







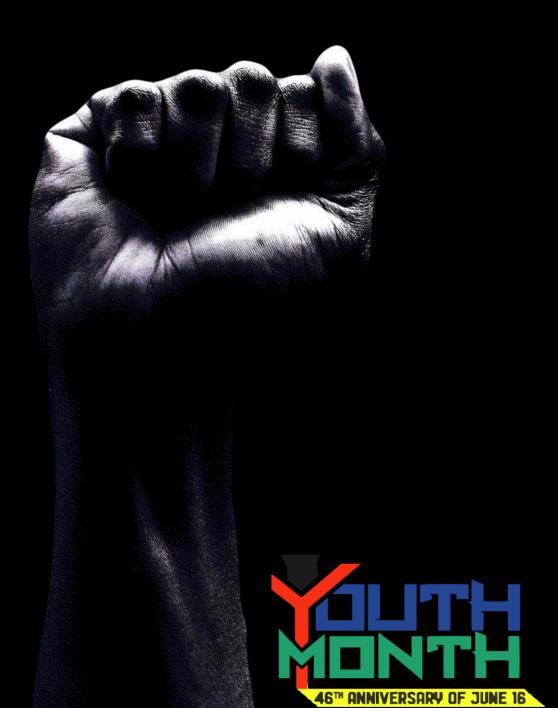




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IT'S YOUR VOICE

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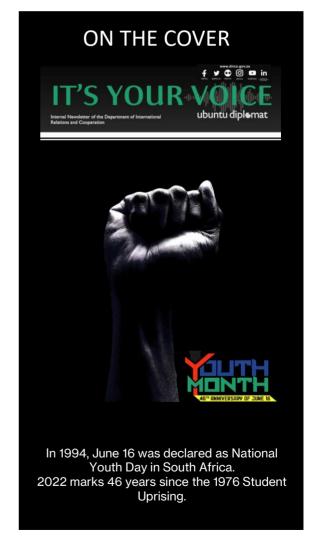
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Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues.

In 1994, June 16 was declared National Youth Day in South Africa - a day when the country reflects on the massacre of school children during the Soweto Uprising of 1976. June 16 is therefore a day to recognise the struggles of the youth of 76 and celebrate the impact they brought in the liberation of our country.

The year 2022 marks 46 years since the 1976 Student Uprising in South Africa. We are fortunate in our country, to have a youthful nation, albeit the unfortunate unemployment statistics in that populace.

Government has developed a number of initiatives to address this issue, one of them being the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, which contributes to various development and empowerment initiatives to support young people, including formal education and training, learnerships and internships.

Among several priorities, South Africa places women and youth issues on a prominent platform. It is therefore no surprise that the United Nations General news that the Assembly had unanimously adopted Resolution A/76/L66. which declares 24 International Day of Women in Diplomacy, was met by much elation by the women of DIRCO and those in the international community. Our colleagues in the Vulnerable Groups unit observed this landmark development by sharing their experience as women with a career in diplomacy.

South Africa continues to strengthen North-South corporation. Earlier in June, Minister Naledi Pandor travelled to the Nordic region on a three-nation visit. South Africa's relations with the Nordic countries date back to the period during the struggle against apartheid. Those nations stood in solidarity with the freedom movement and contributed to the call for the end of apartheid. Since then, the cooperation has expanded into various areas, including the promotion of peace, negotiation, oceans and maritime, renewable energy, fuels,



minerals, agriculture products and technology, to name but a few.

In line with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHSA), DIRCO has an OHS Committee that consists of representatives from various units within the department. committee shares the workplace safety rules.



Minister Pandor embarks on a three-nation Nordic visit

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, travelled to the Nordic region from 12 to 17 June 2022, and visited Finland, Sweden and Norway for the first time in her capacity as Minister of this portfolio. In Finland, the Minister participated in the 19th Nordic-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting at the invitation of her Finnish counterpart, Minister Pekka Haavisto. This was the first meeting since the gathering held in Tanzania in 2019 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, resulting in the meeting being postponed.

The Africa-Nordic Foreign Ministers' Meeting is an important annual forum for informal and openminded discussions between African and Nordic countries. The meeting in Helsinki was attended by the foreign ministers of all the Nordic countries, as well as several African foreign ministers. This year, the focus was on promoting peace and security, sustainable societies, the rule of law, youth and women, as well as enhancing African-Nordic multilateral cooperation, all of which are important priorities for South Africa.

Dr Pandor's next stop was Stockholm, Sweden, where she and the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ann Linde, held bilateral discussions. Minister Pandor and Minister Linde engaged in talks about areas of cooperation between the two countries, further strengthening the long history of excellent relations, which are based on mutual respect, dialogue, consultation and cooperation. Mutual cooperation between South Africa and Sweden includes science and technology, arts and culture, water and sanitation, digitisation and 4IR, environment, education and eneray. development as well as human rights.

The third and last stop was in Oslo, Norway, where Minister Pandor held meetings with Foreign Affairs Minister. Anniken Huitfeldt, as well as with business to promote further investments in South Africa. The two ministers reviewed bilateral political and economic relations, discussed issues of peace and security, multilateral cooperation, climate change and the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

Minister Pandor spent the day in Oslo, Norway, where she engaged in meetings with her Norwegian counterpart, Minister Anniken Huitfeldt, and the Minister of International Development,



Anne Beathe Tvinnereim. Furthermore, Norway currently serves on the United Nations Security Council and as an elected member, Minister Pandor and Minister Huitfeldt shared perspectives on a range of issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Norway and South Africa have a mature and mutually beneficial relationship that includes several successful peace-building initiatives, including the training of peace mediators, the WPS Agenda and exchanges on conflict resolution and mediation efforts.

In the trade and investment field, South Africa and Norway cooperate in various sectors, among others, science and technology, the oceans maritime security, economy. energy, environment, education and skills development. There are currently 21 Norwegian companies invested in South Africa, representing the renewable energy, oil and gas, financial services. oceans economy, chemicals and technology sectors. Norway has more than R90 billion invested in South African bonds.



Minister Naledi Pandor with her Finnish and Nigerian counterparts Mr Pekka Haavisto and Mr Geoffrey Onyeama

Minister Pandor visited the Norfund (the Norwegian investment agency) and held talks with leaders of Norwegian businesses that have a presence in South Africa. Dr Pandor said South Africa remained an attractive destination for foreign direct investment. At the Fourth South African Investment Conference, held in March 2022, Norfund pledged an annual investment of R3.25 billion. The Norwegian renewable power producer, Scatec, pledged R16 billion towards green hydrogen manufacturing.

On her last day in the Nordic region, Minister Pandor visited the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo, Norway, where she was treated to a display of representations of the South African Nobel Laurettes - the late Chief Albert Luthuli, the first democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu who recently passed on, and former President FW de Klerk.



Minister Naledi Pandor visiting the South African Mission in Stockholm, Sweden



Minister Naledi Pandor meeting with Norway Foreign Minister Ms Anniken Huitfeldt in Oslo, Norway.



Minister Naledi Pandor meeting with Norway Foreign Minister Ms Anniken Huitfeldt in Oslo, Norway.



Minister Naledi Pandor having a bilateral meeting with Finish Foreign Minister Pekka Haasvisto



Minister Naledi Pandor visits the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo, Norway



Minister Naledi Pandor at NORFUND meeting with the Norwegian business community with Mr Tellef Thorleifsson, the CEO

Deputy Minister Botes attends meeting in Vienna **Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**



Deputy Minister Alvin Botes was in Vienna, Austria, this month, where he led a South African delegation participating in the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) from 21 to 23 June 2022. The meeting culminated in the adoption of a Political Declaration.

The TPNW was adopted on 7 July 2017 and entered into force on 22 January 2021, after its ratification by 50 states. By 17 June 2022, 62 states had ratified the treaty and it was signed by 86 states. South Africa, a staunch supporter, ratified the treaty on 25 February 2019. South Africa, together with a core group of countries (Nigeria, Austria, Ireland, Brazil and Mexico) played a leading role in driving the TPNW negotiations until its adoption in 2017. South Africa continues to play a leading role in organising the implementation of the treaty.

The TPNW, a landmark agreement in the history of nuclear disarmament, represents the wish of member states of the United Nations (UN) to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The TPNW's intention is to further stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons based on the adverse and indefensible humanitarian consequences of their use. The treaty emphasises the humanitarian consequences of the use of such weapons.

South Africa's own experience has shown that neither the possession nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons can enhance international peace and security. The continued retention of nuclear weapons based on the perceived security interests of some states comes at the expense of the rest of

humanity. South Africa's commitment disarmament is based on the belief that international peace and security cannot be divorced from development. This was reiterated by Deputy Minister Botes during his remarks at the meeting: "South Africa has been at the forefront of nuclear disarmament efforts for decades. The democratic transformation process in my country fundamentally altered the role of apartheid South Africa from being a threat to international peace and security, to a democratic state, which is a principled and responsible actor in terms of the maintenance international peace and security".

South Africa's commitment to disarmament is based on our belief that international peace and security cannot be divorced from development.

Deputy Minister Botes continued to say that this approach also formed the basis of engagement in disarmament diplomacy, adding that "since its inauguration in May 1994, the democratic South African Government committed itself to a policy of disarmament and nonproliferation, which covers all weapons of mass destruction. This policy forms an integral part of South Africa's commitment to democracy, human rights, sustainable development, social justice and environmental protection, which is reflected in our humanitarian approach, inter alia, to disarmament".

South Africa's commitment to disarmament is based on our belief that international peace and security cannot be divorced from development.

Global security cannot be achieved when enormous financial and other resources are still being diverted towards the acquisition of more and more destructive capabilities, while more and more people around the world continue to suffer from hunger and deprivation. Our ultimate goal is a world free of nuclear weapons and the TPNW is an important addition to the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture that takes us closer to that goal.

Twenty-four years ago in 1998, President Nelson Mandela in his last address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly pertinently noted that, "We must ask the question, which might sound naive to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying weapons of mass destruction - why do they need them anyway!"

Deputy Minister Botes said that South Africa's own experience had shown that neither the possession, nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons, could enhance international peace and security. The continued retention of nuclear weapons on the basis of the perceived security interests of some states comes at the expense of the rest of humanity. "While most of the nuclear weapon-possessing states justify their continuing possession of these weapons on the grounds that they purportedly guarantee their security, it must be reiterated that we, as non-nuclear-weapon states, have the conviction that their mere existence constitutes a threat to our national security and to humanity as a whole."

"We must recognise that this treaty is the democratic wish of the overwhelming majority of UN member states and the people of the world. No longer should the world's people's be held hostage to the unspeakable terror of these weapons", added the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister Botes reiterated South Africa's call on policymakers in states under the extended nuclear security quarantee to shift their policy towards nuclear weapon elimination and free themselves from this notion of nuclear deterrence. "All of us here today are driven by a sense of responsibility and urgency and have made up our minds. We are convinced that the current security environment allows no room for procrastination. Humanity cannot afford to wait for the 'right time' before doing away with nuclear weapons."

