



CREATING A CARING AND PROUD SOCIETY



A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR
DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE AND
A COHESIVE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY



Foreword by the Ministry of Arts and Culture



Mr Paul Mashatile
Minister of Arts and Culture

In 2009 President Jacob Zuma announced the need for South Africans to engage in a national dialogue on unity and social cohesion.

At centre of this dialogue is the need for us as a nation to identify and promote that which brings us together. The dialogue must also give meaning to the preamble of our Constitution which states that; "We the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of the past... believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity".

In October 2009 the Department of Arts and Culture convened a Social Cohesion Colloquium under the theme; Building a Caring Nation to discuss the state of social cohesion in our country.

We also conducted a number of community conversations across the country; creating a platform for dialogue on the kind society we seek to build.

During the 2010 FIFA World Cup a number of programmes were initiated to promote national unity and build a sense of common purpose among all South Africans united behind the national soccer team; Bafana Bafana.

We continue to popularise our symbols, which are a collective expression of where we come from, of who are we and what kind of future we seek to build.



Dr Joe Phaahla
Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture



Nineteen years into freedom and democracy in our country we are convinced that we are making progress towards building a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. However, we are aware that the task of building a nation and promoting social cohesion is on-going.

In order to strengthen efforts to build an inclusive society, the Department of Arts and Culture has developed this Strategy on Social Cohesion and Nation building.

The Strategy was approved by Cabinet and was circulated to various stakeholders including political parties and civil society organisations for their input and engagement.

The Strategy outlines not only the concept of social cohesion – which is rooted in the experiences and history of South Africa – but attempts to trace how we have come to be where we are as a society. Above all, it highlights achievements, identifies obstacles and goes on to make recommendations on how to strengthen efforts to build a socially inclusive society.

In the spirit of Freedom Charter, we have tried to make the process of consultation on the development of this Strategy as inclusive and representative as possible. This we have done because to us it is important that as many people as possible not only lay their hands on this document but engage with it with the view to improving it.

The finalisation and its adoption was an important milestone in our on-going efforts to build “an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry”, which is one of the outcomes that the Department of Arts and Culture is responsible for.

This book stands as a testament of the gallant work that has been done by the department in carrying its mandate and most importantly in contributing to the goal of building a national democratic society.

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” **Nelson Mandela**

The book provides a glimpse of not only the challenges that stand in our way towards social cohesion but attempts to provide insight and practical solutions on what needs to be done.

The journey towards a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, prosperous, just and caring society is a long one. We invite you to travel with us on this journey as we together seek to build a “caring and proud society”.



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I. Introduction

This is the National Strategy on Social Cohesion and Nation-Building of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). It responds to the on-going and unfinished national project that began with the transformation of South Africa into a constitutional democracy in 1994 – this being the building of a just society, which upholds and embodies the principles and values of an inclusive, non-racial democracy.

More specifically, it responds to Outcome 12 of the set of 12 outcomes adopted by Cabinet in January 2012. It does so by taking the national democratic project embarked on in 1994 further within the medium term, a framework covering April 2010 to March 2014. As such, it represents the most recent stage in the national democratic project.

This project obviously unfolds against the historical background of the stark divisions and inequalities produced by the exclusivist, oppressive, and exploitative social systems of colonialism and apartheid that held sway over South Africa for most of its modern history. Although these systems were formally consigned to the refuse bin of history in the wake of the democratic breakthrough in 1994, vestiges of the inequalities and divisions imposed on society over some three centuries still persist almost two decades after the democratisation of South Africa.

If left unchecked, these will continue indefinitely to, ultimately, threaten the long-term sustainability of democracy in South Africa. To counter this, government and public and private institutions, along with all the citizens of this diverse society, have been

working together to build an inclusive, just and cohesive society in which not just a privileged few, but all members of society live in peace and prosper together. To achieve this, an effective national strategy on social cohesion and nation-building has been developed.

This strategy is oriented towards the South African meanings of social cohesion and nation-building embedded, as they happen to be, in African social ideas and cultures and their dynamic interaction with other cultures. All human societies, at both local-community level and larger intercommunity and national-life level, require sets of shared values, norms, visions, and goals to secure cooperation and foster bonds of belonging.

“the concept of Ubuntu articulates a social humanism of interpersonal care, sharing, and a commitment to the greater social good”

In the context of South Africa, the concept of Ubuntu articulates a social humanism of interpersonal care, sharing, and a commitment to the greater social good. It posits the individual human being as a social construct in a public culture of human reciprocity and solidarity. In this view, an individual is not an entity severed from other human beings. Rather, the individual is human by virtue of other humans. This unreserved humanist and

inclusive social ethos places every individual in a social relationship with other individuals.¹

This interconnectedness based on valuing and respecting all human beings is the foundation of social solidarity. It constitutes a social compact of rights and responsibilities animating and regulating social life.² This Strategy on Social Cohesion and Nation-building, then, is grounded in this.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a national strategy on social cohesion and nation-building for South Africa by:

- providing a theme for the strategy;
- providing a vision for social cohesion and nation-building;
- outlining the legislative framework context related to social cohesion and nation-building;
- formulating a problem statement;
- contextualising social cohesion and nation-building;
- conceptualising social cohesion and nation-building;
- defining social cohesion and nation-building;

¹ See Ramose, M.: The Philosophy of Ubuntu and Ubuntu as Philosophy. *Philosophy in Africa: A Text and Readings*, edited by P.H. Coetzee & A.P.J. le Roux. Oxford University Press. 2004.

² See Nkondo, G.M.: Ubuntu as National Policy in South Africa: A Conceptual Framework. *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. Volume 2. 2007.

- providing principles of social cohesion and nation-building;
- identifying indicators threatening to social cohesion; and
- providing social cohesion and nation-building strategies and programmes.

Driven by the DAC, this is a national strategy that, by its very nature, is intergovernmental and cross-sectoral. It surveys the terrain with a view to proposing contextually informed and measurable social cohesion programmes at all levels of social and public life in South Africa.

3. Vision

This national strategy aims to contribute to the creation of a caring and proud society informed by a vision based on the following:

- Freedom, Democracy, and Justice
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Equality and Inclusion
- Shared Values and Symbols
- Unity and Diversity

4. Theme

The preamble to the Constitution of South Africa declares “We the people of South Africa ... believe that South Africa belongs to everyone who lives in it, united in our diversity”.³

³ *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*. 1996.



This is reiterated in the motto on the national coat of arms by the /Xam expression *!ke e: /xarra //ke*, which literally means *diverse people unite*. It, thus, enjoins the citizens to unite in a sense of belonging and pride. It is combined with the DAC's work on social cohesion embarked on under the theme "Creating a Caring Society". By adding "proud", it reads "Creating a Caring and Proud Society".

This is the theme of the strategy. It marks – in so far as it speaks directly and in an ancient South African language and culture deeply woven into the fabric of many South African languages and cultures – the interconnections of the people, the languages, and the cultures of South Africa.

At the same time, the theme underscores the transformative orientation of this strategy. This transformative thrust makes it explicit that the attainment of higher levels of social cohesion and national unity calls for eradicating the inequalities, exclusions, and divisions of the past in developing a new society.

In addition, the incorporation of the national motto as the theme for this national strategy has four further advantages:

- Firstly, it connects the strategy and its proposed programmes to the Constitution and the national symbols of the country.
- Secondly, it provides opportunities for popularising national symbols and their meanings.
- In the third place, it connects the strategy to the founding principles, values, and institutions of the Constitution.

- In the fourth place, it emphasises the fact that this strategy for social cohesion and nation-building is informed by South African history, realities, experiences, and ideas.

In all these senses, then, the theme proclaims the specifically South African and African grounding of the strategy.

5. Problem Statement

In 1994, South Africa emerged from a long history in which race, ethnicity, and culture were used as the basis for the imposition of a divided, unequal, and hierarchical society that excluded the majority of the population from citizenship. This political and economic order had far-reaching ramifications.

Having established itself by force and maintained itself coercively, the colonial and apartheid dispensation negatively impacted political, social, economic, and cultural life. It shredded the social fabric and fragmented the body politic in the process of constructing a racially exclusive society in which only a minority enjoyed full citizenship.

"the colonial and apartheid dispensation negatively impacted political, social, economic, and cultural life"

At every stage in the history of this imposition, the majority of the population rejected and opposed this. At the same time, an alternative democratic, non-racial, equitable, inclusive,

and united society was proposed, striven, and worked for by successive generations.

In 1994, South Africa made a well-ordered transition to a non-racial democracy. One of the central achievements of the democratic breakthrough was the establishment of an inclusive citizenship. This realised the central political demand of the long struggle for democracy.

While society has overcome the deep political schisms of the past, social divisions, economic inequality, poverty, and exclusion, however, still persist. Access to economic resources, education, and work opportunities, as the National Development Plan (NDP) (2011: 412) states, remains largely based on “race, gender, geographic location, class and linguistic” factors.⁴

After almost 18 years of democracy, despite the progress made in improving the quality of life of the vast majority of the population, the realities of poverty, inequality, unemployment, homelessness, and landlessness remain stark. In some instances, such as unemployment and health, the situation has deteriorated sharply. In this context of economic underperformance, and minority and middle-class privilege, the phenomena of violent crime and abuse of women, children, the elderly and foreign nationals have taken on disturbing proportions.

Uneven and inadequate local government service delivery in historically neglected communities predates democracy. Its

continued manifestation is now an enormous strain on the social fabric and public order. Presently, hardly a day goes by without violent upheavals in disgruntled communities, both in proximity to the historical centres of development and further afield. If left unattended, the escalation of these upheavals poses a direct threat to the long-term stability and prospects of democracy in South Africa.

“While society has overcome the deep political schisms of the past, social divisions, economic inequality, poverty, and exclusion, however, still persist”

A further effect of minority rule has been the long-standing exclusion of the majority of the population, on racist grounds, from participation in the nation state. This flowed from the racial and ethnic exclusivity of the colonial and apartheid dispensations imposed on South Africa over some three centuries. Several interrelated consequences sprang from this:

- It divided the population along racial, linguistic, and cultural lines.
- It denied the majority of the population the right to representation in national government.
- It dispossessed the majority of the people of land.

