



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 January 2023
(OR. en)

5325/23

LIMITE

COAFR 13
CFSP/PESC 74
COVID-19 6
DEVGEN 9
EDUC 12
CSDP/PSDC 28
COHOM 12
WTO 5
CLIMA 12
MIGR 20

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: South Africa - EU Ministerial Dialogue (26-27 January 2023, Pretoria) -
Joint Statement

Delegations will find attached the South Africa – EU draft joint ministerial statement that will be submitted via the Coreper (18/01) to the Council (23/01) for approval.

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**Joint Declaration of the Extended Session of the Fifteenth South Africa
– European Union Ministerial Political Dialogue
Pretoria, 27 January 2023**

1. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Naledi Pandor, and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles, co-chaired the Extended Session of the 15th Ministerial Political Dialogue in Pretoria on 26 and 27 January 2023.
2. The meeting was convened within the framework of the South Africa - European Union Strategic Partnership. South Africa was represented by the following:
 - Mr Enoch Godongwana, Minister of Finance
 - Ms Angela Tokozile Didiza, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
 - Dr Mathume Joseph Phaahla, Minister of Health
 - Mr Ebrahim Patel, the Minister for Trade, Investment and Competition
 - Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
3. The European Union was represented by the following:
 - Ms Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
 - Ms Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
 - Ms Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union
4. The high-level participation is an indication of the importance both sides place on the relationship which has grown in depth and ambition despite the challenging international context. Agreement was reached on additional steps to further strengthen the partnership and to extend South Africa – EU consultations and support to the Southern African Development Community, the African Union and the United Nations.
5. During the official discussions, the Ministers reviewed the strategic partnership between South Africa and the EU focussing on the various areas of mutual interest, including bilateral trade and investment; vaccine production and health; climate change and environment, renewable energy, and the just energy transition; digitalisation; as well as science, innovation and education under the umbrella of the AU - EU Innovation Agenda.

6. Both sides underlined the importance of global solidarity and multilateral cooperation in relation to COVID-19 response and enhancing the capacity of Africa to locally produce quality assured health products, including vaccines. South Africa welcomed the support of the European Union and its Member States to Biovac and to the centre of excellence on the production of mRNA vaccines in South Africa. Both sides commit to close cooperation in strengthening the global health architecture including the negotiation of a pandemic agreement, of a permanent countermeasures platform and other key elements.
7. Both sides welcomed that COP27 delivered important outcomes by putting in place new funding arrangements or assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change. Both sides reiterated their resolve to keep the 1.5°C target within reach and called upon all Parties to the Paris Agreement to accelerate efforts towards phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and to agree on new commitments on climate mitigation at COP28. Both sides reiterated the importance of the Just Energy Transition Partnership signed together with France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and welcomed the European Union and its Member States' support to South Africa's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan expressed at COP27 in Egypt in November 2022. Both sides agreed that Just Energy Transition remains a key joint priority within the Strategic Partnership as it will help accelerate the decarbonisation of South Africa's economy to help it achieve the most ambitious goals set out in South Africa's updated Nationally Determined Contribution emissions goals.
8. Against the backdrop of the global climate challenge, both sides highlighted the importance of promoting best practices and interoperability of sustainable finance frameworks, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, and agreed on the need to scale up financial flows towards the low-carbon economy.
9. *[EU: Both sides welcomed the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the COP 15 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Both sides reiterated their resolve to urgently implement actions to restore, protect and sustainably use biodiversity in alignment with the new global framework commitments. Both sides stressed the need to ensure a whole-of-government involvement and agreed to cooperate in its implementation].*
10. Both sides agreed on enhanced cooperation on a human centric digital transformation for all citizens, to build trusted, secure and resilient digital networks and to support universal values and human rights, preserving users' integrity and an open internet.
11. Both sides exchanged views on international and regional affairs, including the *[EU: Russia's war against Ukraine / SA: Russia – Ukraine war]* and its global consequences, particularly in Europe and Africa, and on developing countries. Both sides reiterated their concern for the severe consequences of the war for the rules-based international order, on global food and energy security and reaffirmed

their support to all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, and to respect their territorial integrity and political independence. The two sides also shared views on the insurgency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, the situation in the Sahel, Eastern DRC as well as other areas of instability and conflict, including contribution to peace operations.

