



**Speech by Dr. Rathin Roy, Director of IPC-IG, on the occasion of the opening session of the India-Brazil-South (IBSA) Academic Forum: A Policy Dialogue**

**Brasilia, 12 April 2010**

It is a privilege for me to welcome you all to The Academic Forum of the Fourth India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Process.

The strength and resilience of the IBSA initiative is marked by recalling its genesis, here in Brasilia. On June 6 2003, the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met here. At this meeting the launch of the IBSA Dialogue Forum was formalized through the adoption of the "Brasilia Declaration." Seven years down the road, this gathering, once again in Brasilia, marks the definitive success of a vision, an ideal that few would have thought possible in our contemporary, often cynical, times.

The idea of IBSA is unique, not just in its transcontinental scope, or in its bringing together three major democracies of the global South, but also in being, from its very inception, a dialogue process that extends beyond the usual narrow confines of intergovernmental parley. Like the many streams that feed the mighty rivers of the three nations, the IBSA process builds upon dialogue between public intellectuals, social activists, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and mediapersons. At the plenary session, I will be privileged to convey the key messages from this important forum as our collective contributions to the process this year.

Facilitating Policy dialogue is an important mandate of the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. The Centre is a joint venture between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Brazil working in wider partnership with government's institutions and public intellectuals across the global South --- and importantly, and as a matter of priority --, with the IBSA nations. Our vision is to act as a convening think tank, to highlight, foster and build work programmes owned and delivered within the global South that can make a significant difference in our common endeavour to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives.

The recent global economic crisis has poignantly shown the global community that inclusive growth is a necessity and not a luxury. Many scholars from India Brazil and South Africa have established the link between the relative resilience of the IBSA countries to global exogenous shocks and the explicit attention paid to inclusive growth in the contemporary development strategies of these countries. The IBSA countries have, each in their own way, made significant advances in this direction; they have shown



that inclusive growth is possible, that poverty reduction and human development need not await generations of narrowly focused growth maximization.

We will, in this forum, be looking at these successful experiences of all the IBSA countries in fostering inclusive growth. The aim is to develop work programmes that help deliver a portfolio of policies and actions targeted at enhancing the inclusivity of economic growth. This, we hope, will feed into the development processes not only of the IBSA countries but also help deliver better development results across the global South.

I have alluded to the national dimensions of inclusive growth; however there is also an important global dimension, namely that economic and political playing fields need to be leveled so that inclusivity happens globally as well as within nations. I think you will all agree that the widening of the mandate of the G-20 is only a first and partial step in this direction. It is here that IBSA can also play an important exemplary role. It is now apparent that strategic thinking on foreign policy will have to take account of the growing role of the emerging economies in shaping the future architecture of global economic governance and development cooperation. It is vital to recognize, in this context, that the perspective of the IBSA countries is rooted in a deep historical engagement with the global South; this portends a huge opportunity to forge a new and more inclusive paradigm that secures faster and more sustainable human development for all global citizens. Our session on plurilateralism will, I am confident, break important new ground in this direction and foster a productive work programme on this important issue.

For the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, the IBSA Academic forum marks the start of a continued and systematic engagement with the IBSA trilateral process. We commit to bring the best we have to the service of this process, which we regard as being at the core of the Centre's mandate. I thank you for your solidarity and look forward to an enjoyable and productive dialogue.