

IBSA DIALOGUE FORUM PRESS RELEASE

New York, 23 September 2004

The Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa met in New York on 23 September 2004, on the occasion of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They reaffirmed their commitment towards the strengthening of the dialogue and trilateral co-operation among their countries.

2. They agreed to have closer political consultations amongst themselves and that the Permanent Representatives in New York would have regular meetings in this regard. They also agreed to have dialogue with other countries as necessary.

3. They took note of progress made in the implementation of the New Delhi Plan of Action and agreed to take measures to further enhance implementation. In this regard they looked forward to the next meeting of the IBSA Trilateral Commission, to be held in South Africa during the first quarter of 2005. The Trilateral Commission would be preceded by a preparatory Meeting of the IBSA Focal Points, which will be hosted by India in November 2004. They also decided to intensify co-operation geared towards the development of concrete projects in areas already identified including, inter alia, Science and Technology; Tourism and Transportation; and Information and Communication Technologies.

4. They reaffirmed their determination to play a constructive role in international affairs and to work together to strengthen the multilateral system and to enhance co-operation in international fora.

5. They further reiterated that, in order for the international community to effectively address the various threats and challenges that it faces, it is important to reform the United Nations as a whole. The General Assembly must be revitalized. The role of the ECOSOC must be strengthened. The Security Council must be expanded, to reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st Century. It must be representative, legitimate and effective and its decisions should serve the interests of the global community. As there has been a nearly four-fold increase in the membership of the United Nations since its inception in 1945, including a sharp increase in the number of developing countries, the Security Council must be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, with the participation of developing countries.

6. They looked forward to the release of the report of the " High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change", which was entrusted by the Secretary-General with the task of recommending ways of strengthening the United Nations, through reform of its institutions and processes. They expressed the hope that the report would provide an important contribution to the ongoing discussion on the matter"

7. They further repudiated terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, having agreed that it constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. They reiterated their firm commitment and solidarity to counter terrorism by means of an effective and coordinated international co-operation, ensuring respect for the sovereignty of States, the United Nations Charter and international law.

8. They reiterated that primary focus on human development, fight against hunger and poverty, and measures to promote a better quality of life, should underpin and provide greater guarantees for international peace and stability. In this regard they committed themselves to work together for the success of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, which will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

9. They recalled the funding Facility set up by India, Brazil and South Africa on the margins of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as an initiative complementary to other ongoing efforts being considered by the international community with the aim of combating poverty and hunger. In this regard, they announced with satisfaction the launching of the first project to be financed by the IBSA Fund, in support of agriculture and livestock development in Guinea-Bissau. They underlined that the technical cooperation to be provided to the Government of Guinea-Bissau encompasses activities aimed at the eradication of poverty and hunger, as a contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. They emphasized the importance of generating greater awareness within the international community about the IBSA Facility and its role in enhancing south-south co-operation.

10. They welcomed the New York Declaration on "Action on Hunger and Poverty" launched at the meeting of world leaders on 20 September 2004. They reaffirmed their determination to explore further the utilization of innovative financing mechanisms to assist in the fight against hunger and poverty, bearing in mind the need for this being an additionality to Official Development Assistance (ODA). In this context, they urged developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the agreed targets of ODA for both developing and least developed countries.