



POST-CIVIL BRICS WORKSHOP: SOUTH AFRICA MEETING

BRICS and Agenda 2063: Towards a prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development



*Oxfam Offices and Sunnyside Park Hotel Johannesburg, South Africa
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Introduction

On the 18th and 19th of October 2018, the Southern African Liaison Office (SALO) in partnership with FES, Oxfam and the Civil BRICS Steering Committee hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop on BRICS and Agenda 2063: Towards a Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. The workshop aimed at promoting and defining civil society engagement with BRICS countries and South African civil society partners. Many areas of BRICS - civil society engagement were explored, including a critical discussion on the successes and challenges regarding civil society's engagement with BRICS. The

workshop sought to evaluate the relationship in real terms, by asking how much of an impact the civil society policy recommendations to BRICS have made during South Africa's hosting of the 10th BRICS. Some of the key discussions centred around the New Development Bank (NDB), gender and inequality, peace and security, elections in Brazil, inclusive economic development, climate change, civil society engagement and public consultation.

Discussion and key issues raised

On day 1 of the Post-Civil BRICS session, we engaged in an overview of the Johannesburg Declaration in relation to the policy recommendations of the Civil BRICS Forum. The aim of this session was to track the progress of these recommendations and consider a way forward. It was noted that as Civil BRICS, we must understand the impact of our policy recommendations on the member countries as well as looking at how they can be improved in the future

Inclusive Economic Development

While BRICS is not an institution nor a charity, member countries must push for or continue inclusive economic development practices and promote cooperation on social justice issues. The large multi-lateral institutions (WTO, EU etc) are currently under threat by rising nationalist populism as well as internal struggles to connect with the people. Therefore, civil society must be stronger than ever in promoting inclusive economic development.

Looking at other BRICS countries, there is significant emphasis on state-led development in China, and to a lesser extent Russia. Both are far ahead in terms of equity indicators such as Gender and Health. Access to public health in both China and Russia far exceeds that of other BRICS countries. Access to education is also superior in terms of social development indicators in the larger economy BRICS countries. Brazil and South Africa both suffer in the area of education in terms of gini-coefficient, yet Brazil does have a comparably stronger developmental state. The grant system in Brazil for low-income or poor families is linked to incentives that promote training and skills development. Conversely, South Africa's social grants are dispersed to 18 million citizens without any incentives for further development, thus strengthening dependency and negatively impacting the fiscus. Brazil's strong, inclusive social security programme can inform South Africa's version where there are issues of dependency. South Africa could benefit from the lessons learned and policy successes of Brazil and other BRICS nations, in terms of industrial and socio-economic policies.

Other key points raised:

- The fourth industrial revolution is the final point of the inclusive development discussion and it points to the challenges we may face on the continent. There is concern that this revolution can threaten jobs where technology replaces employees. It was raised that South Africans are already seeing MTN and Vodacom adopting phone software that renders call centre staff redundant. It was agreed that more solidarity is needed with the labour market
- The principle of fiscal justice coincides with a progressive tax system and fiscal responsibility.

Peace and Security

In the context of BRICS, peace and security is an important yet difficult issue. The strict definition of sovereignty puts restraint on capacity for BRICS countries to respond to conflicts, domestically and internationally. Sovereign equality or “uncompromised sovereignty” is emphasised strongly in BRICS declarations, thus non-interference in domestic affairs is an important rule, especially for China and Russia. This rule also points to non-coercive means in conflict mediation and recognises the importance of the United Nations. When BRICS makes references to conflict issues, it is external to them- domestic security issues are not spoken of, which can be problematic.

BRICS countries vary greatly in terms of military capacity and their role in international politics. Military prowess of BRICS countries can be separated in terms of the three nuclear powers, and SA as the non-nuclear power. The three nuclear powers China, Russia and India - which all share borders - each have their respective security challenges. In South Africa, security issues do not rank as high as they did previously, due to a greater focus on economic development. International solidarity can be focused on the “security issues” of eastern BRICS countries where certain ethnic, religious and cultural groups are violently suppressed.

