



END OF MISSION REPORT

MARCH 2023

OUTBOUND MISSION TO CAPE TOWN
FEBRUARY 17-27, 2023

ORGANIZED BY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY | INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM (ITC)



Miami-Dade County
Board of County Commissioners
International Trade Consortium



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ORGANIZED BY
**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM (ITC)**

LED BY
**The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Chairman, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
&
The International Trade Consortium**

JOINED BY
**The Honorable Kevin M. Cabrera, Commissioner, District 6,
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners & Vice Chairman, ITC
and
The Honorable Keon Hardemon, Commissioner, District 3,
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and Chairman,
Airport and Economic Development Committee**

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ABOUT “ITC”



WHO WE ARE

The International Trade Consortium (ITC) promotes Miami-Dade County as a Global Gateway for international trade. Established in November of 2002, the office is the lead County liaison to foreign governments and serves as a one-stop information and referral resource for Miami-Dade County businesses and other organizations requiring assistance in international trade.

WHAT WE DO

The ITC office plans the County’s official outbound trade and business development missions, supports inbound trade missions, and manages the Sister Cities program of Miami-Dade County. We work with a wide range of partners, including foreign diplomatic and trade offices, bi-national chambers of commerce, and county, state, and federal government agencies, and economic development agencies, along with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and PortMiami.

INBOUND MISSIONS

Inbound trade missions consist of reciprocal visits made by cities visited by Miami-Dade County and come as a result of an invitation made or of missions organized by consulates, trade offices, and partner organizations. The County provides coordination with local government and economic development organizations as well as logistical support.

OUTBOUND MISSIONS

Outbound missions consist of meetings with high-level government officials and economic development agencies to promote Miami-Dade County’s role as a “Global Gateway” and the “Gateway to the Americas” for international trade.

SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

Founded in 1981 by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, the Sister Cities program is administered by the office of ITC. The program has established Sister Cities relationships with over 30 cities in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Throughout these years, the program has developed innovative projects which have furthered international cooperation and understanding between Miami-Dade County and our respective Sister Cities.

Sister Cities of Miami-Dade County promotes international cultural understanding by developing programs that enhance citizen diplomacy, create international goodwill, and support the County’s global trade agenda.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

Sister Cities International organized the first-ever Africa Summit in Cape Town, South Africa from February 20 – 24, 2023. They extended an invitation to Miami-Dade County to participate in the Summit to highlight the robust Sister Cities relationship that the County has had with the City of Cape Town since 2013.

ITC organized a mission to City of Cape Town to participate in the Sister Cities International Africa Summit in February 2023.

The mission was led by The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners & ITC, and joined by The Honorable Kevin M. Cabrera, Commissioner District 6 and Vice Chairman ITC, The Honorable Keon Hardemon, Commissioner District 3 and Chairman of the Airport & Economic Development Committee, PortMiami, Miami-Dade Aviation Department and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The purpose of the mission was to:

- Promote bilateral trade, economic cooperation, culture, and tourism between Cape Town and Western Cape, and Miami-Dade County.
- Solidify and renew Sister Cities relationship between Miami-Dade County and City of Cape Town, South Africa
- Reconnect PortMiami with the Port of Cape Town and opportunities for peer exchanges, new trade initiatives and extend invitation to visit Miami-Dade County in 2023.
- Connect with other African countries attending the Summit and explore and foster business/trade development opportunities with them.
- Extend invitation to the City of Cape Town and the Government of the Western Cape to bring reciprocal trade mission to Miami-Dade County in 2023.

BACKGROUND

South Africa offers significant opportunities for US businesses and attracts investors seeking a location to access the rest of the African continent through South Africa as the gateway.

Several factors benefit US businesses:

- Language
- Sophisticated financial, legal, and business services sectors
- Extensive transportation infrastructure
- South Africa’s position as an entryway to other countries and markets in Sub-Saharan Africa
- The strong reputation enjoyed by U.S. branded goods
- The presence of strong, capable South African companies that can serve as good partners for trade and investment
- The United States and South Africa signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2012. South Africa is currently the 39th largest goods trading partner with \$13.2 billion in total (two way) goods trade during 2019. Trade in services with South Africa (exports and imports) totaled an estimated \$4.6 billion in 2019. The U.S. had a goods trade deficit and a services trade surplus with South Africa in 2019

The priority sectors for US businesses include:

- Renewable Energy
- Oil and Gas Supplies and Equipment
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Pollution Control Equipment
- Medical Equipment and Healthcare Services
- Telecommunications and Information Technology

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY & SOUTH AFRICA

Miami-Dade County has been branding itself as a key strategic resource for expanding international trade with the continent of Africa. Our strategy is to proactively engage in South Africa’s trade and to increase economic opportunities for both regions.

