

Africa's plan of action

SA calls for reform of UN and General Assembly to assist with the interests of developing countries



THE 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, recently held at the UN headquarters in New York, adopted Agenda 2030 which sets out the sustainable development goals and targets.

The General Assembly also adopted a negotiating text for UN Security Council reforms. In Africa, we have adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-Year Action Plan.

These developments all provide a sound basis for the international community to work collectively to address the many challenges facing the world.

It is important that we have an inclusive, transparent and representative multilateral system to address the urgent global challenges of sustainable development today, recognising the universality and central role of the UN.

It is in this context that South Africa calls for the reform of the UN, including the revitalisation of the General Assembly and a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, which correspond to the collective interests of developing countries.

South Africa prioritises the transformation of the system of global governance to make it more responsive to the needs of the developing countries and ensure their fair representation in global governance structures.

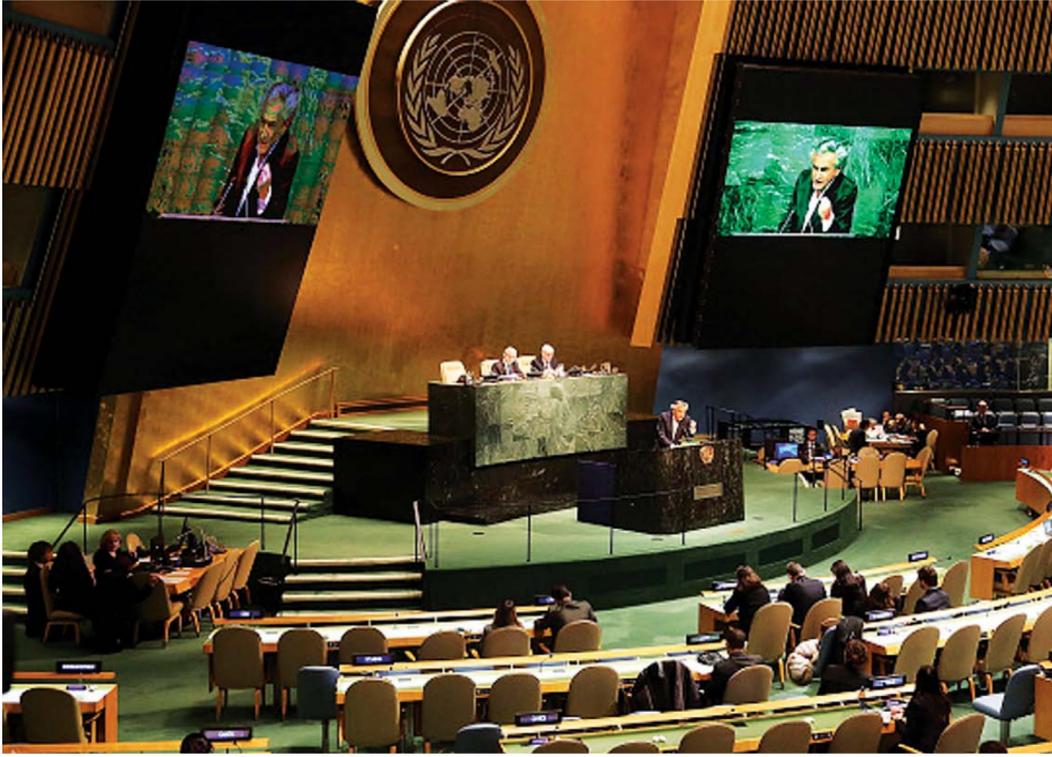
Africa deserves to be in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

South Africa welcomes the outcome document of the post-2015 development agenda. We are particularly pleased that the outcome document recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

We are also pleased that the outcome document recognises the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. For developing countries, it is important that our different national realities, capacities and levels of development, as well as respect for our national policies and priorities are taken into consideration.

In terms of the upcoming climate change talks under the Conference of Parties (COP21), the mandate from Durban is to adopt an internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We therefore require a multilaterally agreed and rules-based approach to climate change covering the post-2020 period that is applicable to all.

While the precise legal form of the agreement has yet to be decided, it is important to emphasize that a mere political agreement amongst the so-called "major economies", or one that foresees nationally determined



OVERHAUL: Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is calling for the reform of the UN, including the revitalisation of the General Assembly and a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

actions alone, would be unacceptable to South Africa and in our view to other developing countries.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, we will not rest for as long as Palestinians are denied their inalienable right to a state of their own. The UN Security Council, as the custodian of world peace, must rise to the occasion and assume ownership of this peace process.

