

NEC LEKGOTLA

24-26 January 2026

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



CONTEXT

- The 2026 NEC Lekgotla noted that the international global order is characterized by a rupture caused by the U.S Government raising geo-political tensions throughout the world including Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East , Asia and Europe. This therefore results in challenges on how we relate amongst ourselves, the continent and the greater world.
- The world is beset with increased unilateralism, undermining national sovereignty, disregard for international law and norms, human rights and multilateralism. In addition, there is a rise in right wing authoritarian nationalism, global and regional conflicts and the diminishing of the development agenda.
- The role of the ANC international relations subcommittee and the Alliance is to advance and defend South Africa's national interest. The current complex and fluid global environment requires enhanced unity , coordination and cooperation with all entities active in the international space , through government and civil society.

PRIORITIES

- Affirm and capacitate DIRCO to enhance the implementation of economic diplomacy.
- Strategic deployments to strategic missions to pursue national interest and meet our political, economic and security objectives.
- Deployment of cadres to multilateral organisations and fulfilling our quotas.
- Regional and continental political and economic integration and the Africa continental free trade area.
- Government must review, reorganize and consolidate its missions for impactful, coherent and effective outcomes.
- Strengthen people to people diplomacy globally, in order to advance our progressive internationalist agenda, whilst deepening links with historical allies and building new progressive ones.
- Utilise international solidarity for the ANC to initiate broad engagement so as to unite the progressive Left in South Africa, Africa and the world.
- Capacitate and strengthen our State intelligence capacity and better co-ordination of defence in the implementation of foreign policy.

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026)
A better Africa and a better World				
1	Reviving the principle of anchor and strategic partner states to inform how South Africa engages diplomatically on African continent by both the ANC and Government.	ANC & DIRCO	December	Development of a list of key anchor states; Engagement with members of diplomatic corps of these anchor states; Updated anchor and strategic partner policy
2	Continuation of party-to-party engagements for conflict resolution and the silencing of the guns on the African continent in pursuit of our Pan Africanist principles.	ANC	December	Identify and engage key partners in Sudan, Egypt/Ethiopia, DRC/Rwanda, Somalia/Somaliland, Western Sahara/Morocco

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
3	Continue to participate in mediation and conflict resolutions process in South Sudan, DRC and Madagascar, etc..	DIRCO, Defence, State Security Agency	December	Engagements and assessment of conflicts and parties involved
4	Develop a draft plan / position for to ensure Madagascar return to constitutional order.	DIRCO, ANC	March	Draft plan/position for on Madagascar. Party to party engagements
5	As Chair for 2026/27 focus on strengthening political and economic integration, cohesion and stability.	DIRCO, ANC, DTIC, National Treasury, Defence, State Security Agency	June	Government should have a strategic and implementation plan for 2026 and 2027 which sets out what we want to achieve as chair politically

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
6	Push for the critical and rare earth mineral strategy, as well as the AI strategy to be finalised	DIRCO	December	Lobby to finalise a critical and rare earth mineral strategy, as well as the AI strategy and adopt at
7	Continue to implement and participate in the SADC regional economic integration strategy, especially on issues affecting workers in the region & the Africa Continental Free Trade	ANC/DIRCO/ /DTIC/NT	December	Participation reports from AU and SADC
8	Creation of a progressive forum for SADC Countries	ANC and DIRCO	December	Draft Concept Paper on the progressive forum

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
A better Africa and a better World				
9	Strengthen parliamentary diplomacy	DIRCO, ANC caucus in Parliament and ANC	Dec	Policy and protocol that addresses the harmonization between parliament and the structures of the ANC (including the PAP, Common wealth parliamentary association, etc..)
10	Co-ordinating and updating provincial and local government diplomacy	DIRCO, Provincial and Local government	Dec	Updated policy and protocols that include skills transfer and twinning relations between metros and other countries.

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
A better Africa and a better World				
11	Finalise host country agreements with African and multilateral institutions	ANC and DIRCO	JUNE	Signed host country agreements

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
Party-to-party, multi-party and intra-party				
12	Continue to engage and strengthening party-to-party relations, especially Liberation Movements	ANC	DEC	Party to party relations

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
Solidarity and campaigns				
13	Acceleration of solidarity efforts in support of Western Sahara by increasing community-based campaigns. ANC, together with Alliance structures, leagues and progressive civil society structures should lead formation of an international solidarity movement in support of Palestine, Western Sahara and Cuba.	ANC/Alliance	December	Working with the embassies and representatives of the Palestinian, Cuban and Western Saharan communities, developing an Alliance program of action in Solidarity with people of Palestine, Western Sahara and Cuba; implementation of this Solidarity POA

Key Actions for 2026

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Solidarity and campaigns				
14	Update our modalities and participation policy in progressive internationalist organizations such as Socialist international forums and Sao Paulo forum (amongst others)	ANC, Alliance partners	JUNE	Policy position
15	Finalization of the decision on the application new Cuba Economic assistance package	DIRCO, DTIC, NT, African Renaissance Fund	DEC	Project approval

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
Solidarity and campaigns				
16	The government must ensure it continues to enhance the Cuban Exchange Program	DIRCO, ANC	DECEMBER	Updated Technical exchange programme agreements
17	Government must appoint special envoys for Western Sahara and Palestine	DIRCO	DECEMBER	Appointment agreement signed

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
Solidarity and campaigns				
19	Facilitate the unity of the Palestinian political parties and progressive role players	ANC	DECEMBER	Workshop people on the importance of the union

Key Actions for 2026

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Transformation of Global institutions				
20	Climate Change disaster management: working with SADC to strengthen responses to disaster management and implementing climate change arrangements	DIRCO	DECEMBER	Establish a Cross national protocol which includes a proactive approach to climate change and ensuring education, as well as development of early warning systems.
21	Finalise the reflection of the Ezulwini Consensus	DIRCO, ANC	JUNE	Informed discussions at the peace and security council
22	Finalization of the decision on the application new Cuba Economic assistance package	DIRCO, DTIC, NT, African Renaissance Fund	DECEMBER	Project application approval

Key Actions for 2026

No.	Action/Activity	Responsible Structure	Time Frame	Output by End of 2026
Building capacity				
23	Furthering and unpacking the ANC led government's foreign policy and international outlook	ANC/DIRCO	December	Different engagements with regional groups of ambassadors
24	Continue to strengthen coordination between ANC HQ and Provinces on I.R. Matters and establish a fully-fledged and well-resourced ANC I.R. department. Addressing funding limitation within ANC I.R. to ensure adequate resourcing for party-to-party engagements in the region, continent and the world.	ANC	December	Appointment of someone in the department looking specifically at campaigns; developing a self-sustaining funding model for the ANC's IR work.

Key Actions for 2026

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Building capacity				
25	Implement an international relations training program for all RECs	OR Tambo School of Leadership (ANC)	December	Internationalist Cadre programme
26	Finalise Strategic deployments (UN, Special committees, Foreign missions)	DIRCO	JUNE	Cadre deployment strategy for multilateral institutions and international organization.