

2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION (DIRCO)

VOTE 6



international relations
& cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA







2023/24 **ANNUAL REPORT**

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION (DIRCO)

VOTE 6



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DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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A photograph of a modern building with large glass windows and a reflecting pool in front of it. The building's interior lights are on, and the sky is visible through the glass. The water in the pool reflects the building and the sky. Overlaid on the image are several diagonal bands of color: yellow, green, and white. The text 'PART A' is in white, and 'GENERAL INFORMATION' is in yellow.

PART A

GENERAL INFORMATION

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DEPARTMENT GENERAL INFORMATION

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E-mail address:	info@dirco.gov.za
Website address:	www.dirco.gov.za

2. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa
AO	Accounting Officer
ARF	African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AU	African Union
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment

BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
EU	European Union
FSA	Foreign Service Act
G20	Group of 19 countries plus the European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTAC	Government Technical Advisory Centre
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
MTSF	Medium-Term Strategic Framework
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal
WTO	World Trade Organisation

3. FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report on the work done by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and my predecessors, in the sixth administration for the reporting period 2023/2024.

Over the course of this reporting period, there have been rising global tensions in the international arena and an increasing pushback against the forces promoting multilateralism and international solidarity. The current global order is increasingly characterised by widening inequality, and the global economy continues to deliver inequitable and unjust outcomes. The rise of the global South in this context is significant, as it challenges traditional global power structures and is working towards creating a more just world order.

Our department has responded to these global challenges by consistently using multilateral forums to advance our national interests, the African Agenda, and that of the global South. Furthermore, we have continued to pursue and advance progressive internationalism by mobilising support for Palestine, Western Sahara, and Cuba. We have advanced these agendas through our participation in bodies of the developing South, such as the Non-Aligned Movement; the Group of 77; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), as well as in the United Nations (UN), the Group of Twenty (G20) and the World Trade Organisation.

The need to deliver a better life for our people enjoys primacy in our national interests, as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP). This necessitates building a more robust economy that can create jobs, stimulate growth, and lift our citizens out of poverty. To accomplish these objectives, we have put increasing emphasis on economic diplomacy in our international relations to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and promote bilateral trade to realise the economic growth we need. The words of President Nelson Mandela to the United States Congress on 6 October 1994, place this issue sharply into focus for South Africa: "The new age will surely demand that democracy must also mean a life of plenty. As the images of life lived anywhere on our globe become available to all, so will the contrast between the rich and the poor, within and across frontiers and within and across the continents, become a motive force impelling the deprived to demand a better life from the powers that be, whatever their location."

The rise of emerging markets and developing countries over the past three decades has been a transformative force in reshaping the dynamics of the evolving international order. BRICS has emerged as a centre of power in the global South and has redefined the geopolitical landscape. The rising importance of BRICS is evident, with the grouping having officially overtaken the Group of Seven in global gross domestic product (GDP), and it is



MR RONALD O. LAMOLA
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION

expected to contribute over 50% of global GDP by 2030, which may happen even sooner with the enlargement of the grouping.

During this reporting period, our country successfully chaired BRICS last year amid rising interest from members of the international community to join the grouping. Earlier this year, we were pleased to welcome four new BRICS members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Our department worked diligently to facilitate these discussions to reach a positive outcome and continues to work on moving forward with the BRICS partnership arrangements.

As our department prepares for South Africa to host the G20 meeting next year, we are pleased that our lobbying efforts to have the African Union (AU) become a full member were successful. This is a key forum, as it is a grouping of the most influential economies that regularly discuss not only economic priorities but also issues of development, peace, and security. South Africa had been the only African member of the G20, articulating the development priorities of the continent and keeping the African agenda at the forefront of discussions.

Given that a key pillar of our foreign policy is to strengthen multilateralism, our multilateral division continues to push for the complete overhaul of the UN system of decision-making so that the UN Security Council is democratised and representative of the current global order. We need a UN Security Council that will respond timeously and effectively to devastating conflicts and protect civilians in armed conflict. We cannot accept a situation where the Council continues to be paralysed by the political agendas of certain permanent members. The paralysis of the UN Security Council during the ongoing genocide in Gaza and its failure to protect civilians make the need for reform urgent.

As the world watched the genocide unfolding in Gaza in the wake of the attacks on 7 October 2023, our government took the principled decision in January 2024 to take Israel to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violating its obligations under the Geneva Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Gaza. Our department has driven this process in the hopes of saving lives on the ground and holding those countries that flout international law to account.

South Africa's position has reinforced our post-1994 legacy as a country that champions the rights of the oppressed and reaffirmed former President Mandela's position that human rights should be foundational to international relations. The case at the ICJ is significant as it is the first time a country of the South has brought a critical issue of international peace and security to the ICJ.

On 26 January 2024, the ICJ delivered its order on South Africa's request for provisional measures and found "plausible" evidence that Israel was conducting a genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. This was a major victory for the global South, international law, human rights, and justice.

Israel has, however, not complied with the ICJ's order and continues with bombardment, ground offensives, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war by preventing the deliveries of urgent humanitarian aid. Our department is not giving up on the legal mechanisms available to the international community and welcomed the ruling of the ICJ based on our request made on 10 May 2024, for an urgent order to protect the Palestinian people in Gaza from grave and irreparable violations of their rights under the Geneva Convention given Israel's ongoing military assault on Rafah.

DIRCO remains committed to the AU's forward-thinking development framework Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want", which provides a vision and roadmap for the future. We are working with African governments to implement the necessary programmes and actions to realise this vision. Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, and an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. The vision for the continent is one of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, peace and human security, and people-driven development.

Our department remains equally committed to playing a peace-making role in Africa, given the ongoing simmering conflicts across the continent that stymie progress in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063. Violent conflict continues to rage in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan, Northern Mozambique, and other conflict hotspots. The achievements

we have made on the continent in the past two decades will come to nought, and our Agenda 2063 vision will only be a pipe dream if we do not decisively deal with the perennial challenge of conflicts, which sadly have become a permanent feature in the agenda of the AU since 2002. The AU's priority of strengthening socio-economic development and addressing the unprecedented levels of poverty in Africa has had to take a back seat as a result. Our Africa branch continues to work with the AU to address these conflicts.

Agenda 2063 has identified flagship projects such as extensive infrastructure build and the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). When fully implemented, the AfCFTA will greatly improve intra-Africa trade, which currently stands at around 10% to 12%. It will enhance industrialisation and strengthen continental and regional value chains, which will enable us to develop economies of scale and compete more effectively in the global economy. The pace of economic growth and development on the continent rests on the success of the AfCFTA, which is why our department is paying particular attention to how to move intra-Africa trade forward.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is characterised by mixed fortunes when it comes to the implementation of its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020–2030, the SADC Free Trade Agreement, and the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015–2063. Although the region experienced a decline in average economic growth from 4.8% in 2022 to 3.9% in 2023, intra-SADC trade was above 21% in 2022, and FDI flows remained stable at USD\$6.1 billion in 2023. At the same time, the SADC region continues to experience interconnected challenges of health, food insecurity, and climate-related disasters. The effect of El Niño on food production outputs and the outbreak of cholera early in 2024 impelled the region to convene Extraordinary Summits of Heads of States and Governments to address these emerging challenges.

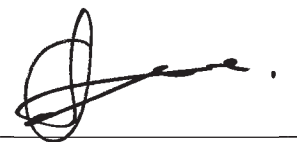
South Africa has been actively engaged in climate diplomacy, pioneering the concept of just transitions, whereby each country and society pursues its own development pathways pursuant to the fundamental human right to development, but with the objective of a more just, equitable, and environmentally sustainable society and international order. Our efforts are yielding results, with multilateral processes and conversations initiated on supporting just transitions. We are also securing renewed support for the Just Energy Transition Partnership

Investment Plan (JETP-IP) that we have developed towards our energy transition as an important aspect of an all-of-society transition.

South Africa is also becoming increasingly influential in global health diplomacy and activism. HIV and AIDS remain one of the greatest obstacles to achieving the SDG health goals in Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Africa has shown strong leadership in HIV access as the largest single country contributing to the number of people on antiretroviral treatment globally. President Cyril Ramaphosa has championed continental efforts to combat the scourge of COVID-19 and ensure that Africa develops the capacity to produce its own vaccines and therapeutics not only for COVID but also for other diseases. Together with the AU, we are working to enhance the continent's preparedness for future pandemics. As part of the Global Health Initiative, which South Africa chaired last year, we have prioritised resetting the agenda to focus on the imminent global health challenges to foreign policy.

I would like to commend the department for overcoming the financial and human resource constraints that confronted it during the reporting period and doing more with less. Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to my predecessor, Dr Naledi Pandor, together with the two Deputy Ministers, Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Alvin Botes, for their sterling support and leadership of DIRCO.

In the same vein, I would also like to thank the Director-General of DIRCO, Zane Dangor, for his dedicated leadership, as well as the staff and management for their tireless efforts in executing DIRCO's mandate.



RONALD LAMOLA
MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
DATE: 31 AUGUST 2024



MR ZANE DANGOR
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

4. REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

During the reporting period, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) continued the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy guided by the National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030, as unpacked in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019–2024, which is in line with the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) Agenda.

The African agenda remains a central pillar of our foreign policy trajectory. This is based on South Africa's historic Pan-African identity, which is based on solidarity, inclusive economic development, peace, security and stability. These features of our foreign policy, which are also firmly rooted in South Africa's national interests and our vision of a peaceful and prosperous region, are directly linked to the well-being of our citizens through development and ending gender bias and racism in all its forms, which will ensure a better Africa and a better world.

It is precisely in this area of opportunity that we continue to secure the balance of interests and global solidarity in respect of the peoples of South Africa, Africa and the global South. It is in this terrain that we continue to strengthen our strategic partnerships in support of our foreign policy agenda.

For us to realise a peace-centred foreign policy, the tenets of diplomacy remain the tools we use to execute our mandate. These tools primarily include our will to constantly engage within the various multilateral fora, the global governance architecture, international law and the norms and standards expected of a more just, humane and progressive international order. Importantly, as we mark 30 years of democracy, we must remain faithful to the values of OR Tambo that we have infused into our contemporary foreign policy agenda. These values are marked by an unflinching commitment to a principled foreign policy informed by our sense of solidarity, especially with Africa and the global South.

As South Africa's foreign policy implementation is guided and shaped by our National Interest, which relates to Government's apex priority to ensure inclusive economic development and growth, the department continued to utilise high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings to increase investment in South Africa through focussed investment promotion, pursued export promotion, identified new markets, and promoted South Africa as a preferred tourism destination.

South Africa has maintained strong political relations with countries in regions such as the Americas and Europe, as well as Asia and the Middle East, as envisaged in the NDP priorities. Our network of missions continues to be a strategic asset that has consistently been leveraged to realise the return on investment to the people of South Africa, while considering the pressure on the fiscus. DIRCO's bilateral international work continued to focus on our contribution to alleviate the persistent triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty through our political work, the promotion of trade and investment opportunities, as well as tourism promotion.

South Africa continues its commitment to multilateralism and will continue to advocate for the reform of international multilateral organisations, with a view to becoming more representative of the ever-changing world order. During the year under review, South Africa continued to pride itself on its successful hosting of the 15th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit under the theme of *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*. A significant outcome of the Summit was the announcement of the BRICS expansion, as four new full BRICS members (the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United Arab Emirates) were announced.

Furthermore, we participated in the Group of Twenty (G20) New Delhi Summit, where we called for an enhanced and expanded global partnership for sustainable development to meet climate change commitments. One of the key outcomes of the summit was the admission of the African Union (AU) as a member of the G20. This will allow the AU to take part in and influence global deliberations on international economic coordination.

South Africa used the 53rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC53) to positively contribute to the development of norms and standards in the field of human rights that will foster the promotion, protection, practical realisation, and the enjoyment of all human rights by all people across the world. We continued to participate in events and engagements to advance South Africa's interests, including that of the African Agenda on peace and security, human rights, and economic and social development.

In accordance with the reality that our foreign policy is firmly rooted in our vision of a peaceful South Africa, Africa and the world, during 2023–2024, the department continued to take a

leading role in entrenching women and youth rights as fundamental human rights, which are critical for the full realisation of inclusive and sustainable development. Peace and security capacity-building programmes were offered to South African women, as well as women role players in conflict areas on the continent. These programmes were successfully delivered to advance negotiation and mediation skills in the peace and security continuum, which in turn added value to UN Resolution 1325.

South-South cooperation remains central to the advancement of the developmental agenda of South Africa. Through DIRCO's work, South Africa continued to advance mutually beneficial South-South cooperation through structured bilateral mechanisms, multilateral agreements, and institutions. In line with this developmental agenda, DIRCO continued to strengthen and consolidate South-South relations, reflecting the shift in the balance of the global distribution of power and the increasing influence of emerging economies in the multilateral trading system.

South Africa creates value for its industries by participating in schemes that seek to enhance free trade in the region and the continent. It participates in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area negotiations, as well as the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, as building blocks to achieving the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area. SACU remains important to its Member States, not only in terms of the revenue receipts from international trade but also for other developmental benefits to its Member States.

The Foreign Service Act, 2019 (Act 26 of 2019), was assented to by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 26 May 2020. The purpose of the Act is to professionalise the Foreign Service and provide a legislative mandate to the department by providing for the management, administration, accountability and functioning of a professional Foreign Service and the operational requirements that are suitable and supportive of the operations of the Foreign Service in a global environment. To operationalise the Act and its Regulations, the department, through the Foreign Service Act (FSA) Implementation Committee, has embarked on a systematic process of assessing existing policies and developing and drafting the codes, policies and standard operating procedures that are required to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Act.

OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Significant events and projects that were undertaken during the year, its results, as well as departmental challenges are highlighted under each programme in Part B: Performance Information.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS

Departmental receipts	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Estimate	Actual Amount Collected	Under Collection	Estimate	Actual Amount Collected	Under Collection
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Tax receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of goods and services other than capital assets	1 983	878	1 105	1 900	1 137	763
Transfers received	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fines, penalties and forfeits	-	-	-	-	34	(34)
Interest, dividends and rent on land	822	1 098	(276)	788	2 940	(2 152)
Sale of capital assets	3 105	2 854	251	1 355	1 531	(176)
Financial transactions in assets and liabilities	51 810	65 679	(13 867)	59 096	180 512	(121 416)
	57 720	70 509	(12 787)	63 139	186 154	(123 015)

Departmental receipts are mainly generated from interest earned from mission bank accounts; refunds received through value-added tax exemption from missions in accordance with the diplomatic privileges accorded to South Africa by host countries; receipts of previous years' expenditure; and proceeds on the sale of capital items identified for disposal. During the year under review, the department has collected more revenue than estimated due to value-added tax refunds.

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Programme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Administration	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	1 688 171	1 664 395	23 776
International Relations	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	3 386 270	3 375 344	10 926
International Cooperation	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	559 631	558 139	1 492
Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	336 822	335 808	1 014
International Transfers	881 854	851 225	30 629	813 424	773 871	39 553
	6 910 636	7 268 318	(357 682)	6 784 318	6 707 557	76 761

The department's expenditure exceeded the approved budget due to the depreciation of the rand against major foreign currencies and cost of living adjustments. The high expenditure is on compensation of employees (CoE) and goods and services.

Low expenditure on transfers and subsidies is primarily attributable to lower exchange rates when transfer payments were processed, and spending on Humanitarian Assistance projects, as well as membership fees for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that were discontinued.

Low expenditure on payment for capital assets is primarily attributable to the delay in property maintenance and renovation projects due to procurement challenges experienced by GTAC due to PFMA provisions that are not applicable abroad.

VIREMENTS

The department processed the following virements:

- Compensation of employees in programme 1 to compensation of employees in programme 4 amounting to R33.598 million to defray excess expenditure due to cost of living adjustments.
- Compensation of employees in programme 1 to compensation of employees in programme 2 amounting to R9.500 million to defray excess expenditure due to depreciation of rand against major currencies and cost of living adjustments.
- Goods and services in programme 1 to goods and services in programme 4 amounting to R7.000 million to defray excess expenditure due to the depreciation of the rand against major currencies which affects expenditure for State and Official visits.
- Transfers and subsidies in programme 1 to transfers and subsidies in programme 4 amounting to R101 thousand to defray excess expenditure due to payment of leave gratuity paid to officials as a result of natural attrition.
- Payment of capital assets amounting to R1.200 million in programme 1 to payment of capital assets in programme 4 to defray excess expenditure on machinery and equipment.
- Goods and services amounting to R335 thousand, R2.489 million and R1.240 million in programme 1 to payment of financial assets in programme 4, programme 2 and programme 3, respectively, in order to defray excess expenditure on payment of financial assets on missions' transactions.

ROLL OVERS

The department did not request any roll over of funds in the 2023/2024 financial year.

UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE

The department incurred unauthorised expenditure of R435.643 million in the 2023/2024 financial year due to the depreciation of the rand against major foreign currencies and cost of living adjustments.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP)

- In the reporting year 2023/2024 the department did not enter into a new PPP Agreement (PPPA). The contract obligations as contained in the existing PPPA with Imbumba Aganang Private Party (RF) (Pty) Ltd as concluded in 2009 has been adhered to and serviced accordingly.
- The relationship with the private party is managed at both strategic and operational level with penalties being levied for performance below the agreed levels. No changes or variations have been made to the contract concluded in 2009.
- Most scheduled projects were executed as planned. A realignment of projects that could not be executed was done to ensure that the overall contract performance is still maintained. The department is in year 14 of implementing the PPPA for the Department of International Relations and

Cooperation (DIRCO) Head Office building. Monitoring of the contractual obligations is consistently done to maintain and keep the building in pristine condition.

- The maintenance and replacement of assets are undertaken as per predetermined replacement cycles. The term of the PPPA is 25 years, ending in 2034. The total costs incurred in relation to the agreement for the financial year ending 2023/24 were as follows:

There were no unsolicited bid proposals concluded for the year under review. The department started the financial year with irregular expenditure of over R2 billion. Efforts were made to procure the service of the Forensic Service providers to render the investigation service for the incurred irregular expenditure and the report was implemented, where at least R1.2 billion was approved for removal.

The department introduced the following controls and processes to prevent irregular expenditure:

- new contracts were advertised and awarded for BRICS related procurement, and the Diplomatic Bag bid was also finalised
- new evaluation criteria were developed and approved by the Director-General in line with new treasury regulations
- the revision of Financial Delegations of Authority to align with new treasury regulations and prescripts was approved
- additional internal controls through compliance checklists that were implemented for Head Office and missions
- training of SCM officials, Bid Committees, and other departmental officials who partake in the procurement activities.

Description R'000	2023/2024
Management fees, facilities and VAT (indexed components)	284 768
Unitary fees (fixed components)	27 947
Total	312 715

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The department is still experiencing the following challenges in SCM:

- contracts being utilised after expiring in missions
- inability to secure three quotations.

The department introduced the following measures to attend to the challenges identified:

- the Delegation of Authority was revised to evaluate high-risk open bids through committees and conclude quotations through compliance assessment
- new committee members were appointed and trained
- mission contract registers were introduced through the contract management unit
- contract and delegation workshops were conducted for head office missions
- circulars for the termination of irregular contracts were drafted and distributed
- monitoring of compliance reports from the mission's procurement and contracts management
- additional controls were introduced in line with the audit action plan.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED IN KIND FROM NON-RELATED PARTIES

None

EXEMPTIONS AND DEVIATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL TREASURY

- Exempted from the PPPFA for purposes of missions abroad.

THE NATIONAL TREASURY GRANTS DEPARTURE ON THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Instruction No 4A of 2016/2017 on Central Supplier Database (CSD): South African Missions abroad are not able to utilise the National Treasury CSD as instructed by Instruction Note 4A of 2016/2017. Missions only request quotations from suppliers or service providers in their respective countries of accreditation, which are operating outside South Africa.
- PFM SCM Instruction No. 02 of 2021-22 on Procurement Thresholds and Processes: DIRCO needs to get approval for departure from National Treasury if they cannot obtain three quotations from international suppliers.
- PFMA SCM Instruction No 09 of 2022-23 on Mandatory Utilisation of the E-Tender Portal: The procurement by missions takes place abroad, where service providers stationed abroad would not even view the bid advertisements on a South African-based portal.

- Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act 5 of 2000) and Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022.

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

- The department received a letter from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) regarding the de-recognition of debts owed by DIRCO to DHA, which warranted a de-recognition of the payable leg from DIRCO, and it was done based on the investigation performed in 2022.

OTHER

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/S OR APPRECIATION

I would like to acknowledge the support received from the Honourable Minister and Deputy Ministers of the department. My gratitude and appreciation go to the Audit Committee members, Risk Management Committee members, the Senior Management and staff of DIRCO, National Treasury as well as the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa.

CONCLUSION

The department will continue to implement cost-containment measures to realise savings for the funding of priority projects in line with the Medium-Term Strategic Framework. However, the department remains vulnerable to foreign exchange volatility, which necessitates a review of how the foreign operations are supported with regard to financial instruments that are available for the department to mitigate such in order to address future unauthorised expenditure that might occur.

APPROVAL AND SIGN OFF

The annual financial statements set out on the pages below have been recommended by the Audit Committee members and approved by the Accounting Officer.



ZANE DANGOR

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

DATE: 31 AUGUST 2024

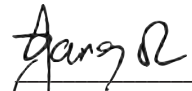
5. STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONFIRMATION OF ACCURACY FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I confirm the following:

- all information and amounts disclosed throughout the annual report are consistent
- the annual report is complete, accurate and is free from any omissions
- the annual report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines on the annual report as issued by National Treasury
- the Annual Financial Statements (Part E) have been prepared in accordance with the modified cash standard and the relevant frameworks and guidelines issued by the National Treasury
- the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual financial statements and for the judgements made in this information
- the Accounting Officer is responsible for establishing and implementing a system of internal control that has been designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the performance information, the human resources information and the annual financial statements
- the external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements

In my opinion, the annual report fairly reflects the operations, the performance information, the human resources information and the financial affairs of the department for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Yours faithfully


ZANE DANGOR
ACCOUNTING OFFICER
DATE: 31 AUGUST 2024

6. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

6.1 VISION

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (DIRCO) vision is an African continent, which is prosperous, peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and united and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable.

6.2 MISSION

DIRCO's mission is to formulate, coordinate, implement and manage South Africa's foreign policy and international relations programmes, and promote South Africa's National Interest and values and the African Renaissance (and create a better world for all).

6.3 VALUES

DIRCO adheres to the following values:

- Patriotism
- Loyalty
- Dedication
- Ubuntu
- Batho Pele
- Constitutional Values (Chapter 10).

7. LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MANDATES

7.1 CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATES

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 is the supreme law of the Republic and all law or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid. The President is ultimately responsible for South Africa's foreign policy, and it is the President's prerogative to appoint heads of South Africa's diplomatic missions, receive foreign heads of diplomatic missions, conduct inter-state relations and enter into international agreements. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (Minister), in accordance with her Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, is entrusted with the formulation, promotion and execution of South Africa's foreign policy. The Minister assumes overall responsibility for all aspects of South Africa's international relations in consultation with the President. In practice, the Minister consults the Cabinet and individual Cabinet ministers on aspects of importance, as well as on cross-cutting issues that have a bearing on the programmes of other ministries and departments. Oversight and accountability in the formulation and conduct of South Africa's foreign policy is vested in the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation.

7.2 LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

The Foreign States Immunities Act, 1981 (Act 87 of 1981): This Act regulates the extent of the immunity of foreign states from the jurisdiction of the courts of the Republic and provides for matters connected therewith.

The Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 2001 (Act 37 of 2001): The Act provides for the immunities and privileges of diplomatic missions and consular posts and their members, of heads of states, special envoys and certain representatives of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, other international organisations, and of certain other persons. Provision is also made for immunities and privileges pertaining to international conferences and meetings. It enacts into law certain conventions and provides for matters connected therewith.

The African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund Act, 2001 (Act 51 of 2001): The Act establishes an African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund to enhance cooperation between the Republic and other countries, in particular African countries. This is done through the promotion of democracy, the promotion of good governance principles, the prevention and resolution of conflict, socio-economic development and integration, humanitarian assistance and human resource development.

International agreements (multilateral and bilateral): These include international agreements concluded by the Republic of South Africa in terms of sections 231(2) and 231(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

7.3 POLICY MANDATES

The Measures and Guidelines for Enhanced Coordination of South Africa's International Engagements and its annexures, approved by Cabinet in 2009, establish more effective measures and mechanisms to coordinate the conduct of international relations and the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy.

The South African Council on International Relations, approved by Cabinet and established in 2015, provides a consultative platform for engagement of non-state actors in South Africa's international relations.

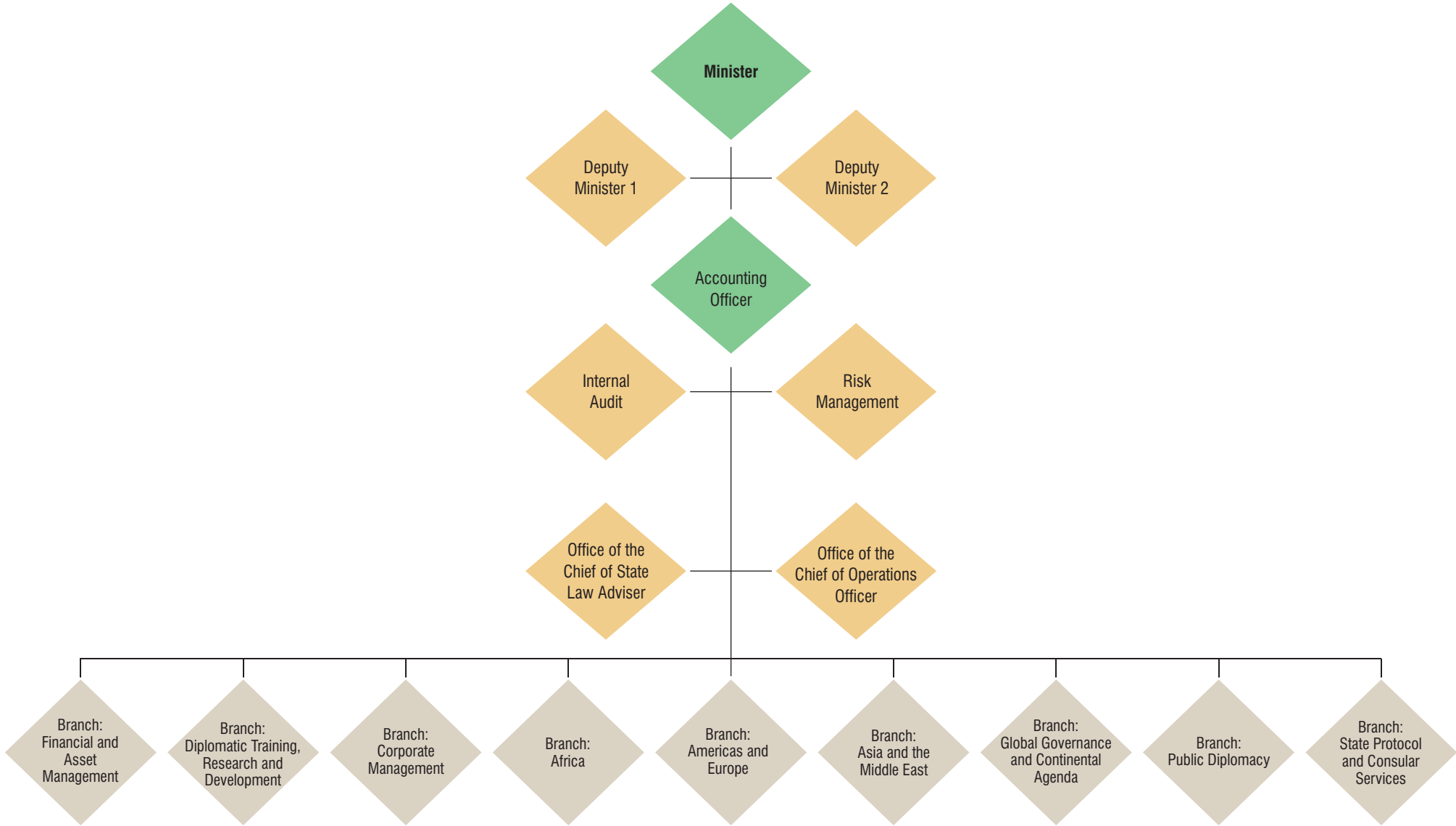
The National Information Security Policy, approved by Cabinet in 1996, provides the minimum standards for security.

The White Paper on Foreign Policy, approved by Cabinet in 2011, assesses South Africa's foreign policy against the rising expectations of the critical role of foreign policy to meet domestic priorities.

The Foreign Service Dispensation (FSD) is implemented in terms of the provisions of Section 3(3) (c) of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Act 103 of 1994), as amended, and is applicable to

designated employees who serve in a foreign country at a South African mission abroad and fall within the scope of the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council. The FSD consists mainly of two measures, namely remunerative measures (South Africa) and compensatory measures and other foreign-service benefits at the missions.

8. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



9. ENTITIES REPORTING TO THE MINISTER

The table below indicates the entities that report to the Minister.

Name of Entity	Legislative Mandate	Financial Relationship	Nature of Operations
African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF)	African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund Act, 2000: To enhance cooperation between the Republic and other countries, in particular African countries, through the promotion of democracy, good governance, the prevention and resolution of conflict, socio-economic development and integration, humanitarian assistance and human resource development	<p>The ARF receives its funds from the department through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • money appropriated by Parliament for the fund • money received by repayment of any loan made from the fund • interest received on investment of money standing to the credit of the fund • money accruing to the fund from any other source. • payments and/or disbursements are made on behalf of the fund by the department once concurrence is received from the Minister of Finance 	Loans and/or other financial assistance are granted subject to terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by that country and the Minister, acting in each case in consultation with the Minister of Finance



PART B

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

PART B: PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

1. AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT: PREDETERMINED OBJECTIVES

The AGSA currently performs certain audit procedures on the performance information to provide reasonable assurance in the form of an audit conclusion. The audit conclusion on the performance against predetermined objectives is included in the report to management, with material findings being reported under the Predetermined Objectives heading in the report on other legal and regulatory requirements section of the auditor's report.

Refer to page 321 of the Report of the Auditor-General, published as Part F: Financial Information.

2. OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE

2.1 Service delivery environment

During the reporting period, the department has been transforming itself into an organisation of excellence. Consequently, DIRCO developed the Operational Management Framework and redefined business processes that emphasised digitalisation. The modelling of service delivery provided an opportunity to demonstrate to the public the extent to which DIRCO contributes towards the realisation of our national interests.

The direct services that are rendered to the public at Head Office and through missions abroad include, but are not limited to, consular support and immigration services. This is done in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the South African public receive the efficient and effective service delivery they deserve.

2.2 Service Delivery Improvement Plan

The department has completed a service delivery improvement plan. The tables below highlight the service delivery plan and the achievements to date.

Main services and standards

Main Services	Beneficiaries	Current/Actual Standard of Service	Desired Standard of Service	Actual Achievement
To provide consular notarial services in respect of South African official (public) documents for use abroad.	South African citizens and foreign nationals.	Consular notarial services are provided according to the number of documents received within four to five weeks of receipt.	The service is demand-driven.	Number of documents legalised during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (annual) totalled 49 297.

Batho Pele arrangements with beneficiaries (Consultation access, etc.)

Current/Actual Arrangements	Desired Arrangements	Actual Arrangements
Consultation: Consultation is done through the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • telephone enquiries • written enquiries via e-mail, fax or letters • visits by clients to the Legalisation Section 	Consultation through structured meetings with stakeholders on a quarterly basis.	Consultations through meetings, as well as telephonically and electronically, were conducted with stakeholders within the public and private sector during the 2023/2024 financial year, e.g., the South African Qualifications Authority, the South African Police Service, the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Basic Education, Department of Higher Education and Training, Health Professions Council of South Africa, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and key state institutions such as Armscor and Denel, as well as universities, local and foreign nationals and foreign embassies in South Africa.

Current/Actual Arrangements	Desired Arrangements	Actual Arrangements
<p>Courtesy: Officials are friendly, courteous, highly professional and knowledgeable in the services provided</p> <p>Officials are identified by name tags</p> <p>There is a dedicated fully furnished reception/waiting area with serving windows available for the clients</p>	<p>Maintain and continue to improve standards through evaluation and assessment based on previous outcomes</p> <p>Rope management system to be implemented</p> <p>Service beneficiaries are provided free parking</p>	<p>Officials are identified by name tags</p> <p>The public hours are displayed on the main entrance doors, and the Service-Delivery Charter is displayed in the Legalisation reception area</p> <p>Notices/lolly-pop stands are placed in the Legalisation reception area, indicating to the public where to queue</p> <p>After consultation between the Legalisation Section and the IT Division, an in-house database was developed and implemented with effect from 3 May 2016 (over 80 000 specimen signatures have been captured and uploaded)</p> <p>Free parking is available for members of the public</p> <p>Maintained the standards achieved during the 2022/2023 reporting period</p>

Current/Actual Arrangements	Desired Arrangements	Actual Arrangements
<p>Access: The service is accessed as follows:</p> <p>Physical Address: Ground Floor, OR Tambo Building, 460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084</p> <p>Postal address: Private Bag X152, Pretoria, 0001</p> <p>Legalisation Section is open to the public on weekdays (except public holidays) from 08:30 to 12:30. (Implemented with effect from 1 February 2018)</p> <p>Fax: 012 329-1018</p> <p>Telephone: (012) 351-1232 (Supervisor) or x1269/x1231/x0595/x0033/x1490/x1268/x1717/x0775/x1146/x9104</p> <p>Website: www.dirco.gov.za</p> <p>There is a dedicated general enquires' email address: legalisation@dirco.gov.za.</p> <p>Courier, registered mail / fast mail and via South African representatives abroad</p> <p>Information sheets: Document and version control as per the Chief Directorate: Consular Services Quality Management System adhered to, to ensure that customers are not provided with outdated information.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Departmental Language Policy, which caters for consular services to be provided in English, Afrikaans, isiZulu and Sesotho</p>	<p>All the mentioned languages can currently be accommodated</p>

Current/Actual Arrangements	Desired Arrangements	Actual Arrangements
<p>Openness and transparency: Opening hours and processing times are clearly displayed at the Legalisation reception and on the DIRCO website</p> <p>Service beneficiaries are given receipts and customer satisfaction questionnaires after being assisted</p> <p>The Service-Delivery Charter is displayed on the DIRCO website and within the Legalisation waiting area.</p>	<p>Maintain and continue to improve on the standards achieved during 2022/2023 through evaluation and assessment based on the previous outcomes.</p>	<p>Customer feedback forms were analysed, and actions were taken to resolve comments on matters of concern from members of the public</p> <p>Average suggestions from the public: 10 per quarter (the main complaints received from the public were related to insufficient directions and parking,)</p> <p>The Consular Service-Delivery Charter is displayed on the DIRCO website and within the Legalisation waiting area.</p>

Service delivery information tool

Current/Actual Information Tools	Desired Information Tools	Actual Arrangements
<p>Information is shared as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on the DIRCO and Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) websites daily telephone and email enquiries daily distribution of information sheets in person to walk-in clients to the Legalisation Section Service-Delivery Charter displayed Ad hoc meetings held with stakeholders 	<p>Maintain and implement corrective measures where necessary to improve on the standards achieved from previous evaluation and assessment based on the previous outcomes</p>	<p>Information on the DIRCO and GCIS websites was updated regularly throughout the year</p> <p>Daily telephone and email enquiries were addressed</p> <p>Daily distribution of information sheets was achieved</p>

Current/Actual Information Tools	Desired Information Tools	Actual Arrangements
<p>Legalisation services may be applied for by any of the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in person at the Legalisation Section at DIRCO • by courier • by registered/fast mail • via the South African High Commission, Embassy or Consulate General abroad. <p>The services include the legalisation of South African official (public) documents for use abroad. Documents that may be legalised include, but are not limited to, documents pertaining to vital statistics (birth, marriage and death certificates); other civic documents i.e. letters of no impediment (marital status), citizenship letters, letters of renunciation and vault copies; police clearance certificates; educational qualifications; divorce decrees and settlement agreements; documents relating to adoption; verification of drivers' licences; registration of companies and close corporations; registration of patent designs, trademarks and copyrights; health reports; translated documentation; export documents; and end-user certificates.</p> <p>Clients who do not have the correct documents are directed to the relevant department/institution to obtain the appropriate documents (information sheets available to customers)</p> <p>Document and version control as per the Chief Directorate: Consular Service Quality Management System, adhered to, to ensure that customers are not provided with outdated information.</p>		<p>Information was provided in person to walk-in clients to the Legalisation Section</p> <p>The Consular Service-Delivery Charter is prominently displayed</p> <p>Ad hoc meetings were held with stakeholders to address matters of concern</p>

Complaints mechanism

Current/Actual Information Tools	Desired Information Tools	Actual Arrangements
<p>A formal complaints resolution process was established in compliance with the Chief Directorate: Consular Service Quality Management System's requirements. These processes are as follows:</p> <p>Legalisation Section: Walk-in customers can provide feedback on their acknowledgement of receipt forms. The statistical information received is captured in the daily register. If a poor performance is received, the official who dealt with the enquiry must provide a written report on the incident, which is provided to the supervisor. The supervisor then contacts the customer and a suitable resolution, or corrective measures are implemented (where applicable). All negative comments are reported to management for analysis and action within one week of lodging the complaint. If the reported complaint involves non-compliance to the Service-Delivery Charter, the matter is addressed with the staff member involved</p> <p>When a counter staff member is unable to handle a difficult situation, the supervisor will address the situation or complaint directly with walk-in customers</p> <p>A suggestion box is also available within the Legalisation Section reception area for customers to provide suggestions, compliments and complaints. These are addressed by the supervisor.</p>	<p>Align consular processes with the approved departmental Compliments and Complaints Management Framework</p>	<p>Compliment and complaint procedures have been aligned with DIRCO's Compliments and Complaints Framework</p> <p>Complaints received through the in-house system were analysed and addressed within 24 hours</p> <p>Feedback is analysed daily, customer complaints addressed, and management provided with reports on a monthly basis (including compliments)</p> <p>Management continues to engage with all affected stakeholders to improve areas of concern raised by members of the public</p>

2.3 ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

During the reporting period, the department had a vacancy rate of 21.8%, which is above the national average vacancy rate of 10%. The department is still experiencing a high vacancy rate, despite concerted efforts to fill critical vacancies. The vacancy rate increased from the previous financial year (18.7%).

To address capacity constraints in the department, a total of 110 officials were appointed during the reporting period at various levels, including Senior Management posts. The posts for Chief Financial Officer, as well as the Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda, were filled during the period. To reduce the high vacancy rate drastically and to alleviate the ever-increasing work pressure on employees, other identified critical posts will have to be filled. However, due to the cost-containment measures in the Compensation of Employees (CoE) budget, the department is unable to advertise these identified critical vacancies. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and National Treasury cost-containment measures and directives exacerbate the capacity constraints in the department since all Government departments are required to obtain concurrence from DPSA and National Treasury before any vacancy can be advertised and filled.

2.4 KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Foreign Service Act (FSA), 2019 (Act 26 of 2019) was assented to by the President on 26 May 2020 and published in the Government Gazette on 4 June 2020. The department is also in the final stages of approval with a new structure that supports its strategy and plans. In terms of the implementation of the FSA, 2019, all the steps necessary for the coming into force of the Act were completed and the Act and the regulations entered into force on 25 August 2022.

The draft text of the regulations was published for public comment in the Government Gazette on 24 June 2022, after which it was finalised. The implementation process is underway with the implementation committee finalising the drafting of the policies and standard operating

procedures of the Act. The implementation of the Act will ensure efficiency in the implementation of the Foreign Service throughout the country.

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

A department committed to the excellent execution of South Africa's foreign policy, placing South Africa as an influential actor and partner on the international stage while effectively contributing to the delivery of the country's domestic priorities and advancement of the African Agenda.

PROGRAMME 1:

A MODERN, EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENT, WITH CAPABLE AND SKILLED EMPLOYEES, WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THE EXCELLENT EXECUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

The department effectively improved compliance with relevant legislation by implementing the Audit Action Plan, which resulted in a notable decrease in irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure as officials were aware of the applicable prescripts. In the financial year 2022/2023, the department obtained an unqualified audit opinion with findings. Improvement plans through the audit action plan to address the root causes have been developed and implementation is at an advanced level. Additionally, consequence management measures have been applied to individuals who have violated the applicable regulations. The Financial Misconduct and Losses Committee has been established with effect from the fourth quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year (February 2024).

The Branch Diplomatic Training, Research and Development (DTRD) continued to contribute to the development of a professional corps of diplomats by providing various training programmes to prepare and upskill officials to represent South Africa and its national

interests, abroad. The Branch was able to deliver on such training programmes through both existing and new partnerships, extending its scope to include modern diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence and Tech diplomacy. To this end, benchmarking was conducted with other foreign diplomatic institutes and think tanks. The Academy ensures that there are ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programmes offered and delivered to develop and enhance core competencies, such as English and Foreign Language Training. The CPDs include officials from other government departments to contribute to the development of a skilled workforce, especially in the international relations space.

In addition, peace and security capacity-building programmes were offered to South African women, as well as female role players in conflict areas on the continent. These programmes were successfully delivered to advance negotiation and mediation skills in the peace and security continuum, and in turn, add value to UN Resolution 1325. The Academy has continued to adhere to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards and has maintained its accreditation with the South African Bureau of Standards. The Academy once again received a clean audit during its annual surveillance audit that was conducted on 27 June 2023.

PROGRAMME 2:

LEVERAGED BILATERAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) AND THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (MTSF) PRIORITIES

DIRCO's strategic focus and priorities towards relations with Africa in 2023-2024 were closely aligned to Outcome 11 of the MTSF, the NDP, the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, as well as the policy directives emanating from the State of the Nation Address. Based on South Africa's National Interest framework, the department resolutely promoted our country's national values and economic interests through robust bilateral and regional cooperation with partners in Africa, with South Africa's ideological orientation of solidarity and Pan-Africanism being the leitmotiv in its approach to Africa. The department worked to strengthen bilateral political and economic relations with countries and regions across the continent through

economic and diplomatic diplomacy while also enhancing the African Agenda by focussing on promoting regional and continental peace, security, stability and sustainable development.

DIRCO played an active role in contributing to peace and security in countries such as Mozambique, the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Ethiopia and Sudan, as well as being proactive in establishing new Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with countries such as Mauritius and Comoros. In addition, the department continued to implement the numerous existing structured dialogue mechanisms, such as, inter alia, meetings of the various Binational Commissions (BNCs) with Namibia, Lesotho, Ghana, Ethiopia and the DRC.

South Africa has 46 Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with various countries on the continent. During the reporting period, 17 bilateral engagements took place through the Structured Bilateral Mechanisms.

South Africa has cordial and strong historical relations with most of the countries in the region based on shared values and cultures. Most bilateral relations are conducted through Bi-National Commissions (BNCs). To date, nine BNCs and two Joint Bilateral Commissions for Cooperation (JBCCs) have been established in the region.

To further strengthen the bilateral relations between South Africa and Namibia, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted President Hage Geingob for a State Visit on 20 April 2023. The two presidents discussed, among others, the sharing of the Orange River Boundary Resources as well as Namibia's support for Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Other key outcomes included an agreement to cooperate in new areas such as green hydrogen, electricity, and gas. Namibia has recently made significant oil and gas discoveries from which South Africa stands to benefit. The meeting also discussed South Africa's concerns regarding Namibia's unilateral imposition of restrictions on the import of South African horticultural products as part of its strategy to develop its infant industries. The two countries also agreed to continue to harmonise positions on regional and global issues of mutual concern. During the BNC, the two countries signed agreements on Bilateral Cooperation on Tourism and the Bilateral Cooperation on Higher Education.

In July 2023, President Ramaphosa undertook a Working Visit to the DRC and co-chaired the South Africa-DRC BNC with President Félix Tshisekedi. Some of the key outcomes of this session of the BNC included an agreement on the Grand Inga Treaty, the resuscitation of the Trilateral Mechanism Dialogue which comprised Angola, South Africa, and Tanzania and the renewed commitment to the pursuit of peace and security in the Eastern DRC.

The BNC reaffirmed the strategic importance of the Grand INGA Hydropower Project Treaty signed in 2013, to both countries and that steps should be taken to expedite the full implementation of this project.

The BNC reinvigorated cooperation between the two countries in areas such as agriculture, defence, trade and investment, science and innovation, health, police, energy, public service and administration, cooperative governance, transport, diplomatic cooperation, and immigration. On the margins of the BNC, a South Africa-DRC Business Forum was also convened and addressed by the two Heads of State and Government. The Business Forum sought to enhance trade and investment in existing areas and identify new areas of cooperation to bolster economic growth in both countries.

President Ramaphosa hosted the Right Honourable Samuel Ntsokaone Matekane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the occasion of the South Africa-Lesotho inaugural BNC, from 25 to 28 September 2023. The BNC discussed, among other things, the smooth movement of people, goods, and services between the two countries; cooperation in water resources; and the modalities of South Africa taking up the energy offer of 1500 megawatts. Prime Minister Matekane briefed President Ramaphosa on the progress on the implementation of the SADC Political Reforms in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

As part of the ongoing cooperation in water resources, in April 2023, President Ramaphosa attended the Sod-Turning event in Lesotho for the Second Phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The project ensures that South Africa continues to leverage water resources while creating jobs for Basotho nationals.

On 25 June 2023, former Minister Naledi Pandor undertook a Working Visit to Luanda, Angola and co-chaired a Diplomatic and Political Consultation meeting with her counterpart, Minister Tété António. During the meeting, the two ministers agreed that the two countries convene a State Visit in Pretoria. Unfortunately, the State Visit was postponed due to scheduling difficulties. The two countries are working, through diplomatic channels, to find a suitable date to host the inaugural BNC.

As a follow-up to the South Africa-Mozambique BNC held from 20 to 21 June 2021, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) meeting was held in June 2023 to assess the implementation of the decisions and commitments of the BNC. The MTR concluded that the level of implementation of decisions and commitment was at different stages. The meeting further discussed progress on cooperation between the two countries in areas such as agriculture, defence, trade and investment, science and innovation, health, police, energy, public service and administration, cooperative governance, transport, diplomatic cooperation, and immigration. Subsequent to the MTR, Mozambique offered to increase its supply of electricity to South Africa by over 80 megawatts. In this regard, the two Ministers of Energy and Electricity met in Pretoria to take the process forward.

The meeting also discussed progress in the fight against terrorism in the north of Mozambique and the official conclusion of Disarmament, Demobilisations and Reintegration (DDR) of former Renamo guerrillas. In order to facilitate the smooth movement of people, goods and services, the meeting encouraged the technical experts under the leadership of the Border Management Authority (BMA) with the Mozambican counterpart to facilitate the implementation process of the One-Stop-Border Post. Furthermore, the meeting welcomed the investment in road infrastructure, in particular on the N4 Maputo Development Corridor, which has resulted in the improvement of trade links between South Africa and Mozambique. Minister Pandor also undertook a Working Visit to Zambia to co-chair the South Africa-Zambia Diplomatic and Political Consultations on 20 October 2023. The meeting discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest, including the convening of the inaugural session of the South Africa-Zambia BNC to be hosted in Lusaka.

The strengthening of bilateral political and economic relations through structured bilateral engagements continued to be at the core of the department in accordance with South Africa's foreign policy priorities in the North and Central African region. South Africa and a significant number of countries in this region held structured bilateral engagements during the 2023/2024 reporting period. In this regard, key high-level engagements with the countries of this region are as follows:

- On 31 January 2024, the Minister hosted the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura. This meeting allowed the UN Envoy to brief the Minister on developments in Western Sahara, and how he intended, through his role, to accelerate the peace process, and explore ways through which the Saharawi people can achieve their freedom and self-determination. Minister reiterated South Africa's principled position on the Saharawi issue, in support of the Saharawi struggle and in line with international law, as outlined in relevant UN Resolutions.
- From 3 to 5 April 2023, the Minister undertook a Working Visit to Cameroon. The wide-ranging discussions during the Working Visit with both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister were centred on strengthening bilateral relations and creating a conducive environment to enable South African companies to continue doing business in Cameroon. Minister raised the issues that are adversely affecting the operations of MTN and Chococam, which is a subsidiary of Tiger Brands, in Cameroon. The Minister also discussed multilateral matters such as South Africa's candidacy for the President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and requested for support.
- From 18 to 19 December 2023, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini undertook a Working Visit to Mauritania for political consultations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The Working Visit had various objectives and included, among others, the objective of rekindling, enhancing, and strengthening bilateral relations between South Africa and Mauritania with the view to deepen trade and investment relations. The Working Visit also highlighted the need to further the implementation of the AfCFTA, with the aim of increasing intra-African trade and to cooperate closely with Mauritania on issues of peace and security on the African continent.
- On 29 September 2023, the Minister hosted Nabil Ammar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia for political consultations. The ministers discussed the need to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. They agreed on the necessity of working towards convening the Sixth Joint Bilateral Commission. The ministers also agreed on the establishment of a mechanism for regular political consultations.
- Minister Pandor visited Ethiopia in April 2023, to participate in a Recognition Programme led by her Ethiopian counterpart, a key step in the AU-led Ethiopian peace process. The Minister returned in July 2023 to co-chair the Fourth Joint Ministerial Commission. Furthermore, in February 2024, the Minister and her counterpart signed a Joint Declaration between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which seeks to cover a variety of areas for cooperation in various fields.
- Deputy President Paul Mashatile, in his capacity as the Special Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan, undertook a Working Visit to the Republic of South Sudan in August 2023, supported by Minister Pandor. The visit aimed to help the parties involved in the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) resolve disputes and implement its provisions, in line with South Africa's efforts to drive the African Agenda.
- Minister Pandor undertook working visits to the Republic of Mauritius in May 2023 and the Union of Comoros in September 2023, respectively. Bilateral relations between South Africa and these two countries were enhanced by signing a General Cooperation Agreement (GCA).
- The Second Uganda-South Africa Ministerial Trade and Investment Summit took place from 5 to 6 September 2023 in Uganda, following the inaugural South Africa-Uganda Business Forum held in South Africa on 27 and 28 February 2023. The outcomes of the Summit concluded by setting up a committee to address challenges faced by both business communities.

Various structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits were coordinated across the Americas and the European countries in the 2023/2024 financial year, which contributed to cooperation in strategic areas covering trade and investment and development cooperation, infrastructure and skills development, science and innovation and arts and culture projects, as well as increased tourism.

The Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with North America, which were the South Africa-United States (US) Annual Bilateral Forum (ABF) at DDG-level; the South Africa-US Working Group on African and Global Issues (WGAGI) at DG-level; and the South Africa-Canada Annual Consultations (AC) at DG-level, reviewed progress and challenges in bilateral sectoral cooperation and identified new areas for cooperation, including the exchange of information on regional and global issues of mutual interest and common concern.

Bilateral relations between South Africa and most of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries remain sound and are anchored in strong historical, political, and growing economic and cultural relations. South Africa considers several countries in the region as strategic partners to advance the development agenda of the South and global governance reforms. The bilateral engagements with the region contribute towards South Africa's realisation of our domestic priorities and the attainment of the objectives in the NDP in major areas of cooperation such as agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries; energy; mining; health; science and innovation; trade and investment; arts and culture, and sport. The region's large African Diaspora forms a strong link with the African continent and serves as a catalyst in strengthening regional cooperation between Africa and the region. The Sixth Diaspora Conference will be held in Brazil in preparation for the Pan-African Congress that will be held in Lome, Togo in November 2024.

A number of high-level visits from European countries again illustrated the substantive nature and depth of South Africa's relationships with these countries. These included a State Visit by the President of Portugal, Working Visits by the Prime Ministers of the Netherlands and Denmark, and a State Visit by the King and Queen of the Netherlands. A number of bilateral agreements were signed during these visits, covering such areas as defence cooperation, education, renewable energy, and vocational training, among others. South Africa also

engaged in bilateral consultations with Ireland, Germany, Austria, and France, covering a range of topics and bilateral collaboration programmes, including discussions about regional conflict situations, climate change, renewable energy, science and innovation, cyber security, vocational training, and protecting our market share, among others.

The Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with Central and Eastern European countries included the South Africa-Czech Republic Political Consultations (at Deputy Minister Level); the South Africa-Romania Senior Officials' Meeting; the South Africa-Croatia Senior Officials' Meeting; the South Africa-Bulgaria Political Consultations at Deputy Minister Level; and the Serbia-South Africa Senior Officials' Meeting at Deputy Director-General (DDG) level. High-level visits from the region included the Working Visit to South Africa by the President of Bulgaria; the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovenia's meeting with Minister Pandor; and a visit to South Africa by the Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs to meet with Deputy Minister Botes. President Ramaphosa undertook a Working Visit to Ukraine and Russia as part of the Africa Peace Initiative.

The Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with Nordic countries held in 2023/2024 included the South Africa-Norway Political Consultations at Ministerial Level; the South Africa-Lithuania Senior Officials Consultations at DDG-Level; and the South Africa-Norway High-Level Consultations at Deputy Minister Level. A number of high-level visits from Nordic countries took place and included the State Visit by the President of Finland; the Working Visit by the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs; and the Working visit by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. The region of Asia and the Middle East hosts some of the largest opportunities for economic growth and development that can lead to the growth of job opportunities in the country and the development of infrastructure aimed at improving the economic productivity of South Africa. In this regard, there were several high-level visits between South Africa and countries in the region, including several meetings at Head of State Level. These countries included Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, and Qatar.

The meetings and engagements were made possible through the work of DIRCO's network of missions (embassies and consulates) in the region, which assisted in providing the critical groundwork for enabling the successful hosting of the visits, as well as the conclusion of

bilateral agreements that service the many sectors of the economy in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) which look to promote trade, investment, tourism and skills development in South Africa in several sectors, including agricultural exports.

In addition to the work done with regard to engagements with heads of state and senior government officials, there were also several notable Structured Bilateral Mechanisms which were held that further promoted South Africa and its role in the international community, and the bilateral relationship that it enjoys with countries in the region. These meetings included:

- Indonesia Foreign Office Consultations
- South Africa-China Binational Commission
- Inaugural Saudi Arabia-Africa Summit
- South Africa-Iran JCC
- Third Session of the South Africa-United Arab Emirates Joint Committee on Cooperation
- The 12th South Africa-China Strategic Dialogue
- The Seventh Round of Political Consultations with Kazakhstan

INCREASED FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND CONTRIBUTED TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

In West Africa, four countries of strategic importance to South Africa were identified: Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal. Nigeria remains the most influential country in the region followed by Ghana. Within the Francophone countries, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire are the two most influential countries in the region. In line with Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063, “a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”, countries in the region have developed National Development Plans (NDPs) accompanied by Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, driving unprecedented, rapid development in the region from which massive opportunities for South African banks, finance development institutions, and public and private enterprises. The investment attractiveness of the region in terms of foreign direct investment flows (FDI) is positive.

On the other hand, South African enterprises have faced challenges in the region, such as changing regulatory frameworks, unfavourable tax regimes, repatriation of funds, and arbitrary fines that have led to massive disinvestment by South African enterprises.

Furthermore, South Africa had identified infrastructure projects that were being facilitated by South African missions for the benefit of South African entities and companies. The following are Infrastructure projects which were pursued:

- Ghana: New railway network of 4 007.6 km with an investment of approximately USD\$21 507 920 000. South African companies were involved in over 180 projects in Ghana, totalling over R26 billion in investments.
- Togo: approximately R50 billion investment opportunities.
- Senegal: Approximately R5 billion investment opportunities.
- Côte d'Ivoire: Approximately R20 billion investment opportunities.
- Nigeria: Approximately R43 billion investment opportunities.

In addition, more West African countries announced oil and gas discoveries, mostly still to be explored and are at various phases of exploration, as well as mining formalisation with the establishment of legal frameworks and efforts to develop mining. The NDPs of most West African countries are almost all identifying agriculture and agri-processing as key focus areas. All these areas present huge opportunities for South African companies and entities.

Our missions have facilitated opportunities in the arts and culture sector, like film, fashion, and music, and these areas presented further opportunities for collaborations between South Africa and the West African countries, which were also facilitated.

During the past financial year, there were only two Structured Bilateral Mechanisms that took place, the Ministerial Midterm Review on 18 August 2023 and the Second Session of the Binational Commission on 12 March 2024. Both these mechanisms were with the Republic of Ghana.

INCREASED REGIONAL INTEGRATION SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

The department has continued to support South Africa's leading role in contributing to the primary goal of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), which is fostering

regional integration, including political and economic integration, for the benefit of the SADC population, in line with SADC blueprints including Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP 2020–2030).

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PEACE, STABILITY, DEMOCRACY, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE SADC REGION

South Africa participated in activities and meetings of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation towards peace, stability, and security, as well as the consolidation of democracy in the SADC region. South Africa has also provided humanitarian assistance to countries in the region, including Malawi and Mozambique. As the Chairperson and member of the Troika of the SADC Organ between 2021 and 2023, South Africa presided over and contributed to efforts to build political integration, mediation initiatives, and response to conflicts in the region.

Following the decision of the SADC Summit held in Mozambique on 23 June 2021, to deploy a SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), from 15 July 2021, South Africa contributed over 300 troops, which included a Force Commander. The deployment of SAMIM was a regional response to and in support of the Mozambique Armed Forces to combat the threat of terrorism and acts of violent extremism in the Cabo Delgado Province. In July 2023, South Africa supported the extension of the SAMIM mandate by 12 months from 16 July 2023 to 15 July 2024, in preparation for its exit.

The Extra-Ordinary Summit of the SADC Organ Troika plus Troops-Contributing Countries to SAMIM received on 23 March 2024, a report of the Field Assessment Mission to the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado that confirmed that the security situation has improved and that the Mozambican Armed Forces were ready to take over the liberated areas after the withdrawal of SAMIM.

The re-emergence of conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) led to the 43rd SADC Summit of 2023 approving the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC), which started in December 2023. South Africa pledged 2200 troops

to the SAMIDRC, together with Malawi and Tanzania. The purpose of the SAMIDRC is to support the Armed Forces of the DRC to repel the insurgency by the M23 armed group and other militias operating in the region.

As a member of the SADC Organ Troika, South Africa supported efforts to bring stability to the Kingdom following political unrest. SADC efforts included the presentation of the Guidelines for Inclusive Dialogue in Eswatini, and the deployment of the Panel of Elders to the Kingdom before the July 2023 general elections.

South Africa facilitated the national reforms in the Kingdom of Lesotho that led to the development and tabling of a Constitutional Amendment Bill, which was a key step in the national reforms and dialogue process. While the South African facilitation ended in August 2022, South Africa has continued to support stability in Lesotho through the work of the SADC Oversight Committee appointed to monitor progress in the reforms.

During the reporting period, South Africa has supported the consolidation of democracy in the region through participation in the leadership of the SADC Electoral Observer Missions (SEOMs) and the deployment of observers to these missions in the region. South Africa deployed observers to SADC Electoral Missions to the Kingdom of Eswatini (2023), Zambia and Zimbabwe (2023), the DRC (2023) and Madagascar (2024).

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SADC REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The integration of SADC remains critical for the economic development of the region, underpinned by industrialisation, employment creation, skills development, poverty alleviation, and climate change management. South Africa therefore advances a developmental integrated agenda in the region that combines trade integration, infrastructure development, and sectoral policy coordination that will correct imbalances in current economic relations. South Africa's policy approach to regional integration is predicated on the philosophy of the peace-development nexus, which is embedded in SADC RISDP 2020–2030 and the SADC Vision 2050. In the 2023/2024 performance cycle, South

Africa championed the development and adoption of the following programmes or blueprints, among others, meant to advance the regional economic integration agenda:

- The RISDP (2020–2030) Costed Implementation Plan and its 96 Concept Papers
- Regional Gas Master Plan
- SADC Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan
- The revised SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
- Sustainable Regional Power Sector Development and Proposal on the Establishment of a Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facilities (RTIFF)
- Agreement for the Operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC)
- The Draft Protocol on the SADC Parliament
- Winding-up of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA).
- SADC Declaration on Accelerating Action to end HIV and AIDS as a Public Health Threat
- SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour.
- SADC Regional Strategy for Accelerating the Transformation of Slums and Informal Settlements

Regarding SACU, South Africa has championed the implementation of the SACU 2022–2027 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is meant to reposition SACU to serve as a vehicle for genuine regional integration underpinned by the promotion of value chains across SACU Member States. South Africa championed a re-imagined SACU programme, which seeks to transform SACU into a regional body that has clear and transparent tariff setting rules, revenue collection, and sharing regimes, while prioritising SACU evolution as an entity that must deepen intra-regional and intra-Africa trade.

PROGRAMME 3

PROPONENT OF STRENGTHENING MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGH CONSISTENTLY UPHOLDING SOUTH AFRICA'S PRINCIPLED POSITIONS UNITED NATIONS

Multilateralism remains a focal point of South Africa's foreign policy, and engagements are premised on the need to advance the priorities reflected in the NDP and the development priorities of developing countries. The United Nations (UN) remains the most important multilateral institution and the centre of global governance. Therefore, engagements with the UN and active participation in its processes are of vital importance to South Africa and the advancement of the country's foreign policy priorities. A key priority in South Africa's engagement with the UN is to continue to advance the reform of the existing global governance architecture with a view to making it more inclusive and improving its responsiveness to the needs of and challenges faced by developing states. South Africa is thus actively engaged in processes aimed at reforming the UN, including its Security Council, as well as other multilateral institutions, with a view to improving their responsiveness to the needs of developing states.

South Africa contributed to issues of global peace and security at the UN, including at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and other fora to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts on the African continent and across the world, as well as efforts to build and sustain peace. South Africa is currently serving its second two-year term in the PBC to promote support for the prevention of conflict relapses, post-conflict recovery, and countries in transition. As a non-member of the UNSC, South Africa participates in open debates as well as Arria-formula meetings of the UNSC to advance collective action to address conflict in line with international law and the UN Charter.

