

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING / FOREIGN OFFICE
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

ISSUED ON 21 MAY 2026,

PRETORIA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Sixth Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) / Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh was held in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, on 21 May 2026. The Sixth SOM was co-chaired by Ambassador DE Malcomson, Acting Deputy Director-General: Asia and Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and Ambassador Asad Alam Siam, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Meeting focused on strengthening the excellent relations that exist between South Africa and Bangladesh, which were forged through bonds of solidarity, friendship and cooperation. Both countries agreed to build on the achievements of the previous SOM held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 03 September 2019. The 6th SOM also marked the 32 years Anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The two countries noted and expressed regret over the six-year hiatus in regular diplomatic consultations, which was occasioned by the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic amongst other reasons. In this regard, both countries resolved to strengthen both political and economic relations, by encouraging the exchange of official visits including high-level visits, as well as facilitating engagements and cooperation on all levels. Bangladesh side requested the South African side to establish a resident Mission in Dhaka, to which the South African side undertook to consider in the near future.

Both countries welcomed the exponential increase in the bilateral, economic and trade relations and noted the catalytic role trade relations can play in deepening relations as well as to boost economic growth to generate much needed employment opportunities. Bangladesh side invited a trade delegation from South Africa to visit Bangladesh or undertake an exploratory Mission in this regard.

The two countries also agreed to leverage their mutual interest in the sport of cricket as well as the high levels of people to people exchange/s to broaden cooperation in the field of sports, arts and culture. Bangladesh delegation appreciated the scholarship offer for young Bangladeshi cricketers and agreed to leverage this mutual interest. The two countries recommitted themselves to review on a regular basis the identified priority areas such as agriculture, defence, transport and education, for the mutual benefit of both countries. Appreciating South Africa as a

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destination for higher studies for Bangladeshi students, Bangladesh requested South Africa to offer scholarships to Bangladeshi students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The two countries underscored the need for consultation and the exchange of views between South Africa and Bangladesh to build partnerships in multilateral fora and to ensure that the agenda of the Global South is prioritised. As members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the two countries noted the importance of the Indian Ocean and the Blue Economy in the advancement of the developmental agenda. The meeting further exchanged views and positions on developments in the regional and the international area.

In conclusion, the two countries agreed to fast track the implementation of the decisions of the Sixth SOM and to accelerate the pace of concluding the pending draft Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding under consideration currently.

It was agreed that the Seventh Senior Officials Meeting will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2027 with the exact dates to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The Communiqué was prepared in **PRETORIA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**, on 21 May 2026.

 21/05/26

For the Department of International Relations
and Cooperation of Republic of South Africa



For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh