

DIRCO in 2009: Continuity & Change?

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About IGD

- Founded in 1994-5 – Mandela and Kohl
- To analyze and advise on global dynamics to impact on new SA and towards new Africa
- Vision: a prosperous Africa in a progressive global order
- Mission: use policy analysis, strategic dialogue and knowledge products towards a better Africa in a better world
- Focal Areas: **1. Global Economy and Development**; **2. Africa and southern Africa**; and **3. SA's Foreign Policy**

Let's think creatively about meaning!

- Continuity and change – change ?
- Continuity of change – continuity?
- Strong domestic imperatives – insularity?
- Rejection of Mbeki ... foreign policy?
- Opportunity to seek changes – even very important ones:
 - Clearer enunciation of SA's purpose
 - Better alignment of values and interests
 - Clarity of role in Africa & on behalf of
 - Democratize/modernize foreign policy decision-making

What's in the name change?

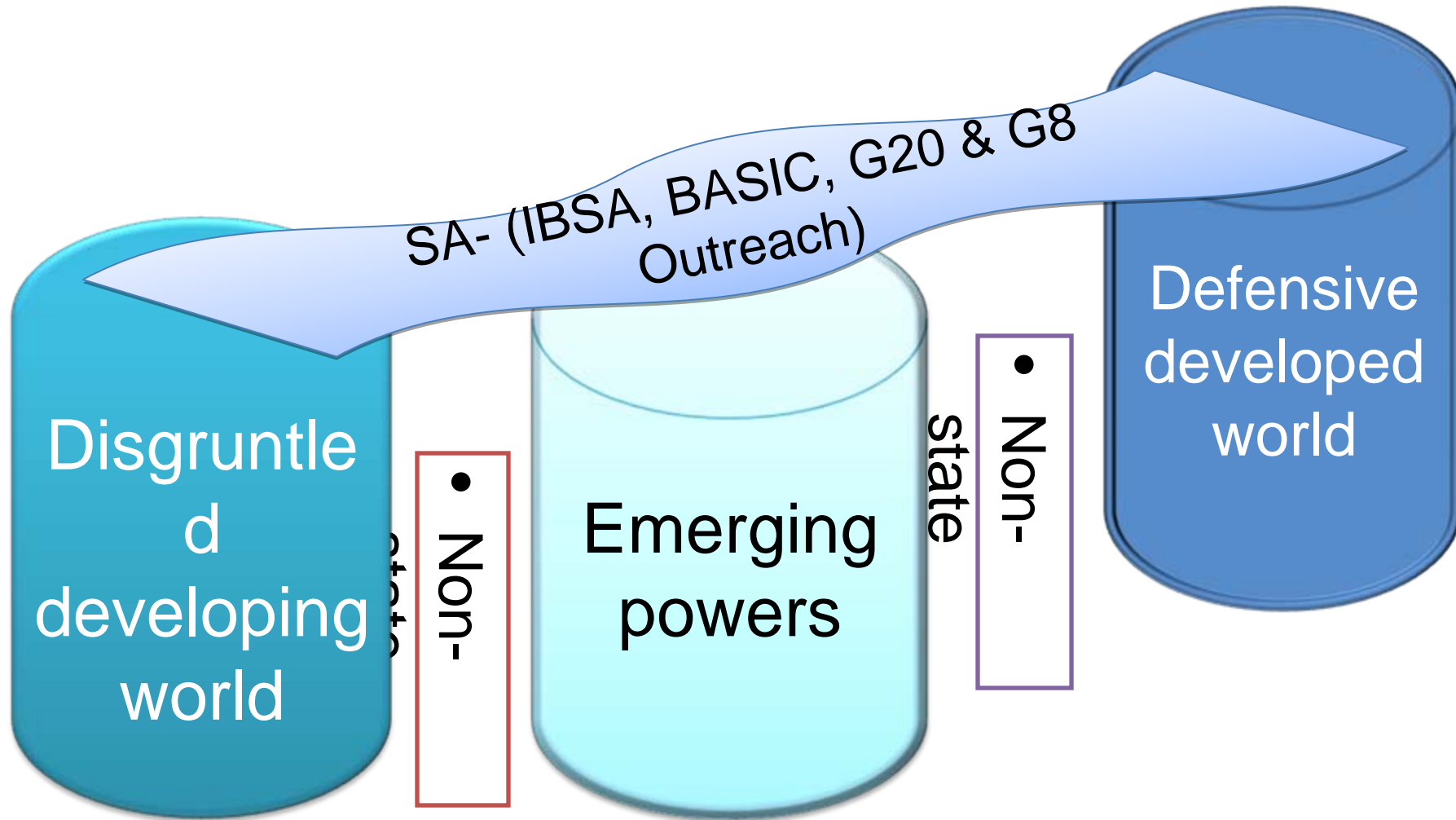
FOREIGN 'AFFAIRS'

- Short-termish interventions
- Enemies & friends
- Power games – seeking change aggressively
- Line btwn domestic & foreign
- Statecraft

