



# **SOUTH AFRICA'S DIPLOMATIC MILESTONES**

## South Africa's diplomatic milestones

South Africa's foreign policy is based on principles, values and national interest. It is underpinned by the promotion of human rights, democracy and the pursuit of the African Agenda.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (DIRCO) work is guided by the National Development Plan (NDP), which, in the area of international relations, states:

"... in order for South Africa to achieve its national goals of eradicating poverty, lowering inequality, creating jobs and making transition to a resilient carbon economy, foreign relations must be driven by the country's domestic economic, political and social demands, as well as our regional, continental and global obligations."

In pursuance of this, DIRCO has translated the NDP goals into a strategic programme that seeks to:

- sustain political, economic and social relations
- strengthen political and economic integration and development of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- consolidate the African Agenda

- strengthen and consolidate South-South relations
- leverage relations with the North in advancement of national and continental priorities and the Agenda of the South
- advocate for the reform and strengthening of the global system of governance.

Since becoming a democracy in 1999, South Africa has registered historic diplomatic successes. A significant accomplishment of post-apartheid South Africa has been to move the country from its pariah status to its current standing as a valued and respected player in world affairs. These achievements include:

- enhancing economic diplomacy
- playing a leading role in the African Union (AU) and hosting the AU Summit in June 2015
- its inclusion into the powerful BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) formation, the successful hosting of the first BRICS Summit on African soil in Durban in March 2013 and the agreement to establish the New Development Bank's (NDB) African Regional Centre in South Africa

- serving two terms as non-permanent member on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- chairing the Group of 77 and China in 2006 and 2015
- hosting and Presidency of the successful UN Climate Change Conference or COP17/ CMP7 in 2012
- co-chairing the G20 Development Working Group
- chairing the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) from 2017 to 2019
- being selected to the UN Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC)
- hosting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in December 2015
- introducing the Ubuntu Brand

- o *Ubuntu* Magazine
- o Ubuntu Radio
- o Annual Ubuntu Awards.

South Africa is grateful for the opportunities that it has received to play a meaningful role in creating a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world.



## Enhancing economic diplomacy

In anticipation of growth in the African and Asian regions, South Africa took a conscious decision to expand and strengthen its diplomatic missions in the two regions.

The country increased its presence on the African continent from seven diplomatic and consular missions in 1994 to 47 in 2015.

Consequently, South Africa's trade on the continent increased 39 times from R11,4 billion in 1994 to R385 billion in 2015. The country is targeting half a trillion rand trade with Africa by 2019. At the end of 2015, 20% of South Africa's trade was conducted within the African continent.

With regard to Asia and the Middle East, South Africa's trade and investment in these regions have grown considerably and continue to do so. In 1994, trade with Asia and the Middle East combined was approximately R45 billion and has increased to approximately R760 billion with Asia and R116 billion with the Middle East. South Africa can achieve a trillion rand trade with this region by 2019.

There is a direct correlation between the growth of South Africa's diplomatic missions and the phenomenal expansion of its trade and investment relations on both the African continent and in Asia and the Middle East. The same applies to the Americas and Europe.

With additional economic diplomacy efforts and enhanced national coordination, South African trade with the world can reach R2 trillion by 2019.

