

Joint Declaration**On the further strengthening of Inter-parliamentary relations and political dialogue****Between the Delegations of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa and the European Parliament**

The Delegations of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, on the one part, and the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with South Africa, on the other part, hereafter referred to as the Parties,

Considering the importance of the existing links of friendship and co-operation between the Parties and the common values that they share,

Recalling the provisions of Article 97(4) of the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement between South Africa and the European Union encouraging Parties to facilitate regular contacts between their respective Parliaments on the various areas of co-operation covered by the agreement,

Further Recalling the 23 February 2007 Final declaration of the South Africa-European Inter-Parliamentary Meeting that called for the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee in order to further enhance consultation and coordination on national, regional and international affairs,

Noting the references made in the South Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan, to enhance high-level political dialogue by institutionalising regular parliamentary interaction in line with their strong democratic values,

Observing the progress in South Africa-European Union relations in recent years and the mutual benefit derived by both Parties as a result of strengthening their exchange and cooperation in various fields,

Encouraged by the recent intensification of Interparliamentary contacts, as witnessed by the renewed frequency with which Inter-Parliamentary Meetings have taken place these past two years in Cape Town and Strasbourg,

Have agreed that the objectives of this Joint Declaration are the following:

1. a. Encourage regular exchanges of visits by parliamentary delegations and draw upon each other's relevant experience and knowledge;
- b. Enhance consultation and coordination on national, regional and international affairs;
- c. Aim at establishing a consultative forum for both Parties to meet and exchange views on the various areas of cooperation covered by the Trade Development Co-operation Agreement as well as the "Mogôbagôba Dialogue" foreseen by

1
Dw
A

28001661000

the Joint Action Plan for implementing the EU-SA Strategic Partnership;

- d. Encourage greater interaction by subject-specific Parliamentary committees on both sides linked to the programmes of the Joint Parliamentary Committees;
 - e. Establish mechanisms for implementation and monitoring of the Joint Action Plan;
 - f. Issuance of joint declarations on agreed areas of cooperation.
2. The Chairpersons of either Party, or any other person/s duly delegated by them or their relevant structures, shall jointly chair parliamentary meetings between the two sides.
 3. The Parties shall decide upon the size of the delegation to the meetings according to their internal procedures, jointly define the structure, form and the rules of procedure governing the meetings, and shall appoint a liaison officer to maintain regular working contact.
 4. Once a Joint Parliamentary Committee is created, the parliamentary delegations of both Parties shall aim at meeting officially twice a year, which shall rotate between the two sides. If necessary, additional meetings can be convened after consultation by both Parties.
 5. The Parties shall decide upon the agenda items for discussion through correspondence at least one month before each meeting.
 6. This Joint Declaration will come into effect once ratified by the Parliament of South Africa and the European Parliament.

For the Parliamentary Group on
International Relations of the
Parliament of the Republic of
South Africa

For the Delegation for Relations with
South Africa of the European Parliament

Signed at CAPE TOWN on this 7th day of FEBRUARY, 2008