Women have an important place in peace and security. There is a growing recognition that men and women are affected differently by conflict, although both genders play an important role in peace processes and conflict prevention. Raising the importance of UNSCR 1325, SDG 16 and Agenda 2063 is vital, particularly within the peace-keeping framework. An example of China playing a role in the peace agenda can be seen in South Sudan where they are part of the conflict mediation process, as neutral facilitators. While not being part of negotiations, they provide logistical support. A concern here is that China is seen to be merely protecting its own interests in South Sudan’s oil sector, noting that it has been argued that revenue from oil exports funds the civil war, adversely impacting the country.

Other key points raised:

- There is no founding treaty of BRICS, as it is not technically an organisation. However, nothing can be agreed without BRICS countries consenting.
- South Africa has recommended the establishment of a working group on peacekeeping; the first meeting of this proposed group is yet to take place. It shows how BRICS countries have adopted different positions around peacekeeping issues - China has committed up to \$700 million towards the UN peacekeeping budget and actively operates in UNSC. Russia doesn’t provide any troops.

Gender and Inequality

A key issue raised in the gender discussion is the problem of gender-based violence (GBV). Currently, there are no national strategic plans (NSP) to combat GBV in any of the BRICS countries. This was the common issue found amongst BRICS countries, that rape awareness and prevention NGOs in South Africa chose to engage on. One of the key Civil BRICS recommendations was for BRICS countries to implement the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and expand the definition of gender to include LGBTQI+ people. There is difficulty in raising the issue of ‘gender’ in other BRICS countries that do not recognise this term; but there has been extensive engagement with the BRICS countries, within the South African context, to shift away from the ‘BRICS Women’s forum’ so as to be

more inclusive of all genders. In South Africa, civil society has had success in lobbying the Department of Women to transition from the 'BRICS Women's forum' towards the more inclusive 'BRICS Women and Gender forum'. While a concept note has been produced by the department on this issue, it has not yet been shared with stakeholders and the broader public.

Other key points raised:

- The importance of the BRICS women's business alliance. Noting that there are female mining moguls, as well as influential women in the media and tourism sectors across the BRICS countries.
- Need for peer review on gender issues within the BRICS context
- There has been proactive and engaged advocacy on issues of women's economic emancipation, GBV and fiscal policy issues that affect women
- Success in engaging with the NDB, which has requested for civil society to assist with the creation of a possible gender desk, as well as the formulation of financial policy

New Development Bank

The policy recommendations from BRICS civil society have been generated through advocacy and policy engagement with BRICS policymakers, including the board of directors of the NDB in Shanghai. Issues of transparency, accountability, information disclosure, gender, importance of civil society engagement, public consultation are included in recommendations to the NDB. The mandate in the NDB working group focused on not only recommending infrastructure development, but sustainable development as well.

There are twenty-six NDB financed projects in the BRICS countries, three of which are in South Africa:

1. Transnet loan to Durban port - \$200 million to Durban to rehabilitate container terminals
2. \$180m to Eskom - to build a transmission line and substation in Soweto area, and to support renewable energy projects with independent power producers
3. Support to Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) - \$300m line of credit for renewable energy projects to assist in reducing greenhouse gases in South Africa

The civil society policy recommendations highlight the importance of improving environmental and social frameworks, yet there is still no information on criteria for sustainability or project selection, supervision and implementation within the NDB framework. We also do not know what happens if a country is unable to pay back the interest loan to the NDB which is problematic based on historic precedent, particularly within an African context. South Africa has concerns related to these projects, especially where there is relatively no transparency or public consultation. The NDB does have an information disclosure policy function – eight submissions have been made by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) but there have been no responses to date.

Other key points raised:

- Special funds section in NDB - recommendations can be put forward by CSOs relating to how these special funds can address issues in communities, rural areas, support SMEs
- Importance of implementing gender oriented policies within NDB
- Local CSOs need to understand how they can benefit from NDB projects

- CSOs have been attempting to build a rapport with the NDB - with all the projects going on, there have been no consultations with civil society or the public. Need to ensure community voices are heard, particularly women
- Borrowers set the policies when borrowing the money - if a project is in South Africa, a lot of power lies with SA - very different to the structural adjustment programmes and Bretton woods policies of the West
- NDB is a top down process - there is not much information available about their processes
- Focus is on sustainable infrastructure development as seen in their strategy

