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## Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

### 4<sup>th</sup> India-Africa Strategic Dialogue

*India and Africa: Deepening the Security Engagement*

March 27-28, 2018

## Report

India's relations with African nations have progressed at a fast pace in the last decade. India entered into a structured engagement with African countries with the launch of the first Indian Africa Forum Summit in 2008 in New Delhi. This was followed by the Second India Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in 2011. The third India-Africa Forum summit, held in New Delhi in October 2015, renewed the focus of India on strengthening and enhancing its partnership with countries in the African continent. It brought forth two important documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation. Both documents offer a direction for Indo-African relations in the coming years. They provide a framework for the establishment of a long-term and stable partnership of equality and mutual benefit between India and Africa. They also serve as a blueprint for India-Africa co-operation in political, economic, social, science and technology, cultural, security and other fields.

Complementing the Government's efforts, the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, has been hosting the India-Africa Strategic Dialogue to build on existing partnerships between African countries and India, and to explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagement. In order to suggest ways of enhancing the security relationship, the 4th India-Africa Strategic Dialogue on the theme, "India and Africa: Deepening the Security Engagement" was organised on 27-28 March 2018 at IDSA, New Delhi. At the event, presentations were made by policy makers, officials and academics from India and several African countries over six working sessions including a panel discussion.

## Inaugural Session

*Welcome Remarks:* Mr. Jayant Prasad, DG, IDSA

*Remarks:* Ambassador Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Dean of African Diplomatic Corps in India, Eritrea

*Key Note Address:* Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), MEA, India

*Vote of Thanks:* Maj. Gen. Alok Deb (Retd), DDG, IDSA

The welcome remarks of Mr. Jayant Prasad, DG, IDSA, were delivered by Maj. Gen. Alok Deb (Retd), DDG IDSA. Recalling the historical links between India and African nations and cooperation in the fight against colonialism, the DG underlined that cooperation for development and security between India and African countries continued after independence and had intensified in recent years. The launching of India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008 and the signing of Delhi Declaration and India Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation during the third India-Africa Forum Summit in 2015 is testimony to India's commitment towards enhancing cooperation with African nations. Arguing that all African countries are important for India, he pointed out that the government of India has decided to open new diplomatic missions in 18 countries in Africa. Concluding his remarks, he said that India is keen to further enhance its cooperation with African nations in all spheres including economic cooperation, security and strategic cooperation. India wishes to build on existing areas of cooperation and also seek partnership in new areas.

The Ambassador of Eritrea to India, H.E. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, who is also the Dean of African Diplomatic Corps in New Delhi, in his remarks emphasised on the need for continued cooperation and partnership between India and African nations to work towards the welfare of the people. He argued that though both Indian and African nations successfully fought against colonialism, their performance, especially in the area of human development, has not been satisfactory. It is important that the two strengthen their partnership to fight for a fair and just international system and also strive for betterment of the people. He underlined that India has been a valued partner to the African nations in their developmental aspirations and has been providing necessary aid and sharing expertise in various areas. On the theme of the two-day strategic dialogue, he stated that the conventional and non-conventional security threats have been increasing in the recent years despite the progress towards political stability and peaceful transition in African nations. India too faces several security threats and there is a need to enhance cooperation in existing areas such as preventing and controlling armed conflicts, ensuring maritime security and anti-piracy cooperation. Unconventional sources of security threats such as terrorism, climate change, and energy and food security too require adequate attention. He further added that while India has been engaged in capacity building of security forces of all African countries and there is a need to further work on this area to enable the security forces in African countries to become self-reliant in fighting against the threats emanating from various sources.

The keynote address was delivered by Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), MEA. He argued that the strategic engagement with African nations has reached a new level in the last 3-4 years. He said India is committed for extending all possible cooperation towards economic development and growth of countries in Africa. For example, he noted that nearly 40 percent of India's external lines of credit go to African countries. He also underlined that in the recently formed International Solar Alliance, India has announced that it will extend US\$1 billion to African nations to establish solar power plants that will revolutionise the energy scenario in the continent. He said that India is committed to continue and enhance security cooperation with Africa both at the level of group of countries and at bilateral levels. He underlined that India already has strong security and military cooperation with several groups of African nations including the African Union. He pointed out that India is helping countries that are engaged in post-conflict transformation and nation building

in peaceful transformation towards stability and democracy. He emphasised that India has always undertaken a non-prescriptive method in its foreign policy and is committed to help African countries in capacity building and developmental projects. Arguing that the threat of terrorism by organisations such as Al-Qaeda in Maghreb, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups poses a major threat to peace and security in the continent and India has been helping individual countries in fighting these threats by training the security personnel from affected countries as well as by helping build necessary infrastructure and providing equipment. He also emphasised that India has longstanding cooperation with African nations in maritime security and fighting piracy, which is vital not only for individual countries but also for international trade. He argued that India now strives to broaden and widen security cooperation recognising the multi-dimensional and multi-directional nature of security threats. He said that one of the hallmarks of India-Africa security cooperation has been the training and capacity building of security forces in Africa. A testimony of this is that many African leaders have been trained in defence institutions in India. At another level, India has been involved in the UN peacekeeping forces in Africa and at this stage nearly 6,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in five conflict zones in Africa. He underlined non-interventionist and non-prescriptive approach towards peacekeeping. He argued that maritime security too has been a major area of cooperation and India is not only involved in securing maritime routes in the Indian Ocean with cooperation of African nations but has also helped them in capacity building. He argued that with India's ability and commitment towards training and capacity building more countries are now approaching India to cooperate at bilateral level. India with its experience and capability in fighting terror, especially cross-border terror, is ready to share its experience and expertise with African nations. He said that India is also committed to enhance cooperation in non-traditional areas of security including food, water and energy security. He underlined that in the last 3-4 years nearly 20 high level visits have taken place from India to the African nations, in addition to several visits by the Ministers and officers in the ministry of external affairs which is a testimony that India accords high priority to African in its foreign policy and at the same time has emerged as the trusted and preferred partner for African countries.

Concluding the session with a vote of thanks Ms. Ruchita Beri, the conference coordinator, underlined that India- Africa security and economic cooperation have come a long way. She recalled that IDSa has played a pivotal role as a platform for conducting dialogue with African countries and by hosting many leaders and scholars from Africa. She thanked the MEA and government of India, the African diplomatic corps in New Delhi, all the international and Indian participants, the Director General and Deputy Director General for their support in organising the strategic dialogue; she also acknowledged the media personnel present on the occasion and the assistance extended by the members of the staff and scholars of IDSa in organising the dialogue.

Report prepared by Md. Muddassir Quamar, PhD, Associate Fellow, West Asia Centre

## Session I: Perspectives on Evolving India- Africa Security Engagement

*Chair: Prof. Rajen Harshe*

*Speakers:*

- *Mr. Shambhu S Kumaran, JS (PIC), Ministry of Defence, India*
- *Dr. Festus Kofi Aubyn, Research Fellow, Kofi Anan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana*
- *Ms. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, IDSA, India*
- *Mr. Priyal Singh, Researcher, ISS, South Africa*

The session was chaired by Prof. Rajen Harshe, the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Allahabad (2005-2010). He also served as the President of African Studies Association in India from 2005-2011. This session reflected on the existing security engagement between India and the African partners and explored the scope of cooperation including peacekeeping and counter terrorism; analysed the contours of African countries' cooperation with other external partners; and discussed the possibilities of future security engagement between India and African countries.

Presenting a practitioner's perspective, the first speaker Mr. Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary, Planning and International Cooperation from Ministry of Defence argued India has engaged in capacity building of the African partners with the objective of stabilising post-colonial societies. Subsequently, India's engagement has evolved with mobile training teams as well as doing customised training capsules for African partners including mechanised warfare and maritime security together with costal surveillance radar system. As India is developing its broader Indian Ocean policy, there is a shared sense of interest with the African partners. Enabling defence related agreements are already in place with several African littorals. Furthermore, he articulated that the partnership is becoming more substantive beyond training with growing focus on equipment cooperation.

However despite India's high-level political attention to the African continent, it was underscored that sometimes the momentum of cooperation gets affected by the lack of responsiveness from Africa counterparts which constraints New Delhi's decision-making. Hence Kumaran called for more dialogue between the military personnel, ministries and institutions. Addressing the funding concerns, he recommended exploring the possibility of using the concessional lines under the India-Africa Forum Summit for defence and security purposes since security and development are two sides of the same coin. As India displays political intent and willingness to revitalise the structural processes, faster decision making from the African side will further consolidate the partnership. Embedding broader cooperation networks on intelligence sharing and information sharing will further provide impetus to core operational value of the forces.

Dr. Festus Kofi Aubyn, shared his perspective on enhancing the India-Africa Security engagement. It was stressed that India-Africa relations have diversified from the exclusive focus on the political and economic spheres to the security sphere at the multilateral, regional and national levels. He argued that since India has considerable geopolitical and economic interests at stake in Africa, it supports a peaceful and stable domestic environment. Meanwhile, African countries and especially the African Union (AU) increasingly consider India as a significant development partner. Aubyn analysed that India's support to African peace and security has occurred at three levels including the multilateral level at the UN, the regional level at AU/RECs and the national level with individual African states.

With the objective of boosting India-Africa security cooperation, he recommended that India and Africa would do good to undertake practical initiatives to deal with both traditional and non-traditional security threats. Towards this end, he suggested initiating cooperation between the peace and security training and research centres and institutions of India and Africa including between CUNPK/IDSA (India) and KAIPTC (Ghana)/NDC (Nigeria), ISS (South Africa) and PSTC (Kenya). In addition, he suggested that India can explore the possibility of trilateral dialogues with the multiple strategic partners (especially allies) in Africa that are also providing similar supports to the AU and its member states. Trilateral dialogues such as India-Africa-UK Security Forum, India-Africa-EU Security Forum or India-Africa-US Security Forum can be explored to allow for frequent exchanges of views and perspectives on security issues concerning Africa. Moreover, it was articulated that India's bilateral support to African countries should move beyond defence cooperation and be extended to the law enforcement, intelligence and border security management agencies as well.

Ms. Ruchita Beri in her presentation stressed that the foundation of India-Africa relations is based on the South-South Cooperation and long standing historical ties. She articulated that economic and development partnership with Africa has been the dominant feature of India-Africa relations and identified three factors that underpins Africa's growing strategic importance to India including abundant natural resources such as energy and mineral reserves which has drawn major powers to this continent; strategic location of the continent in the Indian Ocean which serves as a strategic bridge with India's extended maritime neighbourhood; and the rise of radicalism and terrorism in Africa and arc of instability with Boko Haram in Nigeria to that of Al-Qaeda in Mali and Sahel region to Al-Shabaab in Somalia. This echoes with India's concern regarding terrorism and radicalism.

Identifying trends in India-Africa security relations, Beri concurred with other speakers that India has engaged at three levels including at bilateral level with focus on capacity building for instance the Harar military academy; at regional level through triangular cooperation; and at multilateral levels in UN peacekeeping missions. India has also contributed in developing African leadership as many of them are trained in Indian academies. With regard to triangular cooperation, she cited the case of the ongoing India-Africa-US cooperation in peacekeeping and India-Japan-Africa cooperation focussing on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). While AAGC is centred on connectivity, infrastructure and skill development, she argued that it is expected to improve the security situation with better intra-Africa connectivity and rapid response to conflicts. Making recommendations on how improve India-Africa partnership in the future, she called for focussing

on conflict prevention approach rather than solely focussing on peacekeeping. As India looks to step up cooperation with African partners, African aspirations and African solutions must be the priority. In order to play a constructive role as part of Global South, inclusive economic growth must take precedence. While India recognises that a robust economic engagement with Africa is important, it is also concerned about growing vulnerabilities that has been enhanced by security concerns prevalent in Africa and India-Africa cooperation in fighting terrorism, mitigating conflicts, providing food and energy and security will be the defining feature in the coming years.

Mr. Priyal Singh in his paper identified opportunities for a more robust form of peace and security cooperation between India and Africa. He argued in favour of a refined and actionable policy framework amongst Indian and African stakeholders. To realise the objective of more meaningful security cooperation, Singh articulated that while a shared recognition for peace and stability as a precondition for development is often referenced, actionable strategies, processes and interventions to give substantive effort to such an understanding is largely overridden by a more immediate economic imperatives. The untapped potential of a more meaningful security engagement provide reasonable grounds for key stakeholders to explore and incorporate security as a fundamental pillar in the evolution of the strategic partnership. Furthermore, the full gamut of responses to conflict and stability, ideally based on existing institutionalised intergovernmental peace and security frameworks, needs to be explored.

In defining new innovative models of Indo-Africa security cooperation, UN approaches to peace operations and its peace building architecture could be useful as it employs more flexibly the full spectrum of tools and resources aimed at addressing the root causes and structural drivers of conflict. Singh further stressed on the critical importance of conflict prevention strategies that are holistically integrated into an overarching model of security cooperation. This entails a greater role for Indian stakeholders in the practice and refinement of mediation and dialogue in support of sub-regional and continental peace efforts at the level of the regional economic communities and the AU. In addition, there are several opportunities in AU-led peace building and post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives by leveraging the existing capacities and expertise of technical staff. Conversely, India can benefit from learning the experiences of African security stakeholders that have engaged in the delivery of innovative forms of regional ad hoc security initiatives like the Regional Cooperation Initiative- Lord's Resistance Army( RCI-LRA) and the G5 Sahel. He further argued in favour of incorporating some of the key recommendations of the UN peace building architecture including prioritising the institutional designs of new security arrangements in relation to the interface with existing global and regional actors; emphasising the need for effective conflict prevention as opposed to interventions that are reactive; better delivery of security intervention based on more informed analyses and improved planning and coordination; and facilitating a paradigmatic shift by making security cooperation more people centred. He further underscored that the importance of identifying areas of tangible mutual benefit should be considered for more meaningful security cooperation between India and Africa. He suggests situating the AU as a primary interlocutor in advancing more meaningful security cooperation as India-Africa Forum Summit already recognises the centrality of the AU. India-Africa strategic partnership could potentially serve as a breeding ground for innovative ideas and approaches towards the realising

of shared Indo-African aspirations.

In the discussion that followed, it was argued that economic development and security cooperation are two sides of the same coin and there can be no development without security. These two elements are complimentary. Hence, India supports African solutions to these issues; African owned and African operated security structure will provide long term sustainable development in Africa. India has stayed away from domestic fault lines in Africa.

It was also explained that buttressing defence equipment cooperation and exports, India is now trying to explore commercial opportunities beyond the long practiced transfer of equipments under India's assistance programme. India is offering equipment that is fit- for- purpose, catering to African needs. India is pursuing equipment cooperation as a part of building larger capability and not just taking a narrow approach of selling systems. In terms of identifying the reasons behind lack of responsiveness from the African partners and delay in pursuing agreements, the discussion pointed towards a combination of domestic and external/third country factors in Africa. In addition, the need to further improve the processes in India has also been stressed to facilitate faster delivery. Reflecting on the challenges that India navigates while engaging in peacekeeping in Africa, it emerged that the mandates are not compatible with the realities on the ground. India has long argued in favour of troop contributing countries be consulted while devising the mandates for the mission. But that has not happened yet. This is essentially because of the structure of the UN and India is vociferously arguing for reforms in the UNSC. Indian policy is to look at African priorities and to this effect, India often refers to the plans that African countries have formulated , for instance the Agenda 2063. To find convergence, India would look at African examples and support African solutions for African problems. India would do good to become more proactive and explore the possibility of reviving the Africa envoy position which will bring India and Africa closer.

Report prepared by Titli Basu, PhD, Associate Fellow, East Asia Centre

## Session II: Perspectives on Cooperation on Maritime Security

*Chair: Ambassador Yogendra Kumar*

*Speakers:*

- *Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (Retd), Director, National Maritime Foundation, India*
- *Mr. Mowlid Aden, Director, Security and Risk Compliance, Djibouti Ports & Free Zone Authority, Djibouti*
- *Ms. Harriet Njoki Mboce, Visiting Fellow, IDSA, Kenya*
- *Cmdr. Abhay K Singh (Retd), Research Fellow, IDSA, India*

Amb. Yogendra Kumar initiated the discussion by highlighting the 'similar' security challenges faced by India and the African countries in the maritime domain. These involve terrorism, piracy, proliferation and smuggling of small arms and drugs, climate change, and inter and intra-state conflicts. He elaborated on the 'holistic approach' adopted by India and African nations that views security beyond the narrow prism of hard power. Kumar argued that maritime security embraces maritime domain awareness, communication networks, patrolling capabilities and intelligence sharing. He observed that inadequate maritime security deprives states of the capacity to meaningfully exploit the huge resources that are locked in the ocean. He argued for the inclusion of 'states stability and the response capabilities of climate change' within the scope of maritime security collaboration. He emphasised that the 'challenge of maritime security is a common link in India and Africa's quest for security'. The focus, therefore, should be on developing 'transformative synergies' in their maritime partnership. He argued that specific issues, including cross-cutting ones such as terrorism, cyber security and other forms of trans-national crimes, to be the clear focus of maritime security cooperation dialogue. It is also critical to identify sectoral areas of cooperation between corresponding entities on both sides and hold regular dialogues on a set agenda.

Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (Retd) initiated his presentation by highlighting the convergence of India's and Africa's geostrategic and geo-economic interests in the maritime domain. He pointed out that the concept of Indo-Pacific encompasses India's strategic geography which is quintessentially a maritime expanse. It encompasses the littoral states of West Asia, Africa's Eastern Coast and at least two critical West African littoral states of Angola and Nigeria. It also encompasses the Indian Ocean in its entirety, stretching to South-East Asia, beyond that into the Western Pacific across Australia and New Zealand and into the sprawl of Southern Pacific Island nations.

Chauhan observed that maritime security goes beyond the 'naval and coast guard amalgam', and is, thus, not restricted to the traditional concept of hard security. Its other dimensions include economic, societal, political and environmental well-being of a nation. In a nutshell, maritime security is freedom from threats that arise in the sea, from the sea and through the sea.

He highlighted the following seven Indian maritime interests that could serve as markers for greater synergies of cooperation between India and Africa:

- i. Ensuring stability in India's maritime neighbourhood.

- ii. Gaining and maintaining a favourable geo-political maritime position.
- iii. Provision of holistic maritime security - i.e. freedom from threats arising in or from the seas.
- iv. Promotion, protection and safety of overseas sea lines of communication and seaborne trade.
- v. Promotion and protection of India's maritime resources in offshore infrastructure.
- vi. Provision of support and extrication options to the Indian diaspora.
- vii. Supporting marine scientific research, including in Arctic and Antarctic.

He argued that India and Africa's "ability as a collective will depend on their competence in the maritime domain". The key risks to their maritime security include threats to territorial integrity, geopolitical constriction trade dependency and trade disruptions, risk to energy security and security of energy, terrorism, piracy and maritime crime, security impact of climate change, human trafficking and illegal immigration, and illegal fishing.

Highlighting the significance of risk mitigation for greater economic good, Chauhan emphasised on the need to focus on regional maritime stability. He observed that the foundational approach of India's maritime security rests on constructive engagement on the basis of its three structures :

- Conceptual - Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)
- Political - Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- Executive - Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

Pointing out the difference between capacity (material wherewithal) and capability (making use of the available materials), Chauhan argued that India's forte lies in enhancing the capabilities of existing capacity. He observed that "response will always be a function of awareness", and in this light, sharing of white shipping data is critical. Steps should, therefore, be initiated to increase the interface between IONS, Djibouti Code of Conduct and African countries. He also laid emphasis on putting to use India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) expertise.

Admiral Chauhan highlighted the failure of imagination - the slow pace in widening India's synergies of cooperation with the African countries in the maritime domain. He pointed out the huge potential of Mozambique Channel, the deep water port of Nacala and the untapped regional oil fields which call for greater maritime cooperation with Mozambique, Tanzania, Comoros and Madagascar. Notably, India, he observed, does not have a diplomatic outpost in Comoros despite its strategic importance in overlooking the Mozambique Channel. Similarly, he emphasised that India, Japan and Africa must work out the strategic contours of the Africa Asia Growth Corridor. He concluded by arguing that India and Africa should engage each other on a more granular and intellectual level in the maritime field.

