



**The Ambassador’s Conference**

***Rome, 30 October 2018***

***The outcomes of the Tenth BRICS Summit***

***Johannesburg, South Africa (July 2018)***

**Interventions - Comments - Proposals**

**The event has been promoted in occasion of the**

**SOUTH AFRICA BRICS Chairmanship 2018**

**by the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Rome**

**in cooperation with Italian Society for the International Organization SIOI**

**and Istitute EURISPES.**

*The Seminar has the Patronage of the Italian Network for Euromediterranean Dialogue RIDE-APS*

*and of the Italian Network of the Anna Lindt Foundation ALF*

*We would like to thank Dr. FABIO TIBURZI, a member of the BRICS Laboratory of Eurispes,*

*for his valuable contribution in the elaboration of this Report.*

**Premise**

With the X Summit of Johannesburg (July 2018), the BRICS have concluded a first decade of activity and defined new strategies of cooperation and global development, destined to have, in the near future, a significant impact on the international scene, specifically on areas and sectors of primary interest also for Italy and European Union..

**Objective**

Promote a high-level meeting with official representatives in Italy (at the level of bilateral and multilateral Ambassadors) of the five Member States of international coordination of BRICS and with Italian institutions and experts selected for their high qualification in the analysis of strategies of this coordination.

Evaluate the main results of the 10th BRICS Summit held on 27-27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, during the chaimanship of the BRICS coordination by South Africa in 2018.

**Program and speakers**

The seminar has been articulated into three phases: a) an introduction, b) a session reserved to the official representatives of the five Member States of the BRICS coordination, c) a session reserved for the comments of Italian experts. The conclusions were given to the official representative of South Africa.

The introduction was carried out by the president of the Italian Society for International Organization-SIOI, *Franco Frattini*, and by the president of the EURISPES Institute, *Gian Maria Fara.*

The 1st session recorded the interventions of the following representatives of the BRICS States:

H.E the Ambassador of South Africa, *Shirish M Soni*,

H.E.the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, *Ruiyu Li*,

H.E. the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Brazil, *Antonio De Aguiar Patriota*,

H.E. the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, *Sergey Razov*, together with Mr. *Pavel Knyazev* Deputy Director of the Political Planning Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry and Sous-Sherpa for the Russian Federation in the BRICS coordination,

the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India,*Gloria Gangte*

The 2nd session was moderated by the general secretary of EURISPES, *Marco Ricceri* and recorded the comments of the experts: *Diego Fabbri*, SIOI lecturer and scientific advisor of the International Policy MagazineLIMES, *Enrico Molinaro*, member of the BRICS Laboratory of EURISPES

The conclusions were made by the Ambassador of South Africa, *Shirish M Soni*.

**Speeches**

**SIOI**

**President *Franco Frattini***

**BRICS: a positive reality and an opportunity for Italy, for the European Union**

President Frattini recalls, at the beginning, the value of some ongoing processes such as: a) the fact that during the first decade the BRICS coordination was able to consolidate progressively; b) the fact that the last two summits (Xiamen, China, 2017 and Johannesburg, South Africa, 2018) have opened a new decade based on the realistic perspective of further consolidation of the structure and its further enlargement, based on the new BRICS PLUS strategy; c) the fact that the BRICS coordination does not operate as a structure "against" the prevailing order but "to" collaborate with the main international institutions and the actors of world development to correct the most serious distortions of the current globalization’s process; moreover, they recognize the centrality of the UN, of which they advocate a reform, not only limited to the Security Council, in order to increase the incisiveness of its action. Facing with this positive reality, which follows a recommendable approach, in particular the position of the European Union is not understood, which continues to favor relations with the individual BRICS member states instead of committing to a cooperation extended to the coordination as a whole. Such situation has to be corrected; and it is desirable that Italy can make an important contribution to this end.

*(Annex: scheme of the intervention)*

**EURISPES**

**President *Gian Maria Fara***

**Building a collaborative platform with the BRICS**

President Fara emphasizes, in the introduction, the positive and constructive spirit with which this conference was promoted. Italy considers important and shares the main points of commitment of the BRICS for a new world governance, the value of inclusive policies, the recovery of a primary role of the real economy. The main objective is to understand if and how it is possible to organize forms of collaboration between our Italian reality and the BRICS reality, to create the conditions for identifying and promoting possible common collaboration platforms between Italy and the BRICS coordination and try, together, to enlarge such platforms also at European level. Areas of particular interest for Italy where building up collaborative platforms are the Mediterranean area and Africa. The start of such a collaboration between Italy and BRICS would give an important positive signal at international level, would help to give greater order to the current processes of global development and to multiply the opportunities for common growth

*(Annex: full version of the intervention)*

**South Africa**

**Ambassador Prof. *Shirish M Soni***

**The new areas of BRICS cooperation as agreed during the X Summit**

South African Ambassador Shirish M Soni illustrates the main decisions approved in South Africa on July 27, 2018, regarding both the BRICS strategic guidelines and the New Areas of Cooperation.The strategic guidelines have been defined on the occasion: a) Special retreat of the BRICS leaders; b) the BRICS outreach dialogue (such as dialogue concerning Turkey and therefore Islam, the G20 countries, etc.); c) BRICS Business Forum, whose strengthening will allow to further deepen the discussion and the identification of real opportunities for economic development, industrial investments, commercial exchanges.