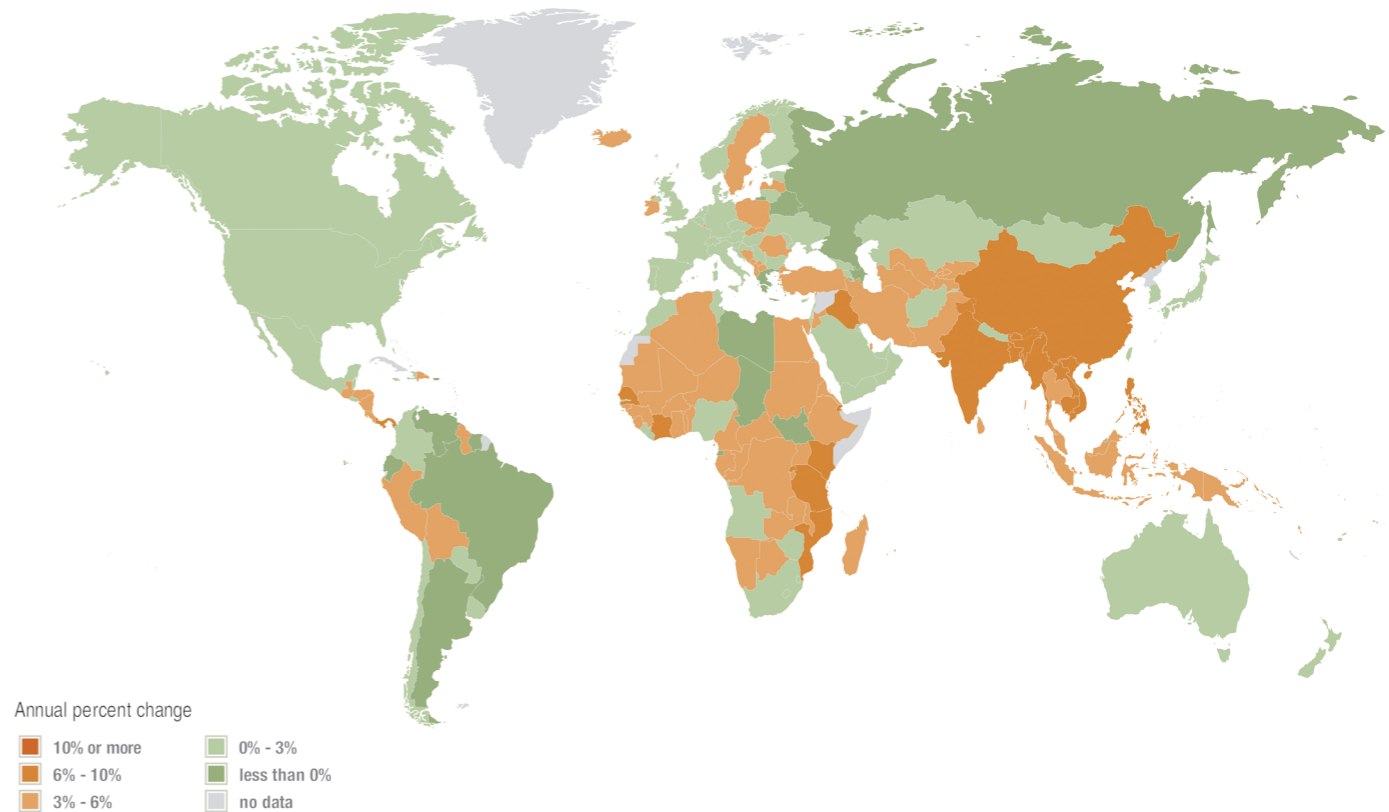
As South Africa explores new markets, it continues to maintain close economic ties with the industrialised economies of the North, which provide, among others, preferential market access to some of South Africa's exports.

Enhancing economic and political dialogue is an important part of South Africa's economic diplomacy strategy as they remain a primary source of foreign direct investment and official development assistance flows into South Africa.

### IMF Data Mapper®

Real GDP growth (2016)

Source: World Economic Outlook (April 2016)





## Promoting the African Agenda

The AU continues to champion the African Agenda, advancing and defending the interests of Africa in global affairs. At the top of South Africa's agenda is the need to ensure that our continent remains a zone of peace, stability and economic development, translating into the betterment of the lives of Africans.

The election of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma as Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC) on 15 July 2012 was historic and a major foreign policy achievement. Dr Dlamini Zuma was not only the first candidate of the southern African region to occupy the high office, but also the first woman to do so.

Her election signalled the commitment of African leaders to implement their decisions and resolutions, particularly the resolution to declare the decade between 2010 and 2020 as the Decade of Women.

Dr Dlamini Zuma will chair the commission until January 2017, when AU member states will elect and appoint a new AUC comprising a new chairperson, deputy chairperson and eight commissioners.

Her leadership of the AUC included conceptualisation of Agenda 2063, which has since been adopted as the continent's vision – the

"Africa we Want". Her emphasis on continental self-reliance in funding the AU's programmes and projects and her tireless work, which has resulted in a marked improvement in the working methods of the AU, are part of her enduring legacies.

In June 2015, South Africa hosted the 25th AU Summit for the first time since the formation of the AU in Durban in 2002.

African leaders from across the continent gathered in Pretoria and Johannesburg for the event, which was held under the theme: "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063". Agenda 2063 is a 50-year framework that sets Africa on the path to achieving integration, prosperity and peace. Its first 10-year implementation plan was adopted by the assembly.

In January 2016, the AU Assembly unanimously re-elected South Africa for a second consecutive two-year term to the AU's Peace and Security Council (AUPSC). This gives the country the opportunity to consolidate the work done in previous years, including contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2063's goal of "Silencing the Guns by 2020".

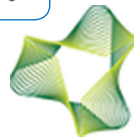
South Africa will intensify its diplomatic efforts to help bring about lasting political solutions in Lesotho, Burundi, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region.

