# Annual Report 2008/2009

# Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation

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Director-General

Cape Town
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#### Introduction

#### Key strategic priorities for the reporting year were:

- Consolidation of the African Agenda
- South-South Cooperation
- North-South Dialogue
- Participate in the Global System of Governance
- Bilateral Relations
- Organisational Strengthening



# DFA - Annual Financial Statements – 31 March 2009

- Revenue
  - Annual Allocation R 5,569 billion
  - Other Revenue R43 million
- Actual Expenditure 2008/09 Financial Year

#### APPROPRIATION PER PROGRAMME

Programmes	Budget	Actual	Variance	
rogrammes	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Programme 1: Administration	1, 731	1,638 436	92 631	
Programme 2: Foreign Relations	067	2, 652 843		
Programme 3: Public Dip & Protocol	2 653 271	152 622	428	
Programme 4: International	152 623	1 028 363		
Transfers.	1 032 826		1	
			4 463	
Total (98,30% expended)	5 569 787	5 472 264	97 523	



# Appropriation per Economic Classification

Economic classification	Budget	Actual	Variance	
Leonomic classification	R'000	R'000	R'000	
Current payments	3, 249	3, 351	(101	
	829	456	627)	
Transfers and Subsidies	1 082 070	1 077 608	4 462	
Payment on Capital Assets.	1 237 888	1 043 200	194 688	
Total (98,3 expended)	5 569 787	5 472 264	97523	

# Analysis of Under Expenditure -2008/09

- Department utilised 98,3% of its Budget
- Under expenditure only related to:
  - Capital works projects (Pan African Parliament)
  - Fees to International Organisations



#### **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Information Communication Technology (Almost complete deployment)
- Streamlined Departmental procurement processes and implemented effective Bid Adjudication Committees at Head Office and Missions abroad
- Unqualified Audit Report without any matters of emphasis for financial year 2008/09
- Head Office Building PPP Agreement signed in March 2009 – relocation took place in September 2009



# **Head Office Building**

#### The scope of the project encompassed:

- provision of fully furnished office accommodation for the full Head Office staff complement
- together with appropriate staff wellness facilities necessary for the Department to fulfil its mandate
- a training facility to replace the present Diplomatic Academy
- a conference centre seating 400 delegates to accommodate the many local and international conferences hosted by SA through the Department
- the upgrading of the existing diplomatic guest house
- the construction of a new guest house on the Soutpansberg site



#### **Management of Fixed Assets**

- Acquired office accommodation in Brussels, land in New Delhi, long term lease entered into for land in Dakar.
- Renovations completed in Windhoek, Lilongwe, Brussels and Canberra
- Major structural upgrade and renovation to official residence and chancery in Washington commenced
- Construction of Chancery and Official Residences in Addis Ababa completed, projects in Abuja and Maseru progressed.
- Projects in Design in 6 (six) countries Lilongwe,
   Kigali, Dar es Salaam and Gaborone



# Management of Fixed Assets (Continued)

- A phased approach to enhance the Department's asset management function was adopted since the enactment of the PFMA
- The Department conducted valuation of all its assets and updated the Fixed Asset Register accordingly
- A Departmental Asset Management policy was approved
- During the year under review, the Department continued to improve the completeness and accuracy of its Fixed Asset Register
- The project was a success, resulting in a clean audit opinion with no matters of emphasis raised by the Auditor-General
- The Department donated assets that became obsolete as a result of the relocation to the new building to other government departments



# Programme of Action Related to shortcomings identified in previous Audit

#### Debt Management:

Process of submitting claims to partner departments revamped; Memorandum of Understanding with departments formalised, which provide payment of advances as well as dispute resolution mechanisms

#### Performance information:

Framework for monitoring of performance information designed. A committee to oversee this aspect appointed and Units are preparing their quarterly reports and a half yearly review for the department done. Quality Assurance Review Process in place



#### **Programme of Action**

#### OTHER GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS / STRUCTURES

- Accelerating development and implementation of Departmental Policies, processes and procedures covering all operational areas within DIRCO
- Risk management processes to be strengthened
- Scheduled Audit Committee meetings and Ad-hoc Audit Committee meetings on ICT AND HR matters
- Audit Steering Committee: Consolidated Internal Audit and A-G findings and recommendations to be implemented in all missions for uniformity and compliance with prescripts
- ICT Steering Committee established



