

India Brazil South Africa Women's Forum



“I have only one request.
I do not ask for money,
although I have need of it.
I do not ask for meat...
I have only one request,
and all I ask is that
you remove
the road block
from my path.”

The woman narrator in the poem, Song of Lavino, by the Ugandan writer, Okot p'Bitek, quoted by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the launch of the IBSA Women's Forum, Johannesburg, 14 October 2007





The mission of the India Brazil South Africa Women's Forum is to facilitate joint effort and collaboration by the three countries in the field of women's development in promoting strategies for gender equality and accelerated poverty eradication in order to transform women's lives.

The women attending the first IBSA Women's Forum re-affirmed their shared commitments to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing PFA) the Durban World Conference Against Racism and the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, and emphasized the importance of South-South Cooperation for Development. They urged the recognition of the full value of women's work, paid and unpaid, in all spheres of life in which women's contribution is currently invisible and not valued.

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Foreword

The IBSA Women's Forum was proposed in September 2007 as an addition to the current Business, Academic and Parliamentary Forums of the India Brazil South Africa trilateral partnership, as part of and building on the emergence and consolidation of IBSA initiatives and collaboration at regional and global level for promoting good governance and wishing to strengthen South – South cooperation.

The intention is to facilitate joint effort and collaboration by the three countries in the field of women's development in promoting strategies for gender equality and accelerated poverty eradication; partly through working closely towards synchronization of UN, NAM and G77 programmes, and influencing the selection of themes in different UN and NAM Forums on women's development.

The initiative re-affirms the Main Conclusions and Report of the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum Seminar on Economic Development and Social Equity of 3-4 August, which, amongst others, highlighted the intricate linkages between economic development and social equity, whilst advocating for coordinated responses to tackle poverty and address the needs of the most vulnerable and hunger-stricken in each of the respective countries.

The intention is to strengthen South – South cooperation amongst the three countries and promote trilateral cooperation in the field of social development in seeking to achieve key development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Women's Work and South-South Cooperation: Towards an Inclusive Macroeconomic Framework

Substantial research on gender has confirmed that the critical role of women's work, paid and unpaid, is critical to national wealth, social stability and the reproduction of a labour force through their performance in market and non-

market institutions: i.e., in production, household reproduction and community management. Despite regional and cultural differences among countries of the South, women everywhere are significant wage earners in the informal sectors. Apart from their household and reproductive roles, as community managers women's efforts include ensuring collective consumption of water and wood, forest maintenance, communal gardening, community nutrition programmes and public schools and health clinics. As they perform these multiple roles, women move across several institutions, supplying labour to, and brokering resources from, subsistence production for the market economy.

It is a major goal of the IBSA Women's Forum to make a meaningful and well-targeted intervention in the global macro-economic framework, based on clear stratifications, that will give centrality to the lived experiences and special talents of women, who make up more than 50% of the world's population.

The formulation of this transformative new paradigm should ensure inclusive and fair economic growth, the full development of human capacity and potential and provide redistributive justice to change both the face of the past and the future.





Introduction

The first meeting between women representatives from India, Brazil and South Africa was a Focal Point meeting held at Sun City, South Africa from 15 - 18 September 2007, where a document on the draft Terms of Reference was produced, a draft Concept paper was outlined and each country agreed on concept and position papers, arriving at a consensus on the process to be followed.

A second Pre-IBSA Summit Women's Forum Focal Group Consultative meeting was held in New Delhi, India on 5 October. Country Profiles and Programmatic Areas were presented and discussed. Countries proposed names for the Drafting Team to consolidate documentation and prepare a declaration. At the New Delhi Consultative Meeting, South Africa was represented by Ms Vuyo Mahlati from South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Prof Edith Vries (SAWID), Ms Deborah Balatseng from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Ms Ntombi Mbhele from the SAWID/KZN Crafters Association.

The objective of the Consultative meeting was to prepare a programme for the forthcoming IBSA Women's Forum Roundtable on 14 and 15 October 2007 in Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa, on the Margins of the 2nd IBSA Summit meeting between the Heads of State of India, Brazil and South Africa.

The Roundtable Plenary included representatives from India and Brazil and a broader community of South African women, from different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations (CBOs).

During the Roundtable the delegates had an opportunity to articulate their objectives, achievements, challenges and recommendations which were recorded in the draft Outcomes Document. They also selected a representative who would present the draft document.