⁴ *National Development Plan: Vision 2020*. 2011. p. 412.



- It fragmented the country into ethnic enclaves designed to foster ethnicity and tribalism.
- It reserved participation in all aspects of national life for a minority of the population.
- It imposed an unequal, segregated, and indoctrinating educational dispensation on society.
- It regulated and prohibited free intercultural social interaction.
- It denationalised the majority of the population.
- It criminalised and brutalised the majority of the population.
- It restricted the free movement of the majority.
- It disrupted the family and community life of successive generations.
- It denigrated African languages and cultures.
- It maintained minority rule by means of legalised suppression and force.

The effect of all this was the systematic alienation of the majority of the population from national and local state institutions. This alienation was followed through at all levels of society, leaving in its wake a deeply divided society. While much progress has been made on many fronts since 1994, social exclusions still persist.

The challenge, therefore, is to enhance social cohesion and foster the development of a shared South African identity that incorporates

diversity in a democratic dispensation. This relates directly to the translation of the rights and responsibilities of both the state and its citizens into social reality.

As the *Delivery Agreement for Outcome 12* points out, while the Constitution and its Chapter 9 institutions have laid the foundations for an inclusive and just relationship between the citizens and the state at different levels of government as well as with other public and private agencies, the effective realisation of the full participation of all citizens remains uneven.⁵ At both national and local government levels, from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) to the integrated development planning (IDP) of local government and its ward committee system, the impact of these bodies and processes is not optimal.

“The challenge, therefore, is to enhance social cohesion and foster the development of a shared South African identity that incorporates diversity in a democratic dispensation”

Widespread service delivery protests, the outbreak of violence against foreign nationals, high levels of crime, gender violence, child abuse, chronic diseases, and corruption indicate a breakdown between the government and the citizens, on the one hand,

⁵ *Delivery Agreement for Outcome 12*. 2010. pp. 82-83.

and the disregard for peaceful democratic action and human rights values among citizens, on the other. In combination, these have resulted in the spread of dissatisfaction and volatility in many deprived communities across the country.

The evidence suggests that the constitutional recognition of citizenship, along with the rights and responsibilities that go with this, is not firmly embedded in society and concretised in everyday life. This gulf between formal citizenship and reality lies at the heart of the breakdowns between citizens and public institutions as well as within communities.

Accordingly, when this problem has been recognised, the challenge is to implement planned and outcomes-directed interventions that will fully empower citizens and foster the democratic norms and values of such citizenship. How to enhance social cohesion, nation-building, and full democratic citizenship is outlined as follows in the *Service Delivery Agreement for Outcome 12B*:

1. *Empowered Citizenship* means that South Africans understand what rights and responsibilities they have, what they can expect from public organs and from other citizens and are informed about the forums and processes available to them for exercising these rights.
2. *Fair Citizenship* means that the allocation of resources happens transparently and predictably and that the rules governing the allocation of rights apply equally and evenly to everybody.

3. *Inclusive Citizenship* means that everybody has an equal chance of exercising their rights in the various processes, forums and structures that are available.⁶

This is integral to building a cohesive society and working together to achieve shared values and objectives, which, in turn, contribute to intercultural social solidarity and the crystallisation of a shared South African identity.

6. Advances in Social Cohesion and Nation-Building Since 1994

Since the attainment of a non-racial democracy in 1994, South Africa has, in relation to the problem statement outlined above, made enormous strides in overcoming the historically entrenched inequalities and exclusions of centuries of minority rule. The country has consolidated the process of building an inclusive, non-racial, and democratic society over the last 18 years.

After protracted contestations, the formal exclusion of the majority of the population from fully participating in political, economic, social, and cultural life in society at large was historically and effectively ended with the first non-racial democratic elections held on 27 April 1994. The relatively peaceful transition achieved by the democratic breakthrough saw the free and fair election of representatives to national and provincial legislatures as well as to local government. This fundamentally transformed the political landscape from a racially exclusive dispensation into an inclusive

⁶ *Delivery Agreement for Outcome 12*. 2010, p. 83.



non-racial democratic order based on the popular vote.

With each passing year and within the span of four elections, held on schedule and orderly, a democratic culture has been established and progressively consolidated. In the place of the illegitimate colonial and apartheid state, a set of carefully crafted democratic institutions, grounded in human rights and public participation, is now firmly in place.

In addition, a range of public policies and programmes have been conceived and implemented. These seek to redress the injustices of the past and to transform all aspects and spheres of society in a drive to fully actualise the democratic vision enshrined in the Constitution and enhance the quality of life of all citizens. Particular emphasis is placed on those citizens who have been subjected to injustices, marginalisation, and exclusions and denied opportunities for advancement. In the light of this, since 1994, the following advances, as outlined in the *Millennium Development Goals Country Report 2010* and other official documents, have been made:

- A constitutional democracy, based on the rule of law, subject to the provisions in the Constitution and the separation of powers, has replaced the racially exclusive and non-accountable parliamentary political dispensations of the past.
- Legislatures, at all three levels of government, have been established, for which representation is contested in an unrestricted multiparty system.

- The once-fragmented political geography of apartheid and the physical segregation of people along racial and ethnic lines no longer have any legal force. Even though the spatial imprints of the past are still visible, many communities have gradually become more integrated.

“In addition, a range of public policies and programmes have been conceived and implemented”

- As an independent African country made up of diverse peoples and cultures, South Africa has been hard at work in creating a society in which all its citizens are valued as equal human beings with the same rights, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, language, or location.
- Economic and property laws that once excluded the majority of the population have been abolished, and access to resources and economic opportunities is no longer the preserve of a racial minority.
- The diverse languages, cultures, and religions of society enjoy constitutional protection and the right to development.
- A single national education system at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels has replaced the system of segregated, ethnic-based, and Bantu education. This has resulted in the attainment of universal access to primary education well ahead

of the 2015 target date of the Millennium Development Goals.

- In a drive to eradicate extreme poverty, as the basis for creating a caring society and securing the material well-being of its members, comprehensive measures have been taken that combine cash grants with a range of social wages related to free primary health care for all, subsidised housing, electricity, water, sanitation, refuse removal, and transportation, including the transfer of home ownership to renting residents in urban communities historically segregated and designated as townships. These interventions resulted in the decline of absolute poverty from 11.3% in 2000 to 5% in 2006, dropping continuously.
- Equality of persons, across race, gender, and culture, is a cornerstone of the South African Constitution. In this regard, emphasis has been placed on accelerating the participation of women in the political, economic, social, educational, and cultural spheres of life. In terms of political participation, the representation of women in Parliament increased from 27.8% in 1994 to 43.3% in 2009. In provincial legislatures, it increased from 25.4% to 42.4% over the same period.
- Once the pariah of the world, South Africa has, from the inception of democracy, become a beacon for the peaceful resolution of conflict at home, on the continent, and globally. Participating in world affairs, South Africa has worked for the transformation of intracontinental and intercontinental institutions.

- It has successfully organised and hosted major international economic, cultural, and sporting events, including the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
- The draft National Development Plan: Vision 2030 envisages an inclusive growth path through the improvement of education and skills, investment in science and technology, public infrastructure, industrial development, accelerated land reform and food security, the expansion of employment opportunities, safety and security, urban development, a national health-care system, and the further reduction of poverty and inequality in the on-going project of building a unified and cohesive society.

“Equality of persons, across race, gender, and culture, is a cornerstone of the South African Constitution”

Advances made in relation to these and other critical areas of social cohesion and nation-building are further outlined in section 18 of this document, which deals with development indicators. All of this indicates the commitment by government to work in partnership with the private sector, traded unions, civil society, communities, and citizens to build a just, prosperous, inclusive, and cohesive society at peace with itself and the world.



7. Principles of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

This strategy on social cohesion and nation-building is based on the following principles:

- Constitutional democracy
- Human rights and equality
- Non-racialism, non-tribalism, and non-sexism
- Unity in diversity
- Inclusivity and social justice
- Redress and transformation
- Intergroup and community cooperation
- Social solidarity
- Active and participatory citizenship
- Civic responsibility
- National consciousness

These principles serve as the touchstones of this strategy and are aimed at fostering greater cohesion within diverse communities as well as national unity between them and across the country. As such, they should be debated and given content by community members and citizens.

8. The Constitutional Basis of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

The Constitution of South Africa has a direct bearing on social cohesion and nation-building. As mentioned, the *Preamble* declares that “South Africa belongs to all who live in it,

united in our diversity”. As underlined by the South African Human Rights Commission, this embraces every inhabitant of the country, both citizen and non-citizen.⁷

It further stresses the indivisible unity, under the Constitution, of the country’s diverse people. It sets as one of its aims “to improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person”. In this regard, it is a transformative document.

Section 1 affirms “non-racialism and non-sexism” as foundational values and principles. In the light of this, section 9(1) declares that “[e]veryone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law”. Accordingly, section 9(3) stipulates: “The state may not unfairly discriminate against anyone on one or more grounds, including race.” The same applies to gender. Section 10 enjoins: “Everyone has inherent dignity and has the right to have their dignity respected and protected.”

These provisions, along with the Bill of Rights and other provisions form the basis of laws and constitute the legal foundation of a democratic South Africa required to proactively correct injustices of the past.⁸

9. DAC Initiatives on Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

The arts, cultural, social cohesion, and nation-building mandate of the DAC captures in its vision:

⁷ See the *Report of the SAHRC Investigation into Issues of Rule of Law, Justice and Impunity Arising out of the 2008 Public Violence against Non-Nationals*. 2010.

⁸ *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Act 108 of 1996*.

To develop and preserve South African culture to ensure social cohesion and nation-building.⁹

This mandate derives from its role as public custodian of the diverse cultures, languages, and heritage of the people of South Africa and as the national leader in providing public support for the development of innovation across the full spectrum of the arts as creative, economic, and social practices and as bearers of a dynamic society. As a consequence, the department's programmes cover the administration of arts and culture in society, language, heritage promotion, national archives, records, libraries, and heraldry.

These programmes, integral to the social and cultural life of society, are carried out within the specified constitutional and legal frameworks of the country. Thus, in responding to the need for development of an inclusive and cohesive society, its efforts lead in contributing to overcoming the divisions and inequalities of the past, in the spheres of culture, language, heritage, and the arts as well as in social processes at large.

Hence, the DAC's *Baseline Document on Social Cohesion Version 5* (2010)¹⁰ points out that the DAC has, over the years, embarked on several research activities and projects related to social cohesion and nation-building. It is, therefore, important to provide a brief overview of these in order to contextualise

this strategy and consolidate the work done up to this stage.

In 2004, the DAC commissioned the study on *Social Cohesion and Social Justice in South Africa*¹¹ conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Although this is not listed in the activities of the DAC's *Baseline Document*, this extensive study, along with the macro-social report, *A Nation in the Making: Macro-Social Trends in South Africa*, developed between 2004 and 2006 by the Presidency¹², introduced the concepts of social cohesion, social capital, and social justice into policy discourse. The report has served as a key text in the department's policy work and programmes on social cohesion and nation-building.

"In October 2009, a Social Cohesion Colloquium with the theme "Building a Caring Nation" was held to discuss the state of social cohesion in South Africa"

The July 2007, the Cabinet Lekgotla approved a macro-social strategic framework aimed at addressing the negative indicators of social cohesion identified in *A Nation in the Making*, such as chronic poverty, high unemployment,

⁹ *Medium-Term Strategic Framework April 2010-March 2014*. Department of Arts and Culture.

¹⁰ Social Cohesion Team: Arts and Culture: *Baseline Document on Social Cohesion Version 5*. 2010. Department of Arts and Culture.

¹¹ Social Cohesion and Integration Research Programme: *Social Cohesion and Social Justice in South Africa*. Human Sciences Research Council. October 2004.

¹² *A Nation in the Making: Macro-Social Trends in South Africa*. The Presidency, 2006.



the persistence of racism, the spread of xenophobia, high levels of crime, and other manifestations of social fragmentation and underdevelopment.

In October 2009, a Social Cohesion Colloquium with the theme “Building a Caring Nation” was held to discuss the state of social cohesion in South Africa. One of its recommendations was that a national social cohesion conference be held in 2010, with the objective of stimulating debate on, and awareness of, the importance of social cohesion and the need to develop a national strategy.

Coupled with this, community participation aimed at promoting discussions and cooperation at grassroots level between citizens and public officials on social cohesion matters ranging from community consultations on place names to the popularisation of national symbols was proposed.

A perception survey on social cohesion was conducted in KwaZulu-Natal in the communities of KwaCeza, Nquthu, Umbumbulu, and Zwelinzima.¹³

These initiatives, activities, and plans aimed at promoting social cohesion and nation-building assumed a new urgency after 12 outcomes were adopted at the 20 to 22 January 2010 Cabinet Lekgotla. As a whole, the 12 outcomes constitute a comprehensive implementation and delivery model that requires departments and institutions across government and public institutions to lead

effectively and to deliver high-impact outputs within the framework of the strategic policies, plans, and priorities of government.

While the 12 outcomes mentioned above pertain to the implementation of the electoral mandate of the current government over the medium term, all outcomes are rooted in the historical, current, and future challenges facing South Africa. As such, they are both medium-term and long-term initiatives in so far as their effective implementation is critical for future policy directions and developments.

As the communiqué by the South African Government Information Service (2010) states, the *Delivery Agreement* on the implementation of the 12 outcomes specifies who will do what, when, and with what resources. Coordinating structures have been established to ensure that the partners of the *Delivery Agreement* work together to implement, monitor, and review progress.

“In order for citizenship to be fair and inclusive, citizens will need access to accurate, up-to-date information about government”

Outcome 12, which directly pertains to the DAC, is focused on developing “[a]n efficient, effective and development oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship”.

¹³ Department of Arts and Culture: *Assessment of the Promotion of Identity and Social Cohesion in Selected Sites in KwaZulu-Natal*. August 2009.

The *Delivery Agreement* for this outcome consists of seven strategic areas of output:

- Service delivery quality and access
- Human resource management and development
- Business processes, systems, decision rights, and accountability
- Tackling corruption effectively
- Nation-building and national identity
- Citizen participation
- Social cohesion

The outputs specific to the DAC are the last three in the list above. In the *Delivery Agreement* (2010: 84-85), these outputs, designated as Outcome 12B, are assigned to the Department of Arts and Culture. Outcome 12A, comprising the first four listed, is assigned to the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA).

Output 1: Nation-Building and National Identity

Apartheid-era conceptions of nation-building and national identity held race and ethnicity as core values of political belonging and of social solidarity. Democracy in South Africa is associated with a rejection of ethno-nationalism and a move towards placing the norms and values of citizenship at the heart of national identity. Efforts at nation-building, therefore, have to place citizenship education and citizenship empowerment at the core of government's efforts. Concretely, this means encouraging awareness among South Africans

about the Constitution, their rights, as well as their responsibilities as citizens.

Embracing civic nationalism means recognising the great diversity of South Africans in their roles and positions in society, in terms of culture and religion, of sexual orientation, and also of political opinions. It is important, therefore, to make South Africans aware of this diversity as part of a broader message about citizenship, namely, that South Africans are socially diverse, yet common in their citizenship.

Output 2: Citizen Participation

Making citizenship central to South African national identity means empowering South Africans to behave as citizens in their vertical relationships with public bodies and with respect to the law. In order for citizenship to be fair and inclusive, citizens will need access to accurate, up-to-date information about government and its activities. For this purpose, it is crucial that government make information available through a variety of media, not just the Internet. In addition, government departments and agencies at all levels need to build the institutional capacity to respond accurately and quickly to information requests from the public.

Citizens will also need to know what processes exist, where they are, and how they operate. The fairness and the inclusivity of such processes are measured by the degree to which they are accessible to all, especially to women, the disabled, and the poor. In this regard, special attention is to be paid to issues of *institutional or process design* so as to maximise participation. What powers and functions do



these bodies have? Are their meetings more than talk shops? What time are meetings held? Is this time convenient to most people, or does it, effectively, discriminate against certain potential stakeholders? Where are these meetings held? Is there accessibility for people with disabilities? How are meetings conducted? Are they held in a language that is understandable to most people? Are they chaired in a manner that encourages participation, especially by women or people who are less formally educated than others?

Output 3: Social Cohesion

One of the key measures of nation-building is the degree to which there are strong horizontal relationships between South African citizens. A socially cohesive and democratic society is one where individuals treat one another on the basis of norms and values of citizenship, that is, with fairness, with respect, and as equals. The key challenge here is to develop democratic social capital.

It is important for government to support activities that build democratic social capital. In this regard, there are strong links between volunteerism in civic society organisations and the emergence of generalised social trust. Participation in effective, democratic organisations has also been shown to develop understanding of, and commitment to, democratic norms and values. Support for volunteerism and active citizenship needs to be accompanied by campaigns to educate South Africans regarding their responsibilities to one another in everyday situations.

There are several key measures of the degree to which the norms and values of citizenship

permeate social relations. Foremost among these is the way that women and children are treated in society. South Africa has very high levels of violence against women and children, and the challenge for this sub-output is to develop on-going programmes to reduce such violence.

These three outputs are interrelated and complementary. They are also related to the other outputs of Outcome 12 as well as to, of course, the other 11 outcomes and their respective outputs.

These outcomes are linked to all the others aimed at the following: improving the quality of education; enhancing access to health, safety, and security; decent employment; skills development; infrastructure and rural development; food security; constructing sustainable human settlements; improving the quality of household life; providing responsive, effective, accountable, and efficient local government; ensuring environmental protection; and regional and global cooperation for peace and stability.

10. Conceptualising Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

This section provides a rethinking of the conventional assignment of social cohesion and nation-building as secondary and intangible by-products of the primary process of economic development. It conceptualises social cohesion and nation formation as interrelated and society-wide processes. They operate at both vertical and horizontal levels of society in relation to economic and social factors and are directed towards

achieving maximum inclusion at all levels of society, in a particular context.¹⁴

If coordinated, they should combine to create social cohesion at community, provincial, and national levels. The optimisation of social cohesion and nation-building is, therefore, indispensable for the attainment of long-term social and political stability. Without this, sustainable economic development – in which all members of society, whether citizens or not, have fair and equal opportunities to contribute to, participate in, and benefit from – becomes difficult to attain.

In terms of this, all spheres of society – economic, social, legal, cultural, and environmental – are to be understood and treated as social processes. They garner legitimacy and impact in direct relation to the extent to which they contribute, directly and indirectly, to enhance the material, social, cultural, and physical quality of life of a society, both its citizenry and other members.

This conceptualisation of economic development permeates the Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD).¹⁵ The first four paragraphs declare:

1. For the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations, we gather as Heads of State and Government to recognize the significance of social

development and human well-being for all and to give to these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century.

2. We acknowledge that the people of the world have shown in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion that affect every country. It is our task to address both the underlying and structural causes and their distressing consequences in order to reduce uncertainty and insecurity in the life of people.

“We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and the communities”

3. We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live throughout our diverse countries and regions. We must do so as a matter of urgency, but also as a matter of sustained and unshakable commitment through the years ahead.
4. We are convinced that democracy and transparent and accountable governance

14 Abugre, C.: The Financial Crisis and Social Development in Africa: An Opportunity for Strategic Change. 2011.

15 Declaration and Programme. World Summit on Social Development. Copenhagen. 1995.



and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred development.

