Institute for
African Studies

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION

**BETWEEN**

**THE INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES**

**OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

**MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

**AND**

**UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

**JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Preamble**

The Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia, hereinafter referred to as "**IAS**" and University of Johannesburg, hereinafter referred to as **"UJ"**;

**RECOGNIZING** the mutual interests in the fields of research, development and dissemination of knowledge on a long-term non-commercial basis; and

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of the two institutions' role in the promotion of international collaboration, equality and increased contribution to the development of society; and,

**CONSIDERING** the already existing formal and informal networks between the two institutions expressing the idea of partnership.

NOW, THEREFORE, **IAS** and **UJ**

HEREBY do agree to enter into this non-binding Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the two Institutions according to the terms and conditions set out in the articles following hereunder.

In this Memorandum, unless a contrary intention is expressed in the text, the words "The two institutions", "Collaborating Institutions", "both institutions' refer to **IAS** and **UJ**. The Memorandum means this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article 1**

**AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The cooperation will take the form of:

- promote research on Africa and the BRICS+ countries;
- exchange publications in BRICS and African studies;
- exchange information on dialogues, conferences and seminars between the two Institutions;
- promote joint teaching courses for students and PhD students on Russian and African foreign policy;
- discuss joint project grants applications;
- support the Journal of BRICS Studies and the Journal of the Institute for African Studies with submissions and guest editions, and peer reviews.

**Article 2**

**STATUS OF AGREEMENT**

2.1 The Parties confirm that this Agreement is non-binding and does not create legal rights or legally binding obligations for either Party.

2.2 It is acknowledged that the activities contemplated herein shall remain subject to further review and due diligence by the Parties and that prior to undertaking any activity contemplated hereunder, the Parties shall conclude a legally binding programme specific activity agreement setting out each Party's rights and responsibilities in regard to such activity (a "Programme Specific Activity Agreement").

2.3 In addition, it is intended that each Programme Specific Activity Agreement will inter alia include but not limited to:

2.3.1 the details of the activity and how it will be managed, delivered or implemented;
2.3.2 a budget and sources of finance for the activity;
2.3.3 each Party's rights in regard to intellectual property; and
2.3.4 any other provision that the Parties deem necessary to regulate the activity including governing laws, confidentiality and dispute resolution.

**Article 3**

**FIELDS OF COLLABORATION**

3.1 Collaboration between the two Institutions will be established in matters pertaining to African studies in the field of research, teaching programmes and documentation.

3.2 Depending on financial means and practical feasibility, the parties shall establish joint research and teaching programmes. For each programme, both cooperating Institutions shall set up a committee and appoint a Coordinator to be responsible for the implementation of the programme.

3.3 Where one collaborating institution does not have the capacity to cover a field of interest requested by the other, the requested institution shall facilitate such a request by identifying another institution in the relevant home country or region to the requesting party.

3.4 The mode of ownership of research materials and research findings shall be spelt out clearly at the commencement of a participation of each party and the prevalent regulations of the partner institutions.

**Article 4**

**EXCHANGE OF STAFF**

4.1 The purpose of normal exchange of staff shall be research.

4.2 Following receipt of written credentials and proposed activities, either party may submit a letter of invitation to the other party thereto outlining the proposed terms and conditions under which the visit is to take place.

4.3 Negotiations between the parties concerning such proposed visits shall include consideration of the methods and source of funding for the expenses of the visiting staff member or members.

4.4 The two parties agree to afford their respective researchers the same facilities as to their own, access to their libraries and other information sources and to their services (office space, programming and secretarial assistance).

4.5 The two institutions undertake to inform each other about conferences/ workshops, study groups they organize in the field of African studies.

**Article 5**

**FUNDING AND FINANCE**

5.1 Exchanges or visits under this Memorandum will, in principle, be organised reciprocally on an honorary basis.

5.2 Development of joint activities will be dependent on availability of funds.

5.3 Both institutions shall also endeavor to secure financial support for implementation of the Memorandum from national and international institutions.

5.4 Financial arrangements will have to be negotiated for each specific project or programme.

5.5. The institutions confirm that these Memorandum is non-binding and does not create legal rights or legally binding obligations for either institution.

**Article 6**

**MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

6.1 Negotiation, implementation, and reporting on the progress concerning the collaboration shall be coordinated by:

| | |
|---|---|
| Institute for African Studies RAS | University of Johannesburg |
| Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Member of the Presidium of RAS, Corresponding Member of RAS, Doctor of Economics, Professor | Director of the Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation; and co-director: Institute for Global African Affairs, Professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Johannesburg |
| **Irina Abramova** | **Siphamandla Zondi** |
| **E-mail address:** | **E-mail address:** |
| **dir@inafr.ru** | **siphamandlaz@uj.ac.za** |

6.2 Coordination of activities:
Issues about specific activities, including rights and obligations of each party, shall be notified or communicated to the offices mentioned in sub- article 5.1 above.

6.3 This Memorandum shall have duration of five years unless either party gives notice of termination not later than six months prior to the expiry of the existing Memorandum.

6.4 Any alteration of the Memorandum shall be agreed upon jointly by the two parties.

6.5 In the event of dispute, both parties shall resolve it amicably.

6.6 This Memorandum shall take effect upon ratification, by signature of the Director of **IAS** and the Director of **UJ.**

6.7 This Memorandum is done in two equally authentic copies, one for each of the signing parties.

Professor
Irina Abramova

Director
**Institute for African Studies**
**Russian Academy of Sciences**
**Moscow, Russian Federation**

**Date: 16 June 2026**
**Place: Moscow**
**Institute for African Studies**
**Russian Academy of Sciences**
**Spiridonovka str., 30/1, Moscow,**
**Presnya district, city center**
**(Central Administrative Okrug)**

Professor
Siphamandla Zondi

Director
**Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation; and co-director: Institute for Global African Affairs, Professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations of University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa**

**Date:**
**Place:**
**Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC). 5 Molesey Avenue, Auckland Park, 2092, Johannesburg**