A primary element of South Africa's global efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security is its policy on disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. This policy

includes reinforcing and promoting the country as a responsible producer, possessor and trader of defence-related products and advanced technologies. In this regard, DIRCO continues to promote the benefits that disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control hold for international peace and security. As a member of the various supplier regimes, the Africa Group, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the importance of non-proliferation is promoted, taking into account that export controls should not become the means by which developing countries are denied access to advanced technologies required for their development. South Africa continues to be a prominent role-player in the prohibition and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This includes nuclear disarmament through the promotion and universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW establishes an international norm that delegitimises and stigmatises the possession of nuclear weapons. It further aims to contribute towards achieving the objective set out in the very first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction. The treaty complements other international instruments by contributing towards fulfilling the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the various nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties, such as the Pelindaba Treaty, which already banned nuclear weapons in Africa.

Transnational organised crime remains a global challenge and a threat to stability, peace, security, and sustainable development. It manifests itself in several ways, leaving a window for new and emerging crimes, e.g., cybercrime, illicit trafficking in precious metals, wildlife crime. Money laundering and illicit financial flows constitute fundamental aspects of transnational organised crime, linked with corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, or other offenses. South Africa is a party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), the UN Convention against Corruption.

(UNCAC), as well as the Three Drug Control Conventions. Furthermore, South Africa is a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) (2024–2028) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (2024–2026) and participates in UN forums to advance the implementation of these instruments.

AFRICAN UNION

On continental development issues, the African Union (AU) Development Agency, also known as AUDA-NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), is the implementation agent for Agenda 2063: “The Africa We Want”. With the recent adoption of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan by African Heads of State and Government at the AU Summit in February 2024, the programme activities of AUDA-NEPAD become all the more crucial for continental economic growth.

As the host country to AUDA-NEPAD, South Africa played a continental leadership role in shaping the active the implementation of Agenda 2063 across Africa, inclusive of addressing regional needs through the SADC RISDP 2020–2030 and national needs through the NDP. Implementation of Agenda 2063 will also feed into meeting the targets of the UN SDGs. South Africa is currently serving a two-year term (2023–2025) as the Second Vice Chair of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) and the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee. Both bodies are responsible for overseeing the strategic and political direction of AUDA-NEPAD programmes and projects in Africa in support of Agenda 2063. In February 2024, South Africa successfully participated in the 41st Summit of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a specialised agency of the AU, established in 2003. The APRM is considered a tool for sharing experiences, reinforcing best practices, identifying deficiencies, and assessing capacity-building needs to foster policies, standards, and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development, and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration. In December 2023, South Africa hosted the 20th anniversary celebrations of the APRM in Sandton. During this meeting, the launch of South Africa's Second-Generation Country Review Report took place, thereby further highlighting South Africa's commitment to the essence of good governance in Africa. In February 2024, South Africa successfully participated in the 33rd Summit of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government.

South Africa, during the period under review, continued to serve as one of the 15 member states of the High Committee in Charge of the Agenda for the African Union Decade for African Roots and Diaspora, representing the Southern Africa Region, alongside Angola and Namibia. South Africa's engagement within the High Committee provides an opportunity to refocus and inject a new impetus into the Diaspora's thematic issue at a strategic level. South Africa actively participates and contributes to advancing the agenda towards the realisation of the objectives and vision of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas.

In this context, South Africa successfully hosted the Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference to the Ninth Pan-African Congress on 4–5 December 2023, under the theme Pan-Africanism, Science, Knowledge and Technology. The conference adopted a declaration that will serve as input for the Ninth Pan-African Congress to be held in Lomé, Togo in 2024.

In discharging its obligations as the host country to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), South Africa successfully facilitated the hosting of the requisite sessions of the Pan-African Parliament during the 2023/2024 year, which saw the successful election of the Bureau of the PAP to direct the operations of the organ. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 37th Session held in February 2024, successfully realigned President Ramaphosa's title to now serve as the AU Champion for Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response (PPPR). This is in recognition of the key role that South Africa played in terms of COVID-19 response within the continent, including local vaccine manufacturing.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the UNFCCC COP28 and UNEA6, South Africa defended and promoted rules-based multilateralism, including respect for rules of procedure, mandate fidelity and keeping technical bodies de-politicised and focused on their development mandates.

South Africa also advocated for the progressive development of international law, norms and standards on sustainable development that take into account the national circumstances and capacities of African and other developing countries; thus, endeavoured to keep development at the centre of global attention.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Party 28 (COP28), which took place in Dubai from 30 November to 13 December 2023 main outcomes known as “The United Arab Emirates Consensus”, safeguarded a conducive international space within the context of climate action to facilitate South Africa's objective to address the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality by way of building resilience that strengthens development.

Similarly, the Sixth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA6) recognised the need to take effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle global environmental challenges and crises and their impacts on human health, the environment, and national and global economic circumstances. The South African delegation advanced key principles such as Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), mandates of multilateral environmental agreements and the provision of means of implementation for developing countries and through the defence of these Rio Principles and other fundamental principles, and provisions of the multilateral response to global environmental challenges, secured national policy choice and space for South Africa and its chosen development pathways, re-enforcing the right to development.

The relevance and prominence of the nexus between foreign policy and global health issues, and the need to promote synergies between them, are significant and growing. South Africa (Minister Pandor) assumed the Chair of the Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH) initiative (Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand) in Senegal in April 2023 under the theme: Back to Basics: Addressing Global Health Challenges in the Foreign Policy Space. South Africa made significant progress to realign and reinvigorate the basic tenets of the initiative as contained in the Oslo Declaration, with a vision to shape the agenda to focus on the imminent global health challenges to foreign policy. This was evidenced by productive and substantive outcomes of the FPGH Ministers of Health meeting on the margins of the World Health Assembly in May 2023, the Foreign Ministers' meeting on the margins of UNGA78 in September 2023, and the coordination of the passage of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy urging UN member states to continue to consider health issues in the formulation of foreign policy.

South Africa also continued to support and participate actively in the discussions at the World Health Organisation (WHO) through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a legally binding WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, as well as the WHO Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005).

UNITED AND POLITICALLY COHESIVE CONTINENT THAT WORKS TOWARDS SHARED PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

During the period under review, South Africa continued to actively contribute to the AU that is united and politically cohesive and that works towards shared prosperity and sustainable development through various milestone achievements.

South Africa actively participated in and influenced the development of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063, which was launched during the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU in February 2024. The launch of the STYIP marked the ten-year anniversary of Agenda 2063 and will infuse momentum toward the acceleration of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its flagship programmes.

South Africa demonstrated its commitment towards the full and effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by launching the first shipment under the AfCFTA regime on 31 January 2024, thereby joining nine other countries that are already trading under the AfCFTA. South Africa also successfully hosted the AfCFTA Business Forum on 17 and 18 April 2023, which brought together governments, the labour sector, and the private sector to explore the opportunities and benefits that the AfCFTA offers and to explore ways of collaboration in addressing the challenges that are confronting the AfCFTA. It must be underscored that the implementation of the AfCFTA will go a long way in increasing intra-Africa trade and the enhancement of industrialisation and regional value chains. Furthermore, the AU Assembly reappointed the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA, Wamkele Mene, for another four years as a demonstration of his sterling leadership of the AfCFTA Secretariat. South Africa worked tirelessly within the region and beyond to ensure that Mr Mene's tenure is extended.

South Africa contributed to the strengthening of the AU and its organs through South Africa's assessed contribution of more than R300 million towards the AU's regular budget as well as towards the Peace Fund endowment. The AU budget is critical to keeping the organisation afloat and ensuring that it executes its mandate of maintaining peace and security, deepening socio-economic growth and development in Africa, and promoting human rights, democracy and rule of law throughout the continent.

SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS STRENGTHENED AND CONSOLIDATED IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL PRIORITIES

South Africa actively participated in all the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) high-level meetings, working groups, committee meetings, and the monthly Coordinating Bureau meetings held at Ambassadorial Level. In 2023, South Africa attended the NAM Ministerial meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, and South Africa also attended the 19th NAM Summit that was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 19 to 20 January 2024. The summit provided South Africa with a strategic opportunity to reflect South Africa's support for the movement's founding Bandung principles of 1955 related to political self-determination, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality that guide the efforts of developing countries to promote peace and cooperation in the world.

During the summit, South Africa engaged with other NAM members in finding solutions to the current challenges faced by multilateralism, with a view to preserving and protecting the rules-based multilateral system, with the UN at its centre. As a member of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine, South Africa called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and the resumption of talks on a just solution that will end the suffering of the Palestinian people. South Africa also called for unhindered and expanded humanitarian access to allow for vital aid and basic services to meet the needs of everyone living in Gaza. Before, during and after the summit, South Africa received broad support for the proceedings instituted by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice.

RELATIONS WITH THE NORTH LEVERAGED IN ADVANCEMENT OF NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL PRIORITIES

African multilateral partnerships, which are coordinated through the AU, remain a fundamental tool for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its related flagship projects to further strengthen regional and continental integration.

The aim of engaging our development partners through the various multilateral partnerships is to provide African citizens with peace and security, democracy, good governance, a high standard of living, a highly skilled workforce, decent jobs, and developed and modern economies.

In a South African context, this would translate into ensuring that the various engagements translate into realistic, time-bound, and deliverable projects that address the basic tenets of the NDP, inclusive of addressing our domestic challenges related to energy security, youth unemployment, and poverty eradication. During the past year, South Africa has successfully participated in the Second Russia-Africa Summit, held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July 2023, and the 16th Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Senior Officials Meeting in Beijing in October 2023.

South Africa actively participated in the work of the Commonwealth and attended all high-level meetings, including the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) that was held in New York on the margins of UNGA78 on 21 September 2023. South Africa supports the revitalisation and reform process of the Commonwealth and was nominated as the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Reform, which met in London on 31 May 2023, 17 January 2024, and 7 March 2024 to discuss the selection of the new Secretary-General and the criteria for admission of new members. South Africa's participation in the Commonwealth is aimed at promoting the Africa Agenda, the interests of developing states, and monitoring the implementation of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) mandates.

South Africa's current three-year term on the Human Rights Council is a top priority for the Government and, consequently, for the department. The highly visible participation by South

Africa and the active and effective engagement of South Africa's delegations in the Regular Sessions as well as the Special Session on Sudan that were convened during the reporting period contributed in line with South Africa's commitment during its current term on the Council to the development of norms, standards and values at a multilateral level, working with all partners, to strengthening the UN human rights ecosystem and the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, not only in South Africa but throughout the world, to be enjoyed by everyone, without discrimination. In Africa, South Africa focussed on the importance of the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to work for the creation of conditions for the full enjoyment of human rights by all and the promotion of peaceful coexistence.

South Africa participated successfully in the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC52), from 27 February to 4 April 2023; the 53rd Regular Session (HRC53), from 19 June to 14 July 2023; and the 54th Regular Session (HRC54), from 11 September to 13 October 2023. South Africa also participated successfully in the High-level Segment of the 54th Regular Session (HRC54), from 26 to 29 February 2024. South Africa's objectives for participation in the Regular Sessions of the Council, as drawn, in part from the pledge that was made in the campaign to seek election to the Council, were to ensure the high visibility of the country through active and substantive participation in the meetings and the work of the Council, contributing to the advancement and promotion of respect for human dignity, the advancement of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and helping to bring an end to racism, racial discrimination and all forms of intolerance, and to ensure that these rights are realised and enjoyed by all people, including in the continent of Africa, and across the world, without discrimination. In this regard, the South African delegations to all three Regular Sessions sought to act as a bridge-builder and contribute to meaningful outcomes and consensus in respect of the mandate of the Council to ensure that all human beings tangibly enjoy access to human rights. In addition, South Africa also participated successfully in the 36th Special Session of the Council, on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which was convened on 11 May 2023. South Africa engaged meaningfully in the outcome resolution but took its cue from Sudan, as the country concerned, in working to preserve the unity of the African Group in the Council

On women empowerment and gender equality, South Africa also successfully negotiated the outcomes of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2024, which focussed on the theme Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective. South Africa hosted the first in-person meeting of the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights in May 2023 to share experiences and discuss progress and challenges related to the achievement of women's economic empowerment and equality. As former Co-Chair of the Global Network of Focal Points on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), South Africa's participation has continued to be active in all the activities of the network and has taken a leadership role on various initiatives, among others, sharing best practices and priorities for the network in particular and exchanging regional knowledge to advance the WPS agenda.

In line with reporting obligations, South Africa presented its combined Third to Sixth Periodic Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) during the 95th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

South Africa, through its Ambassador to the UN Rome-Based Agencies successfully completed its Chairship of the Africa Regional Group (ARG) in Rome for the period January 2023–January 2024. During its tenure as Chair of the ARG, South Africa successfully coordinated various consensus decisions and positions by the Africa Group enabling the Group to present its regional positions to the various governance bodies of the UN Rome Based Agencies namely, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Furthermore, South Africa was successfully elected as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for the period 2023–2025. This enables the country to lead the process of developing new norms and standards on global food security and nutrition, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Addressing Inequalities in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition. Furthermore, South Africa successfully influenced the discussions and final decision on the increase of assessed contributions by member states of the International Organisation for Migration. South Africa continues as Deputy Chair of the Programmes Committee of the FAO.

The country further successfully presented its report at the Second Global Refugee Forum under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. South Africa also successfully hosted the 22nd Annual Regional Seminar on International Humanitarian Law (IL) for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Island States, which resulted in a joint outcomes document with concrete actions for 2024 aimed at promoting IHL. Furthermore, South Africa successfully participated and presented progress at the UN Stocktaking Moment held in July 2023 at the FAO in Rome to review the implementation of the commitments made at the UN Food Systems Summit held in 2021. South Africa also successfully participated and contributed language in the negotiations of the annual resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council Humanitarian Affairs Segment held in Geneva from 21–23 June 2023. The resolution was successfully adopted at the end of the session.

PROGRAMME 4

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AUDIENCES INFORMED ON SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The approved Public Diplomacy (PD) Strategy addresses the need for the implementation and management of South Africa's reputation through the utilisation of people-to-people initiatives and new media platforms. The strategy uses a three-pronged approach and aims to set the agenda, create and strengthen own platforms and promote the South African Brand and DIRCO to stakeholders. This is achieved through targeted platforms that promote the National Interest of our country through understanding, informing and influencing foreign and local audiences. To enhance the implementation of this strategy and intergovernmental relations, the Branch: PD forms part of government's International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster in which it plays an important role in enabling the cluster to communicate with one voice.

The department continued to enhance public understanding of South Africa's foreign policy engagements by both local and international audiences. Political principals utilise various platforms such as media briefings and public participation programmes to reach out to the

public at home and abroad and stimulate debates through dialogue and public lectures on various topical issues in the purview of international relations.

Improved compliance with the diplomatic regulatory framework

In terms of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, 2001 (Act 37 of 2002), DIRCO is tasked with regulating the Diplomatic Corps, numbering in excess of 10 000 and has successfully implemented an above average business processing turn-around time for all its related services. The department is currently facing ongoing challenges relating to the abuse of privileges, as well as attending to audits of the functions pertaining to the Diplomatic Corps. Several foreign missions were identified, whose diplomatic and consular agents had abused the privileges accorded to them for personal gain. During the year under review, DIRCO continued to provide consular assistance to South Africans abroad. A total number of 822 consular cases were attended to. These included extraditions, prisoners abroad, return of mortal remains and service of process, to cite a few.

4. INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

4.1 PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Purpose: Provide strategic leadership, management, and support services to the department

Subprogramme 1.1: Ministry

Purpose: Provide political leadership

Subprogramme 1.2: Departmental Management

Purpose: Provide strategic and administrative support to the department

Subprogramme 1.3: Audit Services

Purpose: Monitor the development and implementation of effective and efficient internal control systems

Subprogramme 1.4: Financial Management

Purpose: Provide financial management services

Subprogramme 1.5: Corporate Services

Purpose: Provide effective, efficient and economical support services to the department

Subprogramme 1.6: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development (DTRD)

Purpose: Provide diplomatic training, facilitate the provision of functional training in the department and conduct research

Subprogramme 1.7: Foreign Fixed Assets Management

Purpose: Provide and manage the State's fixed assets foreign portfolio

Subprogramme 1.8: Office Accommodation

Purpose: Manage the local property portfolio

Outcome: A modern, effective department with capable and skilled employees, which is committed to the excellent execution of South Africa's foreign policy

Outcomes, Outputs, Output Indicators, Targets and Actual Achievements

Human Resource Management

During the reporting period, the department had a vacancy rate of 21.8%, which is above the national average vacancy rate of 10%. The department is still experiencing a high vacancy rate, despite concerted efforts to fill critical vacancies. The vacancy rate increased from the previous financial year (18.7%).

To address capacity constraints in the department, a total of 110 officials were appointed during the reporting period at various levels, including senior management posts. The posts of the Chief Financial Officer, and the Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda were filled during the reporting period. To reduce the high vacancy rate drastically and to alleviate the ever-increasing work pressure on employees, other identified critical posts will have to be filled. However, due to the cost-containment measures in the Compensation of Employees (CoE) budget, the department is unable to advertise these identified critical vacancies. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and National Treasury cost-containment measures and directives exacerbate the capacity constraints in the department since all government departments are required to obtain concurrence from DPSA and National Treasury before any vacancy can be advertised and filled.

The performance management processes for the 2023/2024 performance cycle for employees on salary levels 1–12 and those covered by the Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) were successfully monitored, and performance assessment reports were submitted. A report on the submission of performance agreements for the 2023/2024 performance cycle by all eligible DIRCO Senior Management Service (SMS) members was prepared and submitted.

The department further ensured that performance was effectively monitored by conducting performance assessments for all eligible employees, including SMS members. Grade progression was implemented for qualifying employees. Pay progression for the 2022/2023 cycle was implemented for all qualifying employees, including SMS members, the Diplomatic Corps, and Heads of Mission.

The department, in partnership with the external stakeholder, Imbumba Aganang Private Party (IAPP) advertised 63 Internship and Learnership programmes positions and received over 50 000 applications. The successful candidates will assume duty in the next financial year and will participate in a 24-month programme.

Thirty-three training programmes were implemented in line with the 2023/2024 Workplace Skills Plan (WSP) of the department, exceeding the annual target of 20 training programmes that was set. Out of the 33 training programmes, 14 individual training programmes were implemented due to critical training requests that were received and approved.

During this reporting period, 33 grievances were lodged and resolved. Two disputes were lodged. One of the disputes was upheld and the other dismissed. All cases were handled within the required timeframe.

Employee Health and Wellness (EHW)

Psychosocial support was rendered to 360 employees at Head Office and missions. The problems presented were mainly work-related matters and matters related to mental health. The impact of the war between Israel and Palestine brought additional stress and anxiety to transferred officials in those countries. A group counselling session was held to help them deal with the effects of trauma. The EHW services were also extended to some family members who presented various problems.

Health promotion activities were coordinated through Corporate Wellness Days as the flagship event. During this event, a total of 206 employees participated in health screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. Additionally, there were various webinars on healthy lifestyles, nutrition, oral and eye care, and financial wellness, among others. Services from the optometrist, physiotherapist, orthodontist, and National Credit Regulator were available. Physical health promotion in the form of group aerobics and a fun walk formed part of this main event. A Move for Health Day was also organised to encourage physical health.

The department continued to promote mental health through individual counselling, as well as webinars on topics such as Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and peripartum depression. Additionally, electronic articles on mental health awareness, resilience, and work-life integration were compiled and circulated.

The department continued to raise awareness about HIV and tuberculosis. To this end, an HIV Candlelight Memorial and event was convened in memory of those who passed. During this event, 65 employees participated in health screenings; 45 of these also undertook voluntary HIV tests. Awareness about HIV and AIDS was also created during International World AIDS Day. A total of 927 employees were screened for tuberculosis through the onsite clinic.

Diplomatic Training, Research and Development

The Diplomatic Academy and International School of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation continues to prepare South African diplomats, representatives and international relations experts in a wide range of interactions and engagements to contribute to a better South Africa, region, continent and world. All training programmes are continuously aligned with and are cognitive to a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world. In addition to officials at entry level, all officials nominated to serve as members of the South African Foreign Service are trained prior to departure. This training occurs twice per year, as per the Human Resources posting cycles. A total of 174 officials in 2023 were trained in preparation for their new positions abroad. The levels of diplomats trained ranged from Heads of Missions (ambassadors, high commissioners, consuls general) to ministers, counsellors, third, second and first secretaries, attachés, as well as corporate services managers and consuls.

To ensure quality and meet required standards, the Diplomatic Academy is affiliated and registered with both the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) and the South African Bureau of Standards (ISO9001).

Language remains an important part of the toolkit of a diplomat. To that end, the Diplomatic Academy's Language School offers and provides language training to South African diplomats in the official languages of the UN and the AU (English, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, French, Kiswahili and Mandarin). To ensure the cost-effectiveness of the training, the Language School has signed agreements with countries to provide training. It also utilises online courses and digital platforms. Since 2019, 412 officials, including Heads of Mission and officials from other government departments have received foreign language training. Since 2019, 304 DIRCO officials received English language training, which included 11 diplomats from the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire.

Protocol and etiquette training was provided to almost 800 participants, which included all the structured residential programmes and the continuous professional development programmes to other government officials at national, provincial and municipal levels. Such provinces include Kwazulu-Natal, Polokwane, the Eastern Cape, and the Western Cape. In addition, such training was also provided to Members of Parliament, The Presidency, the Office of the Public Protector, the Civil Aviation Authority, and the National School of Government.

At an international level, the Diplomatic Academy formally established the International School in 2011 and provided extensive training to diplomats and Government representatives from mostly African countries and those emerging from conflict situations (more than 60 countries in total), where South Africa shared and continues to share and emphasise its democratisation process. The Diplomatic Academy has trained and capacitated more than 850 women from all over Africa on conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation. This initiative supports UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. The training on conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation was also extended to youth leaders and Student Representative Councils (SRCs) at South African tertiary institutions to assist them with negotiations with

universities (during the #FeesMustFall student movement). This training intervention also contributed to the skills of future South African leaders. The International School also plays an important part in contributing to democracy in Africa and countries emerging from conflict, particularly in view of South Africa's own history.

Cooperation with internationally renowned diplomatic training institutions such as the Clingendael Institute, the DiploFoundation, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has resulted in strategic partnerships to train diplomats and Academy personnel in train-the-trainer programmes on specialised topics such as international negotiations at multilateral organisations. It also resulted in diplomats, facilitators and lecturers attending programmes at these institutions not only to gain knowledge and skills but also to provide views on specialised topics, including Artificial Intelligence and Tech diplomacy. The Academy receives an average of 25 international offers per quarter. However, due to budgetary constraints, participation in international training programmes has continued to wane.

The Diplomatic Academy has also signed Memoranda of Understanding with strategic counterparts, at a bilateral level, such as Algeria, Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Russia, Indonesia, Portugal, Norway, and the Philippines. In 2016, the Academy also signed an Agreement with the BRICS countries at a multilateral level to ensure the exchange of best practices, progressive diplomatic training, and capacity-building programmes, methods and trends. It also provides a structure for the exchange of trainees and presenters on a wide range of important topics. Most recently, South Africa hosted the third meeting of the heads of the Diplomatic Training Institutions of BRICS and the newly invited BRICS countries to discuss cooperation and the institutional framework for cooperation.

The Foreign Service Act requires the Diplomatic Academy of DIRCO to align and coordinate all its training programmes so that all members of the Foreign Service are fully prepared to assume duties as diplomats. The professionalisation of the Foreign Service will however require a fully capacitated and well-structured Diplomatic Academy.

FINANCIAL AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

A Financial Misconduct and Losses Committee was established, and an external chairperson was appointed by the Minister. Old irregular expenditure transactions were investigated and concluded by a forensic investigation service provider. Implementation of the recommendations will be in the 2024/2025 financial year, as the recommendations from the reports were referred to the Financial Misconduct and Losses Committee for quality assurance. Compliance with the 30-day payment period of service providers has improved significantly, averaging to 98.21% compliance for the period under review in relation to the previous period, which was 93.13%, since the consolidation of the cellular phone account invoices. The remaining non-compliance with the 30-day payment period is mainly due to delays by the end-users or business units in signing invoices to confirm that services were rendered.

There were no unsolicited bid proposals concluded for the year under review. The department opened the financial year with irregular expenditure of over R4 billion and closed with an amount of R2 billion. Determination processes were conducted and an amount of R170 million was approved for removal that relates to the current financial year, and an amount of R1.9 billion removal was in relation to the previous years. There is an alleged irregular expenditure amounting to R291 million that is under investigation as management has disputed the finding. National Treasury will assess and advise the department accordingly on proper treatment.

The department introduced the following controls and processes to prevent irregular expenditure:

- Termination of various irregular legacy contracts and advertising of new bids to replace irregular contracts. This included the appointment of a new ICT Network Management service provider.
- The revision of the Financial Delegations of Authority and the Supply Chain Management (SCM) Policy to align with new treasury regulations and prescripts.

- Enhancing internal controls through compliance checklists that were implemented for Head Office and missions.
- Training of SCM officials, Bid Committees, and other departmental officials who partake in the procurement activities.

The department is still experiencing the following challenges in SCM:

- various bids could not be finalised based on the lack of availability of committee members
- expired contracts being utilised in missions
- inability to secure three quotations.

The department introduced the following measures to attend to the challenges identified:

- The Delegations of Authority were revised to evaluate high-risk open bids through committees and conclude quotations through compliance assessment
- New committee members were appointed and trained
- Mission contract registers were introduced through the contract management unit
- A contract policy was drafted, approved and distributed to all officials
- Circulars for the termination of irregular contracts were drafted and distributed
- Monitoring of compliance reports from the mission's procurement and contract management
- Additional controls were introduced in line with the audit action plan.
- The Department has prioritised three acquisitions in the current MTEF, which include two construction projects for New Delhi (India) and Luanda (Angola) for development of Chanceries and Official Residences as well as the purchase of a new Chancery in Nairobi Kenya. The professional team appointed by GTAC as an implementing agent conducted a site visit with DIRCO officials in March 2024 for project inception. The outcome of the visit is that the feasibility report has been finalised and approval will be finalised in May 2024. The professional team in India will commence with the building design, approval with the municipality, finalisation of the tender documentation and appointment of the contractor by December 2024.
- Condition assessments were concluded in the 2023/24 financial year for 12 Missions. An analysis of the condition assessment reports has been completed and based on the recommendations, maintenance and renovation projects have been prioritised for

implementation in the 2024/25 financial year. Approval had been granted for eight renovation projects to be advertised in 2023/24, and as at the end of the financial year, only four projects have been advertised. All the prioritised renovation projects will have appointed the contractors during the 2024/25 financial year

- To address the maintenance backlog, the department has completed 31 maintenance projects in 2023/24. Based on planned maintenance reports from missions and condition assessment reports, recommendations for 26 maintenance projects have been prioritised for implementation in the 2024/25 financial year.
- The disposal of 18 properties in Namibia (Windhoek, Walvis Bay), Germany (Bonn), Switzerland (Zurich), Portugal (Funchal), Malawi, Uruguay, Rome (Milan) and France (Paris) was approved by the Executive and the disposal committee. Ministerial letters to DPWI and the National Treasury were submitted to inform them of the approval to dispose and obtain concurrence to finalise disposal of nine properties. The department is still awaiting concurrence from National Treasury.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE LAW ADVISER (INTERNATIONAL LAW)

The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser (International Law) (OCSLA) (IL) is the primary legal counsel on all international law matters for the Government as a whole. Section 3(3)(e) of the Foreign Service Act, 2019 (Act No. 26 of 2019), which entered into force on 25 August 2022, following a proclamation in the Government Gazette by the President on 24 August 2022, mandates the department to act as the custodian of the international agreements to which the Republic is a party, as well as of the national reports submitted in accordance with international obligations, and to render advice to Government on all matters related to international law.

One of South Africa's primary foreign policy objectives is to enhance a rule-based international order by promoting respect for international law and through active participation in the development of new international legal norms to address current and emerging global challenges. International law today forms an integral part of the modern diplomatic architecture. In recent decades, international law has moved towards a more extensive

“constitutional” framework for the international society that aims to improve the well-being of individuals, in addition to its traditional premise of regulating relations between sovereign states. Consequently, the fields of regulation and the number of international institutions, including judicial organs and legal instruments, have proliferated. The fields in which the Office provides expert legal advice and negotiation skills, include on treaty law, law of the sea, extradition, diplomatic law, international environmental law, air and space law, the use of force, peacekeeping, international humanitarian law, human rights, and international criminal law.

OCSLA (IL) provides legal advice and policy guidance in respect of all programmes of the department. In the area of the consolidation of the African Agenda, the continent's multilateral systems and institutions have been overhauled. Organisations like SADC and the AU are not only established in terms of legal instruments, but the new cooperation and integration regimes of these institutions are also based on international law principles. The focus is increasingly on greater integration through sub-regional legal instruments and, in particular, the agreement on the AfCFTA. This integration will have to be supported by a multitude of implementing legal instruments. The strengthening of South-South and North-South cooperation in the economic and political fields, as well as bilateral cooperation between States, is based on the negotiation and implementation of international legal instruments. In the area of participation in the global system of governance, the formulation and codification of international law that takes place, among others, in the work of the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN General Assembly, the International Law Commission, and in the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee, will continue to play an important role.

In addition, OCSLA (IL) provides legal advice and policy guidance to the department and its missions abroad on issues pertaining to domestic law (e.g., labour law, contract law, law of delict, etc.) and manages all litigation which the department is involved in, both in South African courts and in foreign jurisdictions. The increase in litigation against the department and Government is of concern as it has serious financial implications for the department. OCSLA (IL) scrutinises all agreements entered into by South African diplomatic missions abroad.

The Office furthermore continues to provide support to South African multilateral missions abroad, especially in Addis Ababa, New York, Geneva, The Hague, Vienna and Brussels, and continues to advise on the legal status and operation of the offices of international organisations based in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN TREATY COLLECTION

OCSLA (IL) preserves the South Africa treaty collection, and administers and maintains an electronic treaty register, ensuring that it is complete, up to date and accessible to the public. In March 2024, the treaty section undertook a benchmarking exercise through consultations with counterparts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, as well as international organisations based in The Hague, with the view to ensure that OCSLA (IL)'s treaty management processes remain in line with international standards. Government departments are also kept informed of the prescribed constitutional procedures for conclusion and entry into force of international agreements and OCSLA (IL) continuously works towards building expertise in this respect in Government.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

WORKING GROUP ON PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES

The South African Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva is the Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) mandated to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring of and oversight over the activities of private military and security companies. The IWG was established in 2010 and the Chair-Rapporteur requested the OCSLA (IL) to prepare a “zero draft” document to be the subject of negotiations. The Office subsequently provided legal advice to the Chair during the sessions held in Geneva in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and revised the text in line with the Member States' deliberations during the sessions.

South Africa's leading role in the process, by drafting the first text for negotiations which focusses strongly on the protection of the rights of victims and ensuring accountability for the

perpetrators of human rights abuses, is an expression of its commitment to upholding the international rule of law.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES CYBERSPACE

OCSLA (IL) participated in a meeting of the African Union's Peace and Security Council's expert working group from 29 November to 1 December 2023 in Tunis, Tunisia to review the Draft Statement on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in Cyberspace. A Common African Position (CAP) on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Cyberspace was unanimously adopted by the Council on 29 January 2024 and endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union on 18 February 2024. This is the first regional position on the international law applicable to the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in cyberspace.

INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

ELECTION OF ADVOCATE (ADV) THEMBILE JOYINI TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS)

On 14 June 2023, Adv Thembile Joyini was elected to serve a nine-year term (renewable) as a judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Adv Joyini had been a Principal State Law Adviser (International Law) at OCSLA (IL). Judge Albert Hoffmann from South Africa, who served two nine-year terms on the Tribunal from 2005 to 2023, had also previously been attached to OCSLA (IL).

These elections thus reflect the high regard in which South African lawyers are held internationally and further solidifies the important role that South Africa plays in international fora, particularly in the context of the law of the sea, which remains a crucial area of international law for South Africa.

ELECTION OF PROFESSOR (PROF) DIRE TLADI TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

On 9 November 2023, Prof. Dire Tladi was elected to serve a nine-year term (renewable) as judge of the ICJ, the highest judicial organ of the United Nations. Before his election, Prof. Tladi had been a Principal State Law Adviser (International Law) in OCSLA (IL) and Legal Counsellor at South Africa's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, before having returned to academia as a Professor of International Law at the University of Pretoria. His election by the UN General Assembly and Security Council followed an intensive lobbying campaign undertaken by South African missions in foreign capitals, as well as in Pretoria and at the UN Headquarters in New York. Prof. Tladi was nominated by South Africa's national group of arbitrators in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for election to the ICJ for the term 2024–2033. Cabinet also approved his nomination and he was subsequently endorsed by the AU in July 2023 as one of four African candidates, along with candidates from Egypt, DRC and Zambia. Prof. Tladi is the first South African and the second-youngest candidate to ever serve on the ICJ.

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE IN THE GAZA STRIP (SOUTH AFRICA V. ISRAEL)

Pursuant to a decision by Cabinet on 8 December 2023, and against the background of the Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip, which had resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and non-combatants and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, South Africa brought an application against Israel at the ICJ on 29 December 2024 under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Office, in coordination with the Embassy in The Hague, facilitated the appointment of a team of international and South African lawyers to prepare and argue its case before the ICJ. The Office also provided logistical support to the legal team and facilitated three further applications for provisional measures.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF ISRAEL IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

The United Nations General Assembly requested the ICJ to render an Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OTP), including East Jerusalem. South Africa submitted a written statement on 25 July 2023, setting out South Africa's legal arguments that the Court has jurisdiction to hear the matter, that the right to self-determination as a peremptory norm of international law is being denied to the Palestinians due to the prolonged occupation by Israel since 1967, and that the de jure and de facto annexation by Israel of the OTP, the prolonged nature of the occupation, the violation of the rules applying to occupation and other rules of international humanitarian law, discriminatory legislation and practices and human rights violations against the Palestinian population of an institutionalised and systemic nature which satisfies the prevailing evidentiary standard of the international crime of apartheid, have resulted in the occupation itself becoming illegal. South Africa also participated in the oral proceedings of the case, which were held from 19 to 26 February 2024.

OBLIGATIONS OF STATES IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On 29 March 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ regarding the obligations of states under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases for states and for present and future generations, as well as the legal consequences of such obligations where their acts and omissions have caused harm to the climate system.

Following consultations with the Directorate: Climate Change, Environment, Science and Technology, as well as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, OCSLA (IL) prepared a written statement on behalf of South Africa, which was submitted to the ICJ on 22 March 2024. The statement sets out South Africa's arguments that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement serve as the basis for States' international legal obligations, and that developing and

developed countries have common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and sustainable development.

South Africa's participation in the ICJ advisory opinion proceedings illustrates South Africa's commitment to a rules-based international system.

INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS (IRMCT)

In 2018, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) sent a Request for Assistance to South Africa for the location, arrest and surrender of Fulgence Kayishema, a Rwandan national who had been indicted by the IRMCT for crimes committed during the Rwandan genocide. Mr Kayishema had been residing in South Africa since 2001. Despite internal challenges primarily arising from a lack of domestic legislation governing the arrest and surrender of fugitives to international tribunals, OCSLA (IL) undertook significant efforts to find ways to overcome the challenges and to cooperate with the IRMCT. These efforts proved to be successful as Mr Kayishema was arrested on 24 May 2023. Following the arrest, the Prosecutor of the IRMCT has expressed gratitude for the exemplary work and support received from South Africa. The successful arrest promotes South Africa's international reputation as a country committed to international law and justice, peace and security, multilateralism, and a rules-based international order. This matter serves as an example of positive international collaboration in the context of international criminal justice to ensure accountability for the most serious international crimes.

Mr Kayishema has been charged with offences related to violating immigration laws as well as for crimes committed during the genocide in Rwanda. Due to the absence of relevant legislation, there have been delays in the legal proceedings that seek to surrender Mr Kayishema to the IRMCT. OCSLA (IL) continues to provide advice to the National Prosecuting Authority on international law aspect of this matter.

Litigation (South African Courts)

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AND OTHERS V SIMEKA GROUP (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS

On 10 October 2018, an application was brought at the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Pretoria for the review and setting aside the award of the tender for the appointment of a development partner for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and financing of a suitable and sustainable office and residential accommodation for South Africa's diplomatic missions in New York.

Subsequent to the High Court's judgement against the department on 10 April 2021, leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeal was granted. The Supreme Court of Appeal found in favour of the department on 14 June 2023, declaring the award of the tender constitutionally invalid and therefore unlawful; reviewing and setting aside the tender; declaring the Project Management Agreement concluded between the Department and Lemascene (Pty) Ltd pursuant to the award of the tender to be of no legal force and effect, reviewed and set aside; and ordering the respondents to pay the department's costs.

The respondents have not appealed the decision and are now out of time to do so. The State Attorney (Pretoria), on behalf of the department, filed a supplementary Affidavit in the Gauteng High Court in October 2023 to recover the monies that the department paid to the respondents. The Director-General reported the matter to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) for further investigation in compliance with the Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004.

Litigation (Foreign Courts)

Argentum Exploration Ltd v Republic of South Africa

On 8 May 2024, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UK) delivered judgment in the case of Argentum Exploration Ltd v Republic of South Africa. The matter concerned a cargo of

silver bullion, purchased by the Union of South Africa from the government of India. The silver was lost en route to South Africa when the Tilawa was sunk by two torpedoes fired from a Japanese submarine in the Indian Ocean on 23 November 1942. After it had been salvaged in 2017, the silver was transported to and declared in the UK. The salvage company, Argentum, subsequently instituted a claim for payment of salvage. South Africa asserted that the silver was subject to sovereign immunity in accordance with the 1989 International Convention on Salvage and the United Kingdom's State Immunity Act, 1978. While the High Court and the Court of Appeal considered that the cargo was in use for commercial purposes, and therefore not immune from the jurisdiction of the English courts, the Supreme Court found that South Africa is indeed entitled to immunity, noting that the silver had not been "in use" at all while on board the Tilawa, and that its intended use—the minting of coins—was a sovereign purpose. OCSLA (IL) had provided advice on the matter since its inception and facilitated the appointment of a legal team in the UK to defend the action brought by the Argentum.

The final result may contribute to the salvage industry to act more diligently by taking steps to identify the original owners of wrecks and cargo on board and to make contractual arrangements for their recovery. The Supreme Court's judgment also affirms the importance of immunity of state-owned property.

Programme: Administration								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2020/21	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
A modern, effective department with capable and skilled employees, which is committed to the excellent execution of South Africa's foreign policy	Improved organisational functioning through an enhanced digital environment	Number of progress reports on the implementation of the Digital Strategy	Four progress reports on the implementation of the Digital Strategy submitted	Four progress reports on the implementation of the Digital Strategy submitted	Four progress reports on the implementation of the Digital Strategy	Four progress reports on the implementation of the Digital Strategy submitted		
	Unqualified audit opinion	Number of progress reports on the Audit Action Plan	Four progress reports on the Audit Action Plan submitted	Four progress reports on the Audit Action Plan submitted	Four progress reports on the Audit Action Plan	Four progress reports on the Audit Action Plan submitted		
	Improved organisational function through generic skills development	Number of reports on training programmes conducted in line with Generic Skills	New Indicator	Four reports on training programmes conducted in line with Generic Skills Development Programme	Four reports on training programmes conducted in line with Generic Skills Development Programme	Four reports on training programmes conducted in line with Generic Skills Development Programme		

Programme: Administration								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2020/21	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
	Programme implementation	Development Programme						
	Position the Diplomatic Academy as a centre of excellence in foreign service training	Number of reports on aspects implemented towards positioning the Diplomatic Academy as a centre of excellence in foreign service training	ISO-certified quality management system maintained	ISO-certified quality management system maintained	Maintain ISO-certified quality management system	ISO-certified quality management system maintained		
			Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages submitted	Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages submitted	Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages	Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages submitted		
			Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages submitted	Two progress reports on the delivery of AU/UN languages submitted	Two progress reports on collaboration with partners to enrich training programmes of the academy	Two progress reports on collaboration with partners to enrich training programmes of the academy		
	Gender mainstreaming by focussing on women, youth and persons with disabilities	Number of gender mainstreaming initiatives focussing on women, youth and people with disabilities	Eight outreach initiatives to support gender mainstreaming were undertaken	Six initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming were undertaken	Six initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming	Six initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment through gender mainstreaming undertaken		
			Three mentoring and job-shadowing outreach initiatives targeting the youth were undertaken	Two initiatives to advance youth development and empowerment were undertaken	Two initiatives to advance youth development and empowerment	Two initiatives to advance youth development and empowerment were undertaken		

Programme: Administration								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2020/21	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			Two strategic interventions to strengthen the capacity of DIRCO to effectively and equitably implement the <i>White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</i> were implemented	Two initiatives to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities were implemented	Two initiatives to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities	Two initiatives to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities were implemented		
	Legal advice and services provided in respect of International and Domestic Law	Percentage legal advice and services rendered	100% (540) legal advice and services rendered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% (206) response for advice and assistance on International Law • 100% (334) response for advice and assistance on Domestic Law 	100% (582) legal advice and services rendered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% (268) response for advice and assistance on International Law • 100% (314) response for advice and assistance on Domestic Law 	100% legal advice and services rendered	100% (568) legal advice and services rendered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% (279) response for advice and assistance on International Law • 100% (289) response for advice and assistance on Domestic Law 		

LINKING PERFORMANCE WITH BUDGETS

Actual expenditure for 2023/2024 amounts to R1.584 billion against the final appropriation of R1.631 billion which represents an underspending of R47.3 million. The underspending is primarily attributable to the delay in property maintenance and renovation projects due to procurement challenges experienced by GTAC due to PFMA provisions that are not applicable abroad.

SUBPROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Subprogramme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Ministry	7 056	7 008	48	7 114	6 753	361
Departmental Management	11 908	11 889	19	9 900	9 826	74
Audit Services	20 446	20 218	228	17 119	16 771	348
Financial Management	196 794	195 415	1 379	195 849	192 369	3 480
Corporate Services	812 745	802 411	10 334	899 929	893 680	6 249
Diplomatic Training, Research and Development	40 896	40 701	195	50 447	50 052	395
Foreign Fixed Assets Management	101 030	67 941	33 089	73 203	63 017	10 186
Office Accommodation	440 730	438 690	2 040	434 610	431 927	2 683
Total	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	1 688 171	1 664 395	23 776

4.2 PROGRAMME 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Purpose: Promote relations with foreign countries

Subprogramme 2.1: Africa

Purpose: Promote relations with countries in Africa

Subprogramme 2.2: Asia and the Middle East

Purpose: Promote relations with countries in Asia and the Middle East

Subprogramme 2.3: Americas and Caribbean

Purpose: Promote relations with countries in America and the Caribbean

Subprogramme 2.4: Europe

Purpose: Promote relations with countries in Europe

Outcomes:

- Leveraged bilateral, political, economic and social relations to achieve the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) priorities
- Increased foreign direct investment (FDI) and contributed to economic growth in South Africa
- Increased regional integration

AMERICAS AND EUROPE

The Structured Bilateral Mechanisms with North America, which includes the South Africa-United States (US) Annual Bilateral Forum (ABF) at DDG-level; the South Africa-US Working Group on African and Global Issues (WGAGI) at DG-level; and the South Africa-Canada Annual Consultations (AC) at DG-level, reviewed progress and challenges in bilateral sectoral cooperation and identified new areas for cooperation, including the exchange of information on regional and global issues of mutual interest and common concern.

There is continued support for South Africa's domestic priorities, including alignment with the NDP, from both the US and Canada, through development assistance that targets key sectors and Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) priorities such as building a capable, ethical, and developmental state; health; trade and investment; energy; water; education and skills development; environment; science; technology and innovation; safety and security; gender and youth empowerment initiatives; and support for small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development. In addition, high-level visits and engagements with both the US and Canada allowed for opportunities to discuss bilateral, regional, multilateral and geopolitical issues of mutual interest and common concern, including in the context of the strains in the bilateral relationship with the US and against the backdrop of calls by some in Congress for the Administration to review US relations with South Africa due to the perceived threat that South Africa poses to US foreign policy and national security interests as a result of South Africa's non-aligned position in the current geopolitical context. The Minister's visit to the US also afforded an opportunity to counter anti-South Africa sentiments in Congress fuelled by South Africa's support for Palestine and the case at the ICJ against Israel; cultivate relations with the South African diaspora; and to reinvigorate the historic ties and bonds of friendship and solidarity between the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements, albeit in the context of deepening socio-economic cooperation.

South Africa, led by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), hosted a successful meeting of the 20th African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum on 2 to 4 November 2023. There were high-level expressions of support from the US Administration and from some leaders in Congress for AGOA to be renewed timeously to provide certainty for businesses and investors. There was also agreement on the need to improve and modernise AGOA to better support Africa's integration into the global economy and to align it to the AfCFTA objectives to foster regional integration, infrastructure development, and industrialisation.

There were significant investments, most notably in the motor vehicle, technology, mining, and health sectors, by US and Canadian companies, which will positively impact the Government's objectives aimed at job creation, poverty alleviation, growth of value-added exports, support for local vaccine manufacturing, and mining exploration. Notably, South Africa's agricultural exports to the US increased by 2.69% to R8.9 billion in 2023 under the AGOA preferences. There are ongoing efforts to address market access challenges, which will significantly increase exports of agri-products to the US once these challenges are resolved, thus further boosting local jobs and incomes in the agricultural sector.

There is also ongoing collaboration and financing, including technical support, for the Just Energy Transition (JET) in South Africa in the context of the JET Investment Plan, targeting the electric vehicle and green hydrogen sectors. A R1,62 billion (CAD\$120 million) Canadian sovereign loan on climate change, in collaboration with the World Bank, was signed with National Treasury in 2024.

In April 2024, the bipartisan AGOA Renewal and Improvement Act of 2024, was introduced in Congress, extending AGOA by 16 years from 2025 to 2041. The Bill contains significant improvements, including to the rules of origin and review requirements, which will assist in fostering regional value chains on the continent under the AfCFTA.

With respect to South Africa's relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries during 2023/2024, after a gap of over ten years, the VII session of the South Africa-Brazil Joint Commission (JC), co-chaired by Minister Pandor and her Brazilian counterpart, convened in Brasilia. The VII Session enabled the revitalisation of bilateral relations between South Africa and Brazil, a review of the work by the 10 JC working groups and an exchange of notes on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest in IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa), BRICS, the G20, climate change, and the UN.

In May 2023, Deputy President Mashatile hosted HE Francia Elena Márquez, the Vice President of Colombia on an Official Visit. The two principals agreed to strengthen cooperation in agribusiness, arts and culture, mining, small business development, science

and innovation, tourism, sport and cooperation, peace and security, climate change, and global governance reforms. A business forum of SMEs was convened at the Sandton Convention Centre. The Colombian Vice President signed a technical and development cooperation MoU with the AUDA-NEPAD Agency and pledged USD\$100 000 for technical cooperation in the blue economy in Africa.

Minister Pandor paid a successful Official Visit to Jamaica from 20 to 23 March 2024, at the invitation of her Jamaican counterpart, HE Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica. The Minister's visit was utilised to facilitate the strengthening of cooperation in sport, arts and culture, tourism, science and innovation, agriculture, trade and economic relations. The Minister also has a virtual meeting with the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Foreign Ministers to strengthen cooperation between South Africa, Africa, and CARICOM.

During the reporting period, Deputy Minister Alvin Botes held bilateral meetings with several countries in the region, such as Chile, where he co-chaired the Joint Bilateral Mechanism with his Chilean counterpart. The Deputy Ministers agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, especially trade and economic relations, cooperation in arts and culture, education, fisheries and aquaculture, sports and science and innovation (especially Antarctica and astronomy). Consequently, Chile, through the Chilean International Development Agency (AGCID), is developing an aquaculture training programme for South Africa in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch and Rhodes University. South Africa continues to participate in the Chilean Public Management Postgraduate Scholarship programme.

Deputy Minister Botes also paid an Official Visit to Uruguay to strengthen bilateral relations between South Africa and Uruguay, focussing on key sectors of cooperation and technical exchanges, such as renewable energy, agribusiness, basic education, ICT, mining, and sport. Subsequently, DIRCO has facilitated exchanges between the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and CEIBAL (a Uruguayan institution that has developed best practices in the integration of technology in education). CEIBAL recently participated in a basic education international conference in South Africa. DBE and CEIBAL are currently negotiating an MoU.

Deputy Minister Botes also co-chaired the inaugural South Africa-Argentina Political Consultations, during which it was agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, agribusiness, arts and culture, digital economy, defence, energy, SME development, space science, biotechnology, Antarctic matters, and sports. The Deputy Minister also agreed to do more to promote the opportunities presented by the SACU-MERCOSUR (the Southern Common Market) preferential trade agreement to the business sectors in both countries. Furthermore, Argentina agreed to partner with the South African Embassy in Buenos Aires to promote the trade and investment opportunities presented by the AfCFTA. The two principals committed to strengthening cooperation on global governance reforms and to promoting the development agenda of the South in the G20.

In August 2023, Deputy Minister Botes undertook an Official Visit to Mexico for the third meeting of the Mechanism for Consultations on Issues of Mutual Interest to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations and to reactivate the South Africa-Mexico Binational Commission. During the official meeting with his counterpart, the two principals agreed to facilitate cooperation in arts and culture, border management, financial intelligence, SME development, and vocational and technical education in the automotive, tourism and creative industries. The two principals also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the G20 and on global governance reforms.

In November 2023, Deputy Minister Botes hosted his Peruvian counterpart for the inaugural Political Consultations. The meeting strengthened bilateral relations and provided a roadmap for cooperation in trade and investment, higher education, environment, defence, fisheries and aquaculture, arts and culture, infrastructure development, telecommunications, mining and maritime.

Deputy Minister Botes paid a Working Visit to the Dominican Republic from 16 to 18 August 2023 for political consultations with his counterpart, during which it was agreed to strengthen cooperation in arts and culture, sports, especially baseball, and trade and investment.

Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Ncawu Mafu, visited Cuba and the Dominican Republic from 15 to 21 July 2023 and was the guest of honour at the Mandela Art Exhibition in Santo Domingo, as part of the National Day celebrations. The South Africa-Dominican Republic Visa Waiver Agreement for Holders of Official Diplomatic Passports was signed on 21 August 2023.

A multi-stakeholder Cuban trade delegation visited South Africa from 25 September to 1 October 2023 and was led by the Director for Africa within the Cuban Ministry for Foreign Trade and Investment, Sergio Espinosa. The delegation included members of Cuba's health and biotechnology institutions, water and construction, education, and culture entities. The outcome of the visit was the commitment by South African and Cuban biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries to strengthen cooperation through partnerships in applied research, product development, licensing and commercialisation of vaccines and pharmaceutical products.

A meeting, facilitated by DIRCO, took place in Cape Town on 30 July 2023 between the Jamaican High Commissioner, Joan Edwards and Deputy Minister Mafu on the margins of the South African Netball World Cup Championship. Subsequently, Deputy Minister Mafu travelled to Jamaica from 20 to 24 November 2023 to sign the Programme of Cooperation between South Africa and Jamaica in the field of sports on behalf of Minister Zizi Kodwa.

A number of high-level visits from European countries again illustrated the substantive nature of South Africa's relationships with these countries. The State Visit by the President of Portugal to South Africa in June 2023 allowed an opportunity for the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement. The President of Portugal extended an invitation to President Ramaphosa to undertake a State Visit to Portugal, which he accepted. Prime Minister Rutte of the Netherlands and Prime Minister Frederiksen of Denmark paid a Working Visit to South Africa and held bilateral talks with President Ramaphosa on 20 June 2023. The visit solidified South Africa's relationship with the Netherlands in the areas of green hydrogen, renewable energy and just energy transition. During the visit, an MoU in the field of green hydrogen with the Netherlands was signed, and the President and the Prime Ministers participated in a

Denmark-Netherlands-South Africa Business Forum focussing on key areas in green energy and green hydrogen.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands paid a State Visit to South Africa from 18 to 20 October 2023, which resulted in the signing of an MoU on cooperation in the fields of higher, technical and vocational education as well as a Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation, on the margins of the visit. During the visit, Minister Pandor hosted her counterpart, Minister Hanke Bruins Slot, for the Third Meeting of the South Africa-Netherlands Joint Commission. During the Working Visit to South Africa by the Deputy Prime Minister (Tánaiste) and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Ireland on 18 July 2023, discussions focussed on an overview of bilateral relations, the proposed visit of President Ramaphosa to Ireland, the Russia-Ukraine Conflict with an update on the African Peace Initiative, EU Response and Engagement, Mozambique (Cabo Delgado), the upcoming election in Zimbabwe, the situation in Israel and Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, and Eswatini. Earlier on 18 July 2023, the Tánaiste marked Mandela Day with Minister Pandor at the Bophelong Community Centre in Mamelodi, where the two leaders planted trees, handed over gifts and read stories to the children.

During the convening of the Eleventh South Africa-Germany Bi-National Commission held on 27 June 2023, working groups focussed on discussions on arts and culture, science and innovation, higher education, development cooperation, and vocational training, amongst others.

The Minister of European and International Affairs of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg, visited South Africa from 13 to 15 December 2023. His programme commenced with a bilateral meeting with Minister Pandor, after which he addressed the South Africa-Austria Business Forum, opened the Austria Cultural Forum, and signed an MoU on cooperation in the fields of arts and culture. The visit highlighted the growing trade ties with Austria, the growing Austrian investments in South Africa, and the contribution Austrian companies made to skills development in the country.

The French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Catherine Colonna, visited South Africa on 19 June 2023. The engagement between Minister Pandor and Minister Colonna included a tête-à-tête followed by a working lunch and a press briefing. The ministers discussed the African Heads of State Peace Initiative for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as well as regional conflicts in Mali, Sudan, the DRC and Mozambique. Discussions were also held on climate change and the JET-IP, as well as the upcoming Summit for a New Global Financing Pact to be hosted by President Macron of France. There was also a discussion on South Africa-France bilateral relations and the forthcoming Forum for Political Dialogue (FPD), which was scheduled to be hosted in France in the latter half of 2023. Prior to the meeting between the ministers, Minister Colonna signed a Cooperation Protocol in the field of cyber-forensic investigations and the fight against cybercrime with the then Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola.

Minister Pandor undertook a Working Visit to Lisbon, Portugal from 18 to 19 May 2023, which reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation in preparation for the incoming State Visit in June 2023.

Deputy Minister Botes participated in the Italy-Africa Summit from 28 to 30 January 2024 and delivered South Africa's intervention on vocational education and culture, food security, and science and innovation. The Deputy Minister held bilateral meetings with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, the Director-General of the International Migration Organisation (IMO) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar.

South Africa and the European Union (EU) held a successful dialogue forum chaired at the level of Director-General in February 2024, deliberating on strengthening cooperation on matters of peace and security in the region and the continent. South Africa-EU resolved to deepen bilateral relations in these areas as the two partners head towards a summit as soon as practically possible.

French companies present in South Africa have contributed close to 100 000 jobs for South Africans and also offer vocational and other training opportunities to strengthen capacity in numerous fields. Sébastien de Place, president of the French Foreign Trade Advisor in South Africa, voiced a warning in December 2023 that French companies chose to hold off on committing to additional investments at the 2023 South Africa Investment Conference, as business leaders are eager to see material improvements around energy stability, logistics efficiencies, port competitiveness, anti-corruption measures, and an improved investor visa application process. He did, however, note that French companies are positive about the country and there is significant capital ready and waiting to flow into South Africa because investors see the huge opportunities that exist. French companies play a key role in the maintenance and life extension of the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, which is critical to ensuring energy security in South Africa.

Total trade in goods and services between South Africa and the United Kingdom (UK) for 2023 amounted to GBP£10.4 billion (around R239.2 billion). Imports from the UK for the 2023/2024 financial year amounted to GBP£4.6 billion (R105.8 billion), which is an increase of 3.8% in 2022/2023 (GBP£170 million or R3.9 billion). South African exports to the UK amounted to GBP£5.8 billion (R133 billion) for 2023, which is a decrease of 15.3% or GBP£1.1 billion equivalent to R 23.2 billion.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the UK to South Africa for 2023 amounted to GBP£21.5 billion (R495 billion) and South African investment into the UK economy for the period amounted to GBP£7.9 billion (R182 billion). The UK's development engagement with South Africa supports the country's NDP and long-term goals of addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and employment. The UK therefore focusses its development support and FDI on:

- a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy
- inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- supporting the health system to address the needs of the population and for pandemic preparedness

- promotion of gender equality and women's rights
- tackling corruption.

The UK collaborates with government at all levels, including national, provincial, and local levels. and also focusses on strengthening collaboration between institutions in terms of research, science, innovation, investment, and commercial engagement.

In terms of supporting the JET Partnership, the UK through UK PACT has committed funding up to GBP£10.3 million on three key priority sectors, namely energy (supporting the transition from coal to renewable energy), financing (green finance), and mobility (through electric vehicle readiness support). Through these projects, the UK supports job creation and the reskilling of workers to actively participate in the green economy.

The European Union (EU) as a bloc remains South Africa's largest trading partner in goods, accounting for 20.8% of total trade, corresponding to R463.2 billion in imports and R372.4 billion in exports. There are at least 1 055 EU companies active in South Africa, contributing at least 350 000 direct jobs. EU companies are contributing to the national social-economic development objectives and skills development.

Engagements with Central European Countries during the 2023/2024 financial year included: South Africa-Czech Republic Political Consultations (at Deputy Minister Level); the South Africa-Romania Senior Officials' Meeting; the South Africa-Croatia Senior Officials' Meeting; and a Working Visit to South Africa by the President of Bulgaria, which took place from 12 to 13 May 2023. High-level visits from the region included the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovenia's meeting with Minister Pandor and a visit to South Africa by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. In terms of contributions to the economic growth of the country, South Africa has added Romania, Slovakia, Croatia, and Bulgaria to the South African E-Visa list, which will allow ease of travel for tourism and business purposes from these countries.

South Africa formed part of the Africa Peace Mission of seven African Heads of State who visited Ukraine and Russia for engagement and consultations on the war. South Africa agreed

to assist in the facilitation of returning the abducted Ukrainian children. Bilateral relations were further strengthened through political consultations (Minister Lavrov, Minister Kuleba, and Minister Aleinik on the margins of BRICS), including telecons at a Head of State level. President Ramaphosa and Minister Pandor advanced South Africa's domestic imperatives and Africa's Agenda 2063 by attending the Russia-Africa Summit in 2023.

Minister Pandor undertook a working visit to Türkiye from 1 to 3 March 2024 on invitation from Minister Hakan Fidan, the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, to participate in the Third Edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF). Minister Pandor participated as a panellist in a session on the topic Understanding the global South. The panel discussion was mainly dominated by the current humanitarian crises in Gaza and the need to exchange ideas with the countries of the South on the positive contributions and solutions that could effectively be initiated to address the situation and prevent similar disasters from reoccurring in the future. In this regard, the Minister reiterated the importance of the global South to unite in support of the people of Palestine. While in Antalya, the Minister also held several bilateral meetings on the margins of the ADF2024, including with the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan; the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq, HE Dr Faud Hussein; the Foreign Minister of Montenegro, HE Filip Ivanovic; and the Foreign Minister of North Macedonia, HE Bujar Osmani.

Relations with the Western Balkan regions were also strengthened significantly during the period under review. On 18 September 2023, Minister Pandor and the Foreign Minister of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani, signed a Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between South Africa and North Macedonia. It has since been agreed that the South African Mission in Sofia, Bulgaria, will be non-residentially accredited to North Macedonia. South Africa is currently in a process of appointing an Honorary Consul to Belgrade, Serbia. On 12 September 2023, Ambassador Maud Dlomo, Deputy Director-General: Americas and Europe hosted Ambassador Irena Šarac, Acting Assistant Minister for Bilateral Cooperation at the Serbian Foreign Ministry for a Senior Officials Meeting.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

In South Africa's diplomatic strategy, countries in the Southeast Asia region play a crucial role. These markets offer significant opportunities for trade, investment, and tourism, with wider implications in the Indo-Pacific geostrategic landscape. South Africa's engagement holds great potential for economic benefits and a positive return on diplomatic efforts. Notably, structured mechanisms and high-level visits have been conducted with Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand, resulting in market access for South African citrus products in Vietnam and an agreement for citrus and table grape exports to Thailand. Additionally, defence-related product exports show promise, with room for further growth.

Deputy President Paul Mashatile also visited Singapore following an earlier visit to South Africa in 2023, by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. South Africa is actively pursuing market access for beef, lamb, pork, and ostrich in Singapore. Furthermore, Singapore remains an important partner for skills development and training. The Fifth Bilateral Consultative Forum with the Philippines took place on 23 February 2023 in Pretoria. Market access for South African citrus to the Philippines was secured in 2021, and sales of South African wines, juices, and fruits have increased, making them available on retail shelves across the country.

Indonesia stands out as the only country in Southeast Asia with which South Africa shares a strategic partnership. Past visits have resulted in agreements on the export of soybeans and cattle, and South Africa eagerly anticipates further opportunities during the next Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation scheduled to be hosted by Indonesia in 2024.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

South Africa's bilateral relations with the region strongly focus on deepening trade and investment linkages, particularly with countries that offer potential for future growth and where synergies and complementarities in products and technologies exist. India, as an economic powerhouse, is a key strategic partner for South Africa in the region, while

Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh offer significant opportunities for expanding exports to the region.

The Indian market is currently the sixth-largest source market for South African tourism, and a significant amount of effort is invested to ensure that the number of Indian visitors to South Africa continues to increase and that concerns (i.e., visa challenges) are addressed. Following the approval by the Indian government of in-transit cold treatment for South African apple and pear exports, South Africa exported more than 2.5 million boxes to India in 2023.

