

**AGREED OUTCOME AND MINUTES OF  
THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION  
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND  
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

2 to 3 December, 2008  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**1. PREAMBLE**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic, together with their respective delegations, met from 2 to 3 December, 2008, at the Palacio San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting constituted the second meeting of the Bi-National Commission that was established in accordance with a Bilateral Agreement signed between South Africa and Argentina in New York during September 2005 and is the follow up of the first meeting that took place in Pretoria, South Africa from 26 to 28 February, 2007.

The Delegation of the Argentine Republic was headed by Argentina's Minister of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship, Lic. Jorge Taiana. The Delegation of the Republic of South Africa was headed by South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

The discussions were held in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere. The following issues were discussed:

- Recent developments in Argentina and in South Africa
- Regional developments in Latin America and Caribbean and Africa.
- Inter- regional issues,
- Multilateral issues.
- A deep analysis of the bilateral relationship and its potentials.

The two delegations agreed that the relationship between the two countries could be described as a one based on strategic co-operation through higher diplomatic convergence.

The discussions on the following issues produced the following outcomes:

**2. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

**2.1. MULTILATERALISM AND THE UNITED NATIONS**

The South African and Argentine authorities reaffirmed their commitment to an international order based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, multilateralism and the sovereign equality of all states. They reaffirmed their

support for the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council to make it more effective, transparent and democratically representative of the current international community. Both sides reiterated their willingness to enhance their participation in UN peacekeeping missions. In this regard the two countries noted the close cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and welcomed the positive developments to that end.

## 2.2. HUMAN RIGHTS

Both sides agreed to work jointly at all international fora in order to strengthen universal and regional systems for the promotion and protection of human rights.

In order to enhance their common values and perspectives, both Ministries agreed to carry out regular bilateral annual consultations alternatively between Pretoria and Buenos Aires and cooperation activities on human rights, coordinated by their respective departments, with a view to: (a) exchanging information about the development of human rights issues in both countries; (b) exchanging positions and commentaries about the principal international negotiations in the universal system (UN), as well as in regional systems, in which both countries are involved; (c) analyzing the possibility to develop cooperation projects in human rights issues; (d) promoting the realization of academic and civil society activities that strengthen cooperation between Argentina and South Africa in human rights matters.

Joint collaboration since 2007 has given both countries an unprecedented opportunity to share experiences on how they have addressed, and are addressing, the consequences of human rights abuses that occurred in their respective countries. It has also provided a forum to address other important themes such as the fight against the scourge of racism and the prevention of genocide. Within that context, both countries worked together to promote the signing and ratification, in their respective regions and at multilateral forums, of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances. This cooperation in promoting the implementation of multilateral human rights instruments –at the domestic level- was considered a priority in the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

At the bilateral level, the Ministers recognized the work done by the Argentine Anthropologic Forensic Team (EAAF) supporting the activities of the Task Force on Disappeared People of the TRC Unit in South Africa and welcomed the potential for collaborative work in this area in other Southern African countries.

Minister Dlamini Zuma's visit to the former military dictatorship detention site at the Escuela Mecánica de la Armada (ESMA) reinforced the belief of existing similarities in the histories that Argentina and South Africa share in the human rights field. Regarding a bilateral programme of work for 2009, they welcomed the proposed project of sharing the experience and technical knowledge needed to design, build and manage historical museums and monuments in order to honour the memories of the victims of human rights abuses. Given South Africa's great experience in this field, Argentina would be very much interested in receiving assistance for developing its own museums and monuments in order to honour the memories of the victims of human rights abuses suffered until 1983.

With regard to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, both sides committed themselves to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action adopted in Durban in 2001 and decided to hold regular consultations on the preparation for the Durban Review Conference to be held in Geneva in April 2009.

### **2.3. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION**

Both countries reiterated their commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation within the context of the relevant multilateral instruments. In this regard, Argentina and South Africa, two countries with a similar level of nuclear development, believe in the need to fully utilize the opportunities provided by the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and in a multilateral approach to overcoming proliferation challenges. They discussed the role of the IAEA in encouraging and assisting research on, and development and practical application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes taking into consideration the needs of under-developed areas of the world thereby facilitating their accelerated economic progress and their achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time, Argentina and South Africa believe that the IAEA's safeguards system plays a crucial role in verifying that civilian nuclear programmes remain peaceful.

Both countries also reiterated their commitment to nuclear disarmament and expressed disappointment at the lack of progress towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Considering the forthcoming decision to be taken in 2009 on the filling of the position of the Director General of the IAEA, the Government of South Africa, presented, and requested Argentine support for, the candidature of Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty and stressed that the African Heads of State and Government had endorsed that candidature.

### **2.4. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION**

In the context of the United Nations activities both Ministers agreed on the need for the resumption of negotiations between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of the UNGA and the Special Committee on Decolonization on the "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" with a view to finding as soon as possible a peaceful, just and durable solution to the sovereignty dispute.

### **2.5. DOHA ROUND**

Both delegations expressed their support for the DOHA Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. They underscored the need to continue the excellent level of cooperation between South Africa and Argentina within the G20 and Nama 11 in order to reach an

ambitious and balanced outcome where the concerns of development are actually taken into account. Although a final agreement not have been reached yet, both sides urged the major trading partners to show the necessary flexibility that will lead to a positive outcome of the negotiations.

## **2.6. REFORM OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Argentina and South Africa participated in the same group of interests at G20 level. Both countries participated in the Summit in Washington DC on 15 November 2008 and expressed their similar views on the issue of reforming the financial multilateral institutions, giving a major weight and role to developing countries in the governing bodies of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

## **2.7. INTERNATIONAL FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Argentina and South Africa participated at the International Conference for Financing of Development that took place in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008 where it was stated that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments had not been fulfilled by most of OECD countries. Both sides are committed to the outcomes of the meeting that would lead to the more transparent and equitable financing for development.

## **3. INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Both countries agreed to strengthen their cooperation by giving significant impetus to all activities that contribute to developing closer relations between the two regions at all levels: regional, inter-regional and global. Within that context, Argentina applied for observer status at the African Union (AU) and its representative will soon present his credentials to the AU authorities. The Argentine side expressed its gratitude to the South African authorities for their support to Argentina's interest in becoming an observer at the AU.

Argentina is very supportive of Africa and its development agenda and views its relationship with South Africa as being a further demonstration of its greater engagement with the continent. Both sides agreed to continue discussing the challenges faced in the African and Latin American and Caribbean Regions.

### **3.1. ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC (ZPCSA):**

The Ministers took note of the Luanda Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic issued at the Ministerial meeting in Luanda, Angola on 18 and 19 June 2007. Argentina and South Africa welcome all United Nations initiatives that promote inter-regional cooperation and which are devoted to finding solutions to common challenges in the South Atlantic region. Within that context both countries decided to continue bilateral consultations on the issues related to ZPCSA in preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Member States, to be held in Uruguay in 2009.

### **3.2. MERCOSUR/SACU**

Concerning the SACU/Mercosur negotiations, both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the Preferential Trade Agreement. In that context, both sides committed themselves to expediting the necessary internal procedures in order to sign the Agreement as soon as possible. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual interest in expanding trade between their regions and highlighted the benefits of enhanced relations through new trade and investment opportunities. In that regard, they stressed their interest in deepening trade relations between them.

### **3.3 AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT**

Special attention was given to the next Summit of Heads of State from Africa and South America to be held in Caracas, Venezuela in 2009. Argentina and South Africa decided to exchange views on the common challenges facing both regions, and officials preparing for the Summit in Caracas were encouraged to reinforce the outcome of the 2006 Abuja Summit through the identification of achievable goals for further developing the inter-regional relationship.

### **3.4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AT INTER-REGIONAL LEVEL**

The link between "development", on the one hand, and the impact that this has on the need for humanitarian assistance to address emergencies and disasters (natural or man made) as well as post-conflict situations using technical cooperation for rehabilitation was analyzed. Within that context, the Argentine experience of the "White Helmets" (United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 49/139B, 50/19 and 61/220) was presented as a means for using volunteers, mainly from developing countries, for a rapid and coordinated response to face emergencies and to assist developing countries in their rehabilitation efforts, without losing the perspective of long term development. Argentina and South Africa decided to exchange views and share experiences in order to work jointly in setting up of corps of volunteers, mainly from developing countries, for this purpose and to implement joint activities in this regard.

## **4. BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **4.1. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS**

Both Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the conclusion of negotiations that lead to the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

They furthermore welcome the fact that the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Arts and Culture will be signed in the near future.

### **4.2. BILATERAL SEMINAR**

The Ministers received the Report on the outcome of the Bilateral Seminar that took place in Palacio San Martin, Buenos Aires on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. May 2008 and which considered the topic of "South Africa/Argentina and Africa/South America: Strengthening the Relationship Further: How to and Where To?" The Seminar, which was opened by Minister Taiana and organized by the South African Embassy in Buenos Aires in cooperation with the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship was attended by a number of academic researchers, government officials and business people from both countries.

The Seminar found that the bilateral relationship between Argentina and South Africa is based on a common vision of the world; support for multilateralism; an emphasis on human rights as a permanent State policy; membership of the same groupings of states in current multilateral negotiations on economic, development, environment, trade and financing issues; and on the complementarity of their economies. The group of experts stated that a relationship should be forged between Argentina and South Africa based on "progressive internationalism" and characterised by "strategic co-operation through higher diplomatic convergence".

Within this context, the Seminar identified the following global issues of mutual concern that it recommended should be the focus of bilateral interaction in the future:

- The global food crisis and food management;
- The energy crisis: surging prices of oil and gas, and petro-politics;
- Climate change and renewable sources of energy;
- Multilateral Coalition Building;
- The importance of third parties: an agenda with a strategic focus both regionally and globally;
- Regional and Continental relevance within a strategic and institutional context; and,
- An alternative and complementary partnership of the South through Progressive Internationalism.

At the strictly bilateral level, a further eleven "real areas of intersection" were identified in which State and Civil Society actors would have a role to play.

Both Ministers welcomed the innovative recommendations made by the Seminar and determined that the areas of action identified by the experts should be further analyzed for their implementation and that a report should be submitted on this at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission, including the steps that have already been taken with regard to the implementation of these recommendations.

#### **4.3. TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

Both sides reviewed trade relations between the two countries expressing their determination to seek ways and means that would expand cooperation in line with the existing potential of their respective economies. In this context, both delegations welcomed the decision to cooperate in the field of trade facilitation in order to identify and minimize all types of non-tariff barriers. Both sides committed to promote participation in trade fairs, commercial missions and seminars on trade and investment

opportunities. In this regard the Ministers noted the South African Trade Seminar that took place in Buenos Aires in 2008 which was meant to coincide with the BNC meeting at that time.

#### **4.3.1. MINING**

The growing mining sector in Argentina provides both countries with a further opportunity to strengthen their economic ties and to make an effective contribution to Argentina's development.

Both sides agreed to foster co-operation in the areas of:

- Exploration (Geology)
- Exploitation
- Beneficiation (Mineral processing)

The Argentine Party encouraged South African Mining Companies to invest in mineral related projects and in this context a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of cooperation in the mining sector will be welcomed. Both sides agreed that there is a need for mining related associations to exchange information on mining technology and transfers of skills. Furthermore, the sides agreed that in order to help eradicate poverty, especially in rural areas, small scale mining must be promoted. In that context, Argentina and South Africa agreed to facilitate the process for the conclusion of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Mining as soon as possible.

It is proposed that a Technical Team from South Africa visit Argentine as soon as possible, to identify specific projects in this field.

The Ministers welcomed the participation of South Africa in Argentina's the 2007 Arminera mining exhibition with a national pavilion, which included a number of interested South African companies.

The strong interest of South African mining capital goods companies to supply equipment to Argentina's government-owned Rio Turbio project, and the work that has been undertaken with the Rio Turbio Project authorities in this regard, was also welcomed.

