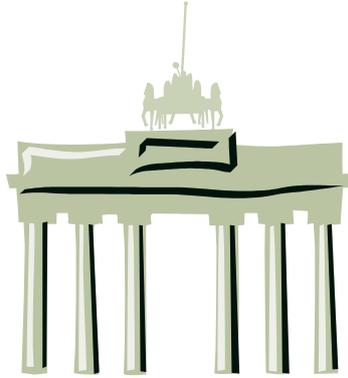


# **JOINT REPORT**



## **OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GERMANY-SOUTH AFRICA BINATIONAL COMMISSION**

**BERLIN  
15. /16. NOVEMBER 2016**

The Ninth Session of the Germany-South Africa Binational Commission (BNC), co-chaired by the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, took place in Berlin on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The BNC is the principal instrument to steer the intra-governmental relations between Germany and South Africa. It meets every other year with the participation of several Ministries from both governments in order to establish an agenda and programme for joint action.

This BNC discussed cooperation in the fields of renewable energies, environment and climate, education and vocational training, but also in development cooperation, science and technology, employment and social affairs as well as culture. In the context of the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change in September and December 2015, participants of the BNC agreed that it has to measure its success with the degree to which its work contributes to the realisation of the SDGs and the Paris objectives.

The participants discussed enhanced cooperation in international contexts such as the EU-African relations and the upcoming Summit in November 2017, the UN Security Council reform and the G 20 under the upcoming German Presidency. They shared their concerns and discussed ideas regarding ongoing crises in Europe, the Middle East and in Africa. They agreed that South Africa and Germany should enhance their efforts in crisis prevention and management, including in enhancing the capabilities of the African Union and the other regional organisations in Africa.

The BNC decided to establish structured dialogues on migration and on humanitarian assistance in order to exchange experience and expertise and to explore ways to cooperate.

The BNC welcomed the bilateral Economic Forum which was organised by the German Chamber of Commerce for Southern Africa and the Afrikaverein on the day before the Plenary of the BNC.

The BNC Committees reviewed their work since the BNC's last session in 2014 and agreed on concrete agendas and work programmes as outlined in the following reports to the Plenary.

## 1. Foreign and Security Policy

The Foreign and Security Policy Committee met as part of the 9th South Africa – Germany Binational Commission in Berlin on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 under the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Ambassador Sabine Sparwasser, Director General for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near and Middle East in the German Federal Foreign Office, and Pieter Vermeulen, Chief Director Western Europe in the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

The Co-Chairs agreed that the BNC remains the most important and effective structure to coordinate the diverse bilateral relations between South Africa and Germany. They welcomed the work which has been accomplished in the Committees since the 8th BNC in November 2014, and paid tribute to the evolving bilateral relations. To further improve the effectiveness of the BNC, the Committee recommended that a mid-term review be held to take stock of progress made in preparation of the next BNC.

On visas, the Committee discussed approaches to further facilitate movement of people between South Africa and Germany and vice versa. South Africa raised the issue of reciprocity and the need for further discussions at expert level.

A report was given on the results of the 13th South African-German Defence Sub-Committee Meeting held in Pretoria in March. Both sides alluded to the well-established and trustful bilateral defence relationship as well as the importance of the Sub-Committee reporting to the BNC. According to the overall strategic partnership the bilateral defence cooperation would be intensified with reciprocal benefits including cooperation towards enhanced support for the African Union. Bilateral naval cooperation to eradicate maritime crime and piracy remains an important aspect of the bilateral defence cooperation as well as continued bilateral cooperation to address threats to global peace, security and stability. Areas of importance are military education, training and development, sharing of geospatial and environmental information as well as the expansion of defence-industrial cooperation. In addition, an enhanced FRG - RSA cooperation in the areas of strategic airlift was discussed. The next (14th) Defence Committee Meeting is to be hosted by the FRG MOD during the first quarter of 2018 and could be flanked by a bilateral armaments cooperation meeting as envisioned during the high level visit at the ADD 2016. The exact date remains to be agreed upon.