Deputy Minister Candice Mashego-Dlamini paid a working visit to New Delhi from 19 to 24 February 2024, to represent the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation at the ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue. In addition to Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini's participation in the Raisina Dialogue, a bilateral programme was arranged where the Deputy Minister met with the Minister of State; the Confederation of India Industry (CII); Mahindra & Mahindra Limited; and the Motherson Group, with the purpose of engaging with current and potential investors in order to market South Africa as an investment destination and to address any concerns.

From 6 to 7 June 2023, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini paid a working visit to Astana, Kazakhstan, to co-chair the seventh round of Bilateral Political Consultations, as well as to participate in marking 31 years of diplomatic relations at the Eurasian National University. Key outcomes of the seventh round of consultations were the agreement between the two countries to strengthen cooperation in mining, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, services, the blue economy, defence, renewable energy, and trade and investment.

MIDDLE EAST

The high-level engagements resulted in numerous new trade opportunities for South Africa, in particular in the agriculture and agro-processing sectors, as well as pledges and future engagements promising more than USD\$10 billion of FDI to South Africa from the Middle East Region. The Directorate Gulf States continued to support the high-level engagements

within the Middle East to promote South Africa's economic growth, exports, skills, infrastructure and development, as well as FDI, with the aim of creating employment and reducing poverty and inequality. These interactions further aimed to initiate or promote the conclusion of high-level inter-state agreements aimed at establishing the necessary legal frameworks to facilitate economic interaction. High-level interactions included a State Visit to the State of Qatar from 14 to 15 November 2023; Minister Pandor hosting the 15th South Africa-Iran Joint Commission for Cooperation in August 2023; Minister Pandor undertaking a Working Visit to Iran from 21 to 22 October 2023; various visits to the region by Cabinet Ministers; Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini participating in the South Africa-UAE Third Joint Commission from 9 to 14 June 2023; and the Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture visiting South Africa during February 2024. These interactions resulted in the conclusion of various agreements, including, inter alia, in the fields of higher education, basic education, and the empowerment of women.

EAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

High-level engagements included a State Visit to South Africa and a Bi-National Commission in China that served to consolidate positive strategic relations with China, which is a globally important player and the world's second-largest economy. South Africa's relations with China has allowed South Africa to influence China to support the NDP, MTSF, and Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) imperatives, as well as the agenda of the developing world and the global South. Cooperation in various technical areas delivered Chinese investment in national infrastructure and capacity, increased trade, positive trade mission to South Africa, and support for the energy crisis in South Africa.

Bilateral relations with New Zealand were enhanced by the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Bilateral Cooperation, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation within the UN system to promote international peace and security.

Former President Kgalema Motlanthe, in his capacity as the Commissioner for the Global Commission on Drug Policy, visited Australia to attend the Harm Reduction International

Conference, which provides a forum to share the latest research on best practices in drug use, harm reduction, and human rights. The Special Advisor to the Minister of Mineral Resource and Energy, attended the Africa Down Under (ADU) mining conference in Perth to enhance investment cooperation and explore opportunities within the beneficiation sector.

INCREASED FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa continues to engage with all countries in the region as it relates to trade, investment, tourism, and skills development in an effort to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to South Africa. The network of missions that South Africa has in the region enables the Government of South Africa to engage directly with the countries in the region on a daily basis in an effort to bring economic returns to South Africa. Through engagements with business delegations from Japan, meetings between Heads of State of Vietnam, Singapore, China, and Qatar, and the continual activities of our missions in the promotion of activities, not only from DIRCO but also from other partner departments, there has been significant progress in the development of economic opportunities.

One notable achievement is the promotion of the Youth Jobs Fair hosted by China in South Africa, which has increased employment opportunities for the youth in South Africa. Additionally, there are significant investments from Japanese companies in South Africa, which further deepen economic ties. One must also note the significant role played by missions abroad in their daily efforts to engage partners with regards to concerns that they may have with reference to the South African economy on issues such as electricity supply, which has a direct impact on a company's willingness to invest directly into the economy.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

South Africa's economic diplomacy in the region supports the expansion of Thailand's investment in the automotive sector through Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). The Thai Summit Group has invested approximately R1.5 billion in South Africa. Additionally,

prospective investors in the retail sector from Malaysia received support for their expansion plans to enter the South African retail market. The region is an increasingly important source for outward investment, and dedicated engagement to promote investment from the region remains a priority.

Several Singaporean companies with investments include the following:

- Asia Offshore Group invested R34 million in one project creating 17 jobs
- Chemical Industries (Far East) Ltd. constructed a chlorine, caustic soda and hydrochloric acid refinery at Coega costing USD\$166 million
- Computer Sciences Corporations (CSC) created the largest infrastructure outsource in the history of South Africa, including 750 employees transferring to CSC South Africa
- Flextronics invested R179.3 million in one project creating 162 jobs
- Noble Group invested USD\$400 million in Altius Group
- Olam International Caraway Foods International Pty Ltd.
- Temasek Holdings (Pte) Ltd. with a USD\$150 million investment with EO Oppenheimer & Son International to invest in African private consumer goods companies and agriculture assets
- Wilmar International: Wilmar Continental Edible Oils and Fats, a joint venture between Wilmar International and Continental Oil Mills in South Africa.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

India remains one of South Africa's most important inward investment partners in the region. Most recently, the Indian company, the Motherson Group, has completed a R120 million investment in the automotive sector. Another company, Verdanta, implemented a R21 billion project in the mining sector in the Northern Cape.

CHINA

Total bilateral trade, including South African exports to China, has increased significantly to R692.6 billion in 2023, and while the balance of trade is heavily in China's favour to the value of

R146 billion, China seems receptive to South Africa's entreaties to improve market access and increase sustainable investment in South Africa's assembly and manufacturing sector. South African beef, avocados, and rooibos tea has received market access. China has committed to increased investment, as shown by China's commitment to several infrastructure projects, its participation in the Investment Conference, and its hosting of the recent China-South Africa Jobs Fair.

SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS STRENGTHENED AND CONSOLIDATED IN ADVANCEMENT OF NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL PRIORITIES

Two major events took place in the 2023/2024 financial year that are of importance to South Africa. Firstly, we saw the re-emergence of the IBSA grouping as meetings of the foreign ministers took place and a commitment by Brazil to host the next IBSA Summit meeting was made. IBSA is of critical importance to South Africa as it is a grouping of like-minded democratic states that represent the views of the global South as significant economies in their own rights on their respective continents. The IBSA Fund, which is a key outreach mechanism of the IBSA partnership, focusses on using funds from IBSA member states for the promotion of projects that have a direct and lasting impact in the areas where they operate.

Notably, in 2023, South Africa hosted the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, with South Africa as the Chair of the grouping. Under the Chairship of South Africa, BRICS has seen its first ever large-scale expansion, incorporating another four member countries. This shows the leadership role that South Africa plays in international engagements and the growing importance of BRICS in international relations. The increased membership allows for the inclusion of additional resources and voices from the global South for the improvement of economic and social ties among member states and the promotion of economic growth and development on the African continent.

The Branch Global Governance and Continental Agenda will report on the China-Africa Roundtable Dialogue that took place on the margins of BRICS Summit, to exchange views on

China-Africa development cooperation within the context of China Africa Policy and AU Agenda 2063.

Programme: International Relations								
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Leveraged bilateral, political economic and social relations to achieve the objectives of the NDP and the MTSF priorities	Strengthen bilateral relations towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contributing to the achievement of the NDP. alleviating triple challenges (inequality, poverty, and unemployment.) achieving the MTSF priorities. promoting National Interest. promoting regional and continental priorities. 	Number of regional political reports, including the outcomes of structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits aligned to achievement of the NDP and MTSF	Twelve regional political reports, including the outcomes of structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits aligned to achievement of the NDP and MTSF The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments on the continent and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic As the year progressed and COVID restrictions lifted, high-level engagements and foreign office consultations (FOC) took place against	Twelve regional political reports, including the outcomes of structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits aligned to achievement of the NDP and MTSF submitted. Africa: The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments on the continent and focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bilateral cooperation in the various sectors as well as new areas of 	Twelve regional political reports, including the outcomes of structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits aligned to achievement of the NDP and MTSF	Twelve regional political reports, including the outcomes of structured bilateral mechanisms and high-level visits aligned to achievement of the NDP and MTSF submitted Africa: The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments on the continent and focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bilateral cooperation in the various sectors, as well as new areas of 		

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			<p>the backdrop of improved global economic activity since the rise of COVID-19 infections</p> <p>The convening of more frequent Political Consultations saw countries working together in building partnerships that would enhance political and economic relations and strengthen and deepen bilateral relations and cooperation in the fields of agriculture, health (particularly dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic), science and technology, regional, continental and global politics and peace, security and the elimination of gender-based violence</p>	<p>cooperation namely, agriculture, energy, food processing, ecosystem protection and tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular convening of the mechanisms • cooperation in the multilateral arena on issues of mutual concern • civic and immigration matters • COVID-19 vaccine • bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including education, the strengthening of economic ties and employment creation • high-level discussions on 		<p>cooperation the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and call for strengthening of multilateralism • the importance of creating conducive environments that will allow the business sector to strive • the identification of challenges that hinder trade and tourism to flourish • the sharing of national strategies with a view to develop economies to improve the living and working 		

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			<p>The focus of bilateral relations was also on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation in the multilateral arena on issues of mutual concern the finalisation of outstanding MoUs and agreements cooperation in the multilateral arena on issues of mutual concern, including wildlife conservation, biodiversity conservation and the management thereof the convening of outstanding structured bilateral mechanisms bilateral engagements to discuss political and civil tensions in various 	<p>regional, continental and global matters of mutual concern including the Tripartite Free Trade Area with stakeholders on the continent to establish strong relations, being mindful of the sovereignty of individual countries on the African continent and in line with the AU principles and the rule of law</p> <p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments and multilateral engagements.</p>		<p>conditions of people post-COVID.</p> <p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments and multilateral engagements.</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements, with countries in the region focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> general areas of discussion included cooperation; development; 		

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			countries on the continent, South Africa's facilitation roles and responsibilities, security and humanitarian issues, elections, peace and stability concerns and negotiations, the delivery of COVID-19 vaccine doses, the impasse regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) negotiations, including migration issues on the continent, discussions on the establishment and/or scheduling of BNCs, including the relaxation of	economic developments and multilateral engagements. The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements, with countries in the region focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the convening of a peaceful resolution of the escalating conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the status of bilateral relations between the two countries, and overview of South Africa's economic priorities and the proposed bilateral Trade and Investment Council Bilaterals between the US 		trade; investment, mineral resources; energy, such as green hydrogen and just energy transition; agriculture; education; science; innovation and water resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential and Ministerial bilaterals with countries in the region focused on the review of diplomatic political relations, as well as cooperation in different sectors of the economy outcomes of the XV BRICS Summit developments in the Southern African Development 		

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			<p>patent requirements, which will enable the continent to manufacture 100 million doses of vaccine as estimated to be required for use on the African continent.</p> <p>The department utilised bilateral engagements with countries of the North to contribute to the achievement of South Africa's domestic priorities, thus contributing to a better South Africa by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reaffirming close and long-standing relations and a commitment to further deepening political and 	<p>and South Africa focussed on the importance of the bilateral partnership and US support for South Africa's development priorities; trade and investment relations, including the African Growth and Opportunity Act; energy, climate change and support for South Africa's Just Transition; the Russia/Ukraine conflict; food security; and the need for reform of the UN Security Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings held on the sidelines of the G20 Summit focussed on the status of bilateral relations and developments in the SADC region 		<p>Community (SADC) region relating to peace and security issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the continued strengthening of economic cooperation between countries, as well as the need to continue to focus on the green transition, inter alia, through working together on renewable energy and the climate agenda security issues, specifically in terms of current events in the Middle East, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and on the African continent. 		

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			<p>economic relations, addressing the need for strengthened partnerships based on solidarity and cooperation, which in turn is based on development priorities set by the AU (in particular Agenda 2063); reaffirming South Africa's position of peaceful resolution of conflicts and transitional justice within the ambit of international law; the need to continue to support humanitarian efforts and for the important role of regional institutions and</p>	<p>and the submission of aides memoire for South Africa's candidacies to multilateral organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of diplomatic political relations, as well as cooperation in different sectors of the economy • enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation • commitment to strengthen cooperation and collaboration on regional and multilateral issues in areas of common interests • the US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen's visit in January focussed on meeting with the President and various ministers, 		<p>Asia Middle East:</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments and multilateral engagements.</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements, with countries in the region focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conclusion and signing of mutually agreed agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) • commitment to strengthening multilateralism while also 		

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			<p>regional peace-making initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver initiative was spearheaded by South Africa and India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to assist with the localisation of vaccines manufacturing, personal protective equipment and other therapeutics to effectively combat the COVID-19 pandemic the affirmation of South Africa's position regarding the condemnation of 	<p>private companies, and philanthropists, including the South African Reserve Bank. Her visit focussed on attracting funding for climate change projects and touring US-funded facilities in Gauteng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation in the multilateral arena on issues of mutual concern, including a celebration of long-standing diplomatic ties with countries in the region, including discussions on study tours to Canada and the 14th Annual Consultations (AC) between South Africa and Canada active cooperation and ongoing efforts to elevate trade relations to the same level as our 		<p>advocating for the needs and interests of developing countries to be placed at the top of the international agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the centrality of multilateralism and its importance in the peaceful resolution of conflicts, ensuring sustainable development and global stability. enhancing bilateral economic relations by exchanging economic, trade and investment data expanding economic cooperation and explore the potential of 		

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			<p>vaccine nationalism and advocating global access, especially for the African continent and developing countries, as well as the severe challenges faced by African countries to produce vaccines in their countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regional and national priorities, as well as issues to do with women's economic empowerment, the status of collaborations that form part of the broad bilateral cooperation, the importance of the Human Rights Council and the 	<p>excellent political relations, as well as the BRICS Chairship 2023 were the main objectives of the 17th JCM with Cuba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> further high-level meetings were held to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with a determined commitment to strengthening cooperation and collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas of common interests in Western Europe, high-level consultations were held with Switzerland to take stock of relations, identify new areas of 		<p>increasing commercial engagements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> further development of economic partnerships, as well as deepening and expanding cooperation in trade and investment, science and innovation, digitalisation, communications and technology, water and sanitation and skills development identification of new areas of cooperation political and economic crises which have implications for South Africa's trade and investment prospects. 		

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			<p>importance of the elimination of all forms of racism were discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmation of South Africa's commitment to addressing climate change, in accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, through the urgent implementation of all pillars of the UNFCCC COP26 and the importance of a balanced and just approach, and avoiding one-size-fits-all outcomes bilateral cooperation to expand to areas 	<p>cooperation, including views on peace and security issues on the African continent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Pandor and Minister Dlamini Zuma attended the inauguration of President Lula da Silva of Brazil, which is expected to have a profound positive impact on the good bilateral relations and cooperation between South Africa and Brazil going forward <p>Asia Middle East:</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements with countries in the region took place against the backdrop of political and economic developments and</p>				

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			<p>such as parliamentary cooperation, Antarctic cooperation, sports, arts and culture cooperation, as well as the implementation of the Science and Technology Cooperation MoU and the Mineral Resources Cooperation MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> key sectors of importance, such as the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, expanding technical cooperation through the Nelson Mandela Scholarship in astronomy, 	<p>multilateral engagements.</p> <p>The structured bilateral mechanisms, high-level and other political engagements, with countries in the region focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthened bilateral relations cooperation in the multilateral arena on issues of mutual concern South Africa's representation in Taipei; and Japanese business investment in South Africa the advancement of multiple areas of cooperation, in particular as it pertains to trade and investment; science and technology; and development cooperation cooperation in the multilateral arena 				

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			fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, astro-engineering, astro-physics, bio-engineering, vocational and technical education, science and technology research and joint projects, mining cooperation and business-to-business engagement, were discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation on Women, Peace and Security, including training of women mediators, Durban+20 and the protection of human rights defenders • cooperation on the circular 	on issues of mutual concern, including a celebration of long-standing diplomatic ties with countries in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resumption of trade and investment consultations and the stalled Agreement on the Co-Production of Films between South Africa and Australia 				

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			<p>economy, energy transition, the forestry sector, 4IR and the digital economy, as well as education and science</p> <p>In terms of bilateral relations with countries of the East and Middle East, the emphasis fell on honouring commitments made at the G7 under the UNFCCC and the call for leadership within the Commonwealth and IORA; the finalisation of bilateral agreements and MoUs in defence, police service and health; diversification of trade and the identification of new trade opportunities</p>					

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			<p>for exploration; support for Palestinian Statehood; developments within the AU and initiatives in the UN context supported by South Africa; preferential trade agreements with SACU; and the revival of structured bilateral mechanisms</p> <p>Identifying new areas of cooperation and probable strengthening of people-to-people relations, particularly in women's organisations and student exchange programmes</p> <p>Reassessment of pending agreements, including the visa exemption agreements for diplomatic and official passport holders by the</p>					

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			<p>Department of Home Affairs</p> <p>Ongoing engagements regarding the High-Speed Rail Project (HSR) as one of the projects that were approved by Cabinet as part of the National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP)</p> <p>Progress regarding the Small Harbours Development Project, which is part of an MoU between South Africa and China.</p> <p>In this regard, the focus fell on the development of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs)</p> <p>High-level and structured bilateral mechanism engagements included</p>					

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			<p>consultations regarding the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the global political and economic climate, safety issues during natural disasters and the possibility of new waves of COVID-19</p> <p>Discussions on the possibility of developing platforms such as the G20 for developing countries for post-COVID-19 economic development and recovery</p> <p>In terms of trade investment with countries of the Middle East and the East, the focus fell on the following investment initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investment aftercare with expansion of existing investment in 					

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			South Africa and follow-up on pledges made at the South Africa Investment Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagements on possible investment in technology solutions • investment seminars on opportunities in the ocean's economy • addressing concerns regarding visas and permits, the Automatic Identification System and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment • on-site visits and virtual engagements with identified firms • MoU with Thailand to 					

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			assess the implementation of bilateral agricultural relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation in economic and trade conferences • identifying new trade opportunities • engagements with domestic stakeholders, such as chambers of commerce and provincial governments with the objective of developing an investment strategy in broader sectors within the region • investment and trade promotion of the South African Halal meat market • expansion of investment into 					

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			wine and spirits; beauty products and oils; fisheries; and jewellery manufacturing industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitation of a conducive environment for enhanced trade and investment in South Africa's healthcare, pharmaceutical, energy and agriculture sectors • province-to-province investment engagements, resulting in an investment pledge of R208 million to the Limpopo province • cooperative trade investment in automotive, pharmaceutical and renewable 					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> energy discussions regarding barriers to further investment in the health sector due to the absence of direct flights to South Africa and challenges with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority inspections of new areas and ports for the possibility of exporting live South African beef, as well as improved market access for various South African products engagements between missions and local stakeholders regarding the possibility of importing South 					

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			<p>African ostrich and other game meat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings with chambers of commerce with the objective of entering trade partnerships in areas of agriculture and food processing, healthcare and pharmaceutical, as well as dairy and livestock trade impediments and opportunities for South African food and beverages to be exported through South African supermarket brands based abroad participation of South African agro-processing companies in 					

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			<p>Southeast Asia with the objective of discovering new trends, expanding business and identifying new markets in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local assistance with expanding the South African Halal market in the region as a possible economic driver • engagements with stakeholders to discuss possible opportunities in telecommunications and energy • Head Office and missions in the region participated in investment-promotion activities during the reporting period to promote economic 					

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			<p>cooperation and encourage investments, new projects, as well as address challenges regarding existing investments</p> <p>Expo2020 Dubai where the South Africa National Day was celebrated followed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagements with participants in the MultiChoice SMME Accelerator Activation Programme • a media town hall engagement focussing on trade and investment • a business dialogue at the South Africa Pavilion to increase the 					

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			importation of consumer goods from South Africa • an engagement at the AU Pavilion • a site visit to a South African business entrepreneur who benefitted directly from Expo2020 The outcomes of the aforementioned engagements include: • showcasing South Africa's strategic importance and as a globally relevant player • reinforcing South Africa's position as an attractive and competitive business, investment and tourism destination • promoting South Africa's					

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			reputation as "open for business", and "investment destination of choice" entry point into the southern African region and the continent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing context on the AfCFTA • identified areas of possible economic cooperation in agriculture, defence, energy and transport • exchange views on South Africa's economic and political relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) • consultations with partner departments for the purpose of possibly unblocking 					

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			<p>impediments and access to financial pledges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities offered in countries of accreditation in construction, infrastructure, energy, technology, medical, retail and manufacturing challenges experienced in international partnerships in the banking sector probable investment opportunities in residential and commercial real estate development, financial, healthcare, and pharmaceutical services increasing existing investment in South African beef and fruit juice promotion of commercial links and arms exports 					

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Increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and contributed to economic growth in South Africa	Contributed to economic growth in South Africa through export and investment promotion by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring new areas for trade and investment, ranging from primary, secondary and tertiary sectors Nurturing and expanding existing trade and investment Establishing business-to-business relations 	Number of quarterly progress reports on the regional trade and investment initiatives undertaken in support of the one government investment approach	Twelve progress reports on the regional investment strategies were submitted Head Office and missions in the region continued to explore investment opportunities for South Africa, in line with the objectives of the ERRP, which focusses on priority interventions aimed at restoring growth and creating jobs Investment from African countries into South Africa remains limited. There is, however, huge potential in the region for South African investment across almost all sectors. Missions assisted South African companies in identifying investment opportunities in host countries	Twelve quarterly progress reports on the regional trade and investment initiatives undertaken in support of the one government investment approach were submitted Head Office and missions in the regions continued to explore investment opportunities for South Africa, in line with the objectives of the ERRP, which focusses on priority interventions aimed at restoring growth and creating jobs Africa: Trade and investment outreach initiatives on the continent focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings with domestic stakeholders such as the 	Twelve quarterly progress reports on the regional trade and investment initiatives undertaken in support of the one government investment approach	Twelve quarterly progress reports on the regional trade and investment initiatives undertaken in support of the one government investment approach were submitted Head Office and missions in the regions continued to explore investment opportunities for South Africa, in line with the objectives of the ERRP, which focusses on priority interventions aimed at restoring growth and creating jobs Africa: Trade and investment outreach initiatives on the continent focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessing progress made in terms of investments and 		

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			Investment discussions focussed on the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transport; pharmaceutical industry; mining and energy; renewable energy; ICT; automotive sector; construction; petroleum and energy; textiles; aquaculture; infrastructure; ports development and infrastructure; real estate; civil aviation; hospitality industry; telecommunications; wine; fresh produce; finance; small business and women; aerospace; industrial goods and spare parts; 	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> host government ministries; private companies ongoing support to missions to promote bilateral investment participation in the Eighth Africa Forum of Investment and Commerce in Algeria. Investment discussions focussed on the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mining (oil, gold and diamonds) aquaculture digital technology agriculture agro-processing 		to discuss new opportunities with a view to promoting win-win trade and investment cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> barriers or challenges that impede the pursuit and promotion of trade and investment initiatives. building public-private partnership relations to establish sustainable mutually beneficial trade and investment relations. promotion of cross border trade by AfCFTA. strengthening of trade and investment links on bilateral levels and within the 		

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			<p>oceans economy; chemical production; supermarket association; textile and apparel; fisheries and aquaculture; digital and information technology; agro-processing; live sheep, goat, beef and ostrich meat; armaments and defence; medical equipment; health tourism; and agriculture</p> <p>Investment outreach initiatives in Africa focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing meetings with domestic stakeholders, such as the dtic; Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development 	<p>(cotton, Arabian gum, rice, sesame, peanuts and livestock)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrastructure development (ICT and energy) cosmetics commerce finance insurance wine <p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>During the reporting period, Head Office and the missions in the region continued to hold virtual and in-person meetings, webinars and engagements with key sector stakeholders to cover a wide range of priority sectors for South African investment, while exploring new opportunities for South Africa. As a</p>		<p>context of the AfCFTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sectors that were engaged include agriculture, agro-processing, mining of critical minerals, hospitality, retail, logistics, travel and tourism, ICT, healthcare ICT, healthcare, transportation, infrastructure, green economy, telecommunications, petroleum, marine resources, energy, mining, banking, warehousing, infrastructure development and the hospitality industry. <p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>Trade and investment initiatives on the continent included</p>		

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			(DALRRD); Wesgro; the Industrial Development Corporation; Transnet; host government ministries; private companies; and ongoing support to missions to promote bilateral investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of support to South African companies operating in Africa. Even though these were outward investment enquiries, the benefits to South Africa include the future sourcing of material and equipment from South Africa should the foreign investment projects materialise 	result of the easing of lockdown restrictions, official visits could also be undertaken <p>Discussions took place against the backdrop of the slow economic recovery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, follow-up on investment pledges and investors from the 2022 Presidential Investment Conference and opportunities of the AfCFTA</p> <p>Investment outreach initiatives focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the needs of South African business entrepreneurs' bilateral and investment relations (local and industrialisation strategies) in steel, renewable 		engagements that focussed on, among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trade, investment and global leadership through various engagements with role players invested in the BRICS Summit. high-level consultations between stakeholders included discussions of mutual interest in terms of the importation of South African products (such as vegetables, plastic, rubber, live animals, mineral/iron/steel products, vessels such as aircrafts and vehicles, glass, liquor, soya, wine, energy, ICT, digital technology, 		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exchanging views on cooperation and investment opportunities between the continent and South Africa collaboration on investment promotion, facilitation and post-investment support of South African business such as cooperation between SAA and Kenya Airways support for MTN with its plans to introduce a fibre optic service provider to Zambia collaboration in investment promotion, facilitation and post-investment support of South African business. Missions facilitated 	<p>energy and the automotive sector, as well as multilateral issues, specifically South Africa's interests at the WTO. South Africa's interests discussed included market access issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a myriad of economic diplomacy initiatives and earnest endeavours to implement the economic diplomacy strategy and to positively contribute to the ERRP activities and gainful engagements were undertaken in support of the ERRP's aims to build a 		<p>wholesale and retail commerce, protein industries, Artificial Intelligence (AI), women in mining, tourism, oceans and the film industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> market access issues to the EU and challenges and opportunities for the South African Citrus Industry <p>Asia and Middle East:</p> <p>Trade and investment initiatives on the continent included engagements that focused on, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying possible South African partners for infrastructural projects such as the construction of refineries or 		

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			<p>participation of companies at the Inter-Africa Trade Fair, which was held in Durban, South Africa, from 15 to 21 November 2021</p> <p>Investment outreach initiatives with countries of the North focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings, webinars and engagements with key sector stakeholders within South Africa showcasing opportunities that are available for new investors, as well as foreign investors in South Africa. This included cementing agreements on future cooperation, promoting trade 	<p>sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy with the view to unleash its true potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outlining key strategic elements and tenets of the economy and recognising the importance of positioning the country favourably within the global economic landscape that is rapidly transforming and reconfiguring, were at the forefront of discussions held promotion of various industries for investment that include the meat Industry, agribusiness and Business Process Outsourcing 		<p>power plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore opportunities to trade in the bitumen sector with South Africa. interest in assisting South Africa to overhaul and maintain its oil refineries, engage in mining projects, establishing the direct Mahan Airlines flights to South Africa as well as for South Africa to purchase Iranian petrochemical products. interest to contribute to the resolution of SA's current energy challenges. matters of market access for South African products, trade and investment. South Africa's 		

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			visits to South Africa and promoting opportunities in the pharmaceutical and agricultural industry, ICT investment opportunities in South Africa, as well as South Africa's waste-to-energy projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engagements with potential investors in the renewable energy sector to create opportunities to attract more foreign investments into the country to contribute to job creation meetings with current investors and importers from the region to South Africa to discuss their experiences of 	(BPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possibilities for increased FDI into South Africa and improved South African value-added exports commitment to further strengthen economic ties exploring initiatives on resuscitating and strengthening bilateral trade and investment identifying key priorities in strategic engagements to advance South Africa's economic interests in Europe and the Americas, including the establishment of trilateral partnerships in pursuit of an investment-led strategy in 		sustainability journey and experience in relation to climate change in terms of water management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting a favourable narrative regarding doing business in South Africa and promotion of South African goods and Services. possible collaboration with the South African government in terms of transitioning to low-carbon energy sources. maritime issues and opportunities. contributing to the achievement of the NDP alleviating triple challenges (inequality, 		

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			<p>doing business in South Africa and to identify challenges that might hamper future investment growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring opportunities for sectorial cooperation, industrial development, FDI and technology-sharing promotion of SMME cooperation and exchange of information and best practices Garnering information on regional developments, develop cordial relations and expand networks Interest in twinning with South African cities and provinces, which 	<p>productive sectors, and in highlighting opportunities provided by the AfCFTA</p> <p>Investment discussions focused on the following sectors, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manufacturing agriculture and food security skills development education technology energy, renewable energy and clean tech mining <p>Investment outreach initiatives focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful conclusion of working groups on climate, higher education, science and 		<p>poverty, and unemployment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieving the MTSF priorities promoting National Interest promoting regional and continental priorities garnering support on multilateral issues of mutual interest 		

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			<p>may provide an opportunity to cultivate mutually beneficial relations, cultural exchanges and opportunities for skills development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incentives and opportunities offered by the South African Government to those seeking to expand their footprint on the continent, using South Africa as their headquarters Suggestions to tap into the reserve of retired skilled professionals to come to South Africa to train young people in relevant sectors and impart much-needed skills discussions on 	<p>innovation, which determined the way forward in these areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> during the Spanish State Visit to South Africa, discussions focussed on the need to increase bilateral trade and the promotion of a favourable climate for private-sector investment. Four MoUs were signed and Spain announced investments in the coming five years to support Spanish companies in renewable energy and climate-related projects in South Africa Presidential State Visit to the UK created a new impetus in 				

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			<p>training and skills development in the local government systems and running of municipal establishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expansion of companies in the region into Africa, supporting the AfCFTA • interest in investing more in infrastructure projects in South Africa • investors interested in medical science and maritime issues, as well as shipbuilding areas in South Africa • encouraging companies to locate and invest in South Africa, as that will allow them to export to 	<p>historically deep and strong bilateral relationships between South Africa and the UK, elaborating on existing cooperation projects and identifying new areas of cooperation. The focus was on creating opportunities for economic recovery and job creation in South Africa. Two agreements were signed on Health and Science and Innovation as well as a Declaration of Intent on Bilateral Cooperation and Relations in Inclusive Economic Growth.</p>				

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			<p>many markets around the globe where South Africa has preferential market access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possibility of the establishment of an automobile assembly plant in South Africa, and the signing of a twinning agreement with a city/town in South Africa for this purpose promotion of the AfCFTA and opportunities for investment during engagements with foreign businesses partnering opportunities to search for best practices and technology transfers to learn more about clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow-up on investment pledges and investors from the 2022 Presidential Investment Conference; and the promotion of the AfCFTA economic diplomacy initiatives and earnest endeavours to implement the economic diplomacy strategy and to positively contribute to the ERRP promotion of various industries for investment and BPO possibilities for increased FDI into South Africa and improved South African value-added exports 				

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			technology, energy and agro-processing sectors within the State, which could be of benefit to South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exhibit and brand South Africa and convey the message that South Africa is open for business and offers attractive trade and investment opportunities for businesses • interest in setting up agreements with South African universities in areas of mutual interest and expertise, such as mining and forestry • possible MoU to structure cooperation in 	Asia and the Middle East: Trade and investment outreach initiatives on the continent focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meetings with domestic stakeholders such as the dtic and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy • host government ministries • private companies • ongoing support to missions to promote bilateral investment • participation in the Eighth Africa Forum of Investment and Commerce in Algeria. • the pavilion 				

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			areas such as education, physics, economics and epidemiology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussion on critical issues impacting the world in general and, in particular, the countries of the developing South, to try and determine whether natural resources are a curse or a blessing for resource-rich nations; and how to turn ideas into concrete actions to address sustainable and inclusive development promotion of various industries for investment that include agribusiness, digital and information 	award, opening opportunities in terms of potential buyers, distributors and sellers and growing the South African leather and footwear market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Fifth China International Import Expo saw Aspen Pharmaceuticals and Standard Bank successfully opening a stand to promote South African products such as alcohol-free beverages, rooibos tea, aloe vera products, beer and handcrafted items 				

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			technology, healthcare technology, BPO and the film industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possibilities for increased FDI into South Africa and improved South African value-added exports commitment to further strengthen economic ties exploring initiatives on resuscitating and strengthening bilateral trade and investment Sectors of interest for the East and Middle East regions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculture infrastructure investment and energy security gender equality and economic 					

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			inclusion of women and youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening agriculture and food security • support the recovery and growth of tourism • green economy interventions Investment outreach initiatives within this region focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion of South African sweets and snacks products • the identified potential of importing and exporting Halal products • the strengthening of trade partnerships • participation in the launching of South African apples and grapes trade • cooperation in 					

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			<p>the strengthening of South African exports to the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • platinum promotion • in terms of manufacturing and the promotion of catalytic converters, defence products and electronics (also defence-related) • the exportation of live South African cattle • food loss and wastage during processing • improved methods of increasing South African citrus fruit access to the region, such as pre-clearance inspection of shipments • facilitation of 					

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			<p>market access for South African sweet potato, avocado, grapefruit and wine in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negotiations on potential bilateral trade agreements for the benefit of lowering tariffs on agricultural products, among others, engagements between missions and local stakeholders regarding the possibility of importing South African ostrich and other game meat • meetings with chambers of commerce with the objective of entering trade partnerships in areas of agriculture and food processing, 					

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			<p>healthcare and pharmaceutical, as well as dairy and livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trade impediments and opportunities for South African food and beverages to be exported through South African supermarket brands based abroad • participation of South African agro-processing companies in Southeast Asia with the objective of discovering new trends, expanding business and identifying new markets in the region • engagements with stakeholders to discuss possible opportunities in 					

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			telecommunications and energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> realising export opportunities in the automotive industry and armaments exploring opportunities for industry specialists in agricultural technologies, equipment and related products networking and establishing partnerships with key decision-makers in the agricultural sector and agro-processing, and to gain valuable insights on best practices and solutions in this sector contributing to the achievement of the NDP alleviating triple challenges 					

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			(inequality, poverty, and unemployment) • achieving the MTSF priorities • promoting National Interest • promoting regional and continental priorities • garnering support on multilateral issues of mutual interest					

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	Contributed to growth in the tourism sector by networking and showcasing South Africa's diverse tourism industry	Number of regional reports on the tourism-promotion events to promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination, thereby contributing towards growth in the tourism sector in support of the one government tourist approach	<p>Twelve regional tourism reports on the tourism-promotion events to promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination were submitted</p> <p>In line with government's priorities to accelerate transformation and create jobs, tourism has been identified as an enabler for development. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions had a significant impact on the South African tourism industry. A critical factor in bilateral tourism relations is regional air and road linkages</p> <p>The decline of South African Airways' (SAA) presence in</p>	<p>Twelve regional tourism reports on the tourism-promotion events to promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination, thereby contributing to growth in the tourism sector in support of the one government tourist approach were submitted</p> <p>Africa:</p> <p>In line with government's priorities to accelerate transformation and create jobs, tourism has been identified as a tool for development</p> <p>Engagements were held with the following stakeholders: South African Tourism, Shamal Travel and</p>	Twelve regional tourism reports on the tourism-promotion events to promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination, thereby contributing to growth in the tourism sector in support of the one government tourist approach	<p>Twelve regional tourism reports on the tourism-promotion events to promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination, thereby contributing to growth in the tourism sector in support of the one government tourist approach were submitted</p> <p>Africa:</p> <p>Missions on the continent continued to engage relevant stakeholders on a variety of matters that can be beneficial for South Africa's tourism industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghana signed an MoU on Transport Cooperation with South Africa in a meeting with the airline, African World Airlines (AWA – Ghana). Further cooperation and collaboration are sought in line with the signed MOU. The Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA), Uganda Airlines, Ministries of Tourism for South Africa and Uganda, Brand SA, Uganda Tourism Board 		

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			<p>the region and the rise of cheaper and efficient continental and other competitors such as Ethiopian Airways, Kenya Airways, Turkish Airways, Emirates Airways and Rwanda Air have had a significantly negative impact on travel between countries in the region and South Africa. Passengers who previously linked through OR Tambo International Airport are now travelling through Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Istanbul, Dubai and Kigali.</p> <p>The possible cooperation between SAA and Kenya Airways to create a Pan-African airline, can be beneficial to South Africa, the region and the</p>	<p>Tincowree, Government of Chad, African Parks Network (APN) and HBD Group Tourism discussions and initiatives focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of close cooperation between the mission in Asmara and Ethiopian Airlines to work together in promoting tourism inflow to South Africa the inclusion of Côte d'Ivoire in the Meeting of Africa, Business Events Trade Show, organised by South African Tourism to identify developments and challenges faced between Eswatini and South Africa 		<p>(UTB) and other tour operators participated in the RSA-Uganda Trade and Investment Summit, which took place in Kampala. During the summit, issues related to the UCAA were discussed as Uganda Airlines intended to increase flights to South Africa by adding flights to Cape Town once it has fulfilled the requirements to join the Africa Civil Aviation Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission in Asmara hosted a wine tasting event as part of its efforts to promote South African products such as wines, biltong, dried fruits, peanuts and various types of snacks. The event was also used to showcase South African cultural artefacts and to promote tourism and enjoyed high-level participation from the private sector, as well as ministers of the Eritrean government. The mission in Mbabane 		

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			continent in boosting tourism Tourism discussions and initiatives focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tourism revival and cooperation • showcasing South Africa's diverse tourism industry • engagements with tour operators and airlines • promoting South African tourism in Africa and to identify possible areas of collaboration with the relevant tourism-promotion institutions in the countries • participation in tourism workshops, fairs and roadshows. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 	within the field of tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical tourism has been identified as a potential tourism-promotion opportunity in the Central African region • the Joint Tourism Technical Committee was launched for the purposes of implementing the MoU on Cooperation in Tourism with Ghana • missions in West Africa entered into collaborative efforts with Brand SA and expatriate programmes to promote South Africa as tourism destination, while advancing human rights • missions in East 		interacted with the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Eswatini (HOTAES), which represents tourism within the private sector throughout Eswatini. The objective was to identify issues surrounding tourism between South Africa and Eswatini and obtain tourism and visitor statistics and general information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya implemented an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) in January 2024, approximately a year after South Africa reciprocated on the visa waiver for ordinary passport holders. • In Algiers, the South Africa Tourism Promotion Seminar held, succeeded in sharing information on South Africa and visa applications with tourism agents. 		

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			<p>hosting of and participation in the aforementioned were severely restricted. Attendance and participation were limited to the DUBAI 2020 EXPO, which was held in 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the various South African provinces were profiled during webinar promotional events by highlighting the unique offerings and products each province has to offer allaying fears associated with travelling to a long-haul destination during the COVID-19 pandemic and address any concerns tourists 	<p>Africa participated in events and workshops with SAA, SA Airlink and local tour agencies to promote international tourism to South Africa</p> <p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>In line with government's priorities to accelerate transformation and create jobs, tourism and, cultural and economic diplomacy are identified as enablers for economic and sustainable development in South Africa</p> <p>The hosting of, and participation in tourism promotion</p>		<p>Americas and Europe:</p> <p>Missions in the region continued to engage relevant stakeholders on a variety of matters that can be beneficial for South Africa's tourism industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future of Black Tourism Leadership Conclave was held in Washington in an event co-hosted with South African Tourism and the Black Leadership Conclave. The parties joined forces to create equitable and sustainable opportunities for black travel, tourism and hospitality organisations, networks and entrepreneurs. Engagements with Switzerland presented opportunities that will see South Africa benefit from its campaign by networking with the role players in the tourism sectors participating in the organised events. The Mission in Munich 		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may have the resuscitation of flights between South Africa and various regions and destinations South Africa was promoted as a safe and reliable investment and tourist destination areas of collaboration within the tourism sector were discussed such as the unification of tourism professionals across the globe the state of the tourism sector in South Africa and the plans in the public and private sector to resuscitate the sector, were discussed distribution of 	<p>events through webinars and physical engagements where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing business and economic ties between South Africa and the countries in the region are helping to raise the profile and awareness of South Africa and increasing tourism numbers, including crowd-in investments to keep the focus on South Africa for missions in the Latin American region, tourism is more than holiday travel; it is also about business and trade travel and medical, religious and niche tourism 		<p>participated in the 2023 Africa Showcase Tourism Event where it addressed exhibitors and participants, networked with tour operators and discussed possible future cooperation in the tourism promotion sphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance of the Chilean Tourism Expo and subsequent Business Networking Sessions between SA Tourism, the SA Chamber of Commerce, and their Chilean counterparts focussed on the promotion of South Africa as a preferred tourism destination. The mission participated in the Festuris Tourism Fair (Brazil). Brochures on South Africa and Nelson Mandela Museums were distributed to prospective tourists, and contacts were made with tourism agencies, Youtubers, journalists and tourism exhibitors from various States in Brazil. 		

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			<p>key messages to be used in efforts to promote South Africa as a destination of choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation in virtual tourism-promotion activities innovative ways of promoting South Africa as a preferred tourism destination, utilising tourist attractions such as art, real-time communication between foreign tourists and local media outlets during leisure activities, as well as the release of emotive reactions of tourists while in South Africa. The use of social media platforms, such as Facebook, to 	<p>such as birding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa was promoted as a safe and reliable investment and tourist destination <p>Participation in the Festuris Tourism Expo was an opportunity to introduce South Africa's tourism images, music, culture, food and dress and was intended to remind Brazilian tourism agencies in São Paulo that South Africa was open for business and that all aspects of South African tourism were welcoming back the world back to its shores</p> <p>The IBTM World Business Tourism Fair 2022 in Madrid, the TravelXpo in</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Embassy in Brussels participated in a tourism roadshow hosted by SA Tourism. The event took the format of a workshop and Round Robin business-to-business discussion of 23 industry stakeholders from South Africa and 19 from the Antwerp area and Flanders region. The primary goal of the roadshow was to contribute to the growth of arrivals from the Netherlands and Belgium in South Africa. The mission in Berlin co-hosted a reception with SA Tourism for exhibitors at the Berlin ITB trade fair, Germany. The reception was attended by the new CEO of SA Tourism, SA exhibitors, representatives from the German tourism industry, and WESGRO. South Africa participated in an engagement in collaboration with SA Tourism at the International Tourism Fair 		

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			<p>promote South Africa's tourism highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> virtual launch of South African Tourism roadshows to connect regions-based buyers and investors to South African tourism traders and businesses, in particular SMEs <p>reassurance of local travel industries of South Africa's safety and health precautions taken to ensure public health and safety</p> <p>identification of opportunities to maintain brand awareness in preparation for the resumption of open global travel</p> <p>Opportunities for tourism include: Seeking economic</p>	<p>Norway as well as the Annual Holiday World Trade Fair in Dublin allowed for opportunities to be explored between South African Tourism and international stakeholders</p> <p>Asia and the Middle East:</p> <p>Missions, in collaboration with the tourism sector, participated in tourism-promotion activities that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tourism seminars (Abu Dhabi and Dubai) "Grow with South Africa" Business Seminar (Shanghai) South African Tourism and heritage showcase at Chancery 		<p>(ITB) in Brussels to promote South Africa as a tourist destination of choice. A total of 90 exhibitors from 61 South African tourism entities and companies participated in the South African Pavilion. This included the participation of fourteen Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the South African tourism industry. Special effort was made during South Africa's participation in this year's ITB tourism fair to promote SMEs and to give SMEs more exposure.</p> <p>Asia and the Middle East:</p> <p>Missions in the region continued to engage relevant stakeholders on a variety of matters that can be beneficial for South Africa's tourism industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hybrid South African Tourism Promotion Workshop enabled the mission in Hanoi to market 		

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			or trade opportunities in South Africa, followed by tourism focussed on urban areas and shopping, sports tourism, safari and wildlife tourism, medical tourism, cultural tourism; and educational tourism	(Malaysia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China – A seminar was held in conjunction with Wines of SA, South African Tourism and Brand SA to promote networking opportunities and improve visibility of South Africa in the host country the mission in Singapore facilitated the interface between South African Tourism and the organisers of Drone Racing aimed at promoting tourism in the identified South African provinces the 16th Tourism Exhibition was held in Iran where the 		South Africa as a desirable tourism destination to 21 local travel agencies. The event, with the assistance of the South African Tourism Hub for the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia, was attended virtually by seven selected tour operators from Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Province, who also individually introduced their products. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of the South Africa Tourism Trade Roadshow 2023 and the launch of SA Tourism's new global marketing campaign called "The Best of Us" were hosted by SA Tourism in Beijing. The mission's participation in the event, in conjunction with SA Tourism, sought to maximise the significant opportunities presented by the first outbound Chinese tourists after the COVID-19 pandemic. South Africa was positively branded 		

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				<p>mission networked with various tourism operators and agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the mission engaged with tourism stakeholders in the KSA and utilised the opportunity to network and promote South Africa as a preferred tourist destination at the Jeddah International Travel and Tourism Expo 2023 		<p>and promoted as a preferred tourism destination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missions in the middle eastern region (i.e., Doha, Abu Dhabi, Tehran, Jeddah, and Amman) made use of tourism and cultural marketing events to highlight South Africa as a preferred tourism destination. Participation in such events also provided the opportunity to expand the missions' service providers and/or partners for future cooperation and displayed South African goods and services in various sectors. Promotional engagements also went beyond "traditional" tourism options to position South Africa as a destination for learning and training, such as tertiary education and flight schools. Saudia Airlines has resumed its Jeddah-Johannesburg flights after a three-year hiatus. The re-inaugural 		

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						<p>flight between the two countries was operated on 1 December 2023. The resumption of the route marks a significant milestone for Saudi officials, who aim to enhance air connectivity between the Kingdom and major cities worldwide. It is very positive that Saudia Airlines, the Saudi national flag carrier, has decided to again institute weekly services between Johannesburg and Jeddah, the gateway to the two Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Medinah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission in Beijing hosted and coordinated the Official Visit by the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, Patricia de Lille, to participate in the South African Tourism Sector Dialogue held in November 2023. The visit was geared towards facilitating South Africa's reintegration into the 		

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						<p>tourism value chain in Asia. The various media interviews that were arranged covered the areas of the significant role played by the tourism industry in the South African economy; visa challenges for South African inbound travel from China; whether South Africa will partner with new airlines or launch new routes with China for future aviation development to increase the direct airlifting between China and South Africa; and the crime situation in South Africa, among others. Up to 60 Chinese tourism traders, who are key to selling South Africa as a tourism destination of choice to Chinese travellers, representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Air China Business Council, Chinese media, and Chinese companies that are looking at growing</p>		

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						<p>their businesses in the tourism industry, were in attendance. Furthermore, after the Beijing Outreach Programme, the Minister and the delegation attended the China International Travel Mart in Kunming, Yunnan Province. As part of the programme, the Minister held a bilateral meeting with her counterpart to discuss tourism matters between the two countries. Both Ministers committed to clear tourism targets for South Africa and China.</p>		

Programme: Regional Integration								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
Increased regional integration	Contribution towards regional integration and the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)	Number of assessment reports of South Africa's contribution towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peace and stability • socio- economic development • good governance and democracy • the implementation of the RISDP 	Two assessment reports of South Africa's contribution towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peace • stability • socio-economic development • good governance • democracy • the implementation of the RISDP <p>were submitted</p> <p>South Africa assumed the Chairship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation during the 41st Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government (HoSG), which was held from 17 to 18 August 2021, in Lilongwe, Malawi.</p>	Two assessment reports of South Africa's contribution towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peace and stability • socio-economic development • good governance and democracy • the implementation of the RISDP • were submitted <p>SADC remains a foreign- policy priority for South Africa in her efforts to achieve regional development and integration within the region.</p> <p>The 42nd Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads State and Government was held in August in Kinshasa, DRC, under the theme: <i>Promoting</i></p>	Two assessment reports of South Africa's contribution towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peace and stability • socio-economic development • good governance and democracy • the implementation of the RISDP 	Two assessment reports of South Africa's contribution towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peace and stability • socio-economic development • good governance and democracy • the implementation of the RISDP • were submitted <p>South Africa's engagement at SADC is aimed at promoting political and socio-economic integration, which would create a pathway towards addressing the key challenges of underdevelopment, unemployment and poverty.</p> <p>South Africa's contributes towards peace, stability, democracy, and good governance in the SADC region. Among the many engagements throughout the year the following is highlighted:</p> <p>South Africa participated in the Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit plus SADC</p>		

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 41st Summit of the HoSG approved the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament and its roadmap as a consultative and a deliberative body, with no law-making or other binding authority The same summit also approved the appointment of Mr Elias Mpedi Magosi as the new Executive Secretary of SADC, replacing Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax The summit also endorsed the 41st Summit theme: <i>Bolstering</i> 	<p><i>Industrialisation through Agro-processing, Mineral Beneficiation and Regional Value Chains for Inclusive and Resilient Economic Growth.</i></p> <p>The Extraordinary SADC Organ Troika Summit took place during the Fourth Quarter. The summit directed the Secretariat to initiate the process of convening a Tripartite Summit of the SADC, East African Community and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, with the participation of the UN and the AU to consider a coordinated approach to the DRC conflict, with a view to elevating the coordination to the AU. The summit</p>		<p>Troika and Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries (FIBTCCs), DRC and Mozambique. Among others, the Troika Summit Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC). Adopted a common position calling for a more coordinated approach with respect to the multiple deployments of both multilateral and bilateral forces in the Eastern DRC. Directed the Secretariat to consider the possibility of convening the Quadripartite Summit in coordination with the African Union Commission and SADC Member States. <p>President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as the Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, attended and participated in the Virtual Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit plus SADC Troika, FIBTCCs,</p>		

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			<p><i>Productive Capacities in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable Economic and Industrial Transformation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summit urged member states that have not yet signed or ratified the Protocol on Industry, the Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund and the Protocol on Trade in Services to do so and to continue up-scaling implementation of activities under the four pillars of industrialisation, 	<p>adopted the AU Declaration and urged member states to communicate the SADC's position and reaffirm the stance of non-alignment on conflicts outside the continent and region at multilateral fora. The summit also urged member states to strengthen real-time information-sharing and exchange of intelligence on matters that adversely affect the region and submit periodic reports to regional early warning centres</p> <p>The Seventh Summit of SACU was hosted by the President of Botswana in his capacity as the chair of the SACU Summit in June 2022. As its outcome, the summit adopted a</p>		<p>SAMIM Personnel Contributing Countries, and the Republic of Mozambique. The Summit, among others, approved the mandate and other legal instruments on the deployment of the SAMIDRC for the initial period of 12 months beginning on 30 September 2023 and extended the mandate of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) for 12 months.</p> <p>South Africa participated in the 25th Meeting of the Ordinary Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in July 2023. The MCO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered the implementation of the SADC Summit and 24th Ordinary MCO decisions. considered the implementation of democracy in the region. received reports from the Committees that anchor the work of the MCO, namely, the Inter-State 		

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			<p>competitiveness, market integration and cross-cutting issues that are lagging behind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the situation in Lesotho, the summit recommended the extension of the mandate of the National Reform Authority for a period of six months from 30 October 2021 to 30 April 2022. It also extended the mandate of President Cyril Ramaphosa as SADC Facilitator until the 42nd SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC facilitation efforts in the Kingdom of Lesotho continued with 	<p>communiqué, which reflected on current global developments, including decisions critical to Africa as adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, the importance of remaining resolute to implementing COVID-19 recovery programmes as well as the impact of the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine on SACU economies.</p> <p>South Africa's contribution towards peace, stability, democracy and good governance in the SADC region</p> <p>At the SADC Summit held in August 2022, President Ramaphosa presented a report to</p>		<p>Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC), and the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC).</p> <p>President Cyril Ramaphosa attended and participated in the Organ Troika Summit of Heads of State and Government on 16 August 2023. The Summit, among others, reflected on the security situation in the SADC region, including the political and security situation in the Kingdoms of Lesotho and Eswatini, the Republic of Mozambique, the DRC, and the outcomes of the Quadripartite Summit held in June 2023, which established a Joint Framework.</p> <p>SADC Observer Missions</p> <p>South Africa was part of the SADC Observer Mission to the Republic of Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections that took place in August, and the General Elections in the</p>		

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			<p>the conclusion of the National Dialogue process and the adoption of the key thematic areas for the implementation of the comprehensive reform process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SADC HoSG, on 23 June 2021 in Maputo, Mozambique, approved the deployment of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) from 15 July 2021 as a regional response and support to Mozambique to combat extremism and acts of terrorism in the Northern Cabo Delgado province for an 	<p>the summit as the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The summit commended President Ramaphosa for his outstanding leadership and continued efforts to address peace and security threats during the year, notwithstanding the challenges posed by COVID-19.</p> <p>Implementation of the RISDP and socio-economic development</p> <p>Following the approval of the RISDP 2020-2030 by the SADC Summit in August 2022, the SADC Secretariat worked on the costing of the</p>		<p>Kingdom of Eswatini that were held in September 2023.</p> <p>The SADC Council of Ministers Meeting, which was preceded by the SADC Senior Officials Meeting all held during March 2024 took place under the theme of the 43rd SADC Summit namely <i>Human and Financial Capital: The Key Drivers for Sustainable Industrialisation in the SADC Region</i>, to oversee the implementation of the policies and programmes of SADC and also considered the implementation of the previous decisions of the Council and Summit as well the RISDP.</p> <p>Some of the pertinent issues that the Council reflected on include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review of Article 33 of the SADC Treaty, given the situation of Comoros operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) which has not reached the required 		

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			<p>initial period of three months. This period could be extended as deemed necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mandate of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC was extended by the UNSC for one year from 18 December 2020 to 20 December 2021 The politico-security situation in Zimbabwe will also keep South Africa occupied as Chair of the Organ Troika The Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Organ Troika in South Africa on 5 October 2021 considered the progress report 	<p>Implementation Plan, which is undertaken in phases that include costing of regional coordination, costing of interventions implemented at the national level and thereafter, costing of projects and programmes</p> <p>Political and security integration</p> <p>South Africa participated in the SADC Organ Troika Summit in the DRC in August 2022. The Organ Troika Summit deliberated on political and security developments in the region, which included a report on the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Kingdom of Eswatini, among others</p>		<p>threshold for it to enter into force. South Africa is engaged in national processes towards signing the Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winding-up of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA). adopted draft Guidelines for Accrediting Non-State Actors for, with the provision that their implementation will be piloted first. South Africa presented an initiative towards the development of the SADC Regional Strategy on Accelerated Transformation of Informal Settlements, thereby introducing an agenda item that was not previously considered by SADC. The Extraordinary Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) meeting was held 		

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			<p>of the Regional Coordination Mechanism on the Operations of the SADC SAMIM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Ramaphosa, as Chair of the Organ, despatched Organ Troika special envoys to Eswatini from 21 to 23 October 2021 to engage King Mswati III on the escalating political and security developments in the Kingdom President Ramaphosa participated in the Extraordinary SADC Organ Summit Plus in Malawi on 12 January 2022 to support Mozambique to combat acts of 	<p>Regional economic integration</p> <p>In implementing the regional cooperation and integration agenda, SADC is guided by the RISDP 2020–2030 and Vision 2050. The 42nd SADC Summit, held in August 2022, approved the RISDP national coordination cost estimates.</p>		<p>virtually during February 2024. The meeting considered, among others, the implementation of the decisions of the MCO, Council and Summit; the review of the political and security situation in the region, reflecting on the consolidation of democracy, mediation, conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy structures; and the proposed SADC Common Foreign Policy Framework and approved progress report on the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC). Lastly, it focussed on the approved progress report regarding the drawdown and withdrawal of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Extraordinary SADC Double Troika Summit Plus was held in Lusaka, Zambia, during March 		

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			terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa participated in the Fourth Steering Committee meeting of the SADC-EU Support to Peace and Security in the SADC Region, hosted by the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone on 22 February 2022 Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini participated in the launch of the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre, hosted by Tanzania on 28 February 2022 South Africa participated in the 16th Tripartite Free Trade Area 			2024. The outcomes included the receipt of an update on the security situation in the DRC and Mozambique; an approved progress report on the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC); an approved progress report on the drawdown and withdrawal of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM); and a directive to the SADC Secretariat to strengthen its public diplomacy machinery and be at the forefront to publicise the role and successes of the SADC Peace Support Missions to avoid negative external narratives that may compromise the success of the SADC Peace Support Missions, including the SAMIM and SAMIDRC.		

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			<p>Meeting of the Tripartite Committee of Senior Officials, held virtually from 10 to 11 February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 25 January 2022, Malawi, as Chair of the Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys-General, hosted a meeting, which was attended by the 13 member states <p>Implementation of the RISDP and socio-economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SADC Summit approved the RISDP 2020–2030 in August 2021. The costing of regional coordination activities has been finalised, 					

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			based on the RISDP 2020 – 2030 Implementation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa participated in a meeting of the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum (TNF)- Services from 11 to 13 May 2021 and that of the TNF-Goods from 17 to 19 May 2021 • South Africa participated in the 19th Meeting 					

LINKING PERFORMANCE WITH BUDGETS

Actual expenditure for 2023/2024 amounted to R3.781 billion against final appropriation of R3.399 billion which represents an overspending of R382 million. The overspending is primarily attributable to the foreign exchange fluctuation and cost of living adjustments.

SUBPROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Subprogramme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Africa	1 123 993	1 219 528	(95 535)	1 116 000	1 113 813	2 187
Asia and Middle East	951 234	1 101 445	(150 211)	974 118	973 837	281
Americas and Caribbean	482 503	535 657	(53 154)	463 536	462 517	1 019
Europe	841 033	924 119	(83 086)	832 616	825 177	7 439
Total	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	3 386 270	3 375 344	10 926

4.3 PROGRAMME 3: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Purpose: Participate in initiatives of international organisations and institutions in line with South Africa's national values and foreign policy objectives

Subprogramme 3.1: Global System of Governance

Purpose: Participate in the global system of governance

Subprogramme 3.2: Continental Cooperation

Purpose: Strengthen socio-economic and political development of the African continent

Subprogramme 3.3: South-South Cooperation

Purpose: Strengthen South-South relations

Subprogramme 3.4: North-South Dialogue

Purpose: Strengthen relations with the strategic formations of the North

Outcomes:

- Proponent of strengthening multilateral institutions through consistently upholding South Africa's principled positions
- United and politically cohesive continent that works towards shared prosperity and sustainable development
- South-South relations strengthened and consolidated in advancement of national and continental priorities
- Relations with the North leveraged in advancement of national and continental priorities

Multilateralism remains a focal point of South Africa's foreign policy and engagements are premised on the need to advance the priorities reflected in the NDP and the development priorities of developing countries. The United Nations (UN) remains the most important multilateral institution and the centre of global governance. Therefore, engagement with the UN and active participation in its processes are of vital importance to South Africa and the advancement of the country's foreign policy priorities.

A key priority in South Africa's engagement with the UN is to continue to advance the reform of the existing global governance architecture with a view to making it more inclusive and improving its responsiveness to the needs of and challenges faced by developing states. Thus, during the period under review, South Africa remained actively engaged in processes aimed at reforming the UN, including its Security Council, as well as other multilateral institutions, with a view to improving their responsiveness to the needs of developing states.

On issues of global peace and security, South Africa played an active role in the UN, including at the UN Security Council (UNSC), the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), as well as in other fora, to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts on the African continent and across the world and to build and sustain peace. South Africa is currently serving its second two-year term in the PBC, which aims to promote support for the prevention of conflict relapses, post-conflict recovery and countries in transition. As a non-member of the UNSC, South Africa participates in UNSC open debates and Arria-formula meetings to advance collective action to address conflict in line with international law and the UN Charter.

A primary element of South Africa's global efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security is its policy on disarmament, non-proliferation, as well as arms control. This policy includes reinforcing and promoting the country as a responsible producer, possessor, and trader of defence-related products and advanced technologies. In this regard, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) continues to promote the benefits that disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control hold for international peace and security. As a member of the various supplier regimes and of the Africa Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the importance of non-proliferation is promoted, taking into account that export controls should not become the means by which developing countries are denied access to advanced technologies required for their development. South Africa continues to be a prominent role-player in the prohibition and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This includes nuclear disarmament through the promotion and universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which establishes an international norm that de-legitimises and stigmatises the possession of nuclear weapons, towards achieving the objective set out in the very first resolution adopted

by the UN General Assembly in 1946 to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction. The treaty complements other international instruments by contributing towards fulfilling the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the various nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties, such as the Pelindaba Treaty which already banned nuclear weapons in Africa.

Transnational organised crime remains a global challenge and a threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development. It manifests itself in several ways, leaving a window for new and emerging crimes e.g., cybercrime, illicit trafficking in precious metals, wildlife crime. Money laundering and illicit financial flows constitute fundamental aspects of transnational organised crime, linked with corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, or other offenses. South Africa is a party to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), the Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the Three Drug Control Conventions. Furthermore, South Africa is a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) (2024–2028) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (2024–2026) and participates in UN forums to advance implementation of these instruments.

In line with South Africa's views on the promotion of the interests of the global South and developing countries, South Africa actively participated in all the NAM high-level meetings, working groups, and committee meetings, as well as the monthly Coordinating Bureau meetings held at Ambassadorial level. In 2023, South Africa attended the NAM Ministerial meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, and South Africa also attended the 19th NAM Summit that was held in Kampala, Uganda from 19 to 20 January 2024. The Summit provided South Africa with a strategic opportunity to reflect South Africa's support for the movement's founding Bandung principles of 1955 related to political self-determination, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality that guide the efforts of developing countries to promote peace and cooperation in the world.

