

ACTION PLAN ON TRADE FACILITATION FOR STANDARDS, TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

1. India, Brazil and South Africa, hereinafter referred to as Parties, recognize the importance of cooperation in the field of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment for identifying, preventing, and eliminating technical barriers to trade with a view to increasing mutual trade flows.
2. The Parties agree to promote technical cooperation in the field of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment.
3. For the above purposes, the IBSA Sub-Group on Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment, established by the 3rd IBSA Trilateral Commission in Rio de Janeiro, on 30th March 2006, as stated in the Report of the Working Group of the mentioned Trilateral Commission, will maintain regular interaction in order to consult on the issues of common interest. It will develop common procedures and work programmes to implement the actions mentioned in paragraph 4.
4. The Sub-Group will take appropriate action to do the following:
 - a) Establish a mechanism to exchange information and experiences between the Parties on regulatory issues, including actual and potential technical barriers to trade that may result from the application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. The objective of this exchange is to identify, prevent and find ways to reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade, wherever possible.
 - b) Organize sector-specific seminars and workshops on technical regulations and conformity assessment. These sectors will be chosen taking into account key areas of trade. The Sub-Group will make available information on the existing technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in the Parties on the IBSA web site.
 - c) Take steps towards establishing co-operation amongst Indian, Brazilian, and South African regulators, accreditation, standards and metrology organizations, and agree on a cooperation programme for strengthening the dialogue among these bodies. They will also explore the possibility of forming a common stand and assist each other in international standards setting activities, given the long-term importance of such activities.
 - d) Explore confidence building measures for mutually acceptable solutions to issues on technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment, and proceed, based on significant levels of trade, towards developing Mutual

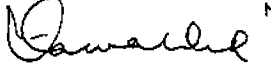
Recognition Agreements on conformity assessment procedures among India, Brazil and South Africa for mutual benefits, while respecting each others legitimate objectives as provided for in the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement of the World Trade Organization.

e) Identify possibilities of harmonizing standards to facilitate trade, wherever feasible.

5. The Sub-Group will initiate action on the above with immediate effect. The progress on the above actions will be reviewed jointly by the Parties after twelve months.

Done in the city of Brasilia, Federative Republic of Brazil, on the 13th day of September 2006, in three copies in the Portuguese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt or divergence of interpretation, however, the English text shall prevail.

INDIA



BRAZIL



SOUTH AFRICA

