

Joint Statement
of the 28th South Africa-European Union Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM)
(Cape Town, 18 & 19 February 2025)

We, the representatives of the South African and the European Parliament convened in Cape Town, South Africa for the 28th South Africa - European Union (EU) Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM) from 18 to 19 February 2025. This IPM takes place against a backdrop of: (i) a more complex global geo-political landscape, requiring a strengthening of our strategic partnership;(ii) challenging economic and trade conditions, and; (iii) positive momentum for the relations between the EU and South Africa, which provides a unique opportunity to further our policy dialogue and cooperation.

1. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening and expanding our longstanding parliamentary partnership. In a world facing numerous challenges and uncertainties, we aim to enhance the interparliamentary dimension of our relationship. A partnership focused on the people, can play a pivotal role in advancing our mutual interests and creating an even more robust space for mutual trade and investment through parliamentary diplomacy. At the same time, our partnership should also focus on the multilateral level and our capacity to pursue common objectives based on our shared values, which are enshrined in the South African Constitution and the EU Treaties.

2. Our strategic partnership includes a very important parliamentary dimension, and we hope that our common perspective would be duly considered at the upcoming 8th SA-EU Summit on 13 March 2025. We are committed to fully utilising the agreed positions and existing instruments and to supporting policy implementation and policy conversions as a result. The South African Parliament and the European Parliament should intensify cooperation in support of rules based, effective multilateralism and in the spirit of international law, with strong democratic and accountable multilateral institutions.

3. We welcome and support the three core objectives of South Africa's G20 presidency: Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability, and we underscore the importance of ensuring that the legacy of the current G20 agenda is duly valorised in the next G20 presidency.
4. In our consultations we acknowledged the importance of addressing the impact of climate change and to ensure that climate change measures should be in line with the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which recognises the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). Furthermore, we emphasised that climate change responses should be multilateral and comprise of targeted economic policies such as those on financing mechanisms, technology innovation and transfer, and development-oriented trade rules.
5. We discussed the impact and implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and agreed to continue to engage on the matter in order to come to a mutually acceptable understanding.
6. We recalled that one of the foundations of SA-EU relations is development; therefore, we agreed on the importance of continuing to engage on all outstanding issues in our relationship in order to find sustainable and mutually beneficial solutions, including on agricultural products. Moreover, we discussed the value of engaging in strategies for diversifying the export baskets and on critical minerals we noted that the primary goal for South Africa is to benefitiate its minerals to facilitate economic growth and job creation.
7. We welcome that South Africa and the EU are in the process of discussing an Investment Package, focusing on various sectors including green hydrogen, critical minerals, infrastructure, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and transport/logistics sectors. Therefore, we encourage the finalisation of the investment package in strategic sectors such as critical minerals, green hydrogen and electricity.
8. The South African Parliament and the European Parliament observed that the review of the Southern African Development Community-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (SADC-EU EPA) is currently underway and look forward to a timely outcome.

9. Looking ahead, we as parliaments should engage more regularly in discussions on both general and specific matters of mutual interest. In addition, to our regular annual Inter-Parliamentary meetings, these discussions should primarily occur more regularly through remote meetings to strengthen the exchange of ideas and enhance political dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

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