12. The European Union side welcomed South Africa's contribution to the AU's efforts to resolve the conflict in Ethiopia and their role in the peace agreement reached in Pretoria in November 2022 and expressed its hope that South Africa, as a member of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security of the Southern African Development Community, would help to facilitate the agreed-upon National Dialogue in the Kingdom of Eswatini.
13. On a multilateral level, both sides reaffirmed their unequivocal commitment to a rules-based international and multilateral order based on the Charter of the United Nations and international law. They reiterated their commitment to strengthening multilateralism and to working together to promote peace and prevent conflicts, strengthen respect for international law, uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, pursue the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the recent COPs to address the planetary climate and biodiversity crisis, promote and protect human rights, ensure humanitarian action and advance efforts to achieve gender equality, including the full, equal and meaningful participation and empowerment of all women and girls in all public and private spheres, strengthen the global health architecture with the World Health Organization (WHO) at its core, and to promote free, fair and inclusive trade and the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core. The two parties reiterated their commitment to follow up on the EU-AU Summit (February 2022), to direct their actions towards strengthening the links between the two Unions and to integrate this aspect in their multilateral commitments.
14. Both sides agreed to work together to further enhance communication on the strategic partnership and its concrete benefits. They agreed on the following steps, also with a view to the forthcoming South Africa-European Union Summit to be held in the first half of 2023:
 - 14.1. To further strengthen their cooperation in various fields such as trade and investment; political and security issues including fight against financing terrorism on the two continents; global health; digitalisation, education, training and skills development and science and innovation through facilitating institutional cooperation between vocational education and training institutions, Universities and research centres and R&D-driven companies, as well as exchange programmes for students, academics and researchers [EU: and through actively looking for ways to address existing challenges in the issuance of visa].
 - 14.2. To continue working closely together on environment, climate, [EU: energy, just transition] and water issues.

- 14.3. To continue working together to create a continent-wide market in the form of the African Continental Free Trade Area.
- 14.4. To continue joint efforts to implement the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package worth EUR 150 billion as agreed upon at the EU-AU Summit in February 2022.
- 14.5. To strengthen strategic cooperation on aspects related to Raw Materials Value Chains and the Energy Transition through the launch of a [EU: dedicated partnership and corresponding] bilateral dialogue.
- 14.6. To continue promoting cooperation between cities on both sides on integrating circular economy and eco-system based approaches for their key health, social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as in terms of just transition.
- 14.7. To continue working together to promote multilateralism and uphold Human Rights and fundamental freedoms, including labour rights. In this respect, they have agreed to organise dialogue and workshops on Gender Based Violence and on Women, Peace and Security; They also agreed to explore the option of a workshop on employment policy and the promotion of decent work, including youth employment.
- 14.8. To continue cooperation to promote free, fair and inclusive trade and the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. In this regard, they agreed to working together on the reform of the WTO across its three functions as agreed in the outcome of MC12 with the aim of improving its effectiveness and functioning, as well as working together for a meaningful outcome of MC13.
- 14.9. To further strengthen the EU - South Africa partnership for global health in the region and cooperate based on the New Public Health Order for Africa and the new EU Global Health Strategy: Better health for all in a Changing World, including on combating health threats and strengthening global health governance with the WHO at its core as well as on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies, and Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health.
- 14.10. To welcome the dialogue and cooperation between the Southern African Development Community and the European Union on Mozambique and to continue support to Mozambique.
- 14.11. To remain committed to supporting the implementation of the Ethiopian peace agreement and facilitate the reconstruction in the regions affected by the conflict.

- 14.12. To continue working together to make full use of the opportunities offered by the Southern African Development Community-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).
15. The two sides agreed that the depth, ambition and potential for further development of their strategic partnership have grown remarkably in importance. Both sides commit to engaging in further dialogue through all channels of communication to resolve any pending bilateral issues to ensure that the relationship continuously moves forward in a positive direction.
16. Both sides commit to working closer together for the benefit of Africa and Europe, strengthening the partnership of the European Union with the African Union, Southern African Development Community, and other regional organisations, and global governance, particularly defending international law.
17. In conclusion, South Africa and the European Union reaffirmed the ties of friendship and solidarity existing between the two sides and look forward to the Eighth South Africa-European Union Summit to be hosted by the Republic of South Africa. The Summit will further cement the growing relation for the mutual benefit of all their peoples, respective regions and the world.
18. It was agreed that the Sixteenth Meeting of the South Africa – European Union Ministerial Political Dialogue will be held in Brussels in 2024.

Signed in Pretoria on 27 January 2023

Dr Naledi Pandor

Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation of the Republic of South
Africa

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles

European Union High Representative
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
and Vice-President of the European
Commission