



**South-South Trade and Investment Cooperation:
Exploring the IBSA Initiative**

National Consultation Meeting, South Africa

Thursday, 27th October 2005

**Venue: Business Unity South Africa Offices,
3rd Floor, South Block,
9 Fredman Drive
Sandton
Johannesburg**

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Please note: Space is limited, so please book your place early to avoid disappointment.

Background

On 10 March 2005 organised business from India (the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII], the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FICCI] and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India [ASSOCHAM]), Brazil (the National Confederation of Industries [CNI]) and South Africa (Business Unity South Africa [BUSA]) on behalf of business in their respective countries, established an IBSA Business Council.

The purpose of the IBSA Business Council is to play an active and facilitating role in promoting trade and co-operation between the business communities in the three countries. Inherent to this is a need for research to ensure that informed decisions are taken.

As part of efforts to enhance IBSA's South-South trade initiative, The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) has joined forces with the Brazilian Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE) and the Indian CUTS-Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CUTS-CITEE) in a year-long transcontinental research project aimed at encouraging policymakers, the business sector and civil society organisations to work together to translate IBSA's broad action plan into tangible results.

The project's principal objective is to identify barriers to trade and investment co-operation among the IBSA countries, and to recommend ways in which these can be reduced or eliminated. Some concerns that require attention are high transaction costs, import regulations, transportation links, customs procedures, and financing issues.

The research undertaken has included questionnaire-based field surveys in each country, briefing papers and sector studies. The papers, among other things, have examined the present trade and investment patterns, government policies and prospects and obstacles to IBSA. And they have also explored ways in which industries can be aligned in order to foster complementarities among business sectors.

This meeting will showcase research findings from all three countries, with a view to refining and finalizing the studies before publishing them in each country. BUSA and SAIIA invite you to make input into the studies, and to learn more about the IBSA process and its implications for your business.

South-South Trade and Investment Cooperation: Exploring the IBSA Initiative meeting, on Thursday, 27 October 2005 at the BUSA office, 3rd Floor, South Block, 9 Fredman Drive, Sandton

Programme

10:00 – 10:10 Welcoming Remarks
Mr Bheki Sibiyi (Chief Executive Officer, BUSA)

Session One Chairperson: HE Mr Satyabrata Pal, High Commissioner of India

10:10 – 10:30 Country Presentation: India
Mr Parashar Kulkarni, CUTS

10:30 – 10:50 Questions and Discussion

10:50 – 11:05 Coffee / Tea Break

Session Two Chairperson: Mr Iqbal Sharma, Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa

11:05 – 11:25 Country Presentation: South Africa
Dr Mills Soko, SAIIA

11:25 – 11:45 Questions and Discussion

Session Three Chairperson: Mr Lucio Pires de Amorim, Ambassador of Brazil

11:45 – 12:05 Country Presentation: Brazil
Mr Mario Marconini, ICONE

12:05 – 12:25 Questions and Discussion

12:25 – 12:55 Summary and Way Forward
Mr Peter Draper, SAIIA
Mr Bheki Sibiyi, BUSA

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