

**EU - SOUTH AFRICA**  
**MINISTERIAL TROIKA MEETING**  
**BRUSSELS, 14 MAY 2007**  
**JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

Within the framework of the South Africa- European Union Strategic Partnership, the first Ministerial Troika was held in Brussels on 14 May 2007. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Dr Nkosazana DLAMINI ZUMA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, and H.E. Dr Frank-Walter STEINMEIER, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany for the EU Presidency. The South African delegation included H.E. Mr Marthinus VAN SCHALKWYK, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, H.E. Ms Nosiviwe MAPISA-NQAKULA, Minister of Home Affairs and Mr Mluleki GEORGE, Deputy Minister of Defence.

The EU troika was also composed of H.E. Dr. Luís AMADO, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, the Secretary General/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the Council of the European Union, Mr Javier SOLANA and Mr Olli REHN, Commissioner for Enlargement of the European Commission.

Relations between South Africa and the EU have flourished since the birth of democracy in South Africa in 1994. Building on shared values and common interests, relations have developed over thirteen years into a mutually beneficial and comprehensive partnership based on equality. South Africa and the EU agreed at their Joint Co-operation Council in November 2005 to build on the strong and productive relations by working towards a truly strategic partnership based on an open and concrete dialogue, pursued on the basis of mutual understanding and ownership of the process. Following the decision of the SA-EU Joint Co-operation Council on 14 November 2006, both Parties drafted a Joint Action Plan which was adopted by the Ministers.

**SA-EU Strategic Partnership – adoption of the Joint Action Plan**

The new Strategic Partnership will establish a new overarching umbrella structure for all existing fora of cooperation, the Mogôbagôba Dialogue. Mogôbagôba is the national tree of South Africa; a tree in traditional African culture symbolising a place where people engage in dialogue and resolve common challenges.

South Africa and the EU have, through the TDCA, a mechanism for dialogue up to Ministerial level. However, both Parties agree it is necessary to intensify dialogue at all levels of cooperation. This enhanced political dialogue forms the very cornerstone of the Strategic Partnership. The Joint Action Plan makes provision to hold high level political talks between SA-EU twice a year in troika format. This dialogue should take place at Summit level on a regular basis. It also provides for an annual Joint Co-operation Council meeting and regular meetings at senior officials and experts level; all to be held alternately in South Africa and the EU. The Mogôbagôba Dialogue will serve as an umbrella structure to which all existing and new co-operation fora will regularly report.

South Africa and the EU aim to deepen and broaden co-operation in all areas, including global peace and security, development, the environment and climate change, science and technology, macro-economic policy and social cohesion, education and training, migration, transnational crime, transport, housing, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and social matters. The Strategic Partnership recognises the importance of regular and institutionalised parliamentary interaction. The Strategic Partnership will add value to existing co-operation with a view to developing stronger and sustainable development co-operation aimed at the development of South Africa's second economy. Through the Strategic Partnership and regional integration, both parties are firmly committed to the development objectives of the Economic Partnership Agreements as well as the strengthening of trade relations between the SADC-EPA Member States and the EU.

Ministers agreed that a progress report on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan should be drafted for adoption at the first Summit to be held under this Strategic Partnership.

### **EU-Africa Strategy / EU-Africa Summit**

The Meeting was informed of the preparations for the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. An outline of the strategy is expected to be endorsed at the next EU-Africa Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 15 May 2007. It is envisaged that a Joint EU-Africa Strategy and an initial Action Plan will be adopted at the Second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. South Africa suggested that a development fund for Africa be established with the primary focus of accelerating growth in Africa.