The Committee recommended the establishment of a structured dialogue on migration at government experts level with a view to benefiting from each other's experience. Another similarly structured dialogue on cooperation on humanitarian assistance was also recommended. The Committee welcomed the two concept papers prepared in this regard.

The German side proposed that consideration be given to ways in which civil society could be engaged.

The Committee recognised the importance of constructing the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Governance Architecture and the efforts of both Governments to strengthen these structures. Both sides expressed their awareness and concern about continuous triggers of conflict which prevent sustainable development. The Co-Chairs discussed the EU-Africa Summit coming up in autumn 2017 and possible substance and deliverables.

The Committee discussed old and new crisis situations at the Horn of Africa, in the Sahel and the Great Lakes Region, and stated its full support for the African and UN crisis prevention and crisis management efforts. Appreciation was expressed about German efforts in Mali and the South African participation in MONUSCO in Eastern Congo. Both partners are engaged

in UNAMID in Sudan and UNMISS in South Sudan. It was agreed that the developments in the Great Lakes Region remained of serious concern. The Committee emphasized the necessity of inclusivity of the national dialogue and the holding of elections as early as possible in accordance with UNSC Resolution 2277.

The Committee had an exchange on the crises in Europe and in the Middle East, notably in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and Israel/Palestine. The Co-Chairs agreed to continue to regularly consult on threats to peace and security in their respective regions and to coordinate their stabilisation efforts wherever possible.

The Committee discussed the program of the upcoming German G 20 Presidency, notably the Partnership Initiative and the Compact for Africa. The German Co-Chair pointed to the G 20 Foreign Ministers Meeting scheduled for Bonn in February 2017. South Africa looks forward to working with Germany, as one of the co-chairs of the Development Working Group, on the attaining concrete deliverables on the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support for industrialization in Africa. South Africa also encouraged Germany, in its capacity as the next G20 President, to identify cross-border financial flows derived from illicit activities, including deliberate trade misinvoicing, as a deliverable of Germany's G20 Presidency.

Both sides reiterated the need for comprehensive reform of the UN system and notably of the UN Security Council to reflect current global realities. They agreed to support recent approaches to operationalise the reform efforts. Both sides expressed support for increased representativity in the UN system.

The Committee exchanged views on the future of the Cotonou Agreement after 2020.

South Africa provided its position concerning the Rome Statute. Both sides pointed to the continued need to fight against impunity. Germany expressed concern about an erosion of the international penal jurisdiction. Both sides agreed on a continuation of the discussion.

## **2. Economy and Energy**

Both sides exchanged views on the global economic situation and on the development of their respective economies since the last Session of the Bi-National Commission held in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2014.

Both sides agreed that the recovery of the world economy is continuing, but growth is weaker than desirable. Potential volatility in financial markets, sluggish trade and investment, geopolitical tensions and refugee flows are affecting the speed of recovery. The South African side stated that subdued commodity prices, weak global demand is making structural reforms even more difficult to implement and thus constraining South Africa's growth. However, recent data point to another expansion of economic activities in the third quarter following the rebound in the second quarter. Germany's economy is continuing to point upwards. The main stimuli are expected to come from domestic demand. Incomes and employment will continue to develop favourably. The investment climate will gradually brighten.

Both sides agreed that the sound economic relations between Germany and South Africa are reflected in the impressive trade and investment figures. Both sides are very much interested in intensifying efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relations. Germany highlighted that their policies on foreign trade and investment will be focussing more on South Africa, and the use of instruments will focus even more specifically on South Africa.

South Africa remained Germany's most important trading partner on the African continent in

2015 with total trade 15.5 bn Euro. The two sides agreed to make joint efforts to boost South Africa's exports to Germany, particularly the high value added, as laid out by IPAP sectors, considering Nine Point Plan imperatives.

Market access is the most important prerequisite for mutually beneficial, free and rules-based trade. Besides the lowering of customs duties, minimising of non-tariff barriers is of increasing importance for trade growth.

