

India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum - 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting – 17 October 2017



Joint Commission

1. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa H.E Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, H.E General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E Mr Aloysio Nunes Ferreira (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministers") met in Durban, South Africa on 17 October 2017 for the 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission meeting.
2. The Ministers underscored the importance of the principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum, including participatory democracy, respect for human rights, and the Rule of Law. In mapping out the strategic outlook of IBSA, the Ministers reiterated the need for IBSA to leverage its strengths and unique identity as a grouping of the Global South, bringing together three large pluralistic, multi-cultural and multi-racial societies from three continents.
3. In the context of today's dynamic global order, the Ministers underscored the strategic significance of IBSA in safeguarding and advancing the interests of the South on the global stage. They stressed the importance of multilateralism and the need to reform global governance structures in order to make them more inclusive, democratic, representative, transparent and responsive to the needs of the South.
4. The Ministers noted that the year 2017, in particular, is significant to the global governance reform agenda, with the 72nd Anniversary of the UN providing a timely opportunity for the global community to adopt a concrete programme that will guide us towards a strengthened UN and a reformed Security Council. The Ministers further noted that key milestones towards a peaceful and better world could be achieved through the successful conclusion and implementation of the outcomes of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. The Ministers emphasized the growing importance of South-South cooperation. In this context, they recognized that the IBSA Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger plays an important role through the sharing of developmental experience by IBSA countries. This contributes to inclusive and sustainable development for the empowerment of the peoples from developing countries.

Global issues

Cooperation in Multilateral Organisations

6. The Ministers agreed on closer coordination and cooperation among IBSA countries in various multilateral fora including the UN, WTO, WIPO and G20.

United Nations Reform and Security Council Reform

7. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as a fair and just international order, upholding the basic norms of international law such as equal sovereignty and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, promoting greater democracy and rule of law in international relations, building an inclusive global community through mutually beneficial cooperation.

8. The Ministers underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the global institutions of political and economic governance. They emphasized that no reform of the United Nations will be complete without a reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC), including an expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with enhanced participation of developing countries therein, in order to better reflect present day realities and to make it representative, legitimate, efficient and effective. In this context, the need for greater progress in the UN General Assembly intergovernmental negotiations was identified as critical to promote the impetus necessary to achieve change. Therefore, the Ministers expressed their conviction that the time is opportune to move to the next phase and initiate text-based negotiations during the 72nd session of the General Assembly, which marks the 10th year of the IGN and the 25th year of consistent debate and consideration of this issue by the General Assembly. The Ministers agreed to cooperate and coordinate closely in order to achieve tangible results during the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

9. The Ministers recommitted their strong support to multilateralism and the central role of United Nations in international affairs. They committed to strengthening the coordination and cooperation among IBSA in the areas of mutual and common interest within the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, including through regular meetings among their permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna and further enhance the voice of IBSA in international fora.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

10. The Ministers underscored the importance of the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They highlighted the need to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. They urged the developed countries to fully honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments. The Ministers reiterated their support for a more balanced and inclusive economic globalisation, reject protectionism, and renew their commitment to the promotion of global trade, investment and productivity which is conducive to an equitable, inclusive, innovative, invigorated and interconnected world economy.

11. The Ministers also emphasized that it remains imperative to address the historical and current injustices that have fuelled poverty, inequality and under-development, especially through external support in providing the necessary means of implementation, such as finance, technology transfer and capacity building. The Ministers further acknowledged that the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, which is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Climate Change

12. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and urged all countries to work together for the fair implementation of the Paris Agreement based on the principles of the UNFCCC including the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They called upon developed countries to fulfill their commitment to provide necessary (means of implementation) financing, technology transfer and capacity building support to developing countries. They further called for maintaining focus on implementation of existing co