

Statement by Ambassador Asoke K Mukerji, Permanent Representative at the
IBSA Special Event titled “ IBSA Fund Experiences in South South
Cooperation: Innovations, Strengths and Joint Vision for the 2030 Agenda”
on September 08, 2015

Thank you for giving me the floor.

On behalf of my IBSA colleagues, I am delighted to welcome the Acting President of the General Assembly, Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland and Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under Secretary General and Chef de Cabinet for having joined us, along with President of the High Level Committee on South South Cooperation, Ambassador Momen. I extend a special welcome to our Guest of Honour, Administrator of UNDP, Madam Helen Clark.

The purpose of today’s event is to showcase how this very small initiative of the IBSA Fund has contributed to shaping the narrative of South-South cooperation, in a manner that probably best utilizes its partnership with the multilateral platform, and keeps us all collectively engaged in ensuring the success of South-South cooperation.

It was more than ten years ago in 2005, when this forum for India, Brazil and South Africa cooperation was operationalised, following the establishment of a Trust Fund in partnership with the UNDP. The Fund has one singular aim : to contribute to eradicating poverty and alleviating hunger.

What began with a \$ 3 million initial corpus, has today grown into a Fund with accumulated capital of more than \$ 30 million, **with 24 success stories implemented**, several others ongoing, and a fresh set, about to be rolled out this year. These are spread all across the spectrum of the entire developing world, as examples of best practices in our common fight against “the greatest global challenge”, which is poverty eradication.

The partnership of the three countries, India, Brazil and South Africa through this Fund is just a small facet of the wide array of economic, political, scientific and social arenas that constitute the much larger fabric of IBSA landscape.

It is our earnest hope that the IBSA Fund operations will accelerate the implementation of the aims and objectives of Agenda 2030, which will be adopted by our leaders later this month.

Two reasons account for the success of the Fund:

One, the Fund focuses on cooperation among developing countries, sharing our common developmental experience, and adapts its projects to the specific needs

of partner countries. We are not prescriptive in our approach, and this has been the reason for the enthusiastic expansion of the Fund's footprint.

Two, the projects are all demand driven, and implemented at a pace which enables partner countries to actually see the implementation of the projects. This allows for greater scope for the success of the projects.

The themes that the Fund has explored are exemplary in their objectives, issues of utmost critical importance to the developing world: promoting food security, addressing HIV/AIDS, extending access to safe drinking water, capacity building, construction of hospitals for children with special needs- all with the singular aim of contributing to the achievement of our shared developmental agenda.

Which is why we look to the UNDP, and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, to find ways and means to enhance the operational efficiency and strength of the implementing arm, to deliver in a timely, responsive and efficient manner such development projects, on a priority basis. Adequate resources for the UN Office for South-South Cooperation is therefore a priority requirement for the Fund.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to address the issue of what is being called "increased burden sharing" in some parts of the building. First, we in the Fund do not look at our cooperation with partner developing countries as a "burden". We do not attach strings to our cooperation, unlike the traditional approach of North-South cooperation.

Second, our national approach in India on such cooperation has stressed the concept of "sharing", ever since we began our bilateral technical and economic assistance programme ITEC in September 1964. It has been our experience that development of human resources is essential to sustain the functioning of such developmental cooperation, and we are glad to expand our national experience through the IBSA Fund into a multilateral framework.

Third, our developmental projects through the Fund are all backed up by our national experience of addressing the challenge posed by poverty in our own countries, and it is this that makes the Fund's activity relevant and supportive for our partner countries.

As would be evident, these three reasons also make it clear that while South-South cooperation is relevant, it cannot be a substitute for North-South cooperation, which is based on clear commitments from industrialized countries to the developing world.

The implementation of Agenda 2030 will bring this issue into clear focus, especially when we look at using the Technology Facilitation Mechanism agreed to by all member states for accelerating developmental processes. We look to the UNDP to advocate strongly with patent holders of relevant technologies in this context.

I am happy to announce the launch today of the IBSA Fund Publication, which will connect our work in the Fund to the vision of Agenda 2030. Later this month, IBSA Foreign Ministers will meet to review the progress made by the Fund, and we hope to double our individual commitments to \$2 million each annually from then onwards. This should act as a healthy incentive for our partners in the North to also rise to the occasion, and increase their funding of developmental activities in developing countries to eradicate poverty from the planet.

I thank you all for joining us today, and look forward to hearing experiences of our partners who have benefited from the IBSA success stories.

Thank You.