



The India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Dialogue Forum at 10 Years: Reflections and looking ahead

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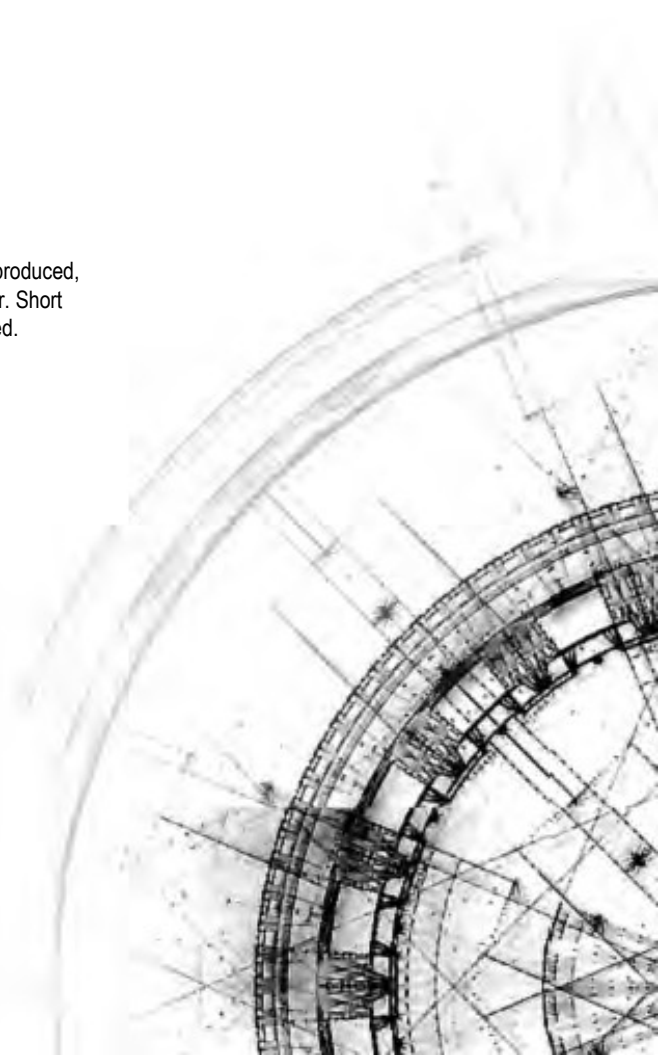


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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
G20	Group of Twenty
G24	Group of Twenty-four
IBSA	India, Brazil and South Africa
IBSAMAR	India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Initiative
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SADPA	South African Development Partnership Agency
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE SPEAKERS

• H.E. Mr Virendra Gupta

Mr. Virendra Gupta is the High Commissioner of India in South Africa and concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Lesotho. He obtained his Masters degree in Physics from University of Allahabad. After a short stint with State Bank of India, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1977. Before taking up his present assignment as High Commissioner of India to South Africa, he was serving as Director General for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi. He has also served as High Commissioner of India in Dar-es-Salaam (1998-2001) and Port of Spain (2001-05). He has been posted at Indian Missions in Kathmandu, Lagos, Tel Aviv, Cairo and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York (where he served as Rapporteur of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid). At the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, he has dealt with wide-ranging issues including international security, Southern Africa, disarmament, trade and investment promotion, energy security and multilateral affairs.

• H. E. Mr. Pedro Luiz Carneiro de Mendonça

Mr. Pedro Luiz Carneiro de Mendonça is the Ambassador of Brazil to South Africa. Mr Mendonça completed a High Level Studies Course in IRBR/MRE with his thesis on "Paris Club: systematics and functioning of a relevant forum to Brazilian interest" in 1989. He also holds a Bachelor in Law from PUC/RJ. He previously held positions in the Ministry of External Relations as undersecretary-General for Economic and Technological Affairs (2005–2006), (2008-2011), Special Adviser for Parliamentary and Federative Issues (2004 – 2005), Head of the International Trade and Manufactures Division (1992 – 1994), Head of the Financial Policy Division, 1986 – 1988, Assistant Head of the Financial Policy Division (1985 – 1986), Assistant Head of the Central and Northern America Division, 1977 – 1979, Assistant Head of the Personnel Division (1972 – 1973) and Assistant Press Attaché to the Foreign Minister (1970 – 1972). He also serves as a Managing Director and Member of the Advisory Board of Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social-BNDES. Mr. Mendonça also serves as a Member of the Board at BNDES Participações S/A - BNDESPAR.

• Ms. Nolundi Dikweni

Ms. Nolundi Dikweni is the Director of Economic Affairs & Regional Organisations in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). Ms. Dikweni holds a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) in Economics from the University of Cape Town and a Master's degree in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University in America. Before taking up her present assignment as a Director of Economic Affairs & Regional Organisations, she served as the Director of Economic Analysis in the South African National Department of Transport (2002-2004), Director of Multilateral Economic Relations & Trade in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (2004-2008), Acting Ambassador of South Africa to Italy (2008-2009) and Deputy Ambassador (Minister Plenipotentiary) for the South African Mission to EU and Embassy to Belgium & Luxembourg (2008-2012).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos**

Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the National Director of South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). Elizabeth Sidiropoulos has an M.A. (with distinction) in International Relations from the University of the Witwatersrand. Prior to joining SAIIA her previous experience was as Research Director at the South African Institute of Race Relations and editor of the South Africa Survey. From 1999 to 2005 she was Director of Studies at SAIIA. She is the editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of International Affairs. She has held the position of National Director of SAIIA since 2005. Ms. Sidiropoulos is a research expert in, South Africa's international relations, international development cooperation of emerging powers, Africa's relations with emerging and traditional powers: BRICS, Europe, US. She also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the EU's Development Commissioner and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Indian Foreign Affairs Journal. Her recent publications include: Development Cooperation and Emerging Powers: New Partners or Old Patterns, India and South Africa as Partners for Development in Africa? Chatham House Briefing Paper, 'South Africa's Role in Providing Development Assistance in Zimbabwe: Policy Options and Strategies' and 'Global Power Shifts and South Africa's Southern Agenda: Caught between African solidarity and regional leadership'.



This event was made possible by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

1. INTRODUCTION

Ten years ago, India, Brazil and South Africa issued the Brasilia Declaration launching what has become known as IBSA, a trilateral initiative of multifaceted cooperation among three of the most influential regional powers on their respective continents. IBSA has elaborated a multifaceted agenda of functional cooperation across some 16 sectoral working groups while adding to the international lobby for UN Security Council Reform. IBSA has also made a mark in development cooperation through the launching of the IBSA Development Fund managed under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Taken together with its business council, academic and parliamentary forum and IBSAMAR naval initiative, the IBSA three have much to be proud of in their 10th anniversary year. The discussion forum held on the 24th of October at the Burgers Park Hotel in Pretoria, reflected on these achievements and explored what the next 10 years may bring in a fluid global scenario where each of the three countries, within their regions and globally, are navigating a complex geo-political-economic landscape. The discussion form was hosted by the Institute for Global Dialogue, supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), with the aim of reflecting on the ten years of IBSA, its challenges and what opportunities exist for future success for the forum. The forum was attended by members of government, academia, civil society and the diplomatic corps. This report is a synthesis of the inputs from the keynote speakers and the interactive discussion that followed.



From Left to Right: Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Ms. Nolundi Dikweni , H.E. Mr. Virendra Gupta, H.E. Mr. P L Carneiro De Mendonca and Mr. Francis Kornegay

2. The India-Brazil South Africa Trilateral Dialogue Forum at 10 Years – Reflections and Looking Ahead



From Left to Right: Ms. Nolundi Dikweni and H.E. Mr. Virendra Gupta

H.E. Mr Virendra Gupta, the Indian High Commissioner, began the discussion by noting that ten years ago IBSA was just a concept bringing together three South-South emerging democracies from three different continents. He maintained that despite the geographic divisions the three emerging democracies had noticeable similarities in their positions on economic, political or climate change factors and in their parliamentary driven policies. High Commissioner Gupta considered that the IBSA forum was made possible by the strong support at political level and noted that within the context of massive political support, IBSA saw a strong rapid growth. In addition, he noted South Africa's importance in being part of both BRICS and IBSA. He made reference to the India-South Africa defence cooperation, the so-called "IBSAMAR" and further noted that investment in various programmes such as research and development, production facilities in the military aspect should be consolidated.

The importance of the IBSA platform for military engagement was noted as it does not 'raise eye brows' when cooperation is undertaken as it might under BRICS. Nevertheless, it was also pointed out that BRICS and IBSA are equally important because they presented opportunities for South - South cooperation despite the geographic distance and challenges faced. High Commissioner Gupta made a telling point on how IBSA and BRICS complemented one another from the Indian perspective of being able to navigate more sensitive areas of engagement on issues that could not be addressed as openly in BRICS.

He also indicated that IBSA is the formalisation of something that existed prior to the idea of an 'IBSA', and continues to contribute to the construction of a new global architecture, economic reform and the post-2015 development agenda. H.E. Gupta considered the role of the IBSA fund as the most effective in terms of South-South cooperation in addressing poverty alleviation and noted that the fund has produced a number of results. He added that, the Fund is about horizontal dialogue and that it is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



H.E. Mr. P L Carneiro De Mendonca

Following from High Commissioner Gupta, H.E. Mr P L Carneiro De Mendonca, Ambassador of Brazil in Pretoria noted that IBSA had been established in June 2003 by the Ministerial Declaration of Brasilia. One of the driving forces behind the initiative at the time had been President Lula da Silva – IBSA was the first momentous initiative in foreign policy of his newly inaugurated government, hence, the launching of IBSA as 'The Brasilia Declaration.'

Ambassador Mendonca highlighted that IBSA had successfully brought together three large pluralistic, multiethnic and multicultural democracies of the South that share important characteristics besides all three having democratic governments: they are all geographically distant from the 'inner circle of world power'. They all face the double challenge of promoting development and overcoming social inequalities. Each, in their part of the world, play a role of regional leadership.

In many ways, IBSA's establishment was the formalization of what existed already: the very close proximity of positions of these three countries on many different international issues. IBSA was created so that the member countries could:

- Contribute to the construction of a new international architecture;
- bring their voice together on global issues;
- deepen their ties in different important areas.

As we celebrate its 10th anniversary, Ambassador Mendonca indicated that he was pleased that, contrary to the opinion of many, IBSA is alive and well. He acknowledged that there are many voices arguing that this three member forum has been effectively superseded by its larger “relative”, the BRICS, and lost its *raison d’être*.

This argument is easily refuted because IBSA, at its inception, did reflect a natural partnership, in the sense that it was based on a “spontaneous” convergence of positions of the three countries. The close examination of IBSA’s joint communiqué issued at the end of its last Ministerial Meeting, in New York on 25 September 2013 shows how closely the member countries are attached to three pillars of IBSA. On the following day there was a ministerial meeting of the BRICS and the comparison of the agendas of the two meetings is very illustrative. In a nutshell, the BRICS

- had a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Durban Summit;
- on political issues, they discussed the situation in Syria, Israel and the Palestine and cyber security;
- then there was a discussion on the BRICS Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement;
- and a topic dedicated to the preparations of the 6th Summit.

Whereas IBSA

- on global issues examined the situation in the Middle East, Syria, Afghanistan and Egypt;
- the reform of the global governance institutions, climate change, sustainable development, WTO and the Doha Round etc;
- Intra IBSA cooperation and coordination in different fora.

On the new international architecture, they addressed issues like the reform of the UNSC; “unauthorized practices of illegal interception of communications and data”; reforming of institutions of global economic governance and the G20; the Development Agenda post-2015, with emphasis on poverty alleviation, economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development; the WTO and the Doha Round, with reference to the Bali ministerial conference.

On the deepening of their ties in different areas, they stressed that IBSA has succeeded in laying a strong foundation for multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral cooperation in a wide range of areas. These included coordination in different forums and groupings such as UN, WTO, WIPO, G20, G24, BRICS and BASIC. They also underscored the important role played by the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Hunger and Poverty. Perhaps it can be argued that IBSA’s contribution to a new international architecture (or its voice on global issues) is not exceptionally significant or noteworthy – how to call forth a new order to redress the inadequacies of the old is a daunting task – but, through the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Hunger and Poverty, IBSA has become the most successful example of effective South-South cooperation. Ambassador Mendonca pointed out that a fellow diplomat recently stated in New York, the unique nature of the Fund, directly inspired by the experiences domestically implemented in each country in combating poverty and inequality, making it a “flagship initiative in the context of South-South cooperation”.

The Fund – established in 2004 – has a dual focus on cooperation and oriented action, in the sense that it always strives to produce tangible results and make a real difference. Projects are only approved if they have an impact on the reduction of poverty and hunger, if they contribute to the strengthening of local capacity and meet requirements like ownership, sustainability, innovation, replicability. What makes it different from other programs is that it is driven to tailor solutions to individual countries and problems. The Fund is about dialogue and horizontal approach and will never rely on a one size fits all solution.

