

Africa and India: Towards a Peace and Security Partnership

Notes by Dr. Tim Murithi

1. Good afternoon ladies and gents. Let me start by thanking SAIIA for inviting me to this panel in particular Elizabeth and Khetiwe.
2. My remit this afternoon is to touch upon the issue of peace and security as it related to the African and India partnership.
3. In particular, I will briefly look at the Africa-India partnership – increasing in Africa’s security and growing investments.
4. India’s historical role in UN Peacekeeping in Africa.
5. India relationship with the African Union.
6. Reference to the 2008 India-Africa Forum.
7. and the 2011 India-Africa Forum
8. Before charting a way forward for the two continents.

India and Africa

1. As we saw this morning, India has emerged as an important global economic and political actor.
 2. It is increasingly a significant partner on peace and security issues on the African continent.
 3. The relationship between India and Africa can off course be traced back for centuries – to the historical trade routes – non-aligned.
 4. Both continents have shared colonial history – a shared support for the liberations movements.
 5. But also a shared aspiration to emerge from the margins of international affairs and take their rightful places at the geopolitical table. Based in their belief in a more equitable system.
1. In this sense India and Africa are opportune partners.
 2. As we saw this morning there are strong trade ties and increasing investments between African and India.
 3. There it is in the national interest of India to witness peace and security in Africa.

India’s Peacekeeping Role in Africa

1. There are currently about 7000 troops deployed in Africa on behalf of the UN – notably in the stabilization mission in the DRC, mission in Darfur-Sudan; Cote d’Ivoire and in Liberia where India deployed a specialized police unit as a part of the UN mission to Liberia.
2. India has been involved in peacekeeping in Africa since 1960 when it took part in the UN Mission to Congo.

3. India has therefore had extensive experience in peace operations close to half a century's worth – in this regard India can engage in skills transfer in peacekeeping.

4. Therefore there is no question about India commitment to peace.

5. And indeed it has to be perceived as a major force in regional and world affairs – if it's to fulfil its ambitions to become a permanent member of an enlarged UNSC.

6. The challenge for India is how to strike a balance between national interest and demonstrating solidarity with other countries.

1. On October 2008, On piracy – the Indian navy sent the INS Tabar to the Gulf of Aden following complaints by India shipping companies about piracy – the Indian navy has managed to prevent piracy attempts.

2. It is problematic; Africa cannot police its own backyard.

3. The usual concerns about sovereignty.

Reluctance to disengage from economic activity in Sudan at the height of the conflict.

Currently, India has military cooperation primarily in the area of training activity, almost one third of the 53 African states.

UNSC Reform

- India sees itself as a potential permanent member.

1. India has consistently argued that the Ezulwini consensus on the UNSC reform contributed to the failure of the reform process in 2005.

2. On 25 May 2011, At the Special Summit for the Assembly of Heads of State and government – the AU Assembly called for re-launching of the process in the UNSC reform.

3. Both India and SA have been noted into the council as non-permanent members.

4. The 2008, Delhi Declaration recognized the African and Indian positions and aspirations obtained their rightful place in an expanded UNSC as new permanent.

5. The Declaration called for the strengthening of cooperation to achieve the early realization of genuine reform → of the UNSC.

6. Ultimately, an India-African partnership on the reform of global governance institutions, including the UNSC, will be necessary if genuine change is to be achieved.

India and the African Union

1. India has been deepening its relations with the African Union.

2. Since the inception of the African Union, India has participated in the AU Assembly of Heads of State and government since 2002.

3. Since 2008, India and the AU have taken steps to formalize their relationship.

1. In April 2008, the first India-Africa Forum Summit was held in New Delhi with 14 African countries – SA, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal, DRC, Nigeria, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Algeria, Egypt, Kenya and Libya – as well as the heads of all of Africa's regional groupings – SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD, EOAS, etc.

2. In addition, the chairperson of the AU also attended.

3. Deliberations resulted in the Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India framework for cooperation.

3. Emphasis was placed on technical cooperation on a range of issue, including peace and security.

4. In May 2011, the second India-Africa Summit was held in Addis Ababa.

5. The Addis Ababa Declaration made reference to the UNSC Resolution 1970 and 1973 which subsequently legitimized a no-fly zone.

6. The intervention led to a regime change strategy.

7. Interestingly, India has abstained from voting for the no-fly zone (Res.1973) while 3 African countries – SA, Nigeria and Gabon voted for a resolution despite a standing agreement to coordinate national interest will always come to the surface.

[AU has interceptor - capacity issues]

1. The second India-Africa Forum Summit was convened in Addis Ababa on the theme of "Enhancing Partnership Shared Vision" – further advanced the dialogue between the two regions.

2. The Addis Ababa Declaration also acknowledge the four-year plan of Action adopted in March 2010.

3. Through the framework of cooperation 21 capacity building institutions have been established in various countries of Africa. (As we heard this morning India trade and investment has increased)

4. So at least there has been some movement since the 2008 Delhi Declaration.

5. The 2011 Addis Ababa Declaration adopted the Africa-India framework for enhanced cooperation to supplement the existing framework.

6. At the Addis meeting both regions also decided to institutionalize the Summit process. On this basis the next India-Africa Forum will be held in 2014 in India. So it's necessary to plan ahead.

1. India abstained together with – Germany, Brazil, China and Russia – The Indian representative o the UN noted that "the resolution that the council adopted authorizes far-reaching measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, with relatively little credible information on the situation on the ground in Libya."

2. India was cautious – because the resolution did not provide clarity about who would enforce it and how.

2. Traditionally, India has resisted in embracing interventionist foreign policy. The presence of the Indian Diaspora communities in key African countries needs to be utilized.

3. India has to commit to the management of global order.

1. In conclusion, India re-engagement with Africa is therefore overall welcome.

2. In order for the African Union to become an effective interlocutor with India.

3. Further strides have to be made in terms of Continental integration.

4. The AU cannot act as an effective partner – if at its core are states that are still driven and motivated by parochial self-interest.

Conclusion:-

1. A robust partnership between India and Africa is an important example of south-south cooperation.

2. The framework for cooperation is an innovative approach – the challenge now is now for both sides to implement the agreed provisions.

3. The ultimate objective undoubtedly is for both regions to become self-reliant and economically vibrant.