



The European Union and South Africa

Development Partners



Progress Report
2013



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THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SOUTH AFRICA

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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EU MEMBER STATES



An overview of political, economic and development cooperation relations between European Union Member States and South Africa

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African Caribbean Pacific group of countries
ANC	African National Congress
ANA	Annual National Assessment
Bn	Billion
COP17	17 th Conference of Parties (Climate Change)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DST	Department of Science and Technology
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
EMA2	Erasmus Mundus Action 2
EU	European Union
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HDI	Historically Disadvantaged Institution
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IIPSA	Infrastructure Investment Programme for South Africa
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LED	Local Economic Development
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PrimCareSPSP	Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme
PrimEd SPSP	Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme
PHC	Public Health Care
RCF	Risk Capital Facility
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
S&T	Science & Technology
TB	Tuberculosis
TCC	Trade Cooperation Council
TDCA	Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement
VET	Vocational Education and Training
YDF	Youth Development Through Football



FOREWORD



In 2014 South Africa celebrated 20 years of democracy, a vibrant democracy with successful national elections earlier that year.

The European Union (EU) sees South Africa as an important international partner and has a deep appreciation of the considerable challenges that the country continues to face. Poverty reduction and job creation remain priorities, while improved service delivery in areas such as education will continue to require much investment and full engagement by all concerned.

South Africa's complex social fabric is a work in progress and will continue to need full commitment and restraint as well as wisdom and determined action by all, if the ideals of the rainbow nation are to be fully achieved.

While we need to look ahead, we must also remain cognisant of South Africa's colonial and apartheid past; legacies that will be overcome if all South Africans as well as the international community strive to live up to the example set by the country's first democratically elected president, Nelson Mandela, and to realise the values enshrined in the country's Constitution.

Between 2007 and 2013, the European Commission made available an amount of well over R10 billion to assist South Africa in confronting many of its key challenges. Over the same period, a further R10bn was made available by the European Investment Bank in the form of highly competitive loans intended to further social and economic development.

In addition, and in support of South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030, the EU's Member States, 22 being represented in South Africa, offering considerable support to fight poverty and inequality and to assist with job creation and socio-economic development.

Our combined efforts have by no means constituted a conventional development assistance programme, as we set out to address the specific

challenges facing an upper-middle-income country confronted by high levels of poverty. It has required innovation and activities that challenged conventional wisdom.

Examples of activities intended to assist South Africa where it matters most are: cooperation on public financial management in North West and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, support in piloting the National Health Insurance, work on teacher education (notably for the foundation phase) and collaboration on justice, now also expanding into socio-economic justice.

A variety of dialogues between the EU and South Africa have been established to enable exchanges on policy, implementation and reform. Areas covered by these dialogues include education, health, energy, the environment, space, macro-economic policies, human rights and peace and security (including maritime security). To assist South Africa in the further development of higher education, the Erasmus Mundus Programme will provide support in terms of people-to-people and institution-to-institution relations.

Trade and investment relations between the EU and South Africa are solid. The Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement gives South African exports open access to 95% of the EU market, and EU exports open access to 86% of the South African market.

South Africa's very strong performance in programmes of scientific cooperation with the EU, our close cooperation to promote peace, security, development and democracy, and our strong ties in the fields of environment and climate change, are just a few examples of the path the EU and South Africa have been walking together, adding strength to an international community that faces ever increasing challenges.

Roeland van de Geer
Ambassador

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



Meeting at the 2012 EU–South Africa Summit (from left to right): President Jacob Zuma (South Africa), President Herman van Rompuy (European Council) and President José Manuel Barroso (European Commission).

Political Relations

The European Union–South Africa Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) signed in 1999, provides a comprehensive framework for all aspects of the partners' relations, including political and development relations as well as the establishment of a free trade area. In 2006, the EU and South Africa entered into a Strategic Partnership, which recognises that their mutual interests could be advanced through joint positions, actions and policy coordination.

To give expression to their Strategic Partnership, the EU and South Africa established the Mogôbagôba Dialogue, an umbrella structure for all existing and

future forums of cooperation. It includes annual summits at presidential level¹, regular meetings at

ministerial level and senior official dialogue and oversight through a Joint Cooperation Council and a Political and Security Committee. Regular meetings also take place between members of the European Parliament and the South African Parliament.

A key element of the Strategic Partnership is a shared commitment to promote peace, security and stability in the world, in Africa in particular, and a mutual understanding that security and development are inter-dependent. Other priorities include human rights, good governance, employment, gender equality and climate change.



Meeting in Pretoria (from left to right): Ambassador Roeland van de Geer (Head of the EU Delegation to SA); Dr Nicholas Westcott (Africa Director: European External Action Service); Baroness Catherine Ashton (EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy); Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane (SA Minister of International Relations and Cooperation); Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi (SA Ambassador to the EU) and Director General Jerry Matjila (Director General: Department of International Relations and Cooperation)

1. 25/07/2008 – Bordeaux, France
11/09/2009 – Kleinmond, South Africa
28/09/2010 – Brussels, Belgium
15/09/2011 – Skukuza, South Africa http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124630.pdf
18/09/2012 – Brussels, Belgium http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/132469.pdf
18/07/2013 – Pretoria, South Africa http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/d-za/dv/138179_138179_fr.pdf



Economic and Trade Relations

Higher growth rates, notably through sustained trade and investment, remain critical for a better future for South Africa and the EU. While South Africa, as an emerging economy, is challenged by high unemployment and poverty levels, the EU is also confronted with high levels of joblessness, particularly youth unemployment, in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Against this backdrop, South Africa remains the EU's largest trading partner in Africa.

Framework

South Africa's trade and investment relations with the EU are also governed by the TDCA. While part of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) group of countries, South Africa is not party to the preferential trade arrangements granted to ACP countries under the Cotonou Agreement. Investment protection provisions have been framed in bilateral investment treaties between South Africa and a number of EU Member States. This framework is currently being revised in the context of the South African Investment Policy Review and new EU competences in that matter.

South Africa – EU trade flows have steadily increased since the TDCA came into force in 2000. Today, South Africa – EU trade constitutes some 26% of SA trade. More critically, around 51% of South Africa's exports to the EU consist of manufactured goods, which in turn contribute directly to beneficiation and employment.

Agri-food exports from South Africa have been particularly successful during the period under review, with wine and citrus sales having broken record levels. European exports to South Africa include services and technology which have assisted in furthering development in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

South African companies view Europe as an increasingly important investment destination and have stepped up their presence in a number of sectors, with names such as SAB Miller, Steinhoff, Mondi, Sappi and Sasol having become widely known.

Future relationships

Despite the TDCA providing a solid basis for trade and investment flows between South Africa and the EU, it is expected that parts of the agreement will be replaced by a new trade agreement between Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland) countries, Mozambique, Angola and the EU.

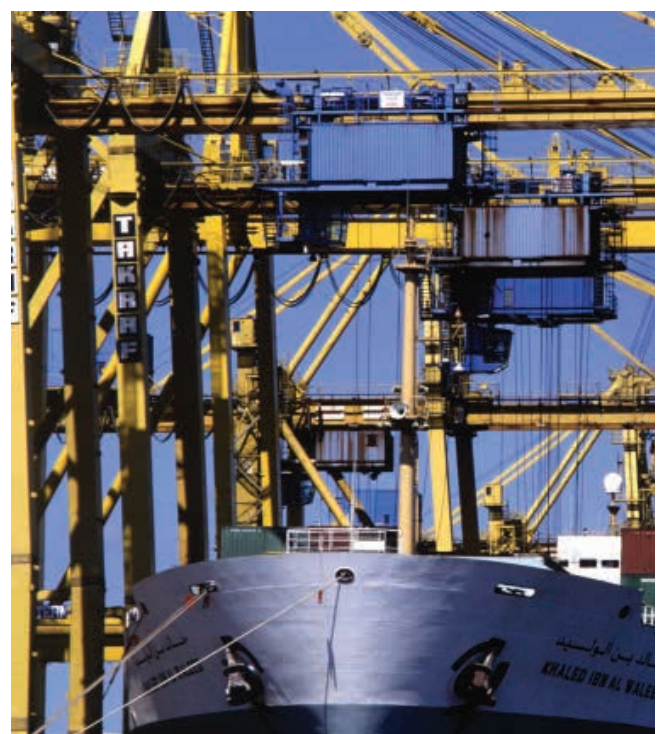
Thus, while in terms of products the TDCA gives South African exports open access to 95% of the EU market and asymmetrically provides EU exports to South Africa with open access to 86% of the South African market, the envisaged regional Economic Partnership Agreement is expected to provide virtually full access for the participating African countries to the EU, the world's largest single market with more than 500 million consumers, while the EU would also enjoy improved market access in some sectors. The process is expected to be concluded in 2015.

More information

In its effort to support trade, the EU maintains an Export Helpdesk that provides information on EU tariffs, requirements, preferential arrangements, quotas and statistics affecting business in developing countries. The Export Helpdesk also provides comprehensive information for developing countries on how to access the EU market and benefit from preferential trade agreements. The EU Tariff section from the Market Access Database provides information on EU tariffs and other import measures applied to a product imported into the EU. Please see:

<http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/index.htm>

<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm>





Development Cooperation

The EU programme of cooperation with South Africa addresses the country's challenges in innovative and creative ways. Programmes embedded in the South Africa – EU Strategic Partnership are designed to promote “socio-economic and political progress”.

Even though South Africa is an upper-middle-income country, it has many of the same challenges faced by developing countries. Poverty levels are officially around 40% and official unemployment is about 25%, double that number among the youth. With a gini coefficient of close to 0.7, South Africa has one of the most unequal societies in the world, with average “white” household income being about six times that of the average “black” household income, and with a spatial pattern of land ownership reflecting pre-1994 apartheid planning. South Africa has a GDP of some R3.465 trillion with public expenditure of R1.149 trillion projected in the 2014 financial year.

EU support to assist South Africa in meeting its challenges is measured not by the size of the funding envelope for the country but by the value EU resources add through innovative and catalytic projects, pilot programmes, capacity development initiatives and the sharing of skills and knowledge.

Wide ranging development programmes and projects under the South Africa – EU Strategic Partnership from 2007-2013 covered actions in a range of sectors including: employment creation, capacity building for social cohesion and service delivery, governance, pan-African cooperation and support for implementation of the TDCA.

Key outcomes of EU support:

Employment creation

Over 12,000 jobs and 60,000 livelihoods have been supported through the EU Risk Capital Facility (RCF). Over 7,000 jobs have been created through some 130 EU Local Economic Development (LED) programme projects in Kwa-Zulu Natal, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

The EU has supported the implementation of the South African government's Community Works Programme (with 206,166 participants in 2013-14) as well as its Expanded Public Works Programme.

The RCF has inspired the South African government to establish its own Small Enterprise Finance Agency, while KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape have expanded the previously EU-funded LED

programmes by making their own contributions.

In order to support the South African government's infrastructure development programme, an innovative EU instrument, IIPSA, for “blending” grant and loan finance (from development banks) has been put into place. If successful, it has the potential to be replicated with South African government resources.

Capacity building for social cohesion and service delivery

Pre-school education (Grade R) teacher training has been promoted, with additional universities providing relevant courses to reach increased student numbers. Support has been provided for the roll-out of the National Health Insurance pilots, including the school health programme, and the piloting of new approaches for the delivery of general practitioner services. This has provided a solid basis for future education and health funding from the South African budget.

About 700 staff and students have benefitted from the Erasmus Mundus scholarship programme.

Governance

Justice has been promoted through support for the development of a network of community advice centres, extensive use of restorative justice², and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. Constitutional rights awareness has also been promoted through a number of EU projects. Training for members of national and provincial legislatures has been provided and legislative outreach initiatives have been supported.

Regional and Pan-African cooperation

Regional and Pan-African support has been provided to strengthen educational institutions and to promote science and technology (S&T). The innovative IIPSA instrument can also support SADC regional investments.

Supporting the EU-SA Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement

Conceived as a pilot programme to contribute to strengthening relations between the EU and South Africa, the Dialogue Facility aims to facilitate the implementation of priority aspects of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership and the TDCA, and to raise awareness of the special relationship between the EU and South Africa.

2. Restorative justice focuses on the needs of both the victims and the offender and takes place within the context of a broader community.



With a total budget of €7 million since it started in 2009, this strategic programme has produced significant results in supporting the development of 21 bilateral dialogues in such sectors as S&T, communications, environment, energy, health, education, social development, peace and security.

Future cooperation

For the period 2014-2020, the EU and South Africa have agreed that looking for innovative and catalytic actions should continue to guide policy. Attention will focus on three main areas: employment, education, training and innovation, and building a capable and developmental state. All three areas reflect the priorities of the South African government in its National Development Plan. Programmes will be prepared based on the following broad allocations of funding:

Cooperation 2007 - 2013

	€ mil
Employment	321
Local Economic Development	16
Innovation for Poverty Alleviation	30
Employment Creation Programme	100
National Development Policy Support	125
IIPSA	50
Capacity Building:	
Social Cohesion/Service Delivery	491
Water	107
Primary Education	123
Health	126
Youth Empowerment	10
National Development Policy Support	125
Governance	65
Access to Justice	25
Legislatures – national and provincial	15
Socio-economic rights	25
Regional and Pan-African Support	68
Science and Technology	3
Nyerere Scholarship scheme	5
University Collaboration (EduLink)	5
Legislatures – regional contributions	5
IIPSA	50
Other Areas	37
Dialogue Facility	7
Technical Cooperation	7
Education Collaboration	23
Total	982

Future cooperation

	€ mil
Employment Creation	72-97
Education, Training and Innovation	72-97
Building a Capable and Developmental State	60-72
Other, including regional	up to 24
Total (not exceeding)	241





IT'S ABOUT THE ECONOMY

Trade & Investment

Trade

An institutional dialogue on trade has been established under the TDCA between the EU and South Africa. This ensures that EU-South Africa bilateral structures are in place to regularly discuss trade matters and find solutions to issues which invariably arise between two major trading partners.

The Trade Cooperation Council (TCC) meets annually, and several follow-up meetings are held in the interim. Compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations, trade remedies (anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures, and investment) are routinely among issues on the agenda.