South Africa, having become a democracy in 1994, emerged from its long international isolation and joined the community of nations at this very historic juncture. When the declaration is read in relation to the Freedom Charter, the Reconstruction and Development Programme, and the Constitution of South Africa, it is evident that this conception of social development had already been fully inscribed in key South African documents before and at the moment of its founding as a democracy.

Thus, this strategy is grounded in two historical documents. The first is the Freedom Charter, which has, over many decades, served as a lodestar for a future South Africa. Its inclusive declaration, quoted below, predates the declaration of the World Summit on Social Development by half a century:

We, the people of South Africa, for all our country and the world to know: that South Africa belongs to all the people who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people; that our people have been robbed of their birth right, to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality; that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood enjoying equal rights and opportunities; that only a democratic state, based on the will of the people, can secure to all their birth right, without distinction to race, sex or belief; and therefore we, the people of South Africa, black and white together –

equals, countrymen and brothers – adopt the Freedom Charter.¹⁶

Carried forward, aspects of the Freedom Charter were incorporated in the Constitution. Together, these documents encapsulate and foreshadow much of what is contained in the Declaration and Programme

“Africa belongs to all the people who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people”

of Action of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

The Freedom Charter forms the basis of the long struggle for a non-racial and non-sexist democracy of equal rights attained in 1994. Its opening declaration is now enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, cited earlier:

We the people of South Africa ... believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.¹⁷

These two documents and the Bill of Human Rights set out in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, along with the founding principles of human dignity, democracy, freedom, non-racialism, and non-sexism in the Constitution, inform

¹⁶ Meli, F.: *South Africa Belongs to Us: A History of the ANC*. Zimbabwe Publishing House. 1988.

¹⁷ *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*. 1996.

this strategy and its objectives.

In these iconic documents, social cohesion and nation-building are not conceptualised in any rigid homogenising terms. In an innovative and reasoned departure, the well-known homogenising precepts of social cohesion associated with monocultural societies are abandoned. At the same time, the colonial practice of enlisting cultural diversity as a justification for inequality, exclusion, and systematic division is rejected as conceptually inappropriate and ethically undesirable.

II. Convergence of Social Cohesion and National Development Priorities

The policy environment within which this strategy is situated is complex. It involves a set of interrelated and overlapping initiatives at national level to which it has to be aligned for optimal impact. The following are the most important initiatives.

In order to effect the repositioning of social cohesion and nation-building to articulate with, and align to, economic and social development strategies and policies, it is necessary to establish the extent of convergence or non-convergence.

To this end, convergence tables are constructed to gauge the following policies and their priorities:

- Electoral Mandate: 2009-2014
- The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP)
- New Growth Path: 2010-2014 (NGP)

“We the people of South Africa ... believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity”



Minister of Arts & Culture:
Mr Paul Mashatile



International Guest Speaker: Dr Cirino Hiteng
Ofuho, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport
from South Sudan.



- Industrial Policy Action Plan: 2010-2014 (IPAP)
- Millennium Development Goals: 2000-2015 (MDGs)

Electoral Mandate: 2009-2014

MANDATE	Yes/No
Decent work and sustainable livelihoods	Yes
Education and skills development	Yes
Health	Yes
Rural development, food security, and land reform	Yes
Combating corruption	Yes
CONVERGENCE RATE	100%

The 12 Outcomes Related to the Electoral Mandate

OUTCOME NUMBER	Yes/No
Improved quality of basic education	Yes
A long and healthy life for all South Africans	Yes
All people in South Africa feel and are safe	Yes
Decent employment through economic growth	Yes
A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path	Yes
An efficient, competitive, and responsive economic infrastructure network	Yes
Vibrant, equitable, and sustainable rural communities with food security for all	Yes
Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life	Yes
A responsive, accountable, effective, and efficient local government system	Yes
Environmental assets and natural resources that are enhanced	Yes
Contributing to a better and safer South Africa, Africa, and the world	Yes
An efficient, effective, and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair, and inclusive citizenship	Yes
CONVERGENCE RATE	100%

The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF): 2009-2014

OBJECTIVES	Yes/No
Halving poverty by 2014	Yes
Ensuring a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth to reduce inequality	Yes
Improving the nation's health profile and skills base and ensuring universal access to basic services	Yes
Building a nation free of all forms of racism, sexism, tribalism, and xenophobia	Yes
Improving the safety of citizens by reducing incidents of crime and corruption	Yes
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	
Speeding up growth and transformation of the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods	Yes
Massive programmes to build economic and social infrastructure	Yes
Comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land, agrarian reform, and food security	Yes
Strengthening the skills and human resource base	Yes
Improving the health profile of all South Africans	Yes
Intensifying the fight against crime and corruption	Yes
Building cohesive, caring, and sustainable communities	Yes
Pursuing African advancement and enhancing international cooperation	Yes
Sustainable resource management and use	Yes
Building a developmental state, including improvement of public services and strengthening of democratic institutions	Yes
CONVERGENCE RATE	100%

Millennium Development Goals

GOAL	Yes/No
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Yes
Achieve universal primary education	Yes
Promote gender equality, and empower women	Yes
Reduce child mortality	Yes
Improve maternal health	Yes
Combat HIV/Aids, malaria, and other diseases	Yes
Ensure environmental sustainability	Yes
Develop global partnerships for development	Yes
CONVERGENCE RATE	100%



National Development Plan: Vision for 2030

PLAN	Yes/No
Achieving full employment	Yes
Promoting health	Yes
Infrastructure development	Yes
Focusing on rural development	Yes
Improving education	Yes
Extending social protection	Yes
Securing safer communities	Yes
An efficient and anti-corrupt state	Yes
Enhancing national unity	Yes
CONVERGENCE RATE	100%

This high correlation between national development policies and social cohesion and nation-building also applies to the New Growth Path and the Industrial Policy Action Plan. It, therefore, confirms the fundamental social imperatives of development.

In this regard, the DAC, through *Mzansi's Golden Economy* (MGE), has established a policy framework and large-scale high-impact programmes to facilitate growth in the cultural and creative industries to maximise the economic growth and employment potential of this sector.¹⁸ This strategy on social cohesion and nation-building, similarly, is a response to new priorities and policy directions for development in the country.

¹⁸ Department of Arts and Culture: *Mzansi's Golden Economy: Contribution of the Arts, Culture and Heritage to the New Growth Path*. 2011.

12. Defining Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

The concept of social cohesion was popularised in the 1990s. This was at a time when the effects of globalisation unsettled societies across the world. However, a concern with the stability and integration of communities and societies dates back to the advent of industrialisation and urbanisation and the disruptive effects of this on closely bonded and well-integrated local community life.¹⁹

In the context of South Africa, it may be said that a concern with social cohesion dates even further back to the advent of colonialism and its disruptive and destructive effects of dispossession and exclusion on local communities and society at large as well as the social upheavals this system spawned. The issue of social cohesion was pertinent

¹⁹ Elisabeth King: *Interventions to Promote Social Cohesion in Sub-Saharan Africa*. New York: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation. 2009.

throughout the 20th century in the wake of urbanisation and forced removals.

Modern nation-building, on the other hand, dates back to the struggles for national liberation in the 19th century, which saw a spirit of nationalism inspired by struggles for independence across the globe. So, just as the disintegration of local communities' dates back to the violent contact of local communities with advancing colonists, the South African struggle for national liberation and national unity is not something new or recent.

Recent, however, are the new conditions and challenges that have been facing South Africa since it became a democracy. Located in a rapidly changing world, where there are many widely differing definitions of social cohesion and nation-building, the definitions given here are formulated with reference to South Africa.

12.1 Definition of Social Cohesion

Social cohesion is defined as the degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression of itself among individuals and communities.

In terms of this definition, a community or society is cohesive to the extent that the inequalities, exclusions, and disparities based on ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, age, disability, or any other distinctions that engender divisions, distrust, and conflict are reduced and/or eliminated in a planned and sustained manner – this with community members and citizens as active participants working together for the attainment of shared

goals designed and agreed on to improve living conditions for all.

12.2 Definition of Nation-Building

Nation-building is the process whereby a society of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures, and religions comes together within the boundaries of a sovereign state with a unified constitutional and legal dispensation, a national public education system, an integrated national economy, and shared symbols and values, as equals, to work towards eradicating the divisions and injustices of the past, to foster unity, and to promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly South African, committed to the country, and open to the continent and the world.

Nation-building, in this sense and in the context of South Africa, cannot be the perpetuation of hierarchies of the past based on pre-given or ethnically engineered and imposed divisions of people rooted in prejudice, discrimination, and exclusion. It calls for something else, that is, a rethinking, in South African terms, of what social cohesion, linked to nation-building, should be. It should, no doubt and in essence, be directed towards the practical actualisation of democracy in South Africa.

Accordingly, a nation is conceived as a social formation based on the unity and equality of its members, consisting of the following shared and recognised attributes:

- A shared origin and history
- An internationally recognised territory



- A unitary sovereign state
- A single judicial system
- A single public education system
- Nationally recognised languages
- Nationally recognised cultures
- Nationally recognised religions
- Shared values
- Shared symbols
- A shared national consciousness

In South Africa, the diverse cultures, languages, and religions should not be seen as impediments to national unity, given the statutory equality accorded to all citizens.

13. Dimensions of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

According to Cloete and Kotze, following De Wit, social cohesion consists of five dimensions.²⁰ These are the first five listed below, to which an additional three have been added:

- **Belonging:** to be part of, and to experience, a sense of affiliation to the community and the larger society. It involves processes of identification and acceptance within a community and larger society. In a diverse society such as South Africa, it requires identification with, and acceptance of, groups.
- **Inclusion:** to be included, on an equal basis, in all social activities and rights and to have equal access to all life opportunities.

- **Participation:** this, unhindered, means active involvement in community and social activities, programmes, and events.
- **Recognition:** to recognise, acknowledge, and value differences without discrimination.
- **Legitimacy:** refers to the integrity and social legitimacy of public bodies and leaders representing community members and citizens.



