



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

International Relations Unit

Office of the Executive Mayor

# International Relations Policy of the City of Cape Town

September 2021

<b>Document Title:</b>	International Relations Policy
<b>Document status</b>	Review of Policy Number 12187 as approved by Council on 24 April 2013 and Amended by Council on 26 February 2014 and 28 October 2015 and 30 September 2021
<b>Date of previous reviews:</b>	Policy on External Relations approved by Council on 30/03/2011 Strategic External Relations Policy approved by Council on 24/04/2013 Strategic External Relations Policy Amended by Council on 26/02/2014 Strategic International Relations Policy Amended by Council on 28/10/2015 International Relations Policy Amended by Council on 30/09/2021
<b>Review date</b>	To be reviewed every five years
<b>Reference Codes</b>	<i>[to be inserted by Committee Services]</i>
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Dr Denver van Schalkwyk</b> <b>Manager: International Relations</b> International Relations Unit Office of the Executive Mayor E: <a href="mailto:denver.vanschalkwyk@capetown.gov.za">denver.vanschalkwyk@capetown.gov.za</a> T: +27 (0) 21 400 1369

# CONTENTS

Contents ..... iii

Abbreviations ..... iv

Definitions ..... v

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT ..... 1

2. DESIRED OUTCOMES..... 1

3. STRATEGIC INTENT ..... 3

4. POLICY PARAMETERS ..... 5

5. ROLEPLAYERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.....6

6. REGULATORY CONTEXT.....7

7. POLICY DIRECTIVES.....7

8. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME..... 9

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW..... 9

## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BPO</b>	Business Process Outsourcing
<b>BRICS</b>	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
<b>DIRCO</b>	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
<b>IDP</b>	Integrated Development Plan
<b>IGR</b>	Intergovernmental Relations
<b>IRU</b>	International Relations Unit
<b>Mayco</b>	Mayoral Committee
<b>MFMA</b>	Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003)
<b>MSA</b>	Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>SALGA</b>	South African Local Government Association
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance

## DEFINITIONS

### **“BRICS”**

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies, i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa who are all developing or newly industrialised countries, distinguished by their large, fast-growing economies and significant influence on global affairs.

### **“City”**

“City” means the City of Cape Town, a municipality established by the City of Cape Town Establishment Notice No. 479 of 22 September 2000, issued in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998), or any structure or employee of the City acting in terms of delegated authority.

### **“Council”**

‘Council’, means the Municipal Council as specified in section 160(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which states that: “The Municipal Council makes decisions concerning the exercise of all the powers and the performance of all the functions of the municipality”;

### **“IDP”**

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is a strategic developmental plan, setting strategic and budget priorities for the City over five years. It aligns the resources and the capacity of the City to its overall development aims, and guides the municipality's budget.

### **“International Relations”**

International relations refers to the interactions between and behaviour of a number of actors or stakeholders in the global system. These actors or stakeholders include governments at all spheres, international organisations, international private sector actors, and multinational enterprises.

### **“SALGA”**

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is an autonomous association of municipalities with its mandate derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This mandate defines SALGA as the voice and sole representative of local government. SALGA interfaces with parliament, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), cabinet as well as provincial legislatures.

### **“South-South Cooperation”**

South-South cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. These countries share knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts. Recent developments in South-South cooperation have taken the form of increased volume of South-South trade, South-South flows of foreign direct investment, movements towards regional integration, technology transfers, sharing of solutions and experts, and other forms of exchanges.

**“Sustainable Development Goals”**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

**“Technical Assistance”**

Technical Assistance (TA) refers to the official resource flows, either in cash or in the form of commodities or services, from members of the international community (i.e. foreign donors) to less privileged members (e.g. cities, provinces, countries) of the international community. It should be stressed that although the donors of TA are mostly countries, that multilateral organisations such as the United Nations (UN) are also contributing TA to recipients annually.