# African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund

Annual Financial Statements: 31 March 2009

Revenue and Expenditure

IncomeR 745 099 million

- Expenditure R 475 600 million

Auditor-General's Report
 Unqualified Audit Report with no matters of emphasis



#### **Consular Services**

- Assisted with interventions to assist distressed and destitute South Africans whose own access to recourse had become limited or non-existent.
- Provided support to South African citizens and their nextof-kin following the air crash in Uganda and the Mumbai bombings in the latter part of 2008.
- Executed transmission of extradition requests to decisive effect on its success.
- Completed development of the Consular Management System.
- On-line registration of South Africans travelling or residing abroad 'ROSA' was launched on 13 May 2008.
- A total number of 27,596 South African public documents were authenticated for submission in foreign countries.



#### **Human Resources**

#### ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING

#### **Contents**

- Recruitment and Selection
- Organisational Establishment
- Employment Equity and Organisational Culture
- Talent Management
- Employee Wellness
- Labour Relations
- HR Strategic priorities 2008/9



# Organisational Establishment

#### Establishment as at 31 March 2009

COMPONENT	TOTAL POSTS	FILLED	VACANT	VACANT
			FUNDED	UNFUNDED
HEAD OFFICE	1908	1540	197	171
MISSION	760	646	114	0
TRAINING POOL	53	53	0	0
HR POOL	0	43	0	0
CADET / LEARNERS	0	71	0	0
TOTAL	2721	2353	311	171

Steps taken to fill funded vacancies as at Apr 08 to Mar 09:

Advertised: 308 Filled: 411

External Appointments: 288 Internal Promotions: 123

**Total: 411** 



# Organisational Establishment Employment Equity Table

Occupational Band	Data	MALE			FEMALE				GRAND	
		African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	TOTAL
Top Management	Count	7	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	13
Top Management	%	54%	0%	23%	0%	23%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Senior Management	Count	98	9	13	38	57	5	2	15	237
	%	41%	4%	5%	16%	24%	2%	2%	6%	100%
Middle management	Count	118	18	17	144	90	7	17	110	521
	%	23%	3%	3%	28%	17%	2%	3%	21%	100%
Below Assistant Director	Count	509	29	22	58	708	47	36	170	1579
	%	32%	2%	1%	4%	45%	3%	2%	11%	100%
Total Count		732	56	55	240	858	59	55	295	2350
Total %		32%	2%	2%	10%	37%	2%	2%	13%	100%

	Data	MALE				FEMALE				GRAND
Disability		African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	TOTAL
	Count	9	0	2	12	8	1	0	4	36
	%	24%	0%	6%	34%	21%	3%	0%	12%	100%



<sup>\*</sup> The total number 2350 excludes 3 Political Office Bearers

<sup>\*</sup> The number of disabled people are included in the total number 2350

#### **Human Resources Administration**

ANNUAL TUROVER RATES continued

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AS AT 1 APRIL 2008	APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFER INTO THE DEPARTMENT	TERMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS OUT OF THE DEPARTMENT	TURNOVER RATE %
Top Management (DG & DDG)	10	0	0	0
Senior Management (CD &D)	231	8	17	0.7
Middle Management (SR 11 & 12)	366	15	19	5
Below (SR 10 & below)	1607	264	114	7
TOTAL	2214	287	150	6.7



# Employment Equity and Organisational Culture

- Started with organisational culture change interventions
- Focussed on Employment Equity:
  - Increase in women at SMS level
    - Increased from 77 to 82 and from 32% to 32.8% of total employees
  - Increase in People with Disabilities
    - Increased from 34 to 36 and remained constant at 1.54% of total employees



# **Talent Management**

- SABC Career Fairs for Grade 10-12
  - Participated in career exhibitions and career programmes
- DIRCO ranked as the second most attractive employer of choice and ranked as number one in the Public Sector amongst Humanities Graduate Students
- Cadet program continued to serve as a talent pipeline
  - Developed a Career Landscape for Cadets with clear career paths for the first three years
- Career Website launched for departmental & prospective employees



#### **Employee Wellness**

- Increased access & visibility of the EWC services to employees at OR Tambo & CT International airports
- Conducted benchmarks with foreign ministries of other countries on how to best support employees in hardship missions
- Continue to implement health promotion programs through Wellness Days, health articles and regular health talks
- Continue to encourage employees to know their HIV status. This resulted in the Voluntary Testing & Counselling (VCT) uptake increasing by 200%
- Intensified efforts to support transferred employees by conducting courtesy calls to determine how they are



#### **Labour Relations**

- Labour Relations conducted information sessions for employees at Head Office and also trained managers on disciplinary hearings
- 21 out of 27 disciplinary cases finalised since March 2009
- There are currently 7 disciplinary cases before the Department
- 20 out of 28 grievances resolved
- There were 9 disputes, 3 were in favour of the Department, and 1 in favour of the employee and 5 disputes still outstanding.