South Africa is the most important destination for German direct investment in Sub-Saharan Africa. The stock of German direct investment in South Africa has been increased from 4 bn Euro in 2008 to nearly 6 bn Euro in 2014. The new Enterprise and Supplier Development Fund of German business aims to tie the German companies even more strongly to the business location of South Africa. This will also help to match the requirements of public procurement and local content. Both sides agreed that a high level of legal protection of investments by their respective national laws as well as consistent and fair business practices are important in order to boost foreign direct investments. The South African side informed that the Investment Protection Act was passed into law in December 2015. South Africa informed Germany about Economic Zones and incentives given to investors.

Germany presented information about its continuing work to support South Africa in establishing a sustainable energy supply. South Africa's commitment to promote electricity production from renewable energy sources has been successful over recent years, and is continuing on this chosen path. Both sides welcomed the excellent cooperation within the German-South African Energy Partnership.

Current areas of focus in the German-South African Energy Partnership comprise business models for renewable energies in municipalities, the management of residual load with growing shares of renewable electricity, the enhancement of research cooperation between both countries, fuel cells and hydrogen research, the links between energy and climate policies, the strengthening and expansion of transmission grids, regional exchange on the REI4P-program, support for the 12L taxation program to promote energy efficiency and rural biogas solutions.

The German side offered support in the area of environmental and climate protection, renewable energies as well as energy efficiency. Both sides agreed on the importance of skills and enterprise development in the energy sector.

To strengthen the international dialogue on the German energy transition, the annual Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) will take place in March 2017, organised by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The government of the Republic of South Africa is cordially invited to participate in the BETD 2017.

Germany highlighted the fact that access to raw materials is of utmost interest for Germany, particularly for critical and strategic raw materials. The South African side informed Germany about the beneficiation strategy as outlined under the 9 Point Plan in terms of which value addition is prioritized for local job creation. German industry would like to strengthen its cooperation with South Africa in the field of raw materials along the entire value chain which is in line with South Africa's beneficiation strategy. In order to promote better cooperation, the German Chamber's Competence Centres on Mining and Mineral Resources in South Africa would like to provide their support.

Both sides concluded that skills development and vocational training are preconditions for a successful economy. The German Chamber, in cooperation with German companies, offers the Builders Training Centre and the Commercial Advancement Training Scheme in South

Africa which seek to promote broad-based education.

The South African side gave a briefing on developments on the amended BBBEE act. Transformation and creating an inclusive economy remains an important policy stance of South Africa. South Africa also emphasised the focus on support for the Enterprise and Supplier Development via the Black Industrialist Program. The German side added that many German companies intend to stay in South Africa long term and have therefore developed their own corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects to assist the South African people. This includes childcare, healthcare and skills development.

Both countries took positive note of the efforts to strengthen cooperation in the financial sector which is outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the South-African Reserve Bank and the Deutsche Bundesbank. Joint research projects on financial sector topics will be done for the purpose of capacity building of each party as well as supporting formulating of policy in both countries.

Germany and South Africa recognize that taxation conditions form an important basis of present and for future cross-border investments. Both countries therefore have a strong interest in concluding the negotiations on the Double Taxation Agreement and strive to solve all open questions as soon as possible.

In the context of taxation conditions and duties, the German side discussed the Automotive Production Development Program. The South African side shared information about the possible development of this program beyond 2020.

Both sides agreed that tourism, business and work permits are important factors for stable growth and employment in South Africa as well. Invest SA will support and facilitate the process.

The two sides exchanged views on the developments in the EPAs, WTO and G20 since the last BNC. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Southern Africa, who have shown a flexible and development-friendly approach in the negotiations. Moreover, it is important that the EPA will enter into force with the ratification of the agreement. The agreement has already been implemented provisionally (on 10 October).

Both sides discussed the topics of the German G20 presidency including Germany's intention to strengthen cooperation with Africa. The country will also place a focus on trade and investment, energy, as well as digitisation and its impact on economic growth, employment and society.

The Economic and Energy Committee should convene as required, but in any case meet on the occasion of the 10th BNC sessions. We should meet again in Pretoria in two years.

### 3. Development Cooperation

Negotiations on development cooperation between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany were held in Berlin on 14 and 15 November 2016.

The total volume of bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation since cooperation began in 1992 amounts to € 1070.7 million. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany undertakes to provide the Government of the Republic of South Africa with a new amount of up to € 314.25 million for bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation. This comprises € 285.75 million for Financial Cooperation programmes and € 28.5 million for Technical Cooperation programmes. Both sides acknowledged the successful development cooperation since 1994, which is fully aligned with the South African National Development Plan. Both sides agreed to continue their strategic dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals.

It was confirmed to continue the cooperation in the following focal areas: Green Economy, HIV/AIDS prevention, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development, and Governance and Public Administration.

*Green Economy:* Germany congratulated South Africa on its highly successful Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), which has triggered investments of approximately ZAR 200 billion (13 Mrd. Euro) to date. South Africa confirmed its target to expand the capacity of renewable energy electricity generation to 17,800 Megawatt by 2030 and assured investors that the next bid round and the connection of new installations to the national grid will be implemented in a timely manner. Germany committed an interest-subsidized loan of up to € 100 million (USD 100 million) for the integration of renewable energy to the national electricity grid, and both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation with regard to decentralised embedded rooftop photovoltaic systems. This will enable a further boost for renewable energy and will contribute also to the common endeavors in the fight against climate change.

*Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development:* South Africa and Germany agreed to reinforce their cooperation in this area and to contribute meaningfully to reducing youth unemployment in the next few years. Germany will assist South Africa in rolling out the training of electricians and plumbers to improve the capabilities of TVET colleges under the Dual System Pilot Project and improving the quality of training by expanding in-service training for college lecturers. Strong partnerships between TVET colleges and private sector companies will be forged, thus making skills development and actual employment opportunities a joint effort in the interest of the country's youth.

*African - German Youth Initiative:* South Africa and Germany welcomed the African-German Youth Initiative, which allows young people from both countries to work in close co-operation and jointly engage in mutual learning for a sustainable future. Germany intends to enable a further increase of participants from South Africa. Both sides expressed their willingness to facilitate the granting of visas for the participants of the youth exchange programmes under the umbrella of the African German Youth Initiative, including weltwärts, ASA and ENSA.

New funds were committed to the following programmes:

*Focal area Green Economy*

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Renewable Grid Integration and Strengthening Programme (FC)             | € 100 million |
| South African Facility for Green Growth (SAFGG) (FC <sup>1</sup> )      | € 75 million  |
| Climate Initiative for Urban Waste Water Treatment<br>in Cape Town (FC) | € 80 million  |
| International Housing Solutions Fund                                    | € 7.5 million |
| South African – German Energy Programme (SAGEN) (TC <sup>2</sup> )      | € 9.5 million |

*Focal area Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)  
and Skills Development*

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (FC) | € 8.25 million |
| Skills Development for a Green Economy (TC)         | € 9 million    |

*Focal area Governance and Public Administration*

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Governance Support Programme (GSP II) (TC) | 5 million |
|--|-----------|

*Focal area HIV Prevention*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Multisectoral HIV Prevention in Eastern Cape (FC)                           | € 8 million |
| Support of the Activate! Leadership Programme for<br>Youth Development (FC) | € 7 million |
| HIV/AIDS Prevention (TC)  | € 5 million |

<sup>1</sup> FC = Financial Cooperation; <sup>2</sup> TC = Technical Cooperation

#### 4. Environment

The Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany have been cooperating on environmental issues for many years, inter alia through projects supported by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and through our strategic environmental dialogue.

Both countries wish to continue, broaden and enhance cooperation in the environmental sector.

The following areas of cooperation were discussed:

- The successful conclusion of the CITES COP 17 hosted by the South African government in Durban, chaired by Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and with the participation of Dr. Barbara Hendricks, Federal Environment Minister of Germany;
- There was fruitful cooperation between the two countries during UNEA 2 held in May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya; Minister Molewa and State Secretary Flasbarth co-chaired the round-table on Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Towards a Healthier, Safer, Brighter, More Sustainable Future for All during the High-Level Segment;
- Implementation of the 2030-Agenda for Sustainable Development and the “Partners

for Review” Network;

- Inclusive green economy, including green jobs and green growth, also with a view to the PAGE Ministerial Conference to take place in Berlin in March 2017;
- Implementation of South Africa’s National Climate Change Response Policy; including in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), implementation of demonstration (flagship) programmes, mainstreaming of climate policies and governance issues including -involvement of subnational (provincial and local government) actors, as discussed at the 3rd DEA-BMUB strategic dialogue on bilateral cooperation in the framework of the IKI-funded Climate Support Programme on 17 May 2016 in Bonn;
- Follow-up to COP 21 in Paris including possible cooperation in the Framework of the NDC Partnership.

The following outcomes were agreed on:

- The Committee welcomed the new projects funded by BMUB within the framework of its International Climate Initiative involving South Africa, in particular
  - Climate Support Programme Phase III
  - NAMA-Facility Project on Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings, which is subject to final approval by the NAMA Facility Board and its funders, i.e. the United Kingdom, Denmark, the European Union and Germany
- The Committee agreed to continue the fruitful dialogue on progress of the “Climate Support Programme”, funded by BMUB within the framework of the International Climate Initiative and implemented through GIZ in partnership with DEA, in the margins of the Bonn Climate Change negotiations in early summer 2017.

## **5. Science and Technology**

The Joint Committee on Science and Technology met on 20 and 21 October 2016 at the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany. Since the signing of the science and technology agreement in 1996, a myriad of cooperative research activities have characterised this cooperation, deepening linkages between research institutions, universities and industrial partners.

The BMBF currently provides approximately 22 million euros of funding to 68 cooperation projects in which South African scientists and researchers are actively involved. Many of these projects see significant South African co-investment.

A stocktaking exercise shows that scientific relations between Germany and South Africa cover a large range of cooperation in fields such as water, climate, astronomy, resource management, environment, marine research, health and bioeconomy.

Currently 12 research projects have been selected to be jointly funded from 2017 to 2020 under a joint research call in the areas of bioeconomy and natural resources management.

The cooperation has also registered successes in the human capital development field with an increase in student training and exchange opportunities through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), the German

Research Chair at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in South Africa, the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use (SASSCAL), the Science Partnerships for the Assessment of Complex Earth System Processes (SPACES) and the Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, both countries are at an advance stage of appointing the Bilateral Research Chair.

Both countries are also collaborating in the SASSCAL research partnership which involves the following African regional countries – Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Namibia. SASSCAL together with its strong partner South Africa aims to strengthen and expand research capacities and infrastructures as well as scientific services in the field of climate change and land use. Cooperation in the health field is being intensified with the second EDCTP programme (European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership) and the new funding measure “Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa”. South Africa is an indispensable partner in this regard.

In the field of environmental technologies scientists from both countries collaborate under the CLIENT and SPACES funding initiatives. CLIENT and CLIENT II (2016-2023) address the issues of climate protection, resource use and water management whilst SPACES focuses on marine research, land use and water management.

In astronomy the Max Planck Society and the Max Planck Institute for Radio astronomy pledged an investment of an amount of 11 million Euros in the MeerKAT project.

Building upon the good experiences under the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research, further joint cooperation is being pursued within European initiatives under Horizon 2020 and the Article 185 measures (EDCTP and the Cofund on food and nutrition security).

In recognition of the bilateral partnership between South Africa and Germany, Minister Pandor was awarded with the Grand Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in April 2016. Lastly, both sides reaffirmed their desire to intensify and deepen their constructive scientific partnership.

## **6. Arts and Culture**

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance cooperation in culture, education and sports under the umbrella of the Agreement concerning Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of South Africa signed on 10th March 1998.

The two sides confirmed that the bilateral Agreement of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 concerning the introduction of a German-South African bilingual secondary school qualification has been successfully applied ever since. Both sides expressed their commitment to implement the agreement in its current state and will jointly negotiate further amendments.

Both sides underlined the importance of languages as an element and expression of culture and committed themselves to explore opportunities to enhance language cooperation including German language studies in South African schools and universities. Furthermore, both sides welcomed the new German language expert, who will be based in South Africa, to promote German in the country.

