

Brazil's 2019 Chairship of the BRICS: Charting a Course for 2020



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Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations	ii
Introduction	1
Outcomes from the 11 th BRICS Summit 2019	2
Keynote Address by Mr. Bruno Carvalho Arruda, Economic affairs, Agriculture and BRICS Point of Contact, Embassy of Brazil in Pretoria, South Africa	2
Responses	4
Audience Engagement	6
BRICS Academic Forum 2019, a focus on the 4IR	12
Looking to the Russian Chairship in 2020	14
Audience engagement	15
Conclusions	17
Appendix: Programme	18
About the Institute for Global Dialogue, associated with UNISA	19

Acronyms and abbreviations

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
ACTFA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
ARC	African Regional Centre
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CLA	Alcântara Launch Center
CSI	Corporate Social Investment
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
FOCAC	Forum on China Africa Cooperation
G20	Group of 20
G77	Group of 77
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NDB	New Development Bank
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WEF	World Economic Forum
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Introduction

Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), housing the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), explained that the NIHSS aims to advance and co-ordinate scholarship, research and ethical practice in the fields of Humanities and the Social Sciences (HSS). In linking the activities of the NIHSS to the functions of the SABTT, the SABTT is a platform for all engaged in the BRICS to exchange ideas and to generate evidence-based policy recommendations, contribute to a strategic South African participation in the partnership, thus contributing to the bigger vision of where we are taking BRICS. The BRICS public dialogue project directed by the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), in support of the South African BRICS Think Tank's (SABTT) engagement programmes, is such a platform for engagement through the various levels of multitrack diplomacy; namely, Track 1 engages government-to-government actors, Track 1.5 facilitates dialogue between government and non-government actors, Track 2 engages research and academia, and Track 3 includes the participation of civil society.

Dr. Philani Mthembu, Executive Director at IGD, explained that the virtue of the multi-track diplomacy engagement is to bring both state and non-state actors together, a growing area of BRICS relations. Particularly, bringing the various tracks together has allowed researchers and academics to engage on the active barriers and similarities in cooperation; and if the BRICS model can be emulated as a yardstick for International relations cooperation. While the BRICS partnership has been criticised that the values and norms of the countries are too different to cooperate seamlessly, the BRICS countries have found beneficial and practical ways to work together, especially drawing strength from bringing together various actors. This dialogue thus looked at Brazil's priorities covered in its chairship in 2019 and the prospective trends that will have a strategic bearing on the posturing of the BRICS countries looking ahead for Russia's chairship in 2020.

Outcomes from the 11th BRICS Summit 2019

Keynote Address by Mr. Bruno Carvalho Arruda, Economic affairs, Agriculture and BRICS Point of Contact, Embassy of Brazil in Pretoria, South Africa

During Brazil's 2019 chairship, the five BRICS countries were clear about their intentions to make cooperation more inclusive by supporting the spirit of cooperation among business, scholars, media and civil society organisations, as well as building upon government interactions. Brazil, under the theme of the summit 'BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future', aimed to promote deliverables that would have a direct impact on lives of societies and to emphasise and maximise what BRICS means to all people; while emphasising the equal role and participation of the BRICS countries. This is inclusive of the BRICS outreach programme, which started with South Africa inviting the African continent in 2013. During 2019, the Heads of State met twice; once informally in Osaka, Japan, on the margins of the G20 Summit, and again, at the annual 11th Summit from 13-14 November 2019, held in Brasilia. As a summary of events, the Brazilian chairship convened 16 ministerial level meetings including ministers from: Foreign affairs, Economy, Health, Technology and Innovation, Communications, Environment, Agriculture, Energy, Culture, Labor, Trade and National Security.

The summit priorities included: strengthening of the cooperation in Science, technology and innovation; enhancing cooperation on digital economy; Invigorating cooperation on the fight against transnational crime, especially against organized crime, money laundering and drug trafficking; and encouraging the rapprochement between the New Development Bank (NDB) and the BRICS Business Council. The summit Declaration and other approved documents are a collective position on what BRICS has to say to the world. Moreover, it emphasised four key areas that are paramount to the BRICS partnership; 1) strengthening and reforming the multilateral system, 2) improving closer economic and financial cooperation, 3) noting the importance of regional issues in the greater geopolitical context, and 4) refining intra-BRICS cooperation. The official handover to Russia took place from 12-13 December at the 6th meeting of BRICS Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas.

