



African Insights. Global Perspectives.

South African Institute of International Affairs

India, South Africa and Africa in a changing global landscape

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Relations between the African continent and India go back many centuries. In the 20th century India's role as a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, a supporter of national liberation movements and the struggle against apartheid further augmented those ties. However, it is the potential synergies between Africa and the subcontinent, created by the changing economic and geopolitical landscape that have deepened their interactions over the last several years.

Trade has exploded from US\$ 967 million in 1990-91 to US\$ 39 billion in 2008-09. In one year (2007 to 2008) investment to Africa rose from \$3.7 billion to \$6.8 billion. Both India and the African continent have large young populations. By 2025 India will have the fifth largest consumer market in the world. In the next five years some 200 million Africans will enter the market for consumer goods and the continent's working age population will double to 1.1 billion by 2040.

Africa is important for India in a number of areas: as a source of energy, a market for its goods, and as a supporter/partner on global issues in the multilateral arena. India has also been active in encouraging South-South cooperation with Africa. On the other hand, India provides African states with the potential to diversify trade and investment partners, contribute to the development of national and regional economies, and collaborate on innovation.

Within Africa, South Africa has been a key strategic partner for India since the end of apartheid. Both countries have identified a number of synergies on the global stage, driven by their belief in a more equitable international system, and that the power shifts to big developing countries have created opportunities for South-South cooperation to be re-energised.

Nevertheless, there is much greater scope for deepening engagement. African actors are only very slowly starting to analyse the engagement and the opportunities presented both politically by India and economically by its dynamic private sector. Drawing together African and Indian officials, business people and policy analysts, this conference aims to stimulate more debate on the multifaceted nature of the India-Africa relationship, deepen understanding of each other, and explore synergies in various political and economic spheres.

The conference's approach is to stimulate discussion among panellists and the audience. Except in the keynote session, presentations will thus be limited to 12-15 minutes each, allowing the moderator in each session as well as the audience to engage more substantively on issues raised in the panellists' initial remarks.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day One

09:15–09:30 Welcome

Professor Eltie Links, SAIIA National Council
HE Virendra Gupta, High Commissioner of India to SA

09:30–11:00 Keynote Session: Africa and India

Mr Paul Baloyi, CEO, Development Bank of Southern Africa
Mr Raman Dhawan, Managing Director, Tata Africa Holdings

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:30 Session I: Unleashing economic opportunities in Africa – The private sector, investment and trade

Economic cooperation was a priority area of the framework agreement at the India-Africa summit in 2008. It emphasised efforts to promote trade and industry, investment, development of small and medium-sized enterprises and African regional integration. Indian investment in Africa ranges from the resources sector and agriculture to pharmaceuticals, automotive manufacturing and ICT.

How are Indian companies in different sectors operating? What are the challenges from both sides in realising the objectives set out in 2008? Have African businesses been integrated into the value chains of Indian investments on the continent?

Discussants:

- Mr Oti Ikomi, Ecobank
- Dr Stephen Gelb, The EDGE Institute
- Mr Antony Rayment, JSW Energy
- Mr Ridhwaan Mayet, Frontier Advisory (Pty) Ltd

Moderated by: Ambassador H.H.S. Viswanathan, Observer Research Foundation, India

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Session II: South-South cooperation: New methods for achieving sustainable development?

South-South cooperation as a meaningful term in the international discourse was made possible by the rise of emerging powers from the developing world such as India, China and Brazil. The debate around development, long dominated by the West, has shifted in focus from aid effectiveness to a broader development effectiveness approach, which is not limited to a discussion of traditional aid as the primary vehicle of sustainable growth.

However, while lacking the conditionalities of the West, South-South cooperation can be interpreted in many different ways. What are African views on South-South cooperation, as manifested in India-Africa relations? How is triangular cooperation viewed? Are there opportunities for South Africa and India to collaborate in Africa?

Discussants:

- Dr Thomas Auf der Heyde, Department of Science and Technology (tbc)
- Mr Sunil Joshi, Neotel
- Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA

Moderated by: Dr Mary Kinyanjui, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi

16:00-16:15 **Break**

16:15-18:00 **Session III: African and Indian security concerns – Platform for cooperation?**

Africa's rich resources have elevated its geo-strategic importance as emerging markets seek commodities to feed their phenomenal growth rates. Yet, many of Africa's richest deposits are in conflict zones – from the oil-rich Niger Delta to the Great Lakes and Sudan. The continent also straddles two oceans vital to maritime trade, one of which – the Indian Ocean - has recently been threatened by piracy.

The ongoing malaise in the Horn of Africa perpetuates the problem of piracy in the Indian Ocean and has created security challenges for India close to home. In addition, Indian state and private companies operate in many of Africa's conflict-ridden regions.

As a foremost source of 'blue helmets' in peacekeeping operations around the world, India has identified cross-fertilisation of experiences with the AU in the field of peacekeeping and reconstruction as part of the framework agreement with the continent. What type of security dialogue is taking place? Which countries in Africa does India regard as strategic to its own security concerns? How do African states regard India's operations in conflict zones (through its companies) and its concerns about terrorism and piracy?

Discussants:

- Indian Ocean security and India's foreign policy, Prof. Surjit Mansingh, American University
- AU engagement with India, Dr Tim Murithi, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
- Southern Sudan, Prof M Biel, University of Juba

Moderated by: Mr Samuel Atuobi, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

Day Two

09:00–10:30 **Session IV: Strategic partners: India and South Africa**

South Africa and India have a long history of relations: the first Indian indentured labourers came to SA more than a century and a half ago. India was a staunch supporter of the anti-apartheid struggle; and both countries remember Mahatma Gandhi's stay in South Africa and the impact South Africa's racial policies at the time had on the evolution of his own political activism. Both countries regard their relations as strategically important.

However, they are both competitors and potential partners in Africa and beyond. Notwithstanding the professed good relations and the goodwill, policy-makers and the business community in both countries believe that there is more scope for deepening the substance of political and economic/commercial relations. What are the barriers in both domains and how can they be overcome?

Discussants:

- High Commissioner of India to SA, HE Virendra Gupta
- Former High Commissioner of SA to India, Mr Francis Moloi, chief director, DIRCO
- Mr Stavros Nicolaou, Senior Executive, Strategic Trade Development Aspen Pharmacare
- Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director-General, Confederation of Indian Industries (tbc)

Moderated by: Ms Ruchita Beri, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

10:30–11:00 **Break**

11:00-13:15 **Session V: India and SA as actors in global governance reform**

India and South Africa are vocal proponents of the reform of the global governance architecture to reflect the changes in power. They also play a leadership role in the South, although they also display substantial differences in interests compared with other, smaller developing countries, such as in the World Trade Organization or climate change negotiations. Their engagement in Africa can be explained as much by the shifts in global power and realpolitik as by their desire to be seen to be playing a positive developmental

role, exerting influence and shouldering global responsibilities – which is regarded by many in the West as an essential criterion for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

This session will examine the strategies and positions adopted by both countries in advancing reforms in the UN, the Bretton Woods institutions and the climate change regime, and the use of informal institutions such as the G20, IBSA, the BRICS and BASIC to these ends.

Discussants:

- **G20 and Bretton Woods Reforms**

- Dr Renu Kohli, ICRIER
- Peter Draper, SAIIA

Moderated by: Prof Laurence Boulle, Mandela Institute, Wits Law Faculty

- **Climate change**

- Dr Prodipto Ghosh, The Energy and Resources Institute
- Dr Lesley Masters, Institute for Global Dialogue

Moderated by: Dr Uttam Sinha, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

13:15–14:15 Lunch

14:15-15:30 Session V: India and SA as actors in global governance reform (continued)

- **UN reform**

- Dr Yolanda Spies, University of Pretoria
- Mr Vikram Doraiswami, Consul General of India to South Africa

Moderated by: Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA

15:30-16:00 Summary and conclusion

**Please note that this programme is a draft subject to change without prior notice.*

This conference is supported by the Indian High Commission in South Africa. The work of SAIIA's Emerging Powers Programme is supported by SIDA and DANIDA.

**SAIIA's publications on India and Africa are available through the following link*

<http://www.saiia.org.za/great-powers-africa-overview/india-and-africa-publications.html>