Dr Joe Phaahla: Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture and Mr Gwede Mantashe: Secretary General of ANC

- **Shared values:** in societies with diverse cultures, it is to be expected that there will be diverse and even divergent values. It is, thus, important for citizens to subscribe to a basic set of shared values such as democracy, freedom, equality, justice, and mutual respect.
- **Cooperation:** a willingness to cooperate and work on community and social projects with diverse citizens.
- **Belief:** in self-help and confidence in the future of the community with the conviction that the future of the community depends on the action of the community members.

²⁰ Pieter Cloete & Frans Kotze: Concept Paper on Social Inclusion in Local Integrated Development Plans. 11-12. 2009.

14. Resources of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

According to Emery and Flora²¹ and Jim Cavaye²², community and social development is based on eight resources referred to as forms of capital. These are as follows:

Environmental capital: this is the natural environment and geographic location of a community and society along with its land, climate, and natural resources. South Africa's geographic environment is diverse, supports a diversity of natural life, and is rich in natural resources. Historically, the natural resources and most productive part of the land were controlled by a minority, and this still remains so. In the present context, the development of natural resources has to be conducted within a framework of environmental protection.

Cultural capital: this refers to the customs, traditions, language, and religion of a community. It includes the community's outlook on, and understanding of, the world and encapsulates the way of life of a community, its heritage, and its creative, inventive, and aesthetic modalities. South Africa is a culturally diverse society consisting of African, Asian, and European cultures. Under colonialism and apartheid, the African and Asian cultures were marginalised, while the European cultures were privileged. A transformed and inclusive community will

redress the cultural imbalances of the past on the basis of equality. It will further seek to bridge the divides erected between cultures under segregation.

Human capital: this refers to the knowledge and skills of the community and society needed for economic, technological, and scientific development. Quality education and training in South Africa were designed to serve a minority. As a consequence, the country suffers from a skills deficit as it works to repair the primary school system and to achieve universal primary education access, which are Millennium Development Goal 1 and Output 1.

Social capital: this refers to the bonding capital that ties individuals and communities together and the bridging nexus of solidarities that connects groups, organisations, associations, and communities.

Political capital: this refers to the access members of the community have to public and representative bodies where policies are developed and decisions are made on programmes and resource allocations.

Financial capital: this refers to the financial resources at the disposal of the community and society for investment in development directed towards capacity building and local and national economic initiative businesses.

Construction capital: this is the constructed environment of houses, buildings, and infrastructure or roads, railways, ports, telecommunication networks, and energy-generating and -supply grids of a society.

21 Mary Emery & Comelia Flora: Spiralling-Up: Mapping Community with Community Capital Framework. *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 27(1)19-35. 2006.

22 Jim Cavaye: *Understanding Community Development*. Cavaye Institute. 2002.



In the light of the above, a society such as South Africa as a cohesive and unified society should be characterised by:

- a sense of belonging for all its diverse citizens and members;
- a shared vision among diverse citizens on the future of their community and society;
- a broadly shared set of public values and norms for social conduct;
- equal opportunities for development and advancement for all people, regardless of their culture, gender, status, age, ability, and region;
- positive valuation of diverse cultures, languages, and religions;
- respect and tolerance for political and ideological differences;
- regular interaction, exchange, and cooperation among its diverse members;
- respect for constitutionally based laws, international law, and local regulations complying with such laws;
- a high level of awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens;
- a proud consciousness of being South African;
- active participation of citizens in public institutions, decision-making processes, projects, events, and celebrations at all levels of society;
- democratic and peaceful resolution of disputes and disagreements;

- welcoming and integration of immigrants into society; and
- transparent and accountable handling of public affairs by public representatives and government officials.

15. Interrelationship of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

Therefore, it is necessary to locate social cohesion and nation-building at the specific levels of their practical operationalisation in public life. At the same time, it is important to draw attention to their interconnections and mutually reinforcing and potential disrupting effects. Accordingly:

- **Social cohesion** is generally **community based** and located at a **micro-social** level, while it is, at the same time, underpinned by a national sense of belonging and the extent of legitimacy of social institutions.
- **Nation-building**, on the other hand, is **nationally oriented** and, thus, located at the **macro-social level**.
- **Intercommunity cohesion:** since the gap between the two levels above, in a country the size of South Africa, is relatively vast, an intermediate level of social cohesion is necessary. This relates to the provinces that constitute the **district and provincial or meso-levels** of intercommunity life.

An integrated strategy of social cohesion, therefore, must engage and link up with all three levels of public life. In this regard, social

cohesion and national unity form a layered and integrated approach. The macro-level of nation-building depends, for its success, on micro- and meso-coordination and -performance. Likewise, the effectiveness of the meso- and micro-levels depends on the performance at macro-level.

Put plainly, national, provincial, and local policies and their effective implementation are interdependent and interconnected. Any gap between these levels in critical jurisdictions will result in the fragmentation of governance and, with it, the fragmentation of society.

“Put plainly, national, provincial, and local policies and their effective implementation are interdependent and interconnected”

While this is not a diagnostic of breakdowns in relation to cooperative governance, the crises in provincial and local government that manifested in the country soon after the advent of democracy and that find even sharper expression today point towards structural and operational fragmentation at all levels of governance. The severe social and other consequences of these crises are openly acknowledged by government, and attempts are being made to address them – hence, among other initiatives, this strategy for social cohesion and nation-building.

These are the historical and present contexts in which this strategy is located. Informed by these, it is directed towards the progressive realisation of a South African society as an inclusive, cohesive, sustainable, dynamic, and durable society fully integrated into Africa and the world. Actualising this calls for concerted and coordinated work on several interfacing domestic, regional, and global developments. This work must, by definition, begin at home.

16. Measuring Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

To monitor and measure the impact of social cohesion and nation-building policies and programmes, indicators are needed. To this end, Atkinson and Marlier recommend that the design indicators adhere to five basic principles.²³

These have been adapted for South African purposes and recast as eight features, rather than principles, to be built into the indicators. The indicators must, therefore:

1. clearly determine the nature and extent of the specific problem of inequality and social exclusion;
2. be both quantitatively and statistically validated as well as qualitatively and experience based;
3. be generally agreed on, and accepted by, policy makers, programme managers, and community participants;

²³ A.B. Atkinson & E. Marlier: *Analysing and Measuring Social Cohesion in a Global Context*. United Nations 2010. pp. 20-27.



4. be context specific and adaptable;
5. be aligned to the patterns, tempo, and direction of change;
6. be revised and adjusted in response to new and unforeseen developments;
7. be attainable and adequately resourced and supported; and
8. be benchmarked and interpreted for comparative purposes locally, nationally, and internationally.

This requires drawing on quantitative indicators, that is, objective national, provincial, and local development indices, combined with experiential personal data, analysis, and interpretation. The design, while attentive to global benchmarks, must be rigorously grounded in the particularities of South Africa.

This is to ensure that development indicators are socially contextualised. Directly related to this is the necessity to ensure that experiences of social inclusion and well-being specific to South Africa are measured.

17. Building Consensus on a National Strategy for Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

This section outlines the steps required to ensure maximum support for a national programme on social cohesion and broad support for the principles and indicators of the programme. It is concerned with actualising the strategy. The following steps are widely recommended:

1. Mainstreaming social inclusion and nation formation in development plans and initiatives nationally, regionally, and locally
2. Mobilisation of all the key participants, stakeholders, and institutions
3. Building national support for the strategy and its objectives
4. Involving communities in all stages of planning and implementation
5. Building the requisite capacity and skills
6. Ensuring transparency and accountability
7. Combating nepotism, patronage, and corruption

18. Indicators of Social Cohesion and Nation-Building

This section draws on the Development Indicators for 2010²⁴, South Africa Survey 2010-2011²⁵, and National Statistics 2010-2011.²⁶ These consist of both quantitative and qualitative data.

These indicators are applied to establish their cumulative impact on the specific and general forms of social exclusion and the effect of this on social cohesion and national unity. At the same time, the direct and indirect relations of the arts, culture, and heritage to these are highlighted, the purpose being to interconnect different spheres and aspects of society in an effort to arrive at an integrated strategy.

²⁴ *Development Indicators*. The Presidency. 2010.

²⁵ *South Africa Survey 2010-2011*. Institute of Race Relations: Johannesburg. 2012.

²⁶ *National Statistics 2010-2011*. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. 2012.

19. Slow Economic Growth and Transformation

Over a 16-year period, from 1993 to 2010, the highest gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 5.6% in 2006. It fell to 5.5% in 2007. The lowest was -1.8% in 2009. This can be attributed to the global financial and economic crisis. This rose to just over 3.2% in the first quarter of 2012 and is expected to drop below 3% in 2013. This means that the much-needed expansion of the economy to drive down unemployment is not materialising.

Consequently, the real per capita growth averaged 3% in the period from 1994 to 2009. The highest growth was in 2006 and 2007 at 4.2%. The lowest was in 2002 at -2.8%.

Black economic empowerment (BEE), aimed at economically empowering historically disadvantaged South Africans, peaked in 2003 and 2004, when it was in the region of R660 billion. This was in the wake of the publication of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Act, which had just been passed at the time. In 2009, it slowed down and dropped to approximately R160 billion. Fast-tracking sustainable BEE is considered a high priority for inclusion. This is besides the fact that most such deals do not, in any meaningful way, empower workers and communities.

The percentage of black top managers rose from 12.7% in 2000 to 32.2% in 2010. Senior black managers rose from 18.5% to 35.5% over the same period. Top managers who are female rose from 12.4% in 2000 to 18.0% in 2009, while senior female managers

rose from 21% to 26.7% over the same period. While there is a positive trend in the employment of black managers, it is less so in the case of black females. This calls for intensification of transformation and expansion of representativity in senior management.²⁷

The slow pace of economic growth and transformation directly impacts the capacity of the state to expand economic participation and inclusion for all South Africans. It, therefore, relates directly to continued economic exclusion, unemployment, poverty, and inequality for those historically excluded from productive and gainful livelihoods. It is further linked to many of the other social problems and the material and cultural deprivations inflicted on historically excluded communities. The slow economic growth and transformation are, however, also a consequence of the policies followed until recently. In this regard, the Industrial Policy Action Plan incorporates the cultural industries as potential contributors to economic growth.²⁸

20. Unemployment and Social Exclusion

The employment figure increased from 11.2 million in 2001 to 13.8 million in 2008. It declined to 12.7 million in 2010 due to the global economic crisis resulting in massive job losses. Unemployment (narrow definition as in official statistics), which peaked at 31,2%

²⁷ Source: Development Indicators. The Presidency. 2010.