The Outcomes' Document would be presented to the Heads of State and Government to launch the IBSA Womens Forum officially during the Second IBSA Summit in Pretoria.

The South African Drafting team included Ms Vuyo Mahlati, Prof Edith Vries, Ms Nomboniso Gasa (CGE), Ms Sisulu from the Presidency, Ms Ruby Marks and Ms Bafedile Ramathlape (DFA). The team held a preparatory meeting on 13 October 2007. The objective of the meeting was to provide a brief to team members who could not attend the Sun City and New Delhi meetings and map the way forward for the IBSA Women's Forum Roundtable.





October 2007

From October 15 -16 2007 the women of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) came together to facilitate joint efforts and collaboration through a Roundtable dialogue preceding the launch of the IBSA Women's Forum in Johannesburg.

The women were meeting in the context of the 2nd IBSA Summit, which resulted in the joint declaration that includes the Women's Forum launch by the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh, the President of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the then President of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki in Tshwane, South Africa, on 17 October 2007.

The IBSA Women's Forum was the brainchild of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi from India and Mrs. Zanele Mbeki from South Africa.

The actual composition of the Women's Forum is based on its original mandate, and these initial partners culminated in the founding partners mentioned in the IBSA Women's Forum Declaration, the Minister of Women and Child Development of India, the Minister of the Special Secretariat for Women Policies of Brazil, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Works of South Africa, IDT, SAWID, CGE, and other women's organisations and cooperatives.



Women's Forum

The Women's Forum called:

- for the formal launch of a Permanent IBSA Women's Forum.
- the full integration of gender perspectives into all spheres of cooperation in IBSA, including Trade Agreements and gender responsive budgets.

The Women's Forum announced that the Institutional Mechanisms to be established are:

- Signing of a MoU
- Creation of a Working Group on gender issues
- Establishment of a think tank
- Develop programmes and policies to end inequalities against women
- Ensure the availability of adequate resources for women empowerment programmes

The ideal composition of the Women's Forum Think Tank would be individuals rather than organisations, with a fluid structure determined by changing areas of focus and necessary expertise. The main work of the Think Tank would be to assist in engendering the other IBSA working groups, agreements, MOUs and other instruments.





IBSA WOMEN'S FORUM

OCTOBER 15, 2007
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

We, the women of IBSA, led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of India, the Minister of the Special Secretariat for Policies for Women of Brazil and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Works of South Africa, including South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), the Commission on Gender Equality, as well as representatives of women's organisations and cooperatives, came together in Johannesburg from October 15-16, 2007 to facilitate joint efforts and collaboration to transform women's lives in our countries.

We recognise the obstacles to women's rights and gender equality such as poverty, violence against women, HIV and AIDS and limitations on women's sexual and reproductive rights. Patriarchal culture, macro-economic policies, budgets and trade agreements further entrench these adverse conditions.

We re-affirm our shared commitments to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) the Durban World Conference Against Racism and the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development.

The IBSA Women's Roundtable places great importance on the South-South Cooperation for Development. For development to be sustainable, it has to recognise the full value of women's work, paid and unpaid, in all spheres of life in which women's contribution is currently invisible and not valued.

The IBSA Women's Roundtable calls for:

- The formal launch of a permanent IBSA Women's Forum inside IBSA which will offer a unique opportunity to IBSA governments and women in civil society to work together for the advancement of women in the three countries.
- An inclusive macro-economic framework which makes visible and values the importance and centrality of women's contribution to the development of our economies.
- The integration of gender perspective into trade agreements to ensure that they do not have an adverse impact on women's lives and promotes equality
- Gender responsive budgets.

We believe that the above will give effect to the commitments made by our States to end poverty and inequality.

Institutional Mechanisms to achieve our objectives should include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding in consultation with the Women's Forum.
- The establishment of a permanent Working Group on gender issues inside IBSA.
- The establishment of a think tank to engage with the paradigm of development and the identification of the engines of growth.

- A mechanism to integrate a gender perspective within all IBSA working groups, all MOUs and agreements.