Investment

With financial support from the Embassy of The Netherlands, the EU Delegation to South Africa and EU Member State missions in the country commissioned a study on EU investors' presence and perceptions in South Africa. The so-called White Book on EU Trade and Investment in SA shows that EU business has an overall positive and optimistic attitude towards investing and operating in South Africa but also has a number of concerns. Among these are the difficulty in securing skilled labour, hurdles caused by Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) legislation, bureaucracy and corruption, and currency volatility.

Business Links

EU-South Africa Business Links was set up in October 2013 to facilitate and coordinate work between the various EU Member State chambers of commerce. Funded by the EU, Business Links aims to:

- ▶ Support EU bilateral relations between chambers of commerce, business associations, and trade and investment sections of EU Member State missions;
- ▶ Facilitate policy advocacy on investment and trade-related matters; and
- ▶ Act as a single entry point for EU business to access information on socio-political, economic, regulatory and administrative aspects of doing business in South Africa.

EU-SA Business Forum

The first EU-SA Business Forum was held in Brussels in September 2012, in the margins of the fifth EU-SA Summit, with a second forum held in Pretoria in July 2013 during the sixth EU-SA Summit.

With over 200 participants from a wide range of economic sectors, the business forums provided excellent opportunities for interaction between EU and South African business representatives on investment issues in various key sectors of EU-South Africa economic and trade relations. They presented opportunities for businesses from both sides in order to raise concerns on investment and trade-related matters with government officials at the highest level.

General

Karel De Gucht, EU Commissioner for Trade, visited South Africa several times during his tenure to meet with his South African counterpart Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, to discuss the overall framework of negotiations.

The EU Delegation to South Africa chairs the EU Economic and Trade Counsellors' Group, a coordination structure which enables EU Embassies in South Africa to inform each other and to formulate common positions.

Transport

Transport is one of the areas set out for cooperation between the EU and South Africa under the TDCA. In July 2011, a South African delegation visited Brussels and met with European Commission officials to discuss progress in transport cooperation.

Both parties deliberated on terms of reference for the establishment of a Transport Dialogue Forum to cover all modes of transport and contribute to the restructuring and modernisation of the South African transport network.

A regular EU-SA Maritime Transport Policy Dialogue was launched in January 2009, and progress is underway towards establishing a structured EU-SA Air Transport Policy Dialogue to exchange views and information on issues of mutual concern regarding air transport policy, including matters related to economic regulation, regional integration, safety, security, environment and infrastructure.

Customs

After a lengthy drafting and subsequently expedited consultation process, the South African Revenue Service has tabled three Bills in Parliament: the Customs Duty Bill, 2013; the Customs and Excise Amendment Bill, 2013; and Customs Control Bill, 2013. The Bills were passed by the National Council of Provinces and sent to the President for assent in March 2014.



In early 2013, the Dialogue Facility completed the closure of the Authorised Economic Operator (Preferred Trader) dialogue. Dialogues on Tariffs, Rules of Origin and Valuations, as well as a Trilateral dialogue on Mobilisation of Domestic Resources (Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda) were initiated towards the end of 2013. This trilateral approach sees Revenue Authorities from EU Member States working in partnership with the South African Revenue Authority in third states.

Macro-Economy

Successfully initiated in 2011, the annual macro-economic dialogue involves the European Commission's Directorate for Economic and Financial Affairs and South Africa's Presidency, National Treasury and the South African Reserve Bank.

The dialogues provide opportunities to exchange and shape views on global issues of mutual interest. They are also important because South Africa, as a key role-player on the continent, can promote sound and prudent macro-economic policies.

In addition, dialogues are also complemented by actions supported through the Dialogue Facility on issues such as customs and tax administration as well as domestic resources mobilisation. Some of these actions have successfully enhanced cooperation between relevant directorates-general of the European Commission, EU Member States and South Africa.

Employment

Employment is one of three priority areas chosen by the South African government from among 13 areas in its National Development Plan. Although unemployment rates have changed over time, official unemployment figures are currently hovering at around 25% and are as high as 50% for youth in the age group 15-24. This makes it difficult to address poverty and inequality with the implication of youth unemployment being a potential threat to the stability of South Africa.

A breakdown of unemployment statistics in a recent SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey also shows clear differences by race: an unemployment rate around 28% and 24% for the "black" and "coloured" population respectively, and around 12% and 7% for the "Indian" population of Asian descent and "white" population. Unemployment among men is around 23% and 27% for women. However, absorption rates (the number of employed as a percentage of the gender group) are quite different: 50% and 37% for men and women respectively.

There is a notable mismatch between labour demand and supply, as pointed out by the South African Department of Labour: "South Africa faces a situation of high demand of skilled and experienced labour against an oversupply of unskilled labour, and this results in unbalanced labour demand and supply in the country."

The numbers speak to this fact: more than 90% of the unemployed do not have tertiary education and almost 60% have not completed secondary education.

Several important steps have been taken since early 2012 to re-invigorate the EU-SA Dialogue on employment. Notable developments included:

- ▶ Dialogue mission to Brussels in April 2013 headed by EU Ambassador to South Africa, Roeland van de Geer. The mission brought together representatives from South African government departments and their counterparts in the directorates for Development and Cooperation, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and the European External Action Service.
- ▶ The EU-SA Summit held in Pretoria in July 2013 under the title "Job creation, economic growth, investment and skills". The summit included two employment-related side events, "Youth Employment" and "New Skills for New Jobs", with interactions from the EU's directorate-generals for Regional Policy as well as Employment.
- ▶ Following the Summit, a "working group", headed by the EU Delegation to South Africa and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and including





relevant South African government departments, was created and has met several times.

Following discussions with this working group, a Joint Report has been prepared with a comprehensive list of proposals for future EU-South Africa cooperation on employment matters (2014-2020). This initiative has been most useful during a 2014-onward programming exercise carried out by the EU Delegation, and in which employment is one of three sectors retained for future cooperation.

Within the TDCA Dialogue Facility three employment-related projects were approved in April 2012. These cover:

- ▶ New skills for new jobs in infrastructure, with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).
- ▶ National skills planning, with the DHET.
- ▶ Effective and efficient delivery of social grants, with the South African Social Security Agency in the Department of Social Development.

A number of projects/programmes in the area of employment being implemented or having been finalised recently are:

Local Economic Development (LED): Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo

Three EU provincial pilot programmes led to:

- ▶ Funding of 396 grants awarded through instruments aimed at empowering marginalised communities, increasing local competitiveness, strengthening local government and supporting financial intermediary funds.
- ▶ Creation of about 7,080 permanent and seasonal jobs, with an average of 52% of these benefitting women. In addition, more than 4,000 people received training in areas ranging from LED policy-making to community development and business, agricultural and various other sector-specific skills.
- ▶ Leveraging of private sector investment. Estimates in KwaZulu-Natal, for example, show a leverage of more than R100 million.

Risk Capital Facility (RCF) II

Achievements of the EU Risk Capital Facility (RCF) II programme for the private sector included:

- ▶ Support for 136 small and medium enterprises,



creating 11,000 sustainable jobs and impacting 55,000 livelihoods. Beneficiaries expressed the opinion that they would not have been able to start or grow their businesses without RCF funding.

- ▶ Leveraging of further investment. Globally the financial leverage effect stands at 385%. The RCF investment of €70 million enabled a total investment value of €266 million.
- ▶ Strong female empowerment in terms of job creation, managerial positions and shareholding (exceeding 30% in all these areas in line with the programme's targets).
- ▶ Helping institutionally with the creation of new development funds at the level of the implementing bank (the Industrial Development Cooperation), where the programme grew into a larger Development Funds Department of 12 funds and helped in the creation of a new financing agency for small, micro and medium enterprises, namely the Small Enterprise Finance Agency established in April 2012.

Employment-creation Sector Policy Support Programme

This programme has contributed to:

- ▶ The South African government's Community Works Programme, which provided more than 105,000 job opportunities in 2011-12 and more than 170,000 in 2012-13.
- ▶ The South African government's Expanded Public Works Programme, which created more than 840,000 work opportunities during 2011-12 (2.1 million accumulated values during 2009-12). The programme aims to create 4.5 million jobs over the 2009-2014 period.
- ▶ Within the South African Department of Trade and Industry Monyetla Work Readiness Programme, around 2,340 jobs were created in 2012 in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector, and more than 4,000 are expected in 2014.
- ▶ Development of an internationally competitive hub for the diamond industry in Kimberley (Northern Cape); assisting the establishment of three large blueberry out-growers in the Eastern Cape; and supporting the establishment of a BPO hub in the Eastern Cape.
- ▶ In April 2013, a Call for Proposals under the title "Skills Development and Job Creation" was launched with a total financial envelope of €7.2

million. The main objective of this Call is to support initiatives to enhance the role of civil society organisations in promoting skills development and job creation in South Africa. Following the evaluation of associated proposals, nine initiatives will be funded during the period 2014-17.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDES

Health

In April 2013, a dialogue project to support the South African government's intention to strengthen the regulation of health products was agreed. Currently, South Africa does not regulate medical devices, in vitro diagnostics, traditional African medicines and complementary medicines.

An expert from the European Medicines Agency has supported the scoping of a research project and validation workshop on the education, training and professional development needs of regulators in South Africa, in light of the government's imminent launch of a new South African Health Product Regulatory Agency.

A team of European and local experts have prepared a report that includes recommendations on the development of a Regulatory Sciences Institute, the skills gap to be addressed and a roadmap towards implementation. EU Member States and the European Commission Services have played an active role in this dialogue area.

A number of projects/programmes in the area of health being implemented or having been finalised recently are:

Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme (PrimCare SPSP)

The €126 million PrimCare SPSP contributes to improving the health profile of all South Africans, in line with the government's vision of "a long and healthy life for all South Africans".

The programme is designed to improve access to public health services and to increase the quality of service delivery of primary health care through the district health system. This supports the National Health Strategic Plan 2010/11-2012/13 and its key focus areas: increasing life expectancy; decreasing maternal and child mortality; combating HIV and AIDS and decreasing the burden of diseases from



tuberculosis (TB); and strengthening the health system's effectiveness.

PrimCare SPSP aims to:

- ▶ Increase access to public health care (PHC) services.
- ▶ Improve quality of PHC services.
- ▶ Improve capacity for management of primary healthcare facilities.
- ▶ Accelerate implementation of national plans for HIV/AIDS and TB.
- ▶ Improve maternal and child health.

The Department of Health uses the EU's budget to support:

- ▶ PHC re-engineering of community healthcare outreach teams, school health teams, district specialist teams and contracting models of private general practitioners.
- ▶ Facility improvement teams and plans.
- ▶ The National Health Information Respiratory and Database.
- ▶ An internship programme.
- ▶ The Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of

Maternal Mortality in Africa.

- ▶ District health management and authorities.
- ▶ Ten National Health Insurance Pilot districts.

Grants have been made to support civil society organisations (CSOs) to undertake projects covering:

- ▶ PHC re-engineering in selected districts through improving facility management capacity and supporting quality improvement plans. These initiatives are being undertaken in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and North West.
- ▶ The Soul City initiative to strengthen community advocacy for quality health services and health-care provider accountability as part of PHC re-engineering, and to promote health literacy among South Africans aged 7 – 14 years old.
- ▶ A University of Cape Town project to strengthen the capacity, mandate and authority of health committees in the Western and Eastern Cape, enhance CSO capacity to advocate for health rights, and improve the capacity of health-care providers to engage meaningfully with the needs of vulnerable patients and communities.
- ▶ The Cell Life initiative to promote health service quality monitoring via mobile phones and to enable people to find locally appropriate health services, through mobile phones.





- ▶ A Stellenbosch University project to build the capacity of primary health care doctors and family physicians to support community-based primary health care teams and to improve the quality of PHC services.
- ▶ A University of KwaZulu-Natal project to improve access to and quality of rural maternal and child health services by integrating the provision of antiretroviral therapy into maternal, new-born, child and women's health services.
- ▶ The Mpilonhle Organisation Association initiative to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of school health teams in Umkhanyakude District, KwaZulu-Natal, which can serve as a pilot for other rural districts.
- ▶ A Stichting African Medical and Research Foundation Nederland project to improve maternal and child health by increasing the quality of, access to and utilisation of maternal and newborn child health services in Vhembe and Sekhukhune districts, Limpopo province.

Numerous actions have been funded under the Sector Budget Support component of PrimCare SPSP. Examples are:

- ▶ Development of a mobile communication and data collection and submission programme for members of Ward Base Outreach Teams.
- ▶ Purchase of Integrated School Health Services mobile units.
- ▶ Health facility improvement teams have been established, trained in quality improvement and started in the National Health Insurance pilot districts.
- ▶ The Department of Health has introduced an Internship Programme and recruited 371 interns.
- ▶ The Department of Health has completed the first phase of the development of the National Health Information Repository and Data Warehouse.
- ▶ Plans to expand the Mindset Health Channel to the 910 facilities in the National Health Insurance pilot districts. Each of the Primary Health Care facilities will receive LCD TV Screens, a decoder, DVD Player and satellite dish to enable connectivity for viewing of the Mindset Channel.



HIV-1 Drug Resistance Project with the Medical Research Council

Regarded by the EU as one of its flagship projects in South Africa, the HIV-1 Drug Resistance Project is being undertaken with the country's Medical Research Council in collaboration with its partners at the universities of KwaZulu-Natal, Pretoria and the Free State, and the African Centre for Health and Population Studies.

Among the project's successes are:

- ▶ Publication of the HIV and TB Resistance and Clinical Management Case Book written by Dr Theresa Rossouw of the University of Pretoria, and Dr Richard Lessells and Dr Tulio de Oliveira of the African Centre for Health and Population Studies. The case book provides clear examples and case studies for health workers on how to diagnose and manage cases of drug-resistant HIV and TB. Three PhDs have been produced out of this project. One student has graduated and two have completed their theses. Two more are in the initial stages of their PhD studies.
- ▶ Development and validation of an alternative and affordable model for testing and screening of HIV drug resistance. This in-house Genotyping Assays reduced the cost by 25% and enabled researchers to expand drug resistance testing to more sites. As a result, 1 683 patients received tests produced by this project in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Pretoria.



- ▶ Establishment of a drug resistance network, called SATuRN, which focuses not only on HIV Drug Resistance but also on TB Drug Resistance. SATuRN databases contain 8 200 drug resistance genotypes. As this is an open access database linked to the prestigious drug resistance database of Stanford University, it provides huge potential for future research.
- ▶ The work of SATuRN will be merged with PASER, another important HIV drug resistance network. These complementary networks will together form the largest drug resistance network in the world. A total of 1 593 medical personnel have been training in drug resistance interpretation as part of the project's capacity building programme.