During the Summit, South Africa engaged with other NAM members in finding solutions to the current challenges faced by multilateralism, with a view to preserve and protect the rules-based multilateral system with the UN at its centre. As a member of the NAM Ministerial

Committee on Palestine, South Africa called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza, for the release of all hostages and the resumption of talks on a just solution that will end the suffering of the Palestinian people. South Africa also called for unhindered and expanded humanitarian access to allow for vital aid and basic services to meet the needs of everyone living in Gaza. Before, during, and after the Summit South Africa received broad support for the proceedings instituted by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

South Africa actively participated in the work of the Commonwealth and attended all high-level meetings, including the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) that was held in New York on the margins of UNGA78 in September 2023, as well as the meeting held during UNGA79 in September 2024. South Africa supports the revitalisation and reform process of the Commonwealth and was nominated as the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Reform, which met in London on 31 May 2023, 17 January 2024 and 7 March 2024 to discuss the selection of the new Secretary-General and the criteria for admission of new members. South Africa's participation in the Commonwealth is aimed at promoting the Africa Agenda, the interests of developing states, and monitoring the implementation of the CHOGM mandates.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the period under review, South Africa remained seized with promoting economic and social development in South Africa, the African continent, and globally towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the AU's Agenda 2063, and in line with all the multilateral frameworks and agreements to which South Africa is a party.

In the period under review, South Africa's efforts to address climate change and promote environmental conservation and sustainability included South Africa's active participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA6). In both forums, South Africa actively defended and promoted rules-based multilateralism, including respect for rules of procedure, mandate fidelity, and keeping technical bodies

depoliticised and focussed on their development mandates. South Africa also advocated for the progressive development of international law, norms and standards on sustainable development that take into account the national circumstances and capacities of African and other developing countries, thus endeavouring to keep development at the centre of global attention.

The main outcome of the UNFCCC's COP28 in Dubai (30 November to 13 December 2023) was the "The United Arab Emirates Consensus", which South Africa considers conducive towards safeguarding international space within the context of climate action to facilitate South Africa's objective to address the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment, and inequality by way of building resilience that strengthens development.

Similarly, the Sixth Session of the UNEA6 recognised the need to take effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle global environmental challenges and crises and their impacts on human health, the environment, as well as national and global economic circumstances. The South African delegation advanced key principles, such as common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR&RC) mandates of multilateral environmental agreements and the provision of means of implementation for developing countries. Through the defence of these Rio Principles and other fundamental principles, and provisions of the multilateral response to global environmental challenges, South Africa secured national policy choice and space for South Africa and its chosen development pathways, re-enforcing the right to development.

The relevance and prominence of the nexus between foreign policy and global health issues, and the need to promote synergies between them, are significant and growing. South Africa (Minister Pandor) assumed the Chair of the Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH) initiative (Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand) from Senegal in April 2023 under the theme *Back to Basics: Addressing Global Health Challenges in the Foreign Policy Space*. South Africa made significant progress to realign and reinvigorate the basic tenets of the initiative as contained in the Oslo Declaration, with a vision to shape the agenda to focus on the imminent global health challenges to foreign policy. This was evidenced by productive and substantive outcomes of the FPGH Ministers of Health meeting

on the margins of the World Health Assembly in May 2023, the Foreign Ministers' meeting on the margins of UNGA78 in September 2023, and coordination of the passage of the UN General Assembly Resolution on FPGH urging UN Member States to continue to consider health issues in the formulation of foreign policy.

South Africa also continued to support and participate actively in the discussions at the World Health Organisation (WHO) through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a legally binding WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, as well as the WHO Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005).

AFRICAN UNION

During this period, South Africa also continued to actively contribute to the African Union (AU), working to promote greater unity and political cohesion within the organisation towards the goals of peace, stability, shared prosperity and sustainable development on the African continent in line with Agenda 2063.

In so doing, South Africa contributed to the strengthening of the AU and its Organs through South Africa's assessed contribution of more than R300 million towards the AU Regular Budget as well as towards the Peace Fund endowment. The AU Budget is critical in keeping the organisation afloat and ensuring that it executes its mandate of maintaining peace and security, deepening of socio-economic growth and development in Africa, and promoting human rights, democracy and rule of law throughout the continent.

South Africa also actively participated in and influenced the development of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063, which was launched during the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU in February 2024. The launch of the STYIP marks the 10-year anniversary of Agenda 2063 and will lend momentum towards the acceleration of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its flagship programmes. South Africa demonstrated its commitment towards the full and effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a critical continental instrument for

increasing intra-Africa trade, industrialisation and for strengthening regional value chains, by launching the first shipment under the AfCFTA regime on 31 January 2024, thereby joining nine other countries that are already trading under the AfCFTA; hosting the AfCFTA Business Forum on 17 and 18 April 2023, which brought together governments, the labour sector and the private sector to explore the opportunities and benefits that the AfCFTA offers and to explore ways of collaboration in addressing the challenges that are confronting the AfCFTA; supporting the successful re-election of the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA, Wamkele Mene, for another four years. Mr Mene's re-election is a testament to his sterling leadership and to the efforts by DIRCO in lobbying for his re-election.

South Africa participated actively in African multilateral partnerships that are coordinated through the AU, which are fundamental for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its related flagship projects. In so doing, South Africa actively participated in the second Russia-Africa Summit held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July 2023, and the 16th Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Senior Officials Meeting held in Beijing, China, in October 2023.

On continental development issues, the AU Development Agency, also known as AUDA-NEPAD, is the implementation agent for Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. With the recent adoption of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan by African Heads of State and Government at the AU Summit in February 2024, the programme activities of AUDA-NEPAD become all the more crucial for continental economic growth. As the host country of AUDA-NEPAD, South Africa played a continental leadership role in shaping the active implementation of Agenda 2063 across Africa, inclusive of addressing regional needs through the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and national needs through the NDP. Implementation of Agenda 2063 will also feed into meeting the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. South Africa is currently serving a two-year term (2023–2025) as the Second Vice Chair of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) and the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee. Both bodies are responsible for overseeing the strategic and political direction of AUDA-NEPAD programmes and projects in Africa in support of Agenda 2063. In February 2024, South Africa successfully participated in the 41st Summit of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a specialised agency of the AU, established in 2003. The APRM itself is a tool for sharing experiences, reinforcing best practices, identifying deficiencies, and assessing capacity-building needs to foster policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration. In December 2023, South Africa hosted the 20th anniversary celebrations of the APRM in Sandton. During this meeting, the launch of South Africa's Second Generation Country Review Report took place, highlighting South Africa's commitment to good governance in Africa. In February 2024, South Africa successfully participated in the 33rd Summit of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government.

South Africa also continued to serve as one of the 15 member states of the High Committee in charge of the Agenda for the AU Decade for African Roots and Diaspora. South Africa represented the Southern Africa Region, alongside Angola and Namibia. South Africa's engagement within the High Committee provides an opportunity to refocus and inject a new impetus into the Diasporas' thematic issue at a strategic level. South Africa actively participates and contributes to advancing the agenda towards the realisation of the objectives and vision of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas. In this context, South Africa successfully hosted the Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference to the Ninth Pan-African Congress on 4 to 5 December 2023, under the theme Pan-Africanism, Science, Knowledge and Technology. The Conference adopted a declaration which will serve as input for the Ninth Pan-African Congress to be held in Lomé, Togo, during 2024.

In discharging its obligations as the host country to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), South Africa successfully facilitated the hosting of its requisite sessions during the 2023/2024 year, which included the successful election of the Bureau of the PAP to direct the operations of the Organ.

At the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government held in February 2024, South Africa, inter alia, successfully realigned President Ramaphosa's title to now serve as the AU Champion for Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response

(PPPR). This is in recognition of the key role that South Africa played in terms of COVID-19 response within the continent, including local vaccine manufacturing.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Guided by the constitutional imperative to advance fundamental human rights and freedoms, South Africa strives to influence norms and standards in international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the international law of protection, including in the thematic areas affecting vulnerable groups (women, children, and persons with disabilities). In so doing, South Africa seeks to work with all partners towards strengthening the UN human rights ecosystem and the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, not only in South Africa but throughout the world, to be enjoyed by everyone without discrimination.

South Africa's current three-year term on the Human Rights Council is a top priority for the Government and, consequently, for DIRCO. During the period under review, South Africa participated successfully in the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC52) from 27 February to 4 April 2023, the 53rd Regular Session (HRC53) from 19 June to 14 July 2023, and the 54th Regular Session (HRC54) from 11 September to 13 October 2023. South Africa also participated successfully in the High-level Segment of the 54th Regular Session (HRC54) from 26 to 29 February 2024.

South Africa's objectives for participation in the regular sessions of the Council, as drawn, in part from the pledge that was made in the campaign to seek election to the Council, were to ensure the high visibility of the country through active and substantive participation in the meetings and the work of the Council, contributing to the advancement and promotion of respect for human dignity, the advancement of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and helping to bring an end to racism, racial discrimination and all forms of intolerance, and to ensure that these rights are realised and enjoyed by all people, including in the continent of Africa, and across the world without discrimination. In this regard, the South African delegations to all three Regular Sessions sought to act as a bridge-builder and contribute to meaningful outcomes and consensus in respect of the mandate of the Council to ensure that all human beings tangibly enjoy access to human rights.

In Africa, South Africa focussed on the importance of the peaceful resolution of conflicts, worked for the creation of conditions for the full enjoyment of human rights by all and focussed on the promotion of peaceful coexistence. This included South Africa's participation in the 36th Special Session of the Council on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which was convened on 11 May 2023. South Africa engaged meaningfully in the outcome resolution but took its cue from Sudan, as the country concerned, in working to preserve the unity of the African Group in the Council.

On women empowerment and gender equality, South Africa also successfully negotiated the outcomes of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2024, which focussed on Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective. South Africa hosted the first in-person meeting of the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights in May 2023 to share experiences as well as discuss progress and challenges related to the achievement of women's economic empowerment and equality. As former co-chair of the Global Network of Focal Points on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), South Africa's participation has continued to be active in all the activities of the network and has taken a leadership role on various initiatives, among others, sharing best practices and priorities for the network, in particular, the need to exchange regional knowledge-sharing to advance the WPS agenda.

In line with reporting obligations, South Africa presented its combined third to sixth periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) during the 95th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

South Africa, through its Ambassador to the UN Rome-based agencies successfully completed its Chairship of the Africa Regional Group (ARG) in Rome for the period January 2023 to January 2024. During its tenure as Chair of the ARG, South Africa successfully coordinated various consensus decisions and positions by the Africa Group enabling the group to present its regional positions to the various governance bodies of the UN Rome-

based agencies namely, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Furthermore, South Africa was successfully elected as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for the period 2023–2025. This enables the country to lead the process of developing new norms and standards on global food security and nutrition, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Addressing Inequalities in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition. Furthermore, South Africa successfully influenced the discussions and final decision on the increase of assessed contributions by member states of the International Organisation for Migration. South Africa continues as Deputy Chair of the Programmes Committee of the FAO. The country further successfully presented its report at the second Global Refugee Forum under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. South Africa also successfully hosted the 22nd Annual Regional Seminar on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Island States, which resulted in a joint outcomes document with concrete actions for 2024 aimed at promoting IHL. Furthermore, South Africa successfully participated and presented progress at the UN Stocktaking Moment held in July 2023 at the FAO in Rome to review the implementation of the commitments made at the UN Food Systems Summit held in 2021. South Africa also successfully participated and contributed language in the negotiations of the annual resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) Humanitarian Affairs Segment held in Geneva from 21 to 23 June 2023. The resolution was successfully adopted at the end of the session.

CANDIDATURES

In pursuit of South Africa's vision for a better, more equitable, and more sustainable future for the planet and all of humanity, with an emphasis on promoting the interests of the global South, DIRCO continues to seek to support the appointment of South Africans to key positions in international organisations of global governance (primarily the UN, AU, and SADC). South Africa also supports the candidatures of other like-minded nations in the international system, with a view to reforming global governance to better serve its vision for a better world.

In the period under review, South Africa fielded several candidates for international positions, with some important successes. This included South Africa's Advocate Thembile Joyini who was elected to serve as a Judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the term 2023–2032; South Africa's Advocate Pansy Tlakula was re-elected to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for the term 2024–2028; Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service was elected as the Chairperson of the World Customs Organisation (WCO); Professor Dire Tladi was elected as a Judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) where he is serving a nine-year term, and South Africa's Auditor-General, Tsakani Maluleke, was elected as External Auditor of UNESCO for a period of six years, from 2024 to 2029.

In early 2024, South Africa recorded further successes with the re-election of Wamkele Mene as Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area for another four-year term, as well as the re-election of Prof. Zingela for election to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a five-year term, from 2025 to 2030.

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Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
Proponent of strengthening multilateral institutions through consistently upholding South Africa's principled positions	South Africa's interests and the African Agenda promoted and reflected in the outcomes of multilateral and multistate organisations dealing with peace and security, human rights, economic and social development	Number of reports on the outcomes of multilateral and multistate organisations reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda on peace and security, human rights and economic and social development	<p>Twelve assessment reports reflecting South Africa's contribution towards: Peace and security</p> <p>The report on peace and security focusses on the following activities that took place during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace Building Commission (PBC) IGN on Security Council Reform Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime Open meetings of the UN Security Council (UNSC) UN General Assembly (UNGA) Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption 	<p>Twelve reports on the outcomes of multilateral and multistate organisations reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p>Peace and security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meetings of the PBC were aimed at ensuring post-conflict reconstruction and development in countries emerging from conflict. South Africa's approach, in line with its strategy on peacebuilding was to emphasise: (i) the importance of having nationally owned and 	<p>Twelve reports on the outcomes of multilateral and multistate organisations reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> peace and security human rights economic and social development 	<p>Twelve reports on the outcomes of multilateral and multistate organisations reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p>Peace and security</p> <p><u>Peace Building Commission (PBC)</u></p> <p>The meetings of the PBC were aimed at ensuring post-conflict reconstruction and development in countries emerging from conflict. South Africa's approach, in line with its strategy on peacebuilding was to emphasise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of having nationally owned and nationally led efforts in peacebuilding initiatives and activities the necessity of enhanced partnerships between the AU, Regional Economic Communities, and the UN predictable and adequate financing for critical peacebuilding activities monitoring and evaluation 		

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			<p>The engagements at the PBC were aimed at ensuring post-conflict reconstruction and development in countries emerging from conflict. It was recognised by member states at these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic had presented new challenges with regard to peacebuilding activities, as resources allocated for peacebuilding and reconstruction had to be channelled to other sectors, such as healthcare. South Africa's approach, in line with its strategy on peacebuilding, was to emphasise: the importance of having nationally-owned and nationally-led efforts in</p>	<p>nationally led efforts in peacebuilding initiatives and activities (ii) the necessity of enhanced partnerships between the AU, RECs and the UN (iii) predictable and adequate financing for critical peacebuilding activities; and (iv) monitoring and evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of institutions by national stakeholders</p> <p>South Africa participated in the following meetings of the PBC: <u>Columbia</u>: The meeting expressed concern about the security situation of</p>		<p>of the performance and effectiveness of institutions by national stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Open meetings of the UN Security Council (UNSC)</u></p> <p>The meetings of the UNSC were aimed at advancing international peace and security. South Africa, during the open debate on maintenance of international peace and security, highlighted the complex global environment in which UN member states are conducting diplomacy and thus emphasised the principles of the UN Charter while highlighting the double standards of some members of the Security Council, which are impacting on the effective management of global conflicts. South Africa utilised this meeting as an opportunity to stress the centrality of the UN and to reaffirm its commitment to multilateral approaches to addressing global challenges.</p>		

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			<p>peacebuilding initiatives and activities; the necessity of enhanced partnerships between the AU, regional economic communities (RECs) and the UN; predictable and adequate financing for critical peacebuilding activities; and monitoring and evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of institutions by national stakeholders. Continued participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiations Framework (IGN) provides South Africa with an opportunity to pursue its objective of reform of institutions of global</p>	<p>some regions in Colombia and called for increased efforts in addressing security across the country and ensuring the protection of all. South Africa's approach was to support the peace-building efforts in the country as a means for sustainable peace.</p> <p><u>Lake Chad Basin:</u> The meeting agreed to continue to support the work of the PBC in the Lake Chad Basin and South Africa's statement emphasised post-conflict reconstruction and development in the wider region</p> <p><u>Youth, Peace and Security:</u> Member states underscored</p>		<p><u>Seminar: The Role of Africa in Advancing Multilateralism at the United Nations and other Multilateral Fora</u></p> <p>The seminar focussed on Africa's role in promoting multilateralism at the UN and in other international fora. The objective of the seminar was to create a platform between DIRCO officials, academia, and think tanks to deliberate on Africa's role in promoting multilateralism at the UN and in other international fora given current geopolitical challenges.</p> <p>During the UNSC's open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, South Africa highlighted its unwavering support for the freedom of the Palestinian people as they pursue their right to peace, sovereignty, freedom and justice. South Africa expressed concern over the security and humanitarian situation in the OPT and</p>		

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			<p>governance, particularly the UNSC. In all the IGN meetings on UNSC reform, South Africa has called for the reform process to gain momentum and in this regard, text-based negotiations should commence, as Africa should be given permanent membership as stated in the AU's Common African Position on Security Council Reform (Ezulwini Consensus)</p> <p>South Africa prepared for and participated in the meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Cybercrime, as well as in informal preparatory meetings. Recognising that cybercrime is a global challenge,</p>	<p>the importance of the need to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for youth organisations, including the removal of barriers for their access to these funds through capacity-building, training and exchange of best practices</p> <p>South Africa focussed on the role of youth in building sustainable peace.</p> <p><u>Liberia</u>: The meeting welcomed the planned Chair's visit to Liberia and expressed support to the priority focus of discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in the context of the</p>		<p>reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people and the recognition of their human rights and right to statehood. South Africa re-emphasised that the Security Council must strengthen and uphold its responsibility to ensure accountability when international law has been violated.</p> <p>South Africa participated in the high-level Open Debate: <i>Famine and Conflict-Induced Global Food Insecurity</i> and emphasised the importance of coordinated global efforts to prevent conflicts, and additionally, the imperative need to pursue political settlements to existing conflicts. South Africa urged the states and parties in conflict to fulfil their responsibilities towards the protection of civilians and ensure unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance by those in need.</p> <p>First Preparatory Commission for the 11th Non-Proliferation</p>		

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			<p>South Africa has, together with BRICS member states, championed efforts to establish an international legally binding mechanism under the auspices of the UN to address this problem.</p> <p>Between 2011 and 2021, South Africa chaired the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group (IEG) process to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime and come up with findings and options on how to deal with this challenge. The IEG completed its mandate in April 2021 and the focus will now be on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Cybercrime to negotiate a treaty to address cybercrime. The meetings of the</p>	<p>elections of 2023. South Africa reiterated its support for the WPS Agenda and the importance of its implementation in Liberia</p> <p>Prepared for and participated in the General Debate of the 77th Session of the UNGA77</p> <p>South Africa participated in the General Debate of UNGA77 High-Level Week (HLW) from 19 to 26 September 2022. The chosen theme for the UNGA77 was <i>A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges</i>. The theme resonated with the multiple global challenges, including the escalating effects of</p>		<p>Treaty (NPT) Review Conference: The South African delegation played a pivotal role during the formal and informal negotiations. This included a number of statements, including an explanation of vote, being part of a small group of states that negotiated the text on the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation aspects of the outcome document, and advancing South Africa's positions, as well as those of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the New Agenda Coalition (NAC).</p> <p>During the open debate on <i>Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Promote Sustaining Peace through Common Development</i>, South Africa highlighted the important work that is done by the UN and its Agencies in helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress and achieve the</p>		

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			<p>UNSC were aimed at advancing international peace and security. As was the case during South Africa's term as an elected member of the council from 2019 to 2020, the council remains plagued by geopolitical divisions among permanent members, which makes reaching consensus much more difficult. South Africa's approach was to emphasise the importance of regional cooperation (particularly cooperation between the UN and the AU) and the peaceful resolution of conflict. In accordance with the assessment report on South Africa's recent term on the council, South Africa participated in all open meetings of</p>	<p>climate change; new security threats and protracted conflicts, persistent delays in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and the prevailing geopolitical contestations. This was the first full in-person meeting post-COVID-19 and thus attracted the participation of over 150 heads of state and government</p> <p>Prepared for and participated in the IAEA BoG/GC</p> <p>The IAEA BoG met in advance of the GC to discuss reports of the IAEA Director-General on nuclear and radiation safety; nuclear security; strengthening the agency's activities related to nuclear</p>		<p>Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>South Africa further advocated for the closer collaboration between Peacekeeping Missions, the UNDP, ECOSOC, the PBF and the PBC.</p> <p>During the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly's Fourth Main Committee on Special Political and Decolonisation Matters, South Africa introduced two draft resolutions namely <i>Operations of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and Palestine Refugees' Properties and their Revenues</i>". South Africa also co-sponsored four other resolutions.</p> <p>During the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly's Fifth (5th) Main Committee on Administrative and Budgetary matters, the Committee focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> positive outcomes that are in South Africa's national 		

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			the UNSC to ensure that it remained engaged in council matters and to continue to share its views on global peace and security matters with the aim of shaping council action on these matters Participation in the UNGASS against Corruption was aimed at pursuing an international commitment by member states to acknowledge the need for greater political will to step up the fight against corruption. The Special Session reaffirmed member states' commitment to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the bodies created under it, the 2030-Agenda for Sustainable	science, technology and applications; verification and monitoring of the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015); nuclear verification; and matters arising from the 64th and 65th regular sessions of the GC The GC, in addition to receiving national statements outlining the priorities of the various delegations, and electing the new members of the BoG, also considered resolutions on key issues reflecting progress made since the previous regular session on the following issues: nuclear and radioactive safety;		interests, which include an agreement on financing for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), financing for the construction of a conference centre in Nairobi, and financing for the office to combat racism across the organisation. During the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly's Fifth (5th) Main Committee on Administrative and Budgetary matters, the Committee focussed on five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive outcomes that are in South Africa's national interests, include: Agreement on Financing for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Financing for the construction of a Conference Centre in Nairobi, and Financing for the Office to Combat Racism across the organisation. • A discussion on the politicisation of discussions, for instance on Financing for the 		

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			<p>Development, and strengthening international cooperation to fight it, while respecting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter</p> <p>South Africa prepared for and participated in this meeting, including in the negotiations of the Political Declaration on the Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Strengthen International Cooperation</p> <p>South Africa impressed the need for enhanced international cooperation in matters of asset recovery, extradition and mutual legal assistance, respectively. Lastly,</p>	<p>nuclear security; strengthening the agency's technical cooperation activities; strengthening the agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications; strengthening and improving the effectiveness the efficiency of agency safeguards and applications of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East</p> <p>South Africa further delivered a statement, in which it reiterated the call for the ratification of the Revised Art VI of the Statute, which would expand the size of the BoG, including for Africa, and called for the revision or review of the regional grouping system that has</p>		<p>Human Rights Council and on issues such as Trade Facilitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reflection on the Chair of the Fifth Committee's decision to expedite the negotiations, which jeopardises certain South African, African, and developing country's interests, i.e., Special Political Missions (SPM). • A brief reflection of the adoption of the Programme Plan ahead of the adoption of the Regular Budget. • Continuing South Africa's role as a bridge-builder in situations of impasse, as was demonstrated during the negotiations on the issues reflected on as positive outcomes for South Africa. <p>Human rights consultations in preparation for South Africa's participation in the 53rd Session of the Human Rights Council</p>		

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			<p>South Africa reiterated its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the UNCAC and invited member states who had not yet done so, to consider acceding to this convention</p> <p>(International Atomic Energy Agency) IAEA Board of Governance / General Conference (GC)</p> <p>The GC, in addition to receiving national statements outlining the priorities of the various delegations and electing the new members of the Board of Governors (BoG), also considered resolutions on key issues reflecting progress made since</p>	<p>rendered 20 plus member states homeless, resulting in them being unable to serve on the BoG or to stand for leadership positions in policy- making organs of the IAEA</p> <p>General Assembly meeting on Ukraine</p> <p>The Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the convened on 22 and 23 February to consider a resolution on Ukraine, titled "Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine". This was followed by a high-level debate on Ukraine in the UNSC on 24 February 2023. South Africa abstained on the resolution and</p>		<p>The following points were highlighted during the consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of engagement on South Africa's approach towards various issues during its three-year term on the Council. The high-level segment part of the programme is an opportunity for countries to report on the implementation of their human rights agenda at the national level. Participation in the high-Level segment presents South Africa with the opportunity to reiterate her priorities on the Council, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Council should remain true to its mandate. ii. All human rights to be treated equally. iii. The anti-racism agenda should be strengthened. <p><u>53rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC53)</u></p> <p>South Africa's participation in</p>		

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			<p>the previous regular session, on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nuclear and radioactive safety nuclear security strengthening the agency's technical cooperation activities strengthening the agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of agency safeguards applications of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East <p>General Debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly</p>	<p>presented an explanation of the vote (in which it continued to call for the use of diplomacy and negotiations to resolve the conflict). The explanation of vote also reiterated South Africa's strong belief in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty and territorial integrity, highlighting that these apply also to Ukraine</p> <p>Economic and social development</p> <p>214th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board The 214th Session, among others, adopted a resolution on the appointment of external auditors. African countries ensured the issues</p>		<p>HRC53 focussed on achieving the following foreign policy goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to pursue our national interests to promote our values to contribute to the development of a rules-based system of interstate relations (multilateralism) to help create a global environment that is conducive to peace, development, respect for the rule of international law, advancement of human rights and freedoms, and the development of Africa. <p>Thematic areas of focus that resonated with South Africa's priorities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advancement, promotion, protection and practical enjoyment of human rights (including the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities) elimination of gender-based violence addressing socio- 		

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			<p>UNGA76 was of significance not only to South Africa but to the continent as a whole, as African heads of state and government all spoke in unison about the growing inequalities between and within states, which had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. South Africa and other African leaders raised concern that the global community had not sustained the principles of solidarity and cooperation in securing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. UNGA76 once again reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism. It also illustrated the concerns of world leaders about the</p>	<p>of importance for Africa remained at the centre of UNESCO's programmes. South Africa's national statement was well received, making its participation at the Executive Board impactful</p> <p>55th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD)</p> <p>The 55th Session adopted the resolution on Population and Sustainable Development, in Particular Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth; adopted the Cycle for the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the</p>		<p>economic inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combatting racism and racial discrimination • protection of the rights of migrants, refugees, children, and other persons of concern. <p>The discussions continued to be dominated by the ongoing war in Ukraine. It was clear that western delegations were resolute in pushing their agendas and using the crisis as an instrument to isolate and punish Russia. South Africa resisted being drawn into that dispute by continuing to hold the view that the HRC agenda should not be politicised and that peaceful means and diplomacy should be pursued to resolve that crisis.</p> <p><u>The Women Deliver Conference:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Women Deliver Conference afforded South Africa an opportunity to provide 		

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			<p>current state of international relations and called for changes South Africa stressed that the international community must redouble its efforts to build a world free of racism and all forms of discrimination and stand united in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM)</p> <p>The focus of the CFAMM centred around three major challenges facing the Commonwealth family, namely: trade and economic recovery, health and vaccine equity, and the road to COP26 and the proposed Commonwealth Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change</p>	<p>International Conference on Population and Development; adopted the Provisional Agenda of the 56th Session of the commission; and the Special Theme of the 57th Session of the CPD</p> <p>Fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour</p> <p>The Fifth Global Conference of the Elimination of Child Labour on 20 May 2022 closed with the adoption of the "Durban Call to Action" to deal with the scourge of child labour. The conference was a collaboration between the South African Government, the International Labour Organisation,</p>		<p>leadership on some of the key issues on the agenda of the conference. Given the positions of South Africa, this country will be expected to continue proving guidance and leadership going forward. The outcomes of this conference should strengthen the hand of government at home to redouble its efforts on the gender equality and women empowerment agenda.</p> <p>54th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC54)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by the conclusion of its 54th Regular Session, the Council had adopted 36 resolutions, 26 of them by consensus (without a vote), and one President's Statement. the Council extended 14 thematic and country-specific mandates. The Council established an 		

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			South Africa highlighted that the implementation of the SDGs should form the basic platform for recovery from the pandemic. Increased efforts need to be directed at supporting low- and middle-income countries with funding for investment, robust public health systems and economic growth, particularly women's economic inclusion South Africa emphasised the importance of vaccine equity and questioned it being placed on the red list of countries facing stringent restrictions and the high costs when entering the United Kingdom. The action taken was unreasonable in view of South Africa's	social partners, international organisations and other stakeholders. South Africa, through the Department of Employment (DEL) and Labour was a key driver in the outcome "Durban Call to Action", which commits the social partners and other stakeholders to accelerate efforts to eliminate child labour and the worst forms of labour by promoting decent work; protecting survivors; universalising access to education and social protection; and increasing multi-stakeholder cooperation and financing for ending child and forced labour. This was the		<p>independent international fact-finding mission for Sudan, and a working group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council also decided to submit to the General Assembly a draft International Covenant on the Right to Development for consideration, negotiation and adoption. The Council considered numerous thematic human rights-related issues as well as country-specific topics and hosted five panel discussions with human rights experts on key issues. <p><u>The 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC54) in February 2024)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session adopted 32 resolutions and two decisions across a wide range of issues. held 33 interactive dialogues; seven panel discussions; and nine general debates. 		

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			<p>progress in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>South Africa and India also called on all Commonwealth members to support the proposal made at the WTO, for a temporary waiver of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement so as to allow more countries, particularly developing countries, to produce COVID-19 vaccines to efficiently respond to the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>The Seventh Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Second High-Level Meeting of Heads of Counter-Terrorism agencies</p> <p>Discussions covered</p>	<p>first time the conference occurred on the African continent. DIRCO's principal role was to support the DEL in hosting the conference</p> <p>WEF Annual Meeting President</p> <p>Ramaphosa had previously indicated his inability to attend the meeting and nominated Ministers Mmamoloko Kubayi (Human Settlements and leader of the Economic cluster); Naledi Pandor (International Relations and Cooperation) and Enoch Godongwana (Finance) to represent South Africa</p> <p>The meeting provided an opportunity for</p>		<p>South Africa, Finland, Australia, and Chile were the penholders for the historic resolution on combatting violence, discrimination, and harmful practices against intersex persons.</p> <p>Economic and Social Development</p> <p><u>76th Session of the World Health Assembly</u></p> <p><u>The Session:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered the report of the Director-General (DG) on the work of the WHO in health emergencies, during which Ukraine and Russia both presented resolutions related to the ongoing war. considered the report by the DG from the WHO on the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan. <p><u>56th Session of the UN Commission on Population</u></p>		

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			<p>a wide range of counter-terrorism themes and subjects, including a focus on the impact of emerging technologies; the rise of right-wing extremism and hate speech; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism and counterterrorism</p> <p>The meeting acknowledged that Al-Qaeda and ISIL/Da'esh remained the two primary terrorist threats internationally, but noted that this threat, while once fairly contained in specific geographical regions, had become more diffuse with an alarming proliferation of terrorism on the African continent following the territorial collapse of the ISIL "caliphate"</p>	<p>government to share an update on South Africa's economic reconstruction and recovery plan, promote the country's economic reforms, and advance important public-private partnerships to support the country's development objectives</p> <p>G7 Outreach Segment</p> <p>A substantial part of the summit provided an opportunity for an exchange on issues related to climate, energy and health. In particular, the discussion focussed on ways to accelerate action towards the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, including how an open and</p>		<p><u>and Development (CPD)</u></p> <p>During the session, the following draft decisions were adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Agenda for the 57th Session of the CPD 2024. • Draft decision on the special theme for the 58th session of the CPD 2025. • Draft decision on the timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends. <p>Assemblies of the Member States of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WIPO Assemblies received progress reports on a wide range of issues, including preparatory meetings for the upcoming diplomatic conferences to conclude international legally binding instruments on the protection of intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated resources, and the Design Law Treaty as agreed in the previous Assemblies of States in 2023. 		

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			<p>The meeting adopted the revised UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. South Africa emphasised the importance of maintaining the new focus on extremism to violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to prevent exploitation of the term for political purposes and the violation of fundamental rights and freedoms. South Africa encouraged the development of partnerships with regional organisations given their appreciation and understanding of local and regional dynamics.</p> <p>UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International</p>	<p>collaborative Climate Club could contribute to this aim. In this context, an exchange of views took place on how to build on and advance existing partnerships to accelerate a clean and just transition towards climate neutrality. Furthermore, this exchange examined the impacts of the current geopolitical situation on energy markets and supply, security and possible action to secure energy supply and limit the increases in energy prices in the short term. The discussion on health focussed on tackling the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening pandemic</p>		<p>The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum undertook an in-depth focus on SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG17 (partnerships for the Goals). <p>UN Secretary-General's Climate and SDG Summit during UNGA78</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was acknowledgement that the SDG progress was off track. The political declaration, which underscored continued commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, was adopted without objections during the opening segment of the SDG Summit. Calls for reforming the international finance architecture received traction across 		

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			Security South Africa participated in the UNGA First Committee on Disarmament and International Security matters during October and November 2021. During the First Committee Session, South Africa coordinated the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa) Resolution, entitled <i>Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-free World: Accelerating the Implementation of Nuclear Disarmament Commitments</i> as well as the Resolution on "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". South Africa also again introduced the	preparedness and response, and improving the Global Health Architecture. In the President's respective bilateral engagements with his German and Japanese counterparts, significant commitments were put forth in the area of food security, which seeks to not only develop and sustain agricultural programmes, but also to address deficits in the entire value chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level meetings and participation in the WEF and G20 foreign ministers meeting, highlighting investment opportunities and the need for 		the board. Third G20 Sherpa Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was dedicated to the drafting of the G20 New Delhi Summit Leaders Declaration. The draft Leaders Declaration has eight components, namely: accelerated, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth; accelerating progress on SDGs; green development pact for a sustainable future; multilateral institutions for the 21st century; technological transformation and digital public infrastructure; gender equality and empowerment of women; safeguarding international peace and harmony and creating a more inclusive world. Fourth G20 Sherpa Meeting and the Joint Sherpas and Finance Deputies Meeting The Group of 20 Summit in New Delhi managed to reach		

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			<p>resolution "Ethical imperatives for a nuclear weapon-free world"</p> <p>South Africa further participated in the negotiations on 62 resolutions and decisions under these clusters</p> <p>The delegation participated in the vote on the various resolutions in accordance with the voting instructions approved by the Minister. The resolutions for which South Africa was responsible, were all adopted by the committee</p> <p>UNGA Fourth Committee on Special Political and Decolonisation</p> <p>South Africa outlined its foreign-policy priorities in relation to the issue of decolonisation and</p>	<p>means of implementation support for developing countries and developed countries to honour their commitments. This provided an opportunity to promote South African and African positions and to highlight our domestic actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa participated in the 61st Session of the UN CSocD with the theme: <i>Creating Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for all after the Pandemic</i> • South Africa, through the Permanent Mission to the 		<p>consensus on a joint declaration by world leaders, but not without compromises over the Ukraine conflict and action on climate change. In the weeks leading to the summit, sharply different views on the war threatened to derail the meeting, with Western nations demanding members to call out Russia for the invasion, and Russia saying it would block any resolution that did not reflect its position.</p> <p>G20 Leaders' Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The G20 New Delhi Summit was concluded successfully with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration. • The Declaration calls for G20 Leaders to act together to enhance efforts aimed at accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. It also pledges support for increased financing and welcomes the SDG stimulus package proposed by the UN Secretary-General. Some of the specific areas 		

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			specifically underlined its positions with respect to the right to self-determination of Western Sahara and Palestine. It further denounced the persisting unjust policies against Palestinian people and the blatant violations of international law, international human rights law, as well as the non-compliance with UNSC resolutions Following the main general debate, South Africa introduced resolutions under item 54 (UNRWA), i.e., United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and Palestine Refugees' Properties and their Revenues, which were adopted	<p>UN in New York, facilitates the Resolution and Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development annually on behalf of the G77 and China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa delivered its national statement and highlighted the high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality as a challenge, and shared its experience on the measures it took towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement covered the South African 		<p>highlighted in relation to the development agenda include education, health, agriculture, culture, science, and gender equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A G20 Working Group on Gender was established. South Africa called for an enhanced and expanded global partnership for sustainable development to meet climate change commitments. <p><u>25th United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) General Assembly</u></p> <p>The Assembly focussed on two main pillars of the UNWTO's core mission, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Investment Forum, where high-level officials and leading tourism businesses engaged in discussions and debates on innovative ideas and success stories on tourism promotion and presented top investment opportunities in the travel 		

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			<p>in the GA</p> <p>UN Security Council (UNSC)</p> <p>South Africa participated in the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, titled <i>Diversity, State Building and the Search for Peace</i>, held on 12 October 2021 open debate on the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, held on 19 October 2021 UNSC Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, held on 21 October 2021 UNSC Open Debate on Exclusion, Inequality and Conflict, held on 	<p>Government's numerous efforts to tackle societal challenges on economic and social levels, including making provision through a dedicated national budget on the social wage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session re-affirmed commitments towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that "No One is Left Behind", as declared in the motto of the SDGs <p>Human rights</p> <p>South Africa used the HRC platform to participate in</p>		<p>and leisure industry at the national and global levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Education Forum highlighted the vital connection between education and tourism development. This toolkit is designed to provide information and guidance for the integration of tourism into high school curricula. <p>The 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) which took place in January 2024 in Davos, Switzerland under the theme <i>Rebuilding Trust</i>.</p> <p>The annual meeting is a platform to drive public-private cooperation at the highest level, convening over 100 governments, all major international organisations, WEF's 1000 global partner companies, civil society and academic institutions, as well as international media. The</p>		

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			<p>9 November 2021</p> <p>South Africa highlighted the importance of national stakeholders to set priorities and build domestic capacities that can strengthen local institutions during the peacebuilding process</p> <p>South Africa further called on the international community to strengthen its resolve to advance international action towards reaching a sustainable and just settlement, as well as self-determination of the Palestinian people</p> <p>South Africa underscored the important role played by women in peace processes and urged</p>	<p>discussions, debates and deliberations with the stated objective of contributing positively to the development of norms and standards in the field of human rights, which will foster the promotion, protection and practical realisation of all human rights by all people across the world</p> <p>The 50th Session of the HRC focussed on the human rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and LGBTQIA+ communities. The advancement of the human rights of these persons is one of the key priorities of the South African</p>		<p>meeting featured over 200 sessions with leading public figures, including 60 heads of state and government, nearly 300 ministers and other political leaders, who participated in keynote conversations and delivered public addresses.</p>		

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			<p>for their participation in these processes It highlighted the responsibility of all UN organs to address these conflict-contributing factors, within their respective mandates as preventative measures</p> <p>Ninth Session of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) South Africa prepared for and participated in the Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the UNCAC, held in hybrid format in Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt), from 13 to 17 December 2021. The major outcome of the conference was the adoption of the Sharm El Sheikh Political Declaration,</p>	<p>Government, which has prioritised issues of women and girl empowerment, ending GBV, protecting the rights of people with disabilities and other underrepresented groups, and fighting the scourge of racism and other forms of intolerance. All these issues were on the agenda of the 50th session of the HRC</p> <p>The 51st Session of the HRC took place against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict with the deteriorating geopolitical international environment impacting negatively on the governance of the HRC. The vulnerability of the council was exposed</p>				

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			entitled <i>Strengthening International Cooperation in the Prevention of and Fight against Corruption during Times of Emergencies and Crisis Response and Recovery</i> . Equally, the meeting took stock of the progress made since the Eighth Session of the COSP, held in 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. South Africa joined consensus on seven resolutions and two decisions at the conference. The resolutions covered topics such as beneficial ownership in relation to asset recovery; follow-up to the Abu Dhabi Declaration; the 32nd UNGASS on Corruption, as well	once again by the continued divisions between developed and developing countries on a range of human rights issues discussed during the session. South Africa delivered 24 statements during the session, which mainly encompassed thematic issues as well as on the Occupied Palestinian Territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 52nd Session of the HRC and its high-level segment, held in Geneva during February and March 2023. South Africa had very clear objectives, particularly in context of 				

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			as following up on the Marrakech Declaration, which called for collaboration between regional review mechanisms and the Implementation Review Group to avoid duplication of work. Informal negotiations on the resolutions and decisions have been held via virtual platforms and all but three of these resolutions are still open. For South Africa, the resolution on beneficial ownership in relation to asset recovery was the most critical in view of national and continental positions on the unconditional return of assets South Africa co-hosted a SADC side event on	membership of the council, which included: That the HRC remains true to its mandate; to ensure that the HRC gives equal attention to all human rights; to ensure that the HRC is faithful to multilateralism and a rules-based approach to human rights; to ensure that the HRC remains committed to pursuing all the objectives under item 9 (combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance); to ensure that the question of Palestine is kept alive on the				

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			<p><i>Strengthening the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at the SADC Level on 16 December 2021</i></p> <p>The report on human rights provide an overview of developments during this reporting period. These include the conflict in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian Authority; the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region; and the heightened food insecurity because of COVID-19; and other protracted conflict situations, which are on the increase. The report reflects on review modalities of the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), following the outcomes of the WFP Global Review.</p>	<p>agenda (item 7) of the HRC. In addition to this, South Africa will advocate for an end to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures by some Western countries on developing countries to force the latter countries to abide by the wishes of the former. From South Africa's perspective, the imposition of these measures has a detrimental impact on the enjoyment of human rights by citizens of affected countries. South Africa aims to use the HRC</p>				

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			<p>South Africa is still interested in hosting the UNHRD and preparations are at an advanced stage. The matter of a humanitarian hub in South Africa may be impacted by Mozambique's offer to SADC to host the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency and Operations Centre (SHOC)</p> <p>The report reflects South Africa's participation in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS). The theme for this HAS was: <i>Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance to Face the Challenges of 2021 and Beyond: Mobilising Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Inclusion, Gender,</i></p>	<p>platform to pursue our national interests and promote our norms, values, principles and objectives, including promoting principles of international cooperation and human solidarity, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the rule of international law, the development of Africa, and promotion and protection of human rights; and to continue leading efforts to address issues pertaining to business and human rights (through effective participation in processes aimed</p>				

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			<p><i>Innovation and Partnerships.</i></p> <p>The meeting acknowledged the need to increase humanitarian assistance to support humanitarian operations across the world. However, while humanitarian assistance is important for saving lives and addressing prevailing humanitarian crises, there is a need for sustainable solutions addressing the triple nexus of relief, peace and development</p> <p>The heightened food and nutrition insecurity continued across the world despite various humanitarian appeals by the UN and various international humanitarian organisations</p>					

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			<p>The withdrawal of the US and their allies from Afghanistan worsened the humanitarian crisis. The UN reported that over 300 000 more people were internally displaced within the country</p> <p>The world came together at the UN Food Systems Summit to look at ways to address rising food insecurity and food systems, which had been aggravated by COVID-19</p> <p>Furthermore, the report reflects South Africa's participation in:</p> <p>The 47th Session of the HRC</p> <p>South Africa, on behalf of the Africa Group, presented a resolution on the "Promotion and protection of the human rights and</p>					

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			<p>fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through an agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality”</p> <p>The 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, where South Africa emphasised that millions of the descendants of Africans who were sold into slavery remained trapped in lives of underdevelopment, disadvantage, discrimination and poverty, and called on the UN to put the</p>					

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			<p>issue of reparations on its agenda</p> <p>The UN Food Systems Summit, where South Africa highlighted its pathway towards transforming food systems, drawing on the outcomes of the national and provincial dialogues, which had been undertaken prior to the summit and the country's legislative and policy framework</p> <p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) South Africa presented its fifth report to the CEDAW Committee The main focus was on the promotion, protection,</p>					

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			<p>advancement and fulfilment of the rights of women; the promotion of international humanitarian law at home and in the region through participation in domestic and regional (SADC) programmes aimed at popularising international humanitarian law, so that ordinary people were familiar with their rights and obligations as far as this area of law (laws of armed conflict) during war and peace times was concerned; and participation in preparations for South Africa's universal periodic review report (which will be submitted to the HRC next year) to ensure transparency in the</p>					

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			<p>manner in which South Africa seeks to deepen the culture of human rights in the country</p> <p>South Africa participated in the following high-level events:</p> <p>High-Level Segment (HLS) of the 49th Session of the HRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An objective of participating in the HLS was to launch South Africa's campaign to return to the council for the period 2023 to 2025 <p>66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)</p> <p>South Africa approached the Chairship of the CSW66 through the prism of the national</p>					

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			<p>perspective on issues covered by the respective themes of the CSW sessions with respect to climate change and the empowerment of women</p> <p>The report on economic and social development provides an operational context showing that the development gains of developing countries have been set back 20 years by the COVID-19 pandemic and we find ourselves at ground zero with respect to implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Internationally, a global re-balancing is taking place, as the world is becoming increasingly multipolar. In a</p>					

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			<p>context where the effectiveness of the UN is being challenged, and multiple plurilateral structures have emerged, which have brought both challenges and opportunities. The challenge for South Africa is to navigate the seemingly contradictory approaches in a manner that complements and supplements multilateral efforts and not undermine or pre-empt inclusive multilateral processes and entities such as the UN, WTO and WHO</p> <p>During the reporting period, the key events were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Joe Biden's Climate Change Summit (22 and 23 April 2021) 					

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			<p>The summit demonstrated a renewed sense of urgency in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. However, the ambition on mitigation was not matched by the ambition on adaptation and means of implementation support by developed countries to developing countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The June sessional meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (31 May – 17 June 2021) <p>The discussions assisted delegations to convey their positions and better understand those of others as part of preparations for the</p>					

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			<p>Glasgow Climate Change Conference in November 2021. However, developed and developing countries remain far apart on the main negotiating issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (19 - 23 April 2021) <p>The 54th Session was successfully concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Resolution on Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Health Summit (21 May 2021) <p>The summit adopted the Rome Declaration of Principles, aimed at guiding joint action to prevent future</p>					

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			<p>health crises and to build a safer, fairer and more equitable and sustainable world. The Global Health Summit provided a timely opportunity for G20 and other leaders, international and regional organisation heads and representatives of global health bodies to share lessons learnt from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and discuss how to improve global security through enhanced cooperation, coordination and joint action, accompanied by the spirit of solidarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 74th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) (24 May - 1 June 2021): 					

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			<p>The WHA convened under the theme: <i>Ending this Pandemic, Preventing the Next: Building Together a Healthier, Safer and Fairer World</i>. The assembly reiterated the call for global solidarity and collaboration to be better prepared for the next global health crisis. Important for South Africa, was the adoption of a decision to convene a Special Session of the WHA from 29 November to 1 December 2021, to consider developing a WHO convention, or other international instrument, on pandemic preparedness and response, known as the "Pandemic Treaty", which South Africa co-sponsored</p>					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS (8 - 10 June 2021): The High-Level Meeting reviewed the progress made in reducing the impact of HIV since the last UNGA High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016. The need for integrated and preventative approaches that address intersecting social, economic and gender dimensions were highlighted, as well as investments in health systems, as key to achieving HIV/AIDS reduction targets. Concerns continued to be raised on the loss of more than 33 million people globally to HIV and appeals were made to end this scourge by 2030. 					

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			<p>In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic led to most international events being postponed or conducted virtually. While some engagements could be conducted through the use of technology, such as virtual meetings, larger gatherings did not lend themselves favourably to teleconferencing</p> <p>In the area of global health, the multilateral collaboration that was evident at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowly been replaced by narrow national self-interest and protectionism of vaccine availability in the midst of a global pandemic, when international solidarity and support for the most</p>					

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			<p>vulnerable is needed more than ever before</p> <p>The political context is also one of weakness and division in the key political formations of the global South, such as the G77 and China. Coordination among developing countries spanning the world's time zones and the digital divide has proven to be especially challenging. The longer the pandemic lasts and the greater the backlog in multilateral processes, the more intense the pressure is becoming to negotiate and take decisions virtually</p> <p>Key multilateral and plurilateral fora were utilised to advance the President's messages and initiatives, in his</p>					

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			<p>capacity as the AU COVID-19 Champion and co-chair of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Facilitation Council. Central to this was promoting the South African and Indian proposal to the WTO for the emergency temporary waiver of some aspects of TRIPS</p> <p>South Africa also used the Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH) Initiative to advance the agenda of Africa and developing countries, to ensure that they are not left behind</p> <p>During the reporting period, some key events were:</p> <p>The Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee</p> <p>South Africa's</p>					

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			<p>participation was seen as a strong proponent to advance the African Agenda and ensure that national and continental heritage sites continue to meet the criteria and remain on the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage List.</p> <p>The FPGH Initiative Ministerial Virtual Meeting A Chair's Summary was adopted, which underlined the commitment to the FPGH Initiative as a cross-regional and diverse platform to promote a more robust multilateral collaboration, including for strengthening global pandemic preparedness and</p>					

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			<p>response</p> <p>The meeting, among other matters, expressed the importance of solidarity and multilateral collaboration to mitigate the pandemic, sharing of resources and best practices as well as to strengthen the resilience, preparedness and response to health emergencies and recognised the important role of the WHO in leading the global response to the pandemic; and the dire need to mobilise sustained financing and resources for the WHO to achieve its mandate.</p> <p>High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development</p>					

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			<p>HLPF 2021 focussed on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and getting the world on track to implement the 2030 Agenda. South Africa delivered eight statements or interventions, including the national statement, and participated in negotiations that led to the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.</p> <p>Meeting between Minister Pandor and the Head of WEF Africa</p> <p>One of the main issues raised was the challenge of vaccine nationalism by developed countries. The proposal for an emergency temporary waiver of</p>					

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			<p>some aspects of TRIPS was important for the marginalised to be granted technology transfers to produce vaccines for the duration of the pandemic.</p> <p>UNFCCC's Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26/CMP16/CM A3)</p> <p>COP26 concluded the Paris Agreement Work Programme, which will assist parties to fully implement the Paris Agreement. This includes setting up an Enhanced Transparency Framework and new carbon markets, as well as work programmes on loss and damage, adaptation and finance for developing countries.</p>					

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			<p>Agreement was reached to highlight the importance of keeping the 1,5-degree temperature goal within reach, as this is safer than a 2-degree temperature increase, especially for African countries. South Africa and DIRCO contributions were made in South Africa's national capacity, as well as through its membership of the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), G77 and China and BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) negotiation blocs</p> <p>UNESCO 41ST GENERAL CONFERENCE: 9-24 November 2021 South Africa was elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the period</p>					

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			<p>2021 to 2025 during the 41st General Conference of UNESCO that took place from 9 to 24 November 2021. South Africa will use its membership on the Executive Board to pursue the country's National Interest and that of the continent in the following areas: namely the Medium Term Strategy, in particular Priority Africa and Gender Equality; UNESCO's new strategy for the next eight years; the landmark normative instruments – one on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the other on open science; the Futures of Education; as well as South Africa's membership of the World Heritage Committee and the Management of Social</p>					

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			<p>Transformation Programmes (MOST)</p> <p>UN Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 15th Ministerial Session (UNCTAD XV), 3-7 October 2021, Barbados and Geneva</p> <p>UNCTAD XV adopted the "Bridgetown Covenant: From Inequality and Vulnerability to Prosperity for All", which charts UNCTAD's mandate for the next four years. Preceding the conference, was the G77 and China Ministerial Meeting that adopted the G77 Ministerial Declaration. South Africa's contributions were made through its membership of the AGN and the</p>					

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			G77 and China The conference's main outcome document, the Bridgetown Covenant, calls for an inclusive and resilient economic recovery in developing countries, which are grappling with unequal access to the COVID-19 vaccines, debt crisis, climate emergencies and other unprecedented challenges. The outcome also recognises the key role of UNCTAD on issues related to illicit trade and illicit financial flows, and outlines member states' desire to see UNCTAD's role as an important intergovernmental forum for consensus-building on trade and development					

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			<p>reinvigorated.</p> <p>G20 Leaders' Summit: 30-31 October 2021, Rome, Italy</p> <p>The outcome of the G20 Summit was the adoption of the G20 Leaders Declaration. The text of the declaration outlined three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely: economic, social and environmental, key in achieving sustainable development. G20 leaders agreed on the "role of an open, fair, equitable, sustainable, non-discriminatory and inclusive rules-based multilateral trading system", with the Osaka and Riyadh initiatives</p> <p>South Africa</p>					

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			<p>successfully ensured that the G20 leaders advanced key national priorities and the developmental priorities of Africa, such as addressing inequality, promoting the interests of Africa and a rules-based multilateral system in line with the NDP on the “necessary reform of the World Trade Organisation”, in line with the Osaka and Riyadh initiatives</p> <p>South Africa successfully ensured that the G20 leaders advanced key national priorities and the developmental priorities of Africa, such as addressing inequality, promoting the interests of Africa and a rules-based multilateral system in line with the NDP</p>					

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			<p>AU-EU Summit (15 - 19 February 2022) The EU announced a 150-billion Euro support package for Africa over a seven-year period under the "Global Gateway Initiative"</p> <p>UN Environment Assembly's resumed Fifth Session (UNEA5.2) Environment ministers adopted a political declaration reconfirming the collective commitment to sustainable development and addressing environmental challenges, including the triple planetary crises of climate change, biological diversity loss and the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>344th Session of the International</p>					

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			<p>Labour Organisation (ILO) Governing Body (14-25 March 2022) The outcome of the Governing Body vote was that the resolution was adopted</p> <p>42nd Session of the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the WIPO The 42nd Session of the IGC was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 February to 4 March 2022 in a hybrid format. It considered various issues on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The session engaged in negotiations on the</p>					

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			<p>provisions contained in the Consolidated Document Relating to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources (Consolidated Document), with the aim of narrowing existing gaps and reaching a consensus on core issues. The Consolidated Document reflected the status of negotiations as at the end of the 35th Session of the IGC, held in March 2018</p> <p>60th Session of the UN Commission on Social Development, 7-16 February 2022</p> <p>The 60th Session of the CSocD was convened under the theme, <i>Inclusive and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 for Sustainable</i></p>					

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			<p><i>Livelihoods, Well-being and Dignity for All: Eradicating Poverty and Hunger in all its Forms and Dimensions to Achieve the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>South Africa participated in informal consultations on the three abovementioned resolutions, which South Africa negotiated through the Africa Group. South Africa, through its Permanent Mission to the UN in New York City, facilitated the resolution, "Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" South Africa prepared for and participated in the 59th Session of the CSocD (UNSocD59),</p>					

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			<p>held from 8-17 February 2021, New York.</p> <p>South Africa continued to advance its positions on social issues as they pertain to the following resolutions that were negotiated during the 59th Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies in social development and well-being of all • future organisation and methods of work of the CSocD <p>Social Development of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) policies and programmes</p>					

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	Compliance with South Africa's international reporting obligations	Number of reports on South Africa's international reporting obligations	Two reports on the implementation of South Africa's international reporting obligations were submitted	Two reports on the implementation of South Africa's international reporting obligations were submitted	Two reports on the implementation of South Africa's international reporting obligations	Two reports on the implementation of South Africa's international reporting obligations were submitted		
	South Africa's leadership and policy advanced on the regional, continental and global stage	Number of positions on identified influential multilateral bodies where South Africa is represented	Sixty positions on identified influential multilateral bodies maintained	Not achieved Fifty-four positions on identified influential multilateral bodies maintained as at 31 December 2022	Sixty positions on identified influential multilateral bodies maintained	Sixty-five positions on identified influential multilateral bodies maintained as at 31 December 2023	Five additional positions were filled	Additional opportunities were identified and filled

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United and politically cohesive continent that works towards shared prosperity and sustainable development	Africa partnerships recalibrated for the effective implementation of the AU's Agenda 2063	Number of assessment reports reflecting South Africa's participation and the outcomes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU structures and processes AU partnership and implementation of Agenda 2063 	Two assessment reports reflecting how the outcomes of Africa partnerships are aligned to the AU Agenda 2063	Two assessment reports reflecting South Africa's participation and the outcomes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU structures and processes AU partnership and implementation of Agenda 2063 was submitted <p>The 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government was held in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in February 2023</p> <p>Outcomes of the meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union of Comoros was endorsed as the Chair of the AU for the year 2023 until the next summit in February 2024 The assembly 	Two assessment reports reflecting South Africa's participation and the outcomes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU structures and processes AU partnership and implementation of Agenda 2063 	Two assessment reports reflecting South Africa's participation and the outcomes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU structures and processes AU partnership and implementation of Agenda 2063 was submitted <p>Engagement with African Union Development Agency (AUDA)-NEPAD on African Union Continental Processes regarding the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, the related costing elements of the First and Second Ten-Year Implementation Plans of Agenda 2063 and the involvement of South Africa in this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa has been directly engaging with the AU Technical Working Group on Agenda 2063 in relation to matters concerning reviewing the Evaluation Report of the FTYIP of the Agenda 2063, discussing the challenges, gaps and risks identified in the FTYIP, reviewing and 		

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				<p>launched and adopted the AU theme for the year which is <i>Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three protocols on competition policy, investment and intellectual property rights (IPR) were adopted by the assembly with the caveat that a built-in agenda/annexes must be developed. The Investment Protocol was adopted with the exclusion of articles 19 and 21, which must be re-drafted while the IPR Protocol was adopted with the understanding 		<p>discussing the identified provisional areas of intervention for the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan and focussing on a “two agendas (2063 and 2030), one implementation strategy”, exploring the cost implications for concrete implementation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan, while keeping in mind the importance of realistic timebound indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South African involvement in the process of politically influencing, shaping, and concretising the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan has been ongoing due to the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to continue playing a leadership role on the implementation of Agenda 2063 at the African Union. to support the reform of the African Union aimed at making the organisation fit-for-purpose. to ensure that South 		

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				<p>that there will be an annex to clarify the harmonisation of intellectual property governance on the continent</p> <p>The 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council was held in Addis Ababa, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, in February 2023</p> <p>Outcomes of the meetings included:</p> <p>The need for efficient and prudent management of the union's resources.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Executive Council decided on further deliberations on the new scale of assessments for the period 2024 to 2026 until consensus is reached for purposes of adoption at the 43rd</p>		<p>Africa reviews value for money form the African Union as a Tier One category financial contributor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to hold development partners accountable to political and financial commitments made in support of Agenda 2063. to assist in devising the most appropriate mitigation strategies and supporting and effective costing methodology. to further support South Africa's strategic and leadership approach to the African Union. <p>Departmental interaction with AU organs and diplomatic corps on Agenda 2063</p> <p>Key issues that were reflected on and noted include, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of Agenda 2063 is a long-term undertaking that requires all stakeholders to be on board, namely AU 		

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				Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, in July 2023		<p>member states, the private sector, academia, civil society organisations, and the African citizenry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda 2063 will not be fully realised if Africa fails to deal decisively with conflicts, the unconstitutional changes of governments, and the denigration of democratic values and democratic institutions. It was underscored that the implementation of Agenda 2063 must be driven by the high-level involvement of youth across the continent <p>The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU (February 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) The COVID-19 Champion Report to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government was presented by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his role as mandated to the continent's COVID-19 response strategy by the AU, through Assembly Decisions,</p>		

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						<p>which stated that the AU should remain seized on the matter of COVID-19.</p> <p>The 33rd African Peer Review Forum of HoS/G (February 2024) The meeting discussed targeted review reports, discussed the composition of the new troika and incoming Chair (Algeria), approved the new bureau of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, agreed to the admission of the Central African Republic as the 44th member of the APRM, and endorsed the appointment of the new CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat. The outcomes of the APR Forum were adopted by HoS/G during the AU Summit in February 2024.</p> <p>The 41st Summit of the AUDA-NEPAD HoS/G Orientation Committee (HSGOC) (February 2024) The meeting received a presentation of the 2023 results-based performance report of AUDA-NEPAD from the CEO and deliberated on</p>		

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						<p>the important role of AUDA-NEPAD in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects. The meeting further agreed to defer President Ramaphosa's PICI Report to the Sixth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in July 2024. The outcomes of the HSGOC were adopted by HoS/G during the AU Summit in February 2024.</p> <p>The 69th AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting (29 January 2024) The meeting deliberated on the AUDA-NEPAD Footprints Structure, the Annual AUDA-NEPAD Report 2023, the Development Fund, and preparations for the 41st AUDA-NEPAD HoS/G Orientation Committee</p>		

Subprogramme: Continental Cooperation

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	South Africa contributes to continental efforts aimed at resolving conflicts	Number of reports on South Africa's commitments and efforts towards peace and stability on the continent	<p>Two reports on South Africa's obligations to SADC and AU fulfilled: In terms of the financial obligations, a part payment towards South Africa's assessed contributions to the AU was made in May 2021</p> <p>The report reflected the following engagements where the President fulfilled his obligations as the AU Champion on COVID 19:</p> <p>AU Conference on Expanding Africa's Vaccine Manufacturing</p> <p>The discussions centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a short-term strategy for Africa to manufacture COVID-19 vaccines 	<p>Two reports on South Africa's commitments and efforts towards peace and stability on the continent were submitted.</p> <p>South Africa successfully participated in the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) and 17th Ordinary Meeting of African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 12 May 2022, where South Africa's international relations policy positions were advanced and reflected in the</p>	Two reports on South Africa's commitments and efforts towards peace and stability on the continent	<p>Two reports on South Africa's commitments and efforts towards peace and stability on the continent were submitted</p> <p>The 33rd Meeting of the Technical Support Committee (TSC) of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region. The TSC Framework took place against the backdrop of the worsening humanitarian situation in the eastern DRC. The meeting, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deplored the continued activities of negative forces in the eastern DRC and expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation as a result of the increased attacks. called on the groups involved, e.g., the M23, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Democratic Forces for the 		

Subprogramme: Continental Cooperation								
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening the continent's capacity for vaccine manufacturing for future pandemics bolstering regional centres for excellence and research hubs <p>Friends of Multilateralism Heads of State Round Table, organised by the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) Round Table: The discussions mainly focussed on elevating political leadership for pandemic preparedness and response options for strengthened global governance and accountability.</p>	<p>decisions of the STCDSS meeting</p> <p>South Africa participated in the 32nd Meeting of the Technical Support Committee of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2022.</p> <p>South Africa, as a signatory party to the PSC Framework, successfully advanced its international relations policy positions on the implementation of the framework and the all-inclusive resolution of the peace and security challenges in the DRC and the Great Lakes region.</p>		<p>Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Resistance for the Rule of Law in Burundi (RED Tabara) and other armed groups to immediately cease hostilities and engage in the process of voluntary and unconditional disarmament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> called on all foreign armed groups to immediately disarm and repatriate, including through efforts of the Operational Cell of the Contact and Coordination Group. noted the progress achieved in the deployment of troops from the East African Community (EAC) States to the eastern DRC and the deployment of Angolan troops to support peacekeeping and the cantonment of M23. reiterated the call for M23 to immediately withdraw from all occupied 		

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			<p>MasterCard Foundation and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launch of "Saving Lives, Saving Economies, and Saving Schools: Partnership to Vaccinate Africa". A partnership working towards ensuring that Africa has more access to vaccines, improve public health, economic recovery and bringing life back to normalcy</p> <p>AU Bureau Meeting on COVID-19 where updates were provided on funding and support for vaccines, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the World Bank Group scaling up financing to African countries for the purchase of vaccines from 	<p>During the meeting, South Africa and other members of the PSC Framework deliberated on the security situation in the Great Lakes region, especially in the Eastern DRC with a view to finding a lasting solution.</p>		<p>territories in North Kivu Province in the DRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reaffirmed that the 10th anniversary of the signing of the PSC Framework provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the achievements and key challenges as well as explore avenues to strengthen the PSC Framework. <p>The Inaugural Edition of the Lomé Peace and Security Forum with the theme <i>How to Strengthen Institutions towards Democratic Governance in Africa</i>.</p> <p>South Africa's positions that the Declaration of the Lomé Peace and the Security Forum should condemn the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government and that those political transitions should always be inclusive, were included in the final Declaration of the Forum.</p>		

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			<p>either COVAX or from manufacturers directly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pipeline of 30 projects amounting to about US\$2 billion for the African continent was being prepared under the US\$12-billion vaccines programme from the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development <p>The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group created the COVID-19 Response Facility to assist its regional member countries in fighting the pandemic.</p>			<p>Deliberations were structured into five panel discussions, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> factors of fragility of state institutions in Africa. political and security challenges inhibiting the transition to democratic governance. building strong institutions and the rule of law. international and sub-regional organisations: what role should they play in supporting political transitions African solutions—mobilising continental innovation and agility. 		

