

Joint Communiqué on IBSA Dialogue Forum

September 26, 2014

1. The External Affairs Minister of India, H.E. Ms. Sushma Swaraj, The Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane met in New York on 25 September 2014, on the sidelines of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. Reiterating their commitment towards further deepening and strengthening of the IBSA Dialogue Forum, the Ministers expressed satisfaction that IBSA provides an important platform for mutual consultation and cooperation on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest. They noted that the existing comprehensive legal and institutional framework under IBSA comprising intergovernmental interaction and People-to-People Fora for multifaceted mutually beneficial cooperation, provides a solid base to take the IBSA cooperation forward. The Ministers stressed the importance of close coordination and cooperation among IBSA countries in various multilateral fora including the UN, WTO, WIPO, G20, G24, BRICS, BASIC and so on.
3. The Ministers emphasized the growing importance of South-South cooperation. In this context, they noted that the IBSA Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger plays an important role through sharing of developmental experience of IBSA countries for inclusive and sustainable growth and empowerment of the peoples of developing countries. They agreed that the footprint of IBSA Fund should be expanded to reach out to other countries in need of immediate developmental assistance. The Ministers also stressed the need to explore IBSA Fund projects aimed at women empowerment.
4. The Ministers underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the global institutions of political and economic governance. In this context, they stressed that the UN Security Council must be enlarged in both permanent and non-permanent categories in order to better reflect present day realities and to make it more representative, legitimate, efficient and effective. Noting that the year 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and the 10th year following the collective mandate of the Leaders at the 2005 World Summit calling for an early reform of the UN Security Council, the Ministers agreed to intensify their cooperation for a decisive conclusion next year on reforming the Security Council with the addition of new permanent and non-permanent members. They expressed full support for each other's candidature for a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.
5. The Ministers underscored that terrorism is a grave challenge to international peace and security. They called for a comprehensive and determined international action including strengthening of international normative regime through the early conclusion and adoption of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to address this menace. They reaffirmed that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism and urged the international community for concrete and coordinated response to terrorism, in accordance with international law.
6. The Ministers also exchanged views on the current security situation in parts of the Middle East, Africa and other regions. They agreed that inclusive political processes are the best way to address internal conflicts. The international community, led by the UN and in conformity with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, should support inclusive political processes, rule of law and socio-economic development so that sustainable peace and security is established in conflict-ridden societies.
7. The Ministers expressed grave concern at the loss of a large number of civilian lives and extensive damage to infrastructure in Gaza. They welcomed the long-term ceasefire in Gaza, mediated by Egypt, and hoped that it would lead to an immediate resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians based on international law and relevant United Nations Resolutions with the final aim of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders and living side by side in security and peace with Israel and all its neighbours. They further pledged their continued developmental support to Palestine bilaterally as well as through IBSA Fund. In this context, the Ministers recalled the two ongoing projects of the IBSA Fund in Palestine. They also announced their decision to launch a project for the reconstruction of medical center Atta Habib in Gaza, already agreed with the relevant Palestinian authorities and pledged US\$ 1 million for the project.
8. They expressed deep concern at the grave situation in Iraq, particularly in view of its spillover effects in the region. The Ministers expressed strong support to the Iraqi people and their new government in their efforts to overcome the crisis, uphold national sovereignty and preserve territorial integrity and also urged the regional and global players to support Iraq in its efforts towards national reconciliation.
9. Recalling their efforts as IBSA to contribute to a peaceful and diplomatic solution of the situation in Syria, the Ministers called upon all parties to the Syrian conflict to abjure violence so that conducive environment may be created for an inclusive Syrian-led political dialogue leading to a comprehensive political solution, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people of Syria.
10. The Ministers voiced serious concern over the threats to peace and security in the African Continent. They also discussed the political and humanitarian situation in Libya, the DRC, Somalia, the CAR, Mali and the South Sudan. They expressed common view that the main role in tackling African conflicts should be led by Africans themselves with active support from the UN and the international community. The need for the UN to ensure stronger cooperation and coordination with the regional representative body, the African Union and its Peace and Security Council was also reiterated.

11. The Ministers expressed grave concern about the impact of the Ebola outbreak in West African countries. Coordination among various stakeholders and partners including the UN agencies, especially the WHO, national governments, regional organizations, private sector and NGOs that have direct presence on the ground will go a long way in reaching the assistance to the needy quickly. The Ministers reaffirmed that in this hour of need, they stood ready to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the international community to manage this common global threat.
12. The Ministers agreed to hold the 8th meeting of Trilateral Commission in South Africa at a mutually agreed date.

**New York,
September 25, 2014**