During its seven years of activities, the Fund's budget increased nearly 9 fold, from US\$ 3 million to US\$ 26 million. It is administered by the Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP and has already concluded 7 projects in Africa, the Middle East and in the Caribbean. 9 other projects are under implementation or about to be implemented in countries like Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Palestine, Burundi, Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan. A different dimension of IBSA activities can be found in the working groups. They bring together officials from national bureaucracies to coordinate policies and, above all, to share information and experiences.

IBSA currently has 14 Working Groups, covering topics as diverse as Public Administration, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Infrastructure, Environment, Education and Health. However, Ambassador Mendonca added that in some cases, the results of these working groups did not meet with expectations. As a consequence, there is an ongoing process of "streamlining" these working groups, to make them more effective and more responsive to the political priorities of IBSA. There is no doubt that in its 10 years of existence, the grouping has reached a considerable degree of maturity. This is reflected in the frank and convergent dialogue among the three member countries; in the reorganizing of the working groups; and in the consolidation of the IBSA Fund by means of a formal agreement of institutionalization.

The Ambassador Mendonca also noted that in 10 years, IBSA has developed a very relevant critical mass that allows for the assessment of its own successes and challenges for planning ahead accordingly:

- IBSA also advocates the reform of global governance so that international institutions are made representative, legitimate and effective. In this respect, it should be remembered that in 2011 the three member countries were together in the UN Security Council. They worked in a very close and coordinated way and brought a positive contribution to the discussions and deliberations of the Security Council, making a vocal advocacy of the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- There is a permanent coordination of the IBSA countries regarding the main themes of the international agenda, as shown, for instances in the statement of August last on the peace process in the Middle East.
- This coordination also occurs in instances such as the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), in which the group makes joint statements, about the situation for instances in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Human Rights Council recently approved a resolution originally tabled by IBSA and other developing countries on access to medicine in the context of the right to health.



From Left to Right: Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Ms. Nolundi Dikweni and H.E. Mr. Virendra Gupta

The South African perspectives on IBSA were set out by Nolundi Dikweni of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). Her presentation made reference to the stakeholder workshop which was held in April 2013, convened to get a sense of policy views on the relevance and experience in moving the IBSA forum forward. In her input, Ms Dikweni underscored the pillars of the IBSA forum such as the global political architecture, technical peer learning, trade and investment underpinned by bilateral relations. She noted that in this context, IBSA is viewed as a stepping stone for South - South cooperation.

She further noted that IBSA is more effective on the global political front as compared to other forums such as BRICS which is more of an economic forum. Ms Dikweni considered the issue of resource constraints. She noted that resources in the context of IBSA's 14 working groups needed to be streamlined to optimise efficiency. She also noted that mutual understanding is of paramount importance in the replication of working groups from the BRICS forum. She added that the newly established South African Partnership Agency (SADPA) will help consolidate the IBSA fund and that the IBSA fund could expand in future in terms of membership contribution.

In terms of the people-to-people contact, such as academic collaboration, there have been three such collaborations, namely: academics, business to business and editors. However, they have established their own momentum outside the high-level meeting. As an additional point of differentiation between IBSA and BRICS, it was pointed out that within BRICS; the notion of a 'BRICSMAR' along the lines of IBSAMAR was not under consideration. This tended to highlight the importance of the IBSAMAR initiative raised earlier by High Commissioner Gupta.

In her role as discussant Dr. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) began her presentation by underscoring the comparative analysis of the IBSA and BRICS and how IBSA can differentiate itself from BRICS. Ms Sidiropoulos considered the importance of social justice, noting that this was a basic principle of IBSA in terms of how the three countries are governed internally. At a global level the IBSA countries want to see a change in the distribution of power in terms of global governance. Furthermore, Ms Sidiropoulos considered that in terms of input-output legitimacy, IBSA has more of output legitimacy when compared to BRICS.



Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos

The following questions were raised:

- Can IBSA do things that other formations cannot do?
- Is the summit the only way in which the organisation can support its momentum?
- Can IBSA be a caucus in the BRICS forum?
- How do we distinguish between IBSA and BRICS without taking things from the one and risk diluting the other?
- Do we expand membership because of values?
- Do we seek to move IBSA out in the global terrain?

In conclusion, Ms. Sidiropoulos considered the post-Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) dialogue important in terms of IBSA development funding collaboration. She noted that a fund around disaster management should be developed and that a knowledge bank need to be developed as well.