Subprogramme: South-South Cooperation								
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South-South relations strengthened and consolidated in advancement of national and continental priorities	South-South cooperation utilised to pursue South Africa's National Interest and advance the development agenda	Number of reports on the outcomes of South-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda	<p>Four reports on the outcomes of the following South-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda:</p> <p>Extraordinary NAM Committee on Palestine where a Political Declaration was adopted as an outcome of the meeting, in which the committee expressed concern regarding the latest developments and called for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and the restoration of justice and rights to the Palestinian people. South Africa, as a member of the committee, reaffirmed its long-standing solidarity with the Palestinian people</p>	<p>Four reports on the outcomes of the following South-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p>Meeting between DIRCO, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese team of experts on the Small Harbours Development Project (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation [FOCAC] Priority Project)</p> <p>The Small Harbours Development Project has been in the pipeline for the past seven years. It is a</p>	Four reports on the outcomes of South-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda	<p>Four reports on the outcomes of the following South-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p><u>BRICS</u> Several engagements were held in preparation of the XV BRICS Leaders' Summit</p> <p>The XV BRICS Leaders' Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders reflected on the following topics: realising the full potential of BRICS for inclusive global economic recovery and sustainable development; strengthening mutually beneficial partnerships with Africa and the global South in a multi-polar world; deepening and strengthening progressive multilateralism and delivering meaningful global governance reform; and addressing the marginalisation of women in peace processes and fostering an environment 		

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			<p>The Second BRICS Sherpa / Sous Sherpa Meeting in preparation for the meeting of foreign ministers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations that were entered into by Sherpas regarding the text for the Joint Statement released during the Foreign Minister's Meeting that was held on 1 June 2021, where outcomes and deliverables for the meeting were negotiated <p>The Fourth Standalone Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adoption of a media statement and a standalone Joint Statement 	<p>welcome development that the Chinese team of experts will conduct an evaluation of the project. The implementation of the project will be an excellent opportunity to showcase South - South cooperation, with a specific focus on the African Agenda, in terms of the infrastructure development that will create a conducive environment for economic development</p> <p>The 14th BRICS Summit President Ramaphosa participated in the virtual 14th BRICS Summit. The BRICS leaders adopted the Beijing Declaration, which included the following:</p>		<p>of peace and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders reiterated their commitment to inclusive multilateralism and upholding international law, including the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone and the central role of the UN. Leaders called for respect for democracy and human rights and agreed to strengthen cooperation on the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of human rights in a non-selective, non-politicised, and constructive manner and without double standards, noting the importance of the Human Rights Council. BRICS expressed concern about the use of unilateral coercive measures, which are incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the UN and produce negative effects, notably in the developing world. 		

Subprogramme: South-South Cooperation

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			<p>on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System during the Ministers' Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> among others, further discussions on global and regional peace and security <p>BRICS Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers / Special Envoys on the Middle East and North Africa: Statements made during the meeting related mainly to the situation in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon and the Persian Gulf, as well as on the MEPP</p> <p>India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum: The focus of the dialogue included:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standalone BRICS High-Level Meeting on Climate Change adoption of an action plan for the implementation of the agreement between the Government of the BRICS states on cooperation in the field of culture adoption of a BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework BRICS initiative on trade and investment for sustainable development BRICS initiative on enhancing cooperation on supply chains BRICS strategy on food security cooperation BRICS initiative 		<p>BRICS also opposes trade barriers imposed by certain developed countries under the pretext of tackling climate change and will coordinate its response on these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BRICS Summit culminated with the leaders adopting the Johannesburg II Declaration, which reflected key BRICS messages on matters of global economic, financial, and political importance. The comprehensive nature of the Declaration demonstrates the shared values and common interests that underlie BRICS mutually beneficial cooperation. <p>India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) IBSA Sherpas meeting held prior to the IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome document/communiqué of the IBSA Foreign Ministers Meeting was finalised and adopted for presentation to 		

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			<p>negotiations by the three IBSA partners on the draft text, particularly the amendment of paragraphs 23 and 24 on the WTO and the G20, which were amended to represent the interests of IBSA announcement of new amendments to be effected with regard to the IBSA inaugural meeting of the IBSA National Security Advisers, as well as the reassignment of the Trade Investment Trade Working Group (TWIG)</p> <p>The 11th Bi-annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO): Discussions during meetings focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a consensus regarding the 	<p>on denial of safe haven to corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementing procedures of joint observation for the BRICS remote sensing satellite constellation <p>Opening Ceremony of the BRICS Youth Summit, Shanghai Track: China as Chair of BRICS in 2022 hosted the BRICS Youth Summit in Beijing. Some 300 representatives from 51 countries and international organisations attended the event virtually and offline. The BRICS Youth Summit focussed on discussions regarding youth development and entrepreneurship, city planning, youth development and</p>		<p>and consideration by the Ministers.</p> <p>The 11th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting The Ministers, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expressed their intention to further energise and leverage the IBSA Forum. To that effect, they agreed to hold a standalone meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Brazil in the first quarter of 2024 and tasked the Sherpas to elaborate a proposal on IBSA institutional development. recalled that India, Brazil and South Africa are focussed on pursuing sustainable development, overcoming development challenges, and upholding independent foreign policies. They believe that the values and principles of IBSA serve as a bridge between developing and developed countries. affirmed the strategic significance of IBSA in safeguarding and 		

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			<p>appointment of the next IORA Secretary-General that could not be achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commitment by the current Chair of the Working Group, Sri Lanka, to hold a fourth meeting to finalise the process of appointing the incoming Chair the acceptance of Russia as an IORA Dialogue Partner, which includes the five P5 members establishment of the Tourism Resource Centre (TRC) in Oman, and the creation of tourism platforms for sharing best practices 	<p>youth policies with regard to city planning projects as well as city planning, incorporating youth and sustainable living</p> <p>IORA The meeting of the IORA 24th CSO and the 22nd CoM took place in November. The meetings discussed issues related to the Indian Ocean Development Initiative, African Workshop for the review of the IORA and matters related to cooperation in the Indian Ocean, which also speak to the African Agenda, including the African Maritime Initiative</p> <p>The First Indian Ocean Region Information System (IORIS) Conference for the Indian Ocean took place in</p>		<p>advancing the interests of the global South on the global stage, including at the multilateral and plurilateral bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agreed to strengthen and expand the IBSA Fund, an internationally recognised initiative of South-South cooperation, with 42 projects in 37 countries. noted with concern the escalation of geopolitical tensions in various parts of the world and emphasised the need for dialogue and diplomacy for peaceful resolution of conflicts. They called for the strengthening of global arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation, including efforts within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. <p>Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) The Third Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Blue Economy (WGBE)</p>		

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			<p>Third Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AhWG) concerning the eligibility and criteria for selecting the new Secretary-General of IORA: The objective of the meeting was to endorse the draft Terms of Reference and annexures to be recommended to the CoM for approval</p> <p>13th BRICS Summit: India assumed the rotating BRICS Chairship for 2021. The theme for the year was BRICS@15: <i>Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus</i>. The Chair identified four priorities for its Chairship, namely:</p>	<p>December IORIS could be a neutral platform, which supplements the work and objectives strived for through participation in the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC), which is a formation of the International Maritime Organisation. Increased synergies between platforms of communications would contribute to better maritime security, which in turn would create a conducive environment for trade and developments of the region.</p> <p><u>First Meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairship of BRICS was ceremoniously handed over to 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the meeting, the status and implementation of the Work Plan of the WGBE were reviewed, and the Coordinator of the Working Group on the Blue Economy (WGBE) pointed out the active role of member states, dialogue partners, and international organisations in implementing the activities of the Work Plan. The proposed template for the new Work Plan was presented and the Secretariat provided an update on its cooperation with international organisations in advancing blue growth in the region. <p>The Fourth Meeting of the IORA Functional Bodies Chairs and the Coordinating Countries (FBC-CC) Discussions focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the special fund application by Prof. Boswell on <i>Cultural Heritage for Coastal Tourism and Climate Action in the Indian Ocean Region</i> has been received, and the 		

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			<p>reform of the multilateral system, counter-terrorism cooperation, the application of digital and technological solutions for achievement of the SDGs and enhancing people-to-people exchanges</p> <p>President Ramaphosa and other BRICS leaders in attendance commended and welcomed the concrete deliverables under the BRICS Chairship in 2021 with reference to the signing and / or adoption of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Agreement on BRICS Cooperation on Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation the finalisation of the Agreement on 	<p>South Africa by the Chinese BRICS Sherpa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting considered South Africa's priorities and expectations as Chair of BRICS for 2023 Consideration was given to how BRICS members could support the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area The meeting reflected on the institutional development of BRICS The meeting reflected on the opportunities to build synergies between BRICS and the G20, particularly in the finance track 		<p>project is underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful application for IORA Special Funds by SA-IORAG to contribute towards the 28th IORAG meeting held on 26–27 September 2023 in Cape Town. Administration of funds facilitated by IORA Secretariat on behalf of SA-IORAG for flight arrangements for LDCs/SIDS <p>South Africa's participation in the NAM Summit in Kampala, Uganda, was guided by the four strategic foreign policy pillars, namely,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advancing national interest to attain domestic objectives enhancing the African Agenda and promoting Africa's sustainable development influencing a reformed global multilateral architecture advancing the agenda of the South through strengthening South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue. 		

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			BRICS Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan • Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation • Innovation Cooperation Action Plan 2021-2024 • BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism • BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations of the Standalone Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, discussions during					

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			<p>the summit, furthermore, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post-COVID-19 tourism and economic recovery • recognition of the positive impact made by the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to conquer the pandemic • calls for BRICS members to support the ongoing negotiations with the WTO regarding the waiver of TRIPS, making it possible for the production of the vaccine in Africa • continued implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 and endorsing the 					

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			<p>BRICS Statement on Global Economic Outlook and Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis</p> <p>NAM Mid-term Ministerial Conference NAM members deliberated on various global challenges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reform of multilateral institutions • COVID-19 • Israeli-Palestine conflict • territorial disputes • climate change • threats to cyberspace • counter-terrorism • disarmament and non-proliferation • unilateral coercive measures • peacebuilding and peacekeeping 					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the right to self-determination <p>The NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference concluded with the adoption of a Political Declaration reiterating the NAM's commitment to the purposes, principles and provisions of the UN Charter</p> <p>The declaration reaffirmed the vision, principles and objectives articulated in Bandung (1955) and in Belgrade (1961). The Political Declaration further underlined the collective efforts of NAM to achieve a world of peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all</p> <p>Report on the outcomes of South-</p>					

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			<p>South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda.</p> <p>Meeting of the NAM, Belgrade, Serbia: The 60th anniversary of the First Meeting of the NAM, held in Belgrade, Serbia, provided opportunities to highlight the importance of multilateralism to address common challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It also provided an opportunity to stress the importance of vaccine nationalism and to condemn sanctions against countries i.e. Cuba, Iran, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.</p>					

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			<p>The Peoples' Republic of China assumed the rotating BRICS Chairship for 2022 under the theme: <i>Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development</i>. China introduced its priorities during the Sherpa / Sous-Sherpa Meeting. The aims of China's Chairship were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidating the three BRICS pillars: political and security, economic and financial, and people-to-people cooperation • enhancing political trust and intensifying communication and coordination on major international and 					

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regional issues. deepening practical cooperation in all fields, fully implementing the outcomes of previous summits and ensuring that concrete results are achieved. enhancing dialogue and cooperation with other emerging markets and developing countries, as well as international organisations, to broaden South-South cooperation for common development and prosperity. 					

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Relations with the North leveraged in advancement of national and continental priorities	North-South cooperation utilised to pursue South Africa's National Interest and advance the development agenda	Number of reports on the outcomes of North-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda	<p>Two reports on the outcomes of North-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda:</p> <p>The Outreach Session of the G7 Summit, held in Carbis Bay, United Kingdom: During the event, the President called on G7 countries to help bridge the funding gap for testing, treatment and vaccination against COVID-19. The President also called for support for the TRIPS waiver, which would allow for wider vaccine production to fight the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>Two reports on the outcomes of North-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p>10th EU-South Africa Political and Security Dialogue Forum (PSDF), in September 2022. The PSDF discussed issues relating to political and security coordination, i.e. European Security and Defence Cooperation; cooperation in multilateral fora, including cybercrime, disarmament and non-proliferation, UN reform, AU-EU cooperation, counterterrorism and the fight against violent extremism, as well as IFFs. Agenda</p>	Two reports on the outcomes of North-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda	<p>Two reports on the outcomes of North-South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda were submitted</p> <p>The Second Russia-Africa Summit which took place in July 2023. At the conclusion of the Summit, the following documents were adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main declaration of the Second Russia-Africa Summit. • Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation in the Fight Against Terrorism, • Declaration on Cooperation in the Field of International Information Security. • Declaration on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. • Three-Year Action Plan. <p>In the Declaration of the Second Russia-Africa Summit, the Heads of State and Government, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reaffirmed the principles and objectives enshrined in the Declaration of the First Russia-Africa Summit. 		

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			<p>G20 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting:</p> <p>The key issues discussed during these meetings included global governance and multilateralism as the appropriate platforms for addressing global challenges such as COVID-19 and for promoting global economic recovery. Further discussions were held on Africa and food security. The meeting concluded with the adoption of two important documents:</p> <p>The Matera Declaration, among others, seeks to mobilise “political, financial, policy and technical support based on the needs and demands of</p>	<p>topics on regional developments included Mozambique / Cabo Delgado, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe</p> <p>The 15th South Africa-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue (MPD) was held in January 2023. Discussions covered a number of issues, including peace and security issues affecting the globe, Africa and Europe, trade relations, as well as education, science and technology cooperation. A report from the JCC, which was held in South Africa in December 2022 and the preparation of the Eighth South Africa-EU Summit, which is expected to be held in 2023, were discussed. The</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> welcomed the growing importance of African States and the African Union as the leading continental organisation in international affairs, which reflects the increasing global role and influence of Africa as an essential pillar of the multipolar world. recognised the central role of sovereign states in decision-making, including in the maintenance of international peace and security, while respecting the diversity of value systems of states and nations within multilateral fora expressed deep concern over the challenges related to global food security, including the rise in food and fertiliser prices as well as the disruption of international supply chains, which disproportionately impact the African continent. <p>Meeting with Ambassador Kramer and the EU delegation to discuss upcoming events and current developments.</p>		

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			<p>developing countries, with a focus on smallholder farmers, women and youth". The declaration further recognises that poverty alleviation and food security are key to ending hunger and reducing socio-economic inequalities and for achieving SDG 2 on zero hunger by 2030</p> <p>The second, a communiqué adopted by development ministers, recognises the challenges in Africa, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island states and that overcoming the pandemic is a precondition for stable and lasting global recovery. Gender equality and the economic</p>	<p>visiting commissioners met with their South African counterparts for bilateral discussions. These include the co-signing of the new EU-South Africa Multiannual Indicative Programme until 2027 between Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen and Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana and the launch of a €100 million regional teachers training programme. The outcomes of 15th South Africa-EU MPD will feed into the preparations for the Eighth South-Africa-EU Summit to be hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Africa-EU Dialogue Facility Programme 		<p>The meeting discussed the agenda and planning process for the forthcoming 11th Political and Security Dialogue Forum and Eighth Human Rights Dialogue between South Africa and the EU. The meeting also discussed the attendance of Deputy Minister Botes of the Third EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels in February 2024, as well as the EU Investment Seminar during the Mining Indaba in Cape Town in February 2024.</p> <p>The 11th South Africa-EU Political and Security Dialogue Forum was hosted by DIRCO (DG Dangor and co-chaired by EU's Permanent Chair of the Political and Security Committee (Ms D Pronk)</p> <p>The 11th PSDF proposed the following areas warranting more in-depth discussions and attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what constitutes building up resilient institutions to promote democracy. migration, and especially the impact of climate change on migration. how to further the South 		

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			<p>inclusion of women and youth, as well as food security, are key pillars of South Africa's Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. In correlation, the focus of the G20 on food security as a key driver for addressing inequality and poverty resonates with the domestic objective of addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty. In the context of advancing national priorities, South Africa succeeded in reflecting African priorities, such as IFFs and deleting references to greener recovery</p> <p>Report on the outcomes of North-</p>	<p>Steering Committee Meeting and closing event of the South Africa-EU Dialogue Facility were held in March 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dialogue Facility Programme Steering Committee agreed that April 2023 would be the closure of Phase II with reports, achievements and lessons learnt and planning of a way forward for the possible upcoming Phase III of the programme. 		<p>Africa-EU partnership in relation to the safe use of nuclear energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what constitutes terrorism and what can be defined as acts of terror in light of the absence of an international legal definition on terrorism. deliberations and collaboration on upholding democracy and human rights. the role of regional economic communities in the AU-EU Partnership. closer cooperation on cyber-security, including capacity and confidence building. 		

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>South engagements reflecting South Africa's participation and interests, including that of the African Agenda</p> <p>Second G20 Sherpa Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda slanted towards emission reduction, focus on the green recovery, encouraging trade and climate change commitments outside the relevant multilateral structures and to exclude the means of implementation support for developing countries Emerging market economies should continue to highlight the 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>centrality of the multilateral system and the need to find inclusive solutions to global challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Italian G20 Presidency indicated their determination to elevate the global importance of the G20 and the need for this formation to take a lead on a number of global matters such as pandemic preparedness, climate change, international tax cooperation and trade • On health, the proposal to establish a Health Board, similar to the Financial Stability 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>Board, which was established by the G20 during the 2008 financial crisis, South Africa indicated that it was not able to support the creation or endorsement of structures dealing with pandemic preparedness outside the WHO or UN processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa encourages the G20 to support WHO-led processes that are universal and inclusive and the G20 should not duplicate work done at multilateral organisations • South Africa and India also reiterated their call on G20 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>members to support negotiation aimed at securing a temporary waiver on the intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the world economy and finance track, the agreement by finance ministers on a global minimum tax was hailed as an “historical achievement” On debt, South Africa called on the G20 to support an ambitious SDR reallocation, including the target of at least US\$100 billion by October 2021, to support vulnerable countries, 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>including Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the issue of carbon border tax, China, Brazil Saudi Arabia and South Africa were united in their opposition, stating that that this should be negotiated at multilateral level and not be imposed unilaterally On climate change, South Africa rejected the unilateral setting of targets outside multilateral environmental agreements, stating that to enhance our ambition and achieve our UNFCCC and Convention on Biological Diversity goals, developing 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>countries require massively scaled-up support in the form of finance, technology and capacity-building</p> <p>Third G20 Sherpa Meeting: During the meeting, South Africa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> called for the deletion of the climate targets that seek to pre-judge multilateral negotiations, including the net-zero target by 2050; 30% methane gas reduction target by 2030; and the 30% of land and oceans protection target restated its position that the WHO should be at the centre of any new pandemic preparedness 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> structures called for the deletion of the "commitment to end the provision of international public finance for unabated coal power generation" joined India and other developing countries in calling for greater access to vaccines, including manufacturing capacity and for G20 support for WTO negotiations on a TRIPS waiver introduced language reiterating the G20's continued support for the G20 Initiative on Supporting the Industrialisation in Africa and LDCs, G20 Africa 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			Partnership and the Compact with Africa, and addressing IFFs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pushed for language that reaffirms that trade measures taken to address climate change must conform to our WTO commitments and must not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade called for balanced language and digital free flow of data to be balanced with data for development supported current language 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>on women empowerment and introduced language on the prevention of gender violence during lockdowns</p> <p>Sixth AU-EU Summit, Brussels (17–18 February 2022)</p> <p>The summit was convened with the aim of strengthening and recalibrating the economic and strategic partnership between African and European countries</p> <p>The major achievements of the Sixth AU-EU Summit as reflected in the declaration on a joint vision for 2030, which was adopted under silent procedure at its</p>					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>conclusion. It includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> committing to respond to the immediate challenge of the COVID-19 crisis by ensuring a fair and equitable access to vaccines, among others, as well as the macro-economic effects of the crisis on the African continent for economic recovery the announcement of the Africa-Europe Investment Package of at least €150 billion, which is composed of an investment, a health and an education package committing to 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>renewed and enhanced cooperation for peace and security between Africa and the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • committing to revitalise the work of the joint AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force in finding a durable solution to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable groups • committing to work together to promote effective multilateralism within the rules-based international order, with the UN at its core • committing to follow up on the AU-EU engagements to monitor the implementation 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>of the commitments undertaken during AU-EU summits.</p> <p>Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting (virtual) (26–27 March 2022)</p> <p>The main outcomes of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting are Japan's commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting private investment in Africa, including through leveraging digital technology • continued support for ensuring access to vaccines in Africa through the improvement of cold chain equipment, and 					

Subprogramme: North-South Cooperation								
Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
			<p>promoting a wide range of initiatives in the health sector to accelerate preparations for future health crises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening maritime law-enforcement capabilities in Africa • supporting reform of the UNSC based on the Common African Position 					

LINKING PERFORMANCE TO BUDGETS

Actual expenditure for 2023/2024 amounted to R615.3 million against the final appropriation of R594.2 million, which represents an overspending of R21.1 million. The overspending is primarily attributable to the foreign exchange fluctuation and cost of living adjustments.

Subprogramme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Global System of Governance	394 888	417 146	(22 258)	393 667	393 538	129
Continental Cooperation	104 716	106 692	(1 976)	86 942	85 920	1 022
South-South Cooperation	5 155	5 072	83	5 726	5 650	76
North-South Dialogue	89 466	86 406	3 060	73 296	73 031	265
Total	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	559 631	558 139	1 492

4.4 PROGRAMME 4: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PROTOCOL SERVICES

Purpose: Communicate South Africa's role and position in international relations in the domestic and international arenas and provide State Protocol Services

Subprogramme 4.1 Public Diplomacy

Purpose: Promote a positive projection of South Africa's image

Subprogramme 4.2 State Protocol and Consular Services

Purpose: Provide protocol and ceremonial services

Outcomes:

- Domestic and foreign audiences informed of South Africa's foreign policy objectives and priorities
- Improved compliance with the diplomatic regulatory framework

4.4.1 PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

South Africa's public diplomacy (PD) is predicated on the apex government policy as encapsulated in the National Development Plan's (NDP) vision. The NDP calls for the development and implementation of a robust and sophisticated PD strategy. The NDP states that

“it is important to develop a more sophisticated Public Diplomacy Strategy that encompasses more than a communications function. Public Diplomacy should use new media platforms, forums and social networks, as well as people-to-people initiatives”. The strategy has been developed and served as a guide to our PD activities undertaken during the period under review.

The strategy addresses the need for the implementation and management of South Africa's reputation through the utilisation of people-to-people initiatives and new media platforms. The strategy uses a three-pronged approach and aims to set the agenda, create and strengthen own platforms, and promote the South African Brand and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to stakeholders. This is achieved through targeted platforms that promote the National Interest of our country through understanding, informing and influencing foreign and local audiences. To enhance the implementation of this strategy and intergovernmental relations, the Branch: PD forms part of government's International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster in which it plays an important role in enabling the cluster to communicate with one voice.

We have continued to enhance public understanding of our foreign policy engagements with both local and international audiences. Political principals utilise various platforms, such as media briefings and public participation programmes (PPPs) to reach out to the public at home and abroad and stimulate debates through dialogue and public lectures on various topical issues in the purview of international relations.

4.4.2 STATE PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR SERVICES

The department continued to facilitate the arrival and departure of dignitaries through the state protocol lounges, provided hospitality services to the President, Deputy President, Minister, and Deputy Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, and rendered protocol support to the second and third spheres of government. During the period under

review, protocol services were rendered during 33 high-level incoming visits and 27 high-level outgoing visits. DIRCO continued to provide consular services on behalf of the South African Government to South African nationals, both individuals and bodies corporate, abroad in accordance with the relevant legislation, policies, directives, guidelines, codes, customary international law, and practice. During the 2023/2024 financial year, 939 consular cases were attended to. These included extraditions, prisoners abroad, return of mortal remains, and service of civil process, to cite a few.

The department, as one of its core service-delivery areas, authenticates/legalises public documents issued across all spheres of government and, among others, facilitates the movement of exports and imports in the manufacturing, mining, and energy sector (i.e., industrial production), as well as the agricultural and construction sectors. The legalisation of public documents promotes economic growth and, as a result, the creation of employment opportunities in South Africa.

Linked to the above is the legalisation of public documents, such as educational certificates, for South African citizens seeking employment abroad, which results in skills transfer and the transmission of monthly remittances to the country by South African citizens employed abroad. Legalised public documents effectively assist enterprises, South African citizens and foreign nationals in the presentation of appropriate and validated South African public documents across the globe. The department authenticated/legalised 49 297 public documents during the 2023/2024 financial year for use abroad.

South Africa remains one of the countries with the highest concentration of diplomats in the world. Regularising over 10 000 diplomats, including their dependants, is a hugely bureaucratic function but is being dealt with in a highly proficient manner by a skilled and versatile team. The department continued to facilitate and accredit all aspects of the resident Diplomatic Corps in terms of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as well as the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Subprogramme: Public Diplomacy

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
Domestic and foreign audiences informed of South Africa's foreign policy objectives and priorities	Rapid and timeous support to missions on domestic and global developments	Number of key messages distributed to missions on domestic and global developments	Sixty-four key messages were distributed to missions on domestic and global developments	Sixty-three key messages were distributed to missions on domestic and global developments	Nine key messages distributed to missions on domestic and global developments	Sixty-five key messages were distributed to missions on domestic and global developments	Fifty-six additional key messages were distributed	Additional key messages were distributed in response to both national and international developments
	Platforms utilised to inform and promote South Africa's foreign policy to domestic and international audiences	Number of platforms utilised to inform and promote South Africa's foreign policy to domestic and international audiences	Twelve PPPs held where audiences were engaged via webinars on domestic and international developments	Twelve PPPs held where audiences were engaged via webinars on domestic and international developments	Twelve PPPs	Sixteen PPPs held where audiences were engaged on domestic and international developments	Four additional PPPs were held in response to issues in the domestic and international environment.	Additional PPPs were held in response to issues in the domestic and international environment.
			Twelve opinion pieces published	Twelve opinion pieces published	Nine opinion pieces published	Sixteen opinion pieces published	Eight additional opinion pieces published	Additional opinion pieces published in response to both national and international developments

Subprogramme: State Protocol and Consular Services

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
Improved compliance with the diplomatic regulatory framework	Professional protocol services rendered for incoming and outgoing visits	Percentage of requests for protocol services rendered to incoming and outgoing visits	100% (42) of protocol services rendered to all in and outgoing State, Official and Working Visits: • Incoming: 23 • Outgoing: 19	100% (57) of protocol services rendered to all in and outgoing State, Official and Working Visits: • Incoming: 21 • Outgoing: 36	100% of protocol services rendered to all incoming and outgoing visits	100% (60) of protocol services rendered to all in and outgoing State, Official and Working Visits: • Incoming: 33 • Outgoing: 27		
	Consular services rendered	Percentage of requests for consular assistance rendered	100% (740) cases reported to DIRCO were responded to as per the Service Delivery Charter: • citizens in distress: 250 • whereabouts: 17 • mortal remains: 161 • adoptions: 0 • abductions: 9 • detainees / prisoners: 37 • services of civil process: 225 • extraditions: 41	100% (822) cases reported to DIRCO were responded to as per the Service Delivery Charter: • citizens in distress: 125 • whereabouts: 15 • mortal remains: 205 • adoptions: one • abductions: four • detainees / prisoners: 102 • services of civil process: 338 • extraditions: 32	100% of consular services rendered	100% (939) cases reported to DIRCO were responded to as per the Service Delivery Charter: • citizens in distress: 379 • whereabouts: 19 • mortal remains: 215 • adoptions: 0 • abductions: one • detainees/prisoners: 73 • services of civil process: 220 • extraditions: 32		
	Legalised services rendered	Percentage of documents legalised in accordance with the guidelines set in the service delivery charter	Percentage of documents legalised in accordance with the guidelines set in the service delivery charter	100% (54 816) of documents legalised	100% (55 005) of documents legalised	100% (49 297) of documents legalised		

LINKING PERFORMANCE WITH BUDGETS

Actual expenditure for 2023/2024 amounted to R436.8 million against the final appropriation of R404.2 million, which represents an overspending of R32.6 million. The overspending is primarily attributable to foreign exchange fluctuations and additional operational activities.

Subprogramme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Public Diplomacy	65 949	77 468	(11 519)	69 267	83 571	(14 304)
Protocol Services	338 240	359 287	(21 047)	267 555	252 237	15 318
Total	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	336 822	335 808	1 014

4.5 PROGRAMME 5: INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

Purpose: Fund membership fees and transfer to international organisations

Subprogramme 5.1: Departmental agencies

Purpose: Facilitate transfer of funds to the public entity

Subprogramme 5.2: Membership contributions

Purpose: Facilitate transfers to international organisations

Outcomes: Strengthen multilateralism through membership fees and contributions

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance 2021/22	Audited Actual Performance 2022/23	Planned Annual Target 2023/24	Actual Achievement 2023/24	Deviation from Planned Target to Actual Achievement 2023/24	Reasons for Deviations
Strengthen multilateralism through membership fees and contributions	South Africa fulfilling its continental and global responsibilities	Number of reports on payment of South Africa's contributions to international organisations	Four quarterly reports on payment of South Africa's contributions to international organisations amounting to R742 171 million	Four quarterly reports on payment of South Africa's contributions to international organisations amounting to R773.9 million	Four quarterly reports on payment of South Africa's contributions to international organisations	Four quarterly reports on payment of South Africa's contributions to international organisations amounting to R 851. 230 million		

LINKING BUDGET TO PERFORMANCE

Actual expenditure for 2023/2024 amounted to R851.2 million against the final appropriation of R881.9 million, which represents an overspending of R30.6 million. The underspending is primarily attributable to the lower exchange rates when transfer payments were processed, low spending on Humanitarian Assistance projects, as well as membership fees for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that were discontinued.

SUBPROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Subprogramme name	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Departmental Agencies	49 890	49 890	-	61 370	49 699	11 671
Membership Contribution	831 964	801 335	30 629	752 054	724 172	27 882
Total	881 854	851 225	30 629	813 424	773 871	39 553

Name of Public Entity	Key Outputs of the Public Entity	Amount transferred to the Public Entity (R'000)	Amount spent by the Public Entity (R'000)	Achievements of the Public Entity
African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF)	<p>The objective of the Fund is to contribute to an integrated democratic, peaceful, and prosperous continent. Therefore, the Fund enables the South African Government to identify and fund projects or provide loans. The objectives of the ARF are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and other countries, in particular African countries promotion of democracy and good governance. prevention and resolution of conflict socio-economic development and integration. humanitarian assistance and human resource development. 	49 890	(13 200)	<p>Special envoy to South Sudan: South Africa is supporting the Government of South Sudan through a special envoy in preparations for holding the general election. The political rationale for the project is to maintain stability and peace in the country.</p> <p>Special Envoy to DRC and Great Lakes: The overall objective of the project is South Africa's contribution towards peace, stability and post-conflict reconstruction and development in the DRC. Special Envoy has been appointed to facilitate the resolution of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region.</p> <p>Humanitarian Assistance to the Republic of Malawi: The Republic of Malawi was struck by Tropical Cyclone Freddy on 14 March 2023, which resulted in devastating floods hitting most parts of the southern region. The Government of Malawi has since declared a State of Disaster and has called for international assistance and support from South Africa, among other countries, in response to this catastrophe.</p> <p>Assistance to Mozambique following the impact of Cyclone Idai: The Republic of Mozambique is experiencing the impact of Cyclone Idai which destroyed infrastructure, killed people, displaced and left a number of people homeless without food, shelter, medication and safe water. South Africa will contribute to socio-economic development through the rebuilding of schools destroyed through the cyclone.</p> <p>Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) development of principles and guidelines governing social media in elections in Africa: The Electoral Commission of South Africa seeks to embark on a continent-wide initiative to develop the principles and guidelines governing social media in elections in Africa. The guidelines will enhance the capacities of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and other electoral bodies to harness social media's advantages and tackle its adverse effects.</p>

5.2 TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO ALL ORGANISATIONS OTHER THAN PUBLIC ENTITIES

The table below reflects the transfer payments made for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Name of transferee	Type of organisation	Purpose for which The funds were used	Did the dept. comply with s 38 (1) (j) of the PFMA	Amount Transferred R'000
DIRCO	African Union	Membership fees	Yes	358 930
DIRCO	Group of 77 Countries	Membership fees	Yes	95
DIRCO	India-Brazil-South Africa Trust Fund	Membership fees	Yes	18 901
DIRCO	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	Membership fees	Yes	868
DIRCO	United Nations Development Programme	Membership fees	Yes	16 940
DIRCO	Commonwealth of Nation	Membership fees	Yes	7 224
DIRCO	Southern African Development Community	Membership fees	Yes	170 969
DIRCO	United Nations	Membership fees	Yes	199 085
DIRCO	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention	Membership fees	Yes	548
DIRCO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	Membership fees	Yes	6 291
DIRCO	Indian Ocean Rim Research Centre	Membership fees	Yes	457
DIRCO	Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund	Membership fees	Yes	101
DIRCO	South Centre Capital Fund	Membership fees	Yes	1 925
DIRCO	United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea	Voluntary projects	Yes	549
DIRCO	Humanitarian aid	Membership fees	Yes	15 803
DIRCO	Perm Court Of Arbitration	Membership fees	Yes	345
DIRCO	Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Organisation	Membership fees	Yes	398
DIRCO	International Tribunal for the Law of the sea	Membership fees	Yes	1 519
DIRCO	BIE	Membership fees	Yes	386

5.2 TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO ALL ORGANISATIONS OTHER THAN PUBLIC ENTITIES

The table below reflects the transfer payments made for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Name of transferee	Purpose for which the funds were to be used	Amount budgeted for	Amount transferred	Reasons why funds where not transferred
DIRCO	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	Membership fees	Yes	Membership fees for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States are discontinued

6. CONDITIONAL GRANTS

None.

7. DONOR FUNDS

7.1 Donor Funds Received

Donor Fund: People Republic of China Human Resource Development: Cadet Learnership and Internship

Name of donor	People's Republic of China
Full amount of the funding	R4 205 000
Period of the commitment	2 years
Purpose of the funding	To fund Cadet Learnership and Internship
Expected outputs	Learnership and Internship programme
Actual outputs achieved	-
Amount received (R'000)	R4 205 000
Amount spent by the department (R'000)	-
Reasons for the funds unspent	Recruitment will take place in 2024/25 financial year
Monitoring mechanism by the donor	N/A

8. CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation is the custodian of state-owned immovable assets abroad. It is critical for DIRCO to have a functional property portfolio that will ensure that the department delivers on its diplomatic mandate abroad.

The property portfolio has a huge maintenance backlog due to a lack of proper planned maintenance. The department is currently implementing a number of infrastructure projects as interventions to address the maintenance backlog and to ensure that the condition of the state-owned property portfolio is sustainable and supports service delivery by missions abroad.

8.1 Capital investment, maintenance and asset management plan

Section 5(1)(a) of the Government Immovable Asset Act (GIAMA) Act, 2007 (Act 19 of 2007) states that the Accounting Officer of the custodian of immovable assets must ensure that the immovable assets are used efficiently and effectively. To give effect to the Act, the department has an approved property management strategy that informs the planning and execution of new acquisitions, maintenance and disposal of immovable assets. The department is developing the Custodian Asset Management Plan that will provide details on the lifecycle immovable asset plan, which will be finalised in the 2023/24 financial year. The department has implemented the following infrastructure projects in the 2023/24 financial year:

Planning for new construction projects

Two construction projects have been prioritised over the current MTEF for New Delhi (India) and Luanda (Angola) for development of Chanceries and Official Residences.

The professional team appointed by GTAC as an implementing agent conducted a site visit with DIRCO officials to New Delhi, India in March 2024 for project inception. The outcome of the visit is that the feasibility report has been finalised and approval will be finalized in May 2024. The professional team in India will commence with the building design, approval with

the municipality and finalisation of the tender documentation and appointment of the contractor by December 2024.

Renovation and refurbishment projects

Approval has been granted for eight renovation projects to be advertised in the following missions: London (three), Copenhagen (two), New York, Maseru, Rome, Vienna, Mbabane, and Windhoek in 2023/24, and to date only four projects have been advertised. Contractors for the renovation projects will be appointed in the 2024/25 financial year. There has been a delay due to non-compliance of bids.

Project Managers (PM) to manage and monitor renovation projects have been appointed in London and Copenhagen. TOR for the appointment of project manager has been prepared and two advertised in two missions with two other missions planning to advertise in May 2024. The scope for PM will include facilitation of the building permitting processes, confirmation of the scope of works, development of the TOR for the appointment of contractors, preparation of tender documentation, advertisement of tender, briefing service providers and monitoring renovation works, certifying payments and development of maintenance plan.

Maintenance and condition assessment projects

At the end of March 2024, the department had completed 31 maintenance projects to address the maintenance backlog. Based on planned maintenance reports from missions and condition assessment reports recommendations, 26 maintenance projects have been prioritised for implementation in the 2024/25 financial year. Condition assessments have been concluded in the 2023/24 financial year for 12 missions. The implementation of recommendations on the condition assessment reports will assist in addressing the maintenance backlog.

The department has collaborated with GTAC in developing a comprehensive strategy for property management portfolio, internal (DIRCO) engagements have commenced with branches and inputs from the branches are awaited to finalise the property strategy.

Disposal projects

The disposal of 18 properties for disposal in Namibia (Windhoek, Walvis Bay), Germany (Bonn), Switzerland (Zurich), Portugal (Funchal), Malawi, Uruguay, Rome (Milan) and France (Paris) was approved by the Executive and the disposal committee.

Ministerial letters to DPWI and National Treasury were submitted to inform them of approval and obtain concurrence to finalise disposal of the nine properties. The department is currently awaiting concurrence from the National Treasury.

Infrastructure projects	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure	Final Appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/Under Expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
New and replacement assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Existing infrastructure assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upgrades and additions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation, renovations and refurbishments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance and repairs	33 234	33 234	0	-	29 023	-29 023
Infrastructure transfer	-	-		-	-	-
Current		-		-	-	-
Capital	30 311		30 311	42 999	4 130	38 869
Total	63 545	33 234	30 311	42 999	33 153	9 846



PART C

GOVERNANCE

PART C: GOVERNANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) is committed to good corporate governance and has various internal control mechanisms in place to strengthen corporate governance. There are various management structures and committees in place with terms of reference, which meet on a regular basis. The department also has fully functioning assurance structures such as Risk Management and Internal Audit. These structures are supported by the Risk Management Committee and Audit Committee, both chaired by independent (external) chairpersons. The department can report that both committees have contributed positively in terms of the risk and audit management processes in the department.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT

The department has reviewed the developed Risk Management Policy and Strategy during the current financial year. The policy and strategy were recommended by the Risk Management Committee and approved by the Director-General. The department conducts regular risk assessments to identify new and emerging risks, and they are monitored regularly and reported to the Risk Management Committee, Director's-General Forum, and Audit Committee. In addition, the risk assessments were also for key projects. The results of the risk assessments also identified mitigations to manage those risks to keep risks at an acceptable level.

The Risk Management Committee was established and consists of an independent external Chairperson and members of the top management structure of the department. The contract

of the independent external Chairperson was extended in line with the term of the Audit Committee. The Risk Management Committee meets on a quarterly basis and on an ad hoc basis when the need arises. Over the period, there has been an improvement in the operations as a result of improved risk appetite. However, there are specific areas that need a special risk management approach to ensure that risks are kept at an acceptable level. The department has an Audit Committee, which meets regularly to advise the department on risk management and monitor the effectiveness of the system of risk management. The department's risk maturity is increasing as the skills and knowledge of risk management functions are utilised by management prior to decision-making.

3. FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The department had developed an Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy to set its zero-tolerance level on activities relating to fraud and corruption. The awareness activities are taking place throughout the department within the programmes. The governance structures had also been strengthened to monitor and take timeous decisions on matters relating to fraud and corruption. The Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy goes hand in hand with the Whistle-blowing Policy. The Whistle-blowing Policy provides clear guidance on the reporting process of indications of fraud and corruption. It also indicates how the reported allegations are to be handled

to their conclusion. The department has the ethics function with the DDG appointed as the Ethics Champion, which oversees and directs matters pertaining to ethics management in the department. The Ethics Officers manage functions relating to the detection, investigation, and resolution of unethical conduct and corruption in the department. The function reports quarterly to the Risk Management Committee.

The Whistle-blowing Policy provides the reporting lines, starting with the immediate supervisor or confidentially through Internal Audit or Labour Relations. Officials are also encouraged to anonymously report any allegations of fraud or corruption to the National Anti-Fraud Hotline managed by the Public Service Commission. The allegations received are duly investigated and if the results of investigations warrant a disciplinary process to take place, the Labour Relations function manages the disciplinary process accordingly.

4. MINIMISING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The department has appointed ethics officers to facilitate the submission of the Senior Management Service's financial disclosures as well as those of employees at remuneration levels 11 and 12, employees on the occupational-specific dispensation paid on level 13, and officials at Finance and Supply Chain Management working with procurement and payment. The ethics officers process applications for other remunerative work for approval or disapproval by the Director-General.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

The department adheres to the Public Service Code of Conduct, Resolution 1 of 2003. Once an allegation is received that any provision of the code has been breached, the department normally initiates a formal investigation on the alleged contravention of the code. The alleged offender will either be subjected to formal or informal disciplinary processes, should the allegation be proven to have occurred. As soon as the disciplinary procedure has been concluded, the presiding officer or management has decided and issued a penalty, the department will give effect to the sanction imposed as a result of the said process. The effect it has on the department is that there is total compliance with prescripts within the department and discipline is maintained.

6. HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The department, in conjunction with Imbumba Aganang Facilities Management (IAFM), continues to maintain a healthy and safe work environment for all its employees and contractors. During the reporting period, the IAFM conducted the following audits:

- Health and Hygiene (including a food safety audit of the canteen and swabs of all kitchenette and ablution facilities)
- Indoor air quality
- Drinking water testing
- Inspections of all IAFM services
- Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality (SHEQ)
- International Organisation for Standardisation.

Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) representatives have been appointed to conduct regular workplace inspections and report any identified environmental hazards. Recruitment and training of additional health and safety representatives are ongoing to increase the representation of all branches at head office. To this end, some officials were trained in first aid, basic firefighting, emergency awareness and evacuation during the reporting period.

7. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

Date of the Meeting	Agenda: Portfolio Committee on International Relations
6 February 2024	Briefing by the department on circumstances around the recent election for the presidency of the UN Human Rights Council, and the dynamics that led to the current outcome
14 February 2024	Briefing by the department on the Structured Bilateral Mechanism between South Africa and Cuba
21 February 2024	Presentation by IGD: From the IGD's engagement with stakeholders in Africa and Europe, what would some of the essential features for a development agency for an emerging economy like South Africa, in the global South
28 February 2024	Briefing by the department on the ARF Impact Assessment report

Date of the Meeting	Agenda: Portfolio Committee on International Relations
19 to 22 April 2023	Meeting with Audit and Risk Committee on the performance of the department and that of the ARF Meeting with the Auditor-General on the performance of the department and that of the ARF
3 May 2023	Briefing by the department on its APP (2023/2024) Briefing by the African Renaissance Fund on its APP (2023/2024) and Strategic Plan (2020–2025)
25 October 2023	Consideration and adoption of the Committee BRR Report
10 May 2023	Joint Meeting with PC Justice, PC Home Affairs on relations with the UAE, in relation to the disapproval of the Gupta extradition request
17 May 2023	Joint briefing with PC Justice on the role and status of South Africa in the International Criminal Court (ICC)
24 May 2023	Briefing on the preliminary progress on the preparations for the BRICS Summit in August 2023
14 June 2023	Oversight visits to vacant properties in Europe
30 August 2023	Briefing by the department on the Quarterly Performance of the Department and that of the African Renaissance Fund for the 1st quarter of the 2023/24 financial year
6 September 2023	Briefing by the department on the progress regarding the implementation of the Digital Strategy and related matters

Date of the Meeting	Agenda: Portfolio Committee on International Relations
13 September 2023	Briefing by the department on progress regarding the implementation of the Foreign Service Act 2019 and its Regulations. Briefing by the department on progress report regarding timeframes, on the implementation of the Cabinet decision for the migration of the ARF to the South African Development Agency (SADPA)
20 September 2023	Briefing by the department on the Quarterly Performance of the department and that of the ARF for the second quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year
27 September 2023	Presentation on the Structured Bilateral Mechanisms undertaken, and how South Africa is benefiting and how they contribute towards addressing the injustices of the past
11 October 2023	Meeting with the Audit and Risk Committee on the performance of the department and that of the ARF Meeting with the Auditor-General on the performance of the department and that of the ARF
18 October 2023	Briefing by the department on its Annual Report and that of the ARF
25 October 2023	Consideration and adoption of the Committee BRR Report
1 November 2023	Briefing on the outcomes of negotiations between the President's Envoy and the American government on the status of AGOA and the state of readiness for the hosting of AGOA Summit in November 2023
8 November 2023	Presentation on the outcomes of South Africa's participation in the G20 Summit 2023 in India, the acceptance of the African Union, and the recommitment to SDGs to shape the world we want
15 November 2023	Pre-briefing on the amendment to the ARF Bill
22 November 2023	Briefing by the department on the 25 years of diplomatic relations between South Africa and China, with emphasis on deepening political mutual trust, and on significant achievements and challenges in this period
29 November 2023	Briefing on the impact assessment of the ARF
2 to 9 December 2023	Study tour for comparison on models, effectiveness and oversight on development agencies
11 to 17 December 2023	Parliamentary Diplomacy oversight visit to China in commemoration of 25 years of diplomatic relations

8. SCOPA RESOLUTIONS

None.

9. PRIOR MODIFICATIONS TO AUDIT REPORTS

None.

10. INTERNAL CONTROL UNIT

In terms of section 38 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), The accounting officer for a department must ensure that the department has and maintains effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial and risk management and internal control. The Internal Control Unit serves as an assurance provider on compliance-related matters. The unit conducted assessments and determination on non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This non-compliance was reported by both missions and Head office as they resulted in irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. To address these issues, the unit facilitated the development of an Audit Action Plan, which was subsequently presented to key stakeholders such as the Audit Committee, National Treasury, the Audit Steering Committee, and the Auditor-General for their input and recommendations.

The unit also monitored the financial systems, ensuring that missions closed their books (Mission Cashbook System) on time to enable and complete interface of expenditure into the Basic Accounting System (BAS). The Internal Control Unit played a critical role in facilitating the audit process between the Office of the Auditor-General and the various branches and missions. This involved acting as a liaison, ensuring clear communication and coordination between both parties throughout the audit cycle. The unit was responsible for compiling, verifying, and submitting all required documentation, records, and reports to the Auditor-General to meet the audit deadlines. Losses reported to the unit were investigated and were concluded.

11. INTERNAL AUDIT AND AUDIT COMMITTEES

The Chief Directorate: Internal Audit of DIRCO obtains its mandate from the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 1999 (Act 1 of 1999) and its Treasury Regulations as amended.

The Chief Directorate: Internal Audit is responsible for the internal audit function of the department. It reports administratively to the Accounting Officer and functionally to the Audit Committee.

Activities and objectives of Internal Audit during the period included:

- determining whether the department's objectives were achieved economically, efficiently, and effectively by evaluating and assessing operations, processes, procedures, and activities
- assessing, evaluating, and offering recommendations for improvement of the department's system of internal controls and governance
- assessing and evaluating the departmental performance information
- assessing and evaluating:
 - the reliability and integrity of financial and operating information and the means used to identify, measure, classify and report such information.
 - the systems established to ensure compliance with those policies, plans, procedures, laws, and other prescripts relevant to the department.
 - the means of safeguarding assets and, where appropriate, verifying the existence of such assets.
 - the economic and efficient management of the department's financial, human, and other resources, and the effective conduct of its operations.

For the period under review, Internal Audit has performed the following audit types at both the Head Office and the missions:

- Compliance audits such as annual financial statement reviews, asset management, ICT reviews, etc. Below serve as examples:
 - Review of 2022/23 draft annual financial statements and performance information

- Review of Mission operations
- ICT Contract Management
- Data Analytics on Assets, Leave Liabilities, Lease Liabilities and Cash with Commercial Banks
- Audit action plan implementation, and
- Recruitment and selections
- Management requests in investigations

Audit Committee

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the department in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities to governance, financial and non-financial (performance information, human resources, legal and ICT) reporting, the internal control system, risk management system, and internal and external audit functions.

The activities and objectives of the Audit Committee are to contribute to:

- the department implementing and maintaining effective risk management, control, and governance processes
- the department employing effectiveness, efficiency, and economy in the utilisation and application of resources
- ensuring that management has implemented systems and mechanisms for the effective achievement of departmental objectives as planned
- ensuring that the department has and maintains an effective system of internal audit that reports at least quarterly to the Audit Committee in writing and submits a suitable progress report and summary of audit reports
- ensuring that the department conducts an annual assessment of all risks relevant to DIRCO and that the department appropriately responds to risks identified
- mechanisms and systems being implemented by management for the prevention, detection of and responding to fraud, theft, and other irregularities, as well as material errors and wasteful practices relevant to the department

- ensuring that the independence of the internal auditors is maintained
- ensuring that a structured reporting line for Internal Audit is provided and facilitating the maintenance of the objectivity of the internal auditors.

The Audit Committee reviewed the activities of the internal audit function and has concluded that:

- the internal audit function is effective, with no unjustified restrictions or limitations
- the internal audit reports were reviewed at quarterly meetings, including its annual work programme, the reports of investigations and the responses of management to issues raised therein.

Concerning the coordination of assurance activities, the Audit Committee reviewed the plans and work outputs of the external and internal auditors and concluded that these were adequate to address the significant financial risks facing the department. The Chief Audit Executive (CAE) has direct access to the Audit Committee Chairperson and other members.

The committee is also responsible for the assessment of the performance of the CAE, and the internal audit function. The table below discloses relevant information on the audit committee members:

Name	Qualifications	Internal or External	If internal, position in the department	Date appointed	Date resigned	No. of meetings attended
Ms A Mafuleka CA(SA) (Chairperson)	Bcom Accounting BCom Accounting (Hons) Specialist Diploma in Financial Management	External	N/A	1 January 2024 (Three-year term) until 31 December 2026	N/A	Seven
Mr BR Wheeler (Deputy Chairperson)	National Diploma in State Accounts and Finance BCom Degree Advanced Diploma in Public Administration	External	N/A	1 January 2023 (Three-year term) until 31 December 2025	N/A	Seven
Dr CF von Eck	Bachelor of Arts Business Management Diploma Master of Business Leadership DPhil Certified Director	External	N/A	2 January 2023 (Three-year term) until 31 December 2025	N/A	Seven

Name	Qualifications	Internal or External	If internal, position in the department	Date appointed	Date Resigned	No. of meetings attended
Dr P Dala	PhD (Information Technology) Masters (Information Technology) BSc Hons (Computer Science) Bachelor of Information Technology, Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) Lead Auditor ISO 27001 (LA ISO 27001) Certified in the Governance of Enterprise Information Technology (CGEIT) Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI).	External	N/A	1 January 2024 (Three-year term) until 31 December 2026	N/A	Seven
Ms G Simelane CA(SA)	Bcom Accounting BCom Accounting (Hons) Specialist Diploma in Auditing CA (SA)	External	N/A	1 January 2024 (Three-year term) until 31 December 2026	N/A	Seven

1. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We are pleased to present our report for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Audit Committee responsibility

The Audit Committee reports that it has complied with its responsibilities arising from Section 38 (1) (a) (ii) of the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury Regulation 3.1.10. The Audit Committee also reports that it has adopted appropriate formal terms of reference as its Audit Committee Charter, has regulated its affairs in compliance with this charter and has discharged all its responsibilities as contained therein.

The effectiveness of internal control

The system of controls is designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that liabilities and working capital are efficiently managed. In line with the PFMA, and the recommendations from the King IV Report on Corporate Governance requirements, Internal Audit provides the committee with the assurance that the internal controls are appropriate and effective. This is achieved utilising reviews and testing of the adequacy, and effectiveness of internal controls, as well as the identification of corrective actions and suggested enhancement to the internal controls, governance, and risk management processes.

Our review of the findings of the Internal Audit work, which was based on the risk assessments conducted in the department, revealed certain weaknesses, which were then raised with the department.

The Audit Committee is concerned that in many instances matters raised by the internal auditors and external auditors in the current financial year and prior years were not adequately addressed by management.

An Audit Action Plan was in place during the reporting period; however, the Audit Committee was not satisfied with the progress made on its implementation. From the various reports of the internal auditors and the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), it was reported that there were serious control deficiencies. Accordingly, we can report that the system of internal controls for the period under review was adequate but ineffective, and so was the Audit Action Plan.

The following were raised as areas of concern and require management's attention (most of which are recurring):

- Fixed assets remain a significant area of concern; notable non-material findings were raised in this regard regarding existence and completeness.
- Non-compliance with the Supply Chain Management (SCM) prescripts remains a challenge for the department, especially at the missions leading to irregular expenditure transactions. The effort of management is also commended on tackling historical transactions that contributed to previous years' irregular expenditures. Management is persuaded to continue tackling historical transactions as prescribed by treasury regulations to ensure adequate closure of the cases.
- The effectiveness of the Audit Action Plan remains elusive as certain exceptions continue to be repeatedly raised by both internal and external auditors, thus requiring management to change tactics in identifying the deep root causes of the gaps raised during audits.
- Information Technology persists to be another significant area of concern due to delays in the implementation of certain projects meant for the modernisation of the infrastructure and the linger in the appointment of key role players in the ICT governance structures.
- The emerging significant risk of departmental budget constraints emanating from Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) allocations and forex fluctuation directly reduces the allocation, leading to unauthorised expenditure by the department.

In-Year Management and Monthly/Quarterly Report

The department has been reporting monthly and quarterly to the National Treasury as is required by the PFMA, 1999.

Evaluation of financial statements

We have reviewed the annual financial statements prepared by the department.

Auditor-General's Report

We have reviewed the department's implementation plan for audit issues raised in the previous year and are not satisfied that certain matters have not been adequately resolved. However, the Audit Committee also recognises the efforts by management having dealt with certain areas of concern, such as lease liability management, bank reconciliations, and VAT claims.

The Audit Committee commends management for the unqualified audit outcomes and accepts the conclusion of the Auditor-General on the annual financial statements and believes that the audited annual financial statements be received and read together with the report of the Auditor-General.



Ayanda Mafuleka CA(SA) Chairperson of the Audit Committee

Department of International Relations and Cooperation

Date: 31 August 2024

12. B-BBEE COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The following table has been completed in accordance with the compliance to the BBBEE requirements of the BBBEE Act of 2013 and as determined by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

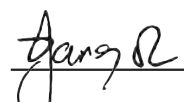
REPORTING BY ORGANS OF STATE AND PUBLIC ENTITIES IN TERMS OF SECTION 13(G)(1) OF THE BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ACT 53 OF 2003 AS AMENDED BY ACT 46 OF 2013

Name of Sphere of Government/Public Entity/Organ of State:	Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)
Registration Number (If applicable):	N/A
Physical Address:	OR Tambo Building, 460 Soutpansberg Road, Rietondale, Pretoria, 0084
Type of Sphere of Government/Public Entity/Organ of State:	National Department
Organisation Industry/Sector	Government National Department

Has the sphere of Government/Public Entity/Organ of State applied any relevant Code of Good Practice (B-BBEE Certificate Levels 1–8) with regards to the following:		
Criteria	Circle relevant answer	Attachment
Determining qualification criteria for the issuing of licences, concessions, or other authorisations in respect of economic activity in terms of any law	No	Currently the department does not issue any licenses, concessions or authorisations that are related to economic activity.

Has the sphere of Government/Public Entity/Organ of State applied any relevant Code of Good Practice (B-BBEE Certificate Levels 1–8) with regards to the following:		
Criteria	Circle relevant answer	Attachment
Developing and implementing a preferential procurement policy	Yes	In terms of procurement of goods and services above R30 000 in South Africa, calculations of the PPPFA are conducted for all transactions and points are awarded as per regulations in terms of 80/20 or 90/10 as indicated in the SCM policy section 10.7.
Determining qualification criteria for the sale of state-owned enterprises	No	The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is the custodian and manages all local state-owned properties. DIRCO is not involved in the sale of such properties.
Developing criteria for entering into partnerships with the private sector	Yes	All criteria are determined and submitted to National Treasury for approval prior to entering into partnership; this has also been highlighted in the SCM policy section 10.15
Determining criteria for the awarding of incentives, grants and investment schemes in support of Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment	Yes	<p>In terms of section 6.2. of the SCM policy, the socio-economic objectives that may be included in the tender document, may include the following pre-qualification criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenderer having a stipulated minimum B-BBEE status level of contributor; • The tenderer must be an Exempted Micro-Enterprise (EME) or Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) • A tenderer subcontracting a minimum of 30% for bids above R30 million to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people - an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people who are youth - an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people who are women - an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people with disabilities - an EME or QSE which is 51% owned by black people living in rural or underdeveloped areas or townships - a cooperative which is at least 51% owned by black people - an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people who are military veterans

APPROVED BY:



ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION

DATE: 31/08/2024



PART D

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

PART D: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The strategic objective of Corporate Management is to implement effective human resource management to make certain that adequate and sufficient skilled resources are in place and that performance is monitored, as well as to provide an integrated ICT system that enables delivery of the department's mandate.

2. OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RESOURCES

During the reporting period, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) had a vacancy rate of 21.8%, which is above the national average vacancy rate of 10%. The department is still experiencing a high vacancy rate, despite the concerted efforts to fill critical vacancies. The vacancy rate increased from the previous financial year, which was 18.7%.

To address capacity constraints in the department, a total of 110 officials were appointed during the reporting period at various levels, including senior management posts. The positions of Chief Financial Officer, as well as the Deputy Director-General: Global Governance and Continental Agenda, were filled during the period. To reduce the high vacancy rate drastically and to alleviate the ever-increasing work pressure on employees, other identified critical posts will have to be filled. However, due to the cost-containment measures in the Compensation of Employees (CoE) budget, the department is unable to advertise these identified critical vacancies. The cost-containment measures and directives

received from the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and National Treasury exacerbate the capacity constraints in the department since all government departments are required to obtain concurrence from DPSA and National Treasury before any vacancy can be advertised and filled.

The performance management processes for the 2023/2024 performance cycle for employees on salary levels 1–12 and those covered by Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD) were successfully monitored and performance assessment reports submitted. A report on the submission of performance agreements for the 2023/2024 performance cycle by all eligible DIRCO Senior Management Service (SMS) members was prepared and submitted.

The department further ensured that performance is effectively monitored through conducting performance assessments for all eligible employees, including SMS members. Grade progression was implemented for qualifying employees. Pay progression for the 2022/2023 financial year was implemented for all qualifying employees including SMS members, diplomatic corps and heads of mission.

The department, in partnership with the external stakeholder, Imbumba Aganang Private Party (IAPP) advertised 63 internship and learnership programmes positions and received over 50 000 applications. The successful candidates will assume duty in the next financial year and will participate in a 24-month programme.

Thirty-three training programmes were implemented in line with the 2023/2024 Workplace Skills Plan (WSP) of the department, exceeding the annual target of 20 training programmes that was set. Out of the 33 training programmes, 14 individual training programmes were

implemented due to critical training requests that were received, approved, and implemented.