#### HR Strategic Priorities for 2009/2010

- Efficient Recruitment, Selection, Placement and Induction processes
- Enabling Career Development, Succession Management and Retention of employees
- Effective Organisational arrangements
- People Management and Capacity Building



#### **State Protocol**

- The Department developed the capacity to manage and organise a large number of incoming and outgoing visits. It became a central point in providing protocol advice and support to Government departments, NGOs, the private sector and the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup LOC
- The Department coordinated 160 ceremonial events, managed 255 incoming and outgoing visits, assisted in 2010 related events, and assisted Provinces and Local Government in managing 364 outgoing visits and 51 incoming visits



#### **State Protocol**

- The Department enhanced and developed the capacity to manage and organise very large Summits and conferences, such as:
  - 18th Assembly on the Inter-Parliamentary Union
  - SADC Summits and Extraordinary Summits, Council of Ministers Meetings and Senior Officials Meetings
- The Department offered advice and support during the following events:
  - 5th IBSA Ministerial Meeting
  - AU Summit, Fact finding visit to Madagascar
  - Seminar for the Commission for Sustainable World Society



#### **State Protocol**

- New State Protocol Lounges were inaugurated at OR Tambo and Cape Town International Airports
- The Department has become a major driver for the success of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup event and has organised comprehensive training sessions on protocol-related issues
- The Diplomatic Community in SA consists of 292 accredited foreign offices. The following offices were established during the year under review:
  - Embassy of Ecuador
  - African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
  - NEPAD



# **Public Diplomacy**

- Public Diplomacy continued with the production and distribution of publication materials, as well as with the undertaking of marketing initiatives
- The Unit drafted communication strategies for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and farewells of former Deputy Minister Pahad and the Minister's dinner
- Public Diplomacy maintained partnerships with companies within corporate SA which led to the securing of sponsorships for major departmental events



# **Public Diplomacy**

- The Unit maintained a 24-hour Operations Centre
- It undertook audiovisual and photographic coverage of engagements of the President, Deputy President and the Principals
- It prepared speeches for strategic national, continental and international events for the Principals
- Public Diplomacy continued to assess media trends
- It managed the Department's official website and work on the Web Portal project continued
- Public Diplomacy provided ongoing media liaison and communication support to the Ministry



#### **Africa Unity and Integration**

- SA participated in all AU meetings, including the Committee of 12 Heads of State and Government meeting on the Union Government.
- SA provided the required technical and logistical support to the PAP during its Bureau meetings & 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Sessions
- SA participated in the AU Council of Ministers in January 2009 to discuss progress made by PAP since its establishment five years ago

#### **Africa Unity and Integration (cont)**

- Emphasis was placed on PAP's readiness to progress from advisory body to legislative institution
- SA remains committed to contribute towards the operationalisation of the African Court of Justice and the African Court on Human and People's Rights
- SA participated in high level meetings between the AU and its development partners (Africa-India Partnership Summit; Africa-Turkey Partnership Forum; Africa South-America Technical Experts meeting)



#### Africa Unity and Integration (cont)

- Continued support for operationalisation of AU Financial Institutions
- SA coordinated, hosted and participated in the African Diaspora's Regional Consultative Conferences, as well as the Technical Workshop to finalise expected key Summit outcomes



#### **NEPAD**

- SA continued to support NEPAD as a programme of the AU that provides framework for a continent-wide socioeconomic renewal
- Intergovernmental Task Team on Regional Infrastructure established in December 2008, following the NEPAD Implementation Conference hosted by SA in August 2008
- Contributed and assisted DEAT in hosting 12<sup>th</sup> session of the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN)



#### **NEPAD** (cont)

- Actively pursued promotion of the African Agenda in multilateral for a including the G8-Africa dialogue, EU-Africa dialogue, TICAD, UN system, FOCAC
- Concluded host country agreement for NEPAD office in October 2008, through which the promotion of the centrality of NEPAD as Africa's socio-economic development programme will be intensified