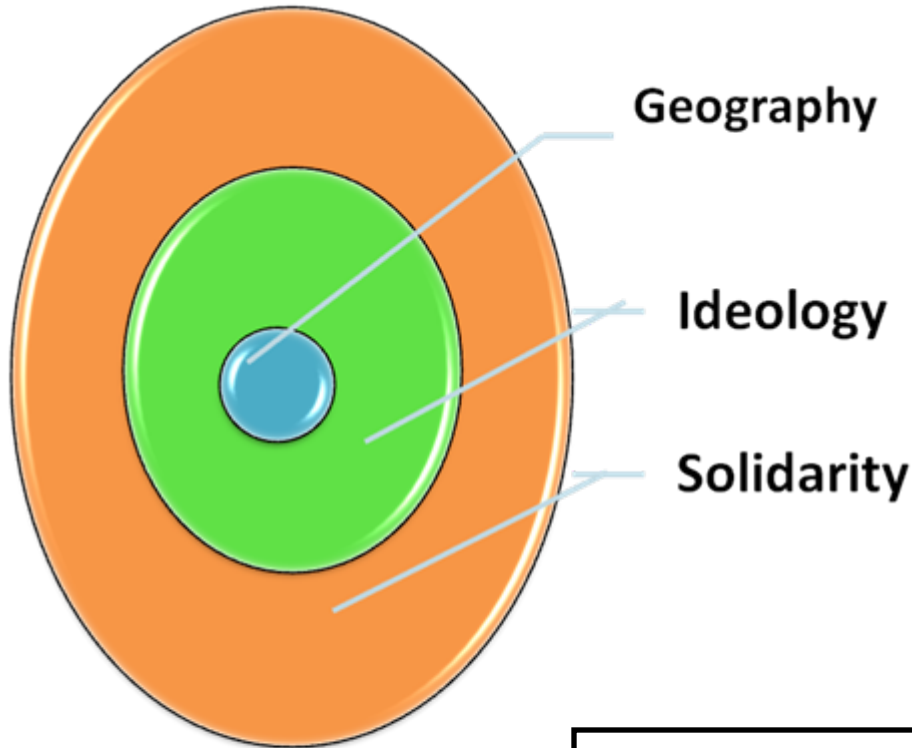
RELATIONS

- Long-term relationship
- Friendship & courtship
- Consensus & bridge-building
- Foreign extension of domestic
- Multi-stakeholder

Relations = bridge-building



Relations = strategic posture



**Which
way?**

- Values & principles
- Global public good

- Interests + values
- Collective good

Relations must be informed by clarity of strategy & purpose

- What is that little extra pursued above normal diplomatic interface?

- We know the philosophy & principles underlying our conduct, but not strategy

- What does that pattern of presidential state visits tell us?

- What do ministerial visits tell us?

- What do incoming visits tell us?

Annual report & strategic agenda

- Number of bilaterals
- Participation in multilaterals
- Diplomacy and tools
- Processes (decision-making)
- Policy outcomes
- Compliance &

- Great!!! But
- So what?
- Ultimate purpose?
- The desired diplomatic capital?

Meaning of action

Basis for choices

- 15 years of great success in active participation
 - To what ultimate end?
- Extensive diplomatic presence
 - What strategic value derived (by SA)?
- Great pursuit of peace diplomacy
 - For what strategic end?
- Stronger partnerships
 - Stronger means what? – size of trade, dialogue etc, - China/India/Brazil knows why, do we know?

Budget Vote suggests

- Concrete evidence of developmental dividends
 - A bold undertaking
- Foreign policy outcomes are usually strategic in the sense that they are about posture & position
- DIRCO responsible for strategic foreign policy interests - creating conditions
- Economic & social departments for taking advantage of these conditions to see to 'dividends.'
- DIRCO cannot live up to this promise ... it

Still continuity haunts us

- Annual report similar measures of success as 7-8 years ago
- Strategic partnerships, but in reality presence & participation focus continues
- Inadequate use of soft power tools persists: public, cultural and conference diplomacy
- Peripheral sub-national international relations

Still continuity haunts us

- Economic diplomacy, a younger cousin
- Occupying posts in international organizations ... how widely are we looking internally?
- Vacancy rate at DIRCO, what % is it now?
- Different approach to Zimbabwe?
- Positives like: clean audit, admin leadership continuity etc
- China & India know what they get out of IBSA, but do we?

Winds of change....

- White Paper on Foreign Policy?
- IR calabash in National Strategic Plan
- Debate on a Foreign Policy Council?
- SADPA being created
- Willingness to engage non-state actors
- Friendly new headquarters – tool of soft power?
- To define strategic partnership Anchor states/entities?
- Limited public engagement continues
 - At least, Turfloop & Rhodes; opinion makers

But will we....

- Discuss in depth, what is the country's strategy
- Not just measure participation, presence and prudence alone, but influence & impact
- Debate the domestic-foreign policy connection:
 - Perception that Zuma admin is not holding together
 - Perception that Zuma is challenged ... may not last
 - **How do you respond to this???**

Specifics

- Our responses to shifts taking place in the global south space:
 - What is happening to configuration? – IBSA - BASIC
 - Do we fully understand India, China and Brazil ... and their relational challenges?
 - Do we understand what Russia is doing?
 - What is our thinking within?
- G20 indicates shift in global power structure:
 - Do we understand opportunities & threats inherent?
 - What is our strategic intervention?
 - What are we doing to set the agenda rather than mere participation and response? ... who are we talking to about this



Specifics ...

- **UN Security Council** rebound:
 - Are doing any reflection of wins & losses last time?
 - Are we retooling for a more successful return? – capacity, capital, ‘country’ positions/agenda, balance?
- **UN Reform:** where do we stand? – part of static dynamism in Africa’s position? – should be part or lead? What does that mean?
- **Nuclear Question:** new ways and arguments for achieving non-proliferation? Lessons from 1995/6 and 2007-9?
- **Reform of IFIs:** what is plan A and B?
- Will we join the **OECD:** what’s the purpose?
- **EU and Africa:** response to EPAs, implementation ... not initiation
- **Africa’s Strategic Relationships:** new thinking on how to manage this better?

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Thank You!!!