

**Remarks by
Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative**

**Special Event
15-Year Anniversary Celebration**

**The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for
Poverty and Hunger Alleviation**

**Launch of the IBSA Fund Report for 2018
28 November 2018**

Chef de Cabinet H.E. Maria Ribeiro Viotti,

Excellencies,

A very warm welcome to you all and we thank you for joining us here.

2. Today is a special occasion for us as we mark 15 years of this initiative.
3. 15 years ago India, Brazil and South Africa came together to launch this unique initiative in the long tradition of south-south cooperation.
4. As three large democracies and developing economies from three different continents, our countries bring together many shared as also unique experiences, common development concerns and priorities. These are also shared widely with the larger group of developing countries.
5. IBSA, as this grouping came to be called, has been committed since its inception to promote development partnerships with fellow developing countries in a spirit of equality and solidarity.
6. The group launched this IBSA Fund in close association with the United Nations, at that time with the Special Unit of South-South Cooperation at the UNDP.
7. This decade has witnessed a significant and growing expansion of south-south cooperation. This is also reflected in that the special UNDP Unit has now transformed into a very active UN Office for South Cooperation.
8. This has indeed been a productive journey.

9. The Fund has had a cumulative contribution of US\$ 35 million; has partnered 19 developing countries and has implemented 26 projects. Significantly, two-thirds of the IBSA Funding has been allocated to assist LDC partners.
10. 37% of the IBSA Funding has been allocated for partners in Africa; 25% in Latin America and 21% in Asia and Pacific. 15% of the IBSA Fund has so far been allocated for projects in Palestine.
11. While the Fund started at a time when the world was focusing on MDGs, today the projects under the Fund are aligned to meet the priorities of our partners in achieving various SDGs.
12. Nearly 85% of the funding has been allocated for projects in four major fields - agriculture, employment, health and water. These are all very essential aspects towards achieving poverty alleviation, which remains the focus of this Fund.
13. The success of the Fund derives from the emphasis on the basic principles that underlie south-south cooperation.
14. These flow from the projects proposals originating from partner countries themselves based on their own needs and priorities; and the non-prescriptive nature of the funding that does not come with any strings attached. The projects are not driven by any commercial interests and are implemented by a competent UN agency or relevant national authorities or any entity of choice of the partner country in the field.
15. The unique nature of the governance of the Fund where three developing countries and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation collectively take decisions and review implementation is a unique model of peer review, transparency and accountability executing projects based on due diligence.
16. The UN Resident Coordinator system is closely involved in the implementation of this Fund. The projects identified are worked upon by the UNRC with a certain flexibility by identifying appropriate agencies, which is now being understood as being vital for an effective implementation.
17. The annual Report of the Fund that has been released a short while ago is a testimony to the transparency and collaborative spirit of our endeavours.
18. As we prepare for the upcoming BAPA+40 Conference, we believe the IBSA Fund remains an important and unique initiative where developing countries have joined hands to partner fellow developing countries to assist them in modest ways according to their own priorities.

19. The value of this Fund is that it demonstrates a common desire to achieve 2030 Agenda and the spirit of partnership that is now embedded in SDG17 but is not always visible in today's challenging times. The Fund shows that there can be various innovative solutions to overcome our common problems by helping each other.

20. May I again thank you all for joining us today and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues from the Fund as also all of you on how we can make this work better.

Thank You.