Summit Deliverables

- Signing an MoU among Trade and Investment Promotion Agencies of the BRICS countries.
- Creating an iBRICS network, which aims to strengthen contacts between innovation actors in the BRICS countries (technology parks, incubators and researchers).
- Compiling policies and legislation about asset recovery (meeting of experts) that addresses corruption.
- Exchanging experiences on national strategies in counterterrorism.
- Creating a BRICS Network of Human Milk Banks, for exchange of experiences in collecting, storage and distribution of human milk, and a collaborative Tuberculosis Research Program, collective calls for research to combat tuberculosis, including for the development of new medicines.

More information can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website www.brics2019.itamaraty.gov.za



Responses

The respondents, Prof. Siphamandla Zondi, SABTT Chairperson, and Ms. Vivian Ramathuba, NDB Africa Regional Centre (ARC) Senior Professional, responded in their respective capacities and their roles within the BRICS partnership and drawing from South Africa's experiences since handing over the chairship to Brazil in 2018.

Prof. Siphamandla Zondi, SABTT Chairperson explained that the objectives that have been set out, have been largely achieved. As a point of observation, national security, energy cooperation, broader security issues and questions surrounding asset recovery are building from the work done thus far in BRICS on trade and investment and are being cited more frequently. These are vital issues to watch going forward. Although the partnership has experienced its 11th summit, the BRICS are still asking "How do we move from declaration to practical manifestation"? The BRICS partnership thus needs to become more innovative in order to achieve the above. While traditional forms of cooperation such as trade and investment are still low, the cooperation within transportation and the logistics industry is also still weak. However, a number of initiatives such as the human milk bank, tuberculosis initiatives and sustained emphasis on the promotion of women's agenda, will have a meaningful impact on the quality of life thus reaching the people.

The reform agenda of the BRICS, specifically on broader platforms such as the UN and UNSC, will still be handled in a pragmatic manner because the UN space is parochial in nature. However, there may be closer coordination with UN missions in BRICS countries and at UN headquarters, as Russia intends to incorporate during its BRICS chairship in 2020 and going forward. This is happening in a context where traditional global South blocs, such as the Group of 77 (G77) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that lobbied for greater and more inclusive cooperation are seen to be collapsing at United Nations (UN) levels; and regional issues have global implications, for example the tensions experienced in South America are proving to be long term trends and not just flash points. The intra-BRICS partnership should strengthen through improved and streamlined monitoring and accountability and create a mechanism accounting to each other in absence of a secretariat. In addition, the people-to-people

interface should be used to better enhance the high-level BRICS partnership. While leaders don't always acknowledge the active potential of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), or track III, engagement, there is immense benefit in their mobilisation network and their support for the agenda as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have impact on improving food insecurity and income inequality. All work needs to come to the collective fold and to acknowledge both the academic forum and CSOs as BRICS is at a stage where it is increasingly being measured by what and how it impacts, in a visible way, the lives of people. Although it has been fashionable to steer each chairship by adding new or unique initiatives each year, an enlarged agenda does not promote continuity from previous chairships.

Ms. Vivian Ramathuba, Senior Professional at the NDB Africa Regional Centre (ACR), provided an update on the work of the NDB since the Board of Governors met in April in Cape Town in 2019. She further emphasised that the role of the NDB acknowledged its potential role in working with the Business Council. The next round of funding approval would consider the new strategy document, still focusing on hard infrastructure projects such as energy, transport, and urban development, as well as soft infrastructure. With the interactions with CSOs, the NDB will start looking at how the bank may become more inclusive through its interface with CSOs, particularly in improving communication. The opening of regional offices has also been fast tracked because they are noted as key institutional offices that may facilitate the number of projects that are proposed and considered bankable; at present, the Shanghai, Johannesburg and Brasilia offices have been opened, and there are plans to open the offices in Russia and India in 2020. South Africa is still experiencing challenges in contributing to the project preparation facility, but by 2020 this has been fast tracked as a point of priority to improve.