## 1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

- 1.1 The City of Cape Town's (hereinafter "the City" or "this City") International Relations Policy (hereinafter "the Policy" or "this Policy") has an important role to play in determining the City's international relations priorities and objectives, and in delineating the powers, roles, functions and procedures of the relevant City authorities. It has the potential to be a powerful tool to enhance the global profile of Cape Town as an attractive place to visit, live, work, study, play and invest.
- 1.2 To be effective in this regard, the Policy needs to guide decision making pertaining to the international relations of the City in a manner that is articulate, and that aligns with the strategic aims of the City as identified in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
- 1.3 Ideally, the Policy should situate Cape Town within a changing global context. This must take into account 'traditional' partners from which the City receives significant support as well as taking into account South Africa's accession to the BRICS group of countries (i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), encourages economic growth in Africa and rapid technological change that brings tremendous opportunities for the City. Global issues such as the spread of terrorism, organised crime and environmental changes as well as the recent outbreak of a pandemic (i.e. COVID-19) pose global risks that require international cooperation and partnership in order to be dealt with effectively. For instance, at the time of writing, the exchange of best practice particularly around economic recovery post Covid-19 proves to be vital. This also ensures that cities become collaboratively resilient.
- 1.4 Cities are the drivers of change and given that cities feel the pressure of urbanisation and globalisation on a daily basis, the Policy therefore needs to reflect the above-mentioned global reality. The latter is one in which local governments will play an increasingly critical role both as regulators and as facilitators of economic growth and development.
- 1.5 In addition, the Policy should provide adequate guidance regarding the full range of international relations options available to decision-makers in the City. It should thus recommend mechanisms to evaluate existing relationships, and provide guidance on the manner in which the City could proactively seek to build new relationships with partners that have the potential to enhance and develop Cape Town's economic, social and cultural life. To achieve this, amendments to the existing Policy are required.
- 1.6 As with the previous review in 2015, it should be stressed that the IRU is not responsible for the City's Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) activities.

## 2. DESIRED OUTCOMES

- 2.1 The overarching outcome of the Policy is to foster relationships that will promote Cape Town as a competitive global hub for economic, social and cultural activity; one that values international connectivity as a means to facilitate job creation through private sector-led economic growth and is recognised for its open and competitive regulatory environment, which is balanced by the City's values of cooperation and partnership to promote excellence and innovation in local government. This is particularly important for the post-COVID economic recovery of Cape Town.

- 2.2 With regards to the above-mentioned enabling environment, it is the intention of the City to utilise its international relations to actively encourage inward investment, particularly in the catalytic growth sectors identified in the IDP. This includes encouraging investment in the following sectors:
- 2.2.1 Infrastructure Development;
  - 2.2.2 Biotech industry and Medical Technology;
  - 2.2.3 Financial services;
  - 2.2.4 Corporate head offices;
  - 2.2.5 Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI);
  - 2.2.6 Green industries (including green energy) and green technology;
  - 2.2.7 Tourism and major events;
  - 2.2.8 Business process outsourcing (BPO);
  - 2.2.9 Creative industries (e.g. Film and Media; Craft and Design; Fashion & Animation);
  - 2.2.10 Advanced manufacturing, including aerospace, robotics and smart materials;
  - 2.2.11 Ocean economies, including boatbuilding; and
  - 2.2.12 Food and beverages.
- 2.3 The Policy seeks to enrich Cape Town's broader social and cultural life through improved global and regional connections. By enhancing Cape Town's international connections, the Policy facilitates the following:
- 2.3.1 Interplay of new ideas;
  - 2.3.2 Networking for local cultural, community and sports organisations;
  - 2.3.3 Championing the City on the global stage; and
  - 2.3.4 Inculcating the importance of international cooperation and sound relations in the "new normal" where the world is faced by threats such as the Covid-19 and other future pandemics and how to effectively collaborate to address such challenges. This is especially true as the City will be working on its post Covid-19 pandemic economic recovery response for at least the next 5-10 years. In this instance, the City's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy, detailing planned steps for a post-Covid recovery will be crucial, as well as the Infrastructure Strategy.
- 2.4 Fundamental to the successful realisation of the broad economic and social aims of the Policy, is the articulation of a clear set of goals and objectives that promote the interests of the City and that align with the values and strategic policy objectives of the administration. These include:



- 2.4.1 Promoting Cape Town as an ideal investment destination;
  - 2.4.2 Promoting Cape Town businesses abroad;
  - 2.4.3 Promoting Cape Town as a world class tourist destination;
  - 2.4.4 Promoting Cape Town as an internationally competitive events destination;
  - 2.4.5 Promoting Cape Town civic life;
  - 2.4.6 Promoting the City as a model of excellence and innovation in government;
  - 2.4.7 Gaining policy insights from other international city governments;
  - 2.4.8 Encourage the shaping of the social policy agenda, particularly with regard to matters of redress, reconciliation, delivery and diversity; and
  - 2.4.9 Acknowledging that the City does benefit from international technical assistance partnerships.
- 2.5 This Policy clarifies powers, functions, roles and responsibilities of the IRU and other interested or affected parties.
  - 2.6 It sets out the criteria and procedures to be followed when establishing formal relations with international stakeholders with the aim of enabling sufficient flexibility so that the City is able to capitalise on ad hoc opportunities when such opportunities are deemed valuable. This will include the use and incorporation of digital platforms to foster formal relations with international stakeholders.
  - 2.7 This Policy aims to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to curtail fruitless initiatives and onerous and costly commitments where these do not result in tangible benefits for the City.
  - 2.8 By articulating these aims and clarifying relevant decision-making criteria and processes, the Policy seeks to integrate the City's international relations within its broader development agenda for Cape Town.
  - 2.9 The result is a strategic approach to managing the City's relationships with international stakeholders in a manner that maximises the benefits to the City that accrue from global political, economic, social and environmental change while seeking to minimise potential risks and costs.

### 3. STRATEGIC INTENT

This Policy is informed by the following strategic objectives that relate to the City's international relations priorities:

#### 3.1 The Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

Bearing in mind the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) focuses on implementation and deliver the City utilises the IDP to apply it as the foundation for progress to enable the achievement of the City's vision. The four priority areas listed under the IDP Strategic Focus Area 1: Opportunity City have direct implications for the Policy:

- 3.1.1 **Positioning Cape Town as a forward-looking, globally competitive city:** The IDP objective to position Cape Town as a forward-looking, globally competitive city with the view to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, innovation and growth is expressed in the Policy's clauses concerning the promotion of Cape Town businesses abroad and the facilitation of business networks. It must be emphasised that positioning Cape Town as a unique and desirable investment destination is not something the City can do alone – it requires collaboration with partners from business formations, investment promotion agencies and sector support entities.
- 3.1.2 **Leveraging technology for progress:** This objective is addressed by the stated aim to utilise digital technology to transform Cape Town into the most digital city in Africa with the view to facilitate inward investment into Cape Town. One such benefit of this objective is to have Cape Town become the preferred destination for technology start-ups in South Africa, which has the added benefit of ensuring Cape Town receives more inward international investment, which further cements the City's positive reputation on the international stage.
- 3.1.3 **Economic inclusion:** The IDP objective to drive economic inclusion with the view to improve citizens' quality of life is expressed in the Policy's clauses concerning the creation of an enabling environment for economic growth.
- 3.1.4 **Resource efficiency and security:** This objective is addressed by the stated aim to create a resource-efficient economy. Concerted efforts to institutionalise resilience and achieve an appropriate balance between economic development and the preservation of the natural environment will result in tangible economic gains for the City. The former could be achieved by means of partnerships with like-minded international stakeholders and partners.

### 3.2 Western Cape Government's International Relations Strategy

This Policy is cognisant of the approach of the Western Cape Government's International Relations Strategy to endeavour to globally position the Western Cape by focusing specifically on the BRICS group and Africa.

### 3.3 National Development Plan (NDP)

This Policy notes the following general recommendations detailed in Chapter 7 of the National Development Plan (NDP): Positioning South Africa in the World where applicable.