In conclusion, Deputy Minister Botes said that a nuclear weapon free world was possible, and continued to add that the participating states had the opportunity to act together on the implementation of this treaty, thus providing the urgency and determination to bring the era of nuclear weapons to an end. "We have a shared responsibility to protect future generations. Let us work together and let's display our courage, in a sustained commitment and concerted effort to rid this planet of these horrific weapons".

Click below to read the full speech: http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2022/bote0621.htm

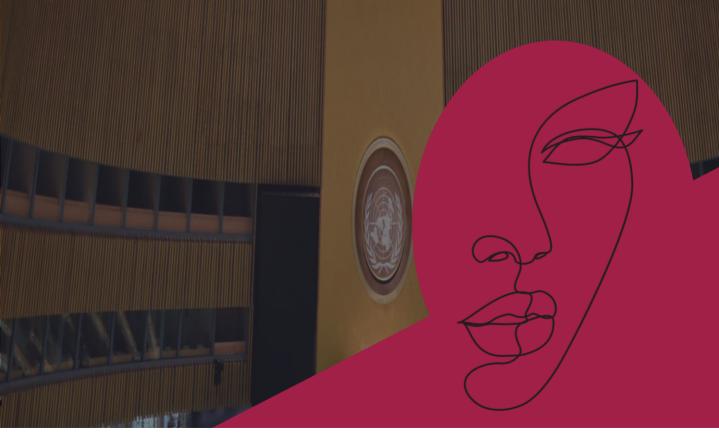


First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on Prohibition Nuclear Weapons

International Day of Women in Diplomacy

24 JUNE 2022

Recognising the important contributions that women make to diplomacy.









Historically, diplomacy has been a field reserved for men. This is why is it significant that on 20 June 2022, a historic United Nations (UN) Resolution was passed by the General Assembly, highlighting not only the important role that women play in the diplomatic space, but also announcing that 24 June would hereafter be commemorated annually International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

Generally, women were excluded from this profession. It was only after the Second World War that women could become diplomats. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted under the leadership of a formidable woman, Eleanor Roosevelt, in 1948. She and her team played an essential role in drafting this ground-breaking text that was the first international instrument to articulate that fundamental human rights should be universally protected, notably, Article 2, which accords all rights and freedoms equally to women and men and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

However, women had been involved in the art of diplomacy for a long time. Alexandra Mikhailovna Killontal is said to have been recognised as the People's Commissar of Social Welfare and reportedly the first female Ambassador in the world. In the United States of America. American women were not admitted into the Foreign Service until about 1933. As for the British experience, women have been employed in the Foreign Service since inception, around 1782, however, only acquired the opportunity to practise as diplomats in 1946.

In a 2021 report, the Secretary General, on the improvement of the status of women in the UN system

(for the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019) states that the representation of women in the professional and higher categories increased from 44,2% to 45,3%. Of interest, is that the number of female permanent representatives to the UN is currently 46 (24%). South Africa is proud to be one of the 46 nations. We should also not forget to salute the sterling and remarkable efforts of all our former and current female heads of mission, in particular, those who joined the foreign service during the challenging post-1994 period. These were our diplomatic sheroes and they were unequivocally trailblazers. We should always look to them for wisdom, counsel and encouragement.

For South Africa, our story is a tapestry woven in complexity and hardship, yet also measured progress and opportunity. There have and are indeed those among our own who have been involved in fostering cultural, social and economic relations, negotiating international agreements and indeed making a mark in the world.

Within DIRCO, the staff composition is currently 58% women, 50% at the Senior Management level, and 43% at Heads of Mission level. On paper, this looks exemplary. Worldwide, there are. are echoes of women not being included as part of history and their achievements not being acknowledged. The department is no different.

The Directorate: Vulnerable Groups, within the Branch: Global Governance and Continental Agenda, has the mandate to influence norms and standards in the promotion and protection of the human rights of women. In this regard and inspired by this UN Resolution on Women in Diplomacy, these are our Her Stories from the Vulnerable Groups team at DIRCO. This is an illustration of the struggles and triumphs of women in the department.

Ms Nthabiseng Malefane

I am a diplomat; I am a woman; I am capable and competent; these are not mutually exclusive. I sometimes call myself the "accidental diplomat" because growing up, becoming a diplomat was not a career option I knew about. I was good at Mathematics and Science and everyone, including myself assumed I would follow a career in those fields. I joined the then Department of Foreign Affairs and found an environment that was peculiar. Being trained in the natural sciences, my mind works in a rational and logical manner. One colleague subsequently remarked; "in international relations, there is no black and white, but rather shades of grey" This was an epiphany.

Shortly after, I saw a poster (again in a colleague's office) that quoted Ottaviano Maggi, a humanist and diplomat, who wrote a treatise in 1566 on "the perfect ambassador". He described the ideal qualities of a diplomat as "a trained theologian, familiar with Greek philosophers, expert in mathematical sciences, competent in law, music and poetry, proficient in Greek, Latin, French, German, Spanish and Turkish, of aristocratic birth, rich and handsome." This explicitly excludes women, however, I adopted this as my mantra - to become a generalist, a "master" of all. I have now been at DIRCO for 18 years and it has been a roller coaster ride. During this time, I have occupied six different positions, on more than one occasion, I have been moved to make space for a male colleague because the particular desk was their area of "specialisation". On the positive side, I have gained valuable experience across different areas. I have bilateral and multilateral experience and have served in missions in Asia and Europe. I have learned to operate in grey areas; I have become a "maestro" in international relations. However, I still believe in doing rather than talking. The department has a bias towards male colleagues, who are often loud and boisterous. Opportunities for promotion are few and far apart, and often favour the loud male colleagues. I am currently Director: Vulnerable Groups and I have grown to love the work I do; promoting and protecting the human rights of those who are marginalised, in particular women, which has become my mission. I am extremely proud of the colleagues who work with me in this area. Our different experiences make a dynamic team, and together we have 114 years of experience.

Ms Pule Bosilong

I joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1995 during the era of Minister Alfred Nzo and Director-General Rusty Evans. There were women diplomats at the time like Ambassadors Lindiwe Mabuza and Barbara Masekela, among others, who played a significant role in the integration of officials from exile and TBVC states into the department. Postings were given according to experience and knowledge of a foreign language. This was used as an advantage to get those "posts". Especially, the so-called "ice cream missions", which most officials wanted. Ambassador Masekela, in Paris at one time, returned a list of officials who were to serve at her Mission and insisted on previously disadvantaged officials who did not have the opportunity to learn foreign languages.

My first postings were to The Hague and Rome as a Foreign Service Officer and later on to Paris as a First Secretary. My last posting was in Kuwait as a Counsellor and I was appointed as Chargé d'affaires a.i. from 1 April 2019 to July 2020. I served under three women Ambassadors, i.e. Ambassador Ginwala, Skweyiya and Sibanda-Thusi. During that time, a lot of people left South Africa, saying they did not want to stay under the new democratic dispensation and went to multilateral organisations seeking employment and filling the quota given to South Africa. Ambassador Skweyiya fought for the South Africans from home to be given those posts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Ms Savuri Govender

I started working as an Assistant Director in the then Department of Foreign Affairs in 2005 and was posted to Moscow a year later following completion of the Diplomatic Training Programme. Upon my return to the newly named Department of International Relations and Cooperation "DIRCO" in late 2010, I started working on regional economic integration issues at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Desk and was promoted in 2012. I especially enjoyed this time in my career as I discovered my passion for humanitarianism following the conclusion of a SADC humanitarian project to Somalia. It was also during this period at Headquarters when I was afforded the opportunity to, among others, be part of the team when South Africa chaired SADC in 2017. Less than a year later, I was posted to Addis Ababa where I was truly exposed to African multilateral diplomacy. Addis is a challenging terrain and can be difficult for women. It is also sometimes not easy for women to be taken seriously in such an environment, though not impossible. This being said, Addis Ababa was probably the most empowering experience and where I believe I had the opportunity to develop a lot of skills, and once again, not only use, but ameliorate my language and networking abilities as well as create lifelong friendships. This was also probably the most stressful time in my career, though professionally uplifting. Once again, I was fortunate to be part of the team during South Africa's Chairship of the African Union in 2020, characterised by its own peculiar challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I started working with the Vulnerable Groups team from April 2022, where our focus is primarily on Gender Equality issues of and Women Empowerment as well as Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

As a woman working in the department, I believe I have been fortunate to have had prospects and exposure from the myriad of excellent leaders and managers throughout my career thus far. My personal experience aside, a lot more can and should be done for our younger female recruits who need opportunities, whether requisite training or exposure, so that they are able to develop their skills and be the best young female South African diplomats.

Ms Poppy Ravhura

As a woman in diplomacy, my journey has been a very challenging, yet fulfilling one. Since joining the department in 2001, I had the privilege to work in two branches i.e. State Protocol and Global Governance and Continental Agenda. These environments taught me the value of my work and how it fitted in the broader context of our foreign policy objectives. I was posted to multilateral and consular missions. I had to navigate and thrive in predominately male-dominated areas such nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the United Nations setting, as well as in a country that was relatively rigid and conservative. I came to learn that being a woman in diplomacy is not an easy thing. It takes a lot to earn a voice or recognition. However, such situations present opportunities for women to be resilient. In 2021, I joined the team within the Directorate: Vulnerable Groups, currently responsible for women rights issues, including Persons of Diverse Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.

Ms Babalwa Makwati

I joined the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in May 2011 through the DIRCO Cadet Programme as part of a group of 40 young The group comprised young graduates from all over South Africa.

After I had finished my classroom training part of the programme, in January/February 2012, I was placed within the Branch: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development as an Assistant Foreign Service Officer, under the Sub-directorate: Economic Diplomacy. This remains one of the highlights of my time within DIRCO, as I got to be a part of the department's efforts to implement a turnaround strategy towards the promotion of Economic Diplomacy in all our missions abroad. This included the development of a toolkit for Economic Diplomacy, as well as the training of all South African diplomats in Economic Diplomacy.

Later, in December 2012, I moved to then Branch: UN Multilateral, as an FSO and I was placed within the Directorate: Disarmament under the Subdirectorate: Conventional Arms. I served within the branch until I was posted to Budapest, Hungary, in December 2015. Upon my return in January 2019, I was placed in the Branch: Global Government and Continental Agenda, within the Directorate: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

My personal experiences as a female diplomat in the department have been quite interesting in that I have

worked and gained experience in several areas, promoting the interests of South Africa. I would like to mention that I have been fortunate to be placed in directorates where the managers took a keen interest in building the capacity of the officials who reported to them. I have been granted opportunities to participate in and learn from international conferences, something that has sharpened and broadened my mind. As a diplomat posted in Hungary, I had a great opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. I learnt to navigate culture shock, face and overcome any insecurities I might have had, as the world of diplomacy required me to be confident and consistent in the representation of my country. To serve South Africans abroad and ensuring them the support of their government while they are in a foreign country was one of the most fulfilling things.

