

TRADUZIONE N. 1

As a sovereign state, South Africa reserves the right to determine who is allowed entry into the country, and under what conditions. Therefore, the new White Paper on International Migration affirms South Africa's sovereign right to determine the admission and residence conditions for foreign nationals in line with its national interest. The policy on international migration will reflect how our nation of 55 million people will relate to the rest of the 7 billion humans who share planet Earth. The global movement of people, information, technology and capital across the globe gives us huge opportunities as a nation and at the same time presents very serious risks. According to the 2013 United Nations (UN) population report at least 3 per cent (232 million) of the human population are international migrants who have moved across borders to live in other countries for twelve months or more. People migrate for complex and varied reasons. A random sample would include labourers, unqualified artisans, highly qualified professionals, business persons, families and victims of forced migrations caused by political, economic and natural disasters. Young men have constituted a major proportion of those migrating annually, but increasingly women and children are migrating. The overall number of migrants has been increasing steadily owing to opportunities offered by rapid transport, accessibility to communications as well as "push" and "pull" factors. "Pull" factors include economic and professional opportunities and safety. "Push" factors include large economic inequalities (domestic and international), conflicts, persecution, degraded environments and climate change.

TRADUZIONE N. 2

To discuss international migration meaningfully we must think nationally (across sectors and spheres of government), regionally and globally while understanding that the policy adopted will impact on every community and individual in South Africa, including our citizens visiting or residing in other countries. No nation in a world with a globalised economy can survive or thrive in isolation; or without due regard for international laws, conventions, treaties and agreements.

In general, South Africans are proud of the role we are playing internationally to strengthen collective peace and security and confront problems such as climate change, pandemics and poverty. A war or the collapse of a state anywhere in a highly globalised world impacts directly on global security and how much we pay for fuel or food and insurance. There will be mass migration and a rise in risks, threats and costs if all or part of a state collapses. Examples are Somalia, Libya, Iraq and Syria. The largest instance was Europe in the 1940s. We also celebrate and are proud of the international achievements of our athletes, scientists and entrepreneurs. None of these achievements would be possible if international migration was not possible and states closed their borders. As a member of the family of nations, our chances of peace and prosperity are far greater in a world where states cooperate and their citizens are free to travel, work, study, research, enjoy culture and build relationships.

TRADUZIONE N. 3

The new White Paper argues that the current international migration policy does not enable South Africa to adequately embrace global opportunities while safeguarding our sovereignty and ensuring public safety and national security. The White Paper further argues that South Africa has not yet built consensus at policy, legislative and strategic levels on how to manage international migration for development. As a result, national thinking and attitudes to international migration are influenced by an unproductive debate between those who call for stricter immigration controls and those who call for controls to be relaxed. In general the discourse is characterised by strong emotions, stereotypes and contested statistics.

The White Paper proposes that international migration must be managed proactively and strategically in order to contribute to national priorities, such as nation building and social cohesion, inclusive economic growth and national security. South Africa needs to start a conversation on the importance of international migration so that there can be consensus on its contribution to meeting broadly supported national goals. South Africa has not put in place adequate policy, strategies, institutions and capacity for attracting, recruiting and retaining international migrants with the necessary skills and resources.

TRADUZIONE N. 4

Serious policy gaps regarding asylum seekers and refugees

At the level of policy, legislation, strategy and systems, the asylum seeker and refugee regime that was established through the 1998 Refugees Act has serious gaps that have only been partially addressed through amendments. A contributing factor was the assumption that the number of asylum seekers would be low, given the relative stability of the SADC and the distance from typical refugee sending countries. In part, this was a consequence of not considering historical flows of labour within the SADC and thus not being prepared for hundreds of thousands of SADC citizens claiming asylum so they could work while their claims were being adjudicated. The largest influx came as a result of economic collapse in Zimbabwe but there is a strong underlying trend from across the region. Another factor is the high level of activity of human smugglers and traffickers who bring in people under the guise of being asylum seekers from as far as North East Africa and Asia. While the policy of non-encampment can be fully justified, there was no provision made for providing indigent asylum seekers with basic food and accommodation, leading to the courts obliging the DHA to consider issuing deserving cases with permits allowing them to work or study. This has become a powerful pull factor which further burdens the asylum system leading to many adjudication cases being delayed for years.

TRADUZIONE N. 5

The White Paper proposes that South Africa should adopt an approach to immigration that is strategically managed and which involves the whole of the government and society approach led by the elected government.

It has been over 18 years since the White Paper on International Migration (approved by Cabinet in March 1999) became the basis of immigration legislation and regulations, despite significant changes in the country, region and world.

Notable developments include the following:

- ♣ South Africa is a major international player in various international (multilateral and bilateral) platforms that deal with peace keeping missions and development.
- ♣ South Africa has become a major destination and transport hub for the continent and the world.
- ♣ South Africa has become a platform for investment into Africa. South African companies are also increasingly expanding their businesses into Africa and other continents.
- ♣ South Africa continues to receive a high number of individual asylum seekers from almost all the regions of the world, including asylum seekers from countries that are politically stable.
- ♣ South Africa attracts tourists from all regions of the world because of its climate, developed infrastructure and various tourist attractions; and it has become a major venue for international events.
- ♣ The rate at which the global economy is being driven by scientific and technological change is accelerating. South Africa has become a global player in certain areas of the sciences, including the hosting of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope.