The Rise of Brazil and the Relevance for Africa

A workshop organised by the
South African Institute of International Affairs
At Jan Smuts House, SAIIA, Johannesburg
Tuesday, 23 March 2010

PROGRAMME

10h00-10h15: Welcome and Introduction
Dr. Mzukisi Qobo, Programme Head, Emerging Powers, SAIIA

Session 1: Brazil’s International Engagement: Where does Africa fit in?

10h15-10h45: The Rise of Brazil and its Changing Foreign Policy
Dr. Matias Spektor, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)

Brazilian foreign policy has expanded dramatically on the back of the country’s growing material wealth and emergence as a global power. This has implications for both its regional context and the developing world in general. Brazil’s new status demands greater responsibility beyond its immediate region.

10h45-11h15: Brazilian Interests in Africa: Balancing Commercial Rivalries and Development Cooperation
Dr. Lyal White, Research Associate, SAIIA

Brazil is entering a new phase of foreign policy evolution, partaking in a delicate balancing act between national self-interest and the greater interest of its development partners of the South. Africa will feature prominently in this new era of Brazilian foreign policy, where Brazil will either build on its positive international image or become just another player in the scramble for Africa.

11h15-12h15: DISCUSSION

12h15-13h00: LUNCH
Session 2: The Internationalisation of Brazilian Business and their interests in Africa: A driver of foreign policy?

Chair: Dr. Lyal White, Research Associate, SAIIA

13h00-13h30: Understanding Government Support in the Internationalisation of Brazilian MNCs: The Push to Africa?
Ernani Torres, The National Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES)
The overnight emergence of Brazilian MNCs begs the question, “What was the role of the Brazilian government in the development and internationalisation of Brazilian MNCs?” Was the government’s role and support explicit in terms of incentives and the provision of credit? Did the much-criticised import substitution and protectionist policies play a role? Was there government support for R&D, and does this support continue in areas such as technology transfers today? What was the role of development agencies and development banks like BNDES?

13h30-14h00: The Rise of the Brazilian MNC and their Activities in Africa
H.E. Antonio J. Souza e Silva, Ambassador of Brazil, Mozambique
The emergence of Brazilian MNCs is nothing short of remarkable. Just 10 years ago few, if any, Brazilian MNCs with international acclaim even existed. Today they are technology leaders in a cross-section of industries in which they operate and are active across the developing world – notably Africa.

14h00-15h00: DISCUSSION

15h00-15h30: Concluding Remarks and Farewell