- 3.3.1 **On cooperation with the BRICS group and Africa:** 'Deepen cooperation with Brazil, Russia, India and China as part of the BRICS group while promoting regional and global integration. This requires a thorough review of the country's current and future regional and international commitments.'
- 3.3.2 **On achieving tangible benefits through external relations:** 'Achieve measurable outcomes related to food, water, energy, education, health, transport and communication infrastructure, national defence, adjustment to climate change and economic growth to benefit all South Africans.'

### 3.4 Department of International Relations and Cooperation's (DIRCO) Strategic Plan

This Policy is consistent with the DIRCO's Strategic Plan 2020 to 2025. It actively promotes strategic priority seven, i.e. A better Africa and World, and more specifically the following subsections thereof, namely:

- 3.4.1 **Enhanced African Agenda and Sustainable Development.** This priority area emphasises the promotion of socio-economic development and championing sustainable development and opportunities in Africa.
- 3.4.2 **Strengthen South-South Relations.** This emphasises how South Africa shares many positions on political, economic and social issues with other developing countries in the Global South and how greater South-South cooperation can play a role in shaping the global agenda.
- 3.4.3 **Strengthening Bilateral Political and Economic Relations.** This priority area notes the continued importance of strategic engagement at a bi-lateral level and how these relationships establish an important basis for strengthening political and economic partnerships in the various regions of the world. Emphasis is also placed on "the increased and improved access of South African products and services to foreign markets [to] contribute to the aim of increasing [local] manufacturing".

### 3.5 The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This Policy is cognisant of the following SDGs, namely:

- 3.5.1 **Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth** by promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all the citizens of Cape Town.
- 3.5.2 **Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure** by encouraging the building of resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation for the betterment of all the citizens of Cape Town.
- 3.5.3 **Goal 10: Reduced inequality** in Cape Town and the country as a whole by assisting the City in increasing and facilitating official development assistance and foreign direct investment towards Cape Town.
- 3.5.4 **Goal 14: Climate Action** by supporting the City's resilience efforts and the integration of climate change measures into planning.
- 3.5.5 **Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals** by supporting and promoting cooperation with international stakeholders.

## 4. POLICY PARAMETERS

- 4.1 This Policy is concerned with the international relations of the City. It is primarily aimed at informing strategic decisions regarding the City's relations with foreign stakeholders, and foreign local governments in particular.

- 4.2 This Policy informs and guides the activities of the IRU.
- 4.3 This Policy has wide-ranging transversal implications as its provisions apply to relations between the City and international stakeholders.

## 5. ROLE PLAYERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The following role players are identified for the purpose of implementing this Policy:

- 5.1 The International Relations Unit (IRU)
- 5.1.1 The IRU is responsible for providing support to the Executive Mayor and the Executive Deputy Mayor.
- 5.1.2 It is overseen by the International Relations Manager.
- 5.1.3 The IRU is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the international travel arrangements of only the Executive Mayor and Executive Deputy Mayor.
- 5.1.4 It is also responsible for providing a facilitation service for visiting international delegations.
- 5.1.5 The IRU is responsible for maintaining a database of all international relations agreements entered into by the City.
- 5.2 Stakeholders that may be consulted on matters pertaining to the international relations of the City include:
- 5.2.1 All City departments
- 5.2.2 All nine South African Provincial Governments and their departments responsible for International Relations.
- 5.2.3 National Stakeholders:
- The National Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO); and
  - South African Local Government Association (SALGA).
- 5.2.4 International Stakeholders:
- Foreign diplomatic representation in South Africa;
  - South African diplomatic representation abroad;
  - International Organisations; and
  - Foreign city governments.
- 5.2.5 Other Stakeholders:
- The Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Wesgro);
  - Cape Town-based businesses;
  - Cape Town Tourism (CTT);
  - Business Process Enabling South Africa (BPESA)– Western Cape;
  - GreenCape;

- Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC);
- Cape Innovation and Technology Institute (CiTi);
- Cape Town Fashion Council (CTFC);
- Clotex;
- Cape Clothing and Textile Cluster;
- Craft and Design Institute;
- Cape Chamber of Commerce;
- South African Boat Builders Export Council (SABBEX); and
- Non-government institutions.

