



IT'S YOUR VOICE

Internal Newsletter of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation

ubuntu diplomat

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DIPLOMATIC
FUN FAIR
2022



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& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
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Credits

Editor-in-Chief

Salome Baloi

Managing Editor

Mathapelo Monaisa

Contributing Editor

Magedline Motswaledi

Copy Editor

Delien Burger

Design Concept

Mathapelo Monaisa

Photographers

Jacoline Schoonees, Katlholo Maifadi, Yandisa Monakali and Yolande Snyman

Contributors

Directorate: Marketing, Duncan Sebefelo

Publisher

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation

For suggestions and contributions to the publication please e-mail:

motswaledim@dirco.gov.za

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DIRCO hosts the annual Diplomatic Fun Fair in October at the Union Buildings Southern lawns in Pretoria. This exciting event brings together embassies accredited to South Africa to showcase and promote cultural diplomacy through creative expressions, such as arts, music, dance and global cuisine.



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Editor's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

The Diplomatic Fun Fair returned after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The event, which was held on Saturday, 22 October 2022, at the Union Buildings' Southern lawns in Pretoria, was a colourful and flavourful cultural pot that brought together diplomatic missions accredited to South Africa to promote cultural diplomacy. Visitors were treated to a trip around the world in one day as well as massive performances by some of South Africa's top artists.

Earlier this year, South Africa began its campaign to lobby for candidature at the Human Rights Council (HRC). Team DIRCO at the United Nations (UN) Desk within the Branch: Global Governance and Continental Agenda worked tirelessly to keep South Africa top of mind at the various HRC events. On 11 October 2022, the UN General Assembly elected South Africa, Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Morocco, Romania and Vietnam to the HRC for a three-year term, which starts on 1 January 2023. Mr Duncan Sebefelo tells us about South Africa's participation at the 51st Session of the HRC. Well done to our colleagues who contributed to this outcome.

Read about Minister Naledi Pandor's visit to East Asia, specifically to the Republic of Korea and the State of Japan. Dr Pandor co-chaired the Joint Cooperation Commission with South Korea and the Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum. She also met with business leaders in that region to promote Economic Diplomacy. Minister Pandor's visit further strengthened relations between South Africa and South Korea as we celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries, as well as relations between South Africa and Japan.

Deputy Minister Alvin Botes visited the Republic of Türkiye where he co-chaired bilateral Political Consultations with his counterpart, Deputy Minister Sedat Önal.



During the month of October, we remember and celebrate South Africa's foremost diplomat, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo. At a time when South Africa doubles efforts to promote multilateralism and a better, peaceful world, we recall OR Tambo's words:

"Using the power you derive from the discovery of the truth about racism in South Africa, you will help us to remake our part of the world into a corner of the globe on which all — of which all of humanity can be proud."

– Georgetown University, January, 1987.

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Minister Pandor visits East Asia



From 10 to 13 October 2022, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the State of Japan where she co-chaired the inaugural Korea-South Africa Joint Cooperation Commission (JCC) and the Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum, respectively.

Together with her counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr Park JIN, Minister Pandor co-chaired the JCC in Seoul, with a focus on ensuring that the multifaceted, bilateral relationship is placed on a strong footing at the political, economic, social and technical levels. South Africa and the ROK have concluded 17 bilateral agreements, ranging from air transport, protection of investments, avoidance of double taxation, science and technology, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition, ICT, vocational training, and energy.

Minister Pandor also held a meeting with the captains of big businesses, including the representatives of various business chambers. The meeting, which took place ahead of the JCC was an opportunity for the Minister to discuss with the business leaders, the vast potential for economic cooperation between South Africa and Korea, as well as the investment potential.

During the JCC with Minister Park, Dr Pandor spoke

about the celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. “The commemoration of the 30th-year celebration of our economic partnership has formed a strong foundation of our relations.”, said the Minister. South Africa is the ROK’s largest trading partner in Africa while the ROK is South Africa’s fourth-largest trading partner in Asia. Trade between South Africa and the ROK is continuing to show an upward trajectory despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and reflects a solid positive trade balance.

Minister Pandor added that “South Africa is proud to count on the Government of the ROK and its private sector as partners in our efforts directed at the post-pandemic economic recovery. In this regard, our President and his economic team, working closely with our ambassadors and missions abroad, have been working hard at advancing our trade and investment relations for mutual benefit across a broad range of economic activities”. Over the last few years, the ROK has made timely donations during the height of COVID to South Africa, the region and the continent. “This material support at a time of need will never be forgotten”, said the Minister.

Formal diplomatic relations between South Africa and the ROK were established in December 1992, two years after the release of former President Nelson Mandela from prison.

In Tokyo, Japan, Minister Pandor and the Foreign Minister, Mr Hayashi Yoshimasa, focussed on advancing political, economic, social and technical cooperation between South Africa and Japan. The two ministers also exchanged views on regional, global and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Dr Pandor also attended an event hosted in partnership with the Japan External Trade Organisation, which was also attended by Japanese business leaders in Tokyo. In her speech titled, “Unlocking Africa’s Potential through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)”, Minister Pandor referred to, among other things:

- opportunities offered by the AfCFTA in various sectors, including value-addition of mineral resources and new manufacturing capabilities
- challenges in the implementation of the agreement, such as infrastructure, energy and

migration systems management

- the impact of the prevailing geopolitical environment, including the situation in Ukraine and the trade tensions between the United States (US) and China.

Japan, the third-largest economy in the world (in terms of nominal GDP) after the US and China, is one of the major and continuous investors (over R90 billion) in the South African economy. Japan has a current presence in South Africa of 286 companies, sustaining approximately 200 000 local job opportunities. New investments into the South African economy by Japanese companies include those made by Toyota (R4.28 billion), Nissan (R3.2 billion) and Isuzu (R1.2 billion).

Minister Pandor's visit to the ROK and Japan elevated South Africa's bilateral relations with the two East Asian countries, focussing on enhancing economic cooperation and political dialogue.



Minister Naledi Pandor delivers remarks during the South Africa-Korea JCC



Minister Pandor with the Foreign Minister of Korea for the inaugural South Africa-Korea JCC, which was held in Seoul



Minister Pandor meeting with Samsung President, Mr Rhee In-yong



Minister Pandor with Mr HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Minister Naledi Pandor and the SA delegation meet with Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa and the Japan delegation

South Africa at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Duncan Sebefelo

Subdirector: Civil and Political Rights



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

2023-2025

South Africa



The South African delegation, led by Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva and Other International Organisations in Switzerland, and Dr Francis Moloi, Chief-Director: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, successfully represented South Africa at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which took place from 12 September to 7 October 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The 51st Session took place against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict with the deteriorating geopolitical international environment impacting negatively on the governance of the HRC. The vulnerability of the council was exposed once again by the continued divisions between the developed and developing countries on a range of human rights issues discussed during the session. The divisions between Russia and China on the one hand and Western countries on the other dominated the proceedings.

Despite the existing tensions and differences, the HRC concluded the session by adopting 39 resolutions and three decisions. These include, among others, appointments of a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; and extending mandates on older persons, right to development, arbitrary detention, mercenaries, slavery, indigenous peoples, safe drinking water and sanitation, Afghanistan, right to health, Ethiopia, Burundi, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Somalia. The council also elected nine members of the Advisory Committee and appointed four mandate holders.

South Africa delivered 24 statements during the session, which mainly encompassed thematic issues as well as on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. South Africa led the negotiations on behalf of the African Group on the anti-racism resolution entitled: "From Rhetoric to Reality: A Global Call for Concrete Action against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance". As part of the

Non-Aligned Movement, the delegation participated actively in negotiations on the Resolution on the Right to Development. South Africa was part of the core group that tabled the resolutions on (a) Strengthening the Voluntary Funds for the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council; and (b) the Role of Good Governance in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights". The delegation also engaged and participated in the negotiations of all resolutions and co-sponsored 10 additional resolutions.

South Africa used the session to continue to lobby for its candidature for membership of the HRC (2023-2025) for which the country was successfully elected at the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly Session, held in New York on 11 October 2022. In this regard, the Embassy in Geneva organised a side event to gather final support.

South Africa is looking forward to participate in the HRC to contribute towards the transformation of the global system of governance from a power-based system to a rules-based system to enhance efforts to create a just and equitable global order, influence institutional norms and standards governing the UN HRC and strengthen multilateralism.



Amb Mxolisi Nkosi addresses guests during the final lobbying reception for South Africa's candidacy for membership of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)



Amb Nkosi delivers South Africa's National Statement at the 51st Session of the HRC



Team South Africa, who was instrumental in contributing to the crafting and negotiations around the adoption by HRC51 of Resolution L.28/Rev.1, "From Rhetoric to Reality, A Global Call against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance"

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2022 Diplomatic Fair

Directorate: Marketing, Public Diplomacy



The 2022 Diplomatic Fun Fair took place on Saturday, 22 October 2022, at the Southern lawns of the Union Buildings in Pretoria. This celebration of cultural diplomacy, which brings together embassies accredited to South Africa to showcase and promote culture through creative expressions, such as arts, music, dance and global cuisine, was held under the theme: “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent”.

Diplomatic missions accredited to South Africa hosted stalls where they put together a beautiful display of their cultural cuisine, art and heritage for visitors to enjoy and purchase. To add to the experience, a selection of local food vendors hosted stalls providing authentic South African food.

The Diplomatic Fun Fair is the ideal opportunity to learn more about the work of DIRCO, and the different diplomatic missions that are accredited to South Africa, in a fun and exciting way. This year’s event was the first where South African cultural groups were also afforded the opportunity to perform live on stage for the massive crowd in attendance. The audience was in high spirits as they revelled at the colourful and exciting multicultural performances on stage.

The highlights of the day were the thrilling performances by South Africa’s own DJ Lamiez, Sjava and Master KG who provided an electrifying closing to the 2022 Diplomatic Fun Fair.

DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2022 - THE STALLS



The stalls at the Union Buildings



German Embassy stall



Jump high like the Maasai. The Tanzanian Embassy officials had members of the Maasai community teaching guests how to jump



Türkiye Embassy staff ready to showcase their country



Visitors at the Togo Embassy stall



Minister Naledi Pandor visiting the Zambia Embassy stall



UN in South Africa stalls.

DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2022

THE WINNERS



The Most Flavourful Stall: Kenya



OR Tambo Overall Winner Award: State of Eritrea



Most Entertaining: Republic of Korea



Minister's Award: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



The Mayor's Award: Ambassador Mairin Josefina Moreno-Merida, Venezuela, and Ambassador Enrique Orta González, Cuba, with Minister Naledi Pandor – winners of the Mayor's Award



DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2022

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES



South Africa



Tanzania



Mauritius



Rwanda



Yemen



Indonesia

DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2022

TEAM DIRCO



Deputy Director-General: Public Diplomacy and Acting Deputy Director-General: Corporate Management, Mr Clayton Monyela, with Director: PMDS, Mr Nkosinathi Shongwe



Minister Naledi Pandor addresses the crowd and announces the winners



Mr Nelson Kgwete, Director: Media Liaison



Ms Mathapelo Monaisa, Director: Internal Communication and Social Media, and Ms Salome Baloi, Chief Director: Multimedia and Acting COO



Ms Michelle Greeff, Director: Publishing



Tali Munzhedzi, Deputy Director: Ubuntu Radio was the Programme Director for the day



Ms Jacoline Schoonees, Deputy Director: Photography



Ms Joy Mashile, Directorate: Marketing, takes a tiny break during her busy day



Ms Thembakazi Zulu, Directorate: Publishing - Administration and Distribution sampling the Dip Fair hashtag frame



Left: Mr Mandla Mthombeni, Directorate: Public Participation Programmes, hard at work

DIPLOMATIC FUN FAIR 2022

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



Master KG and dancers keeping the crowd moving



DJ Lamiez dances with the crowd during her performance



Sjava pushing South African culture



The audience arrived in their droves





"We seek to create a united democratic and non-racial society."

- Oliver Reginald Tambo



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Deputy Minister Alvin Botes undertakes a Working Visit to Türkiye

South African Embassy, Türkiye



Amb. Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba and Deputy Minister Alvin Botes received a gift from members of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye, Istanbul

Deputy Minister Alvin Botes undertook a Working Visit to the Republic of Türkiye from 29 to 3 November 2022, where he co-chaired bilateral Political Consultations with the Turkish Deputy Minister, Mr Sedat Önal.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance political and economic relations and deepen understanding on regional and multilateral issues. It also served as a preparatory meeting for the scheduled incoming visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of South Africa on an official invitation extended by Minister Naledi Pandor to Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

In her feedback after the meeting, South Africa's Ambassador to Türkiye, Her Excellency Ms Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, said that during the consultations, the two deputy ministers were able to review the trade relations and balance between South Africa and Türkiye. Deputy Minister Botes and Deputy Minister Önal agreed that there was a need to improve the trade volumes between the two countries.



Meeting between Deputy Minister Botes and members of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye, Istanbul.



High Commissioner Mtintso honoured by the University of Cape Town

On Friday, 14 October 2022, Rhodes University honoured journalist and anti-apartheid activist HE Thenjiwe Mtintso with a Doctor of Laws degree for her commitment to women's rights and long and sustained contribution as a dedicated freedom fighter.

During the ceremony, High Commissioner Thenjiwe Mtintso said that: "I am so honoured to be given this honorary doctorate, but I must say it's not for me alone, but for all those that held my hand throughout this journey to make today possible. There are many heroes and heroines that I fought with for liberation we see today. So, I owe this award to them, because without them I wouldn't have made it."

Dr Mtintso served as South Africa's Ambassador to Cuba (2003–2008), Italy (2009–2012), Romania (2014–2016), Malawi (2016 to 2019) and Spain (2019–2022). In 2022, she was appointed South Africa's High Commissioner to Namibia.

Congratulations, High Commissioner Dr Thenjiwe Mtintso on this bestowal. Your continued exemplary work in gender activism will inspire many to come. For your contribution to South Africa's liberation, we further commend you.



The Doctor of Laws being conferred on High Commissioner Mtintso



Dr Mtintso delivers a speech



The UCT Convocation

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Minister Naledi Pandor received the outgoing Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Mr Kanat Tumysh, for a farewell courtesy call.



Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon, Mr Lejeune Mbella Mbella, in Yaounde.



Mr Ndumiso Mngadi delivers remarks during the Junior Diplomats' Council meeting where they hosted the Fourth Foreign Policy Dialogue in collaboration with the Branch: DTRD to further discuss South Africa's National Interest Framework

Guests at the final lobbying reception for South Africa's candidacy for membership of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini with Amb. Grace Mason in Liberia during the handover of COVID-19 vaccines



Amb Ndumiso Ntshinga hosted a dinner for the African ambassadors accredited to South Africa



Mr Alvin Botes meeting with the Georgian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Khatuna Totladze, in Tbilisi, Georgia, and hands over a gift from South Africa





REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SOUTH AFRICA
AT THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)**

2023 – 2025

*“Together, building back better
through human rights”*