This Roundtable commits to promoting trilateral cooperation which includes:

- Comparative research on mutual areas of concern and agreement;
- People to people contact by encouraging partnerships between governments and civil society;
- Sharing and learning from successful practices
- Collaborating at both policy and agreed programme levels
- Learning from experiences of microfinance of the three countries
- Promoting Skills Development and Capacity Building for women in both of the traditional and non-traditional sectors.
- Advocating for meaningful and multiple linkages between economic development, education and social equity
- Strategies for accelerated poverty eradication, reducing HIV and AIDS, ending violence against women and human trafficking.
- Protecting and promoting women's health and sexual and reproductive rights.

- Socio-economic empowerment and leadership of all women through the IBSA forum.

The Roundtable urges the IBSA governments to:

- Develop programmes and policies to end inequalities against women as an indispensable pre-condition to strengthen democratic societies.
- Integrate gender perspective in all national agendas, policies, legislation and programmes.
- Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for gender equality and women's empowerment programmes.
- Develop clear indicators to conduct impact analyses of policies and programmes and evaluate outcomes.

In conclusion

The Women's Roundtable strongly supports our governments' efforts to deepen South-South Cooperation, which promotes equitable and sustainable development within and among our countries.

May 2008



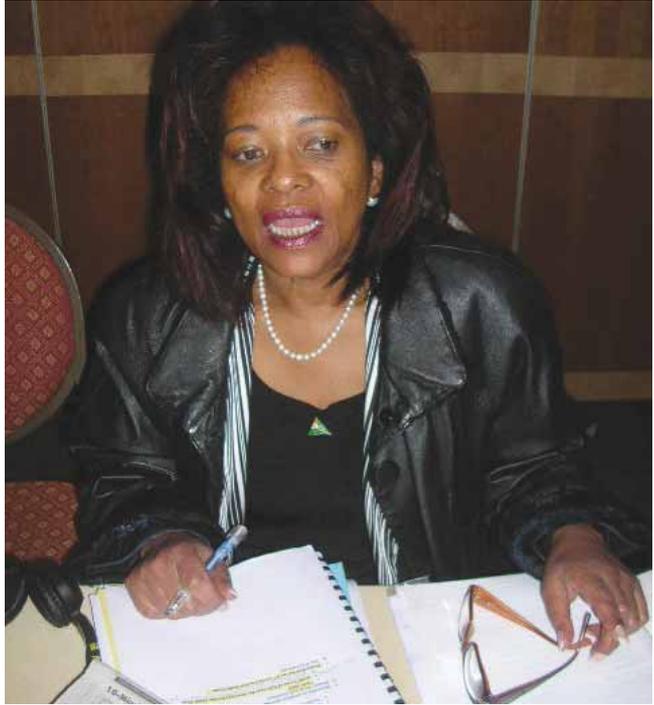
IBSA WOMEN'S FORUM MAY 9 2008

A meeting of delegates from India, Brazil and South Africa met in Somerset West, South Africa on May 9 and 10, 2008 as a Side Event of the 5th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, on 11 May 2008, to prepare for the 3rd IBSA Summit to be hosted by India in October 2008. The meeting focused attention on:

- The memorandum of Understanding to be signed in India
- Finalizing the Scope of Work of the Think Tank and Working Group
- The IBSA Women's Forum Roundtable Dialogue in India Program Design and Preparations
- A suggestion for a status quo report in terms of the status of women in the three countries.
- A suggested report that focuses on the women's movement in the three countries, to show what formations exist in each country
- A suggested audit of the engendering or lack thereof of the various IBSA working groups (MOUs, Agreements, Action Plans)
- Special projects in terms of priority areas: Look at linkages in terms of identified areas (micro-finance)

- To pilot a project as a first joint collaboration of the three countries: Support for project in Burundi which includes HIV/AIDS component and post-conflict reconciliation.
- A signing of collaboration of research institutes and women's organisations on this issue
- Facilitate additional existing collaborations between these countries
- A first layer of work for the gender focal points: To discover what the gender challenges are, what their departments are doing in terms of gender issues, and what instruments and mechanisms are necessary for gender mainstreaming.
- Creating a platform for women to share and create mechanisms for gender mainstreaming
- Making visible women's work: Need for research on the transformational and successful mechanisms that allow women themselves to reshape their lives.





July 2008

From July 21 to 22, 2008, around 25 participants from Brazil and South Africa gathered in Brasilia for a two-day workshop to discuss the issue of Macro Economics and Gender: a Feminist Approach in the context of the IBSA Women's Forum. Although the Indian delegation, who had been invited to attend, was not able to participate, they were represented by their embassy in Brazil. Minister Thoko Didiza, Minister of Public Works, led the South African delegation, which also counted with the presence of Ms. Zanele Mbeki, as patron and founder of South African Women in Dialogue. The Brazilian delegation was led by Minister Nilcea Freire of the Special Secretariat of Women's Policies.

Objectives of Workshop:

- For women of the three largest southern democracies, within the context of the IBSA Women's Forum, to exchange, disseminate and share information and experiences by exploring the effect of public and macro-economic policy on women's lives.
- To look at issues like public expenditure, wage earning work, and the unpaid work done by women, and to take into consideration the issues of equality, gender and race, in order to examine the ongoing fragility women suffer in local, regional, national and global context.
- To formulate an inclusive macro-economic framework that empowers women, develops human capacity and ensures a fair and just distribution of resources.

The following proposals came out of the two-day workshop:

1. Publication:

That the results of the meeting be made into a publication to be released in Delhi, and forwarded to our colleagues in India, so that they can make a written submission to be included in the publication.

2. An Inclusive Macro Economic Framework

That the IBSA Women's forum makes a meaningful and well-targeted intervention in the global macro-economic framework, based on clear stratifications, that will give centrality to the lived experiences and special talents of women, who make up more than 50% of the world's population, and using a new vocabulary to describe this new desired space women wish to create.

- The formulation of this radical new paradigm should ensure inclusive and fair economic growth, the full development of human capacity and potential and provide redistributive justice to change both the face of the past and the future.
- This new macro-economic framework should be geared towards global food sovereignty, ethical and sensitive use of alternative energy sources (the ethanol versus food production dilemma) and poverty eradication.
- Values should be brought into the economic framework, and we need to create an economic paradigm that looks at the totality of human experience.

3. Comparative Studies on Women's Time

To produce comparative studies on the use of women's time in terms of how much women contribute to the economy of their country through their investment in the reproduction of society.

4. Audit of existing feminist instruments, tools, strategies, networks and alliances

To research the impact of the current Macro Economic Framework on women, and to highlight existing instruments designed by women, like women's budgets, plus affirmative policies, and to create an audit of women's wealth, like networks, alliances and networks of community solidarity.

5. Mass mobilisation of women's networks

- To strengthen and support the mass mobilisation of women's networks

To create strategic alliances and allies, by hosting a citizens dialogue on macro-economic policies, thus mobilising the bottom of the pyramid in order to inverse the pyramid.



The Way Forward

IBSA Women's Forum Tools:

I. Institutional mechanisms to achieve IBSA Women's Forum Objectives

1. Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed in October 2008 between the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) of India; the Minister of the Special Secretariat for Women Policies of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office on the Status of Women (OSW) in the Presidency of South Africa.

In this MOU, the women of the India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum commit themselves to provide mutual technical cooperation in the field of women's development in specialized areas including, but not limited to

- (Women) Inclusive Macroeconomic policy and research
- Gender Budgeting
- Women and microfinance
- Co-operatives with women
- Skills development and Capacity Building
- Violence against women
- Civil Society Partnerships
- Co-operation at multilateral forums
- Co-operation in trilateral projects

The women of these three countries also commit themselves to:

- cooperate through the exchange of visits and sharing of information and experience through publications, workshops, seminars, conferences and video conferences; exchange of experts to deliver lectures, build capacity and undertake joint

comparative research,

- exchange of study tours;
- promotion of civil society co-operation within the three countries;
- mentorships and exchange programmes to facilitate skills transfer;
- secondments of officials from institutions of one Party to institutions of other Party;
- human resource development and training of officials, civil society representatives and academics of one Party by the other Party;
- co-operation between training institutes of the Parties;
- establishment of joint institutions, projects and other joint mechanisms, as the competent authorities may agree upon; and
- such other ways within the purview of this MOU as the competent authorities may agree upon.

The MOU further establishes a Working Group on women's development and Gender Equity responsible for the implementation of co-operation, consisting of representatives of each country, nominated by their respective competent authorities.

2. IBSA Women's Forum Working Group

After finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding and its formal adoption by the three Governments the Women' Forum will be transformed into a formal IBSA Working Group.

The objective of the Working Group will to identify forms of co-operation in order to enhance the progress and development of women in our societies.