Parties to the conflict must be urged to return to the negotiating table without any pre-conditions and engage in dialogue.

The issues that have proved to be stumbling blocks need to be addressed and could include the immediate halt to settlement construction, the immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza, the right of return of Palestinian refugees and the full recognition of the borders existing on 4 June 1967.

These issues must be elevated and resolved as a matter of priority. As friends of Palestine, we must further urge Palestinians to form a cohesive collective solidarity front for negotiations and set aside their differences.

South Africa welcomes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached in the Iran nuclear talks. We further welcome the announcement that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran have con-

cluded a road map to resolve outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme by the end of the year.

In respect of Syria, dialogue remains the only option to end the violence. In our approach to Syria, we must draw lessons from Iraq and Libya which is why the government has categorically stated that support for those who seek to effect regime change in Syria, including non-state actors and terrorist organisations, is unacceptable. It is why we say the arming of various groups by foreign powers is dangerous, particularly when no inventory of weapons is kept.

We cannot over-emphasise the need to preserve institutions of governance to avoid chaos, including forced mass migration, and the creation of a lawless vacuum to be occupied by terrorists. Wanton acts of terror have forced thousands of Syrians to seek refuge in neighbouring and other countries. We urge European countries to welcome these refugees, and call on the world community to provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees and internally displaced Syrians.

In respect of the recruitment and radicalisation of young people to take part in acts of terror, particularly by the Islamic State, South Africa remains vigilant. A comprehensive and holistic approach is the

KEY POINTS

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- ▶ The General Assembly has also adopted a negotiating text for UN Security Council Reforms
- ▶ In Africa, we have adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-Year action plan
- ▶ It is in this context that South Africa calls for the reform of the UN
- ▶ South Africa prioritises the transformation of the system of global governance to make the system more responsive to the needs of the developing countries

only way to deal with this threat. South Africa has requested support for the African Union's (AU) African capacity for immediate response to crises and this initiative has to be operationalised. South Africa, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community region, has offered to host the Amani Africa II field training exercise later this month. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane is the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Tribute to Cuba's Jorge Risquite Valdes



FEW days ago we received the devastating news that destiny has imposed itself on one of the greatest political geniuses of our times, comrade Jorge Risquite Valdes.

We received the sad news that this great heroic revolutionary of our century has departed the land of the living.

We take the opportunity of this rare moment to convey our deepest words of condolences to his family, friends and relatives.

We take this rare moment to express our profound words of condolences to the commander in chief of the Cuban revolution Fidel Castro, the secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, President Raul Castro and the entire people of the Republic of Cuba.

We have indeed lost a colossal hero of our struggle whose contribution to our historic mission of the emancipation of humanity will forever remain immeasurable.

The world has lost an outstanding revolutionary and one of the greatest internationalists of our epoch.

We pay tribute to an all round cadre, a father, a true revolutionary, a true communist, a devoted teacher of Marxist Leninism, a commander of a rebel army, and a revered leader of our struggle for the liberation of mankind.

We pay tribute to a heroic leader of the struggle of the working class.

Over centuries the great imperialist superpowers subjected millions of the African people to vicious forms of slavery and genocide. The slave people were forced to work in the production of sugar, coffee, mineral extraction of copper, and degrading work as domestic servants of the master and the family.

The essence is that the heroic slave people contributed immensely to the construction of the economies of the countries of the American hemisphere.



ON A MISSION: Heroic revolutionary Jorge Risquite Valdes, Justice Pitso and Aleida, the daughter, and Camilo, the son of Ernesto Che Guevara.

The reason why the Cuban revolution saw it imperative to pay back the debt to the African continent, by joining the struggle of our people against imperialism and colonialism.

In 1964 the leadership of the Cuban revolution sent Ernesto Che Guevara to the African continent to foster relationships with our liberation movement.

His tour of the continent covered countries such as Egypt, Algeria, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville and Benin.

Thereafter two contingents of Cuban combatants for the first time in history touched the soil of their ancestral continent.

The one was led by Che Guevara in the Congo Leopoldville (Kinshasha) and the other one was led by Jorge Risquite Valdes in the Congo Brazzaville.

In the Congo Kinshasha the contingents of Che fought alongside the Lumumba guerrilla fighters under the leadership of Laurel Kabila and the one led by Risquite joined the revolu-

tionary forces in Congo Brazzaville to defend the progressive government of Massamba Debat against the forces of imperialism.

It was through the remarkable contribution of the Cuban revolution that the consolidation of the unity of the liberation movement saw the victory of the struggle of our people against imperialism and colonialism.

The forces of counter revolution became a living testimony to the thunder of the Cuban revolution.

The contribution of the Cuban revolution ensured that many of the African territories are liberated from the yoke of imperialism and colonialism.

The heroic battle of Quito Guanavale saw the liberation of the people of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and South Africa.

Comrade Risquite played an indispensable political leadership role during the negotia-

tions of the transition for the independence of Namibia and subsequently our own country, South Africa.

He indeed humbled himself to the common struggle of our people for liberation.

Those of us who were fortunate to be the students of his political classes will forever cherish his great teachings of the theory of Marxist Leninism.

His understanding was that like any other science, Marxist Leninism is a science that must be read and taught to others.

He understood our revolutionary scientific theory not as a dogma but an ideological weapon for the transformation of society.

He was always opposed to opportunism which seeks to distort our scientific theory to whitewash modern capitalism.

He always taught us that the unity of the working class movement on the basis of Marxism Leninism is a necessary condition for the victory of our struggle.

That the unity of the working class movement constitute a supreme duty of every revolutionary.

He was convinced by the ideological proposition that man who looked for a superhuman being in the fantastic reality of heaven and found nothing there but the reflection of himself, will no longer be disposed to find but the semblance of himself, only in a inhuman being, where he seeks and must seek his true reality.

In other words the scientific revolutionary theory of Marxism Leninism bases its conclusions on a profound analysis of reality.

It provides a genuine theoretical foundation for the working class revolutionary struggle. Farewell to the great apostle of the revolutionary struggle for the liberation of humanity.

The generations of man to follow will walk the marks of your footprints.

Rest in peace. Phatse Justice Pitso is the former ambassador to the Republic of Cuba and the former provincial secretary of the SACP. writing this article on his personal capacity

LETTER

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Phiyega too soft for street-wise SAPS job

THE national police commissioner's job is either jinxed or a poisoned chalice - they don't last in their job.

President Jacob Zuma established a commission of inquiry to determine Gen Riah Phiyega's fitness to hold office.

Quite frankly, Phiyega is toast. The commission is just a mere formality. If I were her, I would resign to salvage the little dignity left.

The national police commissioner's fate was decided a while back. In fact, it was decided after the Marikana massacre.

She's still there because she's putting up a spirited fight. But she's fighting a losing battle. And she knows it.

Her lack of police experience has worked against her.

Also her management style doesn't match the position she's occupying. The national police commissioner job needs a street-wise person.

Though stubborn, she's too soft and nice for my liking. She's misplaced.

When she became the national police commissioner, she landed in a hostile environment. Capable career policemen and women were also eyeing the top job.

They are tired of being led by people who have no police background and experience. So they were disgruntled.

In all fairness, there is nothing left for Phiyega to fight for. Even if there was something to fight for, she wouldn't win, because she is a political lightweight. She has also been isolated and sidelined.

And no one is in her corner. The honourable thing for her to do is to resign.

Thabile Mange
Gauteng

TWEETS

@The_New_Age

Nxesi commits to better service delivery for youth, rural areas
Lefda co.
@madavg: he better keep his promise.

Unleaded 93 petrol expected to decrease
Mothusi
@Mothusi9007: let it decrease by R5 I'm gonna buy R2000 petrol...

Chucky
@kthato: But 90% of garages don't have 93 moes??

Next for police, roads and transport says FS is number two to gauteng in good roads and pride themselves on not having etolls.
Pitso Must Fall
@Maliqo: Gariep district R701 road been driving there for 3 yrs once per year wt dangerous potholes.

Mec for health says death rate among infants and mothers dropped. And distributed more than 41 million condoms.
ndonga siphovveyane
@msayfall: mina ngicela ukubuzwa

SAWeather Service: Heatwave conditions in Gauteng, West Mpumalanga, West Bushveld of Limpopo likely 2 persist at least till Sunday.
Nare Lesego Moja
@moja_vincent: re sa tlo swa mos

#Pistorius family: Public, political & media hype that was allowed to develop around trial undermined right 2b treated like any other prisoner.
Nare Lesego Moja
@moja_vincent: ke tsa bona txeo, ke mmolai mara o lokelwa ke goswarelwa

Married couples avoid talking about sex
King Ndzocho
@kbsantana: ??

Yolanda Thandeka
@tdkyola: this can't be life