In November 2015, President Jacob Zuma presided over the closing ceremony of the Amani Africa Field Training Exercise, held in Lohatla, Northern Cape, whose main objective was to test the Rapid Deployment Capacity of the African Standby Force. The success of this exercise points to the continent's readiness to expeditiously provide solutions to some of our instability challenges.

The Southern African Development Community, East African Standby Force, North Africa Regional Command, Economic Community of West African States and the Volunteering Nations of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises participated in this historic exercise.

As part of the AU Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative to accelerate and deepen regional integration, South Africa is leading the implementation of infrastructure projects which form part of the North-South Road and Rail Corridor. Some of the projects include the Dar es Salaam Port, berths 1 to 7 and Bulk Terminal in Tanzania; Durban Dig-Out Port in South Africa; Serenje to Nakonde Road in Zambia; Chirundu to Harare Highway in Zimbabwe; Harare to Beit Bridge Highway in Zimbabwe; Kazungulu to Pandamatenga to Nata Road in Botswana; National Railways of Zimbabwe; Lusaka to Chirundu Link 4; and Kafue to Livingston Road in Zambia.





## BRICS and the New Development Bank

South Africa joined BRICS with three objectives in mind, namely to:

- advance its national interests
- promote its regional integration programme and related continental infrastructure programmes
- partner with key players of the South on issues related to global governance and its reform.

With South Africa as a member, BRICS has expanded its geographic and intercontinental representivity and inclusiveness.

South Africa hosted the Fifth BRICS Summit in March 2013 in Durban under the theme:

“BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation”.

South Africa’s projected outcomes for the Fifth BRICS Summit were achieved:

- the BRICS leaders agreed on the establishment of the NDB
- the leaders agreed on the establishment of the contingent reserve arrangement with an initial size of US\$100 billion
- the establishment of the BRICS Think-Tanks Council and the BRICS Business Council.

The summit outcome documents, known as the eThekweni Declaration and Action, were adopted at the conclusion of the summit.

Since South Africa joined the BRICS formation, Africa’s developmental needs and aspirations have been fully incorporated into the BRICS agenda. The BRICS’ NDB, headquartered in Shanghai, has started operations and its African Regional Centre will be located in Johannesburg.

The NDB approved its first tranche of projects in April 2016. Each member state has been allocated a project to implement and South Africa has received US\$180 billion for renewable energy.

Through this decision, the NDB has commenced to discharge its mandate, namely: the funding of infrastructure projects that promote sustainable development.





## Chairing the Group of 77 and China

The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the UN, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the UN system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

As the chairperson of Group of 77 and China from January 2015 to January 2016, South Africa was at the forefront of articulating and promoting the collective economic and developmental interests of the South within the UN System.

South Africa coordinated the G77 and China positions in the negotiations for the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which was adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015, and during the third International Conference on Financing for

Development, which resulted in the “Addis Ababa Action Agenda”.

The 2030 Agenda is all-encompassing in that it addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely: the economic, social and environmental dimensions, and is aligned to the AU’s Agenda 2063 and South Africa’s NDP.

Concerning climate change negotiations, South Africa utilised its tenure as the Chair of the G77 and China to engender a paradigm shift from the mitigation-centric approach to a holistic and comprehensive approach to meaningfully address climate change. In this regard, the historic Paris Agreement and the package of supporting decisions covering climate action in the pre- and post-2020 periods mark the successful conclusion of a four-year negotiation process under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, initiated by South Africa in 2011, when the country served as President of COP17.





## COP17/CMP7

### The Durban Outcome

The Durban Conference, held in 2012, delivered a breakthrough in the international community's response to climate change. The Durban Outcome was hailed the world over as having restored trust in the UN change convention process.

Governments agreed to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change as soon as possible but not later than 2015. Governments, including 35 industrialised countries, agreed to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol from 1 January 2013.

In April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries met in New York and signed the Paris Agreement

to combat climate change. The Paris Agreement has its roots in South Africa, on African soil, where its terms of negotiations were agreed to.

The Paris Agreement was unanimously adopted by parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015. The adoption of the Paris Agreement was the culmination of the historic and bold decisions taken in 2012 in Durban when South Africa served as President of COP17/CMP7.

It marks a new era in international cooperation to deal with one of the most pressing issues of our time.



## Co-chairing the G20 Development Working Group

South Africa participates actively in the work and meetings of the G20. South Africa is also the Co-chair of the G20 Development Working Group and has consistently promoted the mainstreaming of the development agenda in its engagements within the G20.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. Each G20 president invites several guest countries each year.