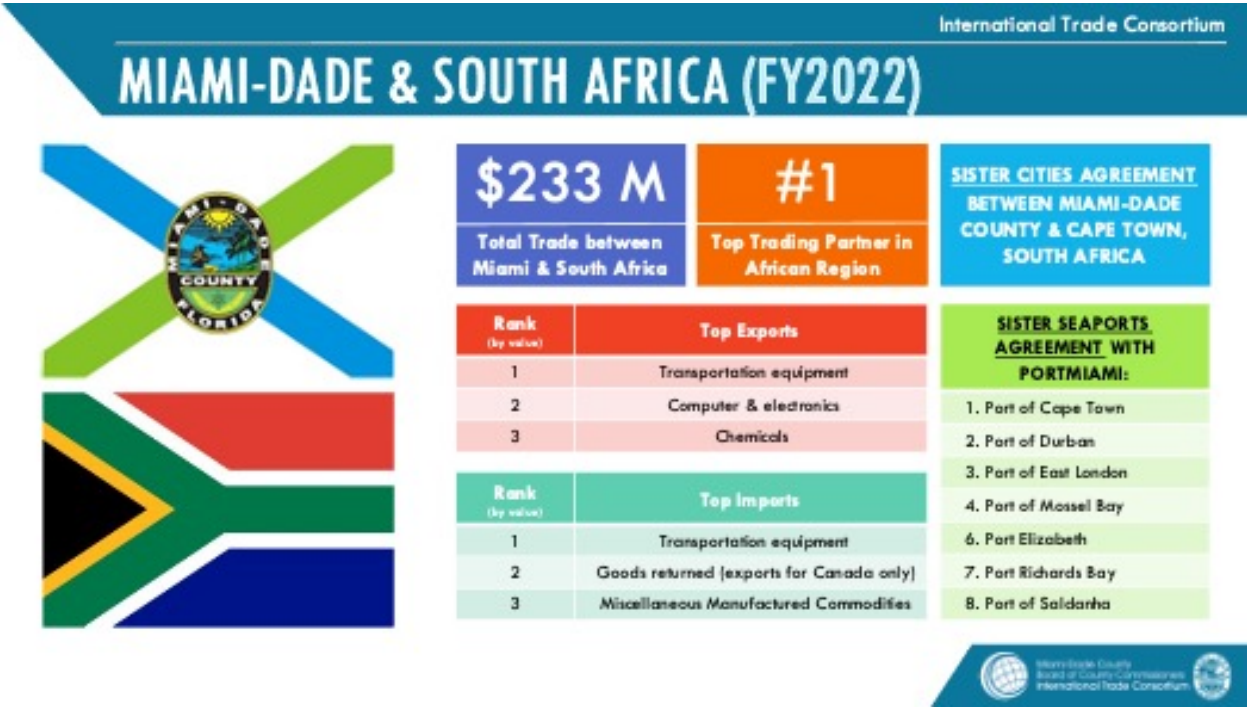
Since 2005, PortMiami and the Port of Cape Town have been engaged in a Sister Seaport agreement, and both ports have committed to working with each other to increase cruise and cargo flows at both ports.

In 2007, ITC led a business development mission to City of Cape Town, South Africa, comprised of County officials, local economic development and tourism agencies, and private sector participants. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Cape Town with both regions pledging to work together on the Sister Cities affiliation which would broaden relations between the two governments and serve as the vehicle for joint cooperation on future projects.

In July of 2007, the Board of County Commissioners passed a Resolution calling for Miami-Dade County to become Sister Cities with Cape Town. In October of 2009, Miami-Dade County and Enterprise Florida led a follow-up mission to Cape Town.

In 2013, Miami-Dade County and City of Cape Town signed the Sister Cities Agreement. Since then, Miami-Dade County has taken several business development missions to Cape Town. The last one was in 2019 where the delegation met with several high-level officials, including the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, and met with businesses and the Port of Cape Town.

The two partners have continued to work together and solidify not just commercial ties but political, educational, and cultural as well.



ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF CITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

According to the 2018 World Bank research report on Doing Business in South Africa, good business practices can be found in South Africa because locations continue to engage in peer learning and take on new regulatory reforms. These locations have implemented projects that address certain issues across indicators—such as internal coordination within the municipalities and Cape Town has been ranked the top metropolitan municipality in South Africa in ease of doing business, providing electricity, a major challenge, currently plaguing South Africa and dealing with construction permits.

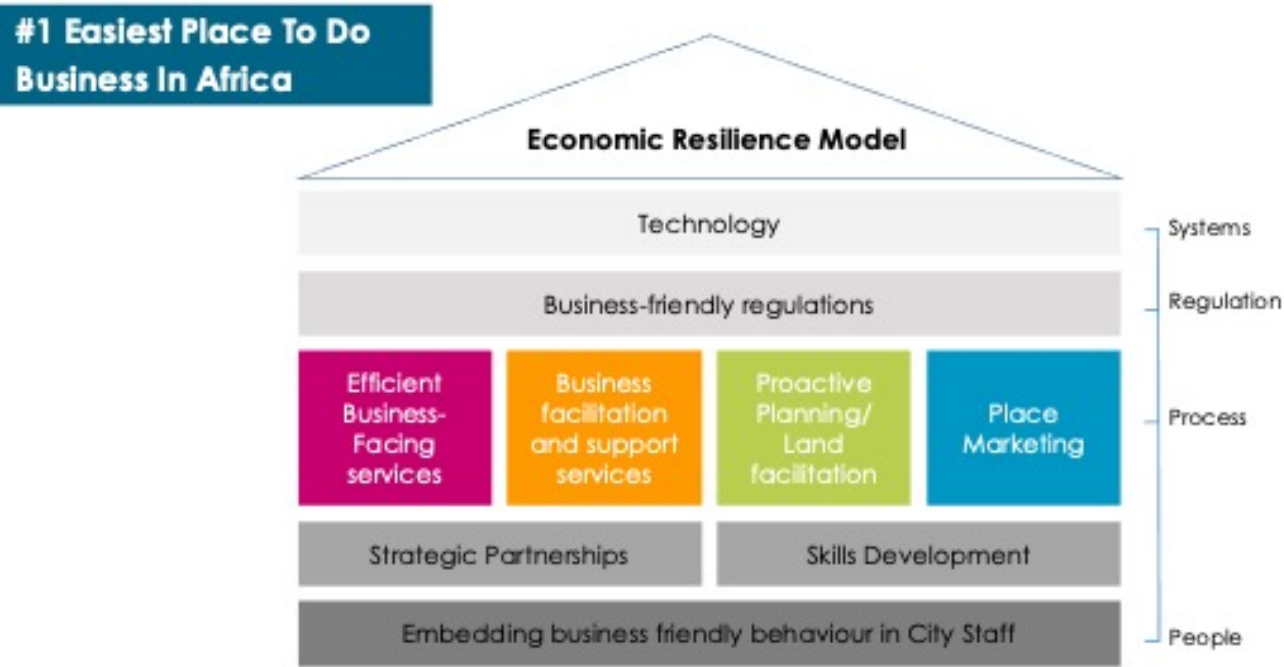
To combat the economic challenges, the City of Cape Town has undertaken several initiatives for economic growth:

- Developed a number of Economic Action Plans, including Tourism Recovery Plan and Economic Action Plan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Currently implementing the Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy which was passed by Council in 2021
- The Executive Mayor has made the initiative a priority of the City Administration for Cape Town to be the Easiest Place on the Continent to Do Business backed up by the establishment of a Mayoral Priority Project.

The City of Cape Town is making a continued effort to keep the momentum through:

- Sustainable growth in global trade partners
- National and local policy implementations
- Preservation of the natural environment
- Further investment in trade infrastructure
- Strengthening globally competitive sectors
- Evolving human resource skills development
- Growing information technologies
- Exploration of new global market opportunities

The Ease of Doing Business initiative was discussed during the meeting on February 24, 2023, between the City of Cape Town and Miami-Dade County delegation. Details on page 18.



Improving Cape Town’s business climate and establishing it globally as an attractive investment destination with positive economic growth

(Image courtesy Office of Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, City of Cape Town)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Miami-Dade County ITC received an invitation from Sister Cities International in December 2022 to participate in the first Sister Cities International US-Africa Summit in February 2023.

ITC organized the mission to Cape Town, South Africa, working in close coordination with Sister Cities International, Enterprise Florida Africa Office, PortMiami, Miami-Dade Aviation Department and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau. The mission dates were February 17 to 27, 2023.

