

**JOINT DECLARATION AFTER THE 4<sup>th</sup> U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA  
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION  
Washington, D.C., February 9, 2016**

Pursuant to the 1995 Framework Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Scientific, Technological and Environmental Fields, between the Government of South Africa and the Government of the United States of America, signed in Pretoria, South Africa on December 5, 1995, the fourth Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) was held in Washington on February 9, 2016.

**DELEGATIONS**

The South African delegation was headed by Mr. Daan du Toit, Deputy Director for International Cooperation and Resources of the Department of Science and Technology.

The United States delegation was headed by Dr. Jonathan Margolis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

The composition of the two delegations is reported in Annex I.

**AGENDA**

The agenda of the joint meeting was adopted as follows:

1. Review the science and technology priorities of each country, and their relation to bilateral cooperation.
2. Review bilateral scientific activities carried out since the 2013 Joint Committee Meeting.
3. Discuss areas of mutual interest for future projects, including climate adaptation, environmental monitoring, and the food-energy-water nexus.
4. Initiate the development of plans for follow-up, establish a monitoring process for progress on joint projects, and improve coordination of the activities of different working groups.

**1. Review of South African and U.S. science and technology priorities.**

Both our countries are committed to science and technology. We see it as the engine that can develop solutions to global challenges, that can create jobs, and that can power our economy to help our citizens achieve their aspirations. International cooperation is essential to our scientific endeavors. Science is global. To conduct the best science, to engage with the best researchers, we need to work internationally.

Both countries highly value their science and technology cooperation for its positive contribution to the overall bilateral relationship. The science relationship benefits from cooperation across a number of

fields, with involvement from public and private institutions, and broad agreement on priorities. This Joint Committee meeting presented a timely opportunity to deepen cooperation on bilateral, regional, and global challenges.

The United States and South Africa share many of the same science priorities. We have excellent cooperation on issues like biomedical and behavioral research, the promotion of renewable energy, and the advancement of space science. By bringing discussion of these and other topics together, the Joint Committee Meeting created opportunities to bridge from our record of successful collaborations to achievements in new areas such as climate, water and oceans.

## **2. Review of bilateral scientific activities since the 2013 Joint Committee Meeting.**

The two delegations reviewed the cooperative activities accomplished to date and expressed the need for renewed effort to sustain achievements since the November 2013 U.S.-South Africa Joint Committee Meeting on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Pretoria, South Africa.

Working level discussions on the priority areas took place before the Joint Commission Meeting. Co-chairs of each group, or representatives from agencies engaged in the six working group areas, provided reports on the status of working group collaborations and outlined possibilities for future activities. An Action Plan, which will list activities that are agreed upon as well as prospective collaborations that agencies will explore, should be completed by March 31, 2016.

As part of the development of the Action Plan, the terms of reference and composition of the different working groups will be reconfirmed. This will include the designation by both countries of their respective co-chairs of these groups. In addition to the existing working groups covering cooperation in agriculture, advanced materials, energy, health, space and astronomy, and water, a new working group will be established to explore cooperation in marine and maritime science and technology, to be referred to as the oceans working group.

Funding of scientific projects and initiatives discussed during this meeting and the resulting scientific cooperation would be conducted without the exchange of funds. The ability of each country to undertake the scientific projects listed in the Action Plan is subject to the availability of funds and resources in each country. The South African delegation announced its readiness to make available dedicated resources to support the participation of South African partners in activities agreed to by the different working groups.

The United States and South Africa consider university collaboration an important tool for joint scientific research. To encourage U.S. and South African universities to facilitate exchanges and joint programs, a follow-up meeting hosted by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) was conducted in conjunction with the Joint Committee Meeting. The meeting saw rich discussion on the promotion of researcher mobility and training programmes between the two countries, with a specific focus on doctoral training and the addressing of demographic imbalances in

human capital for science, technology and innovation. Further contact and exchange between South African organisations and APLU will be promoted in this regard.

### **3. Discussion of future areas of interest for both countries**

The delegations recognized the growing importance of science and technology with respect to the economic and social development of the two countries. Both sides put particular emphasis on the role of international cooperation for the further development of the S&T systems in their countries. The U.S. and South Africa recognized innovation as essential to securing a more secure, peaceful, and prosperous world and discussed ways to continue the conversation about the importance of policies supporting research, education, and the exploitation of new ideas.

The two delegations discussed the scientific subjects of the highest priority for the cooperation in S&T area between South Africa and the United States, with cooperation initiatives to be further developed by the different working groups. These subjects included :

1. Space and astronomy, including promoting public understanding of science, the hosting of research infrastructures, and the development of skills for the big data economy;
2. Advanced materials and emerging technologies;
3. Water security, including adequate supplies and quality to meet human and ecosystem needs;
4. Agriculture, including possible cooperation related to the bioeconomy;
5. Energy efficiency and renewable energy, including with regard to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies;
6. Bio-medical research and response to health threats; and.
7. Marine science and maritime technology.

In addition the two countries agreed to explore the development of a targeted initiative, mobilizing resources and capacities from their relevant institutions, to advance research and innovation with regard to a better understanding of sustainable development challenges, related to the water-energy-food nexus.

### **4. Development of plans for follow-through and monitoring progress on joint projects**

The two delegations agreed to conduct a review of working group progress in late 2016, including through consultation with the relevant national agencies, and the preparation of a report reviewed by the Department of State and the Department of Science and Technology. The first of these consultations will approve the Action Plan for future cooperation, confirm the reconstitution of the different working groups, and determine a schedule and format for continuing periodic consultations. A mid-term review to be held in 2017 will determine date of the next Joint Committee Meeting to be held in South Africa.

Consistent with the desire of both countries to intensify cooperation they may between Joint Committee Meetings explore new means to exchange information on national scientific priorities and areas of potential cooperation and exchange views on areas that might involve their broader scientific communities.

Any addition to the present document will be agreed on through diplomatic channels.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on February 10, 2016, in duplicate, in the English language.

**For the Republic of South Africa**



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Deputy Director-General  
International Cooperation and Resources  
Department of Science and Technology

**For the United States of America**



Dr. Jonathan A. Margolis  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Acting  
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