

No. 48049

**South Africa
and
Switzerland**

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa
and the Government of the Swiss Confederation on strengthening mutual cooperation.
Geneva, 8 March 2008**

Entry into force: *8 March 2008 by signature, in accordance with article 9*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *South Africa, 16 December 2010*

**Afrique du Sud
et
Suisse**

**Mémorandum d'accord entre le Gouvernement de la République sud-africaine et le Gouver-
nement de la Confédération suisse relatif au renforcement de la coopération mutuelle.
Genève, 8 mars 2008**

Entrée en vigueur : *8 mars 2008 par signature, conformément à l'article 9*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF

SOUTH AFRICA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SWISS

CONFEDERATION

ON STRENGTHENING MUTUAL COOPERATION

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” and in the singular as a “Party”);

REAFFIRMING their wish to strengthen the traditional relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries;

CONVINCED of the importance of dialogue between the Parties for strengthening these relations and for concretizing the foundations of fruitful and mutually beneficial bilateral, trilateral and multilateral co-operation;

STRESSING the interest of the two countries to promote partnerships in other states in Africa;

AWARE THAT a sincere, constructive and lasting dialogue on all aspects of bilateral relations, as well as on regional and international issues of common interest will contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and to promoting closer relations between the two countries;

WISHING to give a new dimension to the existing relations between the two countries;

HAVING REGARD to the growing relations between the two countries and building upon the Declaration of Intent on Joint Cooperation of 3 August 1998 as the foundation for intensified cooperation;

AIMING to enhance coordination of cooperation between competent governmental departments of both countries,

CONVINCED of the importance of further developing and institutionalizing bilateral economic and trade relations as a complement to the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and the SACU States which was signed in 2006;

HEREBY AGREE as follows :

ARTICLE 1

OBJECTIVE

The Parties shall strengthen their mutual cooperation and reinforce the coordination of their relations, in order to give a new dimension to the existing relations between the two countries.

ARTICLE 2

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

- (1) The Parties agree to strengthen their cooperation in the following areas:
- (a) Politics;
 - (b) economics and trade;
 - (c) development and cooperation;
 - (d) human rights;
 - (e) democracy;
 - (f) peace and security;
 - (g) migration;
 - (h) science and technology;
 - (i) cultural affairs;
 - (j) international issues, including international organisations;
and
 - (k) any other matter of common interest.

- (2) Within the framework of cooperation envisaged in sub-Article (1), the Parties shall conduct bilateral, trilateral and multilateral projects.

ARTICLE 3

WORKING METHODS

- (1) The Parties shall hold regular high-level consultations and promote regular contact between their competent Government departments in the areas listed in Article 2 (1), in order to increase mutual understanding and intensify their cooperation.
- (2) Except as provided for in Article 4, the consultations between the Parties shall take place on an annual basis, alternately in Bern and Pretoria, at the level of State Secretary and Deputy Minister of the Department of Foreign Affairs, or other senior officials, as delegated by the State Secretary and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- (3) The relevant Government departments of both countries shall be invited to attend and participate in the consultations, should the agenda include issues relevant to the competent line function department.
- (4) The Parties shall determine the date, venue and agenda of the consultations through the diplomatic channel.
- (5) In planning their consultations, the Parties shall seek to enhance coordination under other bilateral instruments of cooperation.