The mission was led by The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners & ITC, and joined by The Honorable Kevin M. Cabrera, Commissioner, District 6 and Vice Chairman ITC, The Honorable Keon Hardemon, Commissioner, District 3 and Chairman of the Airport & Economic Development Committee, Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert, Executive Director, ITC and Sudeshna Chatterjee, Global Engagement Officer, ITC, Gerard Philippeaux, Strategic Initiatives Manager, PortMiami, Desmond Alufohai, Protocol & International Affairs Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, Richard Gibbs, Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau. The ITC Board was also represented at the Summit by ITC Board Member, Brenda Betancourt.

2023 Sister Cities International Africa Summit

Highlighting the special Sister Cities relationship that Miami-Dade County has with the City of Cape Town, the County was given opportunities to brand the region on numerous occasions. The delegation participated in the SCI Africa Means Business Roundtable, plenary sessions, and networking events at the Summit and met with Ndileka Mandela, Founder & CEO of the Mandela Foundation and the granddaughter of Nelson Mandela.

Over 500 delegates attended from South Africa, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, and Morocco in Africa, and Florida, Maryland, Texas, and Wisconsin from the US. The Africa Summit is SCI’s initiative to get 500 Sister Cities relationships in 5 years.

Government-to-Government Meetings

The Miami-Dade County delegation met with, Executive Mayor of Cape Town, the Honorable Geordin Hill-Lewis, Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, and his team from the City of Cape Town. The delegation also met with His Excellency Reuben E. Brigety, II, US Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, and the Honorable Todd Haskell, US Consul General in Cape Town. A total of four government-to-government meetings were held.

Government-to-Business Meetings

ITC organized meetings with the Port of Cape Town, WESGRO which is the official trade and investment promotion agency of the Western Cape province, and Cape Town Tourism. Three government-to-business meetings were held.

The mission was a great opportunity to identify areas of collaboration and promote bilateral trade, economic cooperation, culture, and tourism between Cape Town and Miami-Dade County. A delegation from Cape Town is expected to visit Miami-Dade in 2023.

CAPE TOWN – MISSION ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

2023 SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL AFRICA SUMMIT

The mission started with registration and coordination meetings between ITC staff and the Planning and Coordination team from Sister Cities International (SCI). The SCI team went over the logistics details and the agenda for the week-long Summit.

On February 20, ITC staff had a meeting with Michael Finley, Director, NBA Africa, Kwame Mdaka, Senior Manager, New Business Development for Africa, NBA and Lorna Johnson, Summit Convener, SCI. Michael and Kwame explained the initiatives of sports diplomacy that NBA Africa was undertaking to create inclusive training programs for the youth and engage the community through basketball. The team is working with several entrepreneurs in Cape Town to build basketball courts.

Lorna requested ITC for an introduction to Miami Heat. A potential partnership between Miami Heat and the Cape Town Tigers would enable the players of the Cape Town Tigers to visit Miami on exchange programs and for the leadership of the Cape Town Tigers to understand the business model of basketball.



L-R: Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert, Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III and Lorna Johnson, Africa Summit Convener & Representative, SCI



Miami-Dade County Delegation

Sister Cities International Business Roundtable

On February 21, the Miami-Dade County delegation participated in the day-long Africa Means Business Roundtable. Lorna Johnson, Summit Convener and Africa Representative, Sister Cities International, started the proceedings.

Given Miami-Dade County’s reputation as a trade and logistics hub, Sister Cities International invited Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III to be a speaker in the Panel Discussion: **Building Business Partnerships through Sister Cities International**. The panel was moderated by The Honorable Alix Desulme, Mayor of North Miami. Chairman Gilbert introduced Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera, Commissioner Keon Hardemon, and the rest of the delegation from Miami-Dade County. The Chairman spoke about the importance of sister cities relationships in fostering stronger ties through trade & investment, cultural, and educational exchanges. He stated that Miami-Dade County was focused on solidifying partnerships with Africa and that the office of the ITC will be available to assist with inbound trade missions to Miami-Dade County.

During the Business Roundtable networking sessions, ITC connected with Sister Cities International Representatives Prince Kwame Kludjeson, from Ghana, Rhonda Pierce, from Tanzania, and multiple delegates from Nigeria and Ethiopia, and other US cities and briefed the delegates on Miami-Dade County’s role as a trade hub and economic development opportunities in the County.



L-R: Mayor Alix Desulme, Mary Palko, Judge Bill Littlejohn, Chairman Gilbert and Donna Scantlebury



Chairman Gilbert giving his remarks at the Business Roundtable Session

Sister Cities International (SCI) Reception at US Consulate

On February 21, SCI organized a networking reception at the residence of the US Consul General to Cape Town, The Honorable Todd Haskell. Chairman Gilbert was invited by SCI to speak at the reception where he reiterated the importance of the role Sister Cities International plays in connecting cities through trade, cultural and educational exchanges.

The Chairman talked about the strong presence of South Florida at the conference to highlight the importance of Africa. The event was a great opportunity to network and learn about best practices of sister cities initiatives from other US states and African nations.



Chairman Gilbert delivering welcome remarks at the US Consulate



Chairman Gilbert, Commissioner Hardemon and Commissioner Cabrera with attendees of the Africa Summit at the residence of the US Consul General

Sister Cities International Welcome Event

On February 22, SCI organized the Welcome Reception for the Summit attendees at the Castle of Good Hope, a heritage monument considered to be the best-preserved example of a 17th century architectural structure in the world.

The Honorable Geordin Hill-Lewis, Executive Mayor, City of Cape Town, welcomed the attendees from the US and Africa and made a special mention of the delegation from Miami-Dade County. He emphasized the importance of the Sister Cities and Sister Seaports relationships between Miami-Dade County and the City of Cape Town.

Miami-Dade County delegation met with Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis and his trade promotion team at the event. Ms. Dreyfus-Ulvert briefed the Executive Mayor about the role of ITC and initiatives between Miami-Dade County and the City of Cape Town. The Executive Mayor is keen to continue working on the robust relationship between the two regions. ITC has been working with Lance Greyling, Director of Enterprise and Investment Department and Dr. Denver van Schalkwyk, Manager of International Relations, City of Cape Town to revitalize the Sister Cities relationship.



L-R: Sudeshna Chatterjee, Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis & Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert



ITC Team with Lance Greyling and Dr. Denver van Schalkwyk

Sister Cities International Plenary Session

On February 23, Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, gave his remarks at the plenary session of Sister Cities International Africa Summit. Chairman Gilbert stated that the last few days will go a long way towards generating more interest in the Sister Cities Program, and has resulted in new partnerships being formed between the US and the continent of Africa. The Summit is an example of the types of collaborative settings that pave the way for greater understanding across borders and promote mutual economic growth.

He thanked the City of Cape Town for hosting the first Africa Summit. The Plenary Session was also a great opportunity to meet Ms. Ndileka Mandela, Founder & CEO of Thembekile Mandela Foundation and the granddaughter of Nelson Mandela. Ms. Mandela spoke about the impact of the initiatives of her Foundation and the influence of the legacy of her Grandfather.



Chairman Oliver Gilbert during the Plenary Session



Chairman Gilbert with Ms. Mandela, SCI Delegates and Members of the Miami-Dade County Delegation

Breakfast Meeting with the US Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa

SCI invited Miami-Dade County delegation to the breakfast meeting with His Excellency Reuben E. Brigety, II, US Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa. Chairman Gilbert was invited to speak, and he commented that Miami-Dade County is committed to solidifying our partnerships with 33 sister cities across the globe, including two in Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, and Dakar, Senegal. He continued that the County would work with the City of Cape Town to identify initiatives to expand our markets and generate economic opportunity for both our communities.

Ambassador Brigety, a native of Florida, talked about the important role that the Sister Cities program plays in fostering goodwill, peace, and prosperity among nations. The Ambassador said that SCI's mission of 500 sister cities in 5 years in Africa is an excellent initiative that will enhance cultural, educational, and economic ties between the United States and Africa. Protocol gifts were exchanged at the breakfast meeting.



L-R: Commissioner Cabrera, Ambassador Brigety, Chairman Gilbert and Commissioner Hardemon

SCI Gala Dinner Awards Ceremony

The first Africa Summit came to an end with an awards Gala night on February 24 by honoring the representatives that put together the Summit and celebrating the successful event. The event showcased the amazing cultural diversity in Africa. Lorna Johnson, Summit Convener, talked about the 2.0 version of the Summit that SCI will be planning going forward. Miami-Dade County expressed interest in hosting the 2nd Africa Summit in the County and offered help in coordinating the event with Sister Cities International. Hosting the Summit in Miami-Dade County would provide an excellent platform to brand the County as the Gateway to Africa and give a boost to the bilateral trade relations between the continent of Africa and the County.