#### **African Peer Review Mechanism**

- Host Country agreement for APRM office to be hosted in SA concluded in October 2008.
- The Department supported SA's Focal Point in preparing and presenting the country's first implementation report and advised other ARPM member states on preparation of their Country Review Reports

#### **Promote Regional Integration and Development**

- SA assumed Chairship of SADC in August 2008:
  - SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) launched
- SA's Chairing strategy rested on three pillars, namely:
  - restoring and strengthening political unity and cohesion in SADC
  - deepening regional economic integration
  - intensifying regional infrastructure development
- SA participated in the first COMESA/EAC/SADC Tripartite Summit, in October 2008, in Uganda
  - The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take decisions on areas that enhance integration and the possible formation of a pan-regional FTA



# Consolidation of the African Agenda Promote Regional Integration and Development (cont)

- Commencement of the restructuring of SADC took place during the reporting period
  - This has impacted on the review process of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). The review of the latter will commence once the restructuring of SADC is completed
- International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development of SADC was held in Mauritius in April 2008
- SA continued to participate in SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations.



#### **Peace Missions**

- SA played an important role during the reporting period in peace missions in the DRC (MONUC), the Sudan (UNAMID) and Burundi (ONUB)
- During its tenure as a Non-Permanent member of the UNSC, SA played an important role in the establishment of the UN/AU panel to consider how best to support peacekeeping in Africa
- Re Burundi, the peace making process is completed, the Facilitation Office closed and members of the SANDF commenced with preparations to return to SA



## Consolidation of the African Agenda

## **Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)**

- SA continued to coordinate peace processes including funding under the African Renaissance Fund (ARF) for Burundi and the DRC, chaired the AU PCRD Committee for Sudan and facilitated trilateral cooperation projects with Germany in Sudan
- SA contributed to the draft framework proposal for SA's development assistance, presented to Cabinet by National Treasury.
- Projects recommended for funding included the Burundi Peace Process, Timbuktu manuscripts project, SADC observer missions, capacity building in Uganda, Zimbabwe agricultural project, Lesotho road upgrading and Lesotho Metolong Dam project



## Strengthen South-South Co-operation

#### **IBSA**

- 5<sup>th</sup> IBSA Ministerial Trilateral Commission held in Somerset West in May 2008
- First Joint IBSA Naval Exercises took place in SA waters in May 2008
- SA participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> IBSA Summit in October 2008 in New Delhi, India
- IBSA countries renewed commitment to reform the UNSC and the global financial architecture and to take joint steps to mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis



## Strengthen South-South Co-operation

#### **FOCAC**

- Implementation of development projects in Africa was agreed upon at a Senior Officials Meeting held in Cairo in October 2008
- The PRC pledged US\$ 5 billion through the China-Africa Foundation in March 2009 to alleviate poverty in Africa.

#### NAM, G77 AND CHINA

 The focus was on the consolidation of the African Agenda, attainment of the MDGs, reform of the UN and promotion of human rights. SA participated at Ministerial level



## Strengthen South-South Co-operation

#### **UNCTAD**

- UNCTAD XII was held in Accra, Ghana in April 2008.
  - SA supported UNCTAD's mandate of addressing the global economic needs, particularly of developing countries
- SA participated in the Follow-up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November to 2 December 2008.
  - It culminated in the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development



## **Strengthen North-South Cooperation**

#### EU

 SA participated in the SADC-EC EPA negotiations. SA has not yet committed to the agreement, as pertinent matters relating to SA's interests need to resolved

#### G8

 At the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Summit, SA prioritised implementation of past G8 commitments to Africa and sought a balanced agenda for Heiligendamm Dialogue Process



## **Strengthen North-South Cooperation**

#### **OECD**

- OECD Ministerial Council placed SA on an Enhanced Engagement status.
- SA is playing a key role in working towards the successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations

#### TICAD IV

- SA participated in TICAD IV in Yokohama, Japan, in May 2008
- SA participated in the Africa-Japan Ministerial Review Conference on implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Action in March 2009 in Gaborone



## **Strengthen North-South Cooperation**

## **TICAD IV (cont)**

- In the Gaborone Declaration, the Government of Japan committed to coordinate closely with the AU and the RECs to ensure that assistance supports AU/NEPAD projects
- The Declaration also noted Japan's recommitment to provide substantially more development assistance to Africa over the next four years, despite the impact of the current global financial and economic crises