Ms Sindiswa Moguerane

I had the privilege to join the department in 2008 as a level 7 Senior Secretary in the Office of the DDG: Chief of State Protocol within the Branch: Protocol. In 2011, I was promoted to Administrator in the Directorate: Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges. In 2020, I transferred to the Political Desk in the Branch: Global Governance and Humanitarian Affairs, within the Directorate: Vulnerable Groups.

Diplomacy to me as a female in my sphere and area of expertise, is still a dream to be realised. I am yet to undergo my training for me to live and experience this phenomenal opportunity. I believe though, from an ariel view and my observation within my surroundings, that women have been given some opportunity to participate, represent, be, lead, live, practise, enjoy and make a difference in upholding our country and its flag to the highest standards both in Africa and globally. It has allowed us the exposure to better understand and practise relations, unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally. However, much can still be done to increase the number of women leaders in this space and have a hierarchy system that works like a welloiled machine, which will enable permanent growth and exposure into this political field. I am proud, as a woman, to be a diplomat and to be part of a value chain that works to continuously make South Africa, Africa and the world a better place. Where the African continent can be in better space than it currently is.

Conclusion

Notwithstanding some good news and progress with regard to gender parity within the UN system and even within our own department, women still face numerous challenges in this complex world of diplomacy. Women continue to experience patriarchy, sexism and obstacles, which impede their professional development and aspirations. Development, coupled with a vision characterised by substantive equality, is what is required to ensure that there is greater inclusion and parity for women in diplomacy. Women, from all walks of life, from all backgrounds and indeed at all levels, have a formidable contribution to make to diplomacy, whether weaving human and cultural values as they negotiate agreements and positions or serving on committees aimed at representing the best interests of their state. It is hoped that this UN resolution will recognise women's contribution to diplomacy, including the challenges they face. It is equally hoped that there will be sincere efforts to close the gender gap and provide opportunities for women to be leaders in diplomatic practice. It is as important for us to inspire young women and girls to consider a career in diplomacy but, in so doing, they should appreciate the fruits of its labour, which can often take decades to come to realisation. Such work could often be that much more difficult for women, given the impediments that they must endure. Through this resolution, it is hoped that women in diplomacy are given the opportunity to be agents of change in the future work of diplomacy.











First round of the election campaign by Adv Thembile Joyini, South Africa's candidate for election to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the term 2023 to 2032

Masotsha Mnguni, Counsellor: Political, PMUN, New York

The launch of the election campaign of Adv Thembile Joyini, South Africa's candidate to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the term 2023 to 2032 took place in New York during the week commencing 13 to 17 June 2022.

Adv Joyini has been nominated by Cabinet as South Africa's candidate for election as Judge of the ITLOS for the term 2023 to 2032. He has also been subsequently endorsed by the African Union during its summit that took place in February 2022, Addis Ababa. The elections are scheduled for June 2023 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.

It is worth noting that the Government of South Africa attaches a lot of importance to the peaceful settlement of disputes in general and to the ITLOS' contribution over the years to the progressive development and codification of international law in particular. It is in this regard that the Government of South Africa is steadfast in its belief in only nominating the most qualified candidates for election to the tribunal

The campaign launch in New York was a resounding success and laid a strong foundation for South Africa to further intensify the lobby and consolidate the strong lead the South African candidate has thus far established leading to the June 2023 election.

Adv Joyini, having served previously in New York as the Sixth Committee Expert and Legal Adviser, is well known and highly respected among the UN legal experts fraternity, particularly within the Africa Group where he has served as coordinator on a number of important processes. Most of the legal experts are aware of Adv Joyini's strong command of issues pertaining to oceans and law of the sea matters within the UN space.

The stakeholders were satisfied that Adv Joyini is a well-rounded candidate in terms of legal expertise as he has a strong exposure to both domestic and international law, including experience as an Acting

High Court Judge and writing judgments. These attributes it was expressed, would be valuable should he be elected as an ITLOS Judge.



The Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN, Ambassador Mathu Jovini, and her Argentina counterpart, Ambassador María del Carmen Squeff, delivering their welcome remarks at the cocktail event

During his visit to New York, Adv Joyini led South Africa's delegation at the meeting of the States Parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which took place from 13 to 17 June 2022. At this meeting, Adv Joyini also lobbied heads of legal services and/or heads of delegations who attended the gathering.

Pursuant to the above, Adv Joyini held numerous one-on-one bilateral engagements with election officers and Legal/Sixth Committee experts at the Delegates Lounge from 13 to 17 June 2022.

In addition, a successful cocktail event was held at the South African Mission on 15 June 2022 and

co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Argentina to present the candidatures of Adv Joyini and Dr Frida Armas Pfirter, the candidates of South Africa and Argentina to ITLOS for the term 2023 to 2032.

The event was well attended by, among others, permanent representatives; deputy permanent representatives; legal experts; delegates from capitals attending the UNCLOS meeting: candidates to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS): and election officers.

The event served as a platform for the candidate to network with the New York Diplomatic Community and informally engage on his candidature. The Mission distributed campaign brochures, which were well received and commended for both form and content. The event profiled and promoted South Africa; its cuisine and wine; and South-South cooperation. South Africa-Argentina bilateral relations were also promoted by virtue of the two countries sharing a common platform. As a symbol of friendship, during the formal segment of the event, both candidates exchanged football and rugby jerseys, the two most popular sporting codes in both countries.



Adv Thembile Jovini and Dr Frida Armas Pfirter, the candidates of South Africa and Argentina to the ITLOS, presenting their vision statements at the cocktail event

Right: Adv Joyini and Dr Pfirter exchanging rugby and football jerseys of their national teams as a symbol of friendship, partnership and solidarity

Another positive element for the campaign was that Adv Jovini's visit also coincided with "election season" at the UN Headquarters in New York during the period under review where a number of elections took place in the UN General Assembly. The foregoing heightened the interest of global capitals in South Africa's ITLOS candidature, including possible reciprocal support arrangements.

Among the elections that took place during the visit, were the election of nine members to the Committee on the Rights of the Child: the President of the UN General Assembly during its 77th Session; the regional vice-presidents of the UN General Assembly during its 77th Session; the five non-permanent members of the UN Security Council; 18 members of the Economic and Social Council; bureaus of the six main committees of the UN General Assembly; nine members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; 21 members of the CLCS; and nine members to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights/Human Rights Committee.

In conclusion, the first round of the campaign by Adv Joyini was successful on a number of grounds and laid a solid foundation for subsequent lobbying efforts. This is based on the fact that during his visit, Adv Joyini was able to achieve the following:

- build a rapport with election officers and legal experts in New York
- inform stakeholders the of his personal background, professional experience knowledge of international law, especially as it pertains to oceans and law of the sea matters
- demonstrate his readiness to assume the post of ITLOS Judge
- respond to any comments and questions the stakeholders raised during the interaction.



YOUR











MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

One Market, One Voice, One Africa

Anesh Maistry Ambassador, Moroni, Comoros

The next chapter in Africa's story will undoubtedly be written on the back of the success of creating a truly united continent through the creation of a single African market envisaged in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The potential gains for the African single market is an economic force multiplier for the continent. It has the ability to create wealth, create employment, especially for women and the youth, and it can lift our peoples out of abject poverty.

The AfCFTA takes one of the most significant steps to realise the vision of Pan-Africanism and the architects of the Abuja Agreement to create political and now economic unity of the continent. The ratification of the agreement creating the single market is yet to be signed by one African partner and to be ratified by others, but the political will to create the largest single market by the number of states participating is apparent. The success of the AfCFTA could be a seminal moment in the fortunes of the continent. Having a single African market needs a single and united voice in all levels of bilateral and multilateral continental engagement. The political will in Africa for success is there.

The European Union (EU) was not built in a matter of years but as a fledgling Steel and Coal Union, it took decades to reach the dizzy heights of the Maastricht Treaty and the efficacy of a single market that is operational today. We must realise that a common or single market is a marathon not a race. It must be built up utilising phased-in stages and milestones.

This economic union remains an important building block in the aspirational objective of a united Africa. The aim of a common market is not only about the power of numbers but also increasing the value of relationships among member states, building intra-African trade. For this, there must be Unity in Purpose.

The implementation of the agreement developing this market rightfully considers the varying levels of development and regulatory sophistication of individual member states. This point is vital to the success of the single market. We need to see the AfCFTA through the bigger prism of all African efforts to build a peaceful and



prosperous continent; through the vision of Agenda 2063 for The Africa, We Want. It must be a holistic view to continental political and economic integration.

The creation of regional value chains fundamental to the success of a single market. The building blocks are the regional economic communities (RECs). Generating these value chains on both the continental and regional level relies on the RECs being viable entities. The pieces of an REC puzzle must be economically sustainable national entities.

A masterplan on enhancing the competitive and to a greater extent comparative advantage of individual African countries is critical understanding the integration of resources into a targeted system. Thus, industrialisation is at the heart of a single market's viability. This is going to be the greatest challenge of the common market as the disparate levels of development is much more pronounced on the continent, with several least developed countries found within Africa. The Protocol on the Trade in Services aims to enhance competitiveness of the services. fostering domestic and foreign investment while accelerating efforts on industrial development.

Embracing the concept of economic unity is a key vision and as such, the regulatory uniformity for market access, movement of goods and services and implementation of common tariffs and standards are something that must create an enabling environment for attraction of foreign and

intra-African investment, and stimulate trade between neighbours and the broader continent. Harmony and concord on regulations are also vital for the digital economy and cyber-transacting on the continent. The virtual economy is fraught with much uncertainty and pushes new boundaries that must be technically assimilated into our economic thinking.

The trade in goods and services is a challenge for the continent as a whole. It accounts for approximately a mere 3% of the global volume and the only way to change this is through valueaddition, especially for strategic resources sourced on our continent. The implementation of the Protocol on Trade in Goods and Competition is a vital regulatory framework to do this.

The commitment of member states to eliminate 90% of tariff lines over a five-year period and 10vear period for the "least developed countries", will not only encourage industrial development through diversification, but will also enhance Africa's competitiveness, both regionally and globally. This is a significant element of stimulating continental trade, but the process must be technically feasible on levels of economic interaction.

Agricultural value chains are critical to the future of Africa, as food security once again highlights the need for self-sufficiency due to global shocks to this supply chain. Africa has 60% arable land across the continent and as partners, we need to exploit this unique feature for greater economic benefit. Not only will this value chain be a critical human support sector, but it also has the potential to be a very big employer. The lack of food is a sad legacy of our inability to be given equitable terms of trade by the developed world for agriculture. Thus, a single powerful African voice and South-South cooperation is the only viable path forward in changing the global terms of trade in this and other vital development sectors.

Intellectual property is a key element of the digital and innovation economy. The need to protect and incubate innovation on the continent means protecting traditional and indigenous knowledge systems. As such, the Protocol on Trade in Services, which formulates the rules and principles for liberalising trade in services on the continent must be implemented with an eye on protecting intellectual property while encouraging collaborative innovation.

There is an urgent need to build technical capacity

in all member countries and allow for an effective non-confrontational svstem around resolution/settlement mechanisms. The system will need for African states to protect sovereign and continental interests over others.

The culture of thinking that sustains the colonial trade patterns in a post-colonial paradigm is incompatible with economic independence. It needs to be challenged for greater African Unity and value creation. An evolution of a homegrown system of trade in the African neighbourhood is needed, so too, the collective thinking in trade with the world at large. We need to have a homegrown system of trade that reflects Africa's needs that can be integrated with the global system. This means taking steps to diversify our trade patterns away from colonial spatial trading systems.

The value in intra-African trade lies in logistics. distance and cultural understanding of local markets. That is why the lack of logistic arteries in Africa remains a deep challenge for the continent. must give impetus to infrastructure development plans under the auspices of the African Union as a matter of priority. We must precipitate a revolution of change that is visible to all Africans and foreign partners that the single market indeed has an entry point and then physical access to other countries in that single entity.

With respect to the South African perspective, our country champions the AfCFTA in both the G7. G20 and BRICS contexts. We are all vital partners to support a single African market. Collectively, we continue to underscore the Africa We Want envisaged in Agenda 2063, through all our global partners. Lending interactions with credence to the vision that as a United Single Voice for the Continent, we will be able to build a Better Africa for All.

It is important to note that South Africa belongs to and manages the oldest Customs Union in the world: SACU. There are many lessons within the SACU system on how a larger economy can engage more meaningfully and collaboratively with small members of the union. Furthermore, South Partnership Africa. before its Economic Agreement (EPA) with the EU, had extensive negotiation experience and lessons from its original Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement with the bloc. South Africa has also extensive experience in difficult negotiations within the African Growth and Opportunity Act regime and the EPA with the post-Brexit United

Kingdom. These strengths are vital as we incubate and nurture the AfCFTA.

The integration of global trade regimes into the domestic system is another key element that South Africa has planned well in advance of the coming into force of the AfCFTA. This remains a foundation upon which the AfCFTA rests. According to Standard Bank analysts, the South African economy stands to benefit significantly from the implementation of the AfCFTA. Trade statistics from the South African Revenue Service in 2021 indicate that exports to the rest of Africa account for 20% of South Africa's total exports - this compares with a 31% contribution by exports to Asia and a 28% contribution by exports to Europe. South Africa's imports from the rest of the African continent accounts for 9.7% of the countries' imports, compared to a 48% contribution made by imports from Asia and a 30% contribution made by imports from Europe. The value of the AfCFTA to South Africa is undeniable in its diversified trade relationships. Africa has since 1994 claimed its rightful place in South Africa's political and economic partnerships but the AfCFTA lays the foundation for the substantive integration of South Africa into the continental economy.

We, as South Africa, are alive to the dynamic that this must be done through integration and development of all African continental and regional economies. It is still early days for the AfCFTA. The operational phase of the AfCFTA, which was launched at the 12th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU on the AfCFTA in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019 has a long road ahead. Trading under the AfCFTA officially began on 1 January 2021, however, no significant trade data is available to support trade development analysis under the AfCFTA regime so early into this implementation. The success of a structurally sound and implementable single market system, in the final analysis, rides on the five key pillars being erected to support the Free Trade Area. These are:

- i. The first is establishing a Trade Finance Facility to support SMEs, especially those managed by women and youth.
- ii. The second pillar is launching the African Trade Gateway, which is a one-stop digital platform with information on rules that apply to thousands of products, customs procedures, market information and trends, and payment transfers.
- iii. The third pillar is an AfCFTA Adjustment Facility, which is expected to cushion the fiscal effects of tariff loss in countries.
- iv. The fourth pillar is rolling out the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, a platform that facilitates cross-border payments in local African currencies.
- v. The fifth pillar is ensuring that Africa's special economic zones (SEZs) are compatible with AfCFTA.

Let us move forward with critical and innovative thinking in the implementation of the single African market. It must be a viable and vibrant Africa that harnesses the strength of its women and youth to build a better and more prosperous continent. A continent that embraces its capacity to innovate and adds value to its vast resource wealth. We can do this with a single voice for the Africa We Want.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Ambassador Ghulam Asmal with Embassy staff at the South African stall

The Mission participated in the Africa celebrations held at the Diplomatic Club in Doha on June 2022. This celebration vear's commemorated under the designated "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent", as a reflection of the strides made by the continent to improve socioeconomic issues

The format of the event was in the form of a reception and a cultural exhibition accompanied by a "Food Festival" reflecting the various African cuisines. The event was well attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps across all regional including Qatari officials groupings. personalities and some African Diaspora-based in Doha. This broad participation of stakeholders speaks to the notable extent of the building and strengthening of relations with the host country and key players. The event was also well covered by local media in appreciation of the role of the African Diplomatic Corps in the host country. The Mission's participation focussed on showcasing African culture, arts, crafts and numerous literature reflecting on the country's diverse and rich cultural heritage, which symbolises unity and equality of all. The Mission was also favoured with the presence of the well-known South African artist Master KG at the event.