A display of African cultural diversity

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Meeting with US Consul General in Cape Town

On February 21, the Miami-Dade County delegation met with the Honorable Todd Haskell, Consul General, and Lydia S. Hall, Economic Officer, US Consulate in Cape Town. Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, introduced the Miami-Dade County delegation and talked about the County’s long-standing relationship with the City of Cape Town.

The Chairman mentioned that Cape Town is one of the County’s strongest sister cities relationships. ITC has worked with the City of Cape Town on bilateral trade promotion initiatives, as well as on sharing best practices on climate change issues, particularly in water management. ITC also works closely with the US Commercial Service Department at the Consulate General of Cape Town.

The Consul General briefed the delegation on the political and economic environment and business development opportunities for American companies looking to expand into Cape Town. He said despite the challenges, Cape Town is an ever-expanding market for US businesses setting up operations in Cape Town and that his office will extend help to any company from the County interested in the Cape Town market.

The Chairman gave a protocol gift to the Consul General on behalf of Miami-Dade County.



L-R: Commissioner Hardemon, Consul General Todd Haskell, Chairman Gilbert and Commissioner Cabrera at the Consul General's residence

Meeting with the City of Cape Town

On February 24, The Miami-Dade County delegation met with Alderman James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, City of Cape Town, and his economic development team. Alderman Vos welcomed the delegation on behalf of Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis and gave a presentation where he talked about the ease of doing business in Cape Town and what the City offered for companies investing in Cape Town. The Alderman mentioned that Cape Town has been ranked the top metropolitan municipality in South Africa in ease of doing business according to the 2018 World Bank research report on Doing Business in South Africa. He explained that Executive Mayor Hill-Lewis has made it a priority of the City Administration for Cape Town to be the Easiest Place on the Continent to Do Business and this is backed up by the establishment of a Mayoral Priority Project. Alderman Vos’s team is working on a report on the indicators of the index which is expected to be launched in May 2023.

Enver Duminy, CEO, Cape Town Tourism, spoke about tourism promotion initiatives undertaken by the City and expressed interest in helping each other promote their respective destinations.

Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, thanked the City of Cape Town for hosting the delegation and expressed his interest in learning more about the City’s Ease of Doing Business initiative. The Chairman talked about Miami-Dade County’s strategic geographic location, competitive labor costs, modern seaport and airport infrastructure, and Miami-Dade County’s position as the “Global Gateway” for international trade. Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert, Executive Director, ITC, spoke about ITC’s role, the need to identify priority sectors, and how ITC can support missions. She elaborated that ITC consolidates a calendar of events to be held in the County and would be sharing that with the City of Cape Town for dissemination to their stakeholders.

Gerard Philippeaux, Strategic Initiatives Manager, PortMiami, talked about the seaport’s tremendous growth during the pandemic in cargo and opportunities to trade with the Port of Cape Town in fruits and other perishable commodities. The Chairman expressed his interest to learn more about the indicators of the ease of doing business report. ITC is coordinating with the City of Cape Town team to gather more information on the Report and possibly attend the launch virtually in May 2023.

Both sides agreed that the discussion will be continued and Chairman Gilbert invited Alderman Vos to bring a business delegation to Miami-Dade County in 2023. Protocol gifts were exchanged.



Miami-Dade County Delegation at the Cape Town City Hall



L-R: Alderman Vos, Chairman Gilbert, and Commissioner Cabrera exchanging protocol gifts

GOVERNMENT-TO-BUSINESS MEETINGS

Meeting with Port of Cape Town

On February 22, the Miami-Dade County delegation met with the Port of Cape Town. The purpose of the meeting was to solidify the relationship and identify initiatives for mutual growth.

Port of Cape Town led by Ms. Nomvuyiso Madikizela, Acting Port Manager, and Ms. Lorraine Mabindisa, Corporate Affairs Manager, and their team, gave a presentation, talking about their challenges, and potential areas of growth. They were impressed by PortMiami’s success and efficiency.

Chairman Gilbert talked about identifying common initiatives between the two ports that will increase the trade relations between PortMiami and Port of Cape Town. Total trade between PortMiami and South Africa in 2022 was \$41 million and there is an immense opportunity for growth.

Gerard Philippeaux, Strategic Initiatives Manager, PortMiami gave a presentation about the growth of PortMiami in terms of cargo and cruises and the net zero initiatives of the port. He highlighted that Port of Cape Town can look at exporting grapes to the US through PortMiami.