## 6. REGULATORY CONTEXT

This section provides an overview of the relevant legislation and policies that have a bearing on the international relations of the City.

- 6.1 Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003)
- 6.2 Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998)
- 6.3 Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)
- 6.4 Integrated Development Plan of the City of Cape Town
- 6.5 Travel Management Policy of the City of Cape Town (December 2020)
- 6.6 Business Support Policy of the City of Cape Town (May 2018)
- 6.7 Environmental Policy of the City of Cape Town (August 2017)
- 6.8 Events Policy of the City of Cape Town (May 2013)
- 6.9 Responsible Tourism Policy of the City of Cape Town (November 2009)

## 7. POLICY DIRECTIVES

- 7.1 The IRU's recommendation to the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee regarding the City entering into sister city (formal) relations with other foreign cities shall be guided by the principle of *quid pro quo* or simply put, identifying which mutual benefits exist for both cities. Further to this, the recommendation for the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee's final decision will also be considerate to the following factors:
  - 7.1.1 An overview of the proposed sister city focusing on its strengths and weaknesses.
  - 7.1.2 Commonalities and differences between Cape Town and the proposed sister city.
  - 7.1.3 Challenges associated with the proposed sister city.
  - 7.1.4 Possible indirect financial implications associated with the proposed sister city (formal) relations.

- 7.1.5 Each sister city (formal relations) agreement shall be reviewed as per the stipulations contained therein.
- 7.2 The IRU's recommendation to the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee regarding the City's membership of international organisations shall be guided by consideration of the following factors:
- 7.2.1 The international standing of the organisation;
- 7.2.2 The utility to be gained from membership; and
- 7.2.3 The cost implications of membership.
- 7.3 Unless otherwise agreed as per 7.3.2 below, the City will only enter into the following types of agreements with international organisations or stakeholders:
- 7.3.1 (a) Partnership agreements;  
(b) Membership agreements;  
(c) Memoranda of understanding (MoU);  
(d) Grant agreements;  
(e) Technical Assistance Agreements;  
(f) Statements of intent; and  
(g) Cooperation Protocol.
- 7.3.2 Other types of agreements may be entered into as a result of a decision by the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee.
- 7.3.3 Guidelines detailing the nature and scope of each type of agreement, and the implications of each for the City, will be provided in a Strategy Document.
- 7.4 Where appropriate, the City shall be open to coordination and cooperation with the Western Cape Government on matters relating to international relations.
- 7.5 The IRU has a webpage on the City's official website which details the list of all active international agreements. In addition, a database has been established and is managed by the IRU. This database:
- 7.5.1 Contains details of all existing international agreements and memberships as well as pending proposals;
- 7.5.2 Identifies whether an existing international agreement or membership is due for review; and
- 7.5.3 Identifies whether a pending proposal is approved, under consideration or declined.
- 7.6 The nature of the evaluation and review of international partnerships and memberships entered into both prior and subsequent to the adoption of this Policy will be influenced by one of the sets of factors detailed in Section 7.1. (for sister city relations) and Section 7.2 (for memberships).

- 7.7 A review of the City's memberships of international organisations shall be conducted as per the stipulations contained in the membership agreement with the particular international organisation. In the IRU's recommendation to, and the final decision by the Executive Mayor together with the Mayoral Committee, consideration should be given to the factors highlighted in section 7.2.
- 7.8 The City will act as the overarching Implementing Agent for Technical Assistance Agreement related projects. However, it will be the responsibility of the recipient directorates of TA to execute the actual implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of TA related projects and to provide donors with updated information in this regard.

## 8. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

- 8.1 The provisions contained in this Policy shall apply on approval by Council.

## 9. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

- 9.1. This Policy will be reviewed every five years.
- 9.2 The implementation of this Policy will be monitored by the IRU by means of:
- 9.2.1 Number of new sister city agreements entered into, declined or declared dormant.
  - 9.2.2 Number of new memberships of international organisations facilitated or declined or cancelled.
  - 9.2.3 Number of executive missions abroad facilitated.
  - 9.2.4 Number of visits by foreign delegations facilitated.