3. SUMMARY DISCUSSION



From Left to Right: Mr. Fadi Nacerodien and Mr. Mulayo Fhumulani

In the discussion session that followed the presenters raised a number of questions. A question regarding development cooperation and the financing capacity of the IBSA fund was raised and the distinction between the BRICS bank and the IBSA fund was discussed. Furthermore, a question was raised regarding the possible opening up of IBSA for membership. It was noted that although not currently on the agenda, the issue of membership was open depending on the leadership and the political will of the three governments. They had to adopt a very careful stance so as not to be perceived as hegemonic and that, as 'like-minded' countries, an outreach programme was proposed at the last IBSA summit. In conclusion, a question was raised regarding the role of BRICS and IBSA in the promotion of small and large scale trade relations between the member states. It was noted that both forums provide a platform for members to network, although many issues of trade were still taking place on a bilateral basis.

Session Concludes

APPENDIX 1 : PROGRAMME



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

‘The India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Dialogue Forum at 10 Years: Reflections and looking ahead’

Ten years ago, India, Brazil and South Africa issued the Brasilia Declaration launching what has become known as IBSA, a trilateral initiative of multifaceted cooperation among three of the most influential regional powers on their respective continents. IBSA has elaborated a multifaceted agenda of functional cooperation across some 16 sectoral working groups while adding to the international lobby for UN Security Council Reform. IBSA has also made a mark in development cooperation through the launching of the IBSA Development Fund managed under the auspices of the UNDP. Taken together with its business council, academic and parliamentary forum and IBSAMAR naval initiative, the IBSA three have much to be proud of in their 10th anniversary year. This discussion forum is intended to reflect on these achievements and explore what the next 10 years may bring in a fluid global scenario where each of the three countries, within their regions and globally, are navigating a complex geo-political-economic landscape.

Venue: Burgers Park Hotel

Date: Thursday, 24 October 2013

Time: 09:30 – 13:00

Tea	09:30- 10:00 Registration 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome Dr Lesley Masters, Senior Researcher, <i>Institute for Global Dialogue</i> 10:10 – 12:30 Session: THE INDIA-BRAZIL-SOUTH AFRICA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE FORUM AT 10 YEARS: Reflections and Looking Ahead <u>Chair:</u> Mr Francis Kornegay, <i>Institute for Global Dialogue</i> <u>Speakers:</u> <i>Indian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Virendra Gupta;</i> <i>Brazilian Ambassador, H.E. Mr P L Carneiro De Mendonca;</i> <i>Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Nolundi Dikweni;</i> <u>Discussant:</u> <i>South African Institute of International Affairs, Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos.</i> Discussion Session
Lunch	12:30 Closure and vote of thanks

APPENDIX 2 : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Virendra Gupta, Indian High Commissioner
P L Carneiro De Mendonca, Embassy of Brazil
Nolundi Dikweni , DIRCO
Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA
Francis Kornegay, IGD
Lesley Masters, IGD
Penelope Masenamela, IGD
Kenny Dlamini, IGD
John Mashala, IGD
Cynthia Sinclair Maluleke, FES
Sindy Mtembu, FES
Catherine Grant , SAIIA
Solani Ngobeni, AISA
Dumisani Kewuti, AISA
Kenny Mabaso, Ceasefire
Kudzanai Chakanza, OXFAM
Catherine Kannemeyer, MISTRA
Charlene Harry, HRW
Tiseke Kasambala, HRW
Fadl Nacerodien, DIRCO
Dumisani Mncube, DPSA
J.J. Mgwanya, Department of Finance
Xolani Ngubane, SANDF
Patrick Baleka, ANC IR
Zwelinzima Sizani, ANC IR
Denzil Taylor, Jacaranda FM
Salih Omar Abdu, Embassy of Eritrean
Julius Peter MOTO, Uganda High Commission
Mette Tangen, Embassy of Norway
Laurence Caromba, Royal Thai Embassy
Ellen Tamarkin, US Embassy
Luis Bermúdez Alvarez, Embassy of Uruguay
S Kucherenko, Embassy of Ukraine
Irina Anichina, Embassy of Russia
Huguette Kingambo, UNISA
Dago KAPINGA, UNISA
Colin Mashikinya, TMALI UNISA
Mohamed Ahmed

APPENDIX 3: ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE



The IGD is an independent foreign policy think tank dedicated to the analysis of and dialogue on the evolving international political and economic environment, and the role of Africa and South Africa. It advances a balanced, relevant and policy-oriented analysis, debate and documentation of South Africa's role in international relations and diplomacy.

The IGD strives for a prosperous and peaceful Africa in a progressive global order through cutting edge policy research and analysis, catalytic dialogue and stakeholder interface on global dynamics that have an impact on South Africa and Africa.



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