



## ***BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation***

### **CONCEPT NOTE AND INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

The Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping of influential emerging economies is an important voice for emerging economies and developing countries globally.

While the European financial crisis continues and the United States' economic recovery remains fragile, the world is looking to the developing world, and particularly the BRICS markets, for growth.

The relative decline of the West's traditional political and economic power has coincided with the rising global stature of many emerging nations, and it is changing the way the world understands and relates to itself.

The BRICS grouping is the most concrete and rapidly evolving example of this phenomenon. In a short space of time, the agenda for cooperation and consultation between the BRICS Member States has expanded to encompass issues ranging from finance, agriculture, health, science and technology, academic exchange, business links, developmental matters and international terrorism.

It is evident that BRICS is already a global player. For this reason, the Member States have a shared interest in pushing for comprehensive reform of multilateral institutions for global governance, in order to make them more effective, legitimate, and responsive to the needs of the developing world and Africa. These institutions include the United Nations system, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Other matters of common interest comprise international trade, development, energy and climate change.

While the BRICS nations are occasionally competitors, they also offer each other ever-expanding opportunities. Russia is well-known as a commodities exporter; Brazil exports commodities and automobiles and aircraft; India exports services and textiles; China exports electronics, textiles and garments and imports massive amounts of commodities. South Africa, as the newest member of the group, is well-known for its vast mineral resources, exports automobiles and has an advanced financial and professional services sector.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.southafrica.info/global/brics/miller-matola-280312.htm> and <http://www.southafrica.info/pls/procs/iac>

There is also a direct interest in extending BRICS cooperation to support Africa's development agenda, particularly by increasing financial aid to build infrastructure and industrial capacity, and by increasing imports of value-added manufactured products from the continent enhanced by a single free trade area covering Southern, Eastern and Central Africa. It is estimated that by 2014 60% of Africa will be part of the free trade area which will enable easier and more efficient flows of goods, people and investments.

It is therefore worth considering how human resources can join to collaborate on education, research and skills development for building industrializing economies. Each BRICS Member State brings unique strengths in respect of its academy and its research.

Finally, with the BRICS grouping representing more than 40% of the world's population, it is also the responsibility of the Member States to consider positions in terms of international terrorism and maritime safety and the threats these issues pose to Member States and their respective regions.

The Academic Forum will consider themes emerging from these important matters.

## **2. Thematic Strands of the Academic Forum**

### **2.1 BRICS and the Global Economy**

- Analyzing the impact of the global economy on the economies of the newly industrializing nations.
- Building economies with the characteristic of inclusive growth and the strengthening of developmental states.
- The role of state-owned enterprises and companies in technology transfer, localisation/domestication of technologies and in social and economic development.
- Sustainable development as a motif.
- The BRICS global economic governance strategy in the G20.

### **2.2 Reform of Institutions of Global Governance**

- What would a new governance model and architecture for more equitable global trade and the regulation of financial and economic flows look like?
- Is there need for new institutions that focus on improving and strengthening the integration and industrialization of the BRICS and other economies?

### **2.3 Co-operation on Africa**

- Building a coherent approach to understanding the dependence of development and industrialization on infrastructure and the funding of infrastructure development.
- The nature and potential of development aid.
- Growing Africa's capacity in beneficiation and manufacturing.
- Developing relations between BRICS, the AU and regional economic communities.

## 2.4 Education, research and skills development for building industrializing economies

- Understanding the capacity for collaboration amongst the BRICS nations on high-level education enterprises – including science, technology and postgraduate education.
- Developing protocols for sharing the capacity for skills development.
- Education and the quality of life.
- Developing capacity for mobility of scholars and researchers.

## 2.5 Peace and Security

- Possibilities and mechanisms for cooperation to promote international peace and security.
- Is there a 'BRICS position' on reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council and other institutions of global governance?
- How can BRICS cooperate to strengthen conflict prevention and conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace missions?
- BRICS and the future of R2P (Responsibility to Protect)
- Harnessing aid, trade, education and development for peace-building

## 3. Research papers and publications

3.1 Each Member State should submit **5 (five) papers** – one per theme as described in this Concept Note. Any of the sub-themes may be used as the basis for the paper. The length of the papers should be between 3000 and 4000 words.

3.2 Papers may be co-authored by experts from the Member States.

3.3 All papers will be published in a BRICS Academic Forum publication (25 papers).

3.4 Each Member State will have an opportunity to present a plenary paper (20 minutes). In addition, each breakaway session paper (20 minutes) will be led by the expert of the Member State (the presenter may decide to co-present during these sessions), for example:

- On day 1, Monday 11 March 2013, a delegate from South Africa will present the first plenary paper on *BRICS and the Global Economy*;
- On the same day, South Africa will present a breakaway paper on *Peace and Security*, as well as on *Education, Research and Skills Development for Building Industrialising Economies*;
- On day 2, Tuesday 12 March 2013, delegates from South Africa will present breakaway papers on *Co-operation on Africa* and on *Reform of Institutions of Global Governance*.

**This means that each Member State will have an opportunity to present 5 (five) papers of equal length covering each of the main themes.**

3.5 In preparation for the Academic Forum, only abstracts are required, which will be published in a Forum booklet to introduce the topic and theme. The final submission date for abstracts and/or papers is **22 February 2013**.

3.6 Final drafts of papers will be required by **27 April 2013**, after which the papers will be published as BRICS Academic Forum proceedings.

3.7 Honorariums of US\$500 each will be paid for each paper. Honorariums will be transferred on receipt of the final drafts of papers.

3.8 The working language for the BRICS Academic Forum is English.

3.9 Member States are invited to bring previous relevant publications (papers/journals) for display at a display area at the Forum (at least 100 copies).

#### **4. Delegations**

4.1 BRICS Member States are requested to nominate **10 (ten) delegates** from their academic communities and research experts, appointing one of them as the Head of Delegation. South Africa, as the host country, will carry all costs in terms of these delegates.

4.2 BRICS Member States may identify a maximum of 10 (ten) additional non-official delegates. Member States are responsible for all costs in respect of these delegates.

#### **5. Accommodation and transfers**

South Africa, as the host, will provide for bed and breakfast accommodation for four nights (10, 11, 12 and 13 March). Other meals will be provided either at the conference venue, or as part of the hosting dinners. Extended stays are for the account of delegates. All local transfers will be provided by the hosts according to flight schedules of delegates. International travel is to be arranged by each delegation.

#### **6. Tourist opportunities**

Delegates are invited to enjoy Durban prior to departure on 14 March. A variety of options will be made available.

Official delegates of the Member States are invited to join Kwazulu Tourism for a day tour encompassing tourism activities and outreach programmes.

South Africa is looking forward to welcoming the BRIC Member States at the Durban University of Technology.