The visit to South Africa by the President of the Argentine Chamber of Mining Entrepreneurs at the invitation of the South African Department of Trade and Industry was also welcomed as a further step in promoting mining cooperation and to making both sides aware of the opportunities that exist in this field.

#### **4.3.2. INVESTMENTS**

The Argentinean Investment Development Agency (ProsperAr) and the relevant agency in the South African Department of Trade and Industry are encouraged to explore the possibilities to work together in order to identify projects aimed at enhancing the

production capacity of goods and services and its corresponding infrastructure which could be undertaken jointly by Argentine and South African companies.

#### **4.3.3. HEALTH SECTOR**

The National Administration of Medicine, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT), organism responsible for the sanitary regulation on those matters expressed willingness to establish links in order to collaborate in the development and progress of knowledge about sanitary regulation, working together and exchanging experiences in this field.

The ANMAT proposed to collaborate in order to facilitate the development of common projects, in particular those referring to regulation, control and supervision of medicines for human use, biological and biotechnological products, vaccines and medical products.

#### **4.4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **4.4.1. INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

Concerning Industrial Technology, both sides expressed their willingness to achieve progress in common thematic areas of interest. In this context, INTI (Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial) and the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) signed an inter-institutional agreement on 10 November 2008 in Pretoria. This agreement provides for cooperation in a wide range of fields, including biomaterials, nanotechnology, and electronics. The concept of South-South cooperation in this field includes relevant transfers of technology and the recognition of a concrete link between applied research and industrial development as crucial instruments for industrial development in both countries. INTI is studying the possibility of sending a technical mission to the CSIR during the first half of 2009 in order to explore joint programmes.

INTI and the CSIR have already started cooperation activities in the area of materials. Moreover, there is also a cooperation between INTI (Argentina) and LifeLab (South Africa) in the area of technology transfer within biotechnology.

##### **4.4.2. SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (SMES)**

With regard to cooperation among small and medium-sized enterprises, the Argentine delegation indicated its interest in initiating talks with the relevant South African counterpart about exchanging experiences on SMEs, including in the area of Technical and Financial Assistance and in the development of programs for the support of foreign trade. In that context the Argentine Delegation announced that the Argentine Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation and the Fundacion Export-Ar from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold a national Seminar on 16 December 2008 to explore the specific case of the market potential between both countries in added valued technologies devoted to SMEs.

This initiative will shortly be followed by seminars, workshops and other business gatherings where South African officials, business persons, consultants, economists,



among other experts, will be invited to attend in order to, *inter alia*, discuss potential opportunities for bilateral cooperation in fields such as, technology transfer, export-import of high technology products and trade in capital goods and “turn key projects”.

#### **4.4.3. TRADE AND INVESTMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF ADDED VALUE TECHNOLOGIES**

Both countries have developed industrial sectors, including in the framework of SMEs as providers of goods and services in their production processes, in which they have comparative advantages in terms of technologies and management capacity. Owing to the complementarities of both economies, both sides encouraged activities that will facilitate trade and investment in this area.

#### **4.5. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **4.5.1. INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN INTA AND ARC**

The relationship between South Africa and Argentina in the area of agriculture is extensive, and it was agreed that the opportunities that exist for even greater agricultural cooperation and trade would allow this relationship to strengthen even further. As regards agricultural cooperation and the possible benefits to both sides, the Argentine Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in Pretoria on 27 November, 2007.

The activities related to the implementation of this agreement were based on the South-South concept of cooperation and during 2007 and 2008 a number of substantive exchanges of experts, missions, activities, direct contact with applied research institutions, and three visits to South Africa by the President of INTA took place. The process, started in 2007, was one of mutual exchanges of information and knowledge. At the same time, this opened a direct channel to deal at a technical level with relevant issues on the international agenda, such as the “food-crisis”. From the Argentine and South African perspective, the solution to the “food crisis” lies on the supply side and the answer to the crisis will lie with improving the efficiency of food production in both countries. In that context, both sides also welcomed the reports of the technical missions that took place in 2007 and 2008 relating to pastures, animal production, agricultural technologies (with an emphasis on the “direct sowing method”), which included the participation of Argentine agricultural capital goods medium size companies in Nampo Harvest. Both sides welcomed the progress made in this sector and requested the technical institutions involved to report on the progress made to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission.