²⁸ See Mzansi's *Golden Economy*. 2011.



in March 2003, dropped to 23% in 2007, to rise again to 24,2% in 2009. For 2011, the official unemployment rate was at 25%, while the expanded definition of the South African Survey was pegged at 36,5%. According to available information (given the fragmented data of the early years of democracy inherited from the apartheid era), the unemployment rate increased between 1994 and 2010.

“High levels of unemployment are both a historical phenomenon in South Africa and a consequence of the aggravated current global conditions”

It is estimated that the percentage of unemployed blacks as a proportion of the total unemployed in 2011 was as high as 85,7%, or 3 740 000 out of a total of 4 364 000 unemployed. Unemployment increased from 2 million in 1995 to 4,4 million in 2003 and dropped to 4,1 million in 2009. It is estimated that this decline will continue, since the number of jobs created since 2003 has outstripped the growth of the workforce.²⁹

High levels of unemployment are both a historical phenomenon in South Africa and a consequence of the aggravated current global conditions. They are also a consequence of a resource-based economy reliant on the

export of raw materials, with little if any beneficiation. The shift to beneficiation will create opportunities for designers, crafters, and other creative industries to contribute to the economy and job creation.

21. Poverty, Inequality, and Social Exclusion

Poverty is the consequence of social and economic exclusion and a product of inequality produced in a society where wealth is concentrated in the hands of a minority. It serves to exclude the poor from participation in the mainstream economic, social, and cultural life of a society. It assaults the dignity of the individual and curtails life chances for personal advancement.

GDP per capita growth averaged less than 1% per annum for the period 1994 to 2003. Since 2003, it has averaged 3.7%. The monthly income of the poorest 10% of the population increased from R783 to R1 041 during that period. The income of the richest 10% of the population increased from R71 005 to R97 999. This points to huge inequalities in income, with 70% of the income going to the richest 20% of the population, while the poorest 10% receives less than 0,6%. This inequality remains racial, with mean income for Africans at R775,46, compared to the mean income of R7 645,58 for whites.

Poverty and inequality remain major challenges for South Africa. The Gini coefficient indicates that inequality worsened from 0.64 to 0.66 in 2008. Using a R524 per month poverty line, the poverty headcount

²⁹ Source: Development Indicators. The Presidency. 2010.

decreased from 58% in 2000 to 49% in 2008. Using a R283 per month poverty line, the poverty headcount decreased from 38% in 2000 to 22% in 2008. This decline in poverty is attributable to an increase in the uptake of social grants. Despite this decline in poverty levels, poverty is still widespread, and inequality remains severe.³⁰

22. Households, Land, and Social Exclusion

It is estimated that approximately 76.2% of South African households live in formal dwellings. This is 12.2% up from 64.4% in 1996. Since 1994, a total of R3 million subsidised houses have been built for the poor. However, 24% of the population is still living in informal settlements.

The percentage of households with access to water increased to 93.3% by March 2010. This, therefore, indicates that South Africa is likely to achieve its Millennium Development Goal of universal access to potable water in 2014. Access to sanitation increased to 79.9%, with 8 421 houses still dependent on the bucket system. The number of households with access to electricity increased from 4.5 million in 1994 to 9.4 million in 2010.

Since 1994, 79 696 land claims have been lodged. By 2010, 95% had been settled at a cost of R12 billion to land cost and R1,6 billion to beneficiaries. Since 1994, 3.1 million hectares of land have been distributed,

against the goal of redistributing 30% of the country's agricultural land over a period of 15 years from 2000 to 2015.³¹ Only 8% has been achieved. Sustainable urban and rural settlements and access to land are important for family life and community life as well as for economic development.³²

23. Health and Social Exclusion

Life expectancy rates declined from 54.9 years in 2001 to 50.5 years in 2010. Infant mortality rates declined from 46 per 1 000 live births in 1994 to 32 in 2010. Live births are well above the MDG target of 18 deaths due to HIV and Aids and other infant infections.

Severe malnutrition measured in lower weights estimated for age declined by 70% from being close to 90 000 in 2001 to just over 25 000 in 2008.

Although South Africa makes up only 0.7% of the world's population, in 2010, it accounted for 16.8% of the world's HIV/Aids infections. In July 2011, an estimated 11% of South Africa's population was living with HIV/Aids. In addition, South Africa's tuberculosis rate was 931 per 100 000 people, which, after Swaziland, was the second highest in Africa. Thus, the goal of building a healthy nation with a longer life expectancy remains a challenge.

It is important to note that diseases such as HIV/Aids and tuberculosis are stigmatised in many communities across the country and effectively serve to exclude persons affected

30 Source: Development Indicators. The Presidency. 2010.

31 Source: National Treasury. Budget Speech, 2012.

32 See Mcebisi, N. & Ndabeni, N.: *Social Cohesion*. 2008.



by these illnesses from society. The effect of this exacerbates the physical and psychological suffering of those affected.

24. Uneven Access to Quality Education and Social Exclusion

The goal of educational development is to provide access to quality education framed in national needs and global standards. Access to quality education is critical for participation in contemporary information- and knowledge-based societies. The learner-to-educator ratio is an education quality indicator. Nationally, the ratio stabilised in 2009 at 31:1, which was below the target of 32:1. However, disparities exist between schools in poor communities and underdeveloped provinces. Hence, the Western Cape and Gauteng, which do not have the lowest ratio and both of which are at 32, are also the best-performing provinces.

Gross enrolment rates and gender parity have been reached in both primary and secondary education. In 2009, it was at 0.980 for primary education and 1.020 for secondary education, the measure for parity being between 0.7 and 1.3. However, there has been a sharp decline in the gross enrolment of both genders at secondary school level. This calls for efforts to ensure that both genders complete at least their primary education to enable them to participate in the economy when they reach working age. Adult literacy rates have also increased since 2002, but the illiteracy level still remains very high, with 25% of the adult population unable to read. The South Africa Survey 2010-2011, however, indicated

that 34.5% of the number of people who had completed secondary education were unemployed in 2011, that is, 1 505 000 out of 4 364 000.³³

Equally stark is the underperformance of the educational system for as early as Grade 3, leaving learners well below the literacy, numeracy, and overall level of achievements they should have reached.

25. Crime, Safety, and Security

“Gross enrolment rates and gender parity have been reached in both primary and secondary education.”

Any kind of crime experienced by citizens was at 22.5% in 1998, 22.9% in 2003, and 22.3% in 2010. The percentage reduction over this time was 2.2%. However, almost a quarter of adults polled for these periods had experienced some crime. Even though detection rates were below 50%, there had been an 18% increase in reported crimes, with a conviction rate of 81.5% in 2002 and 88.6% in 2008.³⁴

Unsafe communities create fear and distrust among citizens. They hinder free and open social interaction, as people retreat and hide behind high walls and security gates. Personal

33 Institute of Race Relations: *South Africa Survey 2010-2011*.

34 Source: Development Indicators. The Presidency. 2010.

experience of crime has a traumatic effect on individuals and families. This renders crime a threat to social cohesion and nation-building.

26. Gender Equity and Social Exclusion

Although South Africa has the highest percentage of women in legislative bodies at all levels of government, the position of women in society remains beset with inequality, exclusion, and discrimination. Women are still more vulnerable to unemployment and exclusion from access to resources, decision-making, and the unhindered exercise of their constitutional rights and opportunities within the family, at work, and in the public domain. In this regard, the Commission for Gender Equality identifies what are referred to as the “top ten stumbling blocks in the way of the empowerment of women in South Africa”.³⁵ These are:

- patriarchy as a source of oppression in the family and society;
- poverty, which is higher in female-headed households than in male-headed ones;
- women being excluded from domestic power-sharing and decision-making;
- violence against women, which remains a serious problem;
- access to land and economic resources, which remains gender-restricted for women;

- HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, and other chronic diseases, which affect women and men differently;
- underfunding of public agencies to promote gender equality;
- inadequate service delivery of housing, water, sanitation, and electricity, affecting women most adversely;
- exclusion of women from traditional authority; and
- low involvement of men in gender equality matters.

These curtailments reside in the social and economic structure of a society that confines many women to reproductive and domestic roles in the family and to temporary and substance productive roles. This results in sharp differentiations in the social and livelihood assets of women and men as well as in their asymmetrical power relations. Sustained by discriminatory, restrictive, and even sexist ideologies and practices, the construction of a fully non-sexist and non-racial democracy requires programmes and interventions aimed at empowering women.

27. Discrimination: Racism, Tribalism, Xenophobia, and Social Exclusion

Racism

This refers to the institutionalisation of racist policies and practices based on the ideologies and beliefs of racial superiority. It was practised throughout the colonial era in South Africa and systematically institutionalised under apartheid. In accordance with this

35 *Ten Top Stumbling Blocks that Remain in the Way of Women's Empowerment in South Africa*. Commission for Gender Equality, 2010.



ideology, the South African population was divided into two main “racial” groups based on pigmentation and conceived as exclusive biological entities, classified as “whites” and “non-whites”. Based on this, society was constructed to impose and institutionalise white superiority and supremacy in every sphere of life. It was done in such a manner that the human rights of the majority of the population, classified as “non-whites”, were flagrantly denied.