Chairman Gilbert extended an invitation to the Port of Cape Town to continue the discussion we started in Cape Town on sharing best practices and exploring ways to improve the export and import of commodities, especially perishables, between Miami-Dade County and Cape Town. Protocol gifts were exchanged.



Miami-Dade County delegation led by Chairman Gilbert at Port of Cape Town

Meeting with WESGRO

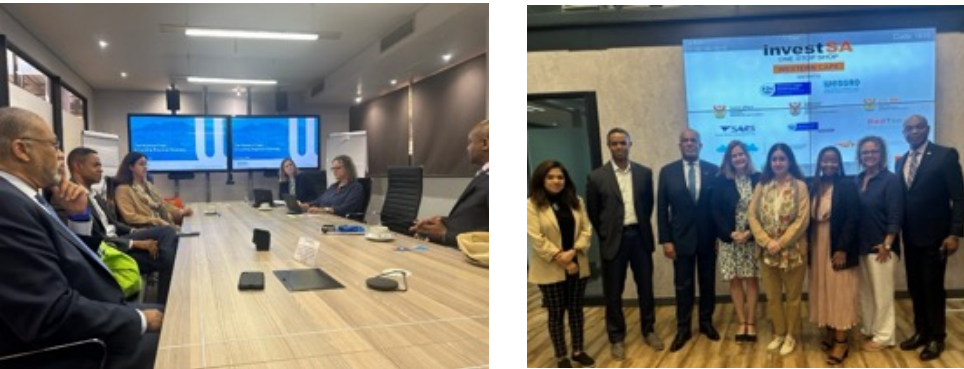
On February 22, ITC along with PortMiami, Miami-Dade Aviation Department and Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau met with WESGRO, the official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape. The team met with Erica Joubert, Head – Export Promotion and her team, Deborah Hall, Senior Export Promotion Manager Americas, and Zintle Mtsi, Experience & Product Specialist. Ms. Joubert talked about WESGRO’s initiatives to promote exports, investments and tourism and also highlighted priority areas like digitization of services and green transition. She mentioned that the US is the largest investor in Cape Town.

WESGROW is keen to work with ITC on coordinating missions, both inbound and outbound, understand opportunities for local businesses to export to Miami and access the Latin American and Caribbean region via Miami.

Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert, ITC, briefed the WESGRO team on ITC’s role, priority sectors, and how ITC can help them in planning missions. She elaborated that ITC consolidates a calendar of events to be held in the County and would be sharing that with the WESGRO team for dissemination to their members. Ms. Dreyfus extended an invitation to WESGRO to bring a trade delegation to Miami-Dade County.

Gerard Phillipeaux, PortMiami and Desmond Alufohai, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, talked about the role of ports as the top two economic engines and how they can collaborate to promote bilateral trade.

Richard Gibbs, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, presented GMCVB’s initiatives in promoting tourism, especially, the World Travel Expo Miami, to be held in June 2023 in Miami, promoting outward destinations. WESGRO requested more information on the event since their members might be interested in participating.



