

THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION:

SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA

2019-2021

Introduction:

1. South Africa and India enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared values and a commitment to democracy, economic transformation and a just and equitable world order.

2. Bilateral relations are anchored by a deep and shared history of friendship and solidarity forged during the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid.

3. The ideals and vision of the iconic leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela continue to influence both countries. Gandhi's stay in South Africa, from 1893 to 1914, not only had an impact on resistance to the Apartheid Regime, but was also the beginning of the evolution of his own philosophy of Satyagraha and Ahimsa which propelled India on the path towards independence. The year 2018 marked the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It also marked the 100th Birth Anniversary of Nelson Mandela. Joint celebrations are being undertaken to commemorate and reflect on the values of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, during the course of 2019.

Diplomatic Relations:

4. Full diplomatic relations were established on 22 November 1993. In 1997, President NR Mandela and Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, laid the foundation for the comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries with the signing of the Red Fort Declaration. This Partnership was re-affirmed in the Tshwane Declaration of October 2006 and further consolidated through the Official Visit to South Africa by Prime Minister Modi, in July 2016.

5. The year 2017 was the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Red Fort Declaration between South Africa and India. The Declaration envisaged a journey towards the goals of political freedom, economic development and social justice.

6. In commemoration of the signing of this Declaration, South Africa and India commit to a Three-Year Strategic Programme of Cooperation, aimed at further deepening the friendship between the two countries, while ensuring strategic coordination and joint efforts to enhance cooperation between the two countries and their people.

7. Both countries are committed to making the partnership more result-oriented and of greater direct benefit to the peoples of South Africa and India. To this end, the structured bilateral mechanism which exists between the two countries, namely the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) with its relevant Sub-Committees and Joint Working Groups (JWG), as well as the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) which is held at a senior officials' level and meets annually, will be utilised to achieve the following three-year strategic programme objectives.

Political and Defence Relations:

8. Both sides would work to strengthen friendship and mutual trust in an effort to contribute to the building of a world order characterized by justice, equality, peace and prosperity.

9. High-level visits and meetings between political leaders and senior officials will be pursued to deepen bilateral cooperation, and multilateral engagements will be optimised to strengthen coordination on important issues of mutual concern.

10. 10th session of India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission will be held in 2019 in New Delhi led by the Foreign Ministers of both countries.

11. The two countries commit to pursuing closer

cooperation and exploring synergy within the context of BRICS, IORA, NAM, IBSA and the G20 to promote and revitalise South-South cooperation as well as pursue the goal of reformed multilateralism and reform of international institutions, including UN Security Council.

12. Increased cooperation in various fields of Defence viz. training, courses, exercises, capacity building, defence production etc. will continue to be pursued through the established Joint Defence Committee (JDC), Sub Committee on Defence Policy and Military and Sub Committee on defence Acquisition, R&D and Production.

i) The 9th meeting of the JDC led by Defence Secretaries of both countries will be held in 2019 in South Africa.

ii) Defence Industrial Seminar may be convened prior to the 9th meeting of JDC in 2019.

iii) Both sides commit to expand the existing strategic partnership in the realm of Defence by rekindling/broadening the cooperation between the Defence Industries of two countries. Both sides commit to pursue following engagements:

a) Defence production.

b) Joint Collaboration.

c) Research and Development.

(iv) Both sides commit to the increased bilateral naval cooperation and closer collective maritime cooperation within the synergy of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) with the primary objective to keep the sea lanes secure against illegal actors by ensuring unhindered passage of trade and continued prosperity of the entire Indian Ocean Region.

(v) Under Joint Training and operational Exercise objectives, the South African National Defence Force will participate in the First Multinational India-Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX) in March 2019 at Pune, India.