G20 leaders meet annually. In addition, finance ministers and central bank governors meet regularly during the year to discuss ways to strengthen the global economy, reform international financial institutions, improve financial regulation and implement the key economic reforms that are needed in each member economy.

Underpinning these meetings is a year-long programme of meetings among senior officials and of working groups coordinating policy on specific issues.







## Indian Ocean Rim Association

South Africa is the vice chair and a member of the association's Troika, along with Indonesia and Australia, and will chair IORA from 2017 to 2019.

IORA was formally launched in Mauritius in March 1997 by 14 member states. South Africa is a founding member of the association – a charter-based multilateral organisation that is fraternal in nature and driven by consensus. The association essentially is an economic cooperative community of littoral

and island states around the Indian Ocean. Membership has grown to 21 states and at its core mandate is the proper management of the Indian Ocean resource to the benefit of its members.

In September 2015, a South Africa delegation attended the first-ever IORA Blue Economy Conference. South Africa was a conference initiating member country in line with its commitment, via Operation Phakisa, to the ocean economy.





## United Nations Security Council

South Africa served on the UNSC as non-permanent member for two terms, the first from 2007 to 2008, and the second from 2011 to 2012. It is a well-known fact that more than two-thirds of the UNSC's agenda focusses on African issues.

During its second term, South Africa continued with its efforts to promote and enhance the body's cooperation with regional organisations, particularly the AUPSC. The country used its position on the council to elevate the African Agenda and help bring peace and security to the continent.

In January 2012, South Africa presided over the UNSC and used the opportunity to further strengthen its initiative to enhance cooperation between the UN and AU. On 12 January 2012, President Jacob Zuma presided over

a high-level debate in the UNSC on UN-AU cooperation. In his statement, he emphasised the need for closer cooperation between the UN and regional organisations. South Africa tabled Resolution 2011 (2012), focussing on further strengthening the strategic relationship between the AU and the UN in the maintenance of peace and security. The resolution builds further on the groundbreaking Resolution 1809 (2008), which South Africa brought to the UNSC in April 2008. This is testimony to the consistency, forthrightness and vision of South Africa's foreign policy that elevates the African Agenda.

South Africa's participation in the UNSC was informed by the country's national interest and a belief that South Africa's prosperity is intrinsically linked to peace and stability on the continent and the world in general. It also reflected South

Africa's strong commitment to the International Rule of Law.

South Africa strives to improve working relations between the UNSC and the AU. The country has contributed personnel to multinational peace and security initiatives in support of regional AU and UN peace missions in, among others, Lesotho, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Africa remains convinced that the UN is the pre-eminent organisation for the maintenance of global peace and security and the advancement of development. It will therefore continue to advocate for its reforms, particularly the reform of the UNSC, to ensure that this body is both responsive to the needs of developing countries and is truly representative of the current global realities.





## Economic and Social Council

On 8 November 2012, South Africa was elected by members of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to the 47-member ECOSOC. Membership will expire in 2018. South Africa previously served on the UN organ from 2004 to 2006.

ECOSOC is responsible for economic and social development matters of the world. The organ has a charter mandate to drive the Development Agenda of the UN. It was significant that South Africa was a member of this crucial organ in 2015 during the target date for the achievement of the millennium development goals.

The membership of ECOSOC provides South Africa with an opportunity to contribute to the strengthening and reform of the organisation. It provides an opportunity to be located at the

centre of the debate on the Global Development Agenda.

South Africa is pursuing a global development agenda to contribute to the reduction of insecurity in Africa and in the world. The country also uses its membership to promote the African Agenda and the general developmental interest of Africa.

In December 2015, UNGA adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as encapsulated in the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 of the AU.

The declaration of the SDGs envisages, among others, “a world in which every country enjoys inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and decent work for all”.





## Introducing the Ubuntu Brand

### Ubuntu Magazine

DIRCO introduced its quarterly magazine, *Ubuntu – South Africa's Public Diplomacy in action*, in August 2012 to:

- communicate with and educate stakeholders on South Africa's foreign policy positions, achievements, objectives and goals
- give in-depth analysis and information on key departmental issues ranging from current affairs, bilateral and multilateral milestones, upcoming key events, as well as international work done by other government departments, business and parastatals.

The high-quality glossy magazine spreads South Africa's foreign policy message around the world. Its footprint extends across the globe through South Africa's embassies abroad, libraries, think-tanks, research institutions, domestic, international and VIP lounges at all South Africa's

major airports and foreign embassies accredited to South Africa. The magazine is also available online on [www.dirco.gov.za](http://www.dirco.gov.za).