Both Parties take note of the fact that already two collaborative research projects are underway involving INTA researchers and the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

##### **4.5.2. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BIO-SAFETY**

In the field of Genetically Modified Organisms, initial progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Commission's 2007 decision for both sides to practice "cooperation for mutual assistance on regulatory issues and, in the framework of the Cartagena Protocol, to open a channel of communication to coordinate better implementation of the Protocol and to exchange positions before each Meeting of the Protocol Parties". In that context, both countries identified common challenges and shared the same vision and common interests. Therefore, they agreed to cooperate – at this stage – in three main areas: regional training activities; development of regulatory guidelines; and technical dialogue related to international agreements.

It was further agreed that Argentina would nominate a formal contact point for biosafety as a counterpart to the Director Biosafety, Department of Agriculture, South Africa in order to facilitate the execution of these activities.

It was agreed that both contact points would develop the modalities of the regional training activities and exchange of information by the second semester of 2009.

#### **4.5.3. ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH**

Both sides reported on all activities mandated during the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission. These included the further cooperation that has been taking place to update phyto-sanitary and zoo-sanitary requirements (with a view to promoting market access of agricultural products in both directions) and to reviewing the position of the main products that are of interest for both countries. In that context, both Ministers noted progress made since the last meeting of the Bi-National Commission and encouraged both Parties to finalise the outstanding issues.

#### **4.5.4. FISHERIES**

Both Argentina and South Africa are known for the high production of demersal (hake), and Argentina has successfully turned around its declining hake industry within a short space of time. This is an area of interest to exchange information about managing foreign fishing fleets and sustainable fisheries management. Other potential fields of bilateral co-operation in fisheries include: aquaculture, fisheries legislation, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, monitoring and surveillance, vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and capacity building in marine and fisheries management.

Both countries agreed to strengthen South-South cooperation on marine and fisheries management through multilateral fora such as the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Convention on Conservation on Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

#### **4.5.5. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Pursuant to the strengthening of agricultural development cooperation, both Parties agreed to propose a General Agricultural Cooperation Framework between the

Department of Agriculture in South Africa and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food in Argentina. The Parties noted, at least, the following areas of mutual interest: Animal and Plant Health, Biosafety, Biofuels and Rural Development.

Argentina indicated its intention to submit a draft Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of agriculture to the South African Department of Agriculture in the near future.

#### **4.6. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION**

##### **4.6.1. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to the implementation of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in May 2006 both Parties wish to reaffirm their commitment to develop science and technology cooperation between them. In accordance with the decisions made in the first and the second Joint Committee meetings held, respectively, in Buenos Aires in July 2007 during the visit by the South African Minister of Science and Technology, Minister Mosibudi Mangena, and in Johannesburg in September 2008 during the visit by the Argentine Minister of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation, Minister Lino Barañao, the Parties note the following:

- a) The Parties are already cooperating in a wide range of research areas, including agricultural research and technology, biotechnology; nanoscience/nanotechnology, space science and technology, and resource-based industries;
- b) Both Parties recognise the significant potential vested in their vast biodiversity which should be sustainably utilised, and thus agree to prioritise biotechnology and related areas for further exploration. Space science and technology is also among the areas of priority.
- c) Separate inter-institutional agreements have been signed in the areas of agriculture, space science, and industrial research.
- d) Sixteen collaborative research projects have already been funded, and a second call for R&D project proposals will be launched in March 2009.
- e) A joint workshop on Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer will be held during the first half of 2009, possibly in May in South Africa, in order to exchange information about structural mechanisms to promote innovation.
- f) The next JC meeting will be held in September 2009 and will review the overall programme of cooperation between the two countries.
- g) A further joint symposium will be organised in Argentina in the last quarter of 2009 around cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology.

- h) Both Parties will pursue the possibility of a Trilateral Cooperation in Genomics in CEBIGEBE with Spain.

