

**Joint Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa,
on the occasion of the 3rd Meeting of the Mechanism for
Consultations on Matters of Common Interest between the
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Carmen Moreno Toscano,
and the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes,
in Mexico City, on August 15, 2023**

The Governments of Mexico and South Africa, in the framework of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, reaffirm the importance of our bilateral political and economic relationship, after the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of the transformations underway on the global stage and at the national and regional levels.

In this context, we welcome the efforts underway to boost collaboration between our countries.

We have agreed on the following actions:

1. We are determined to increase collaboration and deepen our commitment to celebrate the III Binational Commission at the Ministerial level on a mutually convenient date, with the aim of establishing the guidelines of our bilateral relationship in the following areas: political, economic, commercial, energy, scientific, technical, educational, cultural, sports and the administration of justice.
2. To promote and support the conclusion of the ongoing negotiations of the following bilateral instruments:
 - *Agreement between the United Mexican States and the Republic of South Africa on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.*
 - *Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa on Cooperation in Veterinary Services.*
 - *Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Tourism between the Ministry of Tourism of Mexico and the Department of Tourism of South Africa, dated January 16, 2014.*
3. To promote the development of closer ties between our business communities to help strengthen trade and investment. We will work with the private sector to encourage their

participation, with emphasis on those sectors in which the greatest potential has been jointly identified.

4. To share best practices in consular services that will benefit our communities abroad to achieve our goals.
5. To promote and encourage effective reflection on the challenges and opportunities facing the Global South, through virtual meetings of think tanks from both countries.
6. To continue promoting open channels of communication between our authorities to share best practices in border management.
7. To evaluate work permits for the economic dependents of diplomats.
8. To hold informal bilateral consultations in multilateral forums, in particular and on a regular basis, on the sidelines of the G20, in order to discuss cooperation initiatives to address global challenges such as: sustainable development; inclusive economic growth; adopting a comprehensive approach to orderly, safe and regular migration, which takes into account its underlying causes; food and energy security; the fight against the illicit trafficking and proliferation of small arms and light weapons; the illegal trade in wild species and illicit financial flows; climate change and environmental challenges; preventing and combating corruption; support for highly indebted African countries through the G20 Common Framework; the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and cooperation with the G20 Compact with Africa.
9. To make joint efforts to universalize the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to cooperate as members of the New Agenda Coalition to accelerate progress towards a nuclear-weapons-free world, considering that nuclear disarmament is both a moral imperative and an obligation under international law and a moral imperative.

We strengthen our commitment to an international order based on observing and strengthening international law, promoting well-being for all, peace, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the prevention of conflicts. We recognize the value of diplomacy and multilateralism in promoting global governance and a peaceful world that is free of nuclear and conventional weapons, and in active consensus-building for world peace and security.

The Governments of Mexico and South Africa, as members of the United Nations and the G20, are committed to strengthening the multilateral system. We support common values and goals and promote democratic and progressive agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the promotion of human rights, the fight against climate change, food security, inclusive socioeconomic development, and the value of diversity, equality, and non-discrimination.

We will promote the empowerment of women and girls, the achievement of gender parity, including the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community, and the elimination of all forms of gender violence and femicide. We will advance the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly children, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and diasporas.

Convinced of the potential to exchange best practices, we identified areas in which both countries and our regions face similar challenges, such as educating our youths and facilitating opportunities for them to enter the workforce in the formal economy and with well-paid wages; gender equality; the process of desertification and access to water in the context of climate change. Our collaboration extends to shared opportunities such as the dynamic tourism industry and a thriving business community.

We intend to follow up on the implementation of this Joint Statement with successive meetings under the framework of our Mechanism for Consultations on Matters of Common Interest. In addition, we will seek to review our goals periodically to continue strengthening the friendship and cooperation between our countries.

Mexico City, August 15, 2023

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN
STATES**

**Carmen Moreno Toscano
Undersecretary of Foreign
Affairs**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Alvin Botes
Deputy Minister of International
Relations and Cooperation**