The EU-funded HIV Drug Resistance project also plays an important role in the development and implementation of new drug resistance surveillance guidelines and new HIV drug resistance testing guidelines for the Department of Health.

Education

The EU promotes education in South Africa through programmes that support improved pre-school and primary education for children in poorer communities, and international exposure and experience for higher education institutions and students.

The Joint Declaration between the EU and South Africa in the fields of Education and Training was signed in 2013. The dialogue on Quality Management in Higher Education completed activities in early 2013 with a three-day colloquium that focused on the role, function and skills needed by quality assurance professionals. This event was followed by the participation of the Deputy Director General of the Department of Higher Education and Training in a Senior Officials' meeting in Brussels in 2013.

Pre-School and Primary Education

The EU's Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme (PrimEd SPSP) addresses inequity in schools in poorer communities.

Schools are categorised according to quintiles, from 1 through to 6. The higher the quintile, the more economically robust the location. The programme targets the first three quintiles, which cover schools in poorer rural communities, townships and the former homelands. The programme also addresses sanitation through construction of toilets in schools

which lack them. The use of workbooks for students in their home language is another aspect of the programme which enhances equity as it recognises the importance of learning basic concepts in a child's mother tongue, thereby improving opportunities for children in poorer communities to fulfil their potential.

The overall objective of the PrimED SPSP is to contribute to improving learner performance in literacy and numeracy at primary school level in order to achieve better throughput to secondary and higher education and vocational training in South Africa. Key activities support:

- ▶ The roll-out of appropriate Reception Year provision focusing on schools in poor communities.
- ▶ More effective teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy.
- ▶ Accelerated provision of appropriate learning and teaching support materials, particularly for schools in poor communities.
- ▶ Improvements in the initial teacher education system in order to attract higher numbers of capable Foundation Phase primary school teachers.

Several instruments in South Africa are used to measure progress in the primary education sector. These include the National Report on the State of Literacy and Learning in the Foundation Phase and the Annual National Assessment. In recent years these reports have brought to the top of the national agenda the critical situation in which the education sector finds itself.





While it is laudable that the Millennium Development Goal target for universal primary education has been met and that gender parity has been achieved, the issue of quality is critical. Learner outcomes are very low in comparison with neighbouring countries.

In response to this situation, the South African government has identified education as one of its priorities. The Ministry of Education has developed Action Plan to 2014: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025, with 27 goals addressing the issues of quality as well as access.

The PrimEd SPSP has contributed to significant improvements:

- ▶ As many as 94% of children are now able to access Grade R pre-school classes for five to six year olds, with the number having more than doubled since inception of the programme.



- ▶ Training of teachers for Grade R to Grade 3, known as the Foundation Phase, is now ongoing in 20 universities throughout the country as opposed to 13 in 2009. By 2012, 12 468 students were enrolled in Foundation Phase teacher training.

While definite gains have been made in terms of access, it is clear that quality of education remains the main challenge.

Foundation Phase Training

South African primary school learners continue to perform below par in literacy and numeracy, which affects their performance in other subjects and subsequent phases of education. Some progress has been made since 2009, which marked the

beginning of EU support to the sector.

As measured by the Annual National Assessments (ANA) in 2012 and 2013, there is an upward trend in mathematics in Grades 2 and 3 which can in part be attributed to the improved quality of training of Foundation Phase teachers. However, there has not been an upward trend in Grade 1, although the base line of 68% is reasonable. Government's target across grades for Maths and language stands at 60%.

The major hurdle is the quality of teachers and their lack of subject knowledge. Several issues were identified in the National Education Evaluation and Development Unit report of 2012 including high levels of absenteeism among teachers, poor subject knowledge and the inability of teachers to complete the curriculum.

The dire state of the education sector prompted the development of a cooperation programme in which the EU committed €122.68 million in 2009 as Sector Budget Support to strengthen the South African government's efforts to improve the situation.

EU support has enabled the Department of Higher Education and universities to enhance and expand the quality and quantity of Foundation Phase teacher training, which is now offered by 21 universities and two new national institutes of higher education, established in Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces.

Achievements under the programme, which is implemented by the Department of Higher Education and Training and is now in its third year, include:

- ▶ The number of universities involved in Foundation Phase teacher education has grown from 13 to 21.
- ▶ Enrolments for teacher training have increased by 27%.
- ▶ 24 new childhood education academics are employed at universities.
- ▶ Scholarship support is being provided to seven honours students, 54 M.Ed students and 40 PhD students.
- ▶ 200 African Language Bachelor of Education students are supported with full cost bursaries.
- ▶ The South African Journal of Childhood Education has been established with several volumes published. 28 journal articles have

been published with an additional 36 articles in various stages of preparation.

- ▶ The South African Research Association for Early Childhood education has been established with a membership of over 100 academics.



Higher Education

The EU creates opportunities for higher education institutions (HEIs) in South Africa to participate in global and regional mobility and cooperation programmes. These are Erasmus Mundus Action 2 (EMA2), the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme and EDULINK II. The EU also enables HEIs to participate in policy dialogue on vocational education and training (VET) and Higher Education.

EMA2 calls for applications to participate in partnerships that require the inclusion of a minimum number of historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) and universities of technology. Applicants are also required to indicate how they will take account of South Africa's policy with respect to the participation of designated groups (black people, women and people with disabilities) which is intended to redress historical inequalities.

Progress has been significant:

- ▶ The number of masters and doctoral degree level students has increased, especially among women and students from HDIs, with 200 masters and 109 doctoral scholarships having been

awarded under EMA2 in 2011-2013.

- ▶ Academic and professional development of HEI staff has been noteworthy, with 87 EMA2 scholarships awarded for staff mobility, and with some HEI staff also receiving masters and doctoral scholarships to upgrade their qualifications.
- ▶ The capacity of international offices at South African HEIs has increased and the visibility of South African HEIs in Europe has been enhanced.
- ▶ EMA2 support has leveraged expanded academic networks and cooperation beyond EU-funded programmes and projects.
- ▶ Gender parity has been achieved in the education sector although social and cultural attitudes influence high drop-out rates, especially in poorer and more vulnerable communities. However, while parity continues between the sexes, the demographic is dominated by white women who have studied beyond matric.





Testimonies received from SA beneficiaries of EU Erasmus Mundus scholarships

I want to thank you and the SA contingent for affording me this opportunity. I am grateful, and indebted for such an empowering journey, which will not only change my future, but hopefully the future of so many South Africans in the low income housing sector, as my research aims at investigations around improving these developments.

(Feizel Williams-Bruinders, PhD student, NMMU, K U Leuven, Belgium)

I've been invited to talk to a group of 14 year olds about South Africa, our culture and languages, and got wonderful feedback from the kids and especially the teachers. I was invited to repeat this presentation for secondary pupils as well. In the Music Department, they are also arranging for me to give a seminar on the music of South Africa to the students from the Education Faculty!

(Carika Rademan, Masters student NMMU, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)

I enrolled myself into two courses for this semester at Masaryk University: a research methodology course, through which I am learning and growing so much as a future academic, and a Czech language course. My experience here in Brno is extremely fruitful and I am growing academically at a very fast pace.

(Marelize Marx, PhD student, NMMU, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Rep)

Testimonies received from Alumni

My [stay] at Radboud University was amazing ... the time we spent at the science building, home to Nobel prize-winning scientists, was something to remember. It was the opportunity of a lifetime.

(Sarisha Perumal, Masters student, UKZN, Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

My experience was a dream come true! I was exposed to world-class lecturers and public lectures by well-known economists. ... I made friends from all over the world.

(Hayley Reynolds, Masters student, UP, K U Leuven, Belgium)

A year ago I would not have thought I would live so intensely in a foreign place, but my stay as an international exchange student has been one of the best experiences of my life.

(Nikara Mahadeo, Masters student, UKZN, Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands)

Studying at KU Leuven in Belgium was very rewarding. I liked the collaboration which industry has with the university. I looked forward to going to class.

(Feroose Samaai, Masters student, CPUT, K U Leuven)

I was mentored by a leading researcher in Poland and I got to understand what producing quality work entails. So if you want a solid research career and you want to gain that North-South perspective, this is the programme for you.

(Pearl Mzobe, Masters student, RU, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland)



Cultural Cooperation

On behalf of the network of European Union National Institutes for Culture, the British Council has benefitted from a €150,000 grant under the Dialogue Facility to conduct research with South African professional organisations into EU-SA trade in cultural and creative goods and services.

The decline of exports of creative goods from South Africa and the strong balance deficit in cultural services were revealed and discussed with the profession and South African authorities. A series of recommendations to further support cultural and creative industries that stemmed from these wide consultations were published in May 2013 in an important report calling for improved data collection, strengthened support mechanisms, a coordinating structure such as a creative industries export council, and a coherent international strategy.

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture have an enormous impact on forging identity, ensuring social stability and creating respect for differences. By supporting cultural



initiatives in South Africa that promote values commonly shared by the country and Europe, the EU Delegation has highlighted how close we are. The "Sex Actually" festival is a good example of this. It promotes human rights and gender equality, and fights against the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and against gender-based violence.

Our equally common concern over youth unemployment, which plagues South Africa and the majority of Europe, is addressed (among other initiatives) through cultural activities. During 2012 and 2013, projects implemented by civil society organisations supported with EU funding of €3 million enabled 6,600 young people, most of them living in townships, to benefit from professional training in crafts, film-making, theatre, music and other creative activities to improve their prospects in life.

Youth and Culture

Designed to empower African youth, the €7.5 million Youth Development Through Football (YDF) Project,

Inyanda

Arts and sports as a form of social cohesion for the vulnerable youth of Cape Town

This project is designed to contribute to youth empowerment and social cohesion through the creation of opportunities in art, culture and sport in Cape Town. The project, with a budget of €739,772.50, targets youth from disadvantaged families from Philippi, Du Noon, Nyanga, Mfuleni and Khayelitsha.

To date, 57 students participated in sports and arts bursary programmes to enable them to acquire skills to enter the job market. A further 1,000 high school learners were involved in a visual/drawing art contests, while other sport activities based on edutainment have been held in various areas. The project also provides accredited training to enable young people to acquire skills to enter the job market.

with the German Government and the South African Department of Sports and Recreation as key partners, focuses on enabling private and public organisations at grass-roots level to empower young people from a disadvantaged background through sports activities. This is used as a platform to educate them on social issues such as gender-based violence and motivate them to take their future in their own hands.

The programme objective is to empower youth to improve their life skills, focusing on increasing their self-esteem, self-confidence and personal skills. Programme activities were carried out between 2009 and 2013 in South Africa, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland and Zambia. The programme





thus reached 118,660 young people between the ages of seven and 25, half of whom were in South Africa. A further 1,565 coaches were trained on the YDF toolkit, a methodology developed to exploit the educational potential of sport and which has become the reference tool used by the South African Football Association to train their referees.

“The YDF programme is a strong advocate for aid as it has a high impact on young people. I was impressed to see the skills and values they learn through sport. This is crucial as the youth will be the driver of development in South Africa.”

Andris Piebalgs
(European Commissioner for Development)

Siyakhana - youth empowerment through arts and life skills in correctional facilities

Conceived by the organisation, Young in Prison, to empower juvenile offenders through creative arts, including theatre, and sports, this €311,274 project ran from 2012-2013 and equipped close to 1 000 young people in seven detention centres with life skills. Post-release mentoring and job placement were also offered to try and ensure their successful reintegration into society.

In addition, community awareness was raised through cultural activities and sports events, as stigma levels remain high. Beyond the fact that so many lives have been positively transformed, there is a greater awareness and sensitivity among the institutions about the issues impacting the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth in conflict with law. Arts, culture and sports have once again proved to be formidable mediums to touch people and help them grow out of their damaged lives.

“It is helping them, trying to show them the right way and advising them they are still young and they can change”. -- Correctional Intervention Officer at Pollsmoor prison

Music is a great investment: uniting the power of classical, indigenous and jazz.

From 2012 to 2014, MIAGI, a South African civil society organisation, implemented a €434,000 project which aimed to bring musical education to children and youth in Soweto and promote intercultural musical creation.

The project involved close to 1,700 young people in activities covering early childhood musical development in seven crèches in Soweto, vocational training for playing of instruments and choir singing, the professionalisation of four youth orchestras and the creation of inter-cultural pieces of musical work mixing, in particular, jazz and indigenous repertoires. The project culminated with a tour to Europe in 2012, including a performance at Berlin Konzerthaus during which the New Skool Orchestra played to high acclaim.

“The New Skool Orchestra was born as a result of informal evenings of music and dance. These evenings have a unifying effect. They offer the members from a great variety of different social and ethnic backgrounds an opportunity to bond, which is highly significant.”

Robert Brooks, MIAGI Director

INNOVATE TO LIBERATE

Science & Technology

S&T is one of the flagships of the EU-SA Strategic Partnership. The year 2012 marked the 15th anniversary of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and South Africa.

At the end of 2013, South Africa emerged as the fifth most active third-country partner in the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research, directly after Russia, the US, China and India. South African institutions participate in 191 signed grant agreements and benefit from €34.3 million in EU contributions. The highest levels of cooperation are in Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Health, Environment and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Cooperation in S&T is also marked by ongoing strong dialogue notably through annual bilateral Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee meetings, the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) ‘Science at the Summit’ initiative, and at the level of the Africa-EU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space. The ‘Science at the Summit’ initiative has been in place since the first EU-SA Annual Summit



in 2008. The DST has been leading the organisation of various side-events to the Summit to showcase aspects of EU-SA S&T cooperation.

Policy dialogue has been enhanced through the support of the EU-SA Dialogue Facility, with the focus on the Research Infrastructure Roadmap for South Africa, and South Africa's National Innovation Policy.

Other cooperation

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has 23 cooperation partnerships with South African institutions in such fields as space, the environment, and water and energy research.

Another major pillar of cooperation has been the €30 million EU Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Sector-Wide Budget Support Programme to the DST, launched in 2008. The programme has tested and demonstrated that innovation can lead to

job creation and small business development. At least 600 jobs and 50 small businesses have been created in projects ranging from demonstration agronomy to ICT and renewable energy.

In addition, 212 rural facilities, mostly public schools, have been connected to the internet through the Wireless Mesh Network benefiting about 65,000 people. A total of 218 digital doorways have been installed throughout South Africa, providing access to basic computer skills in rural communities and schools.

These and other successes of the programme were highlighted at the dedicated, high-level side-event to the fifth EU-SA Summit in Brussels in 2012. The event was addressed by President Jacob Zuma and European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs.





Nkowankowa Demonstration Centre, Tzaneen, Limpopo province

With support from the EU-SA Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Programme, the Nkowankowa Demonstration Centre was launched on 21 October 2011 in Tzaneen, Limpopo. The area is renowned for its abundant production of fruit and nuts. The centre focuses on processing seasonal fruits and nuts to produce health, beauty and nutrition products, as well as the development of down-stream businesses aimed at selling and distributing products.

The project has provided support to 28 small businesses which sell cosmetic products from the centre. A business owner known only as Margaret commented in an interview: “My children used to go to sleep without food and go to school without clothes, but now it is different”. She said she now makes “too much money” and enjoys being a business person.

Space

The bilateral Space dialogue was established in November 2008 when the terms of reference were endorsed. Since then, cooperation in Space has been quick to advance. The focus has been on Earth observation partnerships, global navigation satellite systems and research.

In March 2012, the European Commission Vice President responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, Antonio Tajani, and South African Science and Technology Minister, Naledi Pandor, signed a Joint Statement on EU-SA cooperation in relation to the extension of the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service to South Africa.

Subsequently, the EU-SA Dialogue Facility supported a dedicated feasibility study which has delivered positive outcomes, and a workshop to investigate opportunities for skills development for the Space sector for 2013. Opportunities were identified in the EU Framework Programme for Research Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Erasmus+ Programme, and research cooperation with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre.

Other Cooperation

Scientific collaboration agreements already exist between the JRC and the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as well as the South African National Space Agency. Specific topics for cooperation include environmental monitoring, climate change, disaster risk assessments and monitoring of urbanisation, including through Earth observation data. The Soil Atlas of Africa, released in November 2012, was developed by a partnership including the JRC and the University of Free State.

The EU and South Africa also collaborate at regional

level in support of the Africa-EU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space, notably through:

- ▶ The Square Kilometre Array project, which will largely be hosted by South Africa, along with eight partner countries in Africa.
- ▶ The African-European Radio Astronomy Platform unveiled in November 2012.
- ▶ The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa Initiative.

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

ICT was identified as one of the target areas for enhanced bilateral cooperation at the first EU-SA Summit in 2008. In September 2009, the terms of reference for the EU-SA ICT dialogue were endorsed. Bilateral Information Society meetings were held in June 2011 and May 2013 where it was agreed to enhance cooperation and exchanges in the following areas:

- ▶ Broadband roll-out
- ▶ Migration from analogue to digital TV
- ▶ Research and innovation
- ▶ Internet governance
- ▶ Cyber security and
- ▶ E-skills

Subsequently, the EU-SA Dialogue Facility facilitated exchanges between European and South African experts on methodologies and approaches for effective broadband roll-out. The same project



also took into consideration European best-practices in the process of migration from analogue to digital TV. This is important in the context of the South African decision in January 2011 to adopt a second generation of the European DVB-T standard for its migration, planned for 2017.

Another project in the pipeline targets South Africa's capacity development around the subject of e-skills with the focus on e-government, e-inclusion, e-literacy and ICT for rural development, among other issues.

Research

ICT emerged as one of the most successful areas of South African participation within the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research.

ICT in Rural Areas

In the field of development cooperation, ICT is an important aspect of the EU-SA Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Sector-Wide Budget Support Programme to the DST. A key initiative under the programme is the Wireless Mesh Network Project which has already connected 212 rural facilities (mostly public schools) to the internet benefiting around 65,000 people.

This project has also informed the development of the South African ICT Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap launched in April 2013. In addition, the programme supported a national policy dialogue in February 2013 on connectivity extension in rural communities, including its role in rural development.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

A number of projects/programmes in the area of governance being implemented or having been finalised recently are:

Support to Legislatures

EU support to the South African legislative sector contributes to the realisation of universal values of human rights and democracy, and assists with consolidating representative and participative democracy.

The EU Legislative Sector Policy Support Programme has provided €20 million to Parliament

and the nine provincial legislatures to implement legislative sector policy, and is the third support programme to this sector. Support has totalled €46 million since 1996. The programme aims to:

- ▶ Deepen and entrench people-centred democracy in South Africa.
- ▶ Strengthen capacity in law-making and oversight functions of legislatures.
- ▶ Build an effective and efficient legislative sector.
- ▶ Strengthen capacity to engage and participate in, and oversee, international relations. This component was added in 2012 with a focus on regional, continental and international outreach, learning and sharing.

The programme has been led at a strategic level by the Speakers' Forum with the operational support of a unit in Parliament. The programme has benefitted from policy dialogues with the EU, through international parliamentary exchanges, such as the South African – European Parliament Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue, and through high-level visits by the South African Parliament to Brussels in 2012 and from the President of the European Parliament in 2013. The programme has also involved civil society, the South African government and other parliaments, through annual consultative seminars.

The programme implementation ended in 2013. Key achievements have included:

- ▶ Adoption of sector oversight and petition models.
- ▶ Finalisation of the Public Participation model.
- ▶ Hosting of numerous sectoral parliaments such as women's, youth and workers' parliaments, as well as a project titled "Taking Parliament to the People".
- ▶ Capacity building programmes having reached a significant number of members of Parliament and provincial legislatures and their staff. A total of 220 members have received an Advanced Certificate in Leadership and Governance put in place through a partnership with the University of Witwatersrand.

Developing Pro-Poor Policy

Introduced in 2006 to bolster government's capacity to alleviate poverty, the seven-year €5 million Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development



aimed to improve evidence-based policy-making and implementation through better understanding of poverty and inequality. It also focused on developing tools to strengthen and enhance government's capacity to deliver better services to the population.

More particularly, a study on implementation of a wage subsidy for South African youth and aimed at tackling youth unemployment has contributed to the adoption of the Employment Tax Incentive Bill in 2013.

Other achievements include supporting the development and rolling-out of a national evaluation framework and the development of a performance management tool to improve public sector capacity. The programme also helped to initiate discussions around citizen-based monitoring of front-line public services.

A new phase was adopted in 2012 in order to strengthen these achievements, with a focus on the provincial sphere of government.

Gender

The EU recognises that gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are essential for sustainable development and crucial to meeting internationally agreed goals. South Africa has made great strides in gender equality, yet gender inequality continues to impede social cohesion and inclusive growth. Therefore, the EU Delegation supports South Africa's efforts to promote GEWE in three main ways, through:

- ▶ Targeted projects
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming in sector programmes
- ▶ Dialogue with the South African government and capacity building

Over the period 2011-2013, the EU Delegation invested €14.4 million to support 16 civil society organisation projects targeting women, children and people with disabilities.

The EU Delegation also gives priority to structural development interventions that reduce the causes of violence through long-term prevention initiatives in such fields as education, sexual and reproductive health, and economic empowerment initiatives. It provided €122 million to the Department of Basic Education and €126 million to the Department of Health.

Beyond its development cooperation programmes,

gender-based violence issues as a significant phenomenon in South Africa, the region and Europe, were discussed by the EU and South African government through the 2013 EU-SA Human Rights Dialogue Forum. These issues will remain high on future agendas of this Dialogue Forum.

The EU Delegation also chairs the local EU gender focal point working group consisting of the EU Delegation and EU member states represented in South Africa. This working group monitors and reports on the implementation of the EU's plan on gender equality and female empowerment in development, which is an initiative agreed in 2010 by the EU Council.

Civil Society

EU collaboration with and support to civil society organisations (CSOs) continued to strengthen in the period 2011 and 2013.

Regular consultations with CSOs were organised on issues such as policy documents, design of interventions through calls for proposals, and programming of EU development cooperation and related instruments for the period 2014-2020.

A number of geographic programmes were included in a component of support to CSOs in the spirit of the EU communication entitled "The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's Engagement with Civil Society in External Relations (2012)". Programmes included Youth Empowerment (€3 million support to CSOs), Access to Justice and Constitutional Development (€5 million), Primary Health Care (€10 million), and National Development Policy (€20 million).

These programmes placed particular emphasis on supporting synergies between the State and CSOs to address poverty and support equality, social inclusion and sustainable development, and on enhancing synergies to reinforce democratic governance and constructive relations.

For the period 2014-2018, the 'Socio-economic justice for all' programme (approved in 2013) will promote constitutional rights, with a focus on socio-economic rights, through awareness building, participatory democracy and collaboration between the government and various departments, some Chapter 9 institutions, and CSOs.

Beyond geographic programmes, a number of initiatives driven by CSOs have been supported through the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities, Human and Social Development, and Migration and Asylum Programmes, and through the Democracy



and Human Rights programme under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Areas of intervention ranged from health to the environment, education, land reform, disabled people, children and women, migrants' rights, and the fight against gender-based violence, torture and other ill-treatment.

By the end of 2013, on-going activities involving direct support to CSOs under thematic programmes and instruments accounted for €15 million.

Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights

Ms Gogo Thandi worked for a cleaning company in Johannesburg. Her supervisor wanted to buy a car with a loan but needed a guarantee. She visited Gogo and her husband in Soweto and requested to use their home as a guarantee of her loan.

Gogo and her husband were persuaded that there were no unforeseen risks and that their position would be secured by the employer. They agreed to her supervisor's request. However, when Gogo's husband passed away, she received a notice from the loan company to vacate the property as the house had been sold to the company.

Gogo approached the Zola Community Advice Office, which summoned the loan company to produce documents and proof of payments. The company failed to do so. At the Zola Advice Office hearing, Gogo's supervisor was represented by a lawyer who was later discovered to be from the loan company.

The Zola Community Advice Office then consulted with other legal institutions and the matter was pursued up to the High Court. The loan company was then found to be illegal. A public call to potential victims of the same fraud was launched in the press, and it turned out that the company had robbed more than 1, 000 home owners of their title deeds. Thanks to the Zola Community Advice Office, a class action was undertaken to have such unlawful loans nullified, and Gogo could remain in her home.

The EU Delegation in South Africa has worked closely with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Foundation for Human Rights to enable the most vulnerable and marginalised to enjoy better access to justice. To achieve this, the model of Community Advice Offices has been promoted throughout South Africa.

During 2013, about 90 newly established Community Advice Offices have ensured better access to justice, especially in the most remote areas, providing paralegal support to citizens. The story of Gogo Thandi is an example of how this has worked in practice and how the promotion of access to justice is essential to guarantee the effective realisation of human rights.

The EU has supported a €150 000 project, undertaken by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung in partnership with the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, which sought to integrate civil society expertise on State compliance with the Sexual Offences Act and the Domestic Violence Act into Parliament's oversight processes.



After intense capacity building on evidence-based monitoring with CSOs and women's shelters, two shadow reports on the policy, funding and practices within shelters in two provinces (Gauteng and Western Cape), and one on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in Gauteng, were produced and disseminated.

The findings and recommendations were shared through round table and town meetings with various stakeholders, including local and provincial government representatives and members of Parliament. The project also mobilised community members and CSOs around the use of graffiti advocating against gender-based violence (GBV) and highlighting the State's role in addressing GBV and providing support services to victims.

One of the outcomes of the project was the production of a proposal for reform and policy brief submitted by the Commission on Gender Equality to the Department of Social Development and the National Treasury.

Views of participants:

"The National Prosecuting Authority has circulated (shadow) reports (among magistrates and prosecutors) ... we are being invited to speak about GBV and the shadow reports...as a result of the shelter report...there was a willingness (to engage) from different levels on the issue of shelters...the issue was mentioned in Parliament and this is valuable and indicative of a shift that hasn't really occurred before..."

"Through round table discussions, we were able to share challenges and (identify) where bottlenecks are...people were sharing challenges from different perspectives and once they have the knowledge (they are better equipped) to challenge the state."

"The shadow report is a crucial document...it holds the State accountable and informs people of the findings and it also enables us to use the document in our work...it shows us where we are at... it keeps law and policy makers on their toes."

GETTING MORE FOR LESS

Public Financial Management

The key to sustainable success in developing countries is to ensure that public funds are optimally allocated and managed. This can be done by strengthening government financial management capabilities. Effective management of public finances is likely to promote economic growth, enabling government to dedicate more resources for public services. This could contribute to poverty alleviation and increased public confidence in the democratic system.

The €7.5 million Financial Management Improvement Programme II had as objectives support to the improved implementation of the Public Finance Management Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act, development of financial management policies, standards and human capacities and capacity building support to the Auditor-General's Office.

The impact was significant: new approaches were tested and piloted at national, provincial and local government level, including the roll-out of a provincial Financial Capability Maturity Model, a Local Government Standard Chart of Accounts, and new Internal Audit Modules. A PFM Capacity Development Programme was formulated based on these pilots, while 50,000 practitioners were targeted through e-learning courses in inventory and asset management.

Practical tools were developed including a new

Basic Accounting Handbook and Chief Financial Officers Handbook, which have been implemented in 180 entities, and competency frameworks have been developed and distributed to 150 members. An additional 15 financial management interns were recruited.

“This EU sponsored programme has contributed to better planning and budgeting, supply chain management and internal auditing procedures. These improvements in public financial management will hopefully benefit all South Africans”

– Schalk Human, Acting Accountant-General,
National Treasury

Environment and Climate Change

Major events such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) held in Durban, South Africa, in 2011, and Rio+20 have contributed to stronger dialogue and cooperation between the EU and South Africa in the areas of environment and climate change over the 2011-2013 period. The EU provided €5 million to support the organisation of COP17 and played a decisive role in reaching an agreement at the event.

Annual meetings of the South Africa–EU Forum on



The EU renewable energy stand at the Eastern Cape Renewable Energy Expo.



Environment and Sustainable Development have explored stronger cooperation in areas of the green economy and climate change.

The bilateral dialogue on the environment has been further enhanced with the support of the EU-SA Dialogue Facility. In February 2011, a Green Economy Workshop was organised in Pretoria which pre-

In August 2012, the EU Delegation launched a €7.2 million Call for Proposals entitled “Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources for Development”. Eight grant contracts were concluded with various civil society organisations for projects ranging from waste management and carbon farming to eco-tourism and sustainable agricultural practices.



EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, behind the wheel of the solar car designed and built by learners at the German International School in Johannesburg that was exhibited on the EU stand at COP 17 in Durban.

sented results of the EU-SA study on Green Growth through Air Quality and Waste Management.

In April-May 2012, consultations with civil society were arranged to inform South Africa’s position in the run-up to Rio+20 and to stimulate dialogue with the EU. The Dialogue Facility also supported a grant project, “Social Dialogue for Green and Decent Jobs”, which brought together trade unions, employers’ associations, policy makers and civil society from South Africa and the EU.

“Climate Change” was the theme for Europe Day (9 May) in 2011. As part of celebrations organised by the EU Delegation in South Africa, EU Member States were invited to showcase their support for the environment and climate change-related projects implemented in South Africa. The exhibition was attended by 500 guests.

The European Commission has provided support to the EU-UN Environment Programme SEED Initiative for projects targeting green economy development and sustainable entrepreneurship in Africa. The SEED Initiative has been organising annual Green Economy Symposiums, which were held in South Africa in April 2011 and March 2012. In addition, 11 South African SMEs have already qualified for SEED awards that target socially and environmentally sustainable SMEs and five more awards are anticipated as a result of the 2013 Call for Applications.

Two grant projects supporting municipalities have also been selected for funding. A project titled “Promoting

Urban Low-Emissions Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries” is jointly implemented by UN-HABITAT and Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa. As part of the project, two South African model cities are being guided to devise and prepare to implement low-emission development strategies and then share their experiences with other municipalities in the country as well as in Brazil, India and Indonesia.

Another project entitled “Sustainable Urban Resilient Water for Africa - Developing Local Climate Solutions” is led by Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa. The project engages local authorities in six southern African countries, including South Africa, around sustainable climate change-resilient urban water planning mechanisms and actions.

The EU and South Africa also cooperate extensively in the field of environment-related research under the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research and through collaboration with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre.



On the margins of COP17, the EU Delegation ran an award-winning public stand which sought to raise public awareness about climate change and the EU's response to it.

In addition to interactive displays, the EU stand hosted multiple events involving high-level guests including the European Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, and prominent academics such as Simon Maxwell, Head of the Climate Development Knowledge Network.

Commissioner Hedegaard's visit to the stand was particularly exciting. She was the first of a number of high-level visitors and hundreds more to sit behind the wheel of a solar car developed as a school research project with support from the EU Delegation in 2009. The Commissioner was also interviewed by a group of young journalists.

As part of the EU stand's programme, the EU Delegation hosted a beach sand sculpture competition at Durban's North Beach to illustrate climate change and COP17. The competition was between artists who regularly create works of art from sea and sand, and the winner, Mandla Mthembu, received his R3, 000 cash prize from the EU Ambassador to South Africa, Roeland van de Geer.

Energy

The EU and South Africa have cooperated extensively in the areas of clean coal technologies and carbon capture and storage, including through grant support of €430,000 to the South African Carbon Capture and Storage Centre.

Both agree on the need to tackle critical global issues, including climate change and environmental degradation, and therefore promote resource efficiency through energy efficiency and renewable energy targets. The EU and South Africa are also committed to the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the role of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership to promote this initiative.

During the 6th EU-SA Summit in July 2013, the parties agreed to a joint rural electrification programme with the focus on off-grid renewable energy solutions for 300,000 households in remote areas of South Africa.

Nuclear energy is among the priority areas for bilateral cooperation, and the Euratom-South Africa Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed during the 6th EU-SA Summit in Pretoria, in July 2013.

Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition

In November 2012, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government organised a high-level Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition targeting EU stakeholders and aimed at facilitating stronger investment and development cooperation in the field of renewable energy. The event demonstrated the province's strong commitment to become South Africa's "Green Hub" with the focus on renewable energy generation, manufacturing, research and development capacities. At the event's exhibition, the EU Delegation ran a stand highlighting the EU's ambitious renewable energy policies and extensive development support for the sector.



MEMBER STATES



AUSTRIA

Austria's relations with South Africa are dominated by economic ties and cultural exchanges. The presence of an estimated 20 000 Austrians in South Africa is an important bridge in both respects.

Economic ties

South Africa is Austria's most important export destination in Africa. In 2011, the trade volume in both directions surpassed the R10 billion threshold for the first time, and in 2013 grew past the €1 bn mark.

Companies from both countries hold significant investments in the other. Many Austrians who have come to South Africa have invested their money and skills into setting up their own companies, employing several thousand people. The double taxation agreement of 1996 needed to be adapted and has been in force in its amended form since March 2012. To Austria's regret, South Africa terminated the bilateral investment protection agreement in 2013 which had been in force since 1998.

Cultural exchanges

In 2011, the Austrian Foreign Minister, Michael Spindelegger, and the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, met in Geneva and jointly opened an exhibition, "The Human Rights Project", which depicts the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enacted by young South Africans.

In 2012, the South African Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Joe Paahla, visited Vienna to receive and bring back to South Africa the human remains of Klaas and Trooi Pienaar, a Khoi-San couple whose bodies were exhumed in the Northern Cape in 1909 and sent to Austria where they were used in medical studies. The Khoi-San couple were re-humanised and given back their human dignity in ceremonies in Austria and South Africa, where they were re-buried in Kuruman in the Northern Cape in the presence of President Jacob Zuma, representatives of national and provincial governments and the Khoi-San community, and families of the deceased. Austria has apologised for the unethical collection of these human remains in the name of science, and South Africa has accepted this apology.

The Austrian Embassy also supports Austrian artists, mainly musicians, coming to South Africa and not only giving concerts but holding master classes

and workshops with talented young South African musicians from all corners of the country. For this, it mainly works with the South African NGO, "Music Is A Great Investment" (www.miagi.co.za). It also supports South African musicians playing modern and contemporary Austrian music.

Education

Austrian and South African universities cooperate in numerous ways. Many have formal agreements, in their own capacity or through their faculties, schools and departments. This includes the exchange of teachers, researchers and students. The Austrian Embassy in Pretoria supports German language departments at a number of universities through book donations and by supporting visits of Austrian poets and writers for conferences and lectures.

Non-government organisations

The Austrian Development Agency, Austria's implementing agency for development cooperation, no longer has a country budget line for South Africa but continues to support Austrian non-government organisations here and also Austrian companies sustainably investing in skills development, for example in the solar energy sector.

The City of Vienna supports school projects around Johannesburg such as the Masibambane College and the Ithuba Skills College. Many Austrian non-government organisations are active in South Africa, most prominently SOS Children's Villages, with eight villages throughout the country.

The Austrian province of Upper Austria has a very active and lively partnership with the Western Cape province.

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BELGIUM

Political relations

A Joint Commission which meets biannually is the cornerstone of bilateral relations between Belgium and South Africa, covering political, economic, military and development cooperation.

Each country has undertaken high-level visits to the other over the past 10 years. In 2013, two Belgian missions visited South Africa. Princess Astrid, Foreign Minister Reynders and Defence Minister De Crem, accompanied by more than 300 business people, visited Johannesburg and Cape Town in November. Less than a month later King Philippe, Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo and Foreign Minister Reynders attended the funeral of former President Nelson Mandela.

Economic cooperation

Belgium globally ranks 6th in terms of foreign direct investment in South Africa, with a focus on mining, green energy, ports, logistics and agriculture. Belgian exports to South Africa rose to €1.5 billion in 2013. South Africa is equally important to the Belgian economy.

The Belgian Economic Mission to South Africa, led by Princess Astrid, visited Johannesburg and Cape Town from 22 to 26 October 2013.

Development cooperation

In addition to bilateral cooperation in the areas of land reform, health, poverty reduction through improved service delivery and small business development, cooperation takes place between Belgian and South African universities and non-government organisations. The Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance also supports a programme to improve the training of primary school mathematics teachers.

Land reform

Belgian support for land reform began in 1998. Current support is extended through the Participatory Settlement and Development Support to Land Reform Beneficiaries Project (PSDS) which assists the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in ensuring that livelihoods of land reform beneficiaries are enhanced through better coordinated and integrated policies and services. The emphasis in PSDS is on piloting better practices

of policy implementation and feed-back between provincial and municipal authorities.

Facility for public service delivery improvement

This consists of a grant facility which pilots new and innovative means of public service delivery, and sustaining sound practices.

Other instruments of cooperation include a Study and Consultancy Fund, long- and short-term scholarships and a programme for direct financing of civil society organisations involved in land reform, HIV/AIDS and governance.

Relations between South Africa and Flanders

The Government of Flanders (Belgium) has paid a number of visits to Southern Africa at high official and ministerial level. There are also numerous high-level academic exchanges and science and technology programmes between Flemish and South African universities, particularly in the Western Cape. The Government of Flanders supports several programmes and projects in Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. These are clustered around four thematic areas:

- ▶ Governance and Democracy: Support to the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria and projects with the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights.
- ▶ Education, Training and Research: Inter-country mobility of researchers, funding of scientific research, and the Port Worker's Development Project.
- ▶ Inclusive Growth: Small enterprise development in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, entrepreneurship education, and policy advice.
- ▶ People to People (Culture, Youth, City to City): Including support for cultural festivals and the maintenance of links between Dutch and Afrikaans scholars at academic level.

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BULGARIA

Bulgaria and South Africa have signed a number of cooperation agreements covering diplomatic and political relations, education, healthcare, science and technology, agriculture, tourism, sport, arts and culture, defence, and police cooperation.

Political relations

Numerous official visits take place on a regular basis in order to strengthen political and economic relations. In September 2011, the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, visited Bulgaria at the invitation of her counterpart, Minister Nickolay Mladenov. They reviewed bilateral relations and discussed a wide range of international issues.

The Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Angel Velichkov, visited Pretoria in December 2013.

Economic cooperation

Economic cooperation is increasing with the involvement of the Bulgarian and South African chambers of commerce and industry. The Bulgarian Embassy identifies potential trade opportunities and facilitates contacts between interested companies and individuals on both sides.

Major South African companies are represented in Bulgaria and Bulgarian companies are active in South Africa. In 2012, Bulgarian company Vaptech collaborated with South Africa's electricity utility, Eskom, on projects in the fields of renewable energy and hydro power, thereby responding to South African priorities to build a green economy, develop infrastructure, build capacity and create jobs.

The Bulgarian Embassy also assisted a South African company, ALC, which has opened a factory in Bulgaria and plans to extend its capacity.

Partnerships between regions and cities have also been developed. In October 2012, the city of Cape Town signed a cooperation agreement with the city of Varna, linking their ports. A Bulgarian Honorary Consul, with a seat in Cape Town, was appointed in February 2014. Opportunities for cooperation between the city of Durban and the city of Burgas and their regions are now being studied.

Development cooperation

The Bulgarian Embassy has identified possible fields of cooperation and it has been established that South Africa could benefit from the expertise of highly qualified Bulgarian teachers in mathematics, chemistry and physics. University cooperation and academic staff and student exchange are also a field of mutual interest. The Embassy is working on establishing cooperation between Tshwane University of Technology and Technical University – Sofia.

Bulgaria and South Africa have finalised negotiations on a Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of social policy, covering such issues as poverty, treatment of disabled people, unemployment and social security

Environmental issues, such as limiting carbon emissions and the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban in 2011, have been discussed between South Africa and Bulgaria, represented by the Environmental Affairs Minister, Nona Karadjova.

In November 2013, during a visit to South Africa by the Bulgarian Minister of Youth and Sport, Prof. Mariana Georgieva, the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in sport was discussed. A Bulgarian draft of an agreement for cooperation in the field of sport is under consideration.

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Political relations

As a major African power, South Africa is one of the most important partners for the Czech Republic on the continent. Political dialogue is ongoing: in May 2013, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marius Llewellyn Fransman, visited Prague for consultations with his Czech counterpart, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomas Dub.

Well-established political relations between the governments are accompanied by contact at a provincial level, especially with KwaZulu-Natal province. South Africa is also the stage for unique cooperation between the so called Visegrad countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The four Central European countries jointly operate Visegrad House in Cape Town, enabling them to stay closely in touch not only with their communities, but with members of Parliament, the business community in the Western Cape, and cultural institutions and universities.

Economic cooperation

South Africa is the most important trade partner of the Czech Republic, in Africa. Turnover in trade reached €681,5 million in 2011 and €603,3 million in 2012. A broad spectrum of goods is traded, with the two largest categories being value-added items, such as machinery and industrial supplies. Several Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed companies are active in the Czech Republic, notably in the food and paper industries.

The second session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation was held in Prague in September 2012, followed by a business forum, with Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Elizabeth Thabethe, leading the South African delegation.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic's ability to provide information and services to the business community in South Africa has also been increased through the establishment of a Trade Office in Johannesburg.

Development cooperation

The Czech Republic contributes to the EU's development cooperation with South Africa, and also undertakes small-scale community projects. In 2011, modern hospital beds were provided to the public

Prince Mshyieni Memorial Hospital in Umlazi near Durban. In 2012, the Czech Republic commenced cooperation with the Tshegofatsong Special School in Mamelodi, the only school in the area attending to learners with special educational needs. The Czech Republic supports development of student skills that will help them establish sustainable livelihoods.

The Czech Republic assists South Africa in the priority area of skills development and capacity building. Two Czech universities, in the cities of Liberec and Pardubice, have provided education to a number of students from South Africa in the fields of textile and transport engineering.

There is excellent ongoing cooperation between Mendel University in Brno and the University of Fort Hare in the field of agriculture. Numerous South African students come annually to the Czech Republic as part of the EU Erasmus Mundus programmes.

Cultural exchanges

South Africa and the Czech Republic frequently organise numerous and diverse events ranging from movie screenings and exhibitions to musical and choir performances. The Czech Republic traditionally supports the participation of Daria Klimentová, the renowned Czech ballet dancer, in performances by Cape Town City Ballet. In September 2012, South Africa hosted a unique series of theatre performances written by former Czech President Václav Havel.

In July 2013 the Czech Spitfire Theatre Company, presenting an original dance performance of the Voice of Anne Frank, was applauded at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. Since 2013, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Pretoria has been a proud partner of the Tri-Continental Human Rights Film Festival in Johannesburg. The Czech Republic has also cooperated on a number of occasions with the three centres of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban).

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DENMARK

Denmark supported the anti-apartheid struggle from the 1960s and was the first country to implement full political and economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. During the transition to democracy, Denmark supported South Africa in its efforts to build a democratic society.