#### **4.6.2. SPACE AND SATELLITE SCIENCE**

As was mandated at the first Meeting of the Binational Commission, both sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2008 providing for cooperation in space and satellite science (especially earth observation). In this context, the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) of Argentina and the Satellite Application Centre (SAC) of South Africa have met and agreed to advance cooperation through the exchange of information and experiences in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space. In particular, the cooperation is focused on the application of space technology to disaster management and health. CONAE and South Africa's Department of Science and Technology have also agreed to exchange data which they receive from their respective satellite missions (SAC-C and SumbandilaSat). The cooperation will also include collaboration between the respective ground stations and include technical exchanges on telemetry, tracking and command.

#### **4.6.3. PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION**

The importance both Parties attach to their nuclear programmes, and to international and bilateral co-operation thereon, was highlighted by the signature during BICSAA II of the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Argentine Republic on cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy".

The Agreement identifies areas and means for joint activities and collaboration in the nuclear field, and provides for the environment of assurances related to the exclusively peaceful nature of such activities. It establishes a Joint Coordinating Committee and nominates the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), for the South African side, and the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ARN), for the Argentine side, as the competent authorities for implementation of the Agreement. It provides further for the regular exchange of views on issues of mutual interest related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Ministers expressed the hope that the agreement will be enter into force in the near future.

As was agreed during the first Meeting of the Bi-National Commission, both sides have initiated and herewith commit themselves to actively promote their cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the exchange of technical missions to jointly develop activities.

It was agreed that it is desirable for NECSA, CNEA and INVAP to investigate the areas of cooperation identified in the first BNC.

In addition it was agreed that NECSA and INVAP will continue to investigate the future replacement of the SAFARI-1 MTR.

### **Regulatory Cooperation**

The Parties noted the exchanges that have taken place between the Argentine Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ARN) and the South African National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) in the frame of the "Agreement for Technical Co-operation and Exchange of Information in the Regulation of Nuclear Safety", signed in Pretoria 28 February 2007, as well as the willingness of both agencies to identify and discuss possible areas of co-operation and mechanisms for implementing that collaboration.

## **4.7. TRANSPORT**

### **4.7.1. BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Considering that the current bilateral agreements between both countries was signed on 16 March 1999, and therefore needs to be updated regarding the following issues: frequencies (including passenger and cargo services); code sharing; route schedule; designation of airlines; agreement on air services; operation on services; tariffs; ground handling and the consideration of additional flights, the competent authorities were encouraged to start the discussion of these issues during 2009 and report back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission.

### **4.7.2. AIR-LINKS**

Both sides believed that proposed resumption of flights by South African Airways (SAA) to Argentina would be an important event for the further development of business, trade, tourism and cultural contact between the two countries. At the same time they called for the direct involvement of responsible authorities including relevant government transport authorities to finalize as soon as possible the technical and commercial discussions which are related to ground handling services for SAA. The Ministers of both countries requested to be informed –on regular basis- on the progress on this matter.

### **4.7.3. COOPERATION IN NATURAL COMPRESSED GAS INDUSTRY**

Sound and safe environmental fuels (particularly in urban areas) contribute to dealing with the challenges that climate change poses to our societies and to our economies. In that context, the Secretary of Energy of Argentina, ENARGAS, and some private enterprises dealing with the technologies and services related to natural compressed gas industry expressed their interest in finding South African counterparts in order to present their related technologies and industrial capacity.

### **4.7.4. INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Ministers, considering the role of public infrastructure for modernizing and making their economies more efficient and considering the opportunities for Argentina and

South Africa in the field of infrastructure, requested that their relevant authorities consider exploring the potential of collaboration in this field.

#### **4.8. DEFENCE COOPERATION**

Both sides expressed their satisfaction over progress achieved through the bilateral dialogue between the Ministries of Defence after the BNC held in Pretoria in February 2007. They also welcomed the consensus reached by them for signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Co-operation, which will allow the inauguration of the Argentine-South African Defence Committee. It was agreed in principle that this meeting would be held in Buenos Aires before the end of the first half of 2009.

