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**Indian Council of World Affairs**  
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

## Media Release

### National Seminar

on

## India Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges '

(03-04 September 2019)

The Indian Council of World Affairs organised a National Seminar on India- Africa Relations in the Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges on 03-04 September 2019 at Sapru House, New Delhi. The participants of the seminar included five former ambassadors, scholars from 18 universities and representatives from think tanks, business chambers, industry and strategic experts. Opening remarks were delivered by Ambassador T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA and the Opening Address was delivered by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations). The seminar had six sessions covering range of issues relating to India- Africa relations including political understanding, security cooperation, economic and development partnership, diaspora linkages, people to people connectivity and promotion of African Studies.

The first session, **Mutuality in Political Endeavours: Governance and Geopolitics** was chaired by Amb. Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Former Ambassador to South Africa and Kenya. The speakers in this session included Ms. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, Dr. S. Shaji, Assistant Professor, Central University of Hyderabad, Dr. Pranav Kumar, Assistant Professor, Central University of South Bihar and Dr. Dr. Saurabh Mishra, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs. The session discussed trends of democratization emerging in Africa in the last two decades and how there is a need to build a connect between India's view of the world and Africa's view of the world. It highlighted that the agenda

between India and Africa needs to be expanded to include new issues like blue economy, data protection, data managements etc. This will help India and Africa relations to move ahead.

The second session, **Enhancing Economic and Development Cooperation**, was chaired by Ambassador Gurjit Singh, Former Ambassador to Ethiopia & India's Representative to The African Union. The Speakers at the session included Shri Tarun Sharma, General Manager & Regional Head, EXIM Bank, Delhi, Prof. Renu Modi, Dept. of African Studies, Mumbai University, Sanjay Pradhan, PDP, Gujarat and Ms. Sheila Sudhakaran, Former Asst. Secretary General, FICCI & the Editor of [www.trendsnafrica.com](http://www.trendsnafrica.com). The session assessed how Indian investment in Africa is currently moving from the ODA pattern to trade and investment. Since Indian trade with Africa mainly constitutes of oil imports, the session highlighted the need to step up cooperation in the non-conventional energy sector and the expansion of solar alliance in Africa. The consensus was that India needs to have right building blocks for creating a sustainable infrastructure investment in Africa.

The third session, **Factoring Diaspora in India–Africa Relations**, was chaired by Ambassador Virendra Gupta, Former High Commissioner to South Africa. Speakers at the session included Dr. Paokholal Haokip, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History and International Relations, Pondicherry University, Dr. Rajneesh Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Dr. Manish Karmwar, Assistant Professor, SLCE, University of Delhi and Dr. Bashabi Gupta, Assistant Professor, Miranda House, University of Delhi. The session discussed how the large Indian diaspora strengthened the foundation of the India-Africa relationship. It assessed the scope of improvement in the India-Africa trade relations through cultural bonding, which would help India to compete with the countries, emerging as major trade partners in the current economic scenario.

The fourth session, **Common Security Challenges: Prospects for Cooperation**, was chaired by Prof. Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal University, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Dept. of Geopolitics and IR, Manipal University, Capt. Sarabjeet Parmar, Executive Director, NMF, Lt. Gen. Chander Prakash (Retd.), Former Force Commander, MONUSCO, Dr. F.R. Siddiqui, Research Fellow, ICWA and Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director (Research) ICWA. The session discussed the need to strengthen institutional structures for better India-Africa cooperation and how India should endeavour to engage with Africa looking through the lens of the entire east African coast and a holistic internal development. It also highlighted that India's peacekeeping efforts is one of the areas that has more potential, albeit with quite a few challenges and that IORA & IONS could be leveraged more by India to engage with Africa concerning issues of traditional and non-traditional maritime security.

The fifth session, **Enhancing People to People Cooperation: Media, Culture and Education Exchange** was chaired by Prof. Aparajita Biswas, Dept. Of African Studies, Mumbai University. The speakers included Prof. Nandini Sen, Bharati College, DU, Prof. Sanjukta Bhattacharya, Dept. of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Dr. Meera Venkatachalam, Mumbai University and Prof. Awungshi Yaruvingam, Dept. of African Studies, University of Delhi. The session discussed how “People to People” cooperation forms the important component in enhancing India-Africa Relationship and an effective factor complimenting government to government diplomacy. It also highlighted that Bollywood has proved to be the largest component of “Indian Cultural Export” to the world. It has popularized Indian culture amongst the Indian Diaspora. The discussion also focused on Africans in India and it was observed that protecting the rights and wellbeing of the Africans coming to India can be an important strategy to enhance goodwill in India.

The sixth session, a round table discussion on **Status of African Studies in India: Taking stock and the Way Ahead** was chaired by Prof. Rajen Harshe, President of G.B. Pant Social Institute, Allahabad & Former Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Allahabad and a co-Chair Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, DG, ICCR. Speakers included Rashmi Doraiswamy, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, Prof. Awungshi Yaruvingam, Dept. of African Studies, University of Delhi and Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador to Jordan, Libya. The session discussed the status of African scholarship in India. It highlighted the need for multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary approach towards Africa and establishment of more University centers for research on Africa in India.

The Valedictory Address was delivered by Vice President of India and President, ICWA Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. H.E. Alem Tsehay Woldemariam, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea, Dean of African Heads of Missions and the Deputy Dean of Diplomatic Corps also addressed the Valedictory Session.

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