

SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SIGNING OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED

VIRTUAL CEREMONY, 26 JUNE 2020

Mr President,

The signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945 was a seminal moment in the relations between States and invoked a sense of unity for a common cause for humanity.

The UN Charter became the basis for the creation of a rules-based international system with multilateralism at its core.

South Africa would like to use this solemn occasion to urge Member States to uphold the original intentions of the Charter, mainly the pursuit of peace, respect for human rights, international law and the promotion of development.

Today the world faces new challenges such as growing intra-state and inter-state conflicts, terrorism, transnational organised crime, and other such acutely global threats. It is only when we work together that we can be able to address these problems.

Mr President,

We celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Charter during a time when the world is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic reminds us once more of the vital importance of the multilateral system. From the onset of the pandemic we have seen the value of cooperation between States that are all facing a common invisible enemy. We should therefore recommit to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to address the perils brought about by the pandemic.

Mr President,

While the Charter remains relevant, we must acknowledge that the world today is vastly different from the world that existed 75 years ago when it was signed. At the time of signing, 5 came from Africa. The majority of Member States from Africa and Asia, were not yet independent. Today 54 African States are members of United Nation.

While the values that underpin the Organisation should not be changed, Charter amendments are necessary to ensure that the Organisation reflects the current global reality. In the first few years of the Organisation's existence, Member States were willing to make the necessary amendments to the Charter and the 5 Charter amendments that were made, Similar amendment can be made to facilitate much needed reforms of the UN Security Council.

I thank you.

Permanent Representative of South Africa

