different clients within South Africa. Mr Mogono has studied the art and science of negotiations at Wits Business School, as well as finance, the NEXUS Programme, and strategies for winning in disruptive times and negotiation at the Gordon Institute of Business Science.





Dr Rachel Morake
Minister Plenipotentiary - Brussels, Germany

Dr Rachel Morake is a career diplomat and before her deployment to Brussels, she held the position of Director: National Office for the Coordination of Peace Missions within the Branch: Global Governance. Dr Morake, who has been in the Public Service since 2005, holds a PhD in Education Management from the University of Venda.

Ms Annelize Schroeder
Minister Plenipotentiary - Tokyo, Japan

Ms Schroeder is a diplomat with 30 years of experience in international relations. She joined the department in 1992 and has served in a number of roles and at two previous missions, Buenos Aires and Paris. She also worked at the South African Institute for International Affairs for a period of two years, giving her a view on international relations from the “other side of the fence”. On her return to the department, she augmented her previous multilateral/disarmament experience by serving in the UN and Latin America sections. On her return from Paris, she joined the Branch: Asia and Middle East, where she served in the Levant, Oceania and China sections. She was promoted to Director in the Office of the DDG: Asia and Middle East in 2016 and later joined the Directorate: Gulf States where she served as Acting Chief Director until this posting. Ms Schroeder is married with 10-year-old twins, Christian and Nicole.



Mr Pakamisa Sifuba
Ambassador - Nouakchott, Mauritania

Ambassador Sifuba hails from New Brighton Township near Port Elizabeth (Now Gqeberha). He attended Themba La Bantu High School, where in 1977, he was expelled for student protests. In 1978, he left South Africa as a freedom fighter. He spent many years in Angola. In 1979, he was part of the contingent of ANC students who were sent to Cuba to further their studies and later emerged as a student leader in Havana. Ambassador Sifuba holds a BA degree in Economics and a Master's in Human Resources Development from Manchester University, United Kingdom. Ambassador Sifuba has had an illustrious diplomatic career having started as a Political Counsellor at the SA Embassy in Japan, Minister Political in Washington DC, USA, and as Ambassador in a number of countries, namely: Equatorial Guinea (2012-2014), Indonesia (2014-2017), to name a few.



Introduction: Heads of Mission Designates



Ms Phuti Tsipa, Consul General - Shanghai, PRC

Ms Phuti Joyce Tsipa is a seasoned public servant with extensive experience in the skills development sector in which she served as Limpopo Provincial Manager, Manager Facilities and Senior Manager: Provincial Operations within the Construction Education and Training Authority. Prior to her various roles in the skills development sector, she saw years of service as a community and/or youth development advocate. During her student days, she was elected Treasurer General of the Student Representative Assembly of the University of the North. She also served as the Provincial Secretary of the South African Youth Council, an umbrella body of various youth organisations in Limpopo (2003-2004). She was employed as a Community Liaison Officer at Limpopo's Department of Health and Social Welfare (2004). She served as the Provincial Deputy Chairperson of the Limpopo Youth

Commission (2004-2009) and as a Stakeholder and Media Liaison Officer for the Limpopo Legislature in 2010. She also worked in the Ministry of Higher Education as Stakeholder Management and Liaison 2011-2012. Ms Tsipa holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Limpopo, majoring in Industrial Psychology and Business Management. She obtained an Executive Development Programme (Cum Laude) from the University of Pretoria in 2021. She recently completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Risk Management with the University of South Africa



With Minister Naledi Pandor the Diplomatic Training and Research and Development team, from left to right: Ambassador Maude Dlomo, Tshililo Munzhelele and Andries Oosthuizen

Credentials Ceremony of Ambassador Ghulam Hoosein Asmal, South Africa's Resident Ambassador to the State of Qatar



Ambassador Ghulam Hoosein Asmal presented his Letters of Credence to the Deputy Amir of the State of Qatar, HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani on 18 May 2022 at the Emiri Diwani in Doha.

The Credentials Ceremony was preceded by Ambassador Asmal's courtesy visit to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi, wherein he presented copies of the Credentials as per formality on 17 May 2022.

Ambassador Asmal and Mrs Nazreen Asmal were warmly received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar upon their arrival in Doha. The Ministry conveyed its sincere welcome and assured Ambassador Asmal of its support in the strengthening of relations between the Republic of South Africa and the State of Qatar.



Presentation of credentials to the Amir of the State of Qatar, HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani



Presentation of Letters of Credence by Amb Ghulam Hoosein Asmal to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi

World Fibromyalgia Day

By Ms MLE Mulaudzi

Employee Health and Wellness

May 12 is dedicated to World Fibromyalgia Day (and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). This awareness day can be observed by learning more about fibromyalgia, by raising awareness among colleagues, friends and family members.

Some facts about fibromyalgia

Fibromyalgia is a disorder characterised by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way your brain and spinal cord process painful and non-painful signals. Symptoms often begin after an event, such as physical trauma, surgery, infection or significant psychological stress. In other cases, symptoms gradually accumulate over time with no single triggering event.

Women are more likely to develop fibromyalgia than men. Many people who have fibromyalgia also have tension headaches, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety and depression.

The primary symptoms of fibromyalgia include:

- **Widespread pain:** The pain associated with fibromyalgia often is described as a constant dull ache that has lasted for at least three months. To be considered widespread, the pain must occur on both sides of your body and above and below your waist.
- **Fatigue:** People with fibromyalgia often awaken tired, even though they report sleeping for long periods of time. Sleep is often disrupted by pain, and many patients with fibromyalgia have other sleep disorders, such as restless legs syndrome and sleep apnoea.
- **Cognitive difficulties:** A symptom commonly referred to as "fibro fog" impairs the ability to focus and to pay attention and concentrate on mental tasks.

Fibromyalgia often co-exists with other conditions, such as:

- irritable bowel syndrome
- chronic fatigue syndrome
- migraine and other types of headaches
- interstitial cystitis or painful bladder syndrome
- temporomandibular joint disorders



**FIBROMYALGIA AWARENESS
DAY
MAY 12**

- anxiety
- depression
- postural tachycardia syndrome.

Many researchers believe that repeated nerve stimulation causes the brain and spinal cord of people with fibromyalgia to change. This change involves an abnormal increase in levels of certain chemicals in the brain that signal pain. In addition, the brain's pain receptors seem to develop a sort of memory of the pain and become sensitised, meaning they can overreact to painful and non-painful signals.

There are likely many factors that lead to these changes, including:

- **Genetics:** Because fibromyalgia tends to run in families, there may be certain genetic mutations that may make you more susceptible to developing the disorder.
- **Infections:** Some illnesses appear to trigger or aggravate fibromyalgia.
- **Physical or emotional events:** Fibromyalgia can sometimes be triggered by a physical event, such as a car accident.
- Prolonged psychological stress may also trigger the condition.

Complications

The pain, fatigue, and poor sleep quality associated with fibromyalgia can interfere with your ability to function at home or on the job.

The frustration of dealing with an often misunderstood condition also can result in depression and health-related anxiety.

Diagnosis

The main factor needed for a fibromyalgia diagnosis is widespread pain throughout your body for at least three months. To meet the criteria, you must have pain in at least four of these five areas:

- left upper region, including shoulder, arm or jaw
- right upper region, including shoulder, arm or jaw
- left lower region, including hip, buttock or leg
- right lower region, including hip, buttock or leg
- axial region, which includes neck, back, chest or abdomen

Treatment

In general, treatments for fibromyalgia include both medication and self-care strategies. The emphasis is on minimising symptoms and improving general health. Not one treatment works for all symptoms but trying a variety of treatment strategies can have a cumulative effect.

Medication

Medication can help reduce the pain of fibromyalgia and improve sleep. Common choices include:

- **Pain relievers:** Over-the-counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen (Tylenol, others), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others) or naproxen sodium (Aleve, others) may be helpful. Opioid medications are not recommended, because they

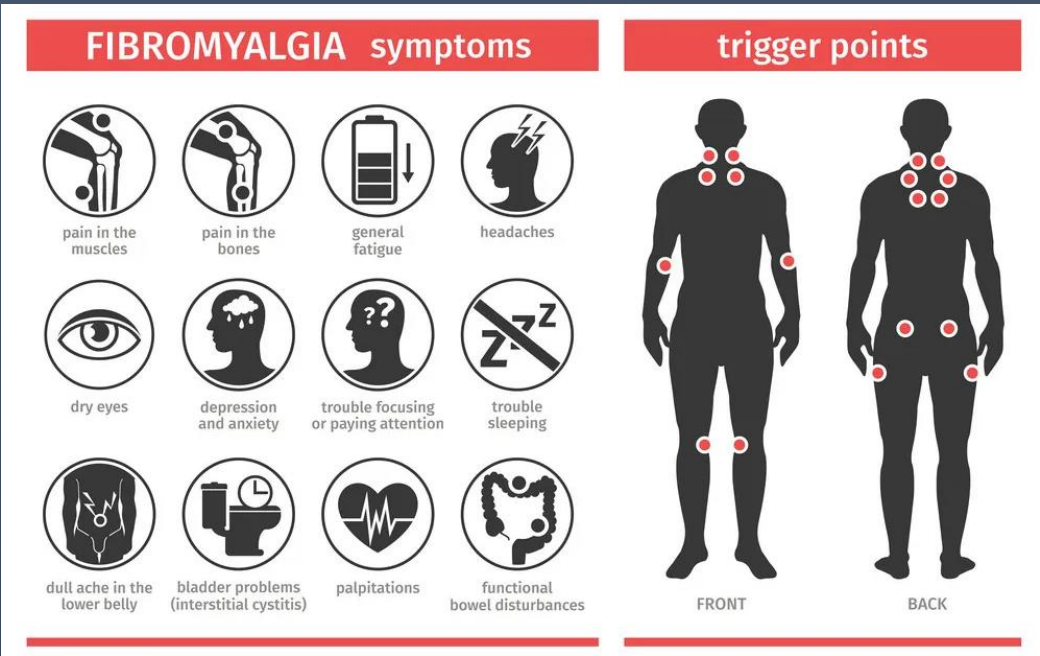
can lead to side effects and dependence will worsen the pain over time.

- **Antidepressants:** Duloxetine (Cymbalta) and milnacipran (Savella) may help ease the pain and fatigue associated with fibromyalgia. Your doctor may prescribe amitriptyline or the muscle relaxant cyclobenzaprine to help promote sleep.
- **Anti-seizure drugs:** Medications designed to treat epilepsy are often useful in reducing certain types of pain. Gabapentin (Neurontin) is sometimes helpful in reducing fibromyalgia symptoms, while pregabalin (Lyrica) was the first drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat fibromyalgia.

Therapies

A variety of different therapies can help reduce the effect that fibromyalgia has on your body and your life. Examples include:

- **Physical therapy:** A physical therapist can teach you exercises that will improve your strength, flexibility and stamina. Water-based exercises might be particularly helpful.
- **Occupational therapy:** An occupational therapist can help you make adjustments to your work area or the way you perform certain tasks that will cause less stress on your body.
- **Counselling:** Talking with a counsellor can help strengthen your belief in your abilities and teach you strategies for dealing with stressful situations.



INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2022

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