Economic, Investment and Trade Relations:

13. Economic and trade relations will be based on the principles of partnership, complementarity and mutual benefit. While recognising the growth in bilateral trade, it is noted that considerable scope for growth in commercial and investment relations exists. Both sides commit to expanding cooperation in the fields of trade and investments between business entities in South Africa and India. Focus areas for cooperation inter alia include:

Infrastructure development

Mining

Deep mining and equipment

Information technology

Energy, including in the areas of Renewable energy, (as well as oil and gas)

Agro-processing

Pharmaceuticals

Tourism

Financial Services

Direct trade in rough diamonds

Start-ups

Fintech

Deep mining technology and equipment

Biotechnology

Healthcare

Water Management & Irrigation Technology

14. Both sides agree to leverage the mechanisms of the JMC, and the Joint Working Group on Trade Relations, to

promote sound and sustainable development of mutually beneficial bilateral economic cooperation. To this end, the sides commit to aim for expansion in bilateral trade by addressing obstacles and challenges to trade. They welcomed the holding of the first India-South Africa Business Summit in April 2018 in Johannesburg as a step in the right direction.

15. Both sides will seek to conclude the Preferential Trade Agreement between India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), and will encourage the exchange of trade missions and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions. The implementation of the ten-year business visas will be used to promote private sector contact and business transactions. Both sides also agree to cooperate in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which play an invaluable role in job creation and creating investment opportunities.

Oceans Economy:

16. Both South Africa and India are surrounded by vast oceans and will seek to strengthen and expand cooperation in the field of Oceans Economy with regard to, but not limited to the following:

- Ocean Observations
- Southern Ocean and ocean bio-geochemistry
- Ocean Modelling

Exploration of marine resources;

Marine biotechnology;

Satellite technological applications to support Ocean and Coastal Information System (OCIMS);

Marine Spatial Planning;

Scientific and technical training for resource mapping and its management;

Aquaculture;

Seaport development and shipping, including small harbour development; Identification of hydrocarbon bearing basin(s) and geo-scientific activities;

Green tourism; Coastal and Marine Tourism;

Research and development of technologies for harnessing ocean energy; Research and development into desalination of ocean water and support centres of excellence for research and development in the marine space; and

Maritime training and skills development.

17. They also agree to cooperate in Multilateral forums and in IORA, especially in Blue Economy which is one of the identified cross-cutting issues. They also agree to work under the six priority pillars identified under the IORA Working Group on Blue Economy:

1. Fisheries and Aquaculture
2. Renewable Ocean Energy
3. Seaports and Shipping
4. Seabed Exploration and Minerals
5. Marine Biotechnology, Research and Development
6. Tourism

Agriculture and Food Security:

18. Both sides will seek to strengthen personnel and technical exchanges and promote agricultural capacity building through exchanging delegations, hosting technology and management workshops and strengthening cooperation between research institutes, universities and colleges of the two countries.

19. Both sides express their willingness to strengthen fishery cooperation in areas such as aquaculture and aquatic product processing.

20. Both sides agree to strengthen cooperation in crop and animal production in order to promote food security of the two sides.

21. The Joint Working Group on Agriculture of the (JMC) will meet at regular intervals and will specifically look at the barriers to trade in agro-processed sectors (products like dairy products, meat, etc.) products with the aim of addressing blockages resulting from phytosanitary regulations and other issues guided by the work plan.

22. The export of seasonal fruit, when out of season for both countries, will be pursued.

Energy:

23. Given that South Africa and India are leaders in the field of renewable energy, both sides will pursue cooperation in the field of renewable energy, in order to diversify their energy mix, move away from carbon sources and reduce the cost of renewable energy.

24. Both sides will pursue greater collaboration in the areas of coal and gas resources and may pursue coal to gas technologies, as well as gas to liquid technologies.

Information Technology:

25. Both sides agree to pursue investment opportunities in broadband backbone network infrastructure and increase the uptake and usage of broadband services in South Africa and the African continent.

26. The MoU on Cooperation in the field of Information Communication Technology concluded in 2016, will be utilised to:

Bridge the digital divide; and

Provide capacity and skills building opportunities.

27. The Joint Working Group on ICT will meet regularly to assess the progress of the bilateral ICT Agenda.

Tourism:

28. Both sides recognise the potential for enhanced cooperation in the area of tourism and promotion of tourism activities. To this end both South Africa and India will work towards the finalization of the Implementation Plan on Tourism Cooperation. The following areas of cooperation are under consideration:

- Exchange information and experiences in the field of tourism;
- Exchange of Tourism promotional material;
- Encourage cooperation between travel agencies and the private sector in both countries; and
- Training and skills exchange in the field of tourism.
- Enhancing air connectivity between two countries.

Consular and immigration:

29. In order to promote economic and trade relations as well as tourism exchanges, the two countries agreed that an Agreement on Mutual Simplification of Visa Procedures will be expedited and concluded. In order to achieve the aim of increasing the flow of tourists, South Africa will work towards the introduction of e-visas for Indian nationals applying for tourist visas.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation to discourage illegal migration. In this regard, the two countries will cooperate in expediting identification, issuance of travel documents & repatriation of their nationals.

Arts, Culture and Sport:

30. Both sides express satisfaction at the close cultural and historical links as well as various activities being undertaken to enhance the cultural and sports ties between

the two countries and undertake to utilise the existing agreements such as the Programme of Cooperation on Arts and Culture and the MoU on Cooperation in Sports and Recreation to enhance even further the current level of engagement in these areas.

People to People Contact:

31. Both sides welcome the growing people to people contact. They agree to promote mutual understanding and deepen the friendship between the peoples of South Africa and India.

32. On the sidelines of his visit to South Africa in July 2018, the Prime Minister of India and the President of South Africa jointly released commemorative postage stamps honouring Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. On 7 June 2018, the External Affairs Minister of India and the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation participated in a unique event commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Pietermaritzburg "incident" strengthening thereby the people-to-people links between South Africa and India.

33. As part of the ongoing joint celebrations a Gandhi@150 Week will be organised by the High Commission of India in Pretoria with the support of the South African authorities in South Africa in March-April 2019. The Week will focus on Gandhi's experiments with truth in South Africa through a unique celebration involving both local artists as well as cultural troupes from India.

34. Under the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, as a humanitarian gesture, India may organize a camp to provide artificial limbs to handicapped persons in South Africa using the world renowned Jaipur Foot/Knee/Limb under "India for Humanity".

Human Resource Development and Education:

35. South Africa and India recognise the importance of

skills development, with particular reference to technical skills, for addressing skill shortages, job creation and will work towards the advancement of addressing scarce skills development through the investment of resources and exchange of best practices.

36. Both sides welcome the setting up of the "Gandhi-Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills" in South Africa with Indian assistance to address the shortage of skills among South Africans which is a national priority of the Government of South Africa. Following the signature of an MoU in July 2018 in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of South Africa, the Centre is expected to be in operation from May 2019.

37. Cooperation between institutions on Higher Learning will be encouraged. Both sides will encourage colleges, universities and research institutions to actively enhance cooperation through the following:

Student exchange programmes;

Joint programmes; and

Personnel training and sharing of experiences to further bilateral relations.

38. To this end, an Agreement on Higher Education & Mutual Recognition of Qualifications may be concluded between South Africa and India to further strengthen people-to-people exchanges and facilitate the exchange of youth and scholars for higher education and training in select sectors.

39. South Africa will endeavour to fully utilize scholarships and capacity-building training opportunities offered under ITEC and ICCR programmes, as well as India Africa Forum Summit-III (IAFS) framework.

40. Both sides welcomed the Indian proposal to provide tele-medicine and tele-education for all African countries under e-Vidya Bharati Arogya Bharati. South Africa expresses its readiness to join this initiative.

Science and Technology:

41. Relations in the field of Science and Technology were formalised through the signing of a Bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technology Cooperation in July 1995. The Bilateral Agreement is implemented through a Programme of Cooperation (PoC), which is renewed every three years.

42. Five PoCs have been signed thus far and both countries cooperate in joint R&D projects on specific research areas through calls for proposals and other mechanisms of cooperation such as flagship projects and joint workshops. Important successes have been achieved in areas such as health research and innovation, specifically with regard to infectious diseases, astronomy as well as indigenous knowledge systems. A special focus area of the partners promoting grassroots innovation for social benefit. Both sides agreed to strengthen the role of the Joint Working Group on Science and Technology and to deepen the overall collaboration and exchanges in the science and technology fields. Both sides will continue to promote flagships projects and exchange programmes to facilitate exchange of scientists and researchers. The two countries will also continue to collaborate in multilateral science, technology and innovation programmes, especially of the BRICS partnership.

43. Cooperation with regard to the global Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope, will be intensified, especially in areas such as the development of the hardware and software required for the telescope management. As a telescope host country South Africa greatly values India's expertise in the latter domain.

44. Joint Research fellowships under instruments such as the C.V. Raman Fellowship scheme will facilitate mutually beneficial interaction and research by scholars of the two countries and aim to bring the academic communities in the two countries closer.

Health:

45. Avenues of cooperation will also be pursued in the development of programmes to combat diseases and in the pharmaceutical sector. Greater understanding of Indian traditional medicines is envisaged. Tele-medicine collaboration under the e-Vidya Bharati Arogya Bharati (e-VBAB) will be pursued.

46. Both sides will seek to strengthen personnel and technical exchanges and promote joint research initiatives in areas of mutual interest particularly in academic development; Exchanging, disseminating and sharing information in the field of health and medicine, including updated medical achievements, exchanging health professionals, scientific collaboration including workshops and exchange visits of experts.

47. The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation in the areas of Community based HIV and AIDS, waterborne diseases, Research especially in cancer and cardiovascular diseases as well as information technology (including health information systems).

48. Both sides seek to revive the Joint Working Group for Health Sector Collaboration which last met in 2009, in South Africa, on the sidelines of the JMC. It is proposed that this working group meeting take place in India in 2019 in South Africa. The two countries are negotiating MOUs on UNANI Medicines and Traditional Medicine and Homeopathy, which are at an institution-to-institution level.

Regional Issues:

49. India is an important partner of the African Union (AU) in the consolidation of peace, stability and socio economic development on the African Continent. The 10 Guiding Principles of engagement with Africa outlined by PM in his

speech to Ugandan Parliament and the 7 aspirations set under the African Union's Agenda 2063 create significant opportunities for cooperation. India's Development Cooperation under the IAFS framework seeks to enhance cooperation between Africa and India and unlock the immense potential of our Partnership.

Multilateral Issues:

50. Both sides share common interests on international issues and are committed to upholding and promoting reformed multilateralism through cooperation and coordination in international affairs to advance common interests, as well as the interests of other developing countries in the promotion of peace and stability in the world at large.

51. Both South Africa and India affirm their commitment to safeguard the central role of the United Nations through strengthened cooperation on reform of global governance architecture such as the WTO, and securing India & Africa's representation in any expanded UN Security Council to achieve a more representative and equitable global governance system. Both sides reaffirm their commitment to increase the voice, vote and representation of emerging and developing economies, including those in Africa, in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions.

52. Both sides also agree to enhance relations in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and respect, deepen South-South solidarity and jointly address challenges to promote socio-economic development of countries of the global South, as well as the effective realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030. Both sides will cooperate in all relevant multilateral fora through the groupings of G20, BRICS, IBSA, BASIC, NAM and the Commonwealth, as well as the strengthening of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Both sides will strengthen coordination during South Africa's Chair of IORA from 2017-2019 and beyond to

ensure that IORA can realise its full potential.

53. With regard to BRICS, both sides recognise the significant role BRICS can play in improving global political and economic governance as well as enhancing the voice of emerging markets and developing countries in international affairs, including through the BRICS New Development Bank and its Africa Regional Centre in South Africa.

54. Both sides will remain committed to cooperation through the grouping of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) and will seek to use the forum to consolidate mutual cooperation, advance common interests and express common concerns of the global South and advocate for a more representative global architecture. In this context, they will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of IBSA through holding of several commemoration events in 2019, including holding the Gandhi-Mandela Freedom Lecture series.

55. Both countries agreed that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to international peace, security and stability and that no country is immune to the threat that terrorism represents.

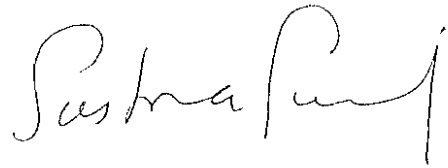
56. Both countries also reiterate their unwavering commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the enduring relevance of the Convention's Principles and Provisions, such as Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBD&RC) to tackle the serious challenge of Climate Change. Both countries are committed to implementing the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC and will continue to strengthen the voice and role of the developing countries with regard to climate change issues, including through the BASIC group.

57. Both sides also agree to cooperate closely in the area of climate resilient infrastructure and to take this initiative forward.

58. Both countries condemn unlawful destruction, looting & illegal trafficking of cultural property during armed conflicts as it undermines the security, stability, social, economic & cultural development of affected States.



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