The excellent state of defence cooperation between both countries was noted, as highlighted by the successful completion in South African waters, in May this year, of Exercise ATLASUR VII along with the Navies of Brazil and Uruguay. Exercise ATLASUR VIII is scheduled to take place in Argentine waters in 2010.

They also expressed their firm intention to deepen dialogue and the bilateral cooperation actions in defence matters, especially in the following areas: consultation on interregional and South Atlantic issues of common interest, defence structure reform; experiences in peacekeeping operations; education and training for civil and military personnel; defence-related research, technology and industry; Antarctic campaigns; search and rescue at sea; cultural and sports links between the respective armed forces. A process of cooperative exchange between peacekeeping training centers of both countries could be discussed following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2009.

It was agreed that a South African Department of Defence delegation will visit Argentina to explore opportunities in the specialised field of technological defence before the intended inaugural Defence Committee Meeting. The Argentine side will identify the appropriate channels for the intended industrial and technology cooperation in the field of defence.

#### **4.9. INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION**

##### **4.9.1. FOREIGN SERVICE**

Exchanges between young Foreign Service professionals will create long-term links and will contribute to the institutional knowledge base as well as to the personal knowledge of individuals. They will also allow the young professionals to better understand country priorities, to contribute to creating a consensus on international challenges and to better promote the interests of their own countries. Within this context, the Ministers requested their respective Foreign Services Institutes to find ways for exchanging students, sharing experiences and developing joint activities.

##### **4.9.2. PARLIAMENT**

In 2008, during the 118<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly meeting in South Africa, Argentine Parliamentarians visited the South African Parliament in Cape Town for the first time. Both sides welcomed the proposal, which arose during the course of that visit, for the creation of a link between the two Parliaments to discuss (according to their own mandate) issues of mutual concern. The Ministers, endorsing the concept of this collaboration, encouraged both Parliaments to make progress in this initiative.

#### **4.10. ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND NATIONAL PARKS**

##### **4.10.1. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS**

With regard to Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA), South Africa offered to provide assistance on the following:

- Tourism development on TFCA parks
- Opportunities available within TFCA
- Familiarization trip to South Africa for exchange of information and investment opportunities
- Ecotourism
- Tourism – Language training, joint destination development and marketing

An agreement between the Administración de Parques Nacionales (APN) and the South African National Parks (SANParks) was signed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission with the aim of promoting collaboration between the two institutions drawing on the expertise of South Africa in the management of their national parks. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the signing of this agreement, which will establish a general framework of technical cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two institutions on protected areas (in particular on the conservation and management of biological and cultural diversity and on the planning, administration and management of protected areas, including also the social development linked to them).

##### **4.10.2. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PROTECTION**

Both Parties in consultation with competent departments shall explore the potential for cooperation in environmental issues such as environmental quality and protection. Both Parties are agreed to engage in further dialogue to develop mechanisms for cooperation in this regard.

##### **4.10.3. TOURISM**

As previously agreed, South Africa and Argentina should cooperate in the areas of tourism, especially in view of the likely commencement of SAA flights to Argentina. They also agreed on the importance that the tourism industry holds in general, and highlighted the increasing demand generated by a higher tourist flow as well as by a higher business, institutional and cultural flow that has been observed between the two countries over the last few years. For that purpose, the Argentine authorities expressed

their desire to learn more about South Africa's interest in continuing with the negotiations concerning the Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Tourism.

South Africa requested assistance on the following issues pertaining to tourism development, particularly in areas that would have impact on the success of 2010 FIFA World Cup and beyond.

- Language training for volunteers and tourist guides in Spanish.
- Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprise (SMME) development programs and partnerships.
- Internship programs for unemployed graduates.
- Sports tourism, particularly in relation to the FIFA 2010 World Cup (e.g. fan parks).
- Tourism investment opportunities in South Africa
- Development of appropriate tourism marketing strategies
- Cultural tourism
- Tourism arrivals statistics
- Standards and classification (grading of tourism facilities)
- Development of service standards for the tourism industry

Likewise, with regard to the list of topics requested by South Africa for co-operation in the field of tourism, the National Tourism Secretariat of Argentina proposes, at least, the two following topics so as to outline a full technical assistance programme with quantifiable objectives:

- South African familiarisation trips to Argentina (e.g. for press/tour operators)
- South African investment opportunities in sustainable tourism.