Miami-Dade County delegation meeting with WESGRO

MISSION OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

1. Solidifying Sister Cities and Sister Seaports Agreements between Miami-Dade County and Cape Town.
 - a. Possible trade delegation from the City of Cape Town in 2023 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Sister Cities Agreement with Miami-Dade County to learn about best practices.
 - b. Port of Cape Town will bring a delegation to meet with PortMiami to learn about net zero initiatives and explore opportunities to increase trade of perishable items. ITC is coordinating with Port of Cape Town on identifying possible dates in 2023.
2. Branding of Miami-Dade County and connecting with multiple counties in the African Continent. The first Africa Summit organized by Sister Cities International was a great platform to connect with delegates from Senegal, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, among others. ITC is following up with the contacts to identify areas of collaboration that could lead to improving bilateral trade and future inbound trade missions to Miami-Dade County from these countries.
3. ITC Staff virtually met with the Enterprise & Investment Department at City of Cape Town on March 16th to discuss the details of the Ease of Doing Business indicators. Miami-Dade County will collaborate with the City of Cape Town on Ease of Doing Business indicators and possibly, virtually, attend the launch of the initiative in May 2023.
4. With the help of the office of Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, ITC introduced Ralph Leon, Sr. Director, Social Responsibility, The Miami Heat Group, to Dia Martin, Co-Owner of the Cape Town Tigers, and Lorna K. Johnson, Africa Representative, Sister Cities International, through a virtual call on March 27th. Cape Town Tigers is keen to partner with Miami Heat to potentially create inclusive exchange programs for the NBA players in Cape Town, South Africa, and for their leadership to learn more about the business of basketball through sharing of best practices. Dia, Ralph, and Lorna are to have follow-up meetings to discuss details of a possible visit of the Tigers to Miami-Dade County during their summer tour scheduled from July 19 to July 28, 2023.
5. Subsequent to the meeting with the City of Cape Town on February 24, PortMiami received an email from Mr. Mark Tarica, CEO of T Platinum International Trade and Investment located in Cape Town, South Africa, requesting a virtual meeting with PortMiami’s representatives. Mr. Tarica was referred to PortMiami by Mr. Faith Kolala, the Head of Cape Town Economic Development Board in charge of Trade and Investment. On March 24th Eric Olafson, Cargo Development Director, PortMiami, with members of his team along with Stanley Rigaud, Director of Economic Development and International Programs, Beacon Council, and Gerard Philippeaux had a virtual meeting with Mr. Tarica to discuss the export of wine and citrus fruits from Cape Town to Miami-Dade County.
6. Gerard Philippeaux, PortMiami reached out to Ms. Chandra Baier, Economic Associate at the US Consulate in Cape Town who extended an introduction to Ms. Suhanra Conradie, CEO of Summer Citrus. PortMiami Cargo Team has already opened a line of communication with the company to discuss the export of citrus fruits and table grapes to Miami-Dade County.

7. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is working with Cape Town Tourism and WESGRO to promote the World Travel Expo Miami and assist companies interested in attending the Expo.
8. Richard Gibbs, GMCVB, is coordinating with Themba Sibeko, Managing Director, Ziya Pictures, Cape Town, to create a proposal for collaboration in the Creative industries.
9. ITC and GMCVB are working with the US Consulate in Cape Town to assist beverage importers and exporters from Cape Town connect with Miami-Dade County companies.

SOURCES:

- www.gov.za
 - www.worldbank.org/en/home
 - www.sistercities.org/sister-cities-international-africa-summit
- www.africaguide.com
 - www.southafrica.usembassy.gov
- www.investcapetown.com
 - www.step.state.gov/step
 - www.culturecrossing.ne

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DELEGATES



Oliver G. Gilbert, III



Kevin Marino Cabrera



Keon Hardemon



Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert



Desmond Alufohai



Richard Gibbs



Gerard Philippeaux



Sudeshna Chatterjee



Christina Cicilia



Jenny Bonostro



Nancy Dominique



Tyrus Fleetwood



Santiana Lewis



Vanessa Azzam



Unri Thomas

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor



Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Chairman
District 1



Anthony Rodriguez
Vice Chairman
District 10



Marleine Bastien
District 2



Keon Hardemon
District 3



Micky Steinberg
District 4



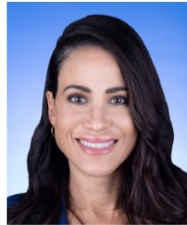
Eileen Higgins
District 5



Kevin Marino Cabrera
District 6



Raquel A. Regalado
District 7



Danielle Cohen Higgins
District 8



Kionne L. McGhee
District 9



Roberto J. Gonzalez
District 11



Juan Carlos Bermudez
District 12



Sen. René García
District 13



Luis G. Montaldo
Clerk Ad Interim



Pedro J. García
Property Appraiser

APPRECIATION

Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III, thanks mission participants, hosts, and staff of the many different organizations who contributed to the success of the Institutional Mission to Cape Town, South Africa. While ITC was pleased to be the lead planning agency, we offer our deepest thanks for the collaboration of our partners and hosts of this mission:

Miami-Dade County, FL, USA:

- 1. Office of Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
- 2. Office of Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera
- 3. Office of Commissioner Keon Hardemon
- 4. PortMiami
- 5. Miami-Dade Aviation Department
- 6. Enterprise Florida
- 7. Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 8. Sister Cities International

Cape Town, South Africa:

- 1. City of Cape Town
- 2. Port of Cape Town
- 3. WESGRO
- 4. Cape Town Tourism
- 5. Enterprise Florida Africa
- 6. US Consulate in Cape Town



END OF MISSION REPORT

MARCH 2023

OUTBOUND MISSION TO CAPE TOWN
FEBRUARY 17-27, 2023

ORGANIZED BY
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY | INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONSORTIUM (ITC)



Miami-Dade County
Board of County Commissioners
International Trade Consortium