 The Government and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) undertook a joint evaluation of the impact of the presence of the UN in SA

#### **G-20**

- The G-20 for the first time ever met at Summit-level to discuss the "Financial Markets and the World Economy" in Washington
- SA, the only African country in the G-20, raised issues of concern to Africa, e.g. increased aid to developing countries, as well as a stronger voice for developing countries in the IMF and World Bank



#### **UNSC**

- SA focussed on African issues on the agenda of the UNSC in line with its foreign policy objectives to support conflict resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and development in Africa
- SA contributed to the revitalisation of the debate on the relationship between the UN and regional organisations and to enhance coordination of positions between the UN and AU
- SA continued to support calls for the reform of the Security Council



### Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control

- SA participated in various meetings of the IAEA
- IAEA Board of Governors considered the implementation of NPT safeguards in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- SA was one of 94 states that signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, in December 2008.



- SA continued to participate in the debate on UN reform, including reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs)
- SA continues to regard UN Secretariat and Management reform as important in order to strengthen multilateralism
- The department served as focal point for the diplomatic corps to register requests for support of their candidatures to UN organs and programmes



#### **Humanitarian Affairs**

- SA contributed R17 million towards the provision of humanitarian assistance globally, but with particular focus on Africa
- SA continued to participate in the debate on the reform of the FAO aimed at making it more effective in dealing with food security issues
- The Department co-hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Seminar on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law during June 2008.
- EU Mission on Migration hosted in Pretoria on 11 September 2008.



- SA continued to facilitate the implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols
- SA continued to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, in particular poverty reduction, through participation in various UN Conventions for the environment
- SA participated in COP14 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP/MOP3 of the Kyoto Protocol in Poland in December 2008



#### Southern Africa

- The BNC between SA and the DRC was held in April 2008 and October 2008 in SA and the DRC respectively
- On 9 11 June 2008, the SA-Malawi JPCC was inaugurated in Lilongwe, Malawi
- Annual Heads of State Economic Bilateral meeting between SA and Mozambique was held on 10 April 2008
- The SA-Mozambique JPCC convened from 20 22 August 2008
- SA hosted the inaugural session of the SA-Mozambique Joint Commission on Defence and Security in December 2008



## **Southern Africa (cont)**

- The SA-Zimbabwe Joint Commission for Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Commission convened in Victoria Falls in March 2009
- The negotiations on the establishment of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) are yet to be finalised
- SA and Angola signed an Agreement on Science and Technology in April 2008
- Implementation of the SA-Lesotho JBCC Infrastructure Development Projects gained momentum



## **Southern Africa (cont)**

- SA-Namibia Heads of State Economic Bilateral meeting was held in Namibia on 5 August 2008. From 9 – 13 September 2008 SA held a Joint Commission on Defence and Security with Namibia
- SA-Botswana JPC on Defence and Security was held in Cape Town from 22 – 24 October 2008

#### **West and Central Africa**

 A 10 year Anniversary Celebration Committee was set up in December 2008 to coordinate the celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of structured bilateral relations between SA and Nigeria



## West and Central Africa (cont)

- Pres Yar' Adua of Nigeria visited SA from 3 4 June 2008
- The Joint Presidential Advisory Council on Investment was inaugurated in Nigeria in February 2009
- On 24 January 2009, Pres. Kgalema Motlanthe participated in a hand over ceremony of the Timbuktu archives and library building to the Government of Mali
- SA continued with the implementation of capacity building projects in the region



#### **North Africa**

- Pres. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt visited SA in July 2008
- In partnership with the University of Pretoria, the dfa hosted a Conference in International Law with Western Sahara (SADR) as a case study in December 2008
- SA continues to support the SADR to achieve the right to self-determination and continues to provide humanitarian assistance



#### **East Africa**

- SA has Structured Bilateral Commissions with the Republics of Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan
- The 5<sup>th</sup> SA-Rwanda JBC was held in Cape Town on 25 March 2009
- SA continues to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)
- The DIRCO-GOSS-UNISA programme registered significant achievements during the reporting period
- SA continued to support Somalia's reconciliation process



## Asia and Middle East Central and East Asia

- Japan continued to pledge financial support for African development and also expanded its role in Peace Keeping Operations in Africa: of its 16 PKOs internationally, 7 were in Africa
- The ROK hosted the Korea-Africa Economic Conference in October 2008. Development assistance agreements were concluded with nine African states. It also hosted SA at the 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Consultative Forum in Seoul in December 2008
- A phased marketing strategy was developed to celebrate
   Otypears of diplomatic relations with the PRC
   \* cooperation

### **Central and East Asia (cont)**

 A national interdepartmental Steering Committee was established and a task team appointed to ensure SA's participation in the Shanghai World Expo 2010

## South Asia, South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands

- The inaugural Africa-India Summit was held in April 2008
- The IBSA Dialogue Forum continued to provide a valuable impetus to South-South relations

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South Asia, South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands (cont)

- The Indian Premier League cricket tournament was moved to SA, following the Mumbai terrorist attacks
- The trilateral project between SA, Vietnam and the Republic of Guinea relating to the production of rice and vegetables in Guinea was implemented in 200
- While SA was a non-permanent Member of the UNSC, it was appointed as Lead Nation on Timor Leste. At UNGA 63 SA signed a Framework Agreement for Technical Cooperation with Timor Leste



## South Asia, South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands (cont)

- SA made a donation to the UN Humanitarian system to alleviate the plight of the people of Myanmar following the cyclone of May 2008
- There is productive cooperation with Australia across a wide range of issues, e.g. Commonwealth and WTO
- Relations with New Zealand will grow in intensity with the opening of a new High Commission in Wellington in April 2009



## Middle East Gulf States

- Pres. Thabo Mbeki paid a State Visit to Qatar
- The first round of bilateral Ministerial Consultations between the two countries was held in Cape Town in February 2009
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SA-Iran JC was held in Tehran in July 2008
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SA-Saudi Arabia JC was held in Sandton in February 2009



#### Levant

- The Department facilitated humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza following the Israeli assault in November 2008 and January 2009
- SA regularly expressed itself on the need for a peaceful negotiated settlement to the MEPP
- In November 2008, SA co-hosted the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- SA continued to strengthen relations with Lebanon,
   Syria, Jordan and Iraq and hosted two delegations from Iraq to exchange views on national reconciliation



## The Americas North America

- The SA-USA Annual Bilateral Forum was held in May 2008
- The new Democratic Administration under Pres. Obama presented new opportunities for the bilateral relationship
- In May 2008, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultations between SA and Canada took place in Pretoria. Progress was made on the draft Mutual Customs Cooperation and Bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreements and a Sports Exchange Programme



## **North America (cont)**

international relations

& cooperation

- The first SA/Canada trilateral cooperation projects in the region were identified and implemented
- Canada has become one of the largest overall foreign direct investors in SA over the past year to an amount of approximately R30 billion

#### Latin America and the Caribbean

- Brazil remained a significant player in the multilateral context
- SA and Chile agreed to expand economic and trade links
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SA-Argentine BNC was held in Buenos Aires in December 2008

## Latin America and the Caribbean (cont)

- A Regional Diaspora Conference was hosted in Barbados in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> AU-CARICOM Diaspora Conference to be hosted by SA
- The 5<sup>th</sup> JBC between SA and Cuba was held in Cape Town in November 2008
- The Suriname Diplomatic Mission in SA was opened



### **Europe**

### **Western Europe**

- Support for NEPAD, the African Agenda, reform of the UN, as well as SA's objectives, were placed on the agenda of a series of structured bilateral interactions
- Cooperation between SA as host of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the UK as host of the 2012 Olympic Games continued
- EU and EU member States collectively emerged as the largest contributors to ODA in SA and on the Continent in general



## **Central and Eastern Europe**

- The Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, was re-opened
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SA/Russia ITEC Intersessionals took place in Sochi and in Moscow respectively
- The Belarus/SA ITEC was inaugurated in Minsk in July 2008
- The Joint Commission for Defence between SA and Ukraine was held in Kyiv
- The First JEC with Turkey was held in SA in March 2009



## **European Union**

- During 2008/09 the focus was on fully implementing the TDCA and implementing the SA-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan
- The 1<sup>st</sup> SA-EU Summit was held in Bordeaux, France on 25 July 2008
- Three SA-EU Ministerial Troika meetings were held in Slovenia, France and Kleinmond
- A Peace and Security Dialogue was also held at senior officials level on 4 November 2008 in Cape Town
- The Summit committed itself to further deepening the SA-EU relationship



## The End

Thank you