During this reporting period, 33 grievances were lodged and resolved. Two disputes were lodged, of which one was upheld and the other one dismissed. All cases were handled within the required timeframe.

Employee Wellness Programmes

Psychosocial support was rendered to 360 employees at Head Office and missions. The problems presented were mainly work-related matters and mental health-related. The impact of the war between Israel and Palestine brought additional stress and anxiety to transferred officials placed in those countries. A group counselling session was held to help them deal with the effects of trauma. The Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) services were also extended to some family members who presented various problems.

Health promotion activities were coordinated with the “Corporate Wellness” Day as the flagship event. During this event, a total of 206 employees participated in health screenings, which included blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. Additionally, there were various webinars on healthy lifestyles, nutrition, oral care, eye care, financial wellness, and a few others. Services from the optometrist, physiotherapist, orthodontist, and National Credit Regulator were available. Physical health promotion in the form of group aerobics and a fun walk formed part of this main event. A “Move for Health Day” was also organised to encourage physical health.

The department continued to promote mental health through webinars on topics such as attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, peripartum depression, and individual counselling. Additionally, electronic articles on mental health awareness, resilience and work-life integration were compiled and circulated. The department continued to raise awareness on HIV and tuberculosis (TB). An HIV Candlelight Memorial event was convened in memory of those that passed. During this event, 65 employees participated in health screenings; 45 of these also took voluntary HIV tests. Awareness on HIV and AIDS was also created during the

International World AIDS Day. A total of 927 employees were screened for TB through the onsite clinic.

Health, Safety and Environmental Issues

The department strives to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all employees, contractors and the public. The department worked in collaboration with Imbumba Aganang Facilities Management (IAFM) to conduct inspections at Head Office and the State Guesthouses to identify and eliminate any risks and hazards to the health and safety of employees. Eleven employees were trained in first aid, basic firefighting, and evacuation. Electronic posters to educate and create awareness about employee health and safety were distributed organisation-wide.

In compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Committee convened quarterly to deal with occupational health and safety issues. Two fire drills were conducted to continually familiarise employees with emergency evacuations. Four non-fatal injury on duty (IOD) cases were reported and investigated by the safety officer. All measures were put in place to ensure that departmental events comply with safety regulations as prescribed by the Tshwane City Joint Operation Centre (CityJoc). No incidents were reported.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES OVERSIGHT STATISTICS

3.1 PERSONNEL-RELATED EXPENDITURE

The following tables summarise the final audited personnel-related expenditure by programme and by salary bands. In particular, they provide an indication of the following:

- amount spent on personnel
- amount spent on salaries, overtime, home-owners' allowances (HOA) and medical aid.

Table 3.1.1 Personnel expenditure by programme for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Programme	Total Expenditure	Personnel Expenditure	Training Expenditure	Professional and special services expenditure	Personnel expenditure as a % of total expenditure	Average personnel cost per employee
	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000	R'000
Programme 1 (672)	1 584 274	469 581	2 588	357	29.6	699
Programme 2 (1 939 = 759 + 1 180)	3 780 750	2 253 768	45	4 545	59.6	1 162
Programme 3 (282 = 178 + 104)	615 316	410 149	0	0	66.7	1 454
Programme 4 (244)	436 760	183 057	0	0	41.9	750
Total (3 137 = 1 853 + 1 284)	6 417 100	3 316 555	2 633	4 902	51.7	1 057

NOTE: The amounts reflected under personnel expenditure indicated in programmes 2 and 3 include the personnel expenditure for Locally Recruited Personnel (LRP) (1 284) employed at missions

Salary Band	Personnel Expenditure	Personnel expenditure as a % of total expenditure	No of employees (including LRPs) as at 31 March 2024	Average personnel cost per employee
	R'000			R'000
Total	3 316 555	51.7	3 137	1 057

NOTE: The PERSAL and BAS systems could not provide figures by salary bands, hence the information is provided for the entire personnel expenditure

Table 3.1.3 Salaries, overtime, HOA and medical aid by programme for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Programme	Salaries		Overtime		HOA		Medical Aid	
	Amount	Salaries as a % of personnel costs	Amount	Overtime as a % of personnel costs	Amount	HOA as a % of personnel costs	Amount	Medical as a % of personnel costs
	R'000		R'000		R'000		R'000	
Programme 1	324 669	69.1	11 931	2.5	10 218	2.2	22 591	4.8
Programme 2	482 382	21.4	8 851	0.4	8 398	0.4	78 751	3.5
Programme 3	116 828	28.5	10 062	2.5	1 848	0.5	11 276	2.7
Programme 4	120 573	65.9	4 469	2.4	3 913	2.1	9 233	5.0
Total	1 044 452	31.5	35 313	1.1	24 377	0.7	121 851	3.7

Table 3.1.4 Salaries, overtime, HOA and medical aid by salary band for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

PERSAL and BAS systems do not stipulate figures by salary band.

3.2 EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES

The tables in this section summarise the position with regard to employment and vacancies.

The following tables summarise the number of posts on the establishment, the number of employees, the vacancy rate and whether there are any staff that are additional to the establishment.

This information is presented in terms of three key variables:

- programme
- salary band
- critical occupations (see definition in notes below)

Departments have identified critical occupations that need to be monitored. In terms of current regulations, it is possible to create a post on the establishment that can be occupied by more than one employee. Therefore, the vacancy rate reflects the percentage of posts that are not filled.

Table 3.2.1 Employment and vacancies by programme as on 31 March 2024

Programme	Number of posts on approved establishment on 31 March 2024	Number of posts filled on 31 March 2024 (including three political office bearers and employees additional)	Vacancy Rate %	Number of employees additional to the establishment
Programme 1	890	672	24.5	19
Programme 2	886	759	14.3	0
Programme 3	245	178	27.3	1
Programme 4	350	244	30.3	0
Total	2 371	1 853	21.8	20

NOTE: The three political office bearers (POBs) and 20 employees reflected as additional to the establishment are included in the total number of posts filled (1 853). The employees reflected as additional to the establishment include, among others, those employees on unpaid leave in terms of the MPSA Guidelines: Management of Spouses that will accompany employees designated to serve abroad and those seconded to international organisations in terms of the National Policy on Secondment of South African Public Service Employees.

Table 3.2.2 Employment and vacancies by salary band as on 31 March 2024

Salary Band	Number of posts on approved establishment on 31 March 2024	Number of posts filled on 31 March 2024 (including employees additional)	Vacancy Rate %	Number of employees additional to the establishment
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	3	1	66.7	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	174	109	37.4	1
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	777	622	19.9	9
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	1 121	881	21.4	9
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	291	235	19.2	1
Special Advisers	2	2	0	0
POBs	3	3	0	0
Total	2 371	1 853	21.8	20

NOTE: The three political office bearers (POBs) and 20 employees reflected as additional to the establishment are included in the total number of posts filled (1 853). The employees reflected as additional to the establishment include, among others, those employees on unpaid leave in terms of the MPSA Guidelines: Management of Spouses that will accompany employees designated to serve abroad and those seconded to international organisations in terms of the National Policy on Secondment of South African Public Service Employees.

Table 3.2.3 Employment and vacancies by critical occupations as on 31 March 2024

Critical Occupation	Number of posts on approved establishment on 31 March 2024	Number of posts filled on 31 March 2024 (including employees additional)	Vacancy Rate %	Number of employees additional to the establishment
Heads of Mission	112	94	16.1	0
Diplomatic Corps	535	500	6.5	1
SMS: Head Office	159	115	27.7	1
Special advisers	2	2	0	0
POBs	3	3	0	0
Total	811	714	12	2

NOTE: The SMS reflected as additional to the establishment include employees seconded to international organisations in terms of the National Policy on the Secondment of South African Public Service Employees

3.3 FILLING OF SMS POSTS

The tables in this section provide information on employment and vacancies as it relates to members of the SMS by salary level. It also provides information on advertising and filling of SMS posts, reasons for not complying with prescribed time frames and disciplinary steps taken.

Table 3.3.1 SMS post information as on 31 March 2024 at Head Office and missions

SMS Level	Total number of funded SMS posts on 31 March 2024	Total number of SMS posts filled on 31 March 2024 (excluding employees additional)	% of SMS posts filled	Total number of SMS posts vacant	% of SMS posts vacant
Director-General	1	1	100	0	0
Salary Level 15	10	5	50	5	50
Salary Level 14	54	34	63	20	37
Salary Level 13	226	186	82.3	40	17.7
Special advisers	2	2	100	0	0
POB	3	3	100	0	0
Total	296	231	78	65	22

Table 3.3.1 SMS post information as on 31 March 2024 at Head Office and missions

SMS Level	Total number of funded SMS posts on 30 September 2023	Total number of SMS posts filled on 30 September 2023 (excluding employees additional)	% of SMS posts filled	Total number of SMS posts vacant	% of SMS posts vacant
Director-General	1	1	100	0	0
Salary Level 15	10	5	50	5	50
Salary Level 14	54	39	72.2	15	27.8
Salary Level 13	226	181	80.1	45	19.9
Special advisers	2	2	100	0	0
POB	3	3	100	0	0
Total	296	231	78	65	22

Table 3.3.3 Advertising and filling of SMS posts at Head Office for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

SMS Level	Advertising	Filling of Posts	
	Number of vacancies per level advertised in six months of becoming vacant	Number of vacancies per level filled in six months of becoming vacant	Number of vacancies per level not filled in six months but filled in 12 months
Director-General	0	0	0
Salary Level 15	1	0	0
Salary Level 14	4	0	0
Salary Level 13	6	0	1
Total	11	0	1

Table 3.3.4 Reasons for not having complied with the filling of funded vacant SMS – Advertised within six months and filled within 12 months after becoming vacant for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 at Head Office

Reasons for vacancies not advertised within six months
Due to the ceiling placed on the Compensation of Employees' (CoE) budget, the department could not advertise posts within six months of being vacant.
Reasons for vacancies not filled within 12 months
The filling of posts continued to be affected by the ceiling placed on the CoE budget by the National Treasury. As a result, the filling of some critical vacancies was delayed. The department's vacancy rate is at 21.8%, which is higher than the national average rate of 10%.

Table 3.3.5 Disciplinary steps taken for not complying with the prescribed time frames for filling SMS posts within 12 months for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Reasons for vacancies not advertised within six months
No disciplinary were steps taken as the reason for vacancies not advertised, was not due to negligence, but factors cited in Table 3.3.4.
Reasons for vacancies not filled within 12 months
Same as Table 3.3.5

3.4 JOB EVALUATION

Within a nationally determined framework, executing authorities may evaluate or re-evaluate any job in his or her organisation. In terms of the regulations, all vacancies on salary levels 9 and higher must be evaluated before they are filled. The following table summarises the number of jobs that were evaluated during the year under review. The table also provides statistics on the number of posts that were upgraded or downgraded.

Table 3.3.3 Advertising and filling of SMS posts at Head Office for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Salary Band	Number of posts on approved establishment on 1 April 2023	Number of jobs evaluated	% of posts evaluated by salary bands	Posts upgraded		Posts downgraded	
				Number	% posts evaluated	Number	% posts evaluated
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	174	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	776	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	1 119	0	0	0	0	0	0
SMS Band A (Level 13)	226	0	0	0	0	0	0
SMS Band B (Level 14)	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
SMS Band C (Level 15)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
SMS Band D (Level 16)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2 363	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTE: The three POBs and two special advisers are excluded.

The following table provides a summary of the number of employees whose positions were upgraded due to their post being upgraded. The number of employees might differ from the number of posts upgraded since not all employees are automatically absorbed into the new posts and some of the posts upgraded could also be vacant.

Table 3.4.2 Profile of employees whose positions were upgraded due to their posts being upgraded for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2024

Total number of employees whose positions were upgraded due to their posts being upgraded	None
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The following table summarises the number of cases where remuneration bands exceeded the grade determined by job evaluation. Reasons for the deviation are provided in each case.

Table 3.4.3 Employees with salary levels higher than those determined by job evaluation by occupation for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Total number of employees salary levels higher than those determined by job evaluation by occupation	None
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The following table summarises the beneficiaries of the above in terms of race, gender, and disability.

Table 3.4.4 Profile of employees who have salary levels higher than those determined by job evaluation for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Total number of employees who have salary levels higher than those determined by job evaluation	None
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3.5 EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

This section provides information on changes in employment over the financial year. Turnover rates provide an indication of trends in the employment profile of the department. The following tables provide a summary of turnover rates by salary band and critical occupations (see definition in notes below).

Table 3.5.1 Annual turnover rates by salary band for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Salary Band	Number of employees on 1 April 2023 (including employees additional)	Appointments and transfers into the department	Terminations and transfers out of the department	Turnover rate %
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	1	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	116	0	2	1.7
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	669	0	17	2.5
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	891	10	42	4.7
*SMS Band A (Level 13)	158	5	13	8.2
*SMS Band B (Level 14)	75	0	14	18.7
SMS Band C (Level 15)	10	1	0	0
SMS Band D (Level 16)	1	0	0	0
Special adviser	2	1	1	50
POBs	3	0	0	0
Total	1 926	17	89	4.6

NOTE: *The three secondments are included

Table 3.5.2 Annual turnover rates by critical occupation for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Critical occupation	Number of employees on 1 April 2023 (including employees additional)	Appointments and transfers into the department	Terminations and transfers out of the department	Turnover rate %
*Heads of Mission	123	7	15	12.2
*Diplomatic Corps	475	0	24	5.1
SMS: Head Office	112	6	10	8.9
Special advisers	2	1	1	50
POBs	3	0	0	0
Total	715	14	50	7

NOTE: *The three secondments are included. The table below identifies the major reasons why staff left the department.

Table 3.5.3 Reasons why staff left the department for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Termination type	Number	% of total resignations
Death	6	6.7
Resignation	11	12.4
Expiry of contract	19	21.4
Dismissal – misconduct	0	0
Dismissal – inefficiency	0	0
Discharged due to ill-health	2	2.2
Retirement – Section 16(1)(a) – 65 years	23	25.8

Termination type	Number	% of total resignations
Early retirement – Section 16(4) – 60 to 64 years	24	27
Early retirement – Section 16(2A) (a) – 55 to 59 years	4	4.5
Transfer to other public service departments	0	0
Total	89	100
Total number of employees who left as a % of total employment (1 853 employees on 31 March 2024)		4.8

Table 3.5.4 Promotions by critical occupation for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Occupation	Employees on 1 April 2023 (including Mission employees additional)	Promotions to another salary level	Salary level promotions as a % of employees by occupation	Promotions to another salary level	Progressions to another notch within a salary level
*Heads of Mission	123	0	0	0	61.79
*Diplomatic Corps	475	0	0	0	67.79
SMS: Head Office	112	11	9.8	11	58.04
Special advisers	2	0	0	0	0
POBs	3	0	0	0	0
Total	715	11	1.5	11	64.76

NOTE: *The three secondments are included.

Table 3.5.5 Promotions by salary band for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Salary Band	Employees on 1 April 2023 (excluding HO employees additional)	Promotions to another salary level	Salary band promotions as a % of employees by salary level	Progressions to another notch within a salary level	Notch progression as a % of employees by salary bands
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	1	0	0	1	100
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	114	0	0	100	87.7
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	664	12	1.8	428	64.5
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	881	70	7.9	624	70.8
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	238	11	4.6	141	59.2
Total	1 898	93	4.9	1 294	68.2

NOTE: The number of employees above excludes the three POBs, two special advisers, three secondments and 20 employees reflected as additional to the establishment.

3.6 EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Table 3.6.1 Total number of employees (including employees with disabilities) in each of the following occupational categories as on 31 March 2024

Occupational category	Male				Female				Total
	African	Coloured	Asian	White	African	Coloured	Asian	White	
Senior officials and managers	212	21	19	28	202	12	13	29	536
Professionals	92	4	4	9	113	2	1	15	240
Technicians and associate professionals	159	17	10	59	224	17	21	72	579
Clerks	75	1	2	2	243	16	4	16	359
Service shop and market sales workers	46	3	0	0	37	0	0	1	89
Labourers and related workers	8	0	0	0	20	1	0	0	29

Plant and machine operators and assemblers	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Total	611	48	35	100	839	48	39	133	1 853
Employees with disabilities (<i>included in categories</i>)	8	1	0	5	5	1	0	5	25

Table 3.6.2 Total number of employees (including employees with disabilities) in each of the following occupational bands as on 31 March 2024

Occupational Band	Male				Female				Total
	African	Coloured	Asian	White	African	Coloured	Asian	White	
Top management (Levels 15–16)	5	3	0	0	8	0	0	0	16
Senior management (Levels 13-14)	85	9	10	10	90	5	2	13	224
Professionally qualified (Levels 10-12)	285	26	22	82	287	21	28	91	842
Skilled technical (Levels 6-9)	175	8	3	8	408	21	9	29	661
Semi-skilled (Levels 3-5)	61	2	0	0	45	1	0	0	109
Unskilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	611	48	35	100	839	48	39	133	1 853

Table 3.6.3 Recruitment for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Occupational Band	Male				Female				Total
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	
Top management (Levels 15–16)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Senior management (Levels 13-14)	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Professionally qualified (Levels 10-12)	6	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	10
Skilled technical (Levels 6-9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semi-skilled (Levels 3-5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unskilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	17
Employees with disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3.6.4 Promotions for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Occupational Band	Male				Female				Total
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	
Top management (Levels 15–16)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Senior management (Levels 13-14)	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	10
Professionally qualified (Levels 10-12)	22	2	2	6	32	2	2	0	70
Skilled technical (Levels 6-9)	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	12
Semi-skilled (Levels 3-5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unskilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	30	2	2	6	47	2	2	2	93
Employees with disabilities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

3.7 SIGNING OF PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS BY SMS MEMBERS

All members of the SMS must conclude and sign performance agreements within specific time frames. Information regarding the signing of performance agreements by SMS members, the reasons for not complying within the prescribed time frames, and disciplinary steps taken are presented here.

Table 3.7.1 Signing of Performance Agreements by SMS members as on 31 May 2023

SMS Level	Total number of funded SMS posts	Total number of SMS members (excluding employees additional)	Total number of signed performance agreements	Signed performance agreements as % of total number of SMS members
Director-General	1	1	1	0.42
Salary Levels 15/16	10	9	8	3.38
Salary Level 14	54	73	62	26.16
Salary Level 13	226	154	148	62.45
Total	291	237	219	92.41

NOTE: The three POBs, two special advisers and two secondments are excluded. The higher number of SMS members compared to the total number of funded SMS posts is because of the political appointees who are contract heads of mission.

Table 3.7.2 Reasons for not having concluded performance agreements for all SMS members as on 31 May 2023

Reasons
SMS members were en-route to posting and a submission requesting deviation for late submission was drafted and approved by the Director-General

Table 3.7.3 Disciplinary steps taken against SMS members for not having concluded performance agreements as on 31 May 2023

Reasons
No performance incentives were paid to non-compliant employees.

3.8 PERFORMANCE REWARDS

To encourage good performance, the department has granted the following performance rewards during the year under review. The information is presented in terms of race, gender, disability, salary bands, and critical occupations (see definition in notes below).

Table 3.8.1 Performance rewards by race, gender and disability for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Race and Gender	Beneficiary profile			Cost	
	Number of beneficiaries	Number of employees on 1 April 2022 (excluding HO employees additional)	% of total within group	Cost in Rand	Average cost per employee in Rand
African					
Male	0	636	0	0	0
Female	0	868	0	0	0
Asian					
Male	0	39	0	0	0
Female	0	39	0	0	0
Coloured					
Male	0	48	0	0	0
Female	0	52	0	0	0
White					
Male	0	118	0	0	0
Female	0	149	0	0	0
Total	0	1 949	0	0	0

NOTE: The numbers above exclude the three POBs, two special advisers and three secondments.

Table 3.8.2 Performance rewards by salary band for personnel below SMS for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Salary Band	Beneficiary profile			Cost		Total cost as a % of the total personnel expenditure
	Number of beneficiaries	Number of employees on 1 April 2022 (excluding HO employees additional)	% of total within salary bands	Total Cost in Rand	Average cost per employee in Rand	
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	0	22	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	0	675	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	0	916	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1 714	0	0	0	0

Table 3.8.3 Performance rewards by critical occupation for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Critical Occupation	Beneficiary profile			Cost	
	Number of beneficiaries	Number of employees on 1 April 2022 (excluding employees additional)	% of total within occupation	Total Cost in Rand	Average cost per employee in Rand
Heads of Mission	0	92	0	0	0
Diplomatic Corps	0	464	0	0	0
SMS: Head Office	0	127	0	0	0
Total	0	683	0	0	0

NOTE: The three POBs, two special advisers and three secondments are excluded.

Table 3.8.4 Performance-related rewards (cash bonus), by salary band for SMS for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Salary Band	Beneficiary profile			Cost		Total cost as a % of the total personnel expenditure
	Number of beneficiaries	Number of employees on 1 April 2022 (excluding employees additional)	% of total within salary bands	Total Cost	Average cost per employee in Rand	
Band A (Level 13)	0	155	0	0	0	0
Band B (Level 14)	0	69	0	0	0	0
Band C (Level 15)	0	11	0	0	0	0
Band D (Level 16)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	235				

NOTE: The three POBs and two special advisors and three secondments are excluded.

3.9 FOREIGN WORKERS

The tables below summarise the employment of foreign nationals in the department in terms of salary band and major occupation.

Table 3.9.1 Foreign workers by salary band for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Salary Band	1 April 2023		31 March 2024		Change	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Change
Lower skilled (LRP levels 1-2)	324	25.39	328	25.55	4	1.23
Skilled (LRP levels 3-5)	743	58.23	748	58.26	5	0.67
Highly skilled supervision (LRP levels 6-8)	209	16.38	208	16.19	-1	-0.48
Total	1 276	100	1 284	100	8	0.63

NOTE: It should be noted that Locally Recruited Personnel (LRP) employed by South African missions abroad do not reflect the salary levels 1-13 as per Public Service Act.

LRP salary levels are from LRP 1 (lower skilled) to LRP 8 (highly skilled).

Table 3.9.2 Foreign workers by major occupation for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Major Occupation	1 April 2023		31 March 2024		Change	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Change
LRP1 - Cleaner, domestic worker and labourer	184	14.42	186	14.49	2	1.09
LRP 2 - Gardener, cleaning supervisor, watchman/woman, messenger, and senior domestic worker	140	10.97	142	11.06	2	1.43
LRP 3 - Chauffeur, maintenance officer, head messenger, messenger/driver, senior storeman/woman, gate/night watchman/woman and mailing clerk	232	18.18	235	18.30	3	1.29
LRP 4 - Guard/receptionist, receptionist/telephonist/typist clerk (combination post), chauffeur/guard, registry clerk, assistant accounts/administrative clerk, assistant consular/immigration clerk, assistant library clerk, assistant personnel clerk, and senior maintenance officer	114	8.93	115	8.96	1	0.88
LRP 5 - Secretary, special receptionist, social secretary, library clerk, immigration clerk, consular clerk, administrative clerk, accounts clerk, information clerk, personnel clerk, and chief maintenance officer	397	31.11	398	30.99	1	0.25
LRP 6 - Senior secretary, immigration/consular assistant, information/personnel assistant, accountant, administrative officer, accountant/administrative officer (combination post), librarian, translator, journalist, trade and information assistant, and chief maintenance officer	191	14.98	191	14.88	0	0
LRP 7 - Information officer, senior administrative officer, senior accountant, journalist/translator, and marketing officer (the DTI)	17	1.33	17	1.32	0	0
LRP 8 - Senior marketing officer (the DTI)	1	0.08	0	0	-1	-100
Total	1 276	100	1 284	100	18	0.63

NOTE: It should be noted that LRP employed by South African missions abroad do not reflect the salary levels 1-13 as per Public Service Act. LRP salary levels are from LRP 1 (lower skilled) to LRP 8 (highly skilled).

3.10 LEAVE UTILISATION

The Public Service Commission identified the need for careful monitoring of sick leave within the Public Service. The following tables provide an indication of the use of sick leave and disability leave. In both cases, the estimated cost of the leave is also provided.

Table 3.10.1 Sick leave for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Salary Band	Total Days	% days with medical certification	Number of employees using sick leave	% of total employees using sick leave	Average days per employee	Estimated cost (R'000)
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	684	70.0	82	6.2	8	783
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	4 245	73.2	538	40.6	8	7 618
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	4 303	75.6	591	44.7	7	14 371
Top and senior management (Levels 13-16)	998	87.7	113	8.5	9	5 028
Interns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10 230	75.4	1 324	100	8	27 800

Table 3.10.2 Disability leave (temporary and permanent) for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Salary Band	Total Days	% days with medical certification	Number of employees using disability leave	% of total employees using disability leave	Average days per employee	Estimated cost (R'000)
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Leves 3-5)	7	100	1	1.4	7	9
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	895	100	33	44.6	27	1 611
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	1 222	100	36	48.6	34	3 914
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	69	100	4	5.4	17	324
Total	2 193	100	74	100	30	5 858

The table below summarises the utilisation of annual leave. The wage agreement concluded with trade unions in the PSCBC in 2000 requires management of annual leave to prevent high levels of accrued leave being paid at the time of termination of service.

Table 3.10.3 Annual leave for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Salary Band	Total days taken	Number of employees using annual leave	Average per employee
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	21	1	21
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	2 904.25	117	25
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	17 639.87	672	26
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	23 686.75	930	25
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	5 397	249	22
Interns	0	0	0
Total	49 648.87	1 969	25

Table 3.10.4 Capped leave for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Salary Band	Total days of capped leave taken	Number of employees using capped leave	Average number of days taken per employee	Average capped leave per employee as on 31 December 2023
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	1	1	1	42
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	24	6	4	29
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	400.75	40	10	28
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	22	6	4	58
Total	447.75	53	8	30

The following table summarises payments made to employees as a result of leave that was not taken.

Table 3.10.5 Leave pay-out for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Reason	Total Amount (R'000)	Number of employees	Average per employee (R'000)
Leave pay-out for 2022/2023 due to non-utilisation of leave for the previous cycle	302	4	76
Capped leave pay-out on termination of service for 2023/2024	4 646	45	103
Current leave pay-out on termination of service for 2023/2024	2 499	50	50
Total	7 447	*68 employees received leave pay-outs	

NOTE: Leave pay-outs were made to 68 employees. Some officials received payments for both capped and current leave upon their exit.

3.11 HIV, AIDS AND HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMMES

Table 3.11.1 Steps taken to reduce the risk of occupational exposure

Units/categories of employees identified to be at high risk of contracting HIV and AIDS-related diseases (if any)	Key steps taken to reduce the risk
There are no specific categories/units of employees at high risk of contracting HIV and AIDS-related diseases	None
Vulnerable officials transferred/posted to countries with higher HIV prevalence may be at a higher risk of contracting HIV	None

Table 3.11.2 Details of Health Promotion, HIV and AIDS programmes (tick the applicable boxes and provide the required information)

Question	Yes	No	Details, if yes
1. Has the department designated a member of the SMS to implement the provisions contained in Part VI E of Chapter 1 of the Public Service Regulations, 2001? If so, provide her/his name and position.	✓		Ms Given Mashigo Director: Employee Health and Wellness
2. Does the department have a dedicated unit, or has it designated specific staff members to promote the health and well-being of your employees? If so, indicate the number of employees who are involved in this task and the annual budget that is available for this purpose	✓		The Directorate: Employee Health and Wellness have six employees including the Director. 1 Director 2 Clinical Psychologists (Deputy Directors) 1 Industrial Psychologist (Assistant Director) 1 Health and Safety Officer (Assistant Director) 1 Administration Clerk Goods and Services Budget: R 654 805
3. Has the department introduced an Employee Assistance or Health Promotion Programme for your employees? If so, indicate the key elements/services of this programme.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Management Health and Productivity HIV, STI and TB Management Safety, Health, Environment, Risk and Environmental (SHERQ) Management On-site Travel Clinic which also provides primary health care and deals with emergencies. They refer to external facilities for treatment.

Question	Yes	No	Details, if yes
<p>4. Has the department established (a) committee(s) as contemplated in Part VI E.5 (e) of Chapter 1 of the Public Service Regulations, 2001? If so, please provide the names of the members of the committee and the stakeholder(s) that they represent.</p>	✓		<p>The Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms G Mashigo (Convener) • Mr J Munro (Facilities Management) • Mr E Munengwane (Security Management) • Mr N Arendse (Health and Safety Officer) • Mr D Du Buisson (Labour) • Ms G Sibanyoni (Labour) • Ms M Groener (PPP) • Mr M Mamabolo • Ms E Mankhoe • Mr J Anand • Ms G Ngwenya • Ms A Mlombile • Ms V Kagisho • Ms A Mathebula • Mr V Ncongwane • Ms M Mogadimgwane • Ms P Motloba • Mr R Gomes • Ms M Maumela • Ms N Koni <p><i>NB: All other employees represent different business units</i></p>
<p>5. Has the department reviewed its employment policies and practices to ensure that these do not unfairly discriminate against employees based on their HIV status? If so, list the employment policies/practices so reviewed.</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Productivity Policy (Approved 2023) • Wellness Management Policy (Approved 2023) • Placement Policy (Approved 2023) • Internship and Experiential Training Policy (Approved 2023) • The HIV, STI and TB Management Policy (currently under review)

Question	Yes	No	Details, if yes
6. Has the department introduced measures to protect HIV-positive employees or those perceived to be HIV-positive from discrimination? If so, list the key elements of these measures.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of South Africa • The HIV, STI and TB Management Policy (currently under review) • Education and Awareness during Candlelight and World AIDS Day events. • Counselling and education about employee rights, confidentiality, and disclosure.
7. Does the department encourage its employees to undergo voluntary counselling and testing? If so, list the results that you have achieved.	✓		<p>The department organised two events and encouraged employees to undergo voluntary HIV testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candlelight event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 45 employees tested for HIV. No positive results were reported. - 46 were screened for TB. No negative results were reported. • Tshwane Health District provided HIV testing during Wellness Days..
8. Has the department developed measures/indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact of its health-promotion programme? If so, list these measures/indicators.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback received on the programmes delivered, for example, in-house mental health webinars, financial wellness, talks on nutrition, physical wellness • Statistics on psychosocial interventions provided • Quarterly trends analysis • Statistics on the number of employees presenting for voluntary counselling and testing. • High participation during the Wellness Days events. <p>The department will conduct a comprehensive impact survey in the new financial year.</p>

3.12 LABOUR RELATIONS

Table 3.12.1 Collective agreements for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Total number of collective agreements	None
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The following table summarises the outcome of disciplinary hearings conducted within the department for the year under review.

Table 3.12.2 Misconduct and disciplinary hearings finalised for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Outcomes of disciplinary hearings	Number	% of Total
Correctional counselling	0	0
Verbal warning	0	0
Written warning	20	64.5
Final written warning	8	25.8
Suspended without pay	0	0
Fine	0	0
Demotion	1	3.2
Dismissal	2	6.5
Not guilty	0	0
Case withdrawn	0	0
Total number of disciplinary hearings finalised	31	100

Table 3.12.3 Types of misconduct addressed at disciplinary hearings for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Type of misconduct	Number	% of Total
Absent without authorisation	1	2.6
Bringing the country and the department into disrepute	1	2.6
Insubordination and inappropriate conduct	5	12.8
Theft	8	20.5
Financial misconduct	20	51.1
Non-compliance: Financial disclosure framework financial period 2021/2022	1	2.6
Attempted assault, contravening the code of conduct and putting the image of the Department into disrepute	1	2.6
Failure to adhere to working hours and persistent late reporting for work	1	2.6
Making and sending tribalistic, derogatory, insolent, and threatening statements to his supervisors through emails	1	2.6
Total	39	100

Table 3.12.4 Grievances lodged for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Grievances	Number	% of Total
Number of grievances resolved	33	100
Number of grievances not resolved	0	0
Total number of grievances lodged	33	33

Table 3.12.5 Disputes lodged with councils for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Disputes	Number	% of Total
Number of disputes upheld	1	50
Number of disputes dismissed	1	50
Total number of disputes lodged	2	100

Table 3.12.6 Strike actions for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Total number of persons working days lost	0
Total costs working days lost	0
Amount recovered as a result of no work no pay (R'000)	0

Table 3.12.7 Precautionary suspensions for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Number of people suspended	8
Number of people whose suspension exceeded 30 days	8
Average number of days suspended	707
Cost of suspension	R 507 225.24

3.13 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This section highlights the efforts of the department with regard to skills development.

Table 3.13.1 Training needs identified for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Occupational Category	Gender	Number of employees as at 1 April 2023 (excluding HO employees additional)	Training needs identified at start of the reporting period			
			Learnerships	Skills programmes & other short courses	Other forms of training	Total
Senior officials and managers	Female	266	0	350	0	350
	Male	302	0	246	0	246
Professionals	Female	136	0	420	0	420
	Male	109	0	279	0	279
Technicians and associate professionals	Female	330	0	284	0	284
	Male	235	0	106	0	106
Clerks	Female	291	0	52	0	52
	Male	85	0	21	0	21
Service shop and market sales workers	Female	39	0	15	0	15
	Male	53	0	10	0	10
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Female	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	21	0	0	0	0
Labourers and related workers	Female	23	0	0	0	0
	Male	8	0	1	0	1
Subtotal	Female	1 085	0	1 121	0	1 121
	Male	813	0	663	0	663
Total		1 898	0	1 784	0	1 784

NOTE: The numbers of employees above exclude the three POBs, two special advisers three secondments, 20 Head Office employees additional.

Table 3.13.2 Training provided for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Occupational Category	Gender	Number of employees as at 1 April 2023 (excluding HO employees additional)	Training needs identified at start of the reporting period			
			Learnerships	Skills programmes & other short courses	Other forms of training	Total
Senior officials and managers	Female	266	0	188	0	188
	Male	302	0	114	0	114
Professionals	Female	136	0	38	0	38
	Male	109	0	22	0	22
Technicians and associate professionals	Female	330	0	144	0	144
	Male	235	0	72	0	72
Clerks	Female	291	0	11	0	11
	Male	85	0	2	0	2
Service and sales workers	Female	39	0	0	0	0
	Male	53	0	0	0	0
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	Female	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	21	0	0	0	0
Labourers and related workers	Female	23	0	0	0	0
	Male	8	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	Female	1 085	0	381	0	381
	Male	813	0	210	0	210
Total		1 898	0	591	0	591

NOTE: The numbers of employees above exclude the three POBs, two special advisers three secondments, 20 Head Office employees additional

3.14 INJURY ON DUTY

The following tables provide basic information on injury on duty.

Table 3.14.1 Injury on duty for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Nature of injury on duty	Number	% of Total
Required basic medical attention only	4	100
Temporary total disablement	0	0
Permanent disablement	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Total	4	100

3.15 UTILISATION OF CONSULTANTS

The following tables relate information on the utilisation of consultants in the department. In terms of the Public Service Regulations, “consultant” means a natural or juristic person or a partnership who or which provides in terms of a specific contract on an ad hoc basis any of the following professional services to a department against remuneration received from any source:

- the rendering of expert advice
- the drafting of proposals for the execution of specific tasks
- the execution of a specific task, which is of a technical or intellectual nature but excludes an employee of a department

Table 3.15.1 Report on consultant appointments using appropriated funds for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Consultant appointments using appropriated funds	None
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Table 3.15.2 Analysis of consultant appointments using appropriated funds, in terms of historically disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs) for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Consultant appointments using appropriated funds, in terms of (HDIs)	None
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Table 3.15.3 Report on consultant appointments using donor funds for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Consultant appointments using donor funds	None
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Table 3.15.4 Analysis of consultant appointments using Donor funds, in terms HDIs for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Consultant appointments using Donor funds, in terms of (HDIs)	None
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3.16 SEVERANCE PACKAGES

Table 3.16.1 Granting of employee-initiated severance packages for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Salary Band	Number of applications received	Number of applications referred to the MPSA	Number of applications supported by MPSA	Number of packages approved by department
Lower skilled (Levels 1-2)	0	0	0	0
Skilled (Levels 3-5)	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled production (Levels 6-8)	0	0	0	0
Highly skilled supervision (Levels 9-12)	0	0	0	0
Senior management (Levels 13-16)	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0



PART E

PFMA COMPLIANCE REPORT

PART E: PFMA COMPLIANCE REPORT

1. IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL, UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE AND MATERIAL LOSSES

1.1. Irregular expenditure

a) Reconciliation of irregular expenditure

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Critical occupation	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	4 078 732	2 697 692
Add: Adjustment to opening balance (related to prior year irregular expenditure identified in current year)	5 985	-
Less: Adjustment to opening balance (removal approved in current year related to prior year)	1 976 041	-
Opening balance as restated	2 108 676	-
Add: Irregular expenditure confirmed	201 532	1 439 514
Less: Irregular expenditure condoned	-	-
Less: Irregular expenditure not condoned and removed	170 265	58 744
Less: Irregular expenditure recoverable ¹	-	-
Less: Irregular expenditure not recoverable and written off	-	-
Closing balance	2 139 943	4 078 732

Reconciling notes

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure that was under assessment in 2022/2023	-	1 439 514
Irregular expenditure that relates to the prior year and identified in the current year	-	5 985
Irregular expenditure for the current year	201 532	-
Total	201 532	1 445 499

b) Details of irregular expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure under assessment	291 188	-
Irregular expenditure under determination	209 949	2 104 202
Irregular expenditure under investigation	697	-
Total	501 834	2 104 202

Expenditure under assessment for procurement of the Global Wide Area Network (GWAN) project, R291 188 132.76. Dispute lodged with National Treasury (NT) on the finding of non-compliant Bid Evaluation Committee with SCM Policy. In terms of par.4.12 of the PFMA Compliance and Reporting Framework, NT Instruction Note 4 of 2022/2023. Irregular expenditure reported in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 that is still under determination and investigation.

¹ Transfer to receivables. ² Group similar items

c) Details of irregular expenditure condoned

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure condoned	-	-
Total	-	-

d) Details of irregular expenditure removed - (not condoned)

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure NOT condoned and removed in current year related to prior year	-	1 976 041
Irregular expenditure NOT condoned and removed in current year related to current year	170 265	58 744
Total	170 265	2 034 785

e) Details of irregular expenditure recoverable

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure recoverable	-	-
Total	-	-

f) **Details of irregular expenditure written off (irrecoverable)**

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure written off	-	-
Total	-	-

Additional disclosure relating to inter-institutional arrangements

g) **Details of non-compliance cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is not responsible for the non-compliance)**

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure incurred for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition in Kinshasa	68	-
Irregular expenditure incurred for the State Security Agency in Beijing and Accra	99	-
Irregular expenditure incurred for the Government Communication and Information System in Kampala	28	-
Irregular expenditure incurred for The Presidency in Kampala	29	-
Total		

Irregular expenditures incurred on behalf of partner departments by DIRCO's foreign missions.

h) Details of irregular expenditure cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is responsible for the non-compliance)³

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Irregular expenditure incurred by DIRCO: Protocol Lounges and Metro Park Building	16 746	28 704
Total	16 746	28 704

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) had not signed lease agreements for State Protocol Lounges and Metro Park Building. Procurement resides with DPWI.

i) Details of disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of irregular expenditure

Disciplinary steps taken
None

1.2. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

a) Reconciliation of fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	34 958	27 341
Adjustment to opening balance	-	7 427
Opening balance as restated	34 958	34 768
Add: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure confirmed	1 218	-
Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable ⁴	645	-

³ T3 Refer to paragraphs 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14 of Annexure A (PFMA Compliance and Reporting Framework) to National Treasury Instruction No. 4 of 2022/2023 ⁴ Transfer to receivables

Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure not recoverable and written off	-	-
Add: Fruitless and Wasteful that relates to 2022/2023 and identified in 2023/2024	-	190
Closing balance	35 531	34 958

Determination for 2023/2024 Q1 was concluded and an amount of R645 226.68 was recoverable. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified in 2023/2024 belonging to prior year 2022/2023 amounting to R189 999.65 was added to prior year's fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

Reconciling notes

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that was under assessment 2022/23	-	7 427
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that relates to the prior year and identified in the current year	-	190
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the current year	1 218	-
Total	1 218	7 617

b) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under assessment	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under determination	1 408	7 427
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under investigation	-	-
Total	1 408	7 427

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure relating mostly to penalty charges for breach of contract

• Group similar items

c) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable	645	-
Total	645	-

Delayed submission of invoices by end-users:

The majority of late payments were due to end-users submitting invoices later than required for processing. This delay significantly impacted the department's ability to meet the 30-day payment deadline. This accounts for more than 99% of non-compliance cases.

Processing systems downtime:

There were instances where processing systems e.g. LOGIS and BAS experienced downtime or technical issues. This led to delays in invoice processing and, consequently, late payments.

Operational oversights:

On very few occasions, operational oversights by processing personnel contributed to delays in payments. These were isolated incidents and are being addressed to prevent recurrence.

d) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure not recoverable and written off

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure written off	-	-
Total	-	-

e) Details of non-compliance cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is not responsible for the non-compliance)

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred for the State Security Agency in Juba	6	-
Total	6	-

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred on behalf of partner department by a DIRCO foreign mission

f) Details of irregular expenditure cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is responsible for the non-compliance)^e

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred at missions for partner department (South African National Defence Force)	76	1
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred at missions for partner department (South African Police Service)	-	1
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred at missions for partner department (State Security Agency)	2	-
Total	78	2

g) Details of disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Disciplinary steps taken

Consequence letters have been issued to officials who have been found to be liable upon investigation into fruitless and wasteful expenditure 2023/2024 Q1.

^e Refer to paragraphs 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14 of Annexure A (PFMA Compliance and Reporting Framework) to National Treasury Instruction No. 4 of 2022/2023

1.3. Unauthorised expenditure

a) Reconciliation of unauthorised expenditure

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	818 169	818 169
Adjustment to opening balance	-	-
Opening balance as restated	818 169	818 169
Add: unauthorised expenditure confirmed	435 643	-
Less: unauthorised expenditure approved with funding	-	-
Less: unauthorised expenditure approved without funding	-	-
Less: unauthorised expenditure recoverable ⁷	-	-
Less: unauthorised not recoverable and written off ⁸	-	-
Closing balance	1 253 812	818 169

Unauthorised expenditure of R1.254 billion went through the process of assessment and determination. Unauthorised expenditure is primarily attributable to foreign exchange fluctuations and the compensation of employees ceiling. R518.750 million was investigated and the investigation report was submitted to National Treasury as part of the request for condonement. Investigation of R299.419 million is in progress.

⁷ Transfer to receivables. ⁸ This amount may only be written off against available savings.

Reconciling notes

Description	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Unauthorised expenditure that was under assessment	-	-
Unauthorised expenditure that relates to the prior year and identified in the current year	-	-
Unauthorised expenditure for the current year	435 643	-
Total	435 643	-

b) Details of unauthorised expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)

Description ⁹	2023/2024	2022/2023
	R'000	R'000
Unauthorised expenditure under assessment	-	-
Unauthorised expenditure under determination	-	-
Unauthorised expenditure under investigation	299 419	-
Total	299 419	-

Unauthorised expenditure is primarily attributable to foreign exchange fluctuations.

⁹ Group similar items

1.4. Additional disclosure relating to material losses in terms of PFMA Section 40(3)(b)(i) & (iii)¹⁰

a) Details of material losses through criminal conduct

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Material losses through criminal conduct	R'000	R'000
Theft	-	-
Other material losses	-	-
Less: Recoverable	-	-
Less: Not recoverable and written off	-	-
Total		

b) Details of other material losses

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Nature of other material losses	R'000	R'000
	-	-
Total	-	-

c) Other material losses recoverable

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Nature of losses	R'000	R'000
	-	-
Total	-	-

d) Other material losses not recoverable and written off

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Nature of losses	R'000	R'000
	-	-
Total	-	-

¹⁰ Information related to material losses must be disclosed in the annual financial statements.

1. LATE AND/OR NON-PAYMENT OF SUPPLIERS

Description	Number of invoices	Consolidate value
		R'000
Valid invoices received	6111	R1 726 415
Invoices paid within 30 days or agreed period	6007	R1 693 710
Invoices paid after 30 days or agreed period	104	R32 705
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (<i>unpaid and without dispute</i>)	-	-
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (<i>unpaid and in dispute</i>)	-	-

	Valid invoices received		Paid within 30 days		Paid after 30 days		Total	
	number of invoices	Amount	number of invoices	Amount	number of invoices	Amount	Invoices	Amount
April 2023	159	R 65 181 952,31	159	R 65 181 952,31	-	-	-	-
May 2023	426	R 63 123 706,98	418	R 63 079 504,39	8	R 44 202,59	8	R 44 202,59
June 2023	422	R 308 899 653,37	358	R 307 033 961,56	64	R 1 865 691,81	64	R 1 865 691,81
July 2023	517	R 119 448 506,48	516	R 98 311 116,82	1	R 21 137 389,66	1	R 21 137 389,66
August 2023	520	R 151 870 057,33	520	R 151 870 057,33	-	-	-	-
September 2023	721	R 104 355 243,18	720	R 104 310 764,18	1	R 44 479,00	1	R 44 479,00
October 2023	496	R 115 577 449,52	495	R 115 566 559,52	1	R 10 890,00	1	R 10 890,00
November 2023	732	R 194 267 767,24	732	R 194 267 767,24	-	-	-	-
December 2023	378	R 88 077 361,18	378	R 88 077 361,18	-	-	-	-
January 2024	257	R 113 650 620,45	256	R 113 271 248,98	1	R 379 371,47	1	R 379 371,47

February 2024	560	R 82 418 696,51	551	R 81 101 043,95	9	R 1 317 652,56	560	R 82 418 696,51
March 2024	923	R 319 544 226,89	904	R 311 639 119,50	19	R 7 905 107,39	923	R 319 544 226,89
Total	6311	R 1 726 415 241,44	6007	R 1 693 710 456,96	104	R 32 704 784,48	6311	R 1 726 415 241,44

Delayed Submission of Invoices by End-Users:

The majority of late payments were due to end-users submitting invoices later than required for processing. This delay significantly impacted the department's ability to meet the 30-day payment deadline. This accounts for more than 99% of non-compliance cases.

Processing Systems Downtime:

There were instances where processing systems e.g. LOGIS and BAS experienced downtime or technical issues. This led to delays in invoice processing and, consequently, late payments.

Operational Oversights:

On very few occasions, operational oversights by processing personnel contributed to delays in payments. These were isolated incidents and are being addressed to prevent recurrence.

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

3.1. Procurement by other means

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Gardening services at King Shaka International Airport in Durban	Thula Wazi Nomafulu	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2022/06/020	R 248 400,00
Interpretation services during Pan-African Parliament	Congress Rental Kc070	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/04/040	R 587 236,00
Wait Staff: Event for Colombia Business Unit	Black Currant	Less than three quotations	003Q00177	R 15 402,50
Loose Leaf Law Publications	Juta	Sole provider	RFQ:2023/04/044	R 14 701,80
Legal online newsletter	Juta	Sole provider	136A11431	R 45 009,00
SA journals law publications	LexisNexis	Sole provider	136A11432	R 65 601,00
SA law journals	Juta	Sole provider	RFQ:2023/04/061	R 62 461,62
Catering for memorial service	Lunomusa Catering	Request advertised for less than seven days	RFQ:2023/05/038	R 63 830,00

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Conflict, stress, and diversity management training for the Foreign Attache Administration Course (FAAC)	Edutel Public Services Company	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/04/004	R 118 258,00
Sabinet to provide a web-based resource sharing service for libraries	Sabinet	Sole provider	RFQ:2023/05/024	R 58 501,90
Professional chefs (two)	KKLS Catering Service	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/05/080	R 6 200,00
Meat for the State Guesthouses	Imperatriz	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/05/078	R 18 680,00
Groceries for the State Guesthouses	Lesedi Home Supplier	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/05/077	R 19 687,00
Training for ICT officials	Torque-It	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/07/009	R 299 368,00
Update Loose Leaf collection for OCSLA research centre	TDC Legal Libraries	Sole provider	RFQ:2023/05/065	R 147 484,00
Professional chefs and waitrons	KKLS Catering Service	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/06/029	R 13 500,00
Freight services for the dispatch of the diplomatic bags	Skynet	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/06/015	R 465 584,23
Training for Edu week and master class workshops 18-21 September 2023	Employee Assistance Professionals Association of South Africa	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/06/006	R 23 998,00

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Variation of above 20% for a ministerial dinner	Lunomusa Trading and Enterprise	Variation of above 20%	DGO/07/47	R 88 820,00
Decor and linen set-up for a Bilateral meeting between Minister Pandor and Irish counterpart on 18 July 2023	Café Kotula	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/07/021	R 4 025,00
Update Loose Leaf collection for OCSLA research centre	LexisNexis	Sole provider	136A01444	R 78 639,68
BRICS: Airport branding	Provantage Pty Ltd	Sole provider	RFQ:2023/07/026	R 2 631 927,80
Training for compulsory induction programme for 11 officials	National School of Government	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/07/047	R 12 056,00
Advanced security vetting course for one official	Vision DCI	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/07/056	R 6 390,00
Genesys, Power Gold and Audio File licence fees	Empirical Presentations	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/07/052	R 385 710,00
Venue and facilities for the XV BRICS Summit	Sandton Convention Centre	Preferred supplier	DGO/08/59	R 59 232 486,71
BRICS host broadcaster	SABC	Closed tender	DGO/08/74	R 3 128 000,00

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Dr Esther Mahlangu original wooden frame artworks	Aim Revolution	Closed tender	DGO/08/73	R 6 324 942,50
BRICS: Executive gifts	Maltec Business Connection	Closed tender	DGO/08/73	R 468 435,25
Groceries for the State Guesthouses for the function at Gallagher convention centre	Gallagher Convention Centre	Preferred supplier	DGO/08/114	R 1 324 997,45
Catering for Lanseria Airport and OR Tambo International Airport	Lunomusa Trading Enterprise	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/08/008	R 82 800,00
Gifts for the heads of state (paintings by a South African artist)	Maltec Business Connection	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/08/019	R 80 583,61
Training: Building a Sustainable Quality Assurance Programme and Performing an Effective Quality Assurance	Leadership Academy for Guardians of Governance	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/08/021	R 49 887,00
Training: Governance Risk and Compliance	Leadership Institute of Administrators	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/08/074	R 32 378,74
Govtech 2023 Conference	SITA	Preferred supplier	DGO/09/61	R 33 600,00
AVOP compulsory medical test for officials at the state protocol lounges	Occu-Sure	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/05/037	R 2 415,00

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Decor services for South Africa-Argentina consultations working lunch	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/015	R 3 900,00
Personnel for catering	KKLS Catering Service (Bq061)	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/002	R 15 000,00
Licenses	Fitch Solutions	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/08/017	R 287 385,00
ICT training course	Torque It	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/07/009	R 337 191,50
Decor, catering, tent, chaise toilet, sound system, and podium	Shanisekane General Trading	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/033	R 139 535,00
Annual South African Psychology Congress	Psychology Society Of South Africa	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/09/031	R 18 400,00
Information security vetting course for 1 official	Vision DCI	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/09/035	R 12 580,00
Decor services for political consultation at ministerial level	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/044	R 3 650,00
Software license renewal for NUG payroll system	Pay squad	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/09/034	R 905 934,96
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/002	R 10 534,00
Diplomatic bags	DHL	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/011	R 858 556,10

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/10/09	R 3 400,00
Catering	Duduza Hospitality Education	Preferred supplier	RFQ: 2023/10/045	R 97 721,25
Training for the 2023 FAAC Class: Life skills and ethical conduct	Edutel Public Service Company (Pty) Ltd (HI517)	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/023	R 191 971,60
Training for the 2023 FAAC and the 2023 Mission Administration Course (MAC): Teamwork and Diplomatic Practice	Edutel Public Service Company (Pty) Ltd (HI517)	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/09/001	R 396 772,05
Personnel suitability checks	Managed Integrity Evaluation	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/08/046	R 72 140,47
Fruits and vegetables	Noble Cuisine	Less than three quotations	RFQ NO: 2023/10/070	R 7 335,50
Meat	Mufatso Trading and Projects	Less than three quotations	RFQ NO: 2023/10/068 RFQ NO: 2023/10/070	R 11 385,00
Library institutional membership fee	Library And Information Association Of South Africa	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/026	R 3 630,00
Interpretation equipment	Congress Rental	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/11/047	R 63 066,00
Renewal of Juta stat online service	Juta	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/003	R 58 232,00
Netlaw legislation- two licences	Sabinet	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/015	R 18 603,06
Sabinet judgements - three licenses	Sabinet	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/014	R25 519,25

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Sabinet labour database - two licenses	Sabinet	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/016	R 22 091,50
Advanced security vetting course for one official	Vision DCI	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/037	R 12 280,00
Groceries	Bondirite	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/11/060	R 62 910,43
Meat	Lesedi Home Supplier	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/11/059	R 51 527,00
Fruits and vegetables	Noble Cuisine	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/11/058	R 21 706,00
Catering for memorial of Dr Aziz Pahad	Theba Function Hire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/015D00726	R 17 250,00
Annual renewal of ACL desktop licenses subscription for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2023.	Surtech Solutions	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/070	R 532 870,61
Secretary for the Audit Committee	Azeyech Consulting Services (Lb078)	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/11/088	R 394 105,00
Training of ICT officials	Torque Technical Computer Training	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2023/10/064	R 195 960,00
Annual maintenance of teammate software licences for three years	Wolter Kluwer Tax and Accounting Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/11/069	R 192 926,00
Live broadcast of the annual Ubuntu Awards 2024	SABC	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2023/12/004	R 499 900,00

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R'000
Vehicle parking at OR Tambo International Airport	ACSA	Sole provider	RFQ: 2023/10/049	R 278 436,48
Venue, decor, catering, sound, stage, registration, and accreditation	CTICC	Closed Tender	RFQ NO: 2023/12/011	R 6 550 842,41
Catering	KKLS Catering Service	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2024/01/022	R 35 880,00
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ:2024/02/051	R 59 875,00
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/02/034	R 18 221,00
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/02/054	R 23 630,00
Backdrop banner	Madiba Promotions	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/02/074	R 33 120,00
Decor for lunch hosted by Minister Pandor (Business Unit: Denmark)	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/02/056	R 11 520,00
Catering	KKLS Catering Service	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/02/073	R 18 000,00
Annual audit fees for subscription on quality management systems	SABS Commercial	Less than three quotations	REF: 79.3.2024	R 49 960,60
Catering	MVG Catering	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/03/021	R 30 000,00
Diplomatic bags	DHL	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/03/025	R 441 425,78
Interpretation services	Congress Rental	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/03/22	R 228 114,00
Generators for the PAP Ordinary Session from 20 to 27 March 2024 at the Gallagher Convention Centre	Rand Air South Africa	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/03/032	R 225 890,76
Catering	Altire	Less than three quotations	RFQ: 2024/03/033	R 9 420,00
Total				R 89 802 303,10

3.2 Contract variations and expansions

Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (Expansion or Variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous contract expansion/s or variation/s (if applicable)	Value of current contract expansion or variation
				R'000	R'000	R'000
Endpoint security solution	Brilliant telecommunications (PTY) Ltd	Original contract to include endpoint security solution at 1,98% of the original bid	DGO07/210	R 814 836 173,52	R 0,00	R16 138 432,00
BRICS conference packs	Flamingo Moon Trading	Additional conference packs for the head of states	DIRCO 01-2023/2024	R 4 526 319,50	R 0,00	R569 295,00
BRICS Spousal lunch and lunch for support staff	Gallagher convention Centre	Original order to include BRICS spousal lunch and support staff for catering at a variation of 16.6% of the original order	DGOO/08/133	R 1 324 997,45	R 0,00	R219 143,21
Application fee to the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa for Ms M Ngoasheng	The Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa	Additional fee on the application fee to the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa for Ms M Ngoasheng	RFQ NO:2023/06/061	R 34 776,00	R 0,00	R1 279,95
BRICS gifts for high-level guests	Maltec business connection	Additional gift packs for the spousal retreat programme during the XV BRICS Summit	DGO/08/73	R 468 435,25	R 0,00	R59 284,80

Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type(Expansion or Variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous contract expansion/s or variation/s (if applicable)	Value of current contract expansion or variation
				R'000	R'000	R'000
Upgrading of the Marval service management system	Upgrading of the Marval service management system	Revitalize consulting t/a Marval		R 2 662 742,73	R 0,00	R 37 375,00
Catering for Lesotho BNC 25-28 September 2023	Catering for Lesotho BNC 25-28 September 2023	Lunomusa catering and events	RFQ NO:2023/06/061	R 202 310,00	R 0,00	R 30 346,50
Dispatching of diplomatic airfreight to and from head office RSA missions abroad	Dispatching of diplomatic airfreight to and from head office RSA missions abroad	DHL	RFQ: 2023/09/011	R 120 500,00	R 0,00	R 120 500,00
		Total		R 824 914 310,55	R 0,00	R 17 175 656,46

A photograph of a modern building's interior, featuring a large, circular atrium with a glass ceiling and walls. The space is filled with warm, golden light from the windows. In the foreground, there is a dark, reflective surface, possibly a pool or a large mirror, which shows the reflection of the building's interior. A large, curved, yellow and green diagonal band crosses the image from the top left to the bottom right. The text "PART F" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, and "FINANCIAL INFORMATION" is written in smaller, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters below it.

PART F

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

PART F: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT ON VOTE NO. 6:
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION****Report on the audit of the financial statements****Opinion**

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the appropriation statement, statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, and cash flow statement for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the DIRCO as at 31 March 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Modified Cash Standard (MCS) prescribed by National Treasury and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

4. I am independent of the department in accordance with the *International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA code) as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in

accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.

5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matters

6. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unauthorised expenditure

7. As disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements, unauthorised expenditure of R435 643 000 was incurred in the current year, mainly due to a variance on compensation of employees which is primarily attributable to the depreciation of the Rand against major foreign currencies as well as the cost of living adjustment.

Irregular expenditure

8. As disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements, irregular expenditure of R201 532 000 was incurred in the current year, mainly emanating from non-compliance with supply chain management prescripts.

Other matters

9. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

10. The supplementary information set out on pages xx to xx does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

schedules and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on them.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

11. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the MCS and the requirements of the PFMA; and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

12. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the department's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the department or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

13. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

14. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report. This description, which is located at page xx, forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

15. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance against predetermined objectives for the selected programmes presented in the annual performance report. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.

16. I selected the following programmes presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 31 March 2024 for auditing. I selected programmes that measures the department's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

Programme	Page numbers	Purpose
Programme 2: international relations	52 - 127	Promote relations with foreign countries
Programme 3: international cooperation	129 - 233	Participate in initiatives of international organisations and institutions in line with South Africa's national values and foreign policy objectives

17. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected programmes against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using this criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the department's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

18. I performed procedures to test whether:

- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the department's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
- all the indicators relevant for measuring the department's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
- the indicators are well defined to ensure that they are easy to understand and can be applied consistently, as well as verifiable so that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
- the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance as well as how performance will be evaluated
- the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as those committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
- the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner and is comparable and understandable.
- there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the reasons provided for any over- or underachievement of targets

19. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

20. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected programmes.

Other matters

21. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

22. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over- or under achievements.

Report on compliance with legislation

23. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The accounting officer is responsible for the department's compliance with legislation.

24. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the findings engagement methodology of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

25. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the department, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

26. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Expenditure management

27. Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure, as disclosed in note 31 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 38(1)(c)(ii) of the PFMA and treasury regulation 9.1.1. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance with supply chain management prescripts at the missions.

28. Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure as disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements, as required by section 38(1)(c)(ii) of the PFMA and treasury regulation 9.1.1. The majority of the fruitless and wasteful expenditure was caused by rental payments for unoccupied residential accommodation.

Consequence management

29. I was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that disciplinary steps were taken against officials who had incurred fruitless and wasteful expenditure as required by section 38(1)(h)(iii) of the PFMA. This was because investigations into fruitless and wasteful expenditure were not performed.

Procurement and contract management

30. Some of the goods and services were procured without obtaining at least three written price quotations in accordance with Treasury Regulation 16A6.1 and paragraph 3.2.1 of SCM instruction No. 02 of 2021-22. The majority of these emanate from the missions abroad. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

Revenue management

31. Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to collect all money due, as required by section 38(1)(c)(i) of the PFMA.

Other information in the annual report

32. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information referred to does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected programmes presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.

33. My opinion on the financial statements, the report on the audit of the annual performance report and the report on compliance with legislation do not cover the other information included in the annual report and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.

34. My responsibility is to read this other information and, in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected programmes presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

35. The other information I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report is the report of the accounting officer, overview of the departmental performance and the strategic overview. The foreword by the executive authority, deputy ministers' statement, overview of human resources and governance and report of the audit committee are expected to be made available to us after 31 July 2024.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

36. If, based on the work I have performed on the other information that I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

37. When I do receive and read the foreword by the executive authority, deputy ministers' statement, overview of human resources and governance and report of the audit committee, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

38. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.

39. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the material findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.

40. The oversight by the accounting officer regarding compliance monitoring was not effective due to the repeat non-compliance not being prevented by the department. Senior management involved in compliance monitoring processes did not adequately implement the action plan to address previously reported significant deficiencies and non-compliance with legislation as repeat non-compliances were reported in the current year.

41. The accounting officer did not ensure that all the cases of fruitless and wasteful expenditure were investigated indicating that there is a lack of consequence management in

the department. Failure to ensure that the non-compliances are investigated and corrective measures put in place contribute to an environment with officials that disregard set policies, laws and regulations.

Other reports

42. I draw attention to the following engagements conducted by various parties. These reports did not form part of my opinion on the financial statements or my findings on the reported performance information or compliance with legislation.

Investigations

43. At the request of both the Minister and the Director-General of the department, an external service provider was appointed to investigate an allegation relating to procurement irregularities.

44. The Public Protector is currently investigating the same allegation relating to procurement irregularities and the investigation is in progress.