Land, Mining, Agriculture and Climate Change

The issue of climate change is a growing issue in the BRICS bloc. Citizens and climate activists of China and India have stated that they can no longer tolerate the polluted air in their cities which is causing serious health risks to their populations. While BRICS countries are still dependent on fossil fuels like coal, we see domestic drives to push for renewable energies and low carbon energy sources. Therefore there is a rising awareness that BRICS countries must become less dependent on fossil fuels, hence the tangible investments in renewable energy technology, particularly in China. An unfortunate issue in South Africa is the fact that 90-95% of power is fuelled by coal and there is a growing realisation that this is not sustainable. South Africa and other BRICS countries, excluding China, recognise the difficulty in financing - public funds alone cannot address the infrastructural financing deficit. However, there are areas to be exploited by the private sector: in terms of renewable energy, there is strong interest from the private sector as they see it as a profitable sector.

Other key points raised:

- BRICS research centre – hosted by Russians – focus on energy research as it relates to BRICS
- Green bonds being raised for environmental and developmental sustainability is a positive outcome and an exploitable opportunity
- Issue of land needs to be solved in South Africa as it can have “knock-on” effects on the other industries
- Within mining companies, we see issues where there is little or no monitoring, evaluation or compliance checks

Youth

The importance of promoting youth issues across all industries and social structures is critical and requires public and private interventions. The youth population is growing considerably therefore young people must be included in decision making processes that have a bearing on future outcomes. In South Africa, the problem of youth unemployment is worsening and thereby raising the danger of societal exclusion. BRICS must invest more in youth sustainable development as well as sustainable employment. We see technology companies like IBM creating online educational platforms that provide ICT training for youth – these same platforms also promote innovation and access to greater opportunities. Programmes like this should highlight the importance of public-private partnerships in terms of youth outreach.

Other key points raised:

- Promote inclusion of young women in BRICS institutions like the NDB to promote gender equality as well as youth

- Support BRICS youth assembly and secretariat
- Mainstreaming of youth development programmes in all sectors – also ensure they actively participate in CSOs
- Targeting mental health issues in the context of GBV that effects youth

Recommendations

On day 2 of of the Post-Civil BRICS session, the dialogue focused on recommendations relating to future engagement with BRICS and how they can contribute towards a sustainable future.

Objective approaches in thematic areas

Within each thematic area: Land, NDB, Gender, Youth etc. BRICS CSOs need to be precise in terms of what their objectives are in relation to the aforementioned thematic areas.

SA Civil society needs to understand what to do with its policy recommendations. It must incorporate precise and clear goals into its objective(s) framework to ensure that civil society colleagues in other BRICS countries have a good understanding of key issues and interests. It is also important to specify and observe how BRICS are working in South Africa as well as the continent. Civil society engagement and monitoring needs to document both the positive and negative impacts of BRICS projects, and ensure that these are fed into our recommendations and objectives. An evidence-based approach will help BRICS civil society inform precise objectives and strategies thereby creating a more convincing argument for BRICS countries.

BRICS civil society must improve on operational capacity, communication and use the digital tools available to keep them connected

Improving operations of BRICS civil society will be an important step in streamlining activities and making BRICS related CSOs more effective. Technological and information capacity building will allow BRICS partners to connect with operations around the world. The availability of secure cloud technology can provide a platform that promotes effective reporting, information sharing, metadata on civil society partners, and other useful information. In South Africa, civil society groups should implement an information sharing mechanism, so partners can inform one another on BRICS activities. Not only will it allow partners to understand what the priority and policy areas are, it will also allow working groups to identify key people in geographical locations with relevant expertise and knowledge. As well as domestic digital networks, a global digital network of BRICS civil society partners who share information and encourage a unified approach with regards to BRICS issues is recommended.

In order to communicate effectively with communities and grassroot organisations, CSOs need to ensure that their recommendations are easily accessible to the relevant communities in their respective languages. Civil society must ensure the following:

- Create (accessible) info-graphs and comprehensive reports to disseminate key issues which will be provided to all levels of society. The report will detail BRICS CSO's work, objectives and recommendations

- Ensure translations of policy recommendations be delivered before the end of South Africa's chairmanship

Continue to promote effective climate change policies and initiatives

The issue of climate change is perhaps the most critical issue of this century. With the USA pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement and Brazil's President-elect Jair Bolsonaro appointing a climate change denier as his foreign minister, South Africa must continue to engage around climate issues with their BRICS partners and on the global stage through inclusive policy making, analysis and decision-making. The following were raised as key points:

- Promote sustainable and renewable energy technologies through public-private partnerships
- Engage in public-private partnerships on environmental policies,
- Strengthen environmental protections and policies, domestically and internationally
- Ensure transparent and participatory processes at all levels

South Africa and developing countries depend on fossil fuel power, which is critical for their economic growth. New innovative policies are needed to divest away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable renewable energy technologies. The NDB is investing in renewable technology infrastructure in South Africa through the DBSA which has the following outcomes: reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, increase in generation capacity through renewable energy sources, improving South African energy efficiency, unlocking private sector investment. While these are positive outcomes, civil society and the South African government must ensure that there are no adverse environmental consequences for communities as renewable infrastructure projects are implemented.

South Africa can take advantage of renewable technologies by connecting to supply-chains around the globe and ensure that they not only export components for renewable energy infrastructure, but also import essential technical products to foster (renewable energy) infrastructure growth in-country. South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 must look to incorporate the following:

- Connecting supply-chains to buttress renewable energy industries as mentioned above
- Inclusive discussion on how technology advancements pertaining to renewable energies bring new challenges in terms of potential job losses in the fossil fuels industries
- Environmental protections for communities who live close to petro-chemical plants/fossil fuel burning plants – ensure adequate health protections are in place
- Look at mining charter in terms of beneficiaries – come up with a new and transparent act on the mining charter – ensure it benefits country and local communities – evaluate environmental damage and implement protections

BRICS governments must commit to reducing their fossil fuel footprint in terms of the Paris Climate Agreement. Over 70% of carbon emissions come from the top 100 companies around the globe, mostly fossil fuel producers. Many of the prevalent emitters are based in China, Russia and India. With rising concerns in Brazil, they could add to this problem through deforestation. China is investing heavily in domestic renewable energy production as it recognises the growing threat of climate change, but more must still be done. South Africa is also a large contributor to carbon emissions, therefore civil society must campaign against any plans to build new coal plants. BRICS countries must collectively shift towards

sustainable renewable energy in a manner that is proactive, sustainable and has long-term economic benefits.

Inclusive and sustainable economic development in the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

As stated by the South African BRICS Sherpa, Ambassador Anil Sooklal, the core priorities of the Johannesburg Declaration will focus on an inclusive society and global partnerships that will promote widespread global prosperity. An important key trend and focus point is the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIR). Many participants noted their concerns surrounding the FIR, this was seconded by the BRICS Think Tank. A member of the think tank noted that academics are disturbed by the prospects of the FIR in terms of whether it can be utilised for public benefit. China and India invested heavily in technology such as telecoms in the wake of the FIR, such investments underpin their own development agendas. Looking at China, their five to ten-year developmental plans took advantage of the technology revolution, and the country has become a market leader in telephone as well as telecoms manufacturing. South Africa must look to develop similar outcomes.

One of the key challenges is how we can ensure the FIR serves our development needs – how does it create new jobs? The BRICS Secretariat noted that regarding science, technology and innovation, there will be a push to establish a high-level BRICS network focused on science projects, hence civil society and government must work together on proactive and sustainable policies related to such projects whilst engaging with other BRICS countries:

- Training and life-long learning which complements the growing demands of the economy - Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that BRICS expand on joint skills development ventures as well as people-to-people exchanges which can further technology knowledge
- Long term planning on education systems and where emphasis should be directed – integrated education system with other BRICS countries can be helpful where exchange programmes can be implemented
- Skills development is critical to addressing the emerging mismatch between the new skills demanded by an increasing tech and knowledge driven global economy and the older skill set of many workers – supporting the policy recommendations proposed by G20 to Promote Quality Apprenticeship and the BRICS Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation
- South Africa must take advantage of China's import market and seek to develop local industries that can boost export trade – medical technology, manufactured goods amongst other goods.
- Expand cyber security programme to protect national communications and IT technology –in a manner which protects the privacy of individuals and upholds their rights through legal structures underpinned by the necessary checks and balances
- Vaccine research centre to combat critical health challenges and establish a platform for more innovative research on health issues – need for innovation in health sector
- Continued policy dialogue and coordination with G20, AU, UN, FSB and others to address the potential risks of macro-economic policies that may cause economic and financial volatility

The above must run parallel to youth development. One participant noted how access to education and jobs of the future must tie in with fourth industrial revolution. By developing and implementing a BRICS policy on educational exchange programmes for youth, it can be ensured that there is coordination amongst BRICS members to address education and technology training gaps. In order to ensure these programmes are effective, civil society must continue to push for the BRICS youth assembly to incorporate implementation, monitoring and evaluation structures and also ensure transparent and evidence-based practices.