Mr. Mowlid Aden in his presentation, highlighted the common threats faced by India and the African countries based around the Horn of Africa. These risks involve piracy, armed robbery and maritime terrorism. He argued that Yemen is the new Somalia, with the conflict in Sana'a likely to further propel piracy, and, thereby, pose additional challenges to regional stability. He pointed out that Djibouti, which has provided shelter to a large number of Yemeni refugees, is now bracing for a further influx.

Aden posed the question of whether the ongoing coordinated regional approach towards tackling piracy is sustainable or episodic. He called for greater maritime collaboration between the key regional and extra-regional stakeholders. Highlighting the success of formulating the Djibouti Code of Conduct, he expressed optimism that greater synergies of cooperation between the stakeholders can be achieved in the future. He observed that African countries are seeking to build their situational awareness of maritime boundaries. He outlined three potential initiatives that can help India increase its footprints in Africa:

- Broaden the debate from counter piracy to maritime security.
- Expand political, economic and strategic engagement with the region.
- Empower the private economic sector of Africa.

Comde. Abhay Kumar Singh (Retd) made a presentation on the convergences and cooperative synergy between India's SAGAR Vision and 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy. He highlighted the growing maritime consciousness among African countries due to two contrasting imperatives. Firstly, the lack of 'good order at sea' in the maritime milieu with piracy being one of its most malevolent manifestations. And, secondly, the imperative of potential economic dividend of ocean-related resources and industries, with the ocean emerging as a new frontline of Africa's renaissance. He observed that the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) is an explicit expression of collective intent in ensuring stability in Africa's maritime domain and realisation of its vast potential for wealth creation. The document reflects the need for African states to exert greater control of their maritime space.

Singh noted that the 2050 Strategy entails innovative ideas for collaborative maritime governance. These include a Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa (CEMZA) and Inter-Agency/Transnational Cooperation and Coordination on Maritime Safety and Security. These two futuristic initiatives are expected to provide Africa with enormous cross-cutting geo-strategic, economic, political, social and security benefits, by stimulating collective efforts and reducing the risks of all transnational threats, environmental mismanagement, smuggling and arms trafficking.

He observed that AIMS is also a spring-board for identifying areas of cooperation with external actors. The strategy highlights 21 areas related to capacity building in the maritime sector. These could be broadly aggregated into three segments - good order at sea, trade, and maritime economy.

Singh highlighted the synergies of interests between India's SAGAR and Africa's AIMS that seeks to ensure 'good order at sea' through a collaborative partnership in which Africa can emerge as a valuable partner. In this light, the 2015 Delhi Declaration reaffirmed India's commitment to being a partner in Africa's progress towards a dynamic and transformative development. The emerging policy contours, he argued, indicate India's greater willingness for a more active role in shaping the maritime environment for stability and sustained development in the region. He observed that developing Africa's maritime capacity building infrastructure can be a way forward. The region, he argued, has a low presence of ship building or boat building industries, and the Indian industry can harness the potential for ship repairs/shipbuilding in Africa.

He, however, noted the resource constraints that India faces, despite its willingness to support Africa in its developmental goals. In order to overcome this obstacle, India, he pointed out, has

partnered with Japan in envisioning the Asia Africa Growth Corridor that seeks to link economies, industries, institutions, ideas and people among and between Africa and India.

Ms. Harriet Njoki Mboce initiated her presentation by highlighting the rapid strides taken by India in securing its maritime resources, particularly after the Mumbai attacks, and the country's increasingly positive heft on the global stage. She elaborated on India and IORA members' convergence of interests that involve vast coastlines, economies dependent on maritime resources, and tackling piracy and terrorism. Given India's rich historical engagement with the continent, and the goodwill and trust that it enjoys among the majority of the African countries, the stage is, she argued, set to reap the benefits of these common interests. She pointed out that New Delhi's maritime initiatives like SAGAR indicate its concrete win-win policies for IORA countries.

Referring to a mere 18 high level visits from India to the African continent, Mboce highlighted the need to increase and expand these contacts, and prioritise India's outlook towards Africa. This can concomitantly, she observed, strengthen India's growing image of a global actor. She also articulated the view of overcoming the ambivalence in the definition of maritime security by focusing on core issues including the blue economy.

Highlighting the need to recognise the reality that African countries are at different stages of their national development, Mboce argued that these nations might not always be in a position to fulfil India's expectations, and their inability to meet the expectations should not be seen as a lack of willingness. There is need, therefore, to empower the African countries, and develop a tailor made strategy for each state as opposed to a blanket continental policy. She also dwelt on 'high level of suspicion' in information sharing between India and African nations, and felt that these can be overcome if solutions are Africa driven.

Referring to China's growing footprints in the African continent, Mboce posed the question of whether extra-regional countries that are seeking to engage Africa have the right intention. She outlined the following areas where India and Africa can seek to build greater synergies of cooperation:

- Capacity building, particularly in infrastructure sector.
- Enhance capacity of information sharing centres.
- Tackle illegal fishing.
- Involve Africa in India's engagement with other extra-regional powers of Africa like France. This can psychologically empower the African countries.
- More pro-active engagement with East African countries.
- Establish a Centre of Excellence in Kenya (similar to the one in Jordan).

She observed that while India may not always be in a position to match the investments made by other extra-regional countries in Africa, yet its enormous trust and goodwill in the African continent can help overcome this perceived weakness.

Report prepared by Rajorshi Roy, PhD, Research Assistant, Europe and Eurasia Centre.

## Session 3- Perspectives on Cooperation in Energy and Food Security

*Chair: Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia*

*Speakers:*

- *Dr. Benard Oula Mouk , Director, Centre for Research Innovation and Technology, JOOUST, Kenya*
- *Mr. Nitya Nanda, Associate Director, Resource Efficiency and Governance, TERI, India*
- *Ms. Shebonti Ray Dadwal, Senior Fellow, IDSA, India*

This session had two papers presented on energy security and one paper on food security. Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia initiated the discussions by highlighting the importance of agriculture, energy and water for both India and Africa. He also emphasised that security and development are the foundation of national governance and international cooperation. Hence, both should be seen as a continuum. Because both security and development are interrelated, governments should focus on both the dimensions with equal importance. He added that energy and food security need to be contextualized for bringing lasting solutions.

The first panelist, Dr. Benard Oula Mouk, emphasised on the importance of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in ensuring energy security. Most conflicts around the world are for controlling energy. According to him, energy security and security of energy are two different dimensions. For Africa, energy access is a big problem that has to be tackled in order to curb its effects on economy, health of the population and education of the young. Despite having huge energy resources, the continent is going through energy crisis and lack of access to energy. In Sub-Saharan Africa, less than 50% of the population has access to energy, which has a lasting influence on the economy and in turn becomes a cause of poverty and underdevelopment. In Africa, another major challenge is that more than 70% people are not connected to the national grid. Currently, there is a lot of interest in Africa's energy sector. Several efforts are underway to tackle challenges including, lack of access to technology, low capacity for local manufacturing, low consumer awareness and capacity, lack of financing mechanisms, and policy and legal framework. While there are several financial mechanisms that are being discussed and put to use in some countries, there is a need to properly structure these mechanisms including, fee-for-service-provided, market-SHS, pay-as-you-go, micro-credit and community model. Mouk also pointed to the increasing interest of external actors in Africa's energy sector, with China being the most prominent one. China is engaging with the African countries with much vigour and energy is an important area of cooperation. He reminded that the South-South trade is on the rise and there is enormous opportunity for the developing countries of the Global South to invest in Africa. According to him, this is a welcome step as the support from these countries will prove to be more affordable for Africa and is suitable to African conditions. Hence, the Global South should cooperate in the areas of capacity-building, supporting policy formulation, technology transfer, initiate joint projects, work towards upscaling innovation and garnering funds for renewable energy cooperation. In the case of technology, most of the

advance energy technologies are owned by the developed countries, making it inaccessible and expensive. Hence, SSC is important in technology transfer that is important for developing renewable energy which is both clean and sustainable.

In his paper Mr. Nitya Nanda argued that ensuring food sufficiency is an important parameter for food security for both India and Africa. He maintained that developing countries need to be self-sufficient in food production and the idea of being food secure by importing food from abroad is not sustainable. The main reason behind this is that the global market for food is not deep enough. Furthermore, Africa faces agricultural trade deficit of about \$35 billion. Nanda also gave a historical overview of the food security scenario in both India and Africa, and interestingly noted that India was earlier a net food importer while Africa was still food sufficient in 1960s. India was dependent on food aid and food security became a major challenge for the functioning of the country. However, this scenario has changed with India emerging as a food sufficient country and Africa as a continent became net importer of food. India could gain food sufficiency through the following policy changes:

- Granting minimum support prices for procurement and storage of food grains
- Provide subsidised inputs, quality seeds and extension services
- Operating the Public Distribution System (PDS) efficiently
- Maintaining buffer stocks to counter any pushing up of prices of food grains during periods of shortages
- Food for work/ employment guarantee programmes
- State involvement and relaxed Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

Nanda argued that Africa can learn from these experiences of India's successful move towards food sufficiency. He suggested that it would also be good if Africa can support India's struggles in the WTO, where India is fighting for fair practices in international trade regime. He argued that Africa will also benefit by supporting India at the WTO.

Ms. Shebonti Ray Dadwal, argued that there is immense potential for cooperation between India and Africa on renewable energy front that has to be tapped. India is trying to reduce its carbon emissions as per its commitment to the Paris Agreement and has increased its renewable energy capacity considerably, including solar, wind and geothermal energy. India has the 5th largest installed electricity capacity (more than 330 GW), of which 33% is renewable energy. India plans to scale it up to 40% by 2030. Also, India is aiming to provide 24x7 power for all by 2022. For this, India has to scale up renewable energy in its energy mix. Currently, 400 million people in India do not have access to energy and several more are not connected to the grids. There are several similarities that exist in the energy landscape of India and Africa, thereby increasing the potential for cooperation. Substantial amount of cooperation already exists in the hydrocarbon sector and there is increasing interest for developing cooperation in renewable energy. India is an important player in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and several African countries are a part of it. India

has increasingly showed its resolve to support other developing countries to develop renewable energy and India is keen to support these countries develop solar energy, especially for off-grid generation in rural areas. India has set aside \$2 billion, of the \$10 billion line of credit offered to Africa, for the development of solar energy. Dadwal argued that the most important areas of cooperation for Africa and India in the area of renewal energy are energy storage and technology transfer. Considering that most of the African countries are rich in minerals required for the manufacturing of batteries including, Cobalt and Lithium, India can partner with its African friends, for example, Congo, which has the largest reserves of Cobalt, to manufacture low-cost batteries. Furthermore, several African countries, like Burundi, Zimbabwe and Kenya are rich in rare-earth minerals that are used for the manufacture of green technologies. India and Africa can collaborate in manufacture of high-tech equipments required for harnessing renewable energy. Ms. Dadwal concluded with the statement that India and Africa should tap into the tremendous opportunities and potential for cooperation in renewable energy.

In the discussions, questions were raised on technology transfer, the need for creating enabling environment for cooperation and partnership in renewable energy, and the role of renewable energy in reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. The panelists concurred on the need for India and Africa need to boost their ties in areas ranging from energy security to food security, agriculture and water.

Report prepared by Chithra Purushotthaman, PhD, Research Assistant, Non-Traditional Security Centre.

## Session 4: Perspectives on Cooperation for Cyber Security

*Chair: Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Coordinator, India*

*Speakers:*

- *Prof. Essien D. Essien, University of Uyo, Nigeria*
- *Mrs. Rama Vedashree, CEO, Data Security Council of India, India*
- *Dr. Cherian Samuel, Research Fellow, IDSA, India*

The first speaker of the session Professor Essien D. Essien began the panel discussion by stressing the importance of this session for security by highlighting the very sensitive nature of cyber security. Cyber activities and crimes related to them are a serious matter in today's world. Essien stated that technology today is driving the economic development of many countries and has changed the landscape of business and other activities through out the world. It has been incorporated into business and political activities and all other aspects of life. This integration has resulted in challenges that now have to be dealt with. The Internet has made a tremendous increase in Africa and other parts of the world. All activities in society, because of their integration with the Internet are now vulnerable to cyber risks. New challenges and dangers have come up with the expansion of new technology. Cyber crime is a serious setback to development. Cyber crime has cost the world about 500 billion dollars and it has cost Africa in particular, a sum of 2 billion annually. Cyber criminals are intelligent, fast, sophisticated and educated. Cyber crime is increasing in Africa because of the increasing rate of penetration of the internet, surge in the use of mobile phones and technology, poverty and unemployment. The graduate unemployed, because of lack of jobs, engage in criminal cyber activities for survival. The nature of threats faced range from identity thefts, breach of personal data and secrets to infringement of intellectual property rights (like piracy) and denial of services. Critical infrastructure can be disrupted by cyber attacks. He also stated that Africa is of the opinion that collective efforts need to be undertaken to tackle the challenges of cyber security.

He highlighted problems of lack of awareness in the end users about Internet technology, the lack of investment in information security and the shortage of experts. He stated that in Africa, the banking sector is most prone to cyber security risks, followed next by government agencies and telecommunication. Mobile money services and microfinance institutions are also disrupted by cyber crime. To deal with the challenges of cyber security, education, training and cyber security competitions should be encouraged. Collaboration between governments, private actors and academics in bilateral and multilateral settings should take place. He also stressed the need for consensual partnerships between Africa and India (which has made more progress than the African countries in cyber activities) to tackle the challenges of cyber security.

Mrs. Rama Vedashree began by acknowledging that both India and Africa have moved in less than two decades from a poverty stricken to a growth trajectory. India is one of the fastest growing economies and 9 African countries are part of the 20 fastest growing economies in the world. She stated that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and digital technologies are the

catalyst for development in both regions and Africa saw success in mobile internet and mobile payment before India. Many Indian members of the industry are involved in Africa and several bilateral and regional dialogues between India and African countries have been carried out in the past. The governments of both Indian and the African countries are leading ICT adoption in their respective countries. Focusing on India, she stated that in the last few years, the sector has been transforming in India and is now focussing on different competencies other than global services. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and analytics are a few of the new areas that have opened up in India. Regulators in India like the banking regulator, insurance regulator, capital market (SEBI) and the smart cities cyber security framework, are taking the lead in formulating cyber security frameworks and these frameworks can also be adopted by African countries. There are over a hundred cyber security start-ups and product companies in India with markets beyond India. The revenue of the cyber security industry is about 4 billion dollars in India. The sector has about 150,000 employees. Cyber security companies in India are concentrated in the cities of Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and the Delhi NCR region. Mrs. Vedashree ended her presentation by bringing the attention to areas of collaboration that India and Africa could focus on. These include skill development, law enforcement capability building in cyber forensics, threat and malware research, SMB capacity building and cross sectorial security drills.

Dr. Cherian Samuel began his presentation by discussing India-Africa collaboration on cyber security through the Pan African e-Network, which was launched in 2009, is a success story and a good example of south-south cooperation; m-pesa, which was launched in Kenya in 2007 and expanded to India in 2014; and Indian telecom company Airtel that has over 78 million customers in 16 African countries. He went on to state that as the cyber space network has expanded, so has its vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities are inbuilt but its misuse has been a man-made phenomenon. The insecurity in cyber space is demonstrated by the bugging of the United Nations headquarters in New York and the African Union head quarters in Addis Ababa and their data being ex-filtrated through cyber space. He stated that this has become a metaphor for our times. They are major threats to national security. Absence of borders in cyber security means that issues have international ramifications. When it comes to cyber crime, besides the logistics of coordination between countries, fundamental issues like harmonization of the various laws in these countries so that prosecution can take place is also a challenge. While the pros of digitization include increased connectivity, leapfrogged technologies, improved governance, education, financial inclusion, health and agriculture; the cons, especially for developing countries, include cybercrime, global surveillance, militarisation of cyber space, fake news, instability in critical infrastructure and cyber war. Cyber security is a moving target as threats and actors appear and mutate at astounding speed. There are 9 pillars of digital India and security needs to be an integral part of these efforts at multiple levels. He also talked about the need for protection of submarine cable networks. He ended by stating that India has MoUs on cyber security with approximately 5 African countries right now and increasing this number can be a start and that India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Aadhaar and Common Service Centres could be relevance to Africa.

The discussion focused on cooperation in the sectors of defence, artificial intelligence and maritime security. The challenge of fake news was also discussed.

Report prepared by Ekta Niranjana, Intern, Non-Traditional Security Centre.

## Session 5: Perspectives on Cooperation in Skills and Capacity Building

*Chair: Ambassador (Prof) P. Stobdan, Senior Fellow, IDSA*

*Speakers:*

- *Prof. Donald P. Chimankire, University of Zimbabwe*
- *Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Policy, Confederation of Indian Industry, India*
- *Prof. Kenneth King, Visiting Fellow, IDSA, United Kingdom*

Prof. Donald P. Chimankire made a presentation on India's capacity building initiatives in Africa. Before starting his presentation, Prof. Chimankire recognized India's efforts in assisting African countries, before and after independence, and said that India has played a crucial role in skill and capacity building in Africa. According to him many African leaders such as Nkrumah, Awolowo, Nyerere, and Kunda, took inspirations from India and saw it as a Guru. He started the presentation by defining the term capacity building as the United Nation does, "as a process by which individuals, organizations, institutions and societies develop the abilities to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives". He noted India's assistance in African Capacity Building Foundation has proved useful for African countries. He further noted that Africa has tremendously benefited by sending its scholars to IITs as it is lacking these kinds of institutes. According to him Indian training initiatives by expatriates in Africa has also proved beneficial for the countries of the region. He suggested that capacity building in Africa should be focused at two levels, first, training initiatives in Africa and second in India. He broadly highlighted India's initiatives to develop capacity building institutions in the region and named some of the important institutes such as:

1. India- Africa Institute of Information technology, Ghana
2. India- Africa Institute of foreign trade Ghana, Uganda
3. India- Africa Institute of Education Planning and Administration, Burundi
4. India- Africa Diamond Institute, Botswana
5. India- Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development
6. India- Africa Civil Aviation Academy, etc.

His presentation was largely focussed on India-Africa cooperation in skill and capacity development, specifically on technology, which is a cornerstone of India-Africa ties. He said that India's support is critical but to move forth "we will also have to develop our capabilities to sustain".

While commenting on agricultural technology he said that there is no way Africa can develop agriculture sector without taking help from Asia. In conclusion, he said India's initiatives have

brought development in the African continent. The growing economic and financial potential of India and other emerging economies has strongly impacted and changed the existing status quo. Under the India-Africa partnership, several initiatives have been taken to promote capacity building, skill transfer and infrastructure build-up in Africa. It has also enhanced South-South co-operation. He also emphasised on continued assistance from India for human resource development.

The second presentation by Mr. Pranav Kumar was on India-Africa business and investment. While addressing the issue of bilateral trade and investment relationship between India and Africa, he said that African countries have lots of expectation from India. He said there were three important components of investment:

1. Financing
2. Local enabling environment (Structure and Government)
3. Skilling

According to him, though India has given duty-free tariff scheme and granted many concessions to African LDCs but still trade from Africa to India is not happening desired way. He noted that "Africa does not have the problem in the market access, it has zero duty market access in Europe, it can even export its goods to America undergrowth and opportunity act but the problem lies in the selection of items to export and this is where Indian business firms and Government can help Africa". According to him, Indian investment projects in east African countries namely, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, reveal that the skilling is the major problem in these countries. The absence of the skilled labours in these countries is the biggest problem for Indian businessmen and investors.

Furthermore, the governments in these countries also do not allow bringing sufficient skilled labour, as they only give work permit to a handful workers. It becomes a big problem for investors. Currently, some of the African countries are fastest growing economies, therefore, to reach desired development goals, skilling and capacity building in Africa is very important. Apart from skilling there is also need to develop enabling environment or an ecosystem for business development.

He noted that India has given special consideration to skilling in its engagement with the east African region. India has also discussed this issue with the other countries as well such as Japan and UK. After 2008, India has scaled up its business partnerships with the African nation for capacity building. He said Indian investors are keen to invest and explore business opportunities in Africa. But to reach the desired goal, the investment component must be strengthened. The third presentation was made by Prof. Kenneth King on skill development in India and Africa in which he identified the scope for an interactive agenda, i.e., on the inter-relations and possible synergies between the massive national ambitions to build capacity for skill development within India and current need of Africa to build its own technical capacities.

His presentation was divided into the three major sections. First on India and skill development. In this section, he spoke on the skill development initiatives of Former Prime Minister Manmohan

Singh and current Prime Minister Modi. He highlighted the international dimension of skill India initiative and said that skill India is linked to "Make in India" campaign.

The second section of his presentation focussed on skill development in Africa. In this section, he broadly discussed the current state of skill development in Africa. He underlined the different discourses of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). He said the East Asian (South Korea, Singapore and Japan) attitude towards TVET have been more positive in comparison to Africa. . But in the last few years, a positive shift has been seen; the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and Africa Union Agenda 2063 had given the positive account of TVET in Africa. The SDG4 acknowledged that the majority of TVET skill development happening in the informal sector. Hence, any substantial initiative for skill development has to take account massive training requirement in the unregulated sector of the economy. The third section of his presentation captured India's Africa-related skill development initiatives and programs. In this section, he spoke about Indian formal and informal cooperation in African skill development. He broadly highlighted the informal skill transfer during 1930s-1960s by Indian Diaspora in East Africa as well as formal engagement through ICCR, ITEC and pan-African e-networks etc. While discussing the prospects of TVET in Africa, he said Indo-African cooperation in TVET needs a country level data. While talking about non-state actors in India-Africa Skill development, he said, there have been explorations by NGOs like SEWA from Gujarat and Barefoot College, Rajasthan regarding capacity building initiatives. He also said there is some scope for the role of Indian private sector skill development initiatives in Africa.

He also highlighted the possibility of skill development in Africa via the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. According to him, Africa is the major producer of horticulture products but the very limited amount of these products are exported outside. There is growing demand for encouraging new African entrepreneurs through innovation to participate in the business of food processing. In this regard, technical knowledge should be introduced in Africa. He finished the presentation by saying that Japan and India are well known for their support for science, technology and higher education but it will be interesting to see how both the countries rebrand these for skilling.

The discussion that followed was on the possibility of collaboration in defence and security areas and public-private partnership for skill development. There was also a question on the possibility of starting ITEC course on cybersecurity in IDSA. The Chair explained the lack of expertise on the subject in IDSA to do so.

Report prepared by Jatin Kumar, Intern, West Asia Centre

## Session 6 - Panel Discussion: India and Africa: Deepening the Security Engagement

*Chair: Ambassador Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary, India*

*Speakers:*

- *Dr. Neena Malhotra, JS (E&SA), MEA, India*
- *Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, India*
- *Amb. Mrs. Florence I Weche, Kenya*
- *Amb. Hatem El Sayed Tageldin, Egypt*

Ambassador Shashank initiated the discussion by underscoring the importance of issue-based partnerships between India and Africa which may include themes like climate change, negotiations at the WTO forum, solar energy and cyber security, to name a few.

The first speaker of the panel discussion was Dr. Neena Malhotra, JS (E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Her presentation was a comprehensive account of the recent developments in various fields that have enhanced the partnership between India and Africa. In the beginning of her presentation, she noted the dynamism of the African continent which includes richness in energy resources (like oil and gas), minerals, unused cropland, youthful population, emergence of a huge consumer market. The recently signed Framework Agreement on African Continental Free Trade Area in fact creates a huge potential for engagement with Africa, she opined. The speaker pointed to few factors that have been instrumental in nurturing the partnership in India and Africa on solid ground recently.

- India's positive diplomatic gestures have helped boosting the morale in India-Africa partnership. In fact, Africa has been a priority for the Ministry of External Affairs for some time now. In sync with this policy, in 2017, India hosted the African Development Bank meeting, it has recently opened 18 new missions in Africa with which the total number of Indian missions in Africa stands at 47 and high level bilateral visits have been taking place regularly which includes prime ministerial visits.
- India and a number of African countries are cooperating with each other in various multilateral forums including the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Partnerships in multilateral forums give an extra opportunity to India and Africa to work together against the menaces like terrorism, piracy etc.
- India's SAGAR is visualised to bring growth and prosperity to the Indian Ocean littoral nations and hence, several African nations will be benefitted from this policy.
- India has long been a cooperative partner in health and medical industries and services in Africa. To add to this, India and Africa have developed plans to work together to nurture

traditional medicinal practises and health care services throughout the African continent.

- In the fields of education and human resource development also, several training centers have been inaugurated and have become operational with the Indian help in various parts of Africa.
- In order to augment the connectivity between India and Africa, several schemes like E-Visa, Visa on Arrival have been incorporated by India and its partners from Africa.

Two most significant points in this presentation were India's inclusive and continental approach in developing partnerships with the African countries and a consultative approach of cooperation that has helped India to reach to the African Continent in a wider way.

The next speaker Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, spoke about South-South Cooperation, based on which, India and Africa have developed their partnerships. He mentioned that South-South Cooperation is based on sectoral partnerships, International Solar Alliance being one instance. He noted that India and Africa need to pay more attention to some other sectors to attain the maximum benefits from their development partnership. Indian help in agricultural mechanisation in Africa to ensure innovation in agricultural production; health and pharmaceuticals, especially investments in cost-effective diagnostic kits, capacity building of health care professionals are some such areas. He said India's partnership with Africa can be termed as a Development Compact which has several components including technology, grants, lines of credit, trade and investment and capacity building. Chaturvedi highlighted two points in his presentation. First, that while South-South Cooperation is voluntary in nature; it is demand driven and offers win-win solutions for each partner; second, India needs to be open-minded in assessing the impacts of the programmes, projects and policies implemented in Africa under the ambit of its development partnership and cooperation agenda. This will indeed help India to formulate the future strategies for Africa.

The third speaker, Amb. Mrs. Florence I Weche initiated her presentation with the ongoing bilateral and multilateral cooperation between India and Africa. She mentioned that maritime security is one area where the African littoral nations are benefitting from the bilateral security cooperation with India. The problems of terrorism and piracy were focused in her presentation as she deliberated that the root causes of these issues are unemployment and hence, she suggested that skill enhancement and youth empowerment are two sectors where India can help Africa in a more robust way. Besides all these, according to the speaker, India-Africa cooperation in energy sector is also of utmost importance which is reflected at the International Solar Alliance. Agriculture and food security are few other sectors where Africa is willing to learn from the Indian experience, a country that has transformed itself from a food deficit country to a food surplus country in decades.

The two most pressing areas of cooperation she mentioned were, first, the need to bring health care facilities to the doorsteps of the common Africans so that they do not have to come to India for treatment; and second, the the necessity of investments by Indian companies in Africa as win-win situations which cannot be achieved only through lines of credit.

The fourth speaker, Amb. Hatem El Sayed Tageldin, emphasised on institutional partnerships between India and Africa. He mentioned about the institutional partnerships through the African

Union and the role of India in the areas of science and technology, information communication technology, capacity building, cyber security, anti-terrorism initiatives, maritime safety and security to name a few. The speaker then proceeded to focus on the bilateral relations between Egypt and India and identified several areas including peacekeeping where India and Egypt are cooperating with each other both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Focus was also given on the potential of IORA in ensuring maritime safety and security including freedom of navigation. In continuation, the speaker emphasised on the necessity of cooperation in various facets of development including energy, connectivity, health care, finance, food security and so on.

Towards the end of the session, Amb. Shashank highlighted three issues to be identified as the central themes of Indo-African partnership and those include cooperation in fights against terrorism; a strengthened role of the IORA in bringing peace and stability in the region and lastly, cooperation in achieving food security.

The discussion focused on the lack of awareness about India in Africa and vice-versa signaling the need for media in both locales to showcase the other. There were several concerns raised regarding non-implementation of some Indian projects and impact assessment of the Indian projects in Africa. The lack of public awareness about the cooperation initiatives taken between India and Africa was also lamented.

Report prepared by Sampa Kundu, Ph.D., Research Assistant, Southeast Asia and Oceania Centre

## Recommendations

### Inaugural Session

- Africa and India should strengthen their partnership to fight for a fair and just international system and also strive for betterment of the people.
- There is a need to enhance cooperation in existing areas such as preventing and controlling armed conflicts, ensuring maritime security and anti-piracy cooperation.
- There is a need to further work on this area to enable the security forces in African countries to become self-reliant in fighting against the threats emanating from various sources

### Session I: Perspectives on Evolving India- Africa Security Engagement

- With regard to supply of defence equipment, it is important to have more dialogue between the military personnel, ministries and institutions of the two sides to overcome the lack of responsiveness from African countries. There is a simultaneous requirement of further improving the processes in India to facilitate faster delivery of equipment.
- It is worthwhile exploring the possibility of using the concessional lines under the India-Africa Forum Summit for defence and security purposes to address the lack of funding.
- Going forward, the impetus should be on intelligence sharing and information sharing.
- There is scope for cooperation between cooperation between the peace and security training and research centres and institutions of India and Africa such as the CUNPK/IDSA (India) and KAIPTC (Ghana)/NDC (Nigeria), ISS (South Africa) and PSTC (Kenya).
- Trilateral dialogues such as India-Africa-UK Security Forum, India-Africa-EU Security Forum or India-Africa-US Security Forum can be explored.
- Security cooperation can be extended to the law enforcement, intelligence and border security management agencies.
- The focus of cooperation should be on prevention of conflicts, rather than on peacekeeping during or after the end of conflict.
- Cooperation must be based on African aspirations and African solutions must be the priority.
- There is need to focus on actionable strategies, processes and interventions that go beyond shared security concerns.
- The use of existing institutionalised intergovernmental peace and security frameworks of the AU, regional economic communities and the UN will take security cooperation to higher levels of efficiency.

- India can learn from the African experience of innovative forms of ad hoc regional initiatives such as the RCI-LRA and the G5 Sahel.
- The reviving of the position of the African envoy in India will bring the two sides closer.

### Session II: Perspectives on Cooperation on Maritime Security

- There is scope for developing 'transformative synergies' in their maritime partnership.
- It is important to have a regular dialogue relationship with IORA and IONS. Engagement with countries of the western African coast, relevant AU structures and those of ECOWAS.
- Cross-cutting issues such as terrorism, cyber security and other forms of trans-national crimes as well as climate change must be the clear focus of maritime security cooperation dialogue.
- The Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences must be involved in addressing the security downside of climate change in various areas such as climate change modelling, sustainability of island communities etc.
- There is scope for making available and sharing India's expertise in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- India needs to set up a diplomatic outpost in Comoros due to its strategic importance as it overlooks the Mozambique Channel.
- There is need for greater maritime collaboration between the key regional and extra-regional stakeholders.
- The narrative for cooperation has to move from counter piracy to maritime security
- The 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) highlights 21 areas related to capacity building in the maritime sector, which can be the basis of cooperation with external actors including India.
- There is great potential for collaboration in ship-building and ship-repair and it should be explored.
- The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor trilateral can be a source of funding for maritime security infrastructure.
- The focus should be on country-specific requirements of maritime security rather than continental policies.
- India must engage with other external powers, such as France, in providing security related measures.

### Session III: Perspectives on Cooperation in Energy and Food Security

- Support from the Global South in the area of advanced energy technologies will prove to be more affordable for Africa and is suitable to African conditions and hence it must be increased.
- African countries could support India's struggle for a fair trade regime in the WTO as this will benefit them also.
- In the area of renewal energy, energy storage and technology transfer are promising areas of cooperation.
- India can gain from low cost rare-earth minerals that can help it green its energy production, and procure minerals like cobalt and lithium that can help it produce low cost batteries.

### Session IV: Perspectives on Cooperation for Cyber Security

- Collaboration between governments, private actors and academics in bilateral and multilateral settings is an imperative for cyber security in Africa; as are training and education.
- Regulators in India like the banking regulator, insurance regulator, capital market (SEBI) and the smart cities cyber security framework, are taking the lead in formulating cyber security frameworks and these frameworks can also be adopted by African countries.
- There are nine pillars of digital India and security needs to be an integral part of each of them.
- India can expand on MoUs with Africa beyond the current 5 countries. Joint protection of submarine cable is yet another area for cooperation.
- India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Aadhaar and Common Service Centres could be relevance to Africa in its quest for inclusive growth.

### Session V: Perspectives on Cooperation in Skills and Capacity Building

- It is important for India to contribute to human resource development in Africa. This can be done in two ways: Indian experts can travel to Africa and train and build skills in the local surroundings or people from Africa can travel to India and develop skills at training centres in the country.
- Skilling of people in Africa is extremely important for Indian businesses to benefit from trade and investment in Africa.
- Any substantial initiative for skill development has to take account the massive training requirement in the unregulated sectors of the economy.
- There is substantial scope Indian private sector participation in skill development in Africa.

- Detailed country level-data is required before providing vocational training in Africa.
- The Asia Africa Growth Corridor project can be useful tool for imparting skills to the people of Africa.
- Include capacities for disaster response, defence training, maritime and cyber security in the institutional infrastructure for skills upgradation.
- Consider the possibility of joint production of defence products such as anti-mine vehicles

### Session VI: Panel Discussion: India and Africa: Deepening the Security Engagement

- India and Africa need to pay more attention to cooperation in certain sectors namely agricultural mechanisation in Africa, health and pharmaceuticals, especially investments in cost-effective diagnostic kits and capacity building of health care professionals.
- India needs to be open-minded in assessing the impact of the programmes, projects and policies implemented in Africa for fine-tuning future strategies.
- There is great merit in bringing health care facilities to the doorsteps of the common Africans so that they do not have to come to India for treatment.
- Lines of credit from India must be complemented by private sector investment in Africa for Africa's growth.
- There is much scope for cooperation under the rubric of IORA to maintain peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region.
- There needs to be an effective media interface for mainstreaming of the 'India story' in the national discourse in the countries in Africa as well as to increase familiarisation of Africa in India. An active state media policy to encourage this in the form of TV and radio channels.