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DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR ISSUES

South Africa is engaged in the following organizations or issues

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

South Africa was a founding member of the IAEA and was a member of the Agency's Board of Governors until it was excluded during 1977 because of the country's internal policies. The African Seat on the Board of Governors is currently" held. by Egypt. The Seat is allocated to the country in a region VWith the most advanced nuclear programme. Following South Africa's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on 10 July 1991 we concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the Agency on 16 September 1991. Since that date there have been numerous inspections of South African nuclear facilities by IAEA inspectors.i,

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

Our experts regularly participate in the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), and we attend the OPCW Prepcom.

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Our experts regularly participate in the BWC VEREX meetings. South Africa furthermore participates in the United Nations' BWC Confidence Building Measures.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

As a party to the NPT, South Africa participated in the NPT Review Prepconl which recently' took place in New York. We support the Treaty's extension, but have not finalized our views on the matter, as there may be some leverage to obtain improved technology transfers. This need could be reduced if a satisfactory Agreement on Co-operation is concluded with the United States.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

South Africa is a "participatory observer" at the Geneva based Conference on Disarmament. This status enables us to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, but we do not have a vote. South Africa, for example, participated in the negotiations surrounding the formulation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). South Africa is one of 23 countries which have been proposed for full membership.

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7. GENERAL

7.1 Training in Conference Diplomacy

South Africa should seek opportunities presented by international organizations in the field of training. South African diplomats active in the multilateral field should undergo training courses presented by organizations such as the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the EC.

7.2 Policy on international organizations establishing offices in South Africa

It is expected that, due to South Africa's well developed infrastructure (communications, transport, banking etc.), a number of international organizations (UN, EC, NGO's etc.) might use South Africa as a base for their regional offices and projects. South Africa should welcome such developments in the interest of regional co-operation and the facilitation of international aid programmes for itself.

8. VISITS

Members of the Subcouncil on Foreign Affairs could benefit from orientation visits to the South African Missions to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, the South African Mission to the EC in Brussels and the European Parliament in Strasbourg in order to obtain first-hand knowledge and experience of how multilateral matters are being dealt with at those centres. They would also derive valuable information from studying the regional groupings in SE Asia and the Pacific Rim, eg ASEAN, APEC, PECC and ESCAP, while obtaining information on the development efforts and economic success of such countries as Singapore, Malaysia (which can offer valuable insights), Taiwan, Korea and the Peoples Republic of China.

MULTILATERAL BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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