The other sectoral IBSA Working Groups are as follows:

- Transport
- Alternative Energy Sources:
- Trade and Industry
- Agriculture
- Revenue Administration
- Education
- ICT Infrastructure
- Health
- Defence
- Science and Technology (S&T)
- Public Administration
- Tourism
- Arts and Culture
- Social Development
- Human Settlements
- Additional Working Groups
- Environment and Climate Change (agreement to establish)

3. Think Tank Terms of Reference

The IBSA Women's Forum Think Tank will provide support to the IBSA Women's Forum and will also provide technical support to the Government – Government Working Group to be established in line with the MOU.

The initiative forms part of and builds on the emergence and consolidation of IBSA initiatives and collaboration at regional and global level for promoting good governance and wishing to strengthen South –South cooperation.

The objectives of the think-tank would mainly focus on the provision of technical expertise for promoting trilateral cooperation around areas the Women's Forum commits to, including:

- Comparative research on mutual areas of concern and agreement;
- People to people contact by encouraging partnerships between governments and civil society;
- Sharing and learning from successful practices

- Collaborating at both policy and agreed programme levels
- Learning from experiences of microfinance of the three countries
- Promoting Skills Development and Capacity Building for women in both of the traditional and non-traditional sectors.
- Advocating for meaningful and multiple linkages between economic development, education and social equity
- Strategies for accelerated poverty eradication, reducing HIV and AIDS, ending violence against women and human trafficking.
- Protecting and promoting women's health and sexual and reproductive rights.
- Socio-economic and political empowerment and leadership of all women through the IBSA forum.

The Plan of Action of the Think Tank is derived from the aims, objectives and decisions of the Women's Forum. The aim is to make the Women's Forum dynamic and deepen its relevance to the overall IBSA initiative. The Women's Forum has agreed to meet once a year, coinciding with the Heads of State Summit, and shall come to an agreement on the Plan of Action for the following year.

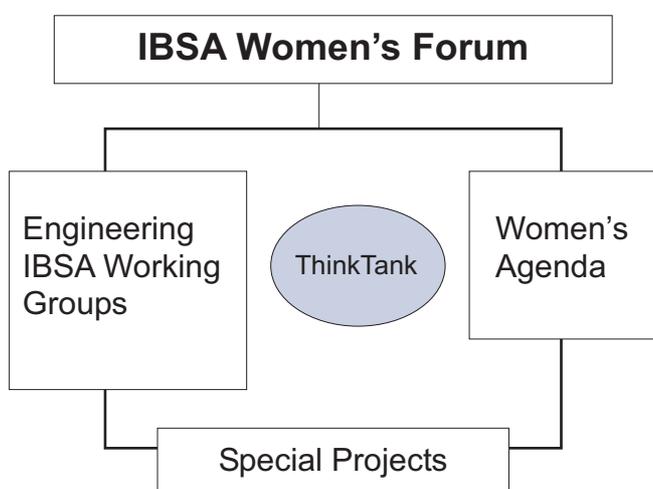
4. A mechanism to integrate a gender perspective within all Working Groups, all MoUs and agreements.

II. Structural Arrangements: Strategy and Programmes

It was pointed out that the inequality experienced by women was only the tip of an enormous iceberg, proving that the prevailing economic paradigm has clearly not worked for women. The real issues the Women's Forum has to address are:

- What explains the resilience of patriarchy? What sustains patriarchy?
- What is the alternative and uniting paradigm that we want to see?
- **Pilar One: Strengthening the Women's Agenda:**

This is where we need partnerships, beyond all IBSA themes, with all women's groups. What are the issues around which we can coalesce women's groups?



- **Pilar Two: Engendering the thematic work and working groups**
- **Pilar Three: Special Projects drawn from priority areas that have been identified.**

Proposed Plan of Action

The following action plan was agreed upon by participants of the Women's Forum in October 2007:

- The formal launch of a permanent IBSA Women's Forum inside IBSA which will offer a unique opportunity to IBSA governments and women in civil society to work together for the advancement of women in the three countries.
- An inclusive macro-economic framework which makes visible and values the importance and centrality of women's contribution to the development of our economies.
- The integration of gender perspective into trade agreements to ensure that they do not have an adverse impact on women's lives and promotes equality
- Gender responsive budgets.





IBSA WOMENS FORUM

“Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test: Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man/woman whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him.”

Mahatma Gandhi