#### **4.10.4. ENVIRONMENT**

The Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food officially invited the South African delegation to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress to be held in Buenos Aires city on 18-25 October 2009.

#### **4.11. ARTS AND CULTURE**

The signing of the bilateral agreement on cooperation in the fields of arts and culture will be an important step to get to know each other better and to promote activities in favour of people. Within this context, the parties considered that artistic and cultural organizations should be made aware of this agreement, once it has been finalized, in order to promote the exchange of activities between both countries.

#### **4.12. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

Considering the dynamics of the bilateral relations, some of the universities and research institutions of both countries have started to develop joint activities in different areas of education. This is the case with:



- The University of Pretoria, South Africa, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National University of Tres de Febrero, Argentina, in 2007.

It is expected that other agreements between such related institutions will also be signed in the period leading to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bi-National Commission, and it was proposed that it may be appropriate for the relevant Government education departments to consider the negotiation of a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of Education.

#### **4.13. SPORT AND RECREATION COOPERATION**

Sport remains a significant area of cooperation and contact between the sporting authorities and people of South Africa and Argentina. Both sides welcomed the decision for South Africa and Africa to host the 2010 Football World Cup and they note that South America will be the host for the following tournament.

South Africa looks forward to not only host the Argentine football team, but also the many Argentine football supporters that will be there. Both countries believe that football provides a significant area for possible cooperation between South Africa and Argentina in the sporting area.

The systems that have been established in Argentina to develop its players, especially amongst the youth, could assist South Africa in the further development of the sport. Strong links exist especially in the context of rugby, where South Africa has been a traditional supporter of the development of this sport in Argentina and currently is taking the lead in the SANZAR context to include Argentina in expanded Tri-Nations and Super XIV tournaments that are the most competitive rugby in the word and take place in the Southern Hemisphere.

Both sides have strongly encouraged contact amongst the other sporting disciplines and have welcomed initiatives already underway as regard hockey and polo. Both sides have agreed to explore the cooperation in basketball, volleyball, individual sports such as swimming, athletics, and others, and to encourage the exchange of athletes, sport coaches, and sport scientists for periods of training, competitions and learning.

Social Sport is an important tool for social inclusion. Both countries have agreed that the exchange of professionals and the learning from each other experiences may be beneficial for both Parts.

##### **4.13.1. BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON SPORT COOPERATION**

For the implementation of the bilateral agreement of cooperation in sport, which has been signed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007, both sides have identified specific areas.

These were incorporated in the Protocol of Bilateral Sport Cooperation that was signed in Pretoria on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008 between the Argentine Secretariat of Sports and Department of Sport and Recreation of South Africa. The included areas of collaboration are:

- South Africa will send a South African U17 football team to Argentina for a period of training and competition;
- South Africa offered consultation and exchange of experts and teams in individual sports such as athletics, gymnastics, synchronized swimming and combat sports in South Africa;
- Argentina offered consultancy of team sports coaches in soccer (football), basketball, volleyball and hockey in South Africa; and,
- Argentina offered internships of experts in the field of social sport.

Practical arrangements between the Secretariat of Sport of Argentina and the Department of Sport and Recreation of South Africa should be undertaken during 2009 in order to implement the above activities in the period 2009-2010.

## 5. FOLLOW UP

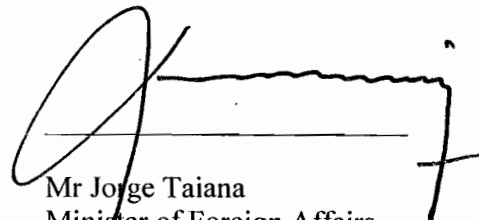
The 3rd Meeting of the Bi-National Commission between South Africa and Argentina will take place in South Africa at a date and venue to be decided through diplomatic channels.

*Done in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2008.*



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