



planning, monitoring  
& evaluation

Department:  
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MTSF

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2020

**PRIORITY 7:**  
A BETTER AFRICA  
AND WORLD

LET'S GROW SOUTH AFRICA TOGETHER

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# 1. Introduction

This report presents an analysis by the DPME of the Bi-Annual Progress Reports on the implementation of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024, for the period April to September 2020, focusing on Priority 7 A better Africa and a better world. The Bi-Annual Reports were submitted to the DPME by the National Departments of Defence, DIRCO, Tourism, Home Affairs and Department of Trade and Industry and Competition. The DPME conducted an analysis of the reports, triangulated data with other sources and produced the report that follows below.

This report reviews the following:

- (a) Progress on the implementation of MTSF 2019-2024;
- (b) Challenges and blockages, including the impact of the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) on progress attained, and the likelihood of achieving the 2024 targets and NDP 2030 targets;
- (c) Implications of the recorded progress on the review of the MTSF 2019-2024. and optimizing how government operates going forward

# 2. The Medium-Term Strategic Framework

The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) is the government's five-year programme for the implementation of the NDP 2030 and of the electoral mandate for each administration. The MTSF 2019-2024 is anchored on 7 priorities adopted by government for the fifth administration namely:

Priority 1: A capable, ethical and developmental state

Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation

Priority 2: Education, skills and health

Priority 3: Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services

Priority 4: Spatial integration, human settlements and local government

Priority 5: Social cohesion and safe communities

Priority 6: A better Africa and world

Priority 7: A Better Africa and World

# 3. Purpose of the report

To provide Cabinet Committee progress on the implementation of the MTSF including how Covid-19 has affected its implementation covering period March to July 2020.

- 3.1 It does this through looking at:
  - a. Progress in the implementing the MTSF noting the challenges of Covid-19 poses on implementation
  - b. The progress report highlights the challenges, blockages and issues in meeting said outcomes (the likelihood of achieving the 2024 targets and NDP 2030 targets)
  - c. Implication of this to the review of the MTSF and optimizing how government operates going forward

# 4. Strategic Intent of the Priority – foregrounding the Priority

- 4.1 The international relations arena has undergone rapid changes through globalisation and digitalisation. The natures of agreements, both political and economic, are complex and require countries to clearly articulate their foreign policy objectives and identify and forge relationships that will have positive geo-political impacts.
- 4.2 Policy uncertainty in this area is affecting the country's ability to be influential, and to implement foreign policies and agreements in order to deepen

integration and cooperation, particularly in the region and on the continent. The lack of a clear articulation of the country's national interest and its stance on economic diplomacy contributes to uncertainty, affecting investor confidence and accelerating the pace of inward direct investment.

- 4.3 The number of foreign missions and posted personnel is unsustainable. South Africa's defence force is not being appropriately equipped, resourced and trained to execute successful operations in support of South Africa's national security, national interest and foreign policy.
- 4.4 The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies tourism as a highly labour intensive industry which stimulates the development of small businesses and generates foreign direct investment and significant export earnings. The sector could create jobs for semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the short to long term, with a focus on villages, townships and small towns. Emphasis is placed on increasing the number of tourists entering South Africa and the amount spent; the availability of tourism infrastructure; positioning South Africa as a regional shopping and business centre; and ease of access by air and travel facilitation through favourable visa regimes.

# 5. Priority Components: Impacts we were seeking to achieve

- 5.1 Growth in tourism sector resulting in economic growth.
- 5.2 Increased regional integration and trade.
- 5.3 Implementation of identified Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 flagship programmes.
- 5.4 Equitable multilateral institutions and enhanced global governance.
- 5.5 Peaceful and secure continent.