### Annual Ubuntu Awards

DIRCO introduced the Ubuntu Awards in 2015. The event is aimed at recognising South African industry leaders and eminent persons for their distinguished service and contribution to promoting South Africa's national interests and values across the world.

Awards are given in various categories to organisations/individuals who have, through excellence, innovation, creativity, inventiveness, social responsibility or patriotism, distinguished themselves as true ambassadors of South Africa.

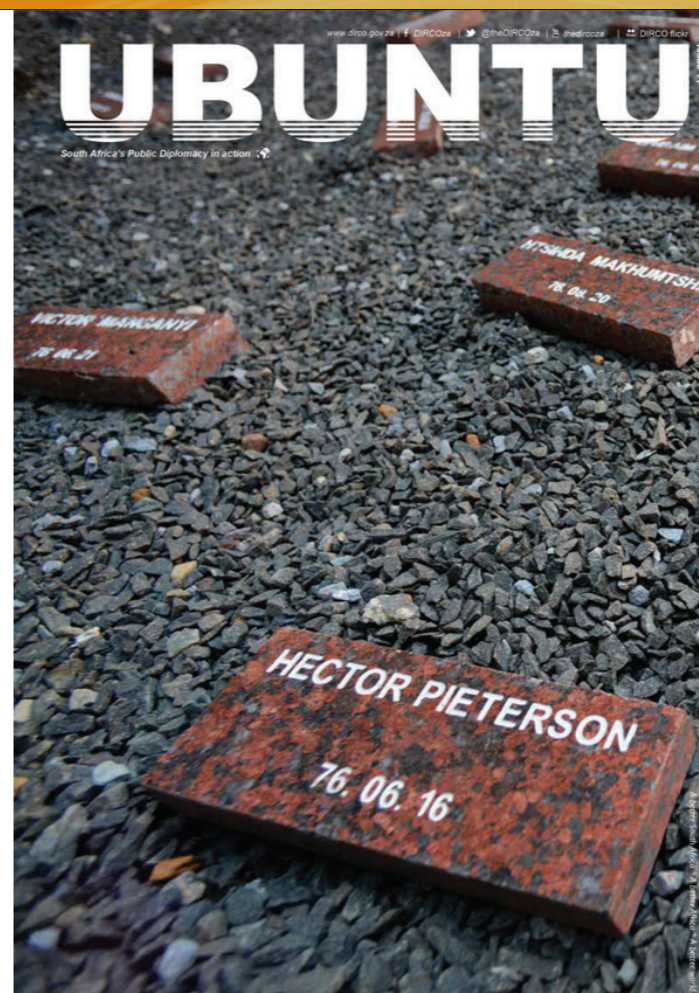
### Ubuntu Radio

DIRCO launched an online, 24-hour radio station aimed at enhancing communication on South Africa's foreign policy in October 2013.

The station, named Ubuntu Radio, is accessible on the Internet, at [www.ubunturadio.com](http://www.ubunturadio.com), and on DSTV Audio Bouquet Channel 888 and is the first of its kind on the African continent. The station is the first to operate under the auspices of a government institution for non-commercial purposes. Its operating format is that of a "talk radio".

The objective of Ubuntu Radio is to create a platform for exchange of views and opinions by various stakeholders. These include opinion-makers, think-tanks, academics, scholars, students, diplomats and other key players in the field of diplomacy and international relations.

By design, the targeted listenership is not limited to South African citizens, but includes the international community. Through this station, DIRCO continues to raise public awareness, and stimulate public discourse on South Africa's foreign policy.



# UBUNTU RADIO

## SOUTH AFRICA'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

Since its launch in 2013, South Africa's first, 24-hour online radio station has been setting in motion dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy.

In celebration of its first anniversary, Ubuntu Radio was launched on DSTV's audio bouquet, increasing its reach to over 45 African countries and over 10 million potential listeners. In addition to the mobile application accessible globally, the Ubuntu Radio Mxit Application is now available to a potential 80 million users. Follow the award-winning station on Twitter and listen live on [www.ubunturadio.com](http://www.ubunturadio.com).

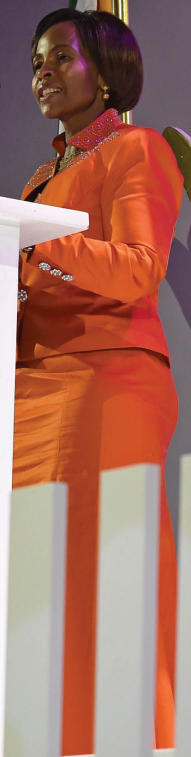


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