The loans have been approved to 2021; initially South Africa received 8% approval, now it has been increased to 18% approval, to the value of US\$ 2.2 billion, and the role of the ARC on the ground has been to interact with government departments and SOEs in preparing them to identify and submit bankable projects. The ARC has targets of a further US\$ 1.6 billion which has been pledged by the NDB, but the preparation of projects upon their initial

submission needs to be improved as a point of priority. Going forward, it is the long-term intention of the bank to sign new membership, and generate more business and more delivery. This is a key role of the ARC, to service the African continent and act as a liaison point with the NDB. It is important for South Africa to strengthen the market; South Africa and the regional office uses both the South African Rand and US Dollar currencies, and South Africa will be launching its South African Rand/ZAR 10 billion bond on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, which will increase local participation. The ARC and NDB have partnered with the Business Council and completed its first roadshow in the Western Cape.

The ARC's next steps:

- Introducing the BRICS and bank to businesses in the South African provinces through roadshows.
- Expanding its business with the private sector. Over the last four years, the bank's sole business has been with sovereign governments and SOEs.

Audience Engagement

The audience engaged on issues of geopolitical importance such as the US-China trade war, and particular questions on eligibility to participate in the NDB, and the potential to engage media, to which the keynote speaker and two panellists engaged.

Geopolitically, the core of the BRICS partnership, the reform of multilateral fora, remains a challenge. However, how does the BRICS partnership interact within the multilateral landscape? **The BRICS are gaining notoriety for their perspectives on global inclusion, more notably the BRICS outreach project. Moreover, observers are asking how this tradition would be continued.** South Africa started the trend and invited a number of African representatives, in 2013, with the hosting of the Summit in Durban. Since the inclusive trend started, countries have had the chance to interpret this accordingly. China championed the outreach through the BRICS plus; and in 2017, 42 countries were included in the Fuzhou Summit. While the 11th summit in Brazil did not include an outreach, due to the differing opinions on Venezuela. Looking forward, it would be interesting to observe how Russia will

interpret the BRICS outreach project during its presidency, as there is an anticipation that Russia will resuscitate the BRICS Plus and it is opening its NDB regional office.

In the context of other global partnerships and geopolitical interests the audience was interested in **how has the trade war between the US and China impacted on the BRICS or is there a response mechanism to address the shortfall?** While the BRICS have expressed unity in resolving the trade war because of its spill over effects and supporting an open world economy along the lines of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and procedures that promote the strengthening of the multilateral trading system, it is possible to observe individual BRICS responses: Brazil has mostly remained neutral while expanding its exports to China; Russia is concerned but sees opportunities for food or Agro-processing industries; India has the potential to engage the USA as a manufacturer, but there are barriers to it; and South Africa, has concerns as it is unclear how the change will impact its bi-lateral trade partnership with the USA and China, as well as the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Gender and the role of women in the BRICS has also gained traction and the Women's Business Alliance in particular will have its autonomy to come up with respective solutions to work barriers. Additionally, working methods of the BRICS and its evolution have emphasised the potential of individuality. Currently, the BRICS have a light structure with no permanent secretary and each working group and committee develop their own ways of implementing and monitoring the various partnerships. But as the magnitude and multitude of agreements add up, it is becoming increasingly important to monitor the implementation of agreements.

A particular mention was made in the context of **science**, technology and innovation in the space industry. **As India, China and Russia have well established programmes, is it possible for South Africa and Brazil to leverage on existing technology in the BRICS partnership?** The 2019 declaration addresses this point. Brazil has a space programme, one key project is developing a launcher in Alcântara Launch Center (CLA), in Maranhão state. Another project

is the bi-lateral relationship with China in the satellite field called China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellites. At present the BRICS are undergoing negotiations for a constellation of satellites for remote sensing, noted in the declaration in paragraph 55.

Information about the bank is still much sought after, and the audience was particularly interested in understanding who benefits from the formation of the bank; **what is the NDB criteria in place for smaller organisations to access funding or when could such a process be instituted? Which countries will be eligible for new admissions to the bank, do they include African countries, and what are the terms?** The NDB is an infrastructure oriented, commercial bank, where the current members are the BRICS countries, or sovereign governments. The funding is disbursed in four ways; 1) sovereign government guarantee, 2) non-sovereign guarantee with government guarantee products (i.e. State-Owned Enterprises), 3) non-sovereign guarantee with national financial intermediaries (i.e. private sector), and 4) partnership with regional development financial institutions. There are two discussions about how countries, which are not members of the bank, can access BRICS funding as a third party or possible broader projects, as well as opening membership.

While there are provisions to open up membership and expansion of the bank is on the horizon, by invitation of the BRICS, it is likely that this process is going to take some time before coming to fruition and that other African countries wouldn't be able to access funding like the BRICS members do until this has become finalised. However, this does not exclude African countries from entering into bi-lateral or tri-lateral partnerships (as currently do) to access development funding for infrastructure. A good indication that the bank will be ready to accept new members is when the application process will be work-shopped with other countries. At present, Corporate Social Investment (CSI) is still on the start-up side, and until the bank is able to make a profit, only then will it open-up participation especially with independent media in Africa. Ultimately, the BRICS will not dilute the shareholding percentage below 55% as founders, and at present South Africa holds 20%.

And lastly, in looking to how the BRICS partnership is evaluated, in a joint research group

project by the Centre for International Institutions, within the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Moscow, and the Global Governance Programme, at Trinity College at the University of Toronto, the project attempts to measure annual compliance to the BRICS declarations. And while opinions may vary on what compliance means and how it is methodologically derived, the project is finding a relatively high compliance of over 80%.





Left to right: Mr. Bruno Carvalho Arruda, Mr. Dmitry Zudin, Dr. Philani Mthembu, Ms. Auriel Niemack, Prof. Nirmala Gopal, Prof Siphamandla Zondi, Mr. Ashraf Patel

BRICS Academic Forum 2019, a focus on the 4IR

The next panel, which included Mr. Ashraf Patel, Senior Research Associate on the Digital Economy, at the IGD, and Prof. Nirmala Gopal, Acting Dean of the School of Applied Human Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, discussed the outcomes of the 2019 BRICS Academic Forum in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Mr. Ashraf Patel's presentation was centred on the three themes of the Brasilia Summit, quality growth, development and innovation. His presentation covered five elements in the context of improving social grant delivery in the 4IR; 1) what is the actual value of data in the global digital economy, 2) is there coherence in the multilateral frameworks that govern this?, 3) how global Small and Medium Enterprises should and can be included, 4) what an alternative payment model for social grant delivery can look like, and 5) how this fits within the global Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) regime

This presentation specifically volleyed from the 2018 Johannesburg summit that emphasised the 4IR and inclusion and focused on innovation, digital economy, green economy and other fields, and how to help the five countries achieve high-quality economic development.

The BRICS have discussed the 4IR at BRICS summits, the World Economic Forum (WEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization's Global Commission on the Future of Work, in addition to others. Data commodification and extraction across borders are vital to the reforming agenda, and therefore the debates are impacted by data sovereignty versus data colonisation. Industrial policy is impacted by structural drivers; 1) the convergence of interests to restructure global production systems and trade patterns, 2) increased competition and market access challenges for middle income economies, and 3) underlying technological and organisational transformations as well as industrial mutation. ICTs are essential to achieving the SDGs by 2030, by providing new solutions to help realize the vision set forth by the international community and it is important to shape potential forms of data governance with a vision for

a data-enabled community toward sustainable ICT4D. There is immense potential for data to benefit development. In a South Africa based case study of unclaimed pensions, it was highlighted that big data has potential to make an impact in social justice and service delivery through tracking and monitoring recipients. However, the paralysis providing this service is based on the inability to trace or integrate beneficiaries and not the availability of technology.

Overall, the 4IR and BRICS environment is governed through regional frameworks such as the WTO E-Commerce Treaty negotiations (2019), the G20 Communique on Digital Services (Japan, 2019), and the AU's Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) (2019). However, it is difficult to implement these frameworks because the WTO is experiencing a multilateral crisis with roots that stem back to the Doha Round in 2001 where legacy issues are not resolved. In 2019, there was no coherence or quorum in the Appellate body dealing with trade disputes, which meant no decisions could be taken and accentuated the crisis in the multilateral body.

Therefore the road to the WTO Kazakhstan 2020 summit will be critical in resolving the crisis and determining the trends for negotiating a WTO E-Commerce Plurilateral Treaty, which will have implications on tax revenue collection. Thus far, there have been divergences in both North and South recommendations, which suggests a general trend in the new economic powers that are emerging and the desire for alternative. While there may be little policy space to deviate from current regulations on industrialization or tariffs, there is scope for technical assistance or industrial support. This impacts the South African and African Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) market immensely, whereby African economies can experience much needed growth and socio-economic development. The developing world can benefit from the regulation of E-Commerce through a plurilateral treaty and the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda.

Returning to South Africa's case of paying social grants, it is vital to propose alternative systems in the context of the broader WTO issues of IPR and E-Commerce so that payments are not left only to large conglomerates and used as tools that are selective in benefit

distribution and sanctions. This impacts global access and in a reality where wealth and development has not been universally distributed, it becomes a question of continued capitalist copyright behaviour or extending the knowledge commons. There is immense potential for collaboration specifically by better coordinating multitrack diplomatic engagements.

Prof. Nirmala Gopal, Acting Dean, University of KwaZulu-Natal, explained that part of the research done in the cluster group on Peace and Security is moving into a practical and enhanced strategy on fighting transnational crime. A formalised BRICS strategy to fight transnational crime does not exist as yet and it is important to develop such a strategy that is collaborative. After the Academic Forum, Brazil shared its strategy in fighting organised crime within its region, specifically targeting violence and drug trafficking. In general, threats that are common to individuals can be studied, and recommended a 5-7 -day workshop to design an instrument supported by the BRICS countries to collect empirical evidence. This would hold particular value because of the intrinsic link to the 4IR space and how easy it has become to infiltrate cyber space and perpetrate transnational crime.

Looking to the Russian Chairship in 2020

Mr. Dmitry Zudin, Head of Foreign Policy, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of South Africa, reiterated that the formal handover would take place during the Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa meeting and further detail the key priorities then. However, the BRICS partnership has always emphasised global stability and the Russian chairship aims to host a BRICS event every third day of the Russian chairship, and among other agenda items, will consider money laundering, illegally obtained assets and the financing of terrorism as pivot points. Other countries will be invited to the St. Petersburg summit through the existing outreach format or BRICS plus, specifically members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Russia will also expand foreign policy coordination especially at UN level to better coordinate work on common positions such as peacekeeping, terrorism, transnational organised crime. Russia will be commemorating the 75th anniversary celebration of the Soviet Union's Victory

over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War, or World War II, and the creation of the UN. In addition, general implementation of the BRICS agenda has had a positive impact on the economic partnership, it is important to update the strategy for the BRICS partnership every five years; this specifically addresses real benefits for people, enhances BRICS financial mechanisms through bonds in national currencies and new initiatives in anti-monopoly, cooperation on a BRICS local currency bond, expanding dialogue between the partners' tax, customs and competition agencies, and improving cooperation in the energy sector and energy research platform and people-to-people cultural exchanges through the network universities.

Audience engagement

The audience engaged on issues such as sources of transnational crime, pharmaceutical access, education, promoting active citizenship, tax and autonomous weapons to which the three panellists responded, respectively.

Transnational crime undermines the very reason BRICS was formed – to empower or enfranchise the economically, socially, and politically disenfranchised. Brazil was commended for placing transnational crime on the agenda, as it is a very sensitive topic.