Ambassador Asmal talks to distinguished guests about the South African products on display



Ambassador Asmal with South African international awardwinning artist, Master



Cultural performance

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Fourth Speciality and Fine Food Asia Trade Show

Charlotte Lobe

The South Africa High Commission in Singapore participated in the fourth edition of the Speciality and Fine Food Asia (SFFA) Trade Show hosted by the Montgomery Group Asia from 22 - 24 June 2022 at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre

The SFFA trade exhibition always brings together the relevant trade buyers from across Southeast Asia under one roof, giving participating companies instant and direct access to target customers in Singapore and the broader Southeast Asia region. The South African High Commission had an exhibition booth where South African food and beverage products were exhibited and tasted, including a space for virtual meetings between South African company representatives and potential buyers/agents.

The South African exhibition showcased South African wines, our Rooibos tea, Ceres juice and Nando's products now available in restaurants and grocery stores in Singapore





High Commissioner Charlotte Lobe sampling the products at the South



Bv Rokava Adonis Employee Health and Wellness



Now in its fourth year, World Wellbeing Week (27 June to 1 July) is an annual observance of the wide-ranging aspects of wellbeing. While it is common to correlate wellbeing with physical fitness, World Wellbeing Week provides the opportunity for participants worldwide celebrate the many aspects of wellbeing, from meaningful, purposeful work to financial security, physical, mental and emotional health, social resilience and care for communities and the environment.

Wellbeing has never been so important to our lives and livelihoods as in the past two years. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed a capacity for change, never before thought possible, with people all over the world adapting mentally and physically. It has brought with it different ways of thinking and a new-found resilience. "Wellbeing" is the foremost thought in our mind and should be prioritised.

Wellness **Employee** Health and (EHW) recognises the importance of World Wellbeing Week as employee wellbeing is a key pillar of the success of any business. EHW encourages employees during this week to focus on their wellbeing by incorporating the following into their lifestyle:

- · diet: cut down on salt and eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day
- hydration: drink at least two litres of water per day
- weight: try to reach the right weight for your height and age

- exercise: it does not have to be in the gym; take regular walks during lunchtime and get sunlight
- alcohol: moderation is key
- relaxation: make time for hobbies and relaxation
- work-life balance: work hard and play equally hard.

Evidence suggests there are five steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life.

Five steps to mental wellbeing:

- connect with people: good relationships are important for your mental wellbeing
- be physically active: being active is not only great for your physical health and fitness but can also improve mental wellbeing
- learn new skills: this can boost self-confidence and raise self-esteem, help build a sense of purpose and help connect with others
- give to others: create positive feelings and a sense of reward, feeling of purpose and selfworth
- be mindful: paying more attention to the present moment can help you enjoy life more and understand yourself better

World Wellbeing Week is an opportunity to set yourself a wellbeing pledge to make your wellbeing a priority, this week and beyond. Whether that is by exercising more, changing your eating and drinking habits, finding more ways to relax, learning new skills, or connecting with others.

MEET DIRCO'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

In line with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHSA), DIRCO has an OHS Committee that consists of representatives from various units within the department. The OHS Committee manages DIRCO's compliance with the OHSA, by ensuring that a reasonably practicable working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of its employees, is maintained.



WORKPLACE SAFETY RULES

Section 8 (i) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993 stipulates that every employer shall provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of employees. The aim of the Act seeks to protect the safety and health of persons at work. It is the responsibility of employees to obey all lawful instructions or rules that are implemented for their benefit. We can all promote health and safety through the following actions:

1. REPORT UNSAFE ACTS AND CONDITIONS

When you see unsafe conditions report it immediately to a health and safety representative or helpdesk, e.g. loose electrical cables, damaged carpets and open floor plugs. This will prevent the occurrence of accidents or incidents.

2. BE AWARE

Familiarise yourself where the on-site clinic is. Know who the SHE representatives, first aid and evacuation wardens are that are responsible for your branch.

3 READ WARNING SIGNS

Familiarise and comply with the safety signage, e.g. slippery surfaces, construction on site, exit and escape signs.

4. ADHERE TO ERGONOMIC STANDARDS

Identify the ergonomic hazards in your working environment that may cause musculoskeletal injuries, e.g. poor posture and back problems because of improper adjusted workstations.

5. KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE OR ANOTHER EMERGENCY

Familiarise and comply immediately with all procedures in Case of fire or another emergency. Know where the location is of all the fire escapes and assembly points and what procedures to follow during an emergency evacuation.

6. FOLLOW SAFE WORK PROCEDURES

Know and comply with all regulations, e.g. adhere to speeding limits in basements, keep to the recommended social distancing and comply with the instructions during an evacuation drill.

7. PARTICIPATE IN JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEES OR AS THE REPRESENTATIVE

EHW in collaboration with the OHS Committee invites DIRCO employees to volunteer and serve as SHE Reps. Interested colleagues shall undergo training to equip them with knowledge and skills to assist in the execution of their responsibilities.

For more information please call Ms Given Mashigo on x11691 or email mashigog@dirco.gov.za

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.





"Promoting sustainable livelihood and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow"

YOUTH MONTH LAUNCH

02 JUNE 2022

#YouthDay2022 #YouthMonth2022 #YouthMonthLaunch