# 6. Overview of main achievements:

- 6.1 The first six months of 2020, saw South Africa assume the Chairship of the African Union. The assumption of Chairship of the AU placed the country in a strategic position to further consolidate the African Agenda by means of speeding up the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its flagship programmes, in particular, which includes the African Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) and Silencing the Guns.
- 6.2 In February 2020, South Africa also assumed the Chairship of the Committee of the Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (SAHOSCC). South Africa aims to use its leadership of CAHOSCC as a vital platform to advance the positions of the AU on Climate Change in all relevant multilateral fora.
- 6.3 South Africa has submitted its first progress reports on the implementation of Agenda 2063, thereby affirming their commitment to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063.

- 6.4 In promoting equitable multilateral institutions and enhanced global governance, South Africa advocated for the strengthening of international cooperation and multilateralism in addressing global challenges such as COVID-19 in various multilateral fora such as the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Alliance for Multilateralism. South Africa also articulated and promoted African and developing country perspectives.
- 6.5 Preparations for the high-level week for the opening of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA75) which will be held virtually, commenced. Negotiations on the Declaration for the 75th anniversary of the UN, which will be adopted at the virtual high-level event on 21 September 2020 took place from April and concluded in June. South Africa actively participated in the negotiations on the Declaration and ensured that substantive commitments such as strengthening for multilateralism and Security Council reform were included in the final text.

## 7. Overview of the main challenges

- 7.1. During the reporting period, the working methods of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations had to adapt due to COVID-19, with a number of meetings being held virtually.
- 7.2 One of the most important priorities for South Africa was the planned hosting of back-to-back Summits on Peace and Security, and on the AfCFTA planned for 30 May 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Summits had to be postponed to the end of the year.
- 7.3 South Africa's prioritised economic empowerment of Africa's women during its term as AU Chair, working with all member states on measures to promote financial

inclusion, preferential procurement and preferential trade arrangements for women. The commitments made to fight for women's economic and financial inclusion have been undermined by the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of postponement of meetings that were aimed at advancing these commitments.

- 7.4 There are constant delays in the attainment of the target to develop South Africa's National Interest Framework by March 2022, no progress has been given on the target except to say that progress will be reported on during next reporting period.
- 7.5 The AU Heads of State have pledged their support for measures to end GBV on the continent, and working towards the adoption of an AU Convention on Violence against Women during the course of 2020. The main focus of the AU Chair was mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 in the continent and ensuring that the capacity of member states to withstand the financial burden is supported beyond the Continent. As a result, the commitment to end gender-based violence was compromised.
- 7.6 The tourism sector was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was as a result of most countries closing their borders in a way to reduce the spread of the virus. These lockdowns essentially closed the market in the sector as they were not able to trade. Therefore, the projected economic growth by the sector could not be achieved. The sector will need innovative strategies in order to recover from the losses caused by pandemic and further enhance South Africa as a preferred tourism destination.

## 8. Discussion (Main report)

- 8.1. Positive or negative changes to the key high-level indicators (impact indicators).
- The indicator to increase growth in tourism sector resulting in economic growth by increasing tourism arrivals has not been attained. For period Jan to March '20 tourist's arrivals are 10.2% down compared to same period in 2019.
  - Also the target to increase the value of international tourist spend with 4% each year is negatively impacted by Covid. For period Jan to March '20, tourists spend is 24% down compared to same period in 2019. Borders were closed from 26 March 2020 and remain closed thus there is no international arrivals since lockdown to date.
  - The target to increase investment (FDI and domestic) into South Africa by R1.2 trillion in 2024 will not be attained. Actual progress during the reporting period is R663.687 billion.
- 8.2. Assessment of progress on major interventions
- With regards the outcome to increase regional integration and trade, South Africa submitted its Country Report on the implementation of the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) (2015 – 2020) on 3 February 2020. The draft Revised RISDP (2020 – 2030) and SADC Vision 2050 will be tabled during the 40th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government for approval.
  - On the intervention to contribute to the implementation of identified Agenda 2063 Flagship Projects, South Africa targeted to prioritise Agenda 2063 and African flagship programmes in all inputs to all African and AU official's strategic partnerships. Progress

to date includes that South Africa successfully assumed the Chairship of the AU. It is worth noting that Mr Wamkele Mene, of South Africa, was elected as the first Secretary-General (SG) of the Secretariat of the AfCFTA. He will serve in this position for a four-year term.