The two sides expressed their interest to put more emphasis on cooperation in the areas of performing arts, visual arts, music, film, media and literature and creative industries. Future

areas of collaboration with a particularly high potential for joint projects could be the digitisation and exchange of archive information as well as capacity building initiatives in that field.

Both sides acknowledged the good cooperation between South African bodies and the Goethe-Institute, the official German cultural institute. The Goethe-Institute is involved with, inter alia, cultural education projects and the promotion of South Africa's local cultural scene. Some of its flagship projects are "Music in Africa" (a music online platform from and for musicians), "Digital Access to Knowledge" (dedicated to raise interest for sciences among girls and young women) and "Wiki loves women" (training of editors to write texts about renowned African women in Wikipedia format).

Both sides also acknowledged the important cultural work being undertaken in Germany by the SA Missions in Germany and by the Department of Arts and Culture, including the areas of film, music, heritage and archives.

Both sides agreed to consider issuing a commemorative stamp in celebration of the 100th anniversary of former President Nelson Mandela's birth in collaboration with the relevant institutions.

It is noted that Germany intends to continue supporting joint bilateral activities for the preservation of cultural heritage in South Africa. Both sides reaffirmed their interest to continue the exchange between University of Music Franz Liszt in Weimar and the University of Fort Hare as well as other South African institutions.

The Department of Arts and Culture expressed its interest in the documents of the "Berliner Missionswerk" regarding land issues in South Africa. Access and exchange of experts and academics will be explored.

The two sides agreed upon regular meetings of the Department of Arts and Culture, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, the Federal Foreign Office, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe Institute and other relevant institutions, to discuss joint projects in the fields of arts and culture, and to prepare for the next Binational Committee. The next meeting is to take place in the first semester of 2017.

## **7. Labour and Social Affairs**

Since the BNC held in Pretoria, South Africa in November 2014, the following activities were implemented:

- South Africa and Germany engaged in an intensive dialogue on national minimum wage. The German Embassy in Pretoria hosted two events in 2014 and 2015 on this topic with high-level guest speakers from Germany. In addition, German State Secretary Thorben Albrecht welcomed two delegations from South Africa at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in May/June 2015 to exchange views on the progress of implementation of national minimum wages in both countries.
- South Africa hosted two Senior Officials from the DGUV (German Compensation Fund) in May 2015 and learned valuable lessons on how Germany deals with occupational injuries. Both sides agreed on a further collaboration on the topic of Occupational Health and Safety.
- Finally, a team from the South Africa Unemployment Insurance Fund undertook a visit

to Germany in September 2016 to conduct technical discussions with their counterparts. Both sides continue to exchange valuable information in this regard.

The work program for 2017/2018 is as follows:

Taking into account the impact of current megatrends such as globalisation, digitization and demographic change, South Africa and Germany are facing similar challenges that affect economic growth and employment creation. Also with a view to the priority areas regarding employment of the upcoming German G20 Presidency 2017, the discussions of the Labour and Social Affairs Committee on November 15, 2016 led by the Director-General for European and International Employment and Social Policies, ESF in the Federal Ministry of Labour and the Head of International Relations in the Department of Labour in South Africa therefore focussed on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains, Digitization and the Future of Work and Female Employment.

#### *Bilateral cooperation*

It was agreed that further in-depth technical discussions and exchange of information will be undertaken, e.g. on digitalisation and the future of work as part of an international conference hosted by South Africa on the topic of “Digitization: Effects on Labour Markets and Employment Creation” scheduled for November 2017.

Germany and South Africa will furthermore arrange for an exchange of information and good practice on promoting labour standards in global supply chains and on the inclusion of women and people with disabilities; also via high level visits or mutual invitations in respective relevant national events.

Both sides will also continue the successful technical cooperation in terms of sharing information, capacity building and exchanges the fields of minimum wage, public employment services and occupational safety and health, including legislation, enforcement systems and policies in these areas.

Germany and South Africa acknowledge the crucial role that social partners play in shaping these policies.