Auditor-General

Pretoria

31 July 2024

AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Annexure to the auditor's report

The annexure includes the following:

- The auditor-general's responsibility for the audit
- The selected legislative requirements for compliance testing

Auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

Professional judgement and professional scepticism

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected programmes and on the department's compliance with selected requirements in key legislation.

Financial statements

In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the department's internal control

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made
- conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the department to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a department to cease operating as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Communication with those charged with governance

I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide the accounting officer with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Compliance with legislation – selected legislative requirements

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations	Legislation	Sections or regulations
Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999	Section 1; 38(1)(b); 38(1)(c)(i); 38(1)(c)(ii); 38(1)(d); Section 38(1)(h)(iii); 38(1)(j); 39(1)(a); 39(2)(a); Section 40(1)(a); 40(1)(b); 40(1)(c)(i); 43(1); 43(4); Section 44(1); 44(2); 45(b)	Division of Revenue Act 5 of 2023	Section 16(1)
		Second amendment National Treasury Instruction No. 5 of 202/21	Paragraph 1
Treasury Regulations, 2005	Regulation 4.1.1; 4.1.3; 5.1.1; 5.2.1; 5.2.3(a); Regulation 5.2.3(d); 5.3.1; 6.3.1(a); 6.3.1(b); Regulation 6.3.1(c); 6.3.1(d); 6.4.1(b); 7.2.1 Regulation 8.1.1; 8.2.1; 8.2.2; 8.2.3; 8.4.1; 9.1.1; Regulation 9.1.4; 10.1.1(a); 10.1.2; 11.4.1; 11.4.2; Regulation 11.5.1; 12.5.1; 15.10.1.2(c); 16A3.2; Regulation 16A3.2(a); 16A6.1; 16A6.2(a); Regulation 16A6.2(b); 16A6.3(a); 16A6.3(b); Regulation 16A6.3(c); 16A6.3(e); 16A6.4; 16A6.5; Regulation 16A6.6; 16A7.1; 16A7.3; 16A7.6; Regulation 16A7.7; 16A8.3; 16A8.4; 16A9.1(b)(ii); Regulation 16A9.1(d); 16A9.1(e); 16A9.1(f); 16A9.2; Regulation 16A9.2(a)(ii); 16A9.2(a)(iii); 17.1.1; 18.2 Regulation 19.8.4	Erratum National Treasury Instruction No. 5 of 202/21	Paragraph 2
		National Health Act 61 of 2003	Section 13
		National Treasury instruction No 5 of 2020/21	Paragraph 4.8; 4.9; 5.3
		National Treasury Instruction No. 1 of 2021/22	Paragraph 4.1
		National Treasury Instruction No. 4 of 2015/16	Paragraph 3.4
		National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 4A of 2016/17	Paragraph 6
		National Treasury Instruction No 7 of 2017/18	Paragraph 4.3
Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000	Section 18(1)	PFMA National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 03 of 2021/22	Paragraph 4.1; 4.2 (b); 4.3; 4.4; 4.4(a); 4.17; 7.2; Paragraph 7.6
Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000	Regulation 17; 25(7A)		
Construction Industry Development Board Regulations, 2004	Section 16(1)		

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Legislation	Sections or regulations
National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 11 of 2020/21	Paragraph 3.4(a); 3.4(b); 3.9
National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 2 of 2021/22	Paragraph 3.2.1; 3.2.4; 3.2.4(a); 3.3.1
Practice Note 11 of 2008/9	Paragraph 2.1; 3.1(b)
Practice Note 5 of 2009/10	Paragraph 3.3
Practice Note 7 of 2009/10	Paragraph 4.1.2
Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000	Section 1; 2.1(a); 2.1(f)
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	Regulation 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017	Regulation 4.1; 4.2; 5.1; 5.3; 5.6; 5.7; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; Regulation 6.5; 6.6; 6.8; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8; Regulation 8.2; 8.5; 9.1; 10.1; 10.2; 11.1; 11.2;
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004	Section 34(1)
State Information Technology Agency Act 88 of 1998	Section 7(3)
Public Service Act	Section 30 (1)
Foreign Service Act 26 of 2019 (FSA)	Section 9(3); 9(4)

2. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

APPROPRIATION PER PROGRAMME

2023/2024								2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Programme									
1. Administration	1 687 068	-	(55 463)	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	97,1%	1 688 171	1 664 395
2. International Relations	3 386 774	-	11 989	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	111,2%	3 386 270	3 375 344
3. International Cooperation	592 985	-	1 240	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	103,5%	559 631	558 139
4. Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services	361 955	-	42 234	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	108,1%	336 822	335 808
5. International Transfers	881 854	-	-	881 854	851 225	30 629	96,5%	813 424	773 871
Subtotal	6 910 636	-	-	6 910 636	7 268 318	(357 682)	105,2%	6 784 318	6 707 557
Total									

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2023/2024				2022/2023	
	Final Budget	Actual Expenditure			Final Budget	Actual Expenditure
	R'000	R'000			R'000	R'000
TOTAL (brought forward)						
Reconciliation with statement of financial performance						
ADD						
Departmental receipts	70 509				186 154	
NRF Receipts	-				-	
Aid assistance	4 205				-	
Actual amounts per statement of financial performance (Total revenue)						
ADD	6 985 350				6 970 472	
Aid assistance						
Prior year unauthorised expenditure approved without funding						
Actual amounts per statement of financial performance (Total expenditure)		7 268 318				6 707 557

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

APPROPRIATION PER ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION

	2023/2024							2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Economic classification									
Current payments	5 771 812	(6 111)	(4 064)	5 761 637	6 209 333	(447 696)	107,8%	5 527 491	5 607 972
Compensation of employees	3 078 721	-	-	3 078 721	3 316 554	(237 833)	107,7%	3 025 585	3 057 465
Goods and services	2 541 990	(15 930)	(4 064)	2 521 996	2 731 859	(209 863)	108,3%	2 361 100	2 409 734
Interest and rent on land	151 101	9 819	-	160 920	160 920	-	100,0%	140 806	140 773
Transfers and subsidies	911 622	-	-	911 622	874 571	37 051	95,9%	849 814	793 056
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890	-	100,0%	61 370	49 699
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	831 964	-	-	831 964	801 335	30 629	96,3%	752 054	724 172
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	29 768	-	-	29 768	23 346	6 422	78,4%	36 390	19 185
Payments for capital assets	227 202	-	-	227 202	174 098	53 104	76,6%	385 713	285 729
Buildings and other fixed structures	59 823	-	-	59 823	27 947	31 876	46,7%	73 537	32 076
Machinery and equipment	167 379	-	-	167 379	114 392	52 987	67,1%	220 625	162 102
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

APPROPRIATION PER ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION									
	2023/2024							2022/2023	
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	31 759	(31 759)	-	91 551	91 551
Payments for financial assets		6 111	4 064	10 175	10 317	(142)	101,4%	21 300	20 800
Total	6 910 636	-	-	6 910 636	7 268 318	(357 682)	105,2%	6 784 318	6 707 557

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

2023/2024								2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
Subprogramme	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
1.Ministry	7 056	-	-	7 056	7 008	48	99,3%	7 114	6 753
2.Departmental Management	10 066	1 842	-	11 908	11 889	19	99,8%	9 900	9 826
3.Audit Services	22 508	(1 462)	(600)	20 446	20 218	228	98,9%	17 119	16 771
4.Financial Management	205 126	3 533	(11 865)	196 794	195 415	1 379	99,3%	195 849	192 369
5.Corporate Services	803 867	39 361	(30 483)	812 745	802 411	10 334	98,7%	899 929	893 680
6.Diplomatic Training, Research and Development	54 442	(6 531)	(7 015)	40 896	40 701	195	99,5%	50 447	50 052
7.Foreign Fixed Assets Management	125 005	(19 475)	(4 500)	101 030	67 941	33 089	67,2%	73 203	63 017
8.Office Accommodation	458 998	(17 268)	(1 000)	440 730	438 690	2 040	99,5%	434 610	431 927
Total for subprogrammes	1 687 068	-	(55 463)	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	97,1%	1 688 171	1 664 395
Economic classification									
Current payments	1 482 616	(2 438)	(54 162)	1 426 016	1 423 819	2 197	99,8%	1 371 327	1 406 021
Compensation of employees	513 272	-	(43 098)	470 174	469 579	595	99,9%	487 917	486 789
Goods and services	818 243	(12 257)	(11 064)	794 922	793 320	1 602	99,8%	742 604	778 459
Interest and rent on land	151 101	9 819	-	160 920	160 920	-	100,0%	140 806	140 773
Transfers and subsidies	4 234	-	(101)	4 133	2 029	2 104	49,1%	4 270	3 381
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	4 234	-	(101)	4 133	2 029	2 104	49,1%	4 270	3 381
Payments for capital assets	200 218	-	(1 200)	199 018	155 987	43 031	78,4%	310	253 133
Buildings and other fixed structures	59 823	-	-	59 823	27 947	31 876	46,7%	574	32 076
Machinery and equipment	140 395	-	(1 200)	139 195	94 184	45 011	67,7%	73 537	129 506
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145 486	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	33 856	(33 856)	-	91 551	91 551
Payments for financial assets	-	1 687 068	-	2 438	2 438	-	100,0%	2 000	1 860
Total	1 687 068		(55 463)	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	97,1%	1 688 171	1 664 395

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PROGRAMME 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

	2023/2024							2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Subprogramme									
1. Africa	1 123 907	(180)	266	1 123 993	1 219 528	(95 535)	108,5%	1 116 000	1 113 813
2. Asia and Middle East	940 732	20	10 482	951 234	1 101 445	(150 211)	115,8%	974 118	973 837
3. Americas and Caribbean	482 393	(540)	650	482 503	535 657	(53 154)	111,0%	463 536	462 517
4. Europe	839 742	700	591	841 033	924 119	(83 086)	109,9%	832 616	825 177
Total for subprogrammes	3 386 774	-	11 989	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	111,2%	3 386 270	3 375 344
Economic classification									
Current payments	3 348 561	-	9 500	3 358 061	3 748 242	(390 181)	111,6%	3 302 104	3 322 506
Compensation of employees	2 021 775	-	9 500	2 031 275	2 253 768	(222 493)	111,0%	2 001 724	2 024 714
Goods and services	1 326 786	-	-	1 326 786	1 494 474	(167 688)	112,6%	1 300 380	1 297 792
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	20 542	-	-	20 542	18 762	1 780	91,3%	27 061	12 973
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	20 542	-	-	20 542	18 762	1 780	91,3%	27 061	12 973
Payments for capital assets	17 671	-	-	17 671	11 110	6 561	62,9%	41 705	24 747
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	17 671	-	-	17 671	11 110	6 561	62,9%	41 705	24 747
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	-	2 489	2 489	2 635	(146)	105,9%	15 400	15 118
Total	3 386 774	-	11 989	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	111,2%	3 386 270	3 375 344

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PROGRAMME 3: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

	2023/2024							2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Subprogramme									
1.Global System of Governance	399 048	(4 160)	-	394 888	417 146	(22 258)	105,6%	393 667	393 538
2.Continental Cooperation	97 525	5 951	1 240	104 716	106 692	(1 976)	101,9%	86 942	85 920
3.South-South Cooperation	7 536	(2 381)	-	5 155	5 072	83	98,4%	5 726	5 650
4.North-South Dialogue	88 876	590	-	89 466	86 406	3 060	96,6%	73 296	73 031
Total for subprogrammes	592 985	-	1 240	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	103,5%	559 631	558 139
Economic classification									
Current payments	580 508	(3 673)	-	576 835	602 784	(25 949)	104,5%	535 061	544 568
Compensation of employees	384 750	-	-	384 750	410 150	(25 400)	106,6%	357 442	367 726
Goods and services	195 758	(3 673)	-	192 085	192 634	(549)	100,3%	177 619	176 842
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	3 202	-	-	3 202	679	2 523	21,2%	3 276	1 972
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	3 202	-	-	3 202	679	2 523	21,2%	3 276	1 972
Payments for capital assets	9 275	-	-	9 275	6 944	2 331	74,9%	17 394	7 777
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	9 275	-	-	9 275	6 944	2 331	74,9%	17 394	7 777
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	3 673	1 240	4 913	4 909	4	99,9%	3 900	3 822
Total	592 985	-	1 240	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	103,5%	559 631	558 139

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PROGRAMME 4: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PROTOCOL SERVICES

	2023/2024							2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Subprogramme									
1. Public Diplomacy	64 763	(103)	1 289	65 949	77 468	(11 519)	117,5%	69 267	83 571
2. 2.Protocol Services	297 192	103	40 945	338 240	359 287	(21 047)	106,2%	267 555	252 237
Total for subprogrammes	361 955	-	42 234	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	108,1%	336 822	335 808
Economic classification									
Current payments	360 127	-	40 598	400 725	434 488	(33 763)	108,4%	318 999	334 877
Compensation of employees	158 924	-	33 598	192 522	183 057	9 465	95,1%	178 502	178 236
Goods and services	201 203	-	7 000	208 203	251 431	(43 228)	120,8%	140 497	156 641
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	1 790	-	101	1 891	1 875	16	99,2%	1 783	859
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Households	1 790	-	101	1 891	1 875	16	99,2%	1 783	859
Payments for capital assets	38	-	1 200	1 238	57	1 181	4,6%	16 040	72
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	38	-	1 200	1 238	57	1 181	4,6%	16 040	72
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	-	335	335	335	-	100,0%	-	-
Total	361 955	-	42 234	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	108,1%	336 822	335 808

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PROGRAMME 5: INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

2023/2024								2022/2023	
	Approved Budget	Shifting of funds	Virement	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget	Final Budget	Actual expenditure
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Subprogramme									
1. Departmental Agencies	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890	-	100,0%	61 370	49 699
2. Membership Contribution	831 964	-	-	831 964	801 335	30 629	96,3%	752 054	724 172
Total for sub programmes	881 854	-	-	881 854	851 225	30 629	96,5%	813 424	773 871
Economic classification									
Current payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compensation of employees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	881 854	-	-	881 854	851 225	30 629	96,5%	813 424	773 871
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890	-	100,0%	61 370	49 699
Higher education institutions									-
Foreign governments and international organisations	831 964	-	-	831 964	801 335	30 629	96,3%	752 054	724 172
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Households	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for capital assets									
Buildings and other fixed structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	881 854	-	-	881 854	851 225	30 629	96,5%	813 424	773 871

NOTES TO THE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. DETAIL OF TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES AS PER APPROPRIATION ACT (AFTER VIREMENT)

Detail of these transactions can be viewed in the note on Transfers and Subsidies, and Annexure 1A-H of the Annual Financial Statements.

2. DETAIL OF SPECIFICALLY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPROPRIATED AMOUNTS VOTED (AFTER VIREMENT)

Detail of these transactions can be viewed in the note on Annual Appropriation to the Annual Financial Statements.

3. DETAIL ON PAYMENTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS

Detail of these transactions can be viewed in the note on Payments for financial assets to the Annual Financial Statements.

4. EXPLANATIONS OF MATERIAL VARIANCES FROM AMOUNTS VOTED (AFTER VIREMENT):**4.1 Per programme**

Programme	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget
	R'000	R'000	R'000	%
Administration	1 631 605	1 584 273	47 332	3%
International Relations	3 398 763	3 780 749	(381 986)	(11%)
International Cooperation	594 225	615 316	(21 091)	(4%)
Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services	404 189	436 755	(32 566)	(8%)
International Transfers	881 854	851 225	30 629	3%
Total	6 910 636	7 268 318	(357 682)	(5%)

NOTES TO THE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4.2 Per economic classification

Economic classification	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget
	R'000	R'000	R'000	%
Current payments	5 761 637	6 209 333	(447 696)	(7,8%)
Compensation of employees	3 078 721	3 316 554	(237 833)	(8%)
Goods and services)	2 521 996	2 731 859	(209 863)	(8%)
Interest and rent on land	160 920	160 920	-	0%
Transfers and subsidies	911 622	874 570	37 052	4,1%
Provinces and municipalities	-	-	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	49 890	49 890	-	0%
Higher education institutions	-	-	-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises	-	-	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	831 964	801 335	30 629	4%
Non-profit institutions	-	-	-	-
Households	29 768	23 345	6 423	22%
Payments for capital assets	227 202	174 098	53 104	23,4%
Buildings and other fixed structures	59 823	27 947	31 876	53%
Machinery and equipment	167 379	114 392	52 987	32%

NOTES TO THE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Heritage assets	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets	-	31 759	(31 759)	-
Payments for financial assets	10 175	10 317	(142)	(1%)
Total	6 910 636	7 268 318	(357 682)	(5%)

Variance on compensation of employees

Variance on compensation of employees is primarily attributable to the depreciation of the Rand against major foreign currencies as well as cost of living adjustment.

Variance on goods and services

Variance on goods and services is primarily attributable to depreciation of the Rand against major foreign currencies.

Variance on transfers and subsidies

Variance on transfers and subsidies is primarily attributable to unspent funds earmarked for membership fees for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that were not paid due to discontinued membership by the South African Government, as well as a decrease in payments for leave gratuity and severance packages paid to officials as a result of natural attrition.

Variance on payment of capital assets

Variance on payment of capital assets is primarily attributable to the delay in property maintenance and renovation projects.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4.3 Per conditional grant (Only report on the conditional grants applicable to the department)

Conditional grant	Final Budget	Actual expenditure	Variance	Expenditure as % of final budget
	R'000	R'000	R'000	%
Total				

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 31 March 2024

R'000

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
REVENUE			
Annual appropriation	1	6 910 636	6 784 318
Statutory appropriation	2	-	-
Departmental revenue	3	70 509	186 154
NRF Receipts		-	-
Aid assistance		4 205	-
TOTAL REVENUE		6 985 350	6 970 472
EXPENDITURE			
Current expenditure		6 209 333	5 607 972
Compensation of employees	5	3 316 554	3 057 465
Goods and services	6	2 731 859	2 409 734
Interest and rent on land	7	160 920	140 773
Aid assistance	4	-	-
Transfers and subsidies		874 570	793 056
Transfers and subsidies	9	874 570	793 056
Aid assistance	4	-	-

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Expenditure for capital assets		174 098	285 729
Tangible assets	10	142 338	194 178
Intangible assets	10	31 760	91 551
Unauthorised expenditure approved without funding			
Payments for financial assets	8	10 317	20 800
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		7 268 318	6 707 557
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(282 968)	262 915
Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			
Voted funds		(357 682)	76 761
Annual appropriation		(357 682)	76 761
Statutory appropriation		-	-
Conditional grants		-	-
Departmental revenue and NRF receipts	19	70 509	186 154
Aid assistance	4	4 205	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(282 968)	262 915

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
ASSETS			
Current assets		328 704	412 964
Cash and cash equivalents	11	121 587	106 358
Other financial assets	12	26 319	9 538
Prepayments and advances	13	528	3 122
Receivables	14	180 270	293 946
Loans	16	-	-
Aid assistance prepayments	4	-	-
Aid assistance receivable	4	-	-
Non-current assets		241 962	275 576
Investments	15	-	-
Prepayments and advances	13	419	-
Receivables	14	196 806	220 519
Loans	16	-	-
Other financial assets	12	44 737	55 057
TOTAL ASSETS		570 666	688 540

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities		1 292 006	973 300
Voted funds to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund	17	-	76 761
Statutory Appropriation to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund	18	-	-
Departmental revenue and NRF Receipts to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund	19	15 740	98 892
Bank overdraft	20	995 989	420 011
Payables	4	276 072	377 636
Aid assistance repayable	4	4 205	-
Aid assistance unutilised		-	-
Non-current liabilities		8 464	530 788
Payables	22	8 464	530 788
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1 300 470	1 504 088
NET ASSETS		(729 804)	(815 548)

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Represented by:		-	-
Capitalisation reserve		1 729	2 621
Recoverable revenue		522 279	-
Retained funds		-	-
Revaluation reserves		(1 253 812)	(818 169)
Unauthorised expenditure		(729 804)	(815 548)
TOTAL			

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Capitalisation reserves		-	-
Opening balance		-	-
Transfers		-	-
Movement in equity		-	-
Movement in operational funds		-	-
Other movements		-	-
Closing balance		-	-
Recoverable revenue			
Opening balance		2 621	3 679
Transfers:		(892)	(1 058)
Irrecoverable amounts written off	8.3	-	-
Debts revised		-	-
Debts recovered (included in departmental revenue)		(892)	(1 058)
Debts raised		-	-
Closing balance		1 729	2 621

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Retained funds

Opening balance	–	–
Transfer from voted funds to be surrendered (Parliament/Legislatures ONLY)	–	–
Utilised during the year	–	–
Other transfers	522 279	–
Closing balance	522 279	–

Revaluation reserve

Opening balance	–	(1 663)
Revaluation adjustment (Human Settlements departments)	–	–
Transfers	–	–
Other	–	1 663
Closing balance	–	–

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unauthorised expenditure

Opening balance	(818 169)	(818 169)
Unauthorised expenditure - current year	(435 643)	-
Relating to overspending of the vote or main division within the vote	(435 643)	-
Incurred not in accordance with the purpose of the vote or main division	-	-
Less: Amounts approved by Parliament/Legislature with funding	-	-
Less: Amounts approved by Parliament/Legislature without funding and derecognised	-	-
Current	-	-
Capital	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-
Less: Amounts recoverable	-	-
Less: Amounts written off	-	-
Closing Balance	(1 253 812)	(818 169)
TOTAL	(729 804)	(815 548)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts		6 902 496	6 968 941
Annual appropriation funds received	1.1	6 830 636	6 784 318
Statutory appropriation funds received	2	-	-
Departmental revenue received	3	66 557	181 683
Interest received	3.3	1 098	2 940
NRF receipts		-	-
Aid assistance received	4	4 205	-
Net (increase)/decrease in net working capital		14 287	44 325
Surrendered to Revenue Fund		(230 422)	(615 909)
Surrendered to RDP Fund/Donor		-	-
Current payments		(6 048 413)	(5 467 199)
Interest paid	7	(160 920)	(140 773)
Payments for financial assets		(10 317)	(20 800)
Transfers and subsidies paid		(874 570)	(793 056)
Net cash flow available from operating activities	23	(407 859)	(24 471)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Distribution/dividend received		-	-
Payments for capital assets	10	(174 098)	(285 729)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	3.4	2 854	1 531
(Increase)/decrease in loans		-	-
(Increase)/decrease in investments		-	-
(Increase)/decrease in other financial assets		(6 461)	(5 395)
(Increase)/decrease in non-current receivables	14	23 713	23 761
Net cash flow available from investing activities		(153 992)	(265 832)

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Increase/(decrease) in net assets		521 387	605
Increase/(decrease) in non-current payables		(522 324)	648
Net cash flows from financing activities		(937)	1 253
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(560 749)	(289 050)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		(313 653)	(24 603)
Unrealised gains and losses within cash and cash equivalents		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	24	(874 402)	(313 653)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PART A: ACCOUNTING POLICIES**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following policies, which have been applied consistently in all material aspects, unless otherwise indicated. Management has concluded that the financial statements present fairly the department's primary and secondary information.

The historical cost convention has been used, except where otherwise indicated. Management has used assessments and estimates in preparing the annual financial statements. These are based on the best information available at the time of preparation.

Where appropriate and meaningful, additional information has been disclosed to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements and to comply with the statutory requirements of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Act 1 of 1999 (as amended by Act 29 of 1999), and the Treasury Regulations issued in terms of the PFMA and the annual Division of Revenue Act.

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Modified Cash Standard.

2. GOING CONCERN

The financial statements have been on a going concern basis.

3. PRESENTATION CURRENCY

Amounts have been presented in the currency of the South African Rand (R) which is also the functional currency of the department

4. ROUNDING

Unless otherwise stated financial figures have been rounded to the nearest one thousand Rand (R'000).

5. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Cash flows arising from foreign currency transactions are translated into South African Rands using the spot exchange rates prevailing at the date of payment/receipt.

6. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**6.1 Prior period comparative information**

Prior period comparative information has been presented in the current year's financial statements. Where necessary figures included in the prior period financial statements have been reclassified to ensure that the format in which the information is presented is consistent with the format of the current year's financial statements.

6.2 Current year comparison with budget

A comparison between the approved, final budget and actual amounts for each programme and economic classification is included in the appropriation statement.

7. REVENUE**7.1 Appropriated funds**

Appropriated funds comprises departmental allocations as well as direct charges against the revenue fund (i.e., statutory appropriation).

Appropriated funds are recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date the appropriation becomes effective. Adjustments made in terms of the adjustments budget process are recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date the adjustments become effective.

Appropriated funds are measured at the amounts receivable.

The net amount of any appropriated funds due to/from the relevant revenue fund at the reporting date is recognised as a payable/receivable in the statement of financial position.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

7.2 Departmental revenue

Departmental revenue is recognised in the statement of financial performance when received and is subsequently paid into the relevant revenue fund, unless stated otherwise.
Departmental revenue is measured at the cash amount received.

In-kind donations received are recorded in the notes to the financial statements on the date of receipt and are measured at fair value.

Any amount owing to the relevant revenue fund at the reporting date is recognised as a payable in the statement of financial position.

7.3 Accrued departmental revenue

Accruals in respect of departmental revenue (excluding tax revenue) are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when:

- it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the department
- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.
- The accrued revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration receivable.

Accrued tax revenue (and related interest and penalties) is measured at amounts receivable from collecting agents.

Write-offs are made according to the department's debt write-off policy.

8. EXPENDITURE**8.1 Compensation of employees****8.1.1 Salaries and wages**

Salaries and wages are recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment.

8.1.2 Social contributions

Social contributions made by the department in respect of current employees are recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment.

Social contributions made by the department in respect of ex-employees are classified as transfers to households in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment.

8.2 Other expenditure

Other expenditure (such as goods and services, transfers and subsidies, and payments for capital assets) is recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment. The expense is classified as a capital expense if the total consideration paid is more than the capitalisation threshold.

Donations made in kind are recorded in the notes to the financial statements on the date of transfer and are measured at cost or fair value.

8.3 Accruals and payables not recognised

Accruals and payables not recognised are recorded in the notes to the financial statements at cost or fair value at the reporting date.

8.4 Leases**8.4.1 Operating leases**

Operating lease payments made during the reporting period are recognised as current expenditure in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment. Operating lease payments received are recognised as departmental revenue.

The operating lease commitments are recorded in the notes to the financial statements.

8.4.2 Finance leases

Finance lease payments made during the reporting period are recognised as capital expenditure in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment. Finance lease payments received are recognised as departmental revenue.

The finance lease commitments are recorded in the notes to the financial statements and are not apportioned between the capital and interest portions.

Finance lease assets acquired at the end of the lease term are recorded and measured at the lower of:

- cost, being the fair value of the asset

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

- the sum of the minimum lease payments made, including any payments made to acquire ownership at the end of the lease term, excluding interest.

9. AID ASSISTANCE**9.1 Aid assistance received**

Aid assistance received in cash is recognised in the statement of financial performance when received. In-kind aid assistance is recorded in the notes to the financial statements on the date of receipt and is measured at fair value.

CARA Funds are recognised when receivable and measured at the amounts receivable.

Aid assistance not spent for the intended purpose and any unutilised funds from aid assistance that are required to be refunded to the donor are recognised as a payable in the statement of financial position.

9.2 Aid assistance paid

Aid assistance paid is recognised in the statement of financial performance on the date of payment. Aid assistance payments made prior to the receipt of funds are recognised as a receivable in the statement of financial position.

10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost in the statement of financial position.

Bank overdrafts are shown separately on the face of the statement of financial position as a current liability.

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held, other short-term highly liquid investments and bank overdrafts.

11. PREPAYMENTS AND ADVANCES

Prepayments and advances are recognised in the statement of financial position when the department receives or disburses the cash.

Prepayments and advances are initially and subsequently measured at cost.

12. RECEIVABLES

Receivables are recognised in the statement of financial position at cost plus accrued interest, where interest is charged, less amounts already settled or written off. Write-offs are made according to the department's write-off policy.

13. Financial assets**13.1 Financial assets (not covered elsewhere)**

A financial asset is recognised initially at its cost-plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset.

At the reporting date, a department shall measure its financial assets at cost, less amounts already settled or written off, except for recognised loans and receivables, which are measured at cost plus accrued interest, where interest is charged, less amounts already settled or written off.

13.2 Impairment of financial assets

Where there is an indication of impairment of a financial asset, an estimation of the reduction in the recorded carrying value, to reflect the best estimate of the amount of the future economic benefits expected to be received from that asset, is recorded in the notes to the financial statements.

14. PAYABLES

Payables recognised in the statement of financial position are recognised at cost.

15. CAPITAL ASSETS**15.1 Immovable capital assets**

Immovable assets reflected in the asset register of the department are recorded in the notes to the financial statements at cost or fair value where the cost cannot be determined reliably. Immovable assets acquired in a non-exchange transaction are recorded at fair value at the date

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

of acquisition. Immovable assets are subsequently carried in the asset register at cost and are not currently subject to depreciation or impairment.

Subsequent expenditure of a capital nature forms part of the cost of the existing asset when ready for use.

Additional information on immovable assets not reflected in the asset register is provided in the notes to the financial statements.

15.2 Movable capital assets

Movable capital assets are initially recorded in the notes to the financial statements at cost. Movable capital assets acquired through a non-exchange transaction are measured at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Where the cost of movable capital assets cannot be determined reliably, the movable capital assets are measured at fair value, and where fair value cannot be determined, the movable assets are measured at R1.

All assets acquired prior to 1 April 2002 (or a later date as approved by the OAG) may be recorded at R1.

Movable capital assets are subsequently carried at cost and are not subject to depreciation or impairment.

Subsequent expenditure that is of a capital nature forms part of the cost of the existing asset when ready for use.

15.3 Intangible capital assets

Intangible assets are initially recorded in the notes to the financial statements at cost. Intangible assets acquired through a non-exchange transaction are measured at fair value as at the date of acquisition. Internally generated intangible assets are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when the department commences the development phase of the project.

Where the cost of intangible assets cannot be determined reliably, the intangible capital assets are measured at fair value, and where fair value cannot be determined, the intangible assets are measured at R1.

All assets acquired prior to 1 April 2002 (or a later date as approved by the OAG) may be recorded at R1.

Intangible assets are subsequently carried at cost and are not subject to depreciation or impairment.

Subsequent expenditure of a capital nature forms part of the cost of the existing asset when ready for use.

15.4 Project costs: work-in-progress

Expenditure of a capital nature is initially recognised in the statement of financial performance at cost when paid.

Amounts paid towards capital projects are separated from the amounts recognised and accumulated in work-in-progress until the underlying asset is ready for use. Once ready for use, the total accumulated payments are recorded in an asset register. Subsequent payments to complete the project are added to the capital asset in the asset register.

Where the department is not the custodian of the completed project asset, the asset is transferred to the custodian subsequent to completion.

16. PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENTS**16.1 Provisions**

Provisions are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when there is a present legal or constructive obligation to forfeit economic benefits as a result of events in the past and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made. The provision is measured as the best estimate of the funds required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

16.2 Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when there is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not within the control of the department or when there is a present obligation that is not recognised because it is not probable

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

16.3 Contingent assets

Contingent assets are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when a possible asset arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not within the control of the department.

16.4 Capital commitments

Capital commitments are recorded at cost in the notes to the financial statements.

17. UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE

Unauthorised expenditure is measured at the amount of the confirmed unauthorised expenditure.

Unauthorised expenditure is recognised in the statement of changes in net assets until such time as the expenditure is either:

- approved by Parliament or the Provincial Legislature with funding and the related funds are received; or
 - approved by Parliament or the Provincial Legislature without funding and is written off against the appropriation in the statement of financial performance; or
 - transferred to receivables for recovery.
- Unauthorised expenditure recorded in the notes to the financial statements comprises of:
- unauthorised expenditure that was under assessment in the previous financial year;
 - unauthorised expenditure relating to the previous financial year and identified in the current year; and
 - Unauthorised incurred in the current year.

18. FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure receivables are recognised in the statement of financial position when recoverable. The receivable is measured at the amount that is expected to be recovered and is de-recognised when settled or subsequently written off as irrecoverable.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recorded in the notes to the financial statements when and at amounts confirmed and comprises:

- fruitless and wasteful expenditure that was under assessment in the previous financial year
- fruitless and wasteful expenditure relating to the previous financial year and identified in the current year
- fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred in the current year.

19. IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE

Losses emanating from irregular expenditure are recognised as a receivable in the statement of financial position when recoverable. The receivable is measured at the amount that is expected to be recovered and is de-recognised when settled or subsequently written off as irrecoverable.

Irregular expenditure is recorded in the notes to the financial statements when and at amounts confirmed and comprises:

- irregular expenditure that was under assessment in the previous financial year
- irregular expenditure relating to the previous financial year and identified in the current year
- irregular expenditure incurred in the current year.

20. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES, ESTIMATES AND ERRORS

Changes in accounting policies are applied in accordance with MCS requirements.

Changes in accounting estimates are applied prospectively in accordance with MCS requirements.

Correction of errors is applied retrospectively in the period in which the error has occurred in accordance with MCS requirements, except to the extent that it is impracticable to determine the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the error. In such cases, the department shall restate the opening balances of assets, liabilities and net assets for the earliest period for which retrospective restatement is practicable.

21. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

Events after the reporting date that are classified as adjusting events have been accounted for in the financial statements. The events after the reporting date that are classified as non-adjusting events after the reporting date have been disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

22. PRINCIPAL-AGENT ARRANGEMENTS

The department is party to a principal-agent arrangement for [include details here]. In terms of the arrangement the department is the [principal / agent] and is responsible for [include details here]. All related revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities have been recognised or recorded in terms of the relevant policies listed herein. Additional disclosures have been provided in the notes to the financial statements where appropriate.

Accruals and payables not recognised for employee benefits are measured at cost or fair value at the reporting date.

The provision for employee benefits is measured as the best estimate of the funds required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

23. RECOVERABLE REVENUE

Amounts are recognised as recoverable revenue when a payment made in a previous financial year becomes recoverable from a debtor in the current financial year. Amounts are either transferred to the National/Provincial Revenue Fund when recovered or are transferred to the statement of financial performance when written off.

24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions within the Minister's portfolio are recorded in the notes to the financial statements when the transaction is not at arm's length.

The full compensation of key management personnel is recorded in the notes to the financial statements.

25. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are accounted for based on the nature and/or the substance of the partnership. The transaction is accounted for in accordance with the relevant accounting policies.

A summary of the significant terms of the PPP agreement, the parties to the agreement, and the date of commencement thereof, together with the description and nature of the concession fees received, the unitary fees paid, rights, and obligations of the department, are recorded in the notes to the financial statements.

26. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The value of each major class of employee benefit obligation (accruals, payables not recognised and provisions) is recorded in the Employee benefits note.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

PART B: EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION

1.1. Annual Appropriation

Included are funds appropriated in terms of the Appropriation Act (and the Adjustments Appropriation Act) for National Departments (Voted funds) and Provincial Departments:

	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	Final Budget	Actual Funds received	Funds not requested / not received	Final Budget	Appropriation Received	Funds not requested / not received
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Programmes						
Administration	1 631 605	1 631 605	-	1 688 171	1 688 171	-
International Relations	3 398 763	3 398 763	-	3 386 270	3 386 270	-
International Cooperation	594 225	594 225	-	559 631	559 631	-
Public Diplomacy and Protocol Services	404 189	324 189	80 000	336 822	336 822	-
International Transfers	881 854	881 854	-	813 424	813 424	-
Total	6 910 636	6 830 636	80 000	6 784 318	6 784 318	-

The funds not requested/not received of R80 million could not be withdrawn due to the second adjustment appropriation which was approved in May 2024.

1.2. Conditional grants

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Total grants received			
Provincial grants included in total grants received	46		

2. STATUTORY APPROPRIATION

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
	46		

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Tax revenue		-	-
Sales of goods and services other than capital assets	46	878	1 137
Fines, penalties and forfeits		-	34
Interest, dividends and rent on land		1 098	2 940
Sales of capital assets		2 854	1 531
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities		65 679	180 512
Transfers received		-	-
Total revenue collected		70 509	186 154
Less: Own revenue included in appropriation		-	-
Total		70 509	186 154

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3.1. Sales of goods and services other than capital assets

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Sales of goods and services produced by the department		850	1 083
Sales by market establishment		396	635
Administrative fees		-	-
Other sales		454	448
Sales of scrap, waste and other used current goods		28	54
Total	3	878	1 137

3.2. Fines, penalties and forfeits

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Fines		-	-
Penalties		-	34
Forfeits		-	-
Total	3	-	34

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3.3. Interest, dividends and rent on land

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Interest		1 098	2 940
Dividends		-	-
Rent on land		-	-
Total	3	1 098	2 940

3.4. Sales of capital assets

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Tangible capital assets		2 854	1 531
Buildings and other fixed structures		-	-
Machinery and equipment		2 854	1 531
Heritage assets		-	-
Specialised military assets		-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-
Biological assets		-	-
		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Intangible capital assets

Software

Mastheads and publishing titles

Patents, licences, copyright, brand names and trademarks

Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models

Services and operating rights

Total

3

2 854**1 531****3.5. Transactions in financial assets and liabilities**

Loans and advances

Receivables

Forex gain

Other receipts including Recoverable Revenue

Gains on GFECRA

Total

3

2023/24**2022/23****Note****R'000****R'000**

-

-

-

-

5 980

85 668

59 699

94 844

-

-

65 679**180 512***Reduction on forex gain is due to the depreciation of Rand against major foreign currencies*

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3.6. Transfers received

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Other governmental units		-	-
Higher education institutions		-	-
Foreign governments		-	-
International organisations		-	-
Public corporations and private enterprises		-	-
Households and non-profit institutions	3	-	-
Total			

3.6.1. Gifts, donations and sponsorships received in-kind (not included in the main note or sub note)

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Gifts	<i>Annex 1H</i>	-	-
Donations		-	-
Sponsorships		13 775	3 697
Total gifts, donations and sponsorships received in kind		13 775	3 697

The increase in sponsorships is as a result of sponsorship received for the XV BRICS Summit

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3.7. Cash received not recognised (not included in the main note)

	2023/2024		
	Amount Received	Amount paid to the Revenue Fund	Balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity			
Revenue collected on behalf of Department of Home Affairs (DHA) for civic and immigration services	235 448	187 093	48 355
Total	235 448	187 093	48 355

	2023/2024		
	Amount Received	Amount paid to the Revenue Fund	Balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity			
Revenue collected on behalf of DHA for civic and immigration services	195 730	150 575	45 155
Total	195 730	150 575	45 155

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. AID ASSISTANCE

		2023/2024	2022/2023
	Note	R'000	R'000
Opening balance		-	-
Prior period error		-	-
As restated		-	-
Transferred from statement of financial performance		4 205	-
Transfers to or from retained funds		-	-
Paid during the year		-	-
Closing balance		4 205	-

4.1. Analysis of balance by source

		2023/2024	2022/2023
	Note	R'000	R'000
Aid assistance from RDP		4 205	-
Aid assistance from other sources		-	-
CARA Funds		-	-
Closing balance	4	4 205	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4.2. Analysis of balance

		2023/2024	2022/2023
	Note	R'000	R'000
Aid assistance receivable		-	-
Aid assistance prepayments (not expensed)		-	-
Aid assistance unutilised		-	-
Aid assistance repayable		4 205	-
Closing balance	4	4 205	-

4.2.1. Aid assistance prepayments (expensed)

	2023/2024				
	Amount as at 1 April 2023	Less: Received in the current year	Less other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2024
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity					
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2022/2023				
	Amount as at 1 April 2022	Less: Received in the current year	Add/Less other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity					
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

4.3. Prior period error**Nature of prior period error**

Relating to 2022/23 [affecting the opening balance]

Relating to 2022/23

Total period of errors

Note

2022/23

R'000

-

-

-

-

-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4.4. Aid assistance expenditure per economic classification

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Current		-	-
Capital	10	-	-
Transfers and subsidies		-	-
Total aid assistance expenditure		-	-

4.5. Aid assistance received in-kind (not included in the main note)

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
List aid assistance received in-kind	Annex 11	-	-
	10	-	-
		-	-
Total aid assistance received in kind		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

5. COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES**5.1 Analysis of balance**

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Basic salary	<i>Annex 11</i>	1 696 535	1 576 293
Performance award	<i>10</i>	675	-
Service based		1 442	1 700
Compensative/circumstantial		55 287	44 570
Periodic payments		-	-
Other non-pensionable allowances		1 235 344	1 129 938
Total		2 989 283	2 752 501

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

5.2 Social contributions

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Employer contributions			
Pension		205 178	192 160
Medical		121 851	112 457
UIF		-	-
Bargaining council		224	307
Official unions and associations		-	-
Insurance		18	40
Total		327 271	304 964
Total compensation of employees		3 316 554	3 057 465
Average number of employees		3 174	3 238

Officials appointed in terms of the Public Service Act (1 886 - 2023/2024)(1 954 - 2022/2023) Officials not appointed in terms of the Public Service Act Locally Recruited (1 288 - 2023/2024)(1 284 - 2022/2023)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. GOODS AND SERVICES

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Administrative fees		14 803	10 695
Advertising		26 043	3 627
Minor assets		2 660	4 109
Bursaries (employees)		1 403	864
Catering		17 843	8 429
Communication		45 067	41 538
Computer services	6.2	233 340	195 062
Consultants: Business and advisory services	6.9	10 880	2 733
Infrastructure and planning services		-	-
Laboratory services		-	791
Scientific and technological services		-	-
Legal services		15 905	9 063
Contractors		34 700	37 122
Agency and support / outsourced services		5 501	2 936
Entertainment		9 078	8 749
Audit cost - external	6.3	21 837	20 665
Fleet services		17 869	14 564
Inventories	6.4	-	-
Consumables	6.5	51 993	54 209

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Housing		-	-
Operating leases		1 081 824	989 117
Property payments	6.6	480 541	460 819
Rental and hiring		394	651
Transport provided as part of the departmental activities		-	-
Travel and subsistence	6.7	352 316	317 630
Venues and facilities		77 748	22 964
Training and development		2 633	3 421
Other operating expenditure	6.8	227 481	199 976
Total		2 731 859	2 409 734

6.1. Minor assets

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Tangible capital assets		2 660	4 109
Buildings and other fixed structures		-	-
Biological assets		2 660	4 109
Heritage assets		-	-
Machinery and equipment		-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-
Specialised military assets		-	-
		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Intangible capital assets

	2 660	4 109
Software	-	-
Mastheads and publishing titles	2 660	4 109
Patents, licences, copyright, brand names and trademarks	-	-
Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models	-	-
Services and operating rights	-	-
Total	2 660	4 109

6.2. Computer services

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
SITA computer services		1 380	1 479
External computer service providers		231 960	193 583
Total	6	233 340	195 062

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6.3. Audit cost - external

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Regularity audits		21 837	20 665
Performance audits		-	-
Investigations		-	-
Environmental audits		-	-
Computer audits		-	-
Total	6	21 837	20 665

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6.4. Inventories

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Clothing material and accessories		-	-
Farming supplies		-	-
Food and food supplies		-	-
Fuel, oil and gas		-	-
Learning, teaching and support material		-	-
Materials and supplies		-	-
Medical supplies		-	-
Medicine		-	-
Medsas inventory interface		-	-
Other supplies		-	-
Total	6.4.1 6	-	-

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6.4.1 Other supplies

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Ammunition and security supplies		-	-
Assets for distribution		-	-
Machinery and equipment		-	-
School furniture		-	-
Sports and recreation		-	-
Library material		-	-
Other assets for distribution		-	-
Other		-	-
Total	6.4	-	-

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NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6.5. Consumables

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Consumable supplies		38 444	40 105
Uniform and clothing		5 657	4 522
Household supplies		8 732	6 638
Building material and supplies		-	-
Communication accessories		-	-
IT consumables		2 037	10 336
Other consumables		22 018	18 609
Stationery, printing and office supplies		13 549	14 104
Total	6	51 993	54 209

6.6. Property payments

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Municipal services		221 776	201 393
Property management fees		125 119	1 299
Property maintenance and repairs		133 646	258 127
Other		-	-
Total	6	480 541	460 819

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6.7. Travel and subsistence

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Local		60 469	48 334
Foreign		291 847	269 296
Total	6	352 316	317 630

6.8. Other operating expenditure

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Professional bodies, membership and subscription fees		2 936	2 653
Resettlement costs		7 227	11 059
Other		217 318	186 264
Total	6	227 481	199 976

6.9. Remuneration of members of a commission or committee of inquiry (Included in Consultants: Business and advisory services)

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Audit committee		1 539	1 606
Risk management		86	148
Total		1 625	1 754

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. INTEREST AND RENT ON LAND

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Interest paid		160 920	140 773
Rent on land		-	-
Total		160 920	140 773

8. PAYMENTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Material losses through criminal conduct		-	-
Theft	8.4	-	-
Other material losses	8.1	-	-
Purchase of equity		-	-
Extension of loans for policy purposes		-	-
Other material losses written off	8.2	-	-
Debts written off	8.3	9 077	19 780
Forex losses	8.5	1 240	1 020
Debt take overs		-	-
Losses on GFECRA		-	-
Total		10 317	20 800

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

8.1. Other material losses

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of other material losses	Note	R'000	R'000
Group major categories, but list material items		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Total	8	-	-

Information on any criminal or disciplinary steps taken as a result of such losses is included in the annual report under the PFMA Compliance Report.

8.2. Other material losses written off

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of other material losses	Note	R'000	R'000
Group major categories, but list material items		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Total	8	-	-

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

8.3. Debts written off

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of other debts written off	Note	R'000	R'000
Group major categories, but list material items		-	-
		-	-
Irregular expenditure written off		-	-
		-	-
Total		-	-
		-	-
Recoverable revenue written off		-	-
Total		-	-
Other debt written off		-	441
Staff debt		1 686	18 600
Rental deposit		-	739
Salary control accounts		2 703	-
S&T accounts		4 688	-
Receipt foreign claims		9 077	19 780
Total			
Total debt written off	8	9 077	19 780

The department identified less transactions in the 2023/2024 financial year to write off.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

8.4. Details of theft

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of theft	Note	R'000	R'000
Group major categories, but list material items		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
Total	8	-	-

8.5. Forex losses

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of losses	Note	R'000	R'000
Forex Losses- Foreign Payments		281	919
Forex Losses- Rental		814	101
Forex Losses- Foreign Missions		145	-
Total	8	1 240	1 020

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NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

9. TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Provinces and municipalities	47,48	-	-
Departmental agencies and accounts	Annex 1B	49 890	49 699
Higher education institutions	Annex 1C	-	-
Foreign governments and international organisations	Annex 1E	801 334	724 172
Public corporations and private enterprises	Annex 1D	-	-
Non-profit institutions	Annex 1F	-	-
Households	Annex 1G	23 346	19 185
Total		874 570	793 056

9.1. Gifts, donations and sponsorships made in kind (not included in the main note)

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Gifts	Annex 1G	402	466
Donations		-	-
Sponsorships		-	-
Total		402	466

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. EXPENDITURE FOR CAPITAL ASSETS

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Tangible capital assets		142 338	194 178
Buildings and other fixed structures		27 947	32 076
Heritage assets		-	-
Machinery and equipment		114 391	162 102
Specialised military assets		-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-
Biological assets		-	-
Intangible capital assets		31 760	91 551
Software		31 760	91 551
Mastheads and publishing titles		-	-
Patents, licences, copyright, brand names and trademarks		-	-
Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models		-	-
Services and operating rights		-	-
Total		174 098	285 729
The following amounts have been included as project costs in Expenditure for capital assets			
Compensation of employees		-	-
Goods and services		-	-
Total		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

10.1. Analysis of funds utilised to acquire capital assets - Current year

	2023/2024		
	Voted funds	Aid assistance	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity			
Tangible capital assets	142 338	-	142 338
Buildings and other fixed structures	27 947	-	27 947
Heritage assets	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	114 391	-	114 391
Specialised military assets	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-
Intangible capital assets	31 760	-	31 760
Software	31 760	-	31 760
Mastheads and publishing titles	-	-	-
Patents, licences, copyright, brand names and trademarks	-	-	-
Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models	-	-	-
Services and operating rights	-	-	-
Total	174 098		174 098

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

10.2. Analysis of funds utilised to acquire capital assets - Prior year

	2023/2024		
	Voted funds	Aid assistance	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity			
Tangible capital assets	194 178	-	194 178
Buildings and other fixed structures	32 076	-	32 076
Heritage assets	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	162 102	-	162 102
Specialised military assets	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-
Intangible capital assets	91 551	-	91 551
Software	91 551	-	91 551
Mastheads and publishing titles	-	-	-
Patents, licences, copyright, brand names and trademarks	-	-	-
Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models	-	-	-
Services and operating rights	-	-	-
Total	285 729	-	285 729

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

10.3. Finance lease expenditure included in expenditure for capital assets

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Tangible capital assets			
Buildings and other fixed structures		27 947	27 947
Heritage assets		-	-
Machinery and equipment		-	-
Specialised military assets		-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-
Biological assets		-	-
Total		27 947	27 947

11. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Consolidated Paymaster General Account		-	-
Cash receipts		-	-
Disbursements		-	-
Cash on hand		368	546
Investments (Domestic)		24 824	3 705
Investments (Foreign)		96 395	102 107
Total		121 587	106 358

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reconciliation for cash with commercial banks (Investment foreign) R'000

Trial Balance: Investment foreign	93 223
Adjustments	-
Recalculated Trial Balance	93 223
Revaluated Cash book balance	96 395
Forex gain	3 171

Indicate any amounts of undrawn borrowing facilities that may be available for future operating activities and to settle capital commitments, indicating any restrictions on the use of these facilities, and the amount and nature of restricted cash balances.

12. Other financial assets

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Current			
Local			
Group major categories, but list material items		-	-
Total		-	-
Foreign		-	-
Rental deposits		26 319	9 538
Total		26 319	9 538
Total Current other financial assets		26 319	9 538

The increase from R9 538 million in the 2022/2023 financial year to R26 319 million in the 2023/2024 financial year, is due to the return of a large number of officials currently stationed abroad in June and December 2024, and it is anticipated that the rental deposits that were paid at the beginning of the lease contract will be refunded upon the ending of the lease contracts.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Non-current			
Local			
<i>Group major categories, but list material items</i>		-	-
Total		-	-
Foreign		-	-
<i>Rental deposits</i>		44 737	55 057
Total		44 737	55 057
Total non-current other financial assets		44 737	55 057

13. PREPAYMENTS AND ADVANCES

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Staff advances		-	-
Travel and subsistence		947	3 122
Prepayments (Not expensed)	13.2	-	-
Advances paid (Not expensed)	13.1	-	-
SOCPEN advances		-	-
Total		947	3 122

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Analysis of Total Prepayments and advances

Current Prepayments and advances	528	3 122
Non-current Prepayments and advances	419	-
Total	947	3 122

The reduction in travel and subsistence is a result of analyses on old balances that were approved for write- off.

13.1. Advances paid (not expensed)

2023/2024					
	Amount as at 1 April 2023	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year advances	Amount as at 31 March 2024
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
National departments	-	-	-	-	-
Provincial departments	-	-	-	-	-
Public entities	-	-	-	-	-
Other entities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022/2023					
	Amount as at 1 April 2022	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year advances	Amount as at 31 March 2023
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
National departments	-	-	-	-	-
Provincial departments	-	-	-	-	-
Public entities	-	-	-	-	-
Other entities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

13.2. Prepayments (not expensed)

2023/2024					
	Amount as at 1 April 2023	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2024
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022/2023					
	Amount as at 1 April 2022	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2023
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

13.3. Prepayments (Expensed)

2023/2024					
	Amount as at 1 April 2023	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2024
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services	70 376	(70 376)	-	57 641	57 641
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	41 881	(41 881)	-	2 739	2 739
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	112 257	(112 257)	-	60 380	60 380

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022/2023					
	Amount as at 1 April 2022	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2023
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services	72 627	(72 627)	-	70 376	70 376
Interest and rent on land	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies	-	-	-	-	-
Capital assets	1 129	(1 129)	-	41 881	41 881
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	73 756	(73 756)	-	112 257	112 257

13.4. Advances paid (Expensed)

2023/2024					
	Amount as at 1 April 2023	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2024
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
National departments	-	-	-	-	-
Provincial departments	-	-	-	-	-
Public entities	-	-	-	-	-
Other entities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2022/2023					
	Amount as at 1 April 2022	Less: amounts expensed in current year	Add/Less: Other	Add Current year prepayments	Amount as at 31 March 2023
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
National departments	-	-	-	-	-
Provincial departments	-	-	-	-	-
Public entities	-	-	-	-	-
Other entities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

14. RECEIVABLES

		2023/2024			2022/2023		
		Current	Non-current	Total	Current	Non-current	Total
Note		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Claims recoverable	14.1	138 053	165 407	303 683	254 612	186 815	441 427
Trade receivables	14.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoverable expenditure	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff debt	14.4	39 468	30 141	69 609	38 692	28 368	67 060
Other receivables	14.5	2 749	1 258	4 007	642	5 336	5 978
Total		180 270	196 806	377 076	293 946	220 519	514 465

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

14.1 Claims recoverable

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
National departments			
National departments		237 241	275 188
Provincial departments		10 345	8 814
Foreign governments		-	-
Public entities		55 874	157 425
Private enterprises		-	-
Higher education institutions		-	-
Households and non-profit institutions		-	-
Local governments		-	-
Total	14	303 460	441 427

14.2. Trade receivables

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
<i>Group major categories, but list material items</i>		-	-
Total		-	-

14.3. Recoverable expenditure

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
<i>Group major categories, but list material items</i>		-	-
Total	14	-	-

14.4. Staff debt

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Department debt		62 703	60 355
Foreign Staff debt		6 906	6 705
Total	14	69 609	67 060

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

14.5. Other receivables

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
<i>Group major categories, but list material items</i>			
Unauthorised expenditure			
Irregular expenditure	-	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure	-	-	-
Receipt foreign claims	-		4 688
African Renaissance	271		37
Salary Accounts	1 327		883
Disallowance Damages and Losses	370		370
Voted funds to be surrendered	2 039		
Total	14	4 007	5 978

14.6. Impairment of receivables

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Estimate of impairment of receivables		35 243	36 116
Total		35 243	36 116

15. INVESTMENTS

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Non-current			
Shares and other equity			
<i>List investments at cost</i>		-	-
Total		-	-
Securities other than shares	Annex 2A		
<i>List investments at cost</i>		-	-
Total		-	-
Total non-current investments		-	-

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Analysis of non-current investments			
Opening balance		-	-
Additions in cash		-	-
Disposals for cash		-	-
Non-cash movements		-	-
Closing balance		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

15.1. Impairment of investments

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Estimate of impairment of investments		-	-
Total		-	-

16.1. Impairment of loans

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Estimate of impairment of loans		-	-
Total		-	-

16. LOANS

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Public corporations		-	-
Higher education institutions		-	-
Foreign governments		-	-
Private enterprises		-	-
Non-profit institutions		-	-
Staff loans		-	-
Total		-	-

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Analysis of balance		-	-
Opening balance		-	-
New issues		-	-
Repayments		-	-
Write-offs		-	-
Closing balance		-	-

17. VOTED FUNDS TO BE SURRENDERED TO THE REVENUE FUND

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Opening balance		76 761	480 862
Prior period error	17.2		
As restated		76 761	480 862
Transferred from statement of financial performance (as restated)		(355 643)	76 761
Add: Unauthorised expenditure for the current year		435 643	-
Voted funds not requested/not received	1.1	(80 000)	-
Transferred to retained revenue to defray excess expenditure (Parliament/Legislatures)	17.1	-	-
Paid during the year		(76 761)	(480 862)
Closing balance		-	76 761

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

**17.1. Voted funds / (Excess expenditure) transferred to retained funds
(Parliament/Legislatures ONLY)**

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Opening balance		-	-
Transfer from statement of financial performance		-	-
Transfer from Departmental Revenue to defray excess expenditure	19	-	-
Total	17	-	-

17.2. Prior period error

		2022/23
	Note	R'000
Nature of prior period error		
Relating to 2022/23 [affecting the opening balance]		-
Relating to 2022/23		-
Total prior period errors		-

17.3. Reconciliation on unspent conditional grants

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Total conditional grants received	1.2	-	-
Total conditional grants spent		-	-
Unspent conditional grants to be surrendered		-	-
Less: Paid to the Provincial Revenue Fund by Provincial department		-	-
Approved for rollover		-	-
Not approved for rollover		-	-
Due by the Provincial Revenue Fund		-	-

18. STATUTORY APPROPRIATION TO BE SURRENDERED TO THE REVENUE FUND

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Opening balance			
Prior period error	18.1		
As restated			
Transferred from statement of financial performance (as restated) Statutory appropriation not requested/not received	2		
Paid during the year			
Closing balance			

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

18.1. Prior period error

		2022/23 R'000
Nature of prior period error	Note	
Relating to 2022/23 [affecting the opening balance]		
Relating to 2022/23		
Total prior period errors		

19.1. Prior period error

		2022/23 R'000
Nature of prior period error	Note	
Relating to 2022/23 [affecting the opening balance]		
Relating to 2022/23		
Total prior period errors		

19. DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE AND NRF RECEIPTS TO BE SURRENDERED TO THE REVENUE FUND

		2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
	Note		
Opening balance		98 892	47 785
Prior period error	19.1		
As restated		98 892	47 785
Transferred from statement of financial performance (as restated)		70 509	186 154
Own revenue included in appropriation		-	-
Transfer from aid assistance	4	-	-
Transferred to voted funds to defray excess expenditure (Parliament/Legislatures)	17.1	-	-
Paid during the year		(153 661)	(135 047)
Closing balance		15 740	98 892

20. BANK OVERDRAFT

		2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
	Note		
Consolidated Paymaster General account		995 989	420 011
Fund requisition account		-	-
Overdraft with commercial banks (Local)		-	-
Overdraft with commercial banks (Foreign)		-	-
Total		995 989	420 011

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

21. PAYABLES - CURRENT

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Amounts owing to other entities		-	-
Advances received	21.1	202 501	317 921
Clearing accounts	21.2	-	8
Other payables	21.3	73 571	59 707
Total		276 072	377 636

21.1. Advances received

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
National departments		120 517	90 865
Provincial departments		17 762	39 094
Public entities		64 222	187 962
Other institutions		-	-
Total	21	202 501	317 921

21.2. Clearing accounts

Description		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Salary Pension Account		-	8
Total	21	-	8

21.3. Other payables

Description		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Foreign affairs detainee funds		69	114
Salaries accounts		1 288	424
DHA revenue owed to NRF		48 355	45 155
Debt account credit balances		8	3
Foreign staff debt		6	45
Foreign entities (VAT)		23 845	13 966
Total	21	73 571	59 707

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

22. PAYABLES-NON-CURRENT

		2023/2024				
		One to two years	Two to three years	Older than three years	Total	Total
Note		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Name of entity						
Amounts owing to other entities		-	-	-	-	522 279
Advances received	22.1	-	-	-	-	-
Other payables		-	232	8 232	8 464	8 509
Total		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	232	8 232	8 464	530 788

The reduction of amounts owing to other entities from the 2022/2023 to the 2023/2024 financial year is due to the Department of Home Affairs derecognising the amount in the 2023/2024 financial year. The amount of R522 279 is still under consideration by National Treasury due to the nature of the transaction.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

22.1. Advances received

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
National departments		-	-
Provincial departments		-	-
Public entities		-	-
Other institutions		-	-
Total	22	-	-

22.2. Other payables

		2023/24	2022/23
Description	Note	R'000	R'000
Payable Adv: For&Int Org Adv Acc		8 232	8 232
Salary accounts		232	277
Total	22	8 464	8 509

23. NET CASH FLOW AVAILABLE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Net surplus/(deficit) as per Statement of Financial Performance		(282 968)	262 915
Add back non-cash/cash movements not deemed operating activities		(122 852)	(287 386)
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		33 676	(67 297)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments and advances		2 175	(100)
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets		-	-
Increase/(decrease) in payables - current		(101 453)	111 722
Proceeds from sale of capital assets		(2 854)	(1 531)
Proceeds from sale of investments		(16 781)	5 440
(Increase)/decrease in other financial assets		16 781	(5 440)
Expenditure on capital assets		174 098	285 729
Surrenders to Revenue Fund		(230 422)	(615 909)
Surrenders to RDP Fund/Donors		-	-
Voted funds not requested/not received		-	-
Statutory Appropriation not requested/not received		-	-
Own revenue included in appropriation		-	-
Other non-cash items		-	-
Net cash flow generated by operating activities		(407 859)	(24 471)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

24. RECONCILIATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS FOR CASH FLOW PURPOSES

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Consolidated Paymaster General account		(995 989)	(420 011)
Fund requisition account		-	-
Cash receipts		-	-
Disbursements		-	-
Cash on hand		368	546
Cash with commercial banks (Local)		24 824	3 705
Cash with commercial banks (Foreign)		96 395	102 107
Total		(874 402)	(313 653)

25. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**25.1. Contingent liabilities**

			2023/24	2022/23
Liable to	Nature	Note	R'000	R'000
Motor vehicle guarantees	Employees	Annex 3A	-	-
Housing loan guarantees	Employees	Annex 3A	74	185
Other guarantees		Annex 3A	-	-
Claims against the department		Annex 3B	112 857	109 369
Intergovernmental payables		Annex 5	-	-
Environmental rehabilitation liability		Annex 3B	-	-
Other		Annex 3B	61 490	61 490
Total			174 421	171 044

The reduction in the housing loan guarantee is as a result of a termination of a housing loan guarantee in 2023/2024

25.2. Contingent assets

		2023/24	2022/23
Nature of contingent asset	Note	R'000	R'000
Recovery of legal cost		843	781
Claims motor vehicles		597	597
Theft and losses		-	571
Damage to rented property		171	6 709
Bursaries		126	126
Traveling costs		235	235
Foreign Missions - VAT Claimable		1 992	6 394
Leave (LRPS and Head Office)		154	154
Advance paid for preparatory work		112 943	88 172
Leave without pay		49	200
Overpayment		113	1 550
Medical claim		1 014	1 014
Total		118 237	106 503

The ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeal in relation to the New York project, has led to an increase in the amount recoverable.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

26. Capital commitments

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Buildings and other fixed structures	2 337	2 337
Heritage assets	-	-
Machinery and equipment	889	1 976
Specialised military assets	-	-
Land and subsoil assets	-	-
Biological assets	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-
Total	3 226	4 313

27. ACCRUALS AND PAYABLES NOT RECOGNISED**27.1. Accruals**

		2023/24		2022/23	
		30 Days	30+ Days	Total	Total
Listed by economic classification	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services		56 067	617	56 684	41 822
Interest and rent on land		-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies		-	-	-	-
Capital assets		-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-
Total		56 067	617	56 684	41 822

Listed by programme level	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Administration		48 035	37 061
International Relations		3 264	1 175
International Cooperation		4 017	1 400
Public Diplomacy		1 366	2 186
International Transfers		2	-
Total		56 684	41 822

27.2. Payables not recognised

		2023/24	2022/23		
		30 Days	30+ Days	Total	Total
Listed by economic classification	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Goods and services		10 622	3 649	14 271	13 401
Interest and rent on land		-	-	-	-
Transfers and subsidies		-	-	-	-
Capital assets		-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Total		10 622	3 649	14 271	13 401

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Listed by programme level	<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000
Administration		5 356	2 379
International Relations		7 224	7 077
International Cooperation		1 000	890
Public Diplomacy		687	3 055
International Transfers		4	-
Total		14 271	13 401
		2023/24	2022/23
Included in the above totals are the following:	<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000
Confirmed balances with other departments	<i>Annex 5</i>	-	-
Confirmed balances with other government entities	<i>Annex 5</i>	-	-
Total		-	-

28. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2023/24	2022/23	
	Note	R'000	R'000
Leave entitlement		105 662	102 377
Service bonus		39 502	37 489
Performance awards		-	-
Capped leave		34 786	38 815
Other		2 684	1 812
Total		182 634	180 493

At this stage, the department is not able to reliably measure the long-term portion of the long service awards.