## **Migration**

Ministers were informed of the follow-up to the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Tripoli in November 2006. South Africa and the EU agree that migration is a common challenge for Europe and Africa and that collective policy responses must be found at national, regional and global levels, especially to enhance the development benefits of migration and reduce its possible negative political and human rights dimensions. Ministers acknowledged the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the link between migration and poverty, underdevelopment and peace and security. South Africa and the EU shared the view that migration, if properly managed, could contribute significantly to enhancing sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, while recognising the importance of partnerships, capacity building and skills transfer. Ministers also recognised the concern that "brain drain" undermines Africa's economic and social development. Support for a continued debate at intergovernmental level to address issues affecting migration and development were also expressed during the meeting. Ministers also acknowledged the need for closer cooperation on fighting illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.

## **Kosovo**

Ministers were informed of the EU's positions on Kosovo and the report on Kosovo's future status and the comprehensive proposal for the Kosovo status settlement, prepared by the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari. The EU expressed its full support for President Ahtisaari and believes that his comprehensive proposal submitted by the UN Secretary General to the Security Council creates the basis for a new Security Council resolution which should be adopted in a timely manner. Resolving the status of Kosovo will enhance the development of stability of the entire region.

## **Great Lakes Region**

With the successful conclusion of the transition process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), prospects for the future have not been better in the Great Lakes Region for many

years. Both SA and the EU are committed to continue their active cooperation with the new Congolese authorities in consolidation of peace and democracy, allowing for addressing the urgent challenges of improving the governance system, including the promotion of human rights, and of pursuing reconstruction and sustainable development. Deploring the violence that occurred in Kinshasa in March, they called upon the government and the opposition to rally all forces, in view of meeting these objectives. They emphasised the importance of security sector reform and urged all armed groups to integrate into the national army or be demobilised. SA and EU are committed to continued support in this field and called on the early agreement with the Government on priorities and coordination. Both sides support the extension of the mandate of MONUC.

On Burundi, they welcomed progress made towards more political stability. The EU expressed appreciation for SA efforts and encouraged them to stay engaged. In line with the efforts by the Peace Building Commission, they called for broad international support.

Finally, they recognised the need for the region to work together in order to achieve lasting stability and development. In that respect they welcomed the countries working together in the framework of the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission, the *Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs* (CEPGL) and the Peace, Security, Stability and Development Pact for the Great Lakes Region. The Ministers further agreed that these efforts should work in support of initiatives to promote regional economic harmonisation.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Ministers welcomed the signing of the political agreement of 4 March 2007 in Ouagadougou between the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Secretary-General of the Forces Nouvelles, and commended the personal engagement of Burkina Faso's President Blaise Compaoré as facilitator.

Ministers called upon the signatories to the agreement and other protagonists in the Ivorian crisis to respect the agreed timetable for its implementation. In this respect, South Africa and the EU welcomed the formation of a transitional government and the constitution of an integrated army command centre, and looked forward to the commencement of the various activities key to create conditions for free, fair and transparent elections.

The Meeting welcomed the proposals made by the AU to the UNSC to ensure the appropriate participation of the international community and in particular the UN in the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement.

## **Sudan**

Ministers noted the progress made towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and stressed the importance of this as a framework for achieving development and stability in the Sudan.

Ministers expressed their deep concern for the continuing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Darfur. They condemned the ceasefire violations by all parties, and in particular the violence targeting the civilian population and the attacks against AMIS. They urged all parties to immediately cease hostilities and respect their ceasefire commitments. Ministers welcomed as a positive step the full acceptance by Sudan of the United Nations Heavy Support Package to the African Union Mission in Darfur (AMIS) and called for its expeditious implementation with a view to an early transition to a full AU/UN hybrid operation.

Ministers welcomed the appointment of Mr Rodolphe Adada as joint AU/UN Special Representative for Darfur. They also expressed their strong support for the efforts of UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson and AU Special Envoy Salim Salim to launch an inclusive political process leading to sustainable peace in Darfur and called on all parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement and non-signatory movements to enter into constructive negotiations without delay. South Africa expressed its appreciation to the EU for its continued support of AMIS, including through the replenishment of the Africa Peace Facility and further bilateral contributions.

