



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

MEETING OF MINISTERS ON THE MARGINS OF THE

UGANDA-SOUTH AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT

6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

KAMPALA, UGANDA

1. It was recalled that during the State Visit of H.E President Yoweri K. Museveni to South Africa on 28 February 2023, and the first session of the South Africa-Uganda Business Forum held on 27 and 28 February 2023, their Excellencies, President Cyril M. Ramaphosa and President Yoweri K. Museveni decided on the convening of the second session of the Uganda-South Africa Trade and Investment Summit in Kampala, Uganda before the end of 2023. Pursuant to this decision, the Uganda-South Africa Trade and Investment Summit was convened on 5th and 6th September 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.
2. The South African delegation to the Summit was led by Hon. Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, and included the Hon. Mondli Gungubele, Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies; and Hon. Nomalungelo Gina, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition and Hon Fish Mahlalela, the Deputy Minister of Tourism.
3. The Ugandan delegation to the Summit included Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation; Hon. Bright Rwamirama, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry; Hon. Peter Lokeris, Minister of State for Mineral Development, Mr. Morrisson Rwakakamba, Chairman Uganda Investment Authority; Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo, Senior Presidential Advisor on Special Duties; and Mr. Humphrey Nzeyi, Chairman of the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU).

4. The Summit was also attended by the High Commissioners of Uganda and South Africa, Senior Government officials and the Private Sector from both countries, including MTN, ABSA, Stanbic, Sanlam, etc.
5. The South African delegation commended the Republic of Uganda for convening the second edition of the Uganda-South Africa Trade and Investment Summit, and expressed gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to it.
6. The Ugandan delegation expressed appreciation on the role played by South African companies towards the socio-economic development of Uganda.
7. The Trade and Investment Summit was preceded by meetings of Senior Officials and Ministers, respectively on 4 September 2023. The Ministers reviewed the decisions of the Mid-Term Review of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) held from 22 to 24 February 2023 and the State Visit in South Africa, in particular, the decision by the two Heads of State on the establishment of a committee comprising the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs, to address the challenges faced by the business communities of the two countries.
8. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the commitment and enthusiasm of the two countries in addressing the obstacles and challenges of doing business in their respective countries.
9. The Ministers emphasised that despite these challenges, the business communities of Uganda and South Africa appreciate the opportunities and benefits offered in the two countries. They also reiterated commitment by the two countries to trade and invest in each other's economies.
10. The Ministers reiterated the commitment of their respective countries in resolving all challenges to business in Uganda and South Africa, including those related to taxation, tariffs, customs clearances etc. In this regard, the Ministers took the following decisions:
 - i. Acknowledged the important contribution of Ugandan and South African businesses to the economies of the respective countries towards job-creation and through social corporate responsibility;
 - ii. Welcomed the progress made in addressing visa challenges and noted with appreciation, the outcome of the meeting of the Ministries of Internal Affairs/Home Affairs of Uganda and South Africa that took place in Kampala from 31st August to 4th September 2023, including the development of a Road Map on immigration related matters;

- iii. Commended the signature of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement, as well as the entry into force of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement between Uganda and South Africa, which will facilitate the ease of doing business in the two countries;
 - iv. Noted the commitment by the Revenue Authorities of Uganda to meet with the South African companies in Uganda to address their challenges;
 - v. Also noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation between Invest South Africa (InvestSA) and the Ugandan Investment Authority (UIA) will be signed on 6 September 2023, on the margins of the Trade and Investment Summit;
 - vi. Agreed to expedite processes of reciprocal recognition of standards, including in the area of capacity building and training;
 - vii. Called on the Joint Technical Committees and Technical Working Groups to convene as soon as possible to implement the decisions agreed during the -Mid-Term Review of the JCC held from 22 to 24 February 2023 in Pretoria, South Africa in 2023; and
 - viii. Welcomed the constitution of the Joint Committee of Ministries of Trade and Investment and Foreign Affairs which will serve as a mechanism to address the challenges of respective business communities.
11. The Ministers expressed gratitude towards the strong support from H.E President Cyril M. Ramaphosa and H.E President Yoweri K. Museveni in fostering strong bonds of bilateral relations and emphasised the importance to take practical steps to ensure easy facilitation of trade and investment in both countries to spur growth and economic development. They also highlighted the need to balance trade between the two countries.
12. The two delegations expressed gratitude to the sponsors of the Summit, including; MTN, ABSA Bank, Stanbic Bank, DFCU Bank, PSFU, Sanlam Multichoice, PACEID, UIA and other stakeholders for their role in making this second edition of the Uganda–South Africa Trade and Investment Summit possible. They further noted that this kind of partnership between the government and private sector is critical in growing the economies of the two sisterly countries.

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