		2023/24	2022/23
Included in the above totals are the following:	<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000
Confirmed balances with other departments	<i>Annex 5</i>	-	-
Confirmed balances with other government entities	<i>Annex 5</i>	-	-
Total		-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

29. LEASE COMMITMENTS**29.1. Operating leases**

2023/2024

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	1 699	898 717	6 385	906 801
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	7 858	1 145 949	3 916	1 157 723
Later than 5 years	-	39 924	200 377	-	240 301
Total lease commitments	-	49 481	2 245 043	10 301	2 304 825

2022/2023

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	1 746	772 865	5 093	779 704
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	10 211	1 313 979	5 018	1 329 208
Later than 5 years	-	43 818	57 893	-	101 711
Total lease commitments	-	55 775	2 144 737	10 111	2 210 623

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Rental earned on sub-leased assets	3	-	-
Total			

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

29.2. Finance leases**2023/2024**

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	-	-	1 257	1 257
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-	-	340	340
Later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Total lease commitments	-	-	-	1 597	1 597

2022/2023

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	-	-	1 661	1 661
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-	-	539	539
Later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Total lease commitments	-	-	-	2 200	2 200

** This note excludes leases relating to public-private partnerships as they are separately disclosed in the note on Public Private Partnerships.

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Rental earned on sub-leased assets	3	-	-
Total			

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

29.3. Operating lease future revenue

2023/2024

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	-	-	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Total operating lease revenue receivable	-	-	-	-	-

2022/2023

	Specialised military equipment	Land	Buildings and other fixed structures	Machinery and equipment	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Not later than 1 year	-	-	-	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
Total operating lease revenue receivable	-	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

30. ACCRUED DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Tax revenue	-	-
Sales of goods and services other than capital assets	-	-
Fines, penalties and forfeits	-	-
Interest, dividends and rent on land	-	-
Sales of capital assets	-	-
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	-	-
Transfers received	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	-	-

30.1. Analysis of accrued departmental revenue

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	-	-
Less: amounts received	-	-
Less: services received in lieu of cash	-	-
Add: amounts recorded	-	-
Less: amounts written off/reversed as irrecoverable	-	-
Less: amounts transferred to receivables for recovery	-	-
Other (Specify)	-	-
Closing balance	-	-

30.2. Accrued departmental revenue written off

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Nature of losses	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

30.3. Impairment of accrued departmental revenue

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Estimate of impairment of accrued departmental revenue	-	-
	-	-
Total	-	-

31. UNAUTHORISED, IRREGULAR AND FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
Unauthorised expenditure - current year	435 643	-
Irregular expenditure - current year	201 532	1 439 514
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure - current year	1 218	7 427
Total	638 393	1 446 941

The Department has referred a dispute to the National Treasury for assessment following the Auditor-General's finding that the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) did not comply with SCM policies for the following bids: DIRCO 03-2021/22 and DIRCO 09-2020/21. While the Auditor-General noted irregular expenditure, the department maintains that it followed all prescribed processes per the SCM Practice Note, reaffirming its commitment to regulatory compliance and transparency.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

32. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

		2023/24	2022/23
		R'000	R'000
Revenue received	<i>Note</i>		
Tax revenue		-	-
Sales of goods and services other than capital assets		-	-
Fines, penalties and forfeits		-	-
Interest, dividends and rent on land		-	-
Sales of capital assets		-	-
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities		-	-
Transfers received		-	-
Total		-	-

		2023/24	2022/23
		R'000	R'000
Payments made	<i>Note</i>		
Compensation of employees		3 002	2 021
Goods and services		1 571	1 844
Interest and rent on land		-	-
Expenditure for capital assets		-	-
Payments for financial assets		-	-
Transfers and subsidies		-	-
Total		4 573	3 865

Year end balances arising from revenue/payments	<i>Note</i>	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Receivables from related parties		271	37
Payables to related parties		-	-
Total		271	37

Loans to/from related parties	<i>Note</i>	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Non-interest bearing loans to/(from)		-	-
Interest bearing loans to/(from)		-	-
Total		-	-

Other	<i>Note</i>	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Guarantees issued/received		-	-
List other contingent liabilities between the department and related party		-	-
Total		-	-

In-kind goods and services (provided)/received	<i>Note</i>	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
List in-kind goods and services between the department and related party		-	-
Total		-	-

The African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF) is the related party to DIRCO and under the control of the Director-General of the department. DIRCO pays for the secretariat costs, relating to compensation of employees, goods and services including the remuneration paid to members of the Audit and Risk Committees, as well as the external audit fees and these are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. In addition, DIRCO renders services in kind to the ARF for the shared services of the Director-General, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Deputy Directors-General who serve in the Advisory Committee, Internal Audit and Risk Management Units, of which the fair value for these services cannot be reliably determined. Accordingly, no amount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance for the value of these services rendered.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

33. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

	2023/24	2022/23
	R'000	R'000
Political office bearers (<i>provide detail below</i>)	7 018	6 780
Officials:		
Level 15 to 16	15 372	13 554
Level 14 (CIO)	1 886	1 726
Family members of key management personnel	-	-
Total	24 276	22 060

	2023/24	2022/23
	R'000	R'000
Key management personnel (Parliament/Legislatures)		
Speaker to Parliament/Legislature	-	-
Deputy Speaker	-	-
Secretary to Parliament/Legislature	-	-
Deputy Secretary	-	-
Chief Financial Officer	-	-
Legal advisor	-	-
Other	-	-
Total	-	-

34. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

	Note	2023/24 R'000	2022/23 R'000
Concession fee received		-	34
Base fee received		-	-
Variable fee received		-	-
Other fees received - Penalties		-	34
Unitary fee paid		312 715	292 568
Fixed component		27 947	27 947
Indexed component		284 768	264 621
Analysis of indexed component		284 768	264 621
Compensation of employees		-	-
Goods and services (excluding lease payments)		123 848	123 848
Operating leases		-	-
Interest		160 920	140 773
Capital/(Liabilities)		1 548 672	1 548 672
Tangible rights		-	-
Intangible rights		-	-
Property		1 491 202	1 491 202
Plant and equipment		57 470	57 470
Loans		-	-
Other		40 057	39 729
Prepayments and advances		-	-
Pre-production obligations		-	-
Other obligations		40 057	39 729

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Any guarantees issued by the department are disclosed in the note on contingent liabilities.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP)

The department concluded a Public-Private Partnership Agreement with the Imbumba Aganang Consortium on 13 March 2009 in terms of which the Private Party financed, designed, constructed, and currently maintains a suitable and sustainable working environment for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation's Head Office.

The scope of the project includes:

- the provision of 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.
- a conference facility seating 400 delegates to accommodate the many local and international conferences hosted by the department.
- the upgrading of the existing diplomatic guesthouse in Waterkloof; and the construction of a new guesthouse on the same site as the Head Office.

The construction of the facilities was completed at the end of August 2009 and the department relocated into the facilities during September 2009. The operational phase of the project, which will continue for 25 years, commenced on 20 September 2009.

The Unitary Fee for the project is fixed and agreed to in Schedule 8 to the PPP Agreement. The Unitary Fee is escalated annually with CPI. In addition to the fixed Unitary Fee, the department pays to the Private Party monthly pass-through costs for utilities such as water, electricity, waste management, and TV licenses, as well as additional costs for third-party services such as catering, events management, and ad hoc requests e.g., additional network cabling/power points. No contract fees are received from any third parties.

In terms of the PPP Agreement, the department has given the Private Party a 25-year contract to manage the facility and all the facility assets on behalf of the department. The Private Party is not the owner of the facility and should the PPP Agreement be terminated before its expiry date, the Private Party will not have a claim to the property but will be entitled to a termination payment as described in clauses 47 to 50 of the PPP Agreement. In addition to owning the facility, the department will, upon

expiry of the contract in September 2034, own all the assets therein and may either manage it internally or enter a new arrangement following the applicable procurement prescripts for the management thereof.

During the term of the PPP Agreement, the Private Party is obliged to provide and manage the facilities and facility assets and replace the assets at the end of its economic lifespan. This replacement of assets, which includes major items such as lifts, escalators, carpets and the HVAC systems, as well as furniture fittings and equipment, will take place in accordance with the agreed maintenance and replacement provisions contained in Schedules 4 and 6 to the PPP Agreement and is included in the agreed Unitary Fee. No additional costs are thus foreseen in this regard.

The contract furthermore contains provisions for regular maintenance surveys to be conducted by independent parties to ensure that the facilities are maintained adequately and to ensure that the replacement of furniture fittings and equipment take place at appropriate intervals.

In addition to the above, the Private Party also performs the following facilities management services:

- on site facilities helpdesk
- on site availability of electrical engineers, plumbers and handymen
- cleaning
- landscaping and gardening
- churn management.

All costs associated with these services are included in the agreed Unitary Fee.

During the year under review, the department continued its monthly meetings with the Private Party and its operations subcontractor to manage the performance of the Private Party, as well as to administratively manage the PPP Agreement. No variations were made to the PPP Agreement and no structural changes were undertaken. All facilities management services are fully operational and internal mechanisms to assess the Private Party's performance and ensure that penalties are deducted for performance not in accordance with the contract are in place.

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

35. IMPAIRMENT (OTHER THAN RECEIVABLES, ACCRUED DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE, LOANS AND INVESTMENTS)

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Please specify		-	-
Total		-	-

36. PROVISIONS

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Please specify		-	-
Total		-	-

36.1. Reconciliation of movement in provisions - Current year

	2023/2024			
	Provision 1	Provision 2	Provision 3	Total Provisions
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	-	-	-	-
Increase in provision	-	-	-	-
Settlement of provision	-	-	-	-
Unused amount reversed	-	-	-	-
Reimbursement expected from third party	-	-	-	-
Change in provision due to change in estimation of inputs	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	-	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

36.2. Reconciliation of movement in provisions - Prior year

	2022/2023			
	Provision 1	Provision 2	Provision 3	Total Provisions
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	-	-	-	-
Increase in provision	-	-	-	-
Settlement of provision	-	-	-	-
Unused amount reversed	-	-	-	-
Reimbursement expected from third party	-	-	-	-
Change in provision due to change in estimation of inputs	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	-	-	-	-

37. NON-ADJUSTING EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE

Nature of the event	Note	2023/24
		R'000

Include an estimate of the financial effect of the subsequent non- adjusting events or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made

Total

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

38. Movable Tangible Capital Assets

	2023/2024				
	Opening balance	Value Adjustments	Additions	Disposables	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
HERITAGE ASSETS	159 208		-	-	159 208
Heritage assets	159 208		-	-	159 208
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	693 055		108 228	11 307	789 976
Transport assets	181 873		24 708	6 519	200 062
Computer equipment	197 931		67 215	113	265 033
Furniture and office equipment	190 250		9 082	3 753	195 579
Other machinery and equipment	123 001		7 223	922	129 302
SPECIALISED MILITARY ASSETS	-		-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-		-	-	-
BIOLOGICAL ASSETS	-		-	-	-
Biological assets	-		-	-	-
TOTAL MOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	852 263		108 228	11 307	949 184

NumberValueNoteR'000

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2022/2023				
	Opening balance	Prior period error	Additions	Disposables	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
HERITAGE ASSETS	159 208	-	-	-	159 208
Heritage assets	159 208	-	-	-	159 208
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	590 857	26 340	116 596	40 738	693 055
Transport assets	195 761	(753)	20 301	33 436	181 873
Computer equipment	160 563	23 714	15 520	1 866	197 931
Furniture and office equipment	176 293	2 673	15 540	4 256	190 250
Other machinery and equipment	58 240	706	65 235	1 180	123 001
SPECIALISED MILITARY ASSETS	-	-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets	-	-	-	-	-
BIOLOGICAL ASSETS	-	-	-	-	-
Biological assets	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL MOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	750 065	26 340	116 596	40 738	852 263

38.1.1. Prior period error

	Note	2022/23 R'000
Nature of prior period error		
Relating to 2022/23 [affecting the opening balance]		26 340
		26 340
Relating to 2022/23		-
Total prior period errors		26 340

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

38.2. Minor assets**MOVEMENT IN MINOR CAPITAL ASSETS PER THE ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2023/2024					
	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	-	-	192	94 155	-	94 347
Value adjustments					-	-
Additions	-	-	-	2 422	-	2 422
Disposals	-	-	-	3 121	-	3 121
Total Minor assets	-	-	192	93 456	-	93 648

	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Number of R1 minor assets	-	-	-	22 816	-	22 816
Number of minor assets at cost	-	-	-	87 935	-	87 935
Total number of minor assets	-	-	-	110 751	-	110 751

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Minor capital assets under investigation

	Number	Value
	Note	R'000
Included in the above total of the minor capital assets per the asset register that are under investigation:		
Specialised military assets		
Intangible assets		
Heritage assets		
Machinery and equipment		
Biological assets		

MOVEMENT IN MINOR CAPITAL ASSETS PER THE ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2022/2023					
	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance	-	-	192	95 602	-	95 794
Prior period error	-	-	-	(1 175)	-	(1 175)
Additions	-	-	-	3 033	-	3 033
Disposals	-	-	-	3 305	-	3 305
Total Minor assets	-	-	192	94 155	-	94 347

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Number of R1 minor assets	-	-	-	24 062	-	24 062
Number of minor assets at cost	-	-	-	91 052	-	91 052
Total number of minor assets	-	-	-	115 114	-	115 114

38.2.1. Prior period error**Nature of prior period error**

Note

2022/23

R'000

Relating to 2022/23 *[affecting the opening balance]*

(1 175)

(1 175)

Relating to 2022/23

Total prior period errors

(1 175)

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

38.3. Movable tangible capital assets written off**MOVEMENT IN MINOR CAPITAL ASSETS PER THE ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2023/2024					
	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Assets written off	-	-	-	408	-	408
Total movable assets written off	-	-	-	408	-	408

	2022/2023					
	Specialised military assets	Intangible assets	Heritage assets	Machinery and equipment	Biological assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Assets written off	-	-	-	77	-	77
Total movable assets written off	-	-	-	77	-	77

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

38.4. Movable tangible capital assets: Capital Work-in-progress**CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		2023/2024			
		Opening balance1 April 2023	Current year WIP	Ready for use(Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2024
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
	Note				
Heritage assets		-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment		-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets		-	-	-	-
Biological assets		-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-

Payables not recognised relating to Capital WIP

		2023/24	2022/23
		R'000	R'000
	Note		

Amounts relating to progress certificates received but not paid at year end and therefore not included in capital work-in-progress

	-	-
	-	-
-Total	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2022/2023			
CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023		Opening balance1 April 2023	Current year WIP	Ready for use(Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2024
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Heritage assets		-	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment		-	-	-	-
Specialised military assets		-	-	-	-
Biological assets		-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-

39. INTANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**MOVEMENT IN INTANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS PER ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		2023/2024			
		Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Closing balance
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
SOFTWARE		129 785	31 760	15 134	146 411
MASTHEADS AND PUBLISHING TITLES		-	-	-	-
PATENTS, LICENCES, COPYRIGHT, BRAND NAMES, TRADEMARKS		-	-	-	-
RECIPES, FORMULAE, PROTOTYPES,		-	-	-	-
DESIGNS, MODELS		-	-	-	-
SERVICES AND OPERATING RIGHTS		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INTANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS		129 785	31 760	15 134	146 411

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Intangible	Capital	Assets	under	investigation
			Number	Value
			Note	R'000
Included in the above total of the intangible capital assets per the asset register that are under investigation:				
Software				
Mastheads and publishing titles				
Patents, licences, copyright, brand names, trademarks				
Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models				
Services and operating rights				

39.1. MOVEMENT IN INTANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS PER ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2022/2023				
	Note	Opening balance	Prior period error	Additions	Disposals	Closing balance
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
SOFTWARE		41 176	(2 942)	91 551		129 785
MASTHEADS AND PUBLISHING TITLES		-	-	-	-	-
PATENTS, LICENCES, COPYRIGHT, BRAND NAMES, TRADEMARKS		-	-	-	-	-
RECIPES, FORMULAE, PROTOTYPES,		-	-	-	-	-
DESIGNS, MODELS		-	-	-	-	-
SERVICES AND OPERATING RIGHTS		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INTANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS		41 176	(2 942)	91 551		129 785

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

39.1.1. Prior period error

	2022/23
Nature of prior period error	Note R'000
Relating to 2022/23 <i>[affecting the opening balance]</i>	
	(2 942)
Relating to 2022/23	
Total prior period errors	2 942

39.2. Intangible capital assets: Capital Work-in-progress

		2023/2024			
CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024		Opening balance1 April 2023	Current year WIP	Ready for use (Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2024
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Intangible assets	<i>Annex 7</i>	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

Payables not recognised relating to Capital WIP

	2023/24	2022/23
Note	R'000	R'000
<i>Amounts relating to progress certificates received but not paid at year end and therefore not included in capital work-in-progress</i>	-	-
Total	-	-

CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2023/2024				
	Note	Opening balance1 April 2022	Prior period error	Current year WIP	Ready for use (Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2023
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Intangible assets	Annex 7	-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

40. IMMOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**MOVEMENT IN IMMOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS PER ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2023/2024			
	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
BUILDINGS AND OTHER FIXED STRUCTURES	4 015 643	-	-	4 015 643
Dwellings	2 194 860	-	-	2 194 860
Non-residential buildings	1 819 038	-	-	1 819 038
Other fixed structures	1 745	-	-	1 745
HERITAGE ASSETS	7 096	-	-	7 096
Heritage assets	7 096	-	-	7 096
LAND AND SUBSOIL ASSETS	231 176	-	-	231 176
Land	231 176	-	-	231 176
Mineral and similar non-regenerative resources	-	-	-	-
TOTAL IMMOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	4 253 915	-	-	4 253 915

Movable	Tangible	Capital	Assets	under	investigation
				Number	Value
				Note	R'000
Included in the above total of the immovable tangible capital assets per the asset register that are under investigation:					
Buildings and other fixed structures					
Heritage assets					
Land and subsoil assets					
Total				1	119 664

DIRCO is waiting for a letter of approval from India to construct a chancery and official residence building on the New Delhi land. The cost of the land is R119 million.

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

40.1. MOVEMENT IN IMMOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS PER ASSET REGISTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**2022/2023**

	Opening balance	Prior period error	Additions	Disposals	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
BUILDINGS AND OTHER FIXED STRUCTURES	4 011 513	-	4 130	-	4 015 643
Dwellings	2 190 730	-	4 130	-	2 194 860
Non-residential buildings	1 819 038	-	-	-	1 819 038
Other fixed structures	1 745	-	-	-	1 745
HERITAGE ASSETS	7 096	-	-	-	7 096
Heritage assets	7 096	-	-	-	7 096
LAND AND SUBSOIL ASSETS	231 176	-	-	-	231 176
Land	231 176	-	-	-	231 176
Mineral and similar non-regenerative resources	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL IMMOVABLE TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	4 249 785	-	4 130	-	4 253 915

40.1.1. Prior period error**2022/23****Nature of prior period error**

Note

R'000Relating to 2022/23 *[affecting the opening balance]*

Relating to 2022/23

Total prior period errors

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

40.2. Immovable tangible capital assets: Capital Work-in-progress

CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024		2023/2024			
		Opening balance1 April 2023	Current year WIP	Ready for use (Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2024
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
	Note				
Heritage assets	Annex 7	-	-	-	-
Buildings and other fixed structures		-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-

Payables not recognised relating to Capital WIP

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
<i>Amounts relating to progress certificates received but not paid at year end and therefore not included in capital work-in-progress</i>			
		-	-
		-	-
Total		-	-

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2022/2023			
		Opening balance ¹ April 2022	Current year WIP	Ready for use (Assets to the AR)/Contracts terminated	Closing balance 31 March 2023
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Heritage assets		-	-	-	-
Buildings and other fixed structures		-	-	-	-
Land and subsoil assets		-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	-	-

40.3. Immovable tangible capital assets written off

		2023/2024			
IMMOVABLE CAPITAL ASSETS WRITTEN OFF FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024		Building and other fixed structures	Heritage assets	Land and subsoil assets	Total
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Assets written off		-	-	-	-
Total Immovable capital assets written off		-	-	-	-

		2022/2023			
IMMOVABLE CAPITAL ASSETS WRITTEN OFF FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023		Building and other fixed structures	Heritage assets	Land and subsoil assets	Total
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Assets written off		-	-	-	-
Total Immovable capital assets written off		-	-	-	-

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

IMMOVABLE CAPITAL ASSETS WRITTEN OFF FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2022/2023			
	Building and other fixed structures	Heritage assets	Land and subsoil assets	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Assets written off	-	-	-	-
Total immovable capital assets written off	-	-	-	-

40.4. Immovable capital assets (additional information)

		Note	2023/24	2022/23
	Estimated completion date		Area	Area
a)	Unsurveyed land	Annex 9		
b)	Properties deemed vested	Annex 9		
	Land parcels			
	Facilities			
	Schools			
	Clinics			
	Hospitals			
	Office buildings			
	Dwellings			
	Storage facilities			
	Other			

c) Facilities on unsurveyed land Duration of use Annex 9

Schools
Clinics
Hospitals
Office buildings
Dwellings
Storage facilities
Other

d) Facilities on right to use land Duration of use Annex 9

Schools
Clinics
Hospitals
Office buildings
Dwellings
Storage facilities
Other

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NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

e) Agreement of custodianship *Annex 9*

Land parcels
Facilities
Schools
Clinics
Hospitals
Office buildings
Dwellings
Storage facilities
Other

41. Principal-agent arrangements

41.1. Department acting as the principal

	2023/24	2022/23
<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000

Include a list of the entities acting as agents for the department, the fee paid as compensation to the agent and any other transactions undertaken

Total

In terms of the MoU, DHA will be responsible to provide the approved tariffs for the immigration and civic services to DIRCO. Missions maintains and submit a monthly revenue collection register, a visa statistics register and a face value register for the DHA collection each month. DIRCO executes the receipts of cash from third parties at the missions abroad on behalf of DHA as the principal, and surrenders monies directly to the National Revenue Fund as approved by the National Treasury for the DHA collection each month.

41.2. Department acting as the agent

41.2.1. Revenue received for agency activities

	2023/24	2022/23
<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000

Include a list of the entities for which the department acts as an agent and the amounts received for these agency duties

Total

41.2.2. Reconciliation of funds and disbursements - Current year

		2023/24
	Total funds received	Expenditure incurred against funds
Category of revenue or expenditure per arrangement	R'000	R'000

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reconciliation of funds and disbursements - Prior year

		2022/23
	Total funds received	Expenditure incurred against funds
Category of revenue or expenditure per arrangement	R'000	R'000
Total		

41.2.3. Reconciliation of carrying amount of receivables and payables - current year

	2023/2024				
Receivables	Opening balance ¹ April 2023	Revenue principal is entitled to	Less: Write offs / settlements / waivers	Cash received on behalf of principal	Closing balance 31 March 2024
Name of principal entity	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Total					

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2023/2024			
Payables		Opening balance1 April 2023	Expenses incurred on behalf of the principal	Cash paid on behalf of the principal	Closing balance 31 March 2024
Name of principal entity		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Department of Home Affairs		235 448	235 448	-	48 355
Total		235 448	235 448	-	48 355

				2022/2023				
Reconciliation of carrying amount of receivables and payables - prior year				Opening balance1 April 2022	Revenue principal is entitled to	Less: Write offs / settlements / waivers	Cash received on behalf of principal	Closing balance 31 March 2023
Name of principal entity				R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Total								

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2022/2023			
Payables		Opening balance1 April 2022	Expenses incurred on behalf of the principal	Cash paid on behalf of the principal	Closing balance 31 March 2023
Name of principal entity		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Department of Home Affairs		195 730	-	150 575	45 155
Total		195 730	-	150 575	45 155

42. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**42.1. Changes in accounting estimates**

During the year, the following changes were made to the estimations employed in the accounting for transactions, assets, liabilities, events and circumstances

	Value derived using the original estimate	Value derived using the amended estimate	R-value impact of change in estimate
	R'000	R'000	R'000

Accounting estimate change 1: Provide a description of the change in estimate

Line item 1 affected by the change

Line item 2 affected by the change

Line item 3 affected by the change

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Value derived using the original estimate	Value derived using the amended estimate	R-value impact of change in estimate
R'000	R'000	R'000

Accounting estimate change 2: Provide a description of the change in estimate

Line item 1 affected by the change

Line item 2 affected by the change

Line item 3 affected by the change

Value derived using the original estimate	Value derived using the amended estimate	R-value impact of change in estimate
R'000	R'000	R'000

Accounting estimate change 3: Provide a description of the change in estimate

Line item 1 affected by the change

Line item 2 affected by the change

Line item 3 affected by the change

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

42.2. Changes in accounting policies

		2022/2023			
Nature of change in accounting policy	Note	Opening balance before the change (1 Apr 2022)	Adjustment of opening balance	Restated opening balance after the change (1 Apr 2022)	Restated closing balance (31 March 2022)
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Financelease assets					
Movable Tangible Capital Assets	38				
Intangible Capital Assets	39				
Immovable Tangible Capital Assets	40				

43. PRIOR PERIOD ERRORS**43.1. Correction of prior period errors**

		2022/2023		
	Note	Amount before error correction	Prior period error	Restated
		R'000	R'000	R'000
Revenue:				
Line item 1 affected by the change				
Line item 2 affected by the change				

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2022/2023		
		Amount before error correction	Prior period error	Restated
		R'000	R'000	R'000
<i>Note</i>				
Expenditure:				
Operating leases Machinery and Equipment		10 029	82	10 111
Net effect		10 029	82	10 111

		2022/2023		
		Amount before error correction	Prior period error	Restated
		R'000	R'000	R'000
<i>Note</i>				
Assets:				
Intangible assets		132 726	(2 942)	129 784
Movable tangible capital assets		590 857	26 340	617 197
Minor capital assets		95 602	(1 175)	94 427
Net effect		819 185	22 223	841 408

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2022/2023		
		Amount before error correction	Prior period error	Restated
		R'000	R'000	R'000
Note				
Liabilities:				
Other payables (foreign entities - VAT)		-	13 966	13 966
Net effect		-	13 966	13 966

The VAT receivable from the missions abroad was classified under advances received instead of other payables.

		2022/2023		
		Amount before error correction	Prior period error	Restated
		R'000	R'000	R'000
Note				
Other:				
Line item 1 affected by the change				
Net effect				

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

44. INVENTORIES

2023/2024

44.1. Inventories for the year ended 31 March 2024

Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Total
R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Opening balance

Add/(Less): Adjustments to prior year balances

Add: Additions/Purchases - Cash

Add: Additions/Purchases - Non-cash

(Less): Disposals

(Less): Issues

Add/(Less): Received current, not paid (Paid current year, received

Add/(Less): Adjustments

Closing balance

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Inventories for the year ended 31 March 2024	2023/2024				
	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance					
Add/(Less): Adjustments to prior year balances					
Add: Additions/Purchases - Cash					
Add: Additions/Purchases - Non-cash					
(Less): Disposals					
(Less): Issues					
Add/(Less): Received current, not paid (Paid current year, received					
Add/(Less): Adjustments					
Closing balance					

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

44.2. Land parcels held for human settlement

		2023/2024	2023/2024
	Note	R'000	R'000
Opening balance			
Add/(Less): Adjustments to prior year balances			
Add: Additions/Purchases – Cash			
Add: Additions – Non-cash			
(Less): Disposals			
(Less): Issues			
Add/(Less): Received current, not paid			
(Paid current year, received prior year)			
Add/(Less): Adjustments			
Closing balance			

44.3. Inventories Work-in-progress

	2023/2024			
Work-in-progress for the year ended 31 March 2024	Opening balance	Additions during the year	(Ready for use/ Suspended	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Clearing				
Infrastructure				
Structure of houses				
Adjustments				
Total				

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Accruals/Payables not recognised relating to Inventories WIP		2023/2024	2022/2023
	<i>Note</i>	R'000	R'000
Certificates/Invoices received not paid			
Clearing			
Infrastructure			
Structure of houses			
Total			

44.4. Houses ready for use		QUANTITY	2023/24	QUANTITY	2022/23
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Opening balance					
Add/(Less): Adjustment to prior year balances					
Add: Ready for use in current year					
Less: Issued to beneficiaries					
Add/(Less): Adjustments					
Closing balance					

45. Transfer of functions and mergers**45.1. Transfer of functions***Not applicable*

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

45.1.1. Statement of Financial Position

		Balance before transfer date	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Balance after transfer date
			Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents						
Other financial assets						
Prepayments and advances						
Receivables						
Loans						
Aid assistance prepayments						
Aid assistance receivable						
Non-Current Assets						
Investments						
Prepayments and advances						
Receivables						
Loans						
Other financial assets						
TOTAL ASSETS						

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Balance before transfer date	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Balance after transfer date
			Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities						
Voted funds to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund						
Statutory Appropriation to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund						
Departmental revenue and NRF Receipts to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund						
Bank Overdraft						
Payables						
Aid assistance repayable						
Aid assistance unutilised						
Non-Current liabilities						
Payables						
TOTAL LIABILITIES						
NET ASSETS						

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

45.1.2. Notes

		Balance before transfer date	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Balance after transfer date
			Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	
	Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Contingent liabilities						
Contingent assets						
Capital commitments						
Accruals						
Payables not recognised						
Employee benefits						
Lease commitments - Operating leases						
Lease commitments - Finance leases						
Lease commitments - Operating lease revenue						
Accrued departmental revenue						
Impairment						
Provisions						
Movable tangible capital assets						
Immovable tangible capital assets						
Intangible capital assets						

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

45.2. Mergers
*Not applicable***45.2.1. Statement of Financial Position**

Note

Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance after transfer date
Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combined Dept (Specify)
R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

ASSETS**Current Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents

Other financial assets

Prepayments and advances

Receivables

Loans

Aid assistance prepayments

Aid assistance receivable

Non-Current Assets

Investments

Prepayments and advances

Receivables

Loans

Other financial assets

TOTAL ASSETS

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Balance before transfer date	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Functions (transferred)/ received	Balance after transfer date
		Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	Dept name (Specify)	
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Voted funds to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund					
Statutory Appropriation to be surrendered to the					
Revenue Fund					
Departmental revenue and NRF Receipts to be surrendered to the Revenue Fund					
Bank Overdraft					
Payables					
Aid assistance repayable					
Aid assistance unutilised					
Non-Current liabilities					
Payables					
TOTAL LIABILITIES					
NET ASSETS					

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

45.2.2. Notes

	Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance before merger date	Balance after transfer date
	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combining Dept (Specify)	Combined Dept (Specify)
Note	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Contingent liabilities					
Contingent assets					
Capital commitments					
Accruals					
Payables not recognised					
Employee benefits					
Lease commitments - Operating leases					
Lease commitments - Finance leases					
Lease commitments - Operating lease revenue					
Accrued departmental revenue					
Impairment					
Provisions					
Movable tangible capital assets					
Immovable tangible capital assets					
Intangible capital assets					

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

46. STATEMENT OF CONDITIONAL GRANTS RECEIVED

Name of grant	2023/24									2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION					SPENT					
	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants									Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	
	Roll overs	DORA adjust-ments	Other adjust-ments	Total available	Amount received by Department	Amount spent by Department	Under/ (Over-spending	% of available funds spent by department			
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000	R'000

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

47. STATEMENT OF CONDITIONAL GRANTS PAID TO THE PROVINCES

Name of Province/Grant	2023/24											2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			SPENT					
	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Roll overs	Adjust- ments	Total availa ble	Actual Transfer	Funds withheld	Realloca tions by National Treasury or National department	Amount received by Department	Amount spent by Department	Unspent funds	% of available funds spent by department	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Actual transfers
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Summary by**province**

Eastern Cape

Free State

Gauteng

Kwazulu-Natal

Limpopo

Mpumalanga

Northern Cape

North West

Western Cape

TOTAL**Summary by grant**

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Name of Province/Grant	2023/24											2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			SPENT					
	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Roll overs	Adjust- ments	Total availa ble	Actual Transfer	Funds withheld	Realloca tions by National Treasury or National department	Amount received by Department	Amount spent by Department	Unspent funds	% of available funds spent by department	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Actual transfers
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

1. [Grant name]

Eastern Cape

Free State

Gauteng

Kwazulu-Natal

Limpopo

Mpumalanga

Northern Cape

North West

Western Cape

TOTAL

2. [Grant name]

Eastern Cape

Free State

Gauteng

Kwazulu-Natal

Limpopo

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2023/24											2022/23	
GRANT ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			SPENT					
Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual Transfer	Funds withheld	Reallocations by National Treasury or National department	Amount received by Department	Amount spent by Department	Unspent funds	% of available funds spent by department	Division of Revenue Act / Provincial grants	Actual transfers
R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Mpumalanga

Northern Cape

North West

Western Cape

TOTAL

3. [Grant name]

Eastern Cape

Free State

Gauteng

Kwazulu-Natal

Limpopo

Mpumalanga

Northern Cape

North West

Western Cape

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

National Department surrender of unspent conditional grant not approved for rollover**Related to conditional grants schedule of 2022/23**

Name of Province	Amount not approved for roll overs	Amount received	Amount surrendered to National Revenue Fund	Amount still due
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Total

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

48. STATEMENT OF CONDITIONAL GRANTS AND OTHER TRANSFERS PAID TO MUNICIPALITIES

Name of Municipality	2023/24							2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION				TRANSFER				
	DORA and other transfers	Roll overs	Adjust- ments	Total availa ble	Actual Transfer	Funds withheld	Realloca tions by National Treasury or National department	DORA and other transfers	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

49. BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PERFORMANCE

Information on compliance with the B-BBEE Act is included in the annual report under the section titled B- BBEE Compliance Performance Information.

50. NATURAL DISASTER OR RELIEF EXPENDITURE

	2023/24	2022/23
	Note	
	R'000	R'000
Compensation of employees		
Goods and services	-	227
Transfers and subsidies	-	-
Expenditure for capital assets	-	-
Other		
Total	Annex 11 -	227

ANNEXURE 1A**STATEMENT OF CONDITIONAL GRANTS AND OTHER TRANSFERS PAID TO MUNICIPALITIES**

Name of Municipality	2023/24											2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			SPENT					
	DORA and other transfers	Roll overs	Adjust-ments	Total availa-ble	Actual Transfer	Funds withheld	Reallo-cations by National Treasury or National department	Amount received by Department	Amount spent by Department	Unspent funds	% of available funds spent by department	DORA and other transfers	Actual transfers
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1B**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS TO DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES AND ACCOUNTS**

Departmental Agency or Account	2023/24				TRANSFER		2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
African Renaissance & International Fund	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890	100%	49 699	49 699
SA Development Partnership Agency	-	-	-	-	-		11 671	-
TOTAL	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890		61 370	49 699

ANNEXURE 1C**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**

Higher Education Institution	2023/24				TRANSFER		2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				TRANSFER			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
African Renaissance & International Fund	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890	100%	49 699	49 699
SA Development Partnership Agency	-	-	-	-	-		11 671	-
TOTAL	49 890	-	-	49 890	49 890		61 370	49 699

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1D**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS/SUBSIDIES TO PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES**

Name of public corporation / private enterprise	2023/24								2022/23	
	GRANT ALLOCATION				EXPENDITURE					
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Capital	Current	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Public Corporations										
Transfers										
Total										
Subsidies										
Total										
Private Enterprises										
Transfers										
Total										
Subsidies										
Total										
TOTAL										

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1E**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

Foreign government/ International organisation	2023/24						2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				EXPENDITURE			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Transfers								
African Union	364 785	-	-	364 785	358 930	98,4%	311 838	311 838
Group of 77 Countries	254	-	-	254	95	37,4%	243	243
India-Brazil- South Africa Trust Fund	16 379	-	2 523	18 902	18 901	100,0%	18 415	18 415
New Partnership for Africa's Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
African Peer Review Mechanism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	908	-	-	908	868	95,6%	892	894
United Nations Development Programme	16 940	-	-	16 940	16 940	100,0%	16 803	16 322
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of states	9 049	-	(3 048)	6 001	-	0,0%	6 568	-
Commonwealth of Nation	10 269	-	-	10 269	7 224	70,3%	10 220	6 966
Southern African Development Community	175 032	-	-	175 032	170 969	97,7%	148 488	147 338
United Nations	199 068	-	18	199 086	199 085	100,0%	198 306	185 807
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention	826	-	-	826	548	66,3%	791	410
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	7 602	-	-	7 602	6 291	82,8%	7 239	5 227
Indian Ocean Rim Research Centre	406	-	52	458	457	99,8%	389	437

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Foreign government/ International organisation	2023/24						2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				EXPENDITURE			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund								
South Centre Capital Fund	102	-	-	102	101	99,0%	98	98
United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea	1 998	-	-	1 998	1 925	96,3%	1 914	1 718
Humanitarian aid	956	-	-	956	549	57,4%	916	-
Perm Court Of Arbitration	25 264	-	-	25 264	15 803	62,6%	25 137	25 198
Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Organisation	320	-	-	320	345	107,8%	311	237
International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea	356	-	-	356	398	111,8%	337	289
BIE	1 450	-	69	1 519	1 519	100,0%	1 338	924
Total	-	-	386	386	386	100,0%	1 811	1 811
Subsidies	831 964	-	-	831 964	801 334		752 054	724 172
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	831 964	-	-	831 964	801 334		752 054	724 172

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1F**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS TO NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS**

	2023/24						2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				EXPENDITURE			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Non-profit institutions								
Transfers								
Total								
Subsidies								
Total								
TOTAL								

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1G**STATEMENT OF TRANSFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS**

	2023/24						2022/23	
	TRANSFER ALLOCATION				EXPENDITURE			
	Adjusted budget	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Actual transfer	% of available funds transferred	Final budget	Actual transfer
Household	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	%	R'000	R'000
Transfers		-	3 900	7 437	7 437	98,8%	14 809	8 094
H/H EMPL S/BEN:LEAVE GRATUITY	3 624	-	(4 299)	15 510	15 510	71,0%	21 581	11 091
H/H EMPL S/BEN:SEV PACKAGE	26 144	-	399	399	399	100,0%	-	-
H/H:CLAIMS AGAINST STATE(CASH)	-	-	-					
Total	29 768	-	-	29 768	23 346	-	36 390	19 185
Subsidies								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	29 768			29 768	23 346		36 390	19 185

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1H**STATEMENT OF GIFTS, DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED**

Name of organisation	Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship	2023/24	2022/23	
		R'1000	R1'000	
Received in cash				
Gifts				
Total gifts				
Donations				
Total donations				
Sponsorships				
Total sponsorships				
Subtotal - received in cash				
Received in kind				
Gifts				
Total gifts				
Donations				
Total donations				
Sponsorships				

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Name of organisation	Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship	2023/24	2022/23	
		R'1000	R1'000	
Nedbank		48	-	
Southern Sun Hotel		68	-	
Coca-Cola		50	-	
BMW		150	-	
Chinese Embassy		1 000	-	
MTN		3 500	250	
Vodacom		500	500	
Old Mutual		-	300	
Aspen		150	175	
Abuja		981	-	
Addis Ababa		-	16	
Ankara		-	20	
Amman		46	-	
Beijing		125	-	
Berlin		18	-	
Brazzaville		-	35	
Brussels		-	237	
Conakry		-	7	
Copenhagen		-	26	
Gaborone		-	4	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Name of organisation	Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship	2023/24	2022/23	
		R'1000	R1'000	
Geneva		501	-	
Harare		168	-	
Hong Kong		122	-	
Islamabad		-	152	
Kampala		-	21	
Kinsasha		229	-	
Kuwait City		8	-	
Lagos		2 063	23	
Lilongwe		47	-	
Los Angeles		-	16	
Luanda		5	-	
Lubumbashi		-	943	
Madrid		-	26	
Maputo		-	105	
Manila		137	-	
Moroni		1	-	
Mumbai		-	49	
Munich		494	-	
New Delhi		605	-	
New York CG		-	52	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Name of organisation	Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship	2023/24	2022/23	
		R'1000	R1'000	
New York UN		50	127	
Nouakchott		1	-	
Port Louis		189	51	
Riyadh		98	-	
Rome		470	-	
Shanghai		10	-	
Tehran		-	130	
The Hague		-	86	
Tokyo		469	12	
Warsaw		-	48	
Windhoek		-	286	
Various sponsorship in Head Office		1 472	-	
Total sponsorships		13 775	3 697	
Subtotal – received in kind		13 775	3 697	
TOTAL GIFTS, DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS RECEIVED		13 775	3 697	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

**ANNEXURE 11
STATEMENT OF AID ASSISTANCE RECEIVED**

Name of Donor	Purpose	Opening balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Paid back on / by 31 March	Closing balance
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Aid assistance received in cash		-	4 205	-	-	4 205
China RDP						
Subtotal		-	4 205	-	-	4 205
Aid assistance received in kind						
Subtotal		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AID ASSISTANCE RECEIVED		-	4 205	-	-	4 205

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1J**STATEMENT OF GIFTS, DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS MADE**

Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship <i>(Group major categories but list material items including name of organisation)</i>	2023/24	2022/23	
	R'000	R'000	
Made in kind			
Gifts			
Argentina	6	-	
Austria	1	1	
Azerbaijan	-	1	
Bangladesh	-	6	
Belgium	-	36	
Botswana	-	12	
Bulgaria	10	-	
Burundi	-	2	
Cameroon	-	1	
Chile	1	-	
China	41	-	
Colombia	17	-	
Comoros	2	-	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship <i>(Group major categories but list material items including name of organisation)</i>	2023/24	2022/23	
	R'000	R'000	
Côte D'Ivoire	-	22	
Cuba	-	18	
Czech Republic	6	-	
Denmark	5	-	
Dominican Republic	2	-	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6	6	
United Arab Emirates	100	-	
Egypt	-	3	
Equatorial Guinea	-	3	
Finland	6	-	
France	4	4	
Gabon	-	1	
Georgia	-	3	
Germany	2	32	
Ghana	2	-	
Guinea Bissau	-	13	
Hellenic Republic	-	7	
Ireland	6	-	
Iran	-	1	
Italy	2	-	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship <i>(Group major categories but list material items including name of organisation)</i>	2023/24	2022/23	
	R'000	R'000	
Japan	-	6	
Kenya	-	36	
Kazakhstan	-	2	
Korea	-	2	
Lebanon	-	1	
Liberia	2	-	
Lesotho	-	2	
London	-	68	
Mauritius	4	-	
Mexico	2	-	
Mongolia	6	-	
Namibia	13	-	
Netherlands	52	-	
New Zealand	2	-	
Nigeria	2	1	
Norway	6	-	
Palestine	-	13	
Poland	-	2	
Portugal	4	2	
Qatar	25	-	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship <i>(Group major categories but list material items including name of organisation)</i>	2023/24	2022/23	
	R'000	R'000	
Russia	-	15	
Saharawi	-	11	
Saudi Arabia	-	39	
Singapore	9	-	
Slovenia	1	-	
South Sudan	13	-	
Spain	-	13	
Sri Lanka	2	14	
Switzerland	-	6	
Syria	-	3	
Tanzania	-	9	
Turkey	-	1	
Uganda	-	14	
Ukraine	4	-	
United Kingdom	2	-	
Uruguay	1	2	
United States of America	-	32	
Vietnam	2	-	
Zimbabwe	31	-	
Total gifts	402	466	

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Nature of gift, donation or sponsorship <i>(Group major categories but list material items including name of organisation)</i>	2023/24	2022/23	
	R'000	R'000	
Donations			
Total donations			
Sponsorships			
Total sponsorships			
TOTAL GIFTS, DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS MADE IN KIND	402	466	

ANNEXURE 1K

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PER GRANT

Grant type	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Old age													
War veterans													
Disability													
Grant in Aid													
Foster care													
Care dependency													
Child Support Grant													
Other													
TOTAL													

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 1L

STATEMENT OF INDIRECT GRANTS BETWEEN NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS AND MUNICIPALITIES

Name of grant	GRANT ALLOCATION				SPENT
	Division of Revenue Act	Roll overs	Adjustments	Total available	Amount spent
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 2A**STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS IN AND AMOUNTS OWING BY/TO NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL PUBLIC ENTITIES**

Name of public entity	State Entities' PFMA Schedule type (state year-end if not 31 March			Number of shares held		Cost of investments		Net asset value of investments		Profit/(Loss) for the year		Losses guaranteed
				R'000		R'000		R'000		R'000		
		% Held 23/24	% Held 22/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	Yes/No

National / Provincial Public entity

Subtotal

Other

Subtotal**TOTAL**

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 2B**STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS IN AND AMOUNTS OWING BY/TO ENTITIES (CONTINUED)**

Name of public entity	Nature of business	Cost of investments		Net asset value of investments		Amounts owing to entities		Amounts owing by entities	
		R'000		R'000		R'000		R'000	
		2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23
Controlled entities									
Subtotal									
Non-controlled entities									
	Associates								
	Subtotal								
	Joint Ventures								
	Subtotal								
	Other non-controlled entities								
	Subtotal								
TOTAL									

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 3A**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEES ISSUED AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 - LOCAL**

Guarantor institution	Guarantee in respect of	Original Guaranteed capital amount	Opening balance 1 April 2023	Guarantees draw downs during the year	Guarantees repayments/ cancelled/ reduced during the year	Revaluation due to foreign currency movements	Closing balance 31 March 2024	Revaluations due to inflation rate movements	Accrued guaranteed interest for year ended 31 March 2024
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
	Motor vehicles								
	Subtotal								
	Housing								
ABSA									
NP Development Corp									
	Subtotal	-	74	-	-	-	74	-	-
	Other	-	111	-	111	-	-	-	-
		-	185	-	111	-	74	-	-
		-		-		-		-	-
	Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	185	-	111	-	74	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 3A (Continued)**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEES ISSUED AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 - FOREIGN**

Guarantor institution	Guarantee in respect of	Original Guaranteed capital amount	Opening balance 1 April 2023	Guarantees draw downs during the year	Guarantees repayments/ cancelled/ reduced during the year	Revaluation due to foreign currency movements	Closing balance 31 March 2024	Revaluations due to inflation rate movements	Accrued guaranteed interest for year ended 31 March 2024
		R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
	Motor vehicles								
	Subtotal								
	Housing								
	Subtotal								
	Other								
	Subtotal								
	TOTAL								

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 3B**STATEMENT OF CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

Nature of liability	Opening balance 1 April 2023	Liabilities incurred during the year	Liabilities paid / cancelled / reduced during the year	Liabilities recoverable (Provide details hereunder)	Closing balance 31 March 2024
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Claims against the department	109 369	5 040	1 552	-	112 857
Summons					
Subtotal	109 369	5 040	1 552	-	112 857
Environmental liability					
Subtotal					
Other	61 490	-	-	-	61 490
Claims from other government entities		-	-	-	
Subtotal	61 490				61 490
TOTAL	170 859	5 040	1 552	-	174 347

ANNEXURE 3B (continued)

Nature of liabilities recoverable	Details of liability and recoverability	Opening balance 1 April 2023	Movement during the year	Closing balance 31 March 2024
		R'000	R'000	R'000

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

**ANNEXURE 4
CLAIMS RECOVERABLE**

Government entity	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		Total		Cash-in-transit at year end 2023/24	
							Receipt date up to six (6) working days after year end	Amount
	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000
Department								
Science & Innovation	-	-	3 412	6 703	3 412	6 703	-	-
Arts & Culture	-	-	282	926	282	926	-	-
Social Development.	-	-	-	71	-	71	-	-
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	-	-	1 482	227	1 482	227	-	-
Mineral Resources	-	-	-	55	-	55	-	-
Justice and Constitutional Development	-	-	281	276	281	276	-	-
Tourism	-	-	-	329	-	329	-	-
Public Works	-	-	385	173	385	173	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Government entity	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		Total		Cash-in-transit at year end 2023/24	
	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	Receipt date up to six (6) working days after year end	Amount
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000
Health	-	-	17 371	26 576	17 371	26 576	-	-
Government Communication and Information System	546	-	-	245	546	245	-	-
Health Students	-	-	22 397	20 288	22 397	20 288	-	-
Presidency	-	-	932	5 612	932	5 612	-	-
Transport	-	-	992	1 292	992	1 292	-	-
Trade, Industry and Competition	-	-	7 813	25 625	7 813	25 625	-	-
Water Affairs	-	-	-	67	-	67	-	-
Small Business Development	-	-	57	-	57	-	-	-
Environmental Affairs	-	-	-	42	-	42	-	-
Labour	-	-	766	-	766	-	-	-
Home Affairs Official Visits	-	-	90 037	65 774	90 037	65 774	-	-
Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation	-	-	387	793	387	793	-	-
National Treasury	-	-	-	1 559	-	1 559	-	-
Government Pensions Administration Agency	-	-	390	419	390	419	-	-
Telecommunications and Postal Services	-	-	219	2 462	219	2 462	-	-
Sports & Recreation	-	-	1 183	1 183	1 183	1 183	-	-
South African Revenue Services	111	-	-	117	111	117	-	-
South African Police Services	-	-	22 590	32 053	22 590	32 053	-	-
Public Services Administration	-	-	46	47	46	47	-	-

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Government entity	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		Total		Cash-in-transit at year end 2023/24	
	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	Receipt date up to six (6) working days after year end	Amount
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000
Higher Education and Training	-	558	-	558	-	-	-	-
Basic Education	-	-	663	827	663	-	-	-
Defence and Military Veterans	-	29 428	47 192	29 428	47 192	-	-	-
Irrecoverable claims (Nat Pace Acc)	-	34 418	34 418	34 418	34 418	-	-	-
Subtotal	1 484	-	235 426	275 187	275 187			
Other Government Entities								
Parliament	-	-	-	998	998			
SASSA	-	-	-	50	50			
State Security	-	-	27 269	142 312	142 312			
Other Accounts	-	-	45	99	99			
Foreign Entities	-	-	-	13 966	13 966			
Free State	-	-	7 376	6 876	6 876			
Kwazulu-Natal	-	-	1 440	1 739	1 739			
Gauteng	-	-	115	115	115			
Limpopo	-	-	-	85	85			
Mpumalanga	-	-	1 415	-	-			
Compensation	-	-	701	-	-			
Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)	136	-	-	-	-			

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Government entity	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		Total		Cash-in-transit at year end 2023/24	
	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	Receipt date up to six (6) working days after year end	Amount
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000
Foreign Entities (VAT)	-	-	23 957	13 966	23 957	13 966	-	-
National Treasury (Aid Assistance)	-	-	4 205	-	4 205	-	-	-
Subtotal	136	-	66 523	166 240	66 659	166 240	-	-
							-	-
TOTAL	1 620	-	301 949	441 427	303 569	441 427		

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PAYABLES

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		Total		Cash-in-transit at year end 2023/24	
							Receipt date up to six (6) working days after year end	
	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024	31/03/2024		Amount
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000		R'000
Government entity								

DEPARTMENTS

Current

Subtotal

Non-current

Subtotal

Total Departments

OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Current

Subtotal

Non-current

Subtotal

Total Other Government Entities

TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PAYABLES

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 6 INVENTORIES

	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Insert major category of inventory	Total
Inventories for the year ended 31 March 2024	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Opening balance

Add/(Less: Adjustments to prior year balances

Add: Additions/Purchases - Cash

Add: Additions - Non-cash

(Less): Disposals

(Less): Issues

Add/(Less): Received current, not paid; (Paid current year, received prior year)

Add/(Less): Adjustments

Closing balance**Inventories for the year ended 31 March 2023****Opening balance**

Add/(Less: Adjustments to prior year balances

Add: Additions/Purchases - Cash

Add: Additions - Non-cash

(Less): Disposals

(Less): Issues

Add/(Less): Received current, not paid; (Paid current year, received prior year)

Add/(Less): Adjustments

Closing balance

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 7**MOVEMENT IN CAPITAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS**

Movement in capital work-in-progress for the year ended 31 March 2024	Opening balance	Current year CWIP	Ready for use (Asset Register)/Contract terminated	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
HERITAGE ASSETS				
Heritage assets				
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT				
Transport assets				
Computer equipment				
Furniture and office equipment				
Other machinery and equipment				
SPECIALISED MILITARY ASSETS				
Specialised military assets				
BIOLOGICAL ASSETS				
Biological assets				
BUILDINGS AND OTHER FIXED STRUCTURES				
Dwellings				
Non-residential buildings				
Other fixed structures				

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

LAND AND SUBSOIL ASSETS

Land

Mineral and similar non-regenerative resources

SOFTWARE

Software

MASTHEADS AND PUBLISHING TITLES

Mastheads and publishing titles

PATENTS, LICENCES, COPYRIGHT, BRAND NAMES, TRADEMARKS

Patents, licences, copyright, brand names, trademarks

RECIPES, FORMULAE, PROTOTYPES, DESIGNS, MODELS

Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models

SERVICES AND OPERATING RIGHTS

Services and operating rights

TOTAL

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) • VOTE 6

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Movement in capital work-in-progress for the year ended 31 March 2023	Opening balance	Prior period error	Current year CWIP	Ready for use (Asset Register)/Contract terminated	Closing balance
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

HERITAGE ASSETS

Heritage assets

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

Transport assets

Computer equipment

Furniture and office equipment

Other machinery and equipment

SPECIALISED MILITARY ASSETS

Specialised military assets

BIOLOGICAL ASSETS

Biological assets

BUILDINGS AND OTHER FIXED STRUCTURES

Dwellings

Non-residential buildings

Other fixed structures

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Movement in capital work-in-progress for the year ended 31 March 2023**LAND AND SUBSOIL ASSETS**

Land

Mineral and similar non-regenerative resources

SOFTWARE

Software

MASTHEADS AND PUBLISHING TITLES

Mastheads and publishing titles

PATENTS,LICENCES,COPYRIGHT,BRAND NAMES, TRADEMARKS

Patents, licences, copyright, brand names, trademarks

RECIPES, FORMULAE, PROTOTYPES, DESIGNS, MODELS

Recipes, formulae, prototypes, designs, models

SERVICES AND OPERATING RIGHTS

Services and operating rights

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 8A**INTER-ENTITY ADVANCES PAID (Note 13)**

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		TOTAL	
ENTITY	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

Subtotal

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

Subtotal

PUBLIC ENTITIES

Subtotal

OTHER ENTITIES

Subtotal

TOTAL

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 8B**INTER-ENTITY ADVANCES RECEIVED (Note 21 AND Note 22)**

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		TOTAL	
ENTITY	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS	-	-	-	2 374	-	2 374
Current	-	-	9 421	10 114	9 421	10 114
Science & Innovation	-	-	50	657	50	657
Arts & Culture	-	-	1 020	995	1 020	995
Social Development.	-	-	-	241	-	241
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries				2		2
Mineral Resources	-	-	21		21	
Justice and Constitutional Development	-	-	5 233	2 664	5 233	2 664
Health	-	-	-	2 205	-	2 205
Health Students				-		-
Government Communication and Information System	-	-	-		-	
Transport	-	-	1 282	-	1 282	-
Trade, Industry and Competition	-	-	27 578	30 452	27 578	30 452

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		TOTAL	
ENTITY	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Small Business Development	-	-	-	470	-	470
Labour	-	-	-	444	-	444
Women	-	-	-	2 252	-	2 252
Home Affairs Official Visits	-	-	24 789	16 622	24 789	16 622
Telecommunications and Postal Services		-		5 934		5 934
Sports & Recreation	-		3 366		3 366	
South African Police Services	-	-	1 241	1 241	1 241	1 241
Higher Education and training	-	-	7 130	9 757	7 130	9 757
Defence and Military Veterans	-	-	854	2 232	854	2 232
Presidency	-		38 401	1 842	38 401	1 842
Monitoring and Performance	-	-	-	367	-	367
Public Services Administration	-	-	2	-	2	-
Basic Education	-	-	44	-	44	-
National Treasury	73	-	-	-	73	-
Subtotal	-	-	12	-	12	-
Non-current	73	-	120 444	90 865	120 517	90 865
Subtotal						

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		TOTAL	
ENTITY	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS**Current**

Free State

Mpumalanga	-	-	12 304	18 972	12 304	18 972
------------	---	---	--------	--------	--------	--------

Kwazulu-Natal	-	-	5 355	19 783	5 355	19 783
---------------	---	---	-------	--------	-------	--------

Limpopo	-	-	7	201	7	201
---------	---	---	---	-----	---	-----

Subtotal	-	-	96	138	96	138
-----------------	---	---	----	-----	----	-----

Non-current	-	-	17 762	39 094	17 762	39 094
--------------------	---	---	--------	--------	--------	--------

Subtotal**PUBLIC ENTITIES****Current****Subtotal****Non-current**

Compensation Commissioner	-	-	1 175	763	1 175	763
---------------------------	---	---	-------	-----	-------	-----

Parliament	-	-	-	3 333	-	3 333
------------	---	---	---	-------	---	-------

Foreign Entities	-	-	-	-	-	-
------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Confirmed balance outstanding		Unconfirmed balance outstanding		TOTAL	
ENTITY	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Other Accounts	-	-	472	1 066	472	1 066
State Security	-	-	60 139	182 800	60 139	182 800
Independent Electoral Commission	-	-	2 435	-	2 435	-
VAT	-	-	-	13 966	23 957	13 966
National Treasury	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	64 222	201 928	88 178	201 928
OTHER ENTITIES						
Current						
Subtotal						
Non-current						
Subtotal						
TOTAL						
Current						
Non-current						

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 9**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON IMMOVABLE ASSETS**

	Note	2023/24	2022/23
		Area	Area
		Estimated completion date	
a)		Unsurveyed land	Annex 9
b)		Properties deemed vested	Annex 9
		Land parcels	
		Facilities	
		Schools	
		Clinics	
		Hospitals	
		Office buildings	
		Dwellings	
		Storage facilities	
		Other	

ANNEXURE 9**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON IMMOVABLE ASSETS**

		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Inventories			
List the items for correct expenditure			
Subtotal			
Expenditure for capital assets			
List the items for correct expenditure			
Subtotal			
Transfers and subsidies			
List the items for correct expenditure			
Subtotal			
TOTAL			
Capital commitments			
		2023/24	2022/23
	Note	R'000	R'000
Buildings and other fixed structures			
Heritage assets			
Machinery and equipment			
Specialised military assets			
Land and subsoil assets			
Biological assets			
Intangible assets			
Total			

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 11**NATURAL DISASTER OR RELIEF EXPENDITURE****Per quarter and in total**

Expenditure per economic classification	2023/24					2022/23
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Compensation of employees**Goods and services**

227

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Contractors

Consumable supplies

Property payments

Operating payments

Transfers and subsidies

-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	30
-	-	-	-	-	197
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Expenditure for capital assets

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Other expenditure not listed above

*List all applicable SCOA level 4 items***TOTAL NATURAL DISASTER OR RELIEF EXPENDITURE**

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 11**NATURAL DISASTER OR RELIEF EXPENDITURE****Per quarter and in total**

Expenditure per economic classification	2023/24					2022/23
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Compensation of employees**Goods and services**

227

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Contractors

-

-

-

-

-

30

Consumable supplies

197

Property payments

-

-

-

-

-

-

Operating payments

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Transfers and subsidies

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Expenditure for capital assets

List all applicable SCOA level 4 items

Other expenditure not listed above

*List all applicable SCOA level 4 items***TOTAL NATURAL DISASTER OR RELIEF EXPENDITURE**

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

ANNEXURE 12**ANALYSIS OF PREPAYMENTS AND ADVANCES (NOTES 4.2 AND 13)**

Name of the Entity	Sector of the entity	Description of the item paid for	Classification category	Total Contract Value	Balance outstanding as at 31 March 2023	Total amount prepaid /advanced in the current year	Less: goods, services or capital assets received in the current year	Add/Less: Other	Balance outstanding as at 31 March 2024
				R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000

Prepayments

Total prepayments

Advances

Total advances

TOTAL PREPAYMENTS AND ADVANCES