Political cooperation

Denmark shares common values with South Africa, such as democracy, human rights, respect for law and order, good governance, equal opportunities, the fight against poverty and the promotion of sustainable development. In light of South Africa's key role as a regional and international actor, Denmark considers South Africa an important partner in the promotion of these values globally.

Denmark and South Africa engage in regular high-level bilateral, political consultations but since 2012 there has been a particular focus on cooperation in renewable energy generation as a key contributor to sustainable development.

Denmark has actively supported five leading South African think tanks on peace and security, and regional integration in Southern Africa and the continent. The think tanks include the South African Institute for International Affairs and Institute for Security Studies.

Economic cooperation

South Africa is by far Denmark's largest market in Africa. In 2012, the Danish government launched a growth-market strategy for South Africa, outlining the vision for future economic and commercial cooperation.

Within a number of sectors, Danish companies have special competencies which meet key demands in South Africa. These include renewable energy, in particular wind power, sustainable use of water resources, waste management, agriculture and food production, infrastructure development and architecture and design. The objective of further cooperation is to increase economic growth and job creation in South Africa and Denmark.

Development cooperation

Since 2007, Denmark has been phasing out bilateral development assistance to South Africa. However, in 2012, Denmark continued providing strategic support within the following areas:

- ▶ In 2012, Denmark and South Africa committed to engage further in cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Over a period of three years, Denmark will assist the Department of Energy in South Africa in implementing its policies on the introduction of renewable energy in the national energy-mix, with particular focus on wind power and energy efficiency. Cooperation includes continued Danish support for rolling out a wind atlas that maps wind patterns in South Africa to provide a foundation for efficiently deploying green power technology.
- ▶ Denmark has been assisting the South African government to provide low-cost, energy efficient housing, in an effort to reduce poverty and create awareness of energy efficient technologies. Through the Wind Awareness Campaign, implemented by Denmark in cooperation with the Department of Energy, awareness is also raised about the advantages of wind power, including sustainable development and job creation.
- ▶ Denmark continued to support South African Further Education and Training colleges. This included assistance to 12 colleges in four provinces to improve student support services, with a focus on career guidance and exit support. Assistance is also given to the Department of Higher Education and Training in continued development of a student support service framework. In addition, in 2012 Denmark initiated cooperation with the African Leadership Academy to strengthen entrepreneurship and leadership among students.
- ▶ Denmark has provided funding for the sports- and education-focused non-government organization, Skateistan, to establish itself in South Africa. Skateistan engages with inner-city kids who are given the opportunity to use skating equipment and facilities.

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FINLAND

Two Declarations of Intent define the framework for relations between Finland and South Africa: a Declaration on Deepening Bilateral Relations and Strengthening Partnerships signed in 2009; and a Declaration signed in 2008 between the governments of South Africa and Nordic countries concerning partnerships in Africa. A bilateral agreement on protection and promotion of investments is in force until 2019.

The history of Finnish support to the anti-apartheid struggle is reflected in friendly bilateral relations, which have in recent years been dominated by economic ties and co-operation in the fields of innovation, environment and energy.

Economic cooperation

South Africa is Finland's biggest trading partner in Africa. Bilateral trade has for many years been characterised by a close balance in exports and imports. The value of Finnish exports to South Africa in 2013 was €375 million, and the value of South African exports to Finland was more than €337 million.

Economic ties have also encouraged investments in both countries. South African enterprises have invested in the Finnish mining sector and paper industry. The biggest Finnish subsidiaries in South Africa provide clean-tech solutions for the extractive and manufacturing industries. In 2013 there were 25 Finnish subsidiaries in South Africa, indirectly creating four times more jobs than the number of their direct employees, and providing opportunities for skills development.

Cooperation in strengthening partnerships continues, for example, in the fields of energy, environment, natural resources, innovation and ICT.

A recent example of economic cooperation is *Agulhas II*, a polar supply and research vessel built by STX Finland for South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs.

Political relations

In addition to bilateral relations, Finland and South Africa work together in the framework of multilateral organisations, notably the United Nations, on the basis of shared values of democracy, rule of law and equality. In September 2012, in the framework of the UN General Assembly, the countries co-hosted in

New York a high-level event on Women's Access to Justice.

The countries have also cooperated in developing the normative and institutional framework for peace mediation.

Official visits between the countries have also enhanced political cooperation. President Tarja Halonen co-chaired a meeting with President Zuma of the UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability in Cape Town in February 2011. In 2012, Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja and Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs Alexander Stubb visited South Africa.

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Marius Fransman, the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, and the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Thandi Tobias-Poloko, visited Finland in October 2011. They were particularly interested in the Finnish educational system and clean-tech collaboration between the countries. In May 2012, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Finland to discuss bilateral relations and co-operation, as well as regional and global issues.

Minister of Telecommunications Yunus Carrim and a delegation visited Finland in 2013 to acquaint his ministry with the Finnish experience in broadband and digitalisation and migration policies and frameworks.

Development cooperation

Bilateral development cooperation has come to an end but a wide range of other cooperation instruments are being used, such as regional and trilateral cooperation. Finland also supports civil society organisations and partnerships between Finnish and South African businesses, higher education institutions, municipalities, government agencies, and other organisations.

The Southern African Development Community and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) are important partners for Finland in regional cooperation, which focuses on three sectors: sustainable use of natural resources and energy; science, technology and innovation; and aid for trade. South African institutions and enterprises participate in these programmes.

The Energy and Environment Partnership with Southern and Eastern Africa (EEP), with important co-financing from the UK and Austria, is Finland's biggest regional programme, providing seed funding for feasibility, pilot and demonstration projects for sustainable use of energy, renewable energy and



energy efficiency. Phase two, EEPII, aims to reduce poverty by promoting an inclusive and job-creating green economy and by improving energy security in the Southern and East Africa regions while mitigating global climate change. EEPII provides funding for sustainably competitive mid-sized private sector projects.

In the fields of innovation, science and technology, the major programmes are the Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme, in which South Africa plays an important role as a knowledge-sharing partner, and Finnish and South African joint support programme (BioFISA) for NEPAD's biosciences network SANbio. The regional BioFISA programme is moving to the second phase in 2015 and operates in the Southern African Development Community countries. In addition, Finnish research institutions have bilateral cooperation with their South African counterparts.

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Political relations

South Africa and France have moved to establish a strategic partnership based on strengthened political dialogue and cooperation. This has been illustrated by reciprocal state visits of presidents of both countries in the past five years, and by dialogues at high ranking levels. These include foreign ministries' directors general and Africa experts, and heads of national treasuries and defence. The foreign ministers meet at least once a year.

Economic cooperation

In 2013, bilateral trade amounted to €2,6 billion. French exports (mainly mechanical, electronic and transport equipment, and chemical and pharmaceutical products) represented €1,78 bn.

French market share in South Africa amounted to 2,3%, making France its 11th largest supplier. Over the same period, imports of South African products amounted to €0,8 bn, consisting primarily of hydrocarbons and metal products. In terms of investment, France is ranked 9th in South Africa. Around 300 French companies are active in South Africa, employing about 30 000 people and accounting for investment of €1,4 billion. French groups are well established, particularly in sectors such as energy and transport.

Development cooperation

France is one of South Africa's key development partners, with commitments exceeding €1,8 billion since 1994. France is South Africa's second largest bilateral donor, notably through strong support in infrastructure development by Agence Française de Développement (French Agency for Development – AFD).

As a development bank, AFD provides governments and public companies with financing solutions in the form of grants (feasibility studies, technical assistance/expertise) and loans with preferential interest rates and guarantees. This variety of tools has allowed AFD to work with a large range of partners: municipalities, private and public companies, and commercial and public development banks. In 2011, the two countries signed a new partnership framework representing a further commitment of at least €1 bn. French programmes focus on South Africa's priorities: infrastructure development, sus-



tainable and integrated urban development, skills development, higher education and research.

French regions and municipalities are contributing by strengthening ties with South African local authorities and setting up cooperation programmes, from education, culture, transport and tourism to agricultural development, renewable energy and economic development.

France also supports multilateral initiatives, in particular EU cooperation, the development organisations of the UN and the global fund to fight Aids, tuberculosis and malaria.

Defence and security

South Africa and France are the only countries operating navy assets on the high seas on a day-to-day basis in the south of the Indian Ocean, the Mozambique channel and the Antarctic. They are members of the convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and are involved in the protection of this vast area. South Africa hosts the regional maritime rescue coordination centre, and the French island La Réunion hosts the maritime rescue sub-centre.

Cultural cooperation

In 2012, bilateral cultural cooperation peaked with the French season in South Africa. Over 120 projects, attended by more than 100,000 people, took place around the country, encompassing arts, culture, education, science, economics, business, sport and tourism. These reciprocal seasons (2013 was dedicated to South Africa in France) illustrate the will of both countries to deepen ties.

Science and technology

The number of co-authored scientific articles has increased by 20% a year. This partnership is driven by research excellence and innovation, human capacity development, public awareness programmes, and university cooperation.

F'SATI, a joint French and South African technology institute, plays an important role in capacity building in South Africa by training engineers and academics, and conducting research in the fields of telecommunications, automated systems and satellite engineering.

Employment and job creation

AFD and Proparco support South African financial institutions to develop small and medium black economic empowerment enterprises. This has fa-

cilitated the creation of 18,000 jobs.

Social service delivery

France supports local municipalities in efforts to improve the delivery of basic social services. In addition, AFD funds the National Housing Finance Corporation to promote the South African government's national housing policy.

Governance

Through the INCA capacity building fund and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Industrial Development Corporation and AFD pan-African capacity building programme, France supports capacity development programmes in South Africa.

Safer communities

France supports the building of a safer South Africa through various crowd management training programmes provided to the South African Police Service. Regional and international interaction in law enforcement and peacekeeping is also promoted and supported.

Civil society

The civil society development fund, managed by the Embassy of France, supports South African civil society organisation projects in the fields of local governance, social cohesion and human rights.

Climate change and building a green economy

AFD has shared its expertise with the Development Bank of Southern Africa on developing the green economy and on climate change.

Gender

Through its civil society development fund, the French embassy supports grassroots projects focusing on women's rights and gender.

Regional cooperation

France supports the New Partnership for Africa's Development through technical assistance and the financing of feasibility studies.

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GERMANY

Political relations

South Africa is Germany's most important partner in sub-Saharan Africa. The German-South African Binational Commission, which has met every two years since 1996, provides the framework for German-South African bilateral cooperation. The next meeting of the Binational Commission will be held in Pretoria in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Wide-ranging and intensive relations between the two countries are underlined by regular high-level mutual visits by politicians and parliamentarians. Several German federal states have established close contacts and partnerships with South African provinces and have their own development cooperation and economic cooperation projects. Examples include: Bavaria with Gauteng and Western Cape, Baden-Württemberg with KwaZulu-Natal, North Rhine-Westphalia with Mpumalanga, Saxony with Free State, and Lower Saxony with Eastern Cape.

Economic cooperation

Approximately 600 German companies and subsidiaries are established in South Africa where they contribute more than US\$ 6.610 bn in direct investment. German firms are mainly active in the automotive, mechanical and electrical engineering, and chemical sectors as well as increasingly in the energy sector, creating some 90 000 jobs directly and a further 90 000 indirectly. Many of these companies are in the forefront of corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Germany does not simply extract raw materials in South Africa but supports industrial development by buying automotive components, vehicles and many other manufactured goods.

The German-South African energy partnership, launched in 2013, focuses on expansion of renewable energy and electricity grids, energy efficiency and energy research. As Africa's gateway for international companies, South Africa can serve as a role model in terms of a sustainable and cheap energy supply for the entire continent.

Looking ahead, German companies will continue to participate as reliable partners in South Africa's programme to invest heavily in infrastructure development, providing engineering know-how and high technology.

Development cooperation

Development cooperation between Germany and South Africa was officially agreed upon in 1994. Beyond financial and technical cooperation, Germany's assistance focuses on strengthening South Africa's regional position and integration.

Programmes and projects in South Africa, which is one of Germany's Global Development Partners, are based on innovative approaches which support development of a strong and future-orientated country. The main implementing agencies are the German Development Bank (KfW) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). German development cooperation also includes close cooperation with non-government organisations and the private sector.

Programmes and projects cover:

Governance and Public Administration, including violence prevention:

- ▶ Germany assists in surmounting structural shortcomings. In line with the policy objectives outlined in the National Development Plan, the South African–German Governance Support Programme, launched in 2013, aims at improving service delivery capacities of public institutions in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, and forging sustainable partnerships and solutions with relevant stakeholders

HIV/AIDS:

- ▶ German support involves strengthening the South African National AIDS Council and implementation of the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB; contributing to the South African government's HIV counselling and testing campaigns through the rehabilitation of health centres; constructing community care centres for AIDS orphans and supporting youth organisations.

Energy and Climate, and Green Jobs:

- ▶ Germany supports the Department of Environmental Affairs in the formulation of the National Climate Change Response Policy and its implementation on all levels of government; funds the Industrial Development Corporation's Green Energy Efficiency Fund aimed at providing affordable finance to energy efficiency measures in small to medium size businesses; contributes to a greener economy through the Skills for Green Jobs Programme; and provides consulting services to the Department of Energy on renewable energy and energy efficiency policy.



Trilateral Cooperation:

- ▶ The South African–German Trilateral Cooperation Fund aims to strengthen South Africa's contribution to the development of the continent by supporting the establishment of capacities for development cooperation and jointly carrying out development projects as equal partners in third countries.

Cultural cooperation

The Goethe Institute South Africa has become an integral part of Johannesburg's vibrant cultural scene. It supports a wide range of projects in the arts and beyond, bringing together cultural practitioners from Germany and South Africa. The Goethe Institute also assists artists in South Africa and the region to link up with each other and promotes an exchange of experiences and ideas that transcend national boundaries. Together with its European partners, the Goethe Institute is also involved in strengthening the growing creative industries sector in South Africa.

The four official German schools in South Africa are designed as spaces of inter-cultural exchange. South African pupils from a predominantly disadvantaged background are encouraged and financially supported to obtain an excellent education alongside their German and German-speaking peers. This programme has funded thousands of students over the past 20 years.

Scientific cooperation

More than 400 bilateral research projects in various fields have been conducted over the years. At regional level, the German government supports the establishment of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use.

In 2012/13, South Africa and Germany hosted the German-South African Year of Science with the theme of Enhancing Science Partnerships for Innovation and Sustainable Development. A joint agreement regarding the establishment of a bilateral research chair at a South African university was signed at ministerial level by the Department of Science and Technology and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Academy of Sciences of South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2013, with the main objective to strengthen collaboration.

Education

The number of university agreements between South Africa and Germany increased to over 160 in 2013. Higher Education South Africa and the German Rectors' Conference signed a formal co-operation agreement in September 2013, following the first German-South African Rectors' Conference hosted in Germany in April 2013.

Germany has collaborated with South Africa on vocational education and training initiatives since the mid-1990s. A joint Declaration of Intent on future collaboration was signed in 2013 between the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The German government also supported South Africa's Skills for Green Jobs programme.

During the last session of the Binational Commission in May 2012, it was decided to establish a Joint Committee on Vocational Education and Training.

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GREECE (HELLENIC REPUBLIC)

Some 50 000 Greek nationals live in South Africa where they make a significant contribution to the economy, particularly in the food industry and notably in running retail outlets such as restaurants and supermarkets.

The Greek expatriate community is well established in South African society, having first settled here more than 100 years ago. For this reason, the Greek Embassy operates consulates in Cape Town and Johannesburg as well as an Honorary Consulate in Durban.

Greek development programmes have been suspended because of financial constraints but will resume in due course. However, the Greek Ministry of Education provides a large number of teachers who cover the needs of local communities and grants scholarships for studies in Greece.

Greece also grants bursaries to students from countries in southern Africa, enabling them to attend Greek military academies.

At the end of 2012, the Greek Deputy Minister of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mr K Tsiaras, visited South Africa and signed an economic agreement between the two countries.

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HUNGARY

Political relations

Hungary's Africa relations improved significantly during the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2011. The recent launch of the new Hungarian foreign policy strategy for "Global Opening" (aimed at revitalising ties with those parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa that formerly received less attention) acted as a catalyst for positive developments in relations with South Africa.

High-level political dialogue between the foreign affairs ministries of Hungary and South Africa has been renewed as a means of evaluating the state of relations, identifying new areas of cooperation and discussing issues of mutual interest. International Relations and Cooperation Deputy Minister, Marius Fransman, visited Hungary in May 2012 to consolidate and strengthen political, economic and cultural relations and explore further opportunities of partnership. Trade, investment, education, skills development, agriculture and mining were identified as possible fields of future cooperation.

Economic relations

Trade volume significantly increased in 2011 and 2012. The value of bilateral trade was close to US\$1 bn in 2011, and despite the unfavourable international economic environment, exceeded US\$750 million in 2013.

Hungary focuses on assisting small and medium-size companies in finding partners. It sees excellent opportunities for cooperation in bio- and nanotechnology, information technology, water management, transportation, agriculture and food processing, renewable energy and the medical industry.

Hungary and South Africa have agreed to organise the first session of a Joint Economic Commission in compliance with their 2009 bilateral trade agreement.

Science and Technology

Exchanges of researchers between the countries is well-established in agriculture, zoology, biochemistry, information technology and medicine. Numerous South-African researchers take part in joint research projects in Hungary.



Arts and Culture

During its EU Presidency, Hungary organised photographic exhibits and concerts in Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Stellenbosch to celebrate the world-renowned Hungarian-born photo artists of the 20th century.

In 2012, the Hungarian Embassy reached out to educational institutions, the Jewish community and the wider public in South Africa by commemorating the centennial of the birth of Raul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. The Embassy organised a series of events and memorial exhibits in partnership with the Israeli and Swedish embassies and the South African Holocaust Centre.

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Political cooperation

Ireland and South Africa enjoy excellent cooperation in international affairs. Human rights and development issues are central to the foreign policy of both countries. In September 2013, Ireland and South Africa co-hosted a high-level event on the post-2015 development agenda at the UN in New York.

An Ireland-South Africa partnership agreement providing for political dialogue was signed in Dublin in 2004. The most recent consultations under this agreement took place in November 2012 in Cape Town. The next meeting is due to be held in Dublin, later this year or in 2015.

Economic cooperation

Ireland has a two-way trade and investment relationship with South Africa. Over 180 Irish companies are now exporting to South Africa, while 30 Irish companies have a presence on the ground employing over 13,000 locally. South African investment in Ireland has mainly focussed on financial services companies, many of which now have a significant presence in Ireland.

South Africa is Ireland's largest trading partner in Africa and is designated as one of the Priority Markets under the Irish Government's global trade strategy. Trade missions to South Africa, headed by an Irish government minister and involving over 30 Irish companies, have taken place in the years 2011-2013.

Development cooperation

Irish Aid, the Irish government's programme for overseas development, has provided bilateral aid to South Africa since 1994 following the advent of democracy. The support programme focused initially on assisting the process of post-apartheid transformation.

The 2008-2012 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) was aligned with South Africa's national and provincial policies and with the Joint EU-SA CSP agreed in 2007. It was structured around three pillars: improving pro-poor service delivery in Limpopo province with a focus on water and sanitation and education; the reduction of HIV and Aids and the mitigation of its impact, with particular focus on women and children; and the prevention of gen-



der-based violence and the reduction of its impact.

From 2011, Irish Aid also engaged with a number of new partners to support skills development and economic growth in previously disadvantaged communities. This included providing support to the Department of Trade and Industry in its Special Economic Zones strategy, training of nurses, and support for commercial law training in partnership with the Law Society of South Africa.

In 2013, this support was renewed as part of an annual programme which also included the launch of a fellowship programme that allows for up to 10 students in South Africa to study at post-graduate level in Ireland every year. The programme is named in honour of the late Professor Kader Asmal, founder of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement and Cabinet Minister in the first two post-apartheid governments. The 2013 programme also continued with support to civil society to enable non-government organisations and community-based organisations to provide integrated home-based care services to address HIV and AIDS, TB and gender-based violence

More than €14 million in bilateral and other funding was provided from 2011-2013.

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Italy and South Africa are bound by a strong history of friendship and reciprocal support. Italians have been committed advocates of the fight for liberation, with strong collective action to denounce the apartheid regime.

The former African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo found a provisional home in the city of Reggio Emilia in northern Italy during his exile under apartheid rule. Secret meetings of exiled ANC leaders took place in the city. The ANC magazine was published in Italian. A pact of solidarity with the ANC was signed in 1977 and renewed in 2011/ 2012 through visits of then Deputy President Motlanthe to Italy and of the Mayor of Reggio Emilia to South Africa. Reggio Emilia was the only city to be invited for the inauguration of Nelson Mandela's presidency.

The deep ties between Italy and South Africa are also due to a thriving Italian community (around 35,000 passport holders), made up of entrepreneurs, professionals and artists who make a significant contribution to the advancement of the country.

Political relations

In 2003, Italy and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding on consultations to enhance bilateral political dialogue through regular meetings at the level of Ministers or Deputy Ministers.

In 2011 and 2012, the South African Ministers of Transport, Higher Education, Science and Technology and Defence visited Italy, while the Italian Ministers of Environment and Home Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Defence came to South Africa. Of particular relevance was the mission in April 2012 of the Italian Home Affairs Minister to Cape Town where she met the South African ministers of Home Affairs, Police and State Security, and signed an agreement for cooperation between the two police forces.

In October 2012, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe met Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti in Rome and paid homage to the city of Reggio Emilia.

In July 2013, the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa, visited Italy where he met the Italian Minister of Justice, Anna Maria Cancellieri, and high officials of the Italian Police and Ministry of the Interior.



In December 2013, an Italian delegation, led by Prime Minister, Enrico Letta, and the President of the Parliament, Laura Boldrini, attended the State Funeral of former President Nelson Mandela.

Defence

Italy has a framework agreement with South Africa on cooperation in the area of defence. This will expire in 2014 but a new agreement that includes all possible aspects of military cooperation has been proposed to South Africa. Italy has also proposed a bilateral agreement to fight maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean.

The most relevant companies in the Italian defence sector, such as Finmeccanica, Agusta and Beretta, are active in South Africa.

Economic relations

Bilateral trade amounted to €3,452 billion in 2013. Italy's main exports are industrial machinery and mechanical equipment, while raw materials and minerals represent the main imports.

Numerous Italian companies like ENI, Enel Green Power, Ansaldo-Fata, Fiat/IVECO, Salini, CMC, Impregilo, Gruppo Trevi, Ferrero, Danieli, Gefran, Ariston and Southern Wind Shipyards are active in South Africa, producing commodities and providing services for the domestic, African and international markets. They have created approximately 7,500 jobs and made major investments.

The Embassy and Italian Trade Commission based in Johannesburg, collaborate to organise missions by Italian entrepreneurs to South Africa. A delegation of 35 directors of Confindustria, the Confederation of Italian Industrialists, visited South Africa in July 2012 to meet political interlocutors and representatives of the business community and view opportunities for partnerships, investment and trade.

In 2013 "Unioncamere" and several chambers of commerce undertook business visits, which are often focused on specific sectors, according to the model of Italian "productive districts". The Italian-South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Johannesburg also supports Italian entrepreneurs.

Environment

A Letter of Intent on cooperation in the field of the environment was signed in 2009 and constitutes the basis for dialogue. During the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 17th Conference of Parties in Durban in 2011, the Italian Minister for Environment met his South African

counterpart to discuss projects of mutual interest.

Scientific cooperation

Scientific and technological cooperation is regulated by an agreement signed in 1998. It covers fields ranging from physics to medicine, biotechnologies and radio astronomy. Three-year executive programmes are negotiated to carry out academic exchanges and collaboration. A new programme was signed in August 2014.

Italian authorities have supported the establishment of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnologies in Cape Town, and have invited researchers and scientists to the UN scientific Pole of Trieste. Italy was represented in the international board that awarded the Square Kilometre Array project, 70% of which will be undertaken in Africa.

Development cooperation

Italian aid has been directed mostly towards the medical sector, with two major projects undertaken in the past two years:

- ▶ A €22 million project aims to upgrade clinics in Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and Gauteng, provide equipment to a government-led centre for the production and testing of medicines, and support research by a team from the Italian Institute for Health.
- ▶ €1 million has been invested in a project to combat drug-resistant TB in the Eastern Cape.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs financially supports the activities of non-government organisations involved in small economic development initiatives near Kruger National Park and areas bordering Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Netsafrica, a local economic development programme partially funded by the Region of Tuscany, was concluded in 2012.

Starting from 2012, the non-government organisation, Oxfam-Italia, has been carrying out a three-year, €3,1 million project on governance for municipalities of the Eastern Cape.

Cultural cooperation

The Italian Institute of Culture based in Pretoria and the Dante Alighieri network (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg), with support of the Consulate, organise periodic cultural meetings, film screenings and debates. Italian classes are held



with the dual aim of encouraging young Italians to speak their parents' language and teaching Italian to young South Africans.

People-to-people initiatives and other events

In June 2013, the Italian rugby team toured South Africa. In August 2013, the Italian "Masters" football team played a match in Johannesburg against the South African "Masters" team as part of celebrations for Mandela Day. To mark the occasion, the Italian Embassy also contributed towards the organisation of a football tournament between primary schools in Gauteng townships.

In October 2013, the Embassy of Italy participated with his own stand in the "Diplomatic Fair 2013", and exhibited typical Italian food products to the South African public.

In November 2013, the Embassy organised the Italian Ambassadors' Perennial Trophy sailing regatta in Simon's Town, Western Cape, which benefited youth in disadvantaged communities. On that occasion, the Embassy launched the first issue of Insider/South Africa, a special English edition of the Italian periodical, Insider Magazine.

Regional Cooperation

Italy has granted €500 000 to the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

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THE NETHERLANDS

Economic cooperation

Trade and investment relations between The Netherlands and South Africa are vibrant and diverse, increasing year on year. The Netherlands is the second largest foreign investor in South Africa and is its 7th largest trading partner, and ranks third among EU member states. In terms of agricultural exports, The Netherlands is South Africa's second most important destination.

The Netherlands offers innovative approaches in sustainable agriculture, transport and logistics, water management and sustainable energy. There is also an increasing interest in economic cooperation in the field of design, port development, waste-to-energy, green buildings, smart logistics, sustainable horticulture and agri-processing solutions.

Development cooperation

Relations with South Africa have recently been transformed to focus on mutually beneficial partnerships aimed at increasing economic growth. Programmes in the field of HIV/Aids and higher education are being phased out, while a new "Transition Fund" has been introduced to support projects aimed at improving the business climate and strengthening trade and investment ties.

In the field of water, a large portfolio of grants is disbursed centrally from The Hague, supporting projects up to a value of €170 million through €60 million grants. A host of water partnerships between South African and Dutch organisations, knowledge institutes and businesses has led to a strong Dutch contribution to capacity building in South Africa.

Political relations

The Netherlands works with South Africa on peace and security on the African continent through knowledge exchange, capacity building and political cooperation.

In addition, The Netherlands contributes to developing the professionalisation of South Africa's diplomatic service by offering a range of training programmes at The Netherlands Institute for Foreign Relations, Clingendael.

The countries work closely on skills and information exchange to combat international crime and to make migration more controllable.



Health

An HIV/Aids prevention initiative encourages young girls to perform well in school by giving them small financial incentives for taking annual HIV tests and attending a life skills programme. By staying in school they are not exposed to the dangers and risks of being financially reliant on 'sugar daddies'. A pilot programme in Kwa Zulu-Natal ended in 2012 but will be scaled up to the Southern African Development Community level under a Regional HIV/Aids Programme. Total expenditure in the field of HIV/Aids in South Africa for 2012 was €5 331291.

Culture

Dutch development cooperation seeks to create positive conditions for development so that people can strengthen their identities, generate ideas or solutions, and learn to work together.

Through a Common Cultural Heritage programme, The Netherlands and South Africa collaborate on sustainable maintenance and management of their common cultural heritage. Projects aim to increase knowledge of common cultural heritage, boost substantive and policy-based knowledge exchange, raise awareness, and strengthen the local support base and economy.

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Political relations

The EU-Africa and EU-South Africa agenda constitutes an important base for constructive engagement between the two countries. South Africa has therefore been chosen as Poland's priority country in Africa, both as a partner for political dialogue and issues of peace and security and for trade and investment cooperation.

Economic cooperation

During the Polish Prime Minister's visit to South Africa in October 2013, a number of sectoral consultations were convened covering such areas as the energy sector (clean coal technology, biotechnology), mining, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure development, science and technology, scientific cooperation, transport and the maritime economy. An Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed and a decision was taken to establish a Joint Economic Committee that will meet annually.

In addition, agreements were signed between the Polish Industrial Development Agency and the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, and the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and Trade and Investment South Africa. A decision was taken to proceed with an agreement between the ministries of Agriculture and Transport.

At regional level, cooperation takes place between Pomorskie province in Poland and the Eastern Cape province, and between Wielkopolska and KwaZulu Natal provinces. In 2013, the Economic Mission of Polish entrepreneurs from Wielkopolska visited Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal to establish business relations with South African partners.

Trade

Trade turnover amounted to about US\$900 million in 2013. Polish exports to South Africa include machines and machinery, mineral and chemical products, and metal goods. Poland imports mineral raw materials, agricultural produce and food.

Key South African investors in Poland are SAB Miller (brewery industry), Mondi (cellulose, paper and wood), Naspers (media), Pepkor (retail), and Steinhoff International (furniture). South African investors are also active in the Polish metal, machines



and machinery, catering and hotel industries.

Science cooperation

Cooperation takes place particularly in astronomy, physics and chemistry. The Polish Academy of Science and the South African Foundation for Research and Development cooperate in medicine, physics, chemistry and economic sciences. Cooperation also takes place between universities in the two countries.

Development cooperation

Poland's development policy mainly focuses on projects within a Small Grants System aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Assistance is predominantly given to women and children, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, improvement of educational opportunities and healthcare.

Projects supported by Poland include small-scale infrastructure investments such as renovation of facilities, construction of wells and purchase of equipment, as well as training for local communities. These cost-effective initiatives have a substantial impact on beneficiaries as the assistance reaches them directly.

In 2011–2013, the Small Grants System within the framework of Polish Aid comprised 30 projects in South Africa. One of the most important benefitted primary schools in Siloe in Limpopo province.

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PORTUGAL

Political relations

Portugal is committed to pursuing and reinforcing the political dialogue initiated with South Africa in 2002.

At the multilateral level, Portugal worked closely with South Africa as elected members of the UN Security Council in 2011 and 2012. Portugal looks forward to continued cooperation with South Africa in the UN Human Rights Council on the basis of a partnership built on the shared belief that “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want” walk hand in hand, and that equal importance should be given to civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Economic relations

With its increased interest in emerging markets, Portugal is experiencing a particularly positive phase in its economic and trade relationship with South Africa:

- ▶ In 2013, Portugal's exports of goods and services to South Africa increased by 38% over the previous year while its imports from South Africa registered growth of 25%.
- ▶ South Africa surpassed countries like Japan, Mexico and Nigeria as destinations for Portuguese exports in 2013.

Portuguese companies are gaining more visibility and recognition in South Africa. Under a new and innovative bilateral relationship, strong partnerships are developing between Portuguese and South African companies in sectors ranging from automotive to food, renewable energy, telecommunications and ICT. These partnerships support technology transfer, small and medium enterprises, skills training and job creation.

Education

As a result of increased business relationships, the Portuguese language is gaining economic value beyond its historic, cultural and political importance. Responding to growing interest from South African authorities, institutions, business people and students, the Portuguese language has been integrated into the curricula of schools and universities.

The Portuguese government employs 24 Portuguese language teachers in 55 public and private



primary and secondary schools, and assists students from 220 schools who attend these classes. Major courses in Portuguese Language and Studies have been introduced at the universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand, and negotiations are taking place with the University of Cape Town.

In 2011, the Portuguese Embassy started a cooperation programme with Alliance Française. Portuguese educators now teach their language to the general public at Alliance Française branches in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.

Culture

The Portuguese Embassy, in collaboration with Camões – Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, has continued to promote Portuguese culture in South Africa by supporting young classical musicians, renowned jazz players and singers, dancers, writers and thinkers.

Portuguese community

The Portuguese community is one of the largest European communities in South Africa where it is well integrated and makes a significant contribution to growth and development.

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South Africa is Romania's most important partner in sub-Saharan Africa. The overall goal of Romania's policy towards South Africa is to develop cooperation at all levels of mutual interest.

Political relations

The Prime Minister of Romania headed a delegation that represented the country at the funeral of Nelson Mandela in December 2013.

Development of bilateral relations in 2013 included a meeting in Bucharest at deputy minister for international relations level; a visit to Romania by the permanent secretary of the South African Department of Defence and Military Veterans; and a meeting between the Romanian Minister for Youth and Sports and the South African Deputy Minister for Sports and Recreation in the margins of an international conference in Pretoria in September.

The Prime Minister of Romania, Victor Ponta, and Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe, met in the margins of an international conference held in Cape Town in August 2012 and held in-depth consultations on the status of bilateral relations. Bilateral consultations at senior official level took place between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in Romania in September 2012.

Economic relations

Trade exchanges between Romania and South Africa totalled more than US\$220 million in 2013.

Romania had a national pavilion at the Africa Aerospace and Defence International Fair in September 2012.

A Romanian economic mission visited Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. In 2011 and established significant relations with South African economic and trade entities.

Other cooperation

In October 2013, a University of Pretoria delegation at vice rector level visited Romania for meetings with rectors of several Romanian universities, including Babes-Bolyai Cluj Napoca, University of Bucharest, Academy of Economic Sciences in Bucharest and the University of Iasi.



A South African delegation from the Department of Science and Technology had consultations with specialists from the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research in Bucharest in August 2013.

An agreement between the national libraries of Romania and South Africa was signed in Bucharest in August 2011 in order to develop cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The Rector of Babes-Bolyai University, a prominent Romanian multicultural institution, headed a delegation to South Africa in May 2012 and signed cooperation agreements with the universities of Pretoria and Stellenbosch. Similar agreements with the universities of South Africa, Cape Town and the Western Cape are being considered.

A Romanian delegation headed by the Minister of Environment and Forests attended the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

Bilateral studies in various fields of research were concluded in 2011 under an Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Several bilateral exchanges took place between defence officials in 2011 and 2012.

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Political relations

Slovakia supports and is actively involved in the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa, and cooperates with South Africa in other multilateral forums.

Economic cooperation

A joint Council for Economic Cooperation between Slovakia and South Africa has been created with the aim of building a business network between entrepreneurs from the countries, establishing cooperation between their trade and investment agencies, improving bilateral information sharing and increasing cooperation in tourism. Other priority sectors are the automotive, energy, mining, construction, engineering, medical and pharmaceutical industries.

As part of the Visegrad Group, Slovakia also closely cooperates with the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland through a range of seminars in South Africa to promote bilateral trade and investment.

Development cooperation

Slovakia participates as a donor country through contributions to EU development assistance and micro-grants provided by the Slovak government.

Other cooperation

Slovakia and South Africa have concluded bilateral agreements in the fields of science and technology and arts and culture.

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SPAIN

Promotion of democracy and human rights forms a strong bond between Spain and South Africa, which have in their recent history carried out peaceful political transitions to democracy that have been considered a model for others.

The countries also share an engagement in the resolution of conflicts throughout the world, with particular attention to Africa, a continent that is Spain's close neighbour. In the field of foreign affairs, Spain and South Africa share a profound belief in multilateralism, particularly in the central role of the United Nations, and in regional organisations such as the African Union.

Spain and South Africa hold annual bilateral ministerial consultations where they share analysis and coordinate positions on international developments and other aspects of bilateral relations, such as cooperation, culture, defence and economic relations.

Economic relations

Spanish investments in South Africa will more than double in the period 2012–2014 and reach €5 bn in stock value. The dynamism in economic cooperation was reflected by the attendance of numerous, leading Spanish companies at the South Africa-Spain Business Forum in Johannesburg in October 2012, and in which the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade participated.

Economic growth is being driven by complementarities between the two economies and the international competitiveness of Spanish businesses. This is reflected particularly in the success of Spanish companies in the South African renewable energy field in which Spain is working to establish new technical, institutional and financial instruments to develop a green economy sector.

Spanish companies are also active in such sectors as industrial technology, infrastructure development and the automotive, clothing, metallurgy and mining industries.

Development cooperation

Spain's cooperation with South Africa in the development field is channelled mainly through its participation in the EU. As part of its multilateral cooperation, Spain supports two institutions based in South Africa, with a mandate that covers the whole African continent: the African World Heritage

Fund which promotes effective conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage sites of outstanding universal value located in Africa, and the NEPAD-Spain Fund For African Women Empowerment, which finances initiatives for gender equality and women empowerment.

Cultural cooperation

Spanish artists and productions feature in prestigious art festivals in South Africa, such as the International Jazz Festival in Cape Town, the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, the Grafika exhibition, the FNB Joburg Art Fair and Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg.

The Spanish governmental institution, Casa África, supports partnerships between Spanish and South African cultural initiatives.

Education

A-4U, an alliance of four Spanish universities, promotes high quality, English language university studies in Spain as well as the mobility of students and professors between the two countries. It is also in the process of signing agreements with certain South African universities. The Spanish language is offered as a curriculum subject in five South African universities, and Spain funds the presence of Spanish professors in most of them.

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SWEDEN

A Binational Commission established in 1999 and headed by Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister and South Africa's Deputy President meets every second year to discuss common political, economic and development issues. A mid-term review at senior civil servant level is held between formal sessions.

Political relations

The overall goal of Sweden's engagements with South Africa is to strengthen, broaden and deepen cooperation at all levels. The policy is based on common values and interests, and facilitates strategic cooperation on global, regional and national issues. This includes the promotion of peace and security in Africa, support for regional integration within the Southern African Development Community as well as the African Union, strong multilateralism, and support for human rights.

Ongoing exchanges take place with mutual visits at ministerial level by senior civil servants, parliamentarians and other actors.

Economic cooperation

The purchase by South Africa of Swedish JAS-Gripen fighter jets in 1999 led to reciprocal technology transfer, primarily through broad offset agreements.

Most large Swedish industrial companies have substantial operations in South Africa and several treat South Africa as the production hub of sub-Saharan Africa, thereby contributing to employment and exports.

In 2013, trade between Sweden and South Africa amounted to over R10 bn of Swedish exports and almost R4 billion of South African exports. Swedish imports consist primarily of machinery, iron and wines. Some 10% of South Africa's wine is exported to Sweden. The trade statistics do not reflect Swedish imports of precious metals and stones and do not account for tourism. Over 40,000 Swedes visit South Africa each year.

Swedish efforts to promote trade with South Africa focus primarily on energy and climate, including urban development, telecommunications, civil security, transport, mining and raw materials, as well as enhancement of exchanges between small- and medium-size companies in both countries through cluster initiatives and cluster developments.

The office of Business Sweden plays a key role in many of these endeavours. Over 50 Swedish subsidiaries operating in South Africa also play a vital part in efforts to boost trade and investment in Southern Africa, creating an incentive for other Swedish businesses seeking to gain a foothold in the region. In addition, over 300 Swedish companies are represented by local agents in South Africa.

Development cooperation

In the period 2009 – 2013, development cooperation with South Africa changed from more traditional aid towards a focus on broad-based, partner-driven, co-financed cooperation with projects carried out by around 100 partner organisations and agencies in Sweden and South Africa.

Topics addressed by these efforts include reducing poverty and the spread of HIV/Aids, economic development, environment and climate, peace and security, and democracy and human rights.

- ▶ From 2009 to 2013, approximately R210 million was contributed through the partner-driven co-operation concept.
- ▶ Total development assistance from Sweden to South Africa until 2013 is more than R10 bn.

Science and technology

A Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology was agreed in October 2013. The MoU sets out the framework for further strengthened co-operation in this field, and involvement is expected by different agencies and research institutions in both countries.

Cultural exchange and civil society organisations

A number of Swedish organisations have located regional offices in South Africa, ranging from church organisations to labour related groups.

Cultural exchanges are frequent, with South African artists in different areas collaborating with Swedish counterparts, carrying out exchange programmes and performing in the two countries.

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UNITED KINGDOM

The UK-South Africa cooperation strategy, signed off by British and South African Foreign Ministers in 2011, focuses on sustainable development, security, and governance and society at national, regional and international levels.

UK visitors to South Africa in 2011–2012 included the Foreign Secretary, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess Royal, Prince Harry, the Secretary of State for Business, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Duke of Gloucester, the Minister for Africa (twice), and members of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee.

Development cooperation

Bilateral programmes focus on health/HIV, governance, climate change and job creation. Programmes are aimed at:

- ▶ Reducing maternal, neonatal and child deaths, including from HIV/AIDS, and building an effective, sustainable and equitable health system.
- ▶ Supporting efforts to boost public sector accountability, monitoring and evaluation systems, and strengthening efforts to combat violence against women and children.
- ▶ Low-carbon development.
- ▶ Working with South Africa, through the UK's Employment Promotion Programme, to address policy and other constraints affecting employment expansion across the country.

The UK also works closely with South Africa as they develop the new South Africa Development Partnership Agency.

Economic cooperation

The UK and South Africa work together on the G20 agenda, and are in the process of establishing a SA-UK High Level Business Council and revitalising the British Chamber of Commerce in South Africa.

UK foreign direct investment makes up more than 50% of foreign direct investment stock in South Africa. In late 2012, the Prime Minister appointed a trade envoy to South Africa, Baroness Patricia Scotland.

Defence

A thriving UK-South Africa defence relationship focused on training at all levels, largely enabled by a small British Peace Support Team embedded in the South African National Defence Force at Thaba Tshwane. The UK also provides support in the maritime security arena.

Policing

The UK and South Africa cooperate closely on policing issues and combatting drugs and crime, with representatives in South Africa of the UK Serious Organised Crime Agency and Revenue and Customs Service.

The UK also works with South Africa and the EU on maritime security, including counter narcotics and piracy, and on projects in South Africa to increase awareness of cyber crime and threats surrounding social media.

Education and culture

The British Council works with the Department of Basic Education on English language training, and with other South African government departments on a sports leadership programme, and a forthcoming SA-UK arts season.

Science and Innovation

The UK cooperates closely with South Africa in astronomy, particularly on high performance computing around the Square Kilometre Array project, and in deepening cooperation between the two countries' space agencies.

Climate Change

The UK continues to cooperate closely with South Africa on the UN climate change negotiations and South Africa's low carbon transition.

For more information

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