While racism was outlawed in 1994 with the abolition of apartheid, social attitudes, access to resources, and life opportunities in South African still remain largely race-based. In addition, minority and extremist right-wing groups, organisations, and members of such communities continue to harbour and cultivate racist ideas and promote behaviour that results in acts of racist abuse in public places and workplaces, on sports fields, as well as in and between communities. It is widespread in the social and other informal media. The remnants of racism remain visible in the spatial divisions of human settlements.³⁶ The eradication of racism is, therefore, critical for achieving human equality as the basis of social inclusion and solidarity.

Tribalism

In addition to the racial divisions, the diverse linguistic and cultural groups in South Africa were further subdivided into ethnic and tribal groups, primarily as a means of dividing the majority of the population as an effective strategy in maintaining white minority rule. On the basis of these divisions, educational

and cultural practices were promoted that fostered tribal prejudices, identities, and rivalries.

Used as a power base and site of patronage, tribalism, like racism, undermines equality and merit. As such, it often becomes a source of conflict and disunity that impedes and threatens social cohesion and nation-building. It should, therefore, be discouraged and not rewarded in public life.³⁷

Xenophobia

The concept “migration” is used to denote movements by people from one legally defined geographic space to another. South Africa experiences two forms of migration: internal or in-country migration and external migration – the latter, both legal and illegal, from outside South African borders.

Both forms of migration, generally into urban areas, contribute to the spread or formation of informal settlements and result in competition for limited resources and work opportunities, under conditions of widespread poverty, frequently resulting in violent confrontations.³⁸ This was the case in 2008 when, as the Human Rights Commission reported, “community members from African countries were targeted, leaving 62 people dead, hundreds wounded and contributed to the displacement of at least a 100 000 people

³⁶ Thomas C. Fox: Remnants of Racism in South Africa, National Catholic Reporter, 20 January 2012.

³⁷ William Gumede: Rising Tribalism in South Africa. The Michigan Citizen. 20 May 2012.

³⁸ *Baseline Report on Social Cohesion Version 5*. DAC 2010.

or more".³⁹ The attacks were marked by intense ethnic stereotyping, intolerance, and violence reminiscent of the racist brutalities of South Africa's past.

Although this was not the first incident of violence against foreign nationals, the scale and the brutality of the attacks were unprecedented. In this regard, the xenophobic attacks and the continued tension between locals and immigrants pose a challenge to social cohesion to integrate both local inhabitants and foreigners into communities on the basis of equal human rights and respect for international law protecting immigrants to which South Africa is a signatory.

To prevent this from recurring, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) Report makes wide-ranging recommendations aimed at ensuring that certain general principles are translated into programmes across several government departments, public agencies, and civil society. These must "ensure that all social conflict disaster plans and integration plans include clear and transparent policy on reparations", which would include entitlement of all persons regardless of immigration status to reparations, constitutional protection, justice, and safe reintegration or humane repatriation.

28. Youth Development and Social Inclusion

The National Youth Policy (2009-2014), developed to identify gaps and accelerate the

39 SAHRC *Investigation into Issues of Rule of Law, Justice and Impunity Arising out of 2008 Public Violence against Non-Nationals*. 2010. pp. 11-21.

development of the youth, states:

Youth development should be viewed as an integral part of addressing the challenges of South Africa's development. It should also be seen as a central process of building a non-sexist, non-racist democratic society and must be approached with the same vigour as all other processes of transformation. The development of young people must also be aligned to government's approach to addressing poverty and underdevelopment, as well as a mechanism for social adjustment, social cohesion and economic emancipation ...⁴⁰

The policy acknowledges the diversity of the youth in South Africa and identifies the following as priorities:

- Young women
- Youth with disabilities
- Unemployed youth
- School-aged and out-of-school youth
- Youth in rural areas
- Youth at risk

The latter category is further specified to include youth living with HIV/Aids, youth-headed households, youth in conflict with the law, and youth abusing dependency-creating substances. It also spells out the rights and responsibilities within a democracy and proposes a range of policy interventions in relation to education, economic participation, health and well-being, social cohesion, civic participation, and national youth service.

40 *National Youth Policy*. March, 2009. p. 7.



The National Youth Policy is very closely aligned to national priorities and includes the youth's right to cultural expression. The unemployment rate among the youth aged 15 to 24 was estimated to be at 51.3% in 2010. The *Diagnostic Overview* of the NPC points out that "[u]nemployment is mostly experienced by the youth", with approximately "two thirds below the age of 25".⁴¹ In addition, 86% of unemployed youth have not gone beyond Grade 12, and two-thirds have never worked.⁴² A youth-focused strategy of inclusion, skills training, and employment is, thus, of critical importance for the arts, culture, and heritage sector and, need it be said, for all other sectors.

29. Perceptions of Corruption and Basic Service Delivery

The perception is that corruption increased between 2007 and 2009. This pushed South Africa from 43rd in the Corruption Perception Index in 2007 to 55th in 2009. Anti-corruption measures that have been taken to counter this include the establishment of an Interministerial Committee on Corruption, an Anti-Corruption Unit in the DPSA, and a Tender Compliance Unit in the National Treasury.

Along with this, there was a sharp decline in positive public opinion from 2006 to 2010, from approximately 72.0% in 2006 to 52.0% in 2010. This coincided with widespread

service delivery protests in local communities.

Widespread incidents of corruption fuel negative perceptions and serve to undermine public confidence and trust in public representatives, officials, and institutions. They can lead to withdrawal from participation in public life, on the one hand, or to the spread of corrupt practices, on the other hand, both of which invariably result in social disorder, conflict, and fragmentation.

30. Social Support

South Africa has an extensive social assistance support network, which involves the following: [Note: these grants are defined in section 4 of Act 13 of 2004]

The social assistance programme covers close to 15 million South Africans, the majority of whom (9,57 million) are recipients of the Child Support Grant (CSG), which is provided to children in need up to their 18th birthday. The Foster Child Grant (FCG) is extended to families who take care of orphaned children. There is also the Older Person's Grant (OPG), the War Veteran's Grant (WVG), the Disability Grant (DG), the Care Dependency Grant (CDG), and the Grant-in-Aid.

In 2010 to 2011, the government spent R89 billion on social grants in response to rising unemployment caused by the global recession. This was coupled with the War on Poverty campaign and a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy targeting the most deprived local communities to empower households to lift themselves out of poverty by linking social grants to economic development.

41 Source: National Planning Commission: *Diagnostic Overview*, 2011.

42 Source: STATSA QLF6 1209(INT).

31. Active Citizenship and Identity

The strength of civil society in South Africa, measured by affiliation to voluntary religious, sport and recreation, music, labour, political, environmental, professional, and charitable organisations, indicates a high level of civic participation and a considerable desire to hold government and public bodies accountable. This further suggests that the potential for participatory government at local level is relatively good for a middle-income country.

This is underscored by the high levels of participation in national, provincial, and local government elections. However, from the height of 98.3% participation of registered voters in 1989, participation fell to 65% in 2009 for the national and provincial elections. The turnout of registered voters for local government elections was much lower, with 37.7% in 2000 and 40.2% in 2006, which corresponds to global trends.

The percentage of women who are members of the legislative bodies for all three tiers of government increased from 27.8% in 1994 to 43.3% in 2009. This exceeds the 1997 SADC target of 30%. Civil society organisations are campaigning for a mandatory 50% representation.

Confidence in a positive future for all in South Africa was at 24% in 2000, rose to 85% from 2003 to 2005, plummeted to 60% in 2008, and rose slightly to 67% in 2010. This decline can be attributed to the economic crisis and the negative growth of -1.8% in 2008 to 2009. Overall optimism about an inclusive future for all periods was above 50% for all races.

However, indicators concerning the direction in which South Africa is headed plummeted from 79.5% in 1994 to 38.4% in 2009. Public opinion on race relations was at 73% in 2001. It dropped to 40% in 2001 to rise to 60% in 2004. In 2010, it was 46%. This should be of concern, since it relates directly to the objective of eliminating racism and building an inclusive non-racial society and nation.

Related to the above is the identity of citizens based on self-description. Citizens who see themselves as African rose from 18.4% in 2004 to 25.8% in 2007, 32.6% in 2008, and 30.2% in 2009, which points to a growing identification with Africa. Citizens who see themselves as South African averaged at 51.3% during this period. Those who describe themselves by race averaged 8.1%. Language self-descriptors were, on average, 5.3%. This points to a decline in ethnic identification and the slow development of overarching South African and African identities.

Although self-descriptions as South African were used by only half the population, pride in being South African rose to 90% between 2004 and 2006. It dropped to 65% in 2008 and rose to 75% in 2009, which points to a paradox in the data on identity or to the fact that self-description and national pride do not necessarily always correlate or coincide.

Taken together, these indicators provide an overview of all the threats related to building a cohesive and united society. The relative degree of the threat posed by each can now be rated to assist with deciding on what to focus on and where strategic interventions are needed.



MATRIX OF THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION-BUILDING

THREATS AND CHALLENGES	EVIDENCE	SOURCE	EXPLANATION	RANKING
SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION	Averaging 3.7% over the last decade and dropping	Development Indicators 2011 Budget Speech	Structural resource-based constraints and global downturn	HIGH
UNEMPLOYMENT	At 29.9% in the last quarter of 2011 and decreasing from 30% highs	Development Indicators National Statistics	Job recreation initiatives outstripping labour growth	HIGH
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY	At a mean, Africans earn \pm 10% of the mean income of whites	Development Indicators South Africa Survey	Persistence of race-based disparities	HIGH
HEALTH	HIV/Aids Tuberculosis Life expectancy	Development Indicators	Poverty, hunger, lifestyle, and inadequate service	HIGH
EDUCATION	Low primary performance and secondary completion	Development Indicators South Africa Survey	Inequalities in learning conditions and teaching skills	HIGH
HOUSING AND LAND		Development Indicators South Africa Survey	Cost of land Redistribution	MEDIUM
CRIME AND SAFETY	25% of citizens polled experienced crime	Development Indicators South African Survey	Unemployment, poverty, social disaffection, and low detection rates	HIGH
GENDER	Discrimination, abuse, and violence	Commission for Gender Rights	Patriarchy, poverty, and power-sharing	HIGH

THREATS AND CHALLENGES	EVIDENCE	SOURCE	EXPLANATION	RANKING
YOUTH	Unemployment Out-of-school At risk Abuse	National Youth Policy	Social fragmentation and alienation	HIGH
XENOPHOBIA	Violence against foreign nationals	SACHR Report HSRC Report	Competition for employment	HIGH
CORRUPTION AND SERVICE DELIVERY	Ranked 55 th Service delivery protests	Development Indicators	Ineffective anti-corruption campaigning Local government lack of capacity	HIGH
SOCIAL SUPPORT	Social grants of R88 billion in 2010/2011	Development Indicators Department of Social Development	Orphaned children, disease, unemployment, and poverty	HIGH



Summit opening address by the Honourable President Jacob G. Zuma



Summit delegates



Leader of the Opposition Party Ms Helen Zille



32. Conclusion

The above indicates that while the prospects of building a caring and proud society in South Africa are not completely hopeless, even so, there are significant impediments and challenges that have to be tackled in an urgent and sustained manner. If this is not done, the spectre of social disintegration and conflict could become a reality.



