

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT BY MINISTER MAPISA-NQAKULA,
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS AND MINISTER
AMORIM THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL**

Pretoria, 20 March 2014

On 20 March 2014, the Minister of Defence of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency, Mr Celso Amorim paid an official visit to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of the Republic of South Africa, Her Excellency, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to review the main elements of the strong defence partnership between their respective countries.

South Africa and Brazil share a very strong relationship on a bi-lateral and multi-lateral level.

Ours is a relationship that has developed progressively since the dawn of democracy in South Africa in 1994. It was cemented with the Presidential Declaration in 1996 signifying the importance of our bi-lateral relationship.

On a multi-lateral level we work together in IBSA and BRICS, whilst on a bi-lateral level our defence relationship is based on the signing of various defence cooperation agreements.

Today marked an important occasion for our respective Ministries and Departments as we met to further strengthen our cooperation in defence matters.

We are in agreement that the training of our forces is of paramount importance. In this regard we undertake to invest in increasing the numbers of our members that attend training courses in our respective countries. It is especially our wish to see more South African defence members trained in Brazil over the coming years.

We further agreed to strengthen our cooperation in the fields of cyber defence and defence intelligence.

Brazil and South Africa already cooperate in the development of defence technology such as the project on the development of a fifth generation short range air-to-air missile referred to as A-Darter. We have agreed today that we should look at further ways to strengthen the relationship between our defence industries in the context of South-South cooperation.

Our navies have successfully participated over the years in several exercises in the South Atlantic. In this regard, both countries have renewed their strategic commitment to multi-lateral cooperation through the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic and tri-lateral cooperation through IBSA-MAR. New challenges in the South Atlantic, including piracy, are a concern to both our countries and increased bi-lateral partnership between our navies cannot be over emphasised.

Finally, we have agreed that due to the strategic nature of our defence relationship in the Southern hemisphere we will endeavour to meet at a Ministerial level on an annual basis.

It is trusted that our engagement today will further reinforce our mutually beneficial defence relationship going forward.