

- PROGRAMME -

‘BRICS and Africa: Navigating Global Economic Turbulence Together’

24 July 2018, Johannesburg

The 2018 BRICS Summit, to be hosted by South Africa in July, marks a milestone as it represents ten years since the grouping’s first summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. Forged in the aftermath of the 2007/2008 global financial crisis, the BRICS flagged two key cooperation priorities in the global economic governance terrain at the time of its inception: first, an immediate focus on restoring global financial and economic stability, and second, the need for global economic governance reform to ensure greater representation of emerging markets in key global governance institutions alongside a greater voice for developing countries.

While the fallout from the 2007/2008 global financial crisis was largely contained, a decade later emerging challenges give rise to new global turbulence. The past decade has witnessed increasing global inequality, rising global debt; rapid economic change driven by technology and rising protectionism. Many of these challenges threaten to unravel the rules-based multilateral international order.

This event will kick off with a facilitated high-level keynote panel on South Africa’s key finance track priorities for the BRICS Summit presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr Nhlanhla Nene, a presentation on the latest developments at the New Development Bank by the honourable Mr KV Kamath, the President of the NDB, and a presentation by Governor of the Reserve Bank of South Africa, the honourable Mr Lesetja Kganyago (to be confirmed), on South Africa’s key priorities related to the work of the IMF Policy Committee. The keynote panel will also reflect on the implications for African and developing countries of the changing global geo-economic context.

The second session will bring together different stakeholders from South Africa and Africa to take stock of the bloc’s achievements and challenges over its first decade, specifically focusing on the BRICS’s engagement in global economic governance forums. It will also address the question of whether the BRICS have a coherent engagement strategy with Africa and whether there is room for the BRICS to engage more closely with each other within the BRICS grouping on their bilateral African engagement strategies.

The conference will conclude with a panel discussion that will consider perspectives from different BRICS countries on how to navigate the current wave of global turbulence, looking at what is next for the BRICS in its second decade.

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24 July Johannesburg (Balalaika Hotel, Maude St, Sandton), 24 July 2018

09h00 – 09h30	Registration
09h30 – 09h45	<p>Welcoming</p> <p>Mr Moeletsi Mbeki, Deputy Chair, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)</p> <p>Dr Christoph Plate, Head of the Regional Media Programme SSA, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)</p> <p>Ms Nadira Bayat, Programme Director, Global Economic Governance Programme</p>
09h45 – 11h15	<p>Opening Session – BRICS 2018 and priorities for the future</p> <p>This session will explore South Africa’s 2018 BRICS priorities in the finance track, the latest developments at the New Development Bank, the role that South Africa is playing in supporting developing country concerns at the IMF following the appointment of the South African Reserve Bank Governor, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, as the first sub-Saharan African Chair of the IMF Policy Committee, and finally, how the AU Commission could engage the BRICS on the AU’s financial and development finance priorities. The high-level panel will also reflect in their remarks on emerging challenges in the global context, the implications for BRICS and African countries, and how best to navigate these challenges.</p> <p>High Level Panel:</p> <p>HE Mr N Nene, Minister of Finance, South African Treasury (7 min)</p> <p>HE Mr KV Kamath, President, New Development Bank (7 min)</p> <p>HE Mr L Kganyago, Governor, South African Reserve Bank (7 min) (tbc)</p> <p>HE Dr Songwe, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (7 min) (tbc)</p> <p>Discussion: 30 minutes</p> <p>Moderator: Ms S Mgabadel, Financial Journalist</p>
11h15-11h45	Tea Break

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11h45–13h15	<p>Panel Discussion: Taking stock of the BRICS’ economic and financial cooperation and implications for Africa’s development priorities: Achievements and looking forward</p> <p>Global economic governance reform and economic cooperation are two key pillars of BRICS cooperation. This panel discussion will take stock of the bloc’s achievements and the challenges that it has encountered over its first decade, specifically focusing on the World Bank and the IMF and its own efforts towards the creation of alternative institutions. It will also explore the various Africa-focused economic cooperation initiatives of individual BRICS members and discuss how intra-BRICS cooperation on economic and financial concerns could be better coordinated to respond to African priorities.</p> <p>Presenter: <i>‘BRICS, Africa and Global Economic Governance Reform and Cooperation: What has been achieved and the way forward’</i> (15 minutes) Mr Cyril Prinsloo, Researcher, SAIIA</p> <p>Respondents: Ms Mmakgoshi Lekhetho, Executive Director, African Development Bank (10 minutes) Prof Daniel Bradlow, SARChI Professor of International Development Law and African Economic Relations, University of Pretoria (10 minutes) Dr Chuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (10 minutes) Ms Anzette Were, Development Economist, Anzette Were Consulting (10 minutes)</p> <p>Discussion: 25 minutes</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Philani Mthembu, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue</p>
13h15-14h00	Lunch

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14h00–15h45	<p>Panel Discussion: Perspectives from the BRICS on the changing global order and the BRICS’ response: Quo vadis BRICS?</p> <p>This panel discussion focus on emerging challenges in the global economic order and how the BRICS and other developing countries can navigate these challenges. It will explore what is next for the grouping, is an expansion of the BRICS core group necessary and how can the BRICS build alliances to support a more equitable, rules-based multilateral order?</p> <p>Dr Karin Costa Vazquez, Director, Center for African, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Dr Georgy Toloraya, Director of the Asian Strategy Centre at the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences Dr Abhijnan Rej, Fellow: Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation Dr Shen Chen, Research Fellow, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Prof Alan Hirsch, Director: Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, University of Cape Town</p> <p>Dr Gregory Chin, Associate Professor, York University</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Neuma Grobbelaar, Director of Research, SAIIA</p>
15h45-16h00	<p>Rapporteur: Ms Luanda Mpungose, Programme Officer, SAIIA</p> <p>Closing remarks: Ms Neuma Grobbelaar, SAIIA</p>