



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Report of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs on the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) Summit that took place at the Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng on 15-17 October 2007

Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs exercises oversight of the Department of Foreign Affairs in line with the constitutional mandate set out in section 55(2) of the Constitution. The Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted a resolution to send a multi-party parliamentary delegation to the second IBSA summit held in Gauteng on 15-17 October 2007.

Delegation

The delegation was as follows:

1. Ms Fatima Hajaig, ANC, Leader of the delegation
2. Mr Mawalal Ramgobin, ANC
3. Ms Dorothy Motubatse, ANC
4. Ms Sindiswa Rwexana, ANC
5. Mr Craig Morkel, ANC
6. General Bantubonke Holomisa, UDM
7. Mr S Blanche, DA
8. Ms B Cabangana, Committee Secretary
9. Ms N Mahlanyan, Committee Assistant

- 1.1 The 2nd IBSA Summit, which included side events such as an Academic Seminar, Business Seminar, Women's Forum, Parliamentary Forum, and a Civil Society Seminar took place from 14-17 October 2007 in South Africa. The IBSA Summit was a success in terms of the substantial issues that were discussed between the IBSA partners and other role players, as well as in terms of the overall outcomes of the event.
- 1.2 The main objectives of the IBSA Summit was to reflect on progress with implementation since the 1st IBSA Summit and to deepen South-South cooperation through:
 - (i) Concrete projects/programmes in key sectoral focus areas on a trilateral government-to-government level;
 - (ii) Further consolidating joint positions on global issues of importance to strengthen voice of the South on a political multilateral level; and



- (iii) The expansion of cooperation to a new level of engagement, i.e. people-to-people cooperation.

1.3 The Outcomes of the Summit and its side events were the following:

- 1.3.1 Signing of seven additional trilateral MOUs/ Agreements;
- 1.3.2 Conclusion of Tshwane IBSA Declaration on global/ multilateral issues;
- 1.3.3 Reports on commitments by the people-to-people for a, and
- 1.3.4 The creation of two additional Sectoral Working groups in the areas of Climate Change/Environment, and Human Settlement Development.

1.4 Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements were signed in the following cooperation areas:

- **Cooperation in the Field of Public Administration:**
Aims to collaborate at regional and global level for promoting good governance and to strengthen South-South Cooperation
- **Customs and Tax Administration:**
Aims to strengthen trilateral cooperation and to promote effective compliance and facilitation of action against violation of Customs and Tax Laws.
- **Cultural Cooperation:**
Endeavour to develop and promote cultural relations amongst the three countries as a means to contribute to the achievement of sustainable and economic development of the citizens of the three countries.
- **Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education:**
Aims to strengthen trilateral cooperation and to develop and explore new forms of linkages in the field of Education
- **Cooperation in Wind Energy:**
Intends to strengthen South-South Cooperation in strategic areas of the energy field
- **Cooperation in the Field of Health And Medicines:**
To develop and promote cooperation in the field of health and medical sciences
- **Cooperation in Social Development:**
To strengthen South-South Cooperation in the field of Social Development and to achieve primary developmental goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals

1.5 The 2nd Summit saw and welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the IBSA countries to include a people-to-people dimension represented by the Women's Forum, the Parliamentary Forum, the Journalist Programme and the Civil Society Seminar. These groups met along with the Academic Seminar and the Business Seminar in Sandton prior to the 2nd Summit:



1.5.1 Academic Seminar: (15-16 October)

The Academic Seminar focussed on the state of research that would feed into optimizing the impact of IBSA protocols and challenges facing the three nations. They reached consensus that new approaches to South-South collaborations need to be sought and to address and redefine the global flows of research and knowledge production. Six thematic areas were identified for joint collaboration:

- Social Transformation and Social Cohesion
- Global Governance and International Trade and Investment
- Engineering, Mathematical and Computer Sciences
- Biotechnology, Agriculture and Livestock
- Sustainable Development
- The Higher Education Sector

1.5.2 Business seminar(16 October 2007)

The IBSA Business community highlighted that the issue of connectivity between the IBSA countries, especially with regards to transport linkages, visa regimes and ICT, remains a stumbling block to taking full advantage of the business opportunities which exist between the three countries. They also highlighted that in order to achieve the eradication of poverty, closer cooperation is needed between the private sector, the public sector and civil society. Six priority areas were identified and discussed at the Business Seminar:

- Energy and Climate Change
- Mining
- ICT
- Health Care and Pharmaceuticals
- Infrastructure and Logistics
- Financial Services

1.5.3 IBSA Women's Forum (14-16 October 2007)

Representatives of Women from each of the IBSA countries took part in the IBSA Women's Forum to facilitate joint efforts and collaboration to positively transform women's lives in their countries. The Women's Forum announced that institutional mechanisms to be established prior to the 3rd IBSA Summit are:

- Signing of MOU
- Creation of a Working Group on Gender issues within the IBSA framework
- Establishment of a think tank
- A mechanism to integrate a gender perspective into all Working Groups, all MOUs and agreements.



1.5.4 Parliamentary Forum (16 October 2007)

Parliamentarians from each of the IBSA countries met to discuss the opportunities which this dimension of IBSA presents to parliaments. Specific areas of cooperation that were highlighted by the Parliamentary Forum are the following:

- The exchange of information regarding parliamentary processes and systems in order to learn from each other.
- An IBSA Parliamentary Forum could be used to collectively canvass for positions of common global interests and could even advance IBSA positions during their interactions with their Parliamentary counterparts in other countries.
- To solidify interactions between the three countries through further deepening people-to-people relations.
- Cooperation in the Legislative Dimensions of the IBSA countries is vital for the success of IBSA as a Tri-lateral Developmental Initiative.
- To monitor progress and facilitate the process of co-ordinating and developing synergies, as well as to report to each other.

1.5.5 Civil Society Seminar (12-15 October 2007)

Representatives of civil society, academia and public services of the IBSA countries met to explore contributions towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and halving poverty by 2015.

1.6. The main 2nd IBSA Summit event:

During the main event which took place on 17 October 2007 in Tshwane, the Heads of State received reports from Academia, the Women's Forum, Parliamentarians and Civil Society. The Heads of State/ Government also met with the IBSA Business Council where the Business Council Declaration was presented. Business representatives were afforded the opportunity to discuss matters pertaining to the facilitation of business between the IBSA partners.

During the government-to-government discussions, President Lula da Silva of Brazil raised issues around the World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations. The leaders agreed that this Round was critical for the developing world and that agriculture remains the key to the conclusion of the Round. They also agreed that developing countries should continue to strengthen their engagement and cooperation to ensure that the outcomes of the negotiations are fair and equitable.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India raised the issue of an Integrated IBSA Social Development Strategy. The leaders recognised that the IBSA countries share many similarities and challenges in the area of social development. They discussed the creation of an Integrated



IBSA Social Development Strategy that would be developed around a framework which includes the following points:

- The need for rapid economic growth
- Inclusivity
- Human Resource Dimension
- Equitable infrastructure
- Short term distress mitigation
- Grass roots institution building
- Environmentally friendly growth strategy
- Integration into knowledge economy

It was agreed that the Strategy would be finalized prior to the 3rd IBSA Summit.

In addition, two new Working Groups were established in the areas of Climate Change and Environment; and Human Settlement Development. The leaders also took note of the Coal-to-Liquid and Gas-to-Liquid (CTL/GTL) Seminar, as well as the seminar on Standards and Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment, which were held on the sidelines of the Summit.

2. Challenges

- 2.1 Lack of efficient cooperation in certain sectors, e.g. tourism, health, climate change, transport (aviation and maritime): Differences in approach by IBSA countries
- 2.2 Management of additional Working Groups: Deepening of cooperation within existing Working Groups to be prioritised before widening
- 2.3 To encourage effective participation within the parameters of IBSA by non-government actors on a people-to-people level
- 2.4 The way forward: Expansion of membership to strengthen the "Voice of the South" vs "Absorption/ co-option/ joining forces with G-8 (G-13/North)

3. Strategic issues

- 3.1 Consideration/ deliberation at HoS/G level on the advantages and disadvantages of the following options:
 - 3.1.1. Expansion of IBSA membership to strengthen the "Voice of the South"
 - 3.1.2 Absorption/ co-option/ joining forces with the G-8/ (G-13) North
- 3.2 The IBSA Forum was focussed on concrete deliverables which would affect the lives of the citizens of the respective countries at grass roots level. In light of this, much emphasis is placed on the work done and progress made by the Sectoral Working Groups. The Heads of State/Government thus instructed that all Working Groups should complete a cycle of meetings prior to the 3rd IBSA Summit;



- 3.3 IBSA is gaining momentum in the communities of the partner countries which was evident through the way in which different aspects of civil society, such as women, parliamentarians and civil society organisations were becoming deeply involved in the IBSA process. It needs to be ensured that the people-to-people Forums remain effectively engaged in the IBSA processes and to encourage them to execute all commitments and joint initiatives prior to the 3rd IBSA Summit in New Delhi in 2008.
- 3.4 The Heads of State /Government agreed that the IBSA Dialogue Forum needs to be used more effectively as a platform for the partner countries to further consolidate their positions on global issues to further strengthen the voice of the South and developing countries in international fora;
- 3.5 The role which IBSA is playing in international fora is becoming increasingly interesting to the international community, which is closely monitoring the activities in IBSA.
- 3.6 The governments of the IBSA countries are committed to the success of IBSA and wish to enhance cooperation between the three countries, which is evident when considering the proposals to consider/investigate the creation of an additional 6 Working Groups in the areas of Local Government, Water Affairs/Forestry, Correctional Services, Public Works, Home Affairs; and Labour.
- 3.7 To pursue creating a conducive environment for trilateral private sector MOUs/ Agreements, for example in between:
- Shipping corporations (Maritime)
 - ICT/ Micro-Chip Companies
 - Other Business-to-Business initiatives
- 3.8 The management of the IBSA Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund needs to be enhanced and the newly proposed projects need to be implemented:
- Asia: Timor-Leste & Laos (capacity building)
 - Africa: Burundi (HIV-Aids assistance) & Cape Verde (renovation of community centre)
 - Palestine: Capacity Building

4. Conclusion

The delegation was satisfied with the progression of the Summit and particularly thrilled that the Parliamentary forum was able to meet and propose way forward. The parliamentary forum hoped to meet again to determine time frames as well as modus operandi in an attempt to ensure full operation of the forum.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

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