Mr Zwelinzima Vavi: COSATU
Secretary General

South Africa and its people have, over the centuries, shown a remarkable capacity to overcome obstacles and adversity by working together to find solutions to complex challenges and problems. Endowed with a diverse, resilient, and creative people, immense natural resources, and a new-found democracy in a beautiful land, the country and its people are now faced with the task of building a unified, caring, and proud society of equality and property in which all will feel and be at home. Diverse people, come together: unite and work for a better South Africa and world!



Participating in the breakaway sessions of the Summit



The Delegates



Entertainment

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

- BEE: black economic empowerment
- BBBEE: broad-based black economic empowerment
- CDG: Care Dependency Grant
- FCG: Foster Child Grant
- CSG: Child Support Grant
- DG: Disability Grant
- DAC: Department of Arts and Culture
- DPASA: Department of Public Service and Administration
- IDP: Integrated Development Plan
- IPAP: Industrial Policy Action Plan
- HSRC: Human Sciences Research Council
- MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
- NDP: National Development Plan
- NYP: National Youth Plan
- OAG: Older Person's Grant
- MGE: Mzansi's Golden Economy
- SAHRC: South African Human Rights Commission
- SADC: South African Development Community
- WSSD: World Summit on Social Development
- WVG: War Veteran's Grant



Yusuf Abramjee: Business Sector



From left to right: The Hon. President Jacob G. Zuma, Minister Paul Mashatile and the Leader of the opposition Helen Zille



H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission



DECLARATION: The South African Summit on Social Cohesion

We, representatives from all sectors of our society, gathered at the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Soweto, on 4 and 5 July 2012 to participate in the National Summit on Social Cohesion and Nation Building, under the theme “Working together to create a caring and proud society.”

We came here representing the diversity of our nation, black and white, women and men, rich and poor, young and old, urban and rural, speaking different languages, with a diversity of beliefs, from many different places, seeking to fulfil the injunction of our Constitution “diverse peoples unite”.

We came together to renew our commitment, and to mobilise and unify society in our ongoing national movement of healing the divisions of our painful past and establishing a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

Informed by the deliberations of the Summit and inspired by our forebears, who assembled at this square 57 years ago to adopt the Freedom Charter, we hereby declare that:

1. Our discussions were informed by our common commitment to the injunction in the Constitution of the Republic South Africa, adopted in 1996, that “South Africa belongs to all who live in it, both black and white, united in our diversity”.
2. South Africa is a unitary and sovereign state based on democracy, the rule of law, the pursuit of equal human rights, non-racialism, non-sexism and the equality of all people.

3. Our past was based on racial and ethnic divisions devised to systematically exclude the majority of South Africans from full and unhindered participation in all aspects of national life and left deep and persistent social, cultural and economic divisions and inequalities in society.
4. Advances have been made to entrench and consolidate human rights and restore the human dignity of all South Africans.

“We came here representing the diversity of our nation, black and white, women and men, rich and poor, young and old, urban and rural”

5. The following factors make the task of uniting diverse peoples to work together to build a caring and proud society complex and challenging:
 - Slow economic growth and transformation, which result in widespread unemployment, poverty, inequality, and exclusion based on race, age and gender.
 - Landlessness and homelessness among many South Africans and the persistence of apartheid spatial divisions, which perpetuate patterns of disproportionate land ownership and segregation.
 - The burden of disease, in particular HIV/Aids and tuberculosis, which exacts a heavy toll on communities and society at large.

- Uneven access to quality education and training, which deprives young people of the knowledge and skills needed for social and economic development.
- High levels of crime and the abuse of the elderly, women and children, which affect communities and threaten safety and security.
- Gender inequalities in households, the workplace and society, which hinder the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming.
- Racism and xenophobia, which perpetuate divisions and conflict in communities.
- Service delivery failures in local communities, which lead to social instability, disintegration and conflict.
- Perceived and actual corruption in the public and private sectors, which erode confidence and trust.

This Summit recognises that social cohesion depends to a large measure on our ability as society to address these challenges. On the other hand, as a society we need to cohere around a vision of a better South Africa, which we cannot attain if we do not work together. Consequently, to address these challenges effectively, we the delegates resolve:

1. To mobilise society in its entirety to work together to build a caring and proud society based on shared values and a vision informed by the following principles:
 - Constitutional democracy
 - Ubuntu

- Human rights and equality
 - Non-racialism, non-tribalism and non-sexism
 - Inclusivity and social justice
 - Redress and transformation
 - Intercultural and community cooperation
 - Social solidarity
 - Empowered, fair, inclusive and active citizenship
 - Civic responsibility
 - Unity in diversity
 - National consciousness and identity.
2. To work towards the implementation of the recommendations of the 2030 National Development Plan as a long-term vision that should serve as a basis for partnerships across society to attain the South Africa of our dreams, so eloquently articulated in the Constitution.
 3. To ensure that social cohesion and nation building underpins all national, provincial and local government strategic priorities, inclusive of integrated economic and social development, education, health, human settlement, land and rural development, safety and security, immigration policies and programmes, arts, culture, language and heritage development and preservation, and technological innovation, research and development.
 4. To promote and preserve all indigenous cultures and knowledge.



5. To accelerate change by improving the quality of life of all people, with special attention to the needs of the youth, women and people with disabilities.
6. That the state must continue to build capacity to drive the socio economic agenda in the country, including absorbing young people and women into economic activity, employing professionals, investing in skills required by the economy, and investing in research and development to respond to the demands of the knowledge economy.
7. To continue to fight any forms of discrimination, which are threats to social cohesion and nation building.
8. To respect human dignity and equality, promote freedom, democracy and the rule of law, improve material well-being and economic justice, enhance sound family and community values, uphold honesty, integrity and loyalty, ensure harmony in culture, belief and conscience, show respect and concern for all people, strive for justice, fairness and peaceful co-existence, and protect the environment as contained in the Charter of Positive Values adopted by the Moral Regeneration Movement in 2008.¹
9. To expand existing national, heritage and other honours and awards to recognise individuals, organisations and communities that contribute significantly to social cohesion and nation building.
10. To develop a nation building project management manual and toolkit for application at all levels and to convene

social cohesion and nation building summits at provincial, local and community level within the next 12 months.

11. To convene a national social cohesion report-back and monitoring summit in 2014 when we celebrate 20 years of our freedom and democracy, and thereafter at five-year intervals progress.
12. To develop a detailed plan from the proposals made at this Summit, which will be presented to the President and Cabinet on our behalf by a group of eminent South Africans.

"We came together to renew our commitment, and to mobilise and unify society in our on-going national movement of healing the divisions of our painful past and establishing"

In pursuit of these resolutions, we commit ourselves, and all sectors of society represented at this Summit, to work together to realise the ideals enshrined in our Constitution, and assert that our organisations and institutions will strive to contribute all we can to realise our common national objective to attain a decent and improving quality of life for all, in a society united in its diversity.

We depart from this historic venue united in our commitment to building a nation that is caring and dignified, and has a great sense of humility and mutual respect for one another.

¹ Moral Regeneration Movement, The Charter of Positive Values, 29 July 2008

**DECLARATION IN THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF A FRAMEWORK
FOR THE MOBILISATION OF SOCIETY IN THE BUILD-UP TO THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM**

We are again reminded of the symbolism of our National Coat of Arms and Flag:

“It is both South African and African; it is both African and Universal. It serves to invoke our distant past, our living present and our future as it unfolds before us. It represents the permanent yet evolving identity of the South African people as it shapes itself through time and space. Through this new Coat of Arms we pay homage to our past. We seek to embrace the indigenous belief systems of our people, by demonstrating our respect for the relationship between people and nature, which for millions of years have been fundamental to our self-understanding of our African condition”.

We pledge that we will work in our organisations, in our communities, in our workplaces to reflect on how our democracy was achieved; to remember where we were on 27 April 1994 and recall the road we have travelled since then; to identify and celebrate what we have achieved over the past 20 years, and to plan a programme of work to build a better future.



Cultural participation: The Soweto Gospel Choir



Latozi Madosini Mphaheni: Queen of SA's
Xhosa music



“It is both South African and African; it is both African and Universal. It serves to invoke our distant past, our living present and our future as it unfolds before us. It represents the permanent yet evolving identity of the South African people as it shapes itself through time and space. Through this new Coat of Arms we pay homage to our past. We seek to embrace the indigenous belief systems of our people, by demonstrating our respect for the relationship between people and nature, which for millions of years have been fundamental to our self-understanding of our African condition”.

PRIVATE BAG X897 PRETORIA 0001 SOUTH AFRICA

T.+27 12 441 300 F. +27 12 441 3699

PRIVATE BAG X9015 | CAPE TOWN 8000 | SOUTH AFRICA

T. +27 21 461 3135/3147 F. +27 21 461 4510

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