- South Africa has submitted its first progress reports on the implementation of Agenda 2063, thereby affirming their commitment to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063.
- The target to fulfil 90% of country's obligation to SADC and AU were not achieved. It is reported that there are significant challenges in meeting all statutory financial obligations. And also that due to the impact of foreign exchange and depreciation of the Rand commitments for compulsory membership fees to AU and SADC could not be fully honoured. The shortfall for AU is approximately R35 million and for SADC is R32 million.
- The outcome to increase regional and global integration by targeting 100% compliance with all international commitments and requests for external missions (including political and diplomatic initiatives) in pursuit of regional, continental and international stability has been achieved. South Africa honoured 100% of its commitments and efforts in order to resolve continental conflicts. Several virtual meetings were conducted including AU High-Level Committee on Libya at Summit level, meeting on Silencing the Guns: Role of South Africa in Maintaining Peace and Responding to Humanitarian Disasters as organized by the SA Institute of Foreign Affairs, (30 May 2020) and virtual Ministerial Meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel (12 June 2020), to name but a few.
- The indicator to promote South Africa as a preferred tourism destination by targeting to increase

international tourist arrivals by 6% was not achieved. It is reported that during the reporting period, Jan to March '20 – arrivals are 10.2% down compared to same period in 2019. This is alluded to the closing of borders since 26 March 2020 and remain closed thus no international arrivals since lockdown to date.

- g. The target to increase the value of international tourist spend with 4% each year was also not achieved. For period Jan to March '20 – spend is 24% down compared to same period in 2019. And this is also due to the same reasons as above. Consequently, the sector couldn't generate income.
- h. The indicator to activate selected countries with functional e- Visa system was not achieved. The country targeted to roll out e-Visa to all selected countries (106) by 2025. The site readiness of the identified countries was not done due to restricted movement and closed borders. However, progress to date is that the development of the e-Visa solution was completed and piloted in Kenya and India only. COVID-19 will impact significantly on the target. The DHA is expected to travel to the identified countries for the installation of the system (backend activities), conduct change management and ensure that the system is functional in missions.
- i. The indicator to comply with external peace support operations, rescue operations and humanitarian assistance whereby the country targeted 100% compliance was achieved as planned.
- j. Landward, air and maritime capabilities were committed for the purposes of supporting the people of South Africa internally by safe guarding borders, disaster relief, search and rescue, bridge building in

communities isolated from essential services and conducting coastal patrols. The Defence Force rendered support to the SAPS at the Cape Flats, Western Cape in order to curb gang violence.

- k. Externally, the focus was on the peace mission (MONUSCO). The SANDF continued to support the UN Peace Support Operation in the DRC as part of the Force Intervention Brigade with a force size of 1 112 soldiers. The Government of Mozambique was also supported through anti-piracy operations in the Mozambique Channel. The latter was only achievable for the first three months of 2020 and had to be suspended since April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.3. Major challenges and blockages affecting implementation of the interventions identified in the MTSF. Include the Impact of Covid-19 on the planned interventions by the sector.
- a. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, South Africa as the Chair of the AU refocused its priorities towards efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Furthermore, South Africa and the Bureau of the AU, in conjunction with the AU Commission, spearheaded the mobilisation of resources to mitigate the catastrophic socio-economic and humanitarian consequences that will befall Africa due to the pandemic. These initiatives included a series of AU Bureau meeting which commenced in March 2020 and are continuing to date, with the intention to coordinate regional and international efforts towards assisting Africa in responding to the pandemic.
  - b. South Africa's ability to implement its multilateral objectives is undermined by deep budget cuts and the impact of COVID-19 on the

international schedule of meetings. However, South Africa was able to participate in events that took place virtually during the reporting period to articulate and promote African and developing country perspectives.

- c. Moreover, virtual platforms are not conducive to multilateral negotiations and many key multilateral events were postponed to 2021 or beyond. This will lead to a particularly heavy schedule of face to face meetings once international travel and other restrictions are lifted.
- d. One of the most important priorities for South Africa was the planned hosting of back-to-back Summits on Peace and Security, and on the AfCFTA planned for 30 May 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Summits had to be postponed to the end of the year.
- e. Due to the impact of foreign exchange and depreciation of the Rand, commitments for compulsory membership fees to the AU and SADC could not be fully honoured. The shortfall for the AU is approximately R35 million and for SADC is R32 million.
- f. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some planned engagements and interactions to increase investment in both foreign and domestic had to be postponed to comply with the Disaster Management Act Regulations and social distancing measures.
- g. Due to the implementation of budget cuts, South Africa would lack the financial resources required for an effective re-engagement post-COVID-19. The non-attendance of international engagements may result in the reversal of the gains made by South Africa and other developing countries over the previous decades in a wide

range of multilateral bodies. South Africa would not be well placed to influence the ongoing evolution of international law, norms and values and decisions that will affect its citizens. Opportunities to benefit from the exchange of best practices will be lost and South Africa's influence and presence in key multilateral bodies will be eroded, including the ability to attract means of implementation support and debt relief from multilateral institutions and other countries.

- h. On the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI): Updates were received on the various PICI projects, including the 4 championed by SA and led by the President, Mr CM Ramaphosa. It was noted that while the COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact, some positive progress was reported. This included:
  - The AU Rail Stock Initiative Project: progress were being made with advancing SA as the hub for rail manufacturing. (Mozambique and Zambia)
  - The Beit Bridge Border Post and related developments Project: The Request for Proposal has been finalised and will shortly be issued into the market
  - The Lesotho Highlands Water Project, Phase 2: Excavation of the intake and outlet portals have been completed and work on the tunnels' concrete lining is under way, with concrete casting and reinforcement having been started on tunnel one. The tunnels are being excavated in advance of the construction of the Polihali dam to reduce the dam construction period. Impoundment of the Polihali reservoir is expected to start in 2024, with water delivery planned to start in 2027. The Project is a multi-phased, multi-billion Maloti/Rand project between the governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. It comprises water transfer and hydropower generation components with associated ancillary developments.
  - The Inga III Project: The AfDB recently committed \$7m through the AUDA NEPAD to assist in fast tracking the progress with regard to the Inga III Project.

i. COVID-19 will have an impact on the rollout of the e-Visa system in the 2020/21 financial year and therefore on the 2020/21 APP annual target. The DHA is expected to travel to the identified countries for the installation of the system (backend activities), conduct change management and ensure that the system is

functional in missions. However, the Department is continuing with further enhancements to the system to facilitate rollout, once possible.

8.4. Cross-cutting issues that have a contribution to major challenges and

blockages affecting the sector's implementation of the interventions identified in the MTSF.

Gender-based violence and femicide: The AU Heads of State have pledged their support for measures to end GBV on the continent, and working towards the adoption of an AU Convention on Violence against Women during the course of

2020. The main focus of the AU Chair was mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 in the continent and ensuring that the capacity of member states to withstand the financial burden is supported beyond the Continent. As a result, the commitment to end gender-based violence was compromised.

8.5. Actions needed to address major constraints and challenges (innovative action to achieve the MTSF targets (in the presence of COVID-19)).

- a. The foreign policy messages the country is advancing through virtual platforms at a time when face to face meetings are not possible due to COVID-19, include that only international solidarity and a collective multilateral response will be effective because no country can address a global challenge of the magnitude of the COVID-19 crisis on its own. State and non-state actors alike need to work together to contribute in accordance with their means and equity considerations.
- b. The country is seeking to provide foreign policy leadership for South Africa and Africa within a coordinated and coherent multilateral response to the COVID-19 crisis and the associated economic recovery. Such an approach seeks to locate South Africa and Africa's response within the context of the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and SADC's RISDP on Sustainable Development. The recovery presents an opportunity to build back in a better, more equitable and sustainable manner.
- c. The COVID-19 global pandemic demonstrated that international solidarity and a collective, multilateral approach is essential, yet some countries continue to oppose multilateralism. In the midst of the global pandemic the USA withdrew from the World Health Organisation and the President of Brazil continued to question the seriousness of the crisis and the need for preventative measures. It is therefore essential that South Africa continue to press for multilateral cooperation, especially at this time when it is Chairing the African Union.

d. South Africa's ability to implement its multilateral objectives is undermined by deep budget cuts and the impact of COVID-19 on the international schedule of meetings. South Africa was however able to participate in events that took place virtually during the reporting period to articulate and promote African and developing country perspectives. However, virtual platforms are not conducive to multilateral negotiations and many key multilateral events were postponed to 2021 or beyond. This will lead to a particularly heavy schedule of face to face meetings once international travel and other restrictions are lifted.

e. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some planned engagements and interactions to increase investment in both foreign and domestic had to be postponed to comply with the Disaster Management Act Regulations and social distancing measures. Upon the lifting of these measures, the tourism sector must devise innovative strategies on how to recover from the great losses the sector has suffered during the lockdown period.

8.6. Implication of this to the review of the MTSF and optimizing how government operates

Following the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, it became apparent that the 2019-24 MTSF be reviewed. This is because resources had to be redirected with a view of saving lives. Most targets will thus not be able to be achieved and will need to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly in order to reflect the challenges faced in the attainment of the planned targets. This process has started as the departments have already reviewed their annual performance plans and tabled them to the Cabinet in order to address the challenges encountered caused by the pandemic.

## 9. Recommendations

- a. There's a need to prioritise the implementation of Agenda 2063 priority areas and develop a "coalition of the willing" of key African strategic partners, based on the potential for economic cooperation, peace and security, and the opportunity for cooperation in continental priorities linked to SDGs, whilst advancing the continents priorities on trade, investment and development.
- b. As a result of most multilateral meetings on the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development being cancelled, postponed or held virtually, it is essential that the understandable global focus on addressing COVID-19 not detract from the overarching objective of the full implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. All three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) need to be fully implemented in an integrated manner.
- c. The NDP instructs that we define and articulate our national interest. Cabinet has also directed that the matter be expedited. Regrettably, progress in finalizing it has been slow. The NDP proposes that once national interest has been defined, it should serve as the basis of our foreign relations. It should be noted that the process of defining and articulating South Africa's national interest actual began in or around 2012.
- f. The DOD remains on track in the implementation and achievement of the indicators as set out in the MTSF. All planned activities are continuing in defending, protecting and safeguarding communities as well as improving peace, security and stability on the continent. However, the duration of the SANDF deployment for humanitarian assistance against COVID-19 cannot be confirmed. As a result, more and more resources may be required or much less.
- g. Due to the impact of COVID-19 it became

even more urgent to secure scaled-up and appropriate means of implementation support in the form of finance, technology transfer and capacity building support to all African and other developing countries that require it and to address the debt crisis. The remedial action is to press forward with this political messaging at a time when many developed countries are backtracking on their international commitments and grant based support to developing countries is giving way to loans with ever increasing conditionality and co-financing requirements, exacerbating the debt crisis.

- h. South Africa plays an active role in the development of SADC programmes and the implementation of the SADC work programme as outlined in its blueprints. South Africa to continue to support the implementation of the SADC work programme through the coordination and facilitation of partner departments in their respective areas of focus and responsibility.
- i. The focus for 2020 remains on South Africa's chairing of the African Union and meeting its multilateral commitments, particularly as an outgoing member of the UN Security Council, where South Africa will hold the rotating Presidency in December 2020.



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