Mega multinational pharmaceutical companies have a dominant role in global South health research. With Brazil, China and India having strong industries, **has BRICS got a specific agenda to produce pharmaceutical companies?** As an example, in terms of global South health access to innovation and patents, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supported South Africa to gain access to generic medicines and treatment of HIV/AIDS. At the time, former Minister of Health, Dr. Nkosasana Dlamini-Zuma (currently Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs) took on the multinational corporations to make access to life saving treatments available. This example is often lauded as the potential of South-South Cooperation in the world of IPR. In addition, the South Centre in Geneva, is a

product of BRICS countries as well as a broader global South initiative that engages on policy research, which is available on their website for free.

Considering that we live in an era where access to information and knowledge to some extent is democratised, **what is the future of classroom education at primary school to higher learning levels?** Higher education and the 4IR is a global issue that is currently being debated. Specifically the issue of funding and rising student debt, is on the political agenda. Brazil, India and South Africa have taken a market approach to education, which causes immense challenges in terms of accessing higher education. There needs to be more comparative research made available that shows what causal relationships there are between institutions in countries that offer free education and knowledge industrial production. Currently, in the context of South Africa and the 4IR, a possible view point of higher education is very critical, whereby capital extracts more value from the labour process for shareholders and the outputs of higher education are commodified. Is it possible to take these debates and ask if higher education is a public good or private resource? This ultimately comes down to politics of inclusion and exclusion, impacting on societal inequality, access, citizenship rights, whereby those excluded have higher chance of reaching informal and illicit economies.

Does BRICS have any plans to launch or build a school that focuses on youth leadership, active citizenship and management foundations? A school does not necessary need to be a specified or new institution, but rather part of a nation building exercise in active citizenship that promotes social support structures, while being increasingly sensitive to general risks of youth radicalization.

Conclusion

Much information still needs to be made accessible and more questions arise as to how people can orient themselves so that they can make the best of the opportunities available, especially when debates and discussions are becoming increasingly technical and are no longer limited to high level international relations discussions. In general, there is much interest towards the growth of the NDB and what it will mean for the next phase in opening up respective regional centres and work with the business council.

Recommendations:

- Orient people-to-people communication to encourage more practical use of opportunities available.
- Demystify the roles of BRICS and NDB to outreach partners.
- Improve collaborative research in technical areas.

Appendix: Programme



South African
BRICS Think Tank

IGD and SABTT Symposium

Programme, 21 November 2019

National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), 24 St Andrews Rd, Parktown,
Johannesburg,

Brazil's 2019 Chairship of the BRICS: Priorities & Expectations

9:00 - 9:30	Arrival and registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and opening remarks Dr. Philani Mthembu (Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)) and Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS)
9:45 – 10:15	Keynote address Mr. Bruno Carvalho Arruda, Economic affairs, Agriculture and BRICS Point of Contact, Embassy of Brazil in Pretoria, South Africa Respondents Prof. Siphamandla Zondi, South Africa BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) Chairperson Vivian Ramathuba, Senior Professional, BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) Africa Regional Centre (ARC)
10:15 – 11:30	Panel on the BRICS Academic forum 2019 Mr. Ashraf Patel, Senior Research Associate, Digital Economy, IGD Prof. Nirmala Gopal, Department of Criminology and Forensic Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11:30 – 11:50	Looking to the Russian 2020 chairship Mr. Dmitry Zudin, Head of Foreign Policy, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of South Africa
11:50 – 12:30	Interactive session
12:30 – 12:45	Vote of thanks and close
12:45	Lunch

About the Institute for Global Dialogue, associated with UNISA



The IGD is an independent foreign policy and diplomacy think tank dedicated to the analysis of and dialogue on global dynamics that have a bearing on South Africa in 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's research agenda has three broad programmatic focus areas: foreign policy analysis with special reference to the making and management of foreign policy and diplomatic tools like economic, developmental, and public diplomacy; African studies focusing on the role of regional and continental integration in African politics and development as well as the study of peace diplomacy; and international diplomacy, analysing dynamics in international diplomacy that have a bearing on African peace and prosperity.

In 2010, following a strategic review the institute entered into its strategic partnership with the University of South Africa, the biggest university in the southern hemisphere to pursue through research, publications and community engagement the shared vision of a prosperous and peaceful Africa in a progressive global order.

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