#### *Cooperation in multilateral processes*

Germany and South Africa share a common understanding that productive employment and decent work are the foundation of the livelihood of people across the world, and that creating and fostering quality jobs is indispensable for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

South Africa will therefore actively support the German G20 2017 Presidency with regard to the labour and employment related issues, and both countries will continue to strengthen their close co-operation in International Fora, such as the International Labour Organization.

## 8. Vocational Education and Training

The third meeting of the Joint Committee on VET was held on 14 November 2016 in Germany on the margins of the 9th South Africa-Germany BNC. The Committee reflected on a range of issues including ongoing cooperation between South Africa and Germany in VET and the latest developments in VET in South Africa and Germany

As agreed at the 7th South Africa-Germany Binational Commission (BNC) held in Berlin in May 2012, a Joint Committee on Vocational Education and Training (VET) was established. On 2 July 2013, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training and the German Minister for Education and Research signed a Joint Declaration Concerning Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training on the margins of the WorldSkills Competition in Germany.

The Joint Declaration outlined a commitment by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to cooperate in the area of vocational education and training (VET). Four key topics were identified in the declaration:

- Systemic advice by the German Office for international Cooperation in VET (GOVET) at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), for example regarding the establishment of the South African Institute for Vocational and Continuing Education and Training (SAIVCET),
- Further development of vocational training in South Africa on the basis of a dual system of initial and continuing training,
- Pilot projects for testing the dual system with the assistance of German and South African companies in South Africa and the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce,
- Involvement of German and South African providers of initial and continuing training.

During the meeting of the Joint Committee on VET on 14 November 2016, the Joint Declaration was prolonged by three years via an addendum which was signed by representatives from both ministries.

On behalf of BMBF, officials from the International Bureau of BMBF and the German Office for international Cooperation in VET (GOVET-BIBB) had a technical meeting with DHET in Pretoria in August 2016. Following the visit, an action plan was developed which outlines identified activities. These include:

- Advice by GOVET and BIBB on the establishment of “SAIVCET” as well as on “Curriculum development” (e.g. processes, governance structures and stakeholder involvement in the development of curricula),
- Projects by BMZ/GIZ on “Skills development for a green economy” (SD4GE), “Skills for green jobs” (S4GJ) and “Basic entrepreneurial skills development” (BESD),
- Promotion of vocational education and training (technical equipment) by BMZ/KfW,

- Engagement of the private sector (DIHK/AHK),
- Exploration on further project ideas for “Lecturer development” by BMBF, GOVET, iMOVE,
- Strategy development for agricultural vocational education by BMEL/GIZ/CIM in cooperation with the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

The implementation of the action plan is subject to the availability of funds.

The following outcomes were agreed on:

- The Committee reviewed the action plan and agreed to prioritize and set milestones. For this purpose, a series of dedicated seminars/workshops will be conducted by BMBF/GOVET-BIBB on the basis of requests submitted by DHET.
- Lecturer development as a key to modernize the TVET-system and to upgrade lecturers’ skills: baseline study and action plan to be developed.
- The Committee noted the ongoing cooperation between Germany and South Africa with regard to the new project “Skills development for a green economy” (SD4GE) as well as the continuing projects “Skill for Green Jobs project” (S4GJ) and the “Basic Entrepreneurial Skills Development programme” (BESD) supported by BMZ/GIZ.
- The Committee took note of the reports of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) on continuous developments in the vocational education and training in the agricultural sector.
- The Committee noted the various training initiatives implemented by the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its member companies to ensure the integration of theoretical and practical training. Further steps to strengthen the involvement of the private sector will be explored by BMBF, DIHK/AHK in close cooperation with the DHET.
- The Committee agreed to work closer with the private sector (employers and employees organizations) in order to analyze needs and to set up participative structures.
- The Committee agreed to continue to deepen bilateral relations in the field of vocational education and training and identified activities going forward. The Committee will meet in autumn 2017 in South Africa to review progress and plan forthcoming activities.

**Other**

The South African delegation invited their German counterparts to South Africa for the next meeting of the Germany-South Africa Binational Commission.

**Signed on this day 16 November 2016 by**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane  
Republic of South Africa

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
Federal Republic of Germany