Promoting sustainable economic and social policies under context of gender and youth

Women and youth voices must be heard within the BRICS sphere. The BRICS Sherpa noted that before senior government officials meet to engage around the structure of the Women's Forum, the consensus of all BRICS countries was that experts must meet to report on how it can be setup. The purpose of this was to account for the various positions on women across BRICS countries. As noted by the women and Gender Working Group, the key priorities are: the economic emancipation of women, the implementation of The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as an end to all gender-based violence. Other recommendations are as follows:

- Acknowledge gender diversity and commit to progressive laws and policies to address all forms of GBV; including violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. BRICS shall expand its definition of gender and gender-based violence.
- They must not view gender as binary between men and women, but acknowledge LGBTQI+ people and see gender as diverse.
- Host different country sessions to put issues of women and gender at the forefront – ensure women's issues are standardised at all levels of track Three
- Host a multinational gender and woman's session to improve on the concept note for the BRICS Women and Gender Forum
- Connect with women in business – mining, media, tourism and other sectors
- Push envelopes on gender issues and help empower leaders to do the same
- Ensure the National Strategy Plan on gender is drafted and implemented

Many participants agreed on the need of the NDB to invest in women and gender oriented programmes that promote economic emancipation. Special funds of the NDB can be used to address issues in communities, rural areas, support SMEs, community-led small development projects that focus on gender and women's economic development – between \$1 and \$5 million is set aside for such projects as per NDB guidelines. Such projects can do the following:

- Ensure women-led enterprises can access financial assistance for infrastructure building or agribusiness through the NDB
- Call for expansion of access to training and mentorship for women – innovative learning opportunities that tie in with FIR and an adapting economy
- Promote training and educational programmes that empower young women to develop business skills and innovative thinking
- Training and life-long learning to match growing demands of the contemporary economy

- Stress importance of infrastructural financing and development projects
- Consult relevant departments about access to land – particularly for women
- Land expropriations (related to land reform policies) by government need to be addressed by civil society to ensure that they are carried out within the boundaries of the law and in a manner that will promote economic development
- Inclusive policy making, analysis and decision making

Participants stated that we must ensure equal access to opportunities for all young people regardless of race, gender, socio-economic background. They argued for the adoption of an intersectional approach to all activities that reflects the needs of all young people. With a growing young population, skills and educational development will be imperative, as well as job creation. Governments must encourage the private sector to implement youth employment and training/apprenticeship programmes. They must also work to accredit and recognise online based education and training, as alternate options to university programmes which are often lacking in crucially needed practical skills development. We must encourage BRICS to drive free educational platforms such as:

- Tech companies using online training modules that allow young people to train in coding, IT infrastructure, sciences, mathematics, STEM etc
- BRICS online education platform to stream and share content across member states – also provide online education to address gaps in learning from evidence-based research
- NDB must invest in community programmes that teach young people about STEM and tech skills
- Develop a BRICS university framework where young people can access top schools and educational institutions in BRICS countries

In order to access online programmes, government will need to improve access to mobile data for young people as well as integrate sustainable ICT technology in future housing infrastructure. Youth will have to campaign for these issues and participants noted the importance of encouraging young people to get involved in CSOs.

Driving BRICS for peace Promotion and enhanced security

There is capacity for BRICS countries to be a driving force in global peace and security. With Russia and China being permanent United Nations Security Council members, and South Africa taking up its non-permanent seat in 2019, BRICS must promote the importance of multilateralism, diplomacy and cooperation. Participants highlighted internal issues at BRICS and an un-willingness to recognise domestic human rights issues. Civil society engagement with our BRICS partners is thus essential in terms of the importance of building peace and social cohesion from the grassroots level. Similar action must be taken in conflict contexts, particularly in the African and Asian regions. Grassroots level engagement will allow us to understand peace building more, and help improve capacity on the ground. As grassroots organisations are sometimes ignored, we must connect them with bigger global organisations to promote stronger and more unified approaches. Other key recommendations for BRICS' development on peace and security:

- Map peace and security concerns in each individual BRICS member state
- Conduct a civil society and academic-led peer review process of domestic and regional peace concerns

- Not only encourage, but necessitate the involvement of women in peace building and conflict resolution – identify and link women leaders to Track I level mediation and peace settlement processes
- Advocate for BRICS to observe the international human rights agenda and uphold human rights law – contribute to resilience of peace processes and work to establish mechanisms that connect actors involved for more conflict prevention focused strategies
- The complexities relating to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in peace-keeping operations or processes is an issue that must be addressed within the BRICS partnership. BRICS must press for UNSC to take pro-active preventive measures with regards to SEA
- Research current Accountability and Transparency aspects in decision making around the deployment of peacekeepers and develop an evidence-based advocacy and engagement strategy
- Encourage BRICS to promote reform with regards to the peacekeeping framework within UNSC, as this would initiate more proactive measures – use of legitimate force, effective tactical deployments, increase in forces, force modernisation

Track II and III civil society and community contributions to peace processes must continue, and support is needed to establish mechanisms that connect all relevant parties- focusing on strategies that are holistic, inclusive, integrated and conflict preventative. The BRICS South Africa secretariat noted that peacekeeping working groups are attempting to push forward with implementation of outcomes, based on the Johannesburg declaration. It was noted by the peace and security working group that we must encourage BRICS to re-assert the value of Nuclear Non-Proliferation and work collectively to counter UN member states that threaten this multilateral agreement.

The NDB, BRICS and financing sustainable development

One speaker noted the prospect of BRICS financing becoming a growing alternative to Western finance such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The issue of resources is continually problematic when combatting peace, security and development issues. China has and continues to take a strong position on financing projects in Africa. There were \$19 billion outbound loans to Africa since 2014, of which \$8.8 billion were provided as loans for energy and infrastructure. The NDB has signed contracts with the China Development Bank and China Construction Bank for projects in Africa, mainly infrastructure. BRICS has also endorsed an NDB injection of \$50 Billion that non-members can access. It is likely that a large majority of these projects will be on the African continent. The NDB raises funds from BRICS members' national taxes and thus are accountable to BRICS citizens. Some of the key recommendations on the NDB and BRICS financing:

- Increased engagement with NDB regional structures and board of directors whom are based in Shanghai – previous meetings have been held so there is a willingness within the NDB to engage – this also related to relationship building with the bank and its regional centre in Africa
- We must underscore the importance of promoting gender policies in the NDB, and push to hire a gender advisor and create a gender desk
- The lack of transparency in the NDB and BRICS financing requires the development of a mechanism of civil society engagement, so we can effectively influence their policies and practices

- As NDB projects are largely infrastructural, we must ensure environmental rights are protected for any communities that may be affected - recognition of the need for Environmentally Friendly Technologies in relation to project implementation
- A Grievance Mechanism needs to be set up under environmental and social frameworks to promote accountability
- Work with AFRODAT, Africa monitor and other CSOs to build awareness on the NDB – focusing this work at country level and regional level to understand the work of the NDB

BRICS members and associated institutions must critique whether their commitment to the rest of the African continent is serious and proactive – are we championing the needs of all African countries towards believing that BRICS can help shift Africa away from dependency? From this viewpoint, BRICS must work to provide funds for poverty alleviation and reducing inequality (both with an emphasis on gender). The South African government is assisting the NDB with its mandate, therefore South Africa will continue to promote and advocate for the implementation of special funds for projects around women’s economic empowerment, small scale agriculture, health, education, skills development, renewable energy, humanitarian response, disaster reduction and many of the other critical areas that urgently need more investment.

The analysis and recommendations included in this Policy Brief do not necessarily reflect the view of SALO or any of the donors or conference participants, but rather draw upon the major strands of discussion put forward at the event. Participants neither reviewed nor approved this document. The contents of the report are the sole responsibility of SALO, and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the donors who provided financial assistance for this policy dialogue session.

About the Southern African Liaison Office:



The Southern African Liaison Office (SALO) is a South African-based not-for-profit civil society organisation which, through advocacy, dialogue, policy consensus and in-depth research and analysis, influences the current thinking and debates on foreign policy especially regarding African crises and conflicts.

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