## **Somalia**

Ministers expressed their grave concern at the continuing violence in Somalia, the subsequent loss of civilian life and the indiscriminate shelling of populated areas that characterised the violence. They urged all parties to commit to a lasting cessation of hostilities, to comply with international humanitarian law and to guarantee unhindered access for humanitarian relief work.

Ministers reiterated the urgent need for a genuine political process based on the Transitional Federal Charter. They further called for the convening of the National Reconciliation Congress and that the Congress is all-inclusive and representative of all the relevant actors in Somali society.

Ministers expressed their support for the AU Mission in Somalia, AMISOM and emphasised the importance of its full and effective deployment.

### **Zimbabwe**

Ministers discussed the current situation in Zimbabwe. The EU welcomed the SADC initiative and the mandate to President Mbeki to continue to facilitate dialogue between the opposition and the government in Zimbabwe and expressed readiness to respond appropriately to tangible results of this initiative. Ministers agreed that meaningful internal dialogue in Zimbabwe is crucial to the resolution of the problem.

### **Middle East**

Ministers welcomed the Arab Peace Initiative, as reaffirmed in the declaration of the Arab League Summit of 29 March, as a major element in moving the Middle East Peace Process forward. Ministers agreed that the Quartet should continue its efforts to achieve successful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the basis of the Road Map and to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Ministers expressed the hope that the meetings between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert, in the framework of a renewed political process, would soon lead to meaningful negotiations on the final status. The ultimate goal should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel and its other neighbours in peace and security and within internationally recognised borders. Ministers expressed their expectations to see the Quartet Principles translated into policy and actions. They called on the parties to put an end to all acts of violence and to all activities contrary to international law. Ministers called on Israel to immediately resume the transfer of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues.

Ministers expressed their commitment to finding a diplomatic solution to the Iranian problem guided by the decisions taken by the IAEA Board of Governors and the relevant UNSC resolutions.

### **Climate Change**

The EU briefed on the decisions reached by EU Heads of State and Government on an ambitious package of measures on climate change and energy at the Spring European Council on 8 - 9 March. The decisions taken by EU leaders recognise the need for urgent and ambitious action on climate change, and acknowledge that energy policies must be developed in line with climate change objectives. Above all, the EU has decided to press ahead with building an energy-secure, low carbon economy, and agreed that this shift can drive - rather than threaten - competitiveness. Ministers noted the agreement between South Africa and the Commission to establish a regular and formal dialogue on the environment and sustainable development, with a focus on issues relating to climate change, and welcomed the initiative as a contribution to the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Partnership. South Africa informed the meeting of its Roadmap for Domestic Climate Policy. Ministers emphasised the urgency of action, and that the costs of doing nothing about climate change far outweigh those of taking concrete measures. The Meeting called (i) on all developed countries to commit themselves to more ambitious emission reductions ensuring continuity of emission reduction commitments after 2012, and (ii) for enhanced action by developing countries, in line with the established principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, on the basis of the agreed negotiation tracks, supported through enhanced technology and enabled by financing. Ministers recognised that the adverse impacts of climate change would hamper economic and social development in countries and undermine poverty eradication in developing countries and the attainment of the goals as set out in the Millennium Declaration. Ministers therefore recognised that technology and financing for adaptation are crucial parts of the multilateral climate architecture. Ministers also emphasised that managing the unintended consequences of mitigation and adaptation policies and measures on the economies of other countries must be addressed.

### **Discussion on UN Chapter VIII issues**

South Africa highlighted the importance of strengthening the relationship between the UN Security Council and regional organisations as foreseen in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The need to articulate a clear form of burden sharing between the United Nations and regional organisations, was emphasised on the premise that the goals of the AU and the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security are the same. The AU is a partner in carrying out the mandate of the United Nations. South Africa called on the EU and its Member States to re-examine forms of concrete assistance that can be provided to regional organisations.

### **The way forward**

Ministers agreed to hold their next meeting in South Africa under the Portuguese Presidency.

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