The New Cooperation Areas decided by the X Summit are the following: a) the establishment of a BRICS Working Group on the 4th Industrial Revolution, with the aim of evaluating and identifying the opportunities of this new process; b) the establishment of a Vaccine Research Center to be hosted in South Africa; c) the establishment of a BRICS Network of Science and Technology Parks, Business Incubators and Small and Medium Enterprises, d) the establishment of a Women's Forum; e) an agreement to explore the possibilities of establishing a Working Group on Peacekeeping operations; f) the organization of a Foreign Spokespersons Platform; g) the establishment of a Working Group on Tourism.

Regarding the different areas of cooperation between Italy and the BRICS’ reality, Ambassador Soni believes that two of the main areas to be promoted are that related to Education and Scientific Research.

**China**

**Ambassador *Ruiyu Li***

**Financial and Economic Governance issues**

Ambassador Ruiyu Li stresses, in the introduction, how the title of the Johannesburg summit "BRICS in Africa: collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution" has a very strong and practical meaning. The great scientific and technological progress has started, on the one hand, a highly innovative economic development process in emerging markets, which is very stimulating for everyone; but, on the other hand, at the same time, they have brought out new geopolitical conflicts, marked by protectionism, unilateral policies, trade contrasts. For President Xi Jinping, the BRICS must be able to seize the opportunities of this historic moment by following the three guidelines already set at the IX Summit of Xiamen, one of which concerns the strengthening of economic cooperation; an area in which the 10th Johannesburg Summit set two precise points.The first concerns the clear opposition of the BRICS to new forms of protectionism and unilateral international actions that upset the rules, transparency and non-discrimination that characterizes the free trade system established by the WTO, a system that must be protected in any case. The second point concerns the importance of the BRICS financial cooperation which must be at the service of the real economy. For this reason the BRICS constituted the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund, decided to open in 2019 in São Paulo, Brazil, the New Development Bank Americas Regional Office, and decided to promote a network of their financial institutions. After recalling the importance of the BRICS in the world economy, which does not correspond to an adequate representation in terms of voting in the World Bank as well as in the International Monetary Fund, Ambassador Li confirmed that the BRICS will continue to strengthen their cooperation to address at best the industrial revolution and that China, in particular, will continue to open more and more the doors to international cooperation, as it has done so far, in the interest of the BRICS as well as of the world community.

(*Annex: full version of the intervention*)

**Brazil**

**Ambassador *Antonio De Aguiar Patriota***

**Multilateralism and the reform of the global governance architecture**

The Ambassador of Brazil De Aguiar Patriota underlines the value of the multilateralism that has been established over time in the world geopolitical scene, a process of which the BRICS are also expression and protagonists, and the risks of involution constituted by new initiatives inspired by unilateralism. Rather, we need to continue to progress and reform multilateralism - the open problem of a new governance - making it suitable for the needs of the 21st century. It is multilateralism that allows us to face the greatest challenges of our time, such as the sustainability of development according to the UN 2030 Agenda, climate change, terrorism, armaments, world trade, epidemic diseases and more; and it is within the framework of multilateral cooperation that it is possible to reform fundamental international institutions, such as the United Nations itself, to make them more adapted to the new situations. Strengthening the pillars of multilateralism is the priority commitment of the BRICS. Regarding the BRICS presidency for 2019, the main points of commitment of Brazil concern the strengthening of cooperation in the following areas: a) Financial cooperation (New Development Bank); b) Cooperation in science, technology and innovation (eg small and medium-sized enterprises, vocational training); c) Cooperation in the field of health (treatment of tuberculosis, HIV / AIDS, smoking abuse); d) Cooperation in the field of energy (for example: energy efficiency and reduction of environmental impact)

(*Annex: scheme of the intervention*)

**Russia**

**Ambassador*Sergey Razov* together with the Deputy Director of the Policy Planning Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation and BRICS Sous-Sherpa for the Russian Federation, Mr *Pavel Knyazev***

**Peace and Security Issues**

The Russian Ambassador *Sergey Razov* summarizes above all the state of relations between Russia and Italy considered quite satisfactory in light of the current historical situation. An important role is played, in particular, by the intergovernmental commission for trade. As for the BRICS the Ambassador underlines the value of their role as actors of peace, engines of economic development and creators of new opportunities for all,

The Deputy Director of the Political Planning Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry and Sous-Sherpa for Russia in the BRICS coordination Mr*. Pavel Knyazev*, reports on the main security problems related to the wars in Syria, Iraq, the allegations to Iran for the matter nuclear energy, international terrorism and the use it makes of information technologies, with possible effects on the situation of entire states. Faced with this danger, Russia supports the need to maximize international cooperation on Cyber Security. It therefore suggests continuing the strengthening of the BRICS partnership in the field of peace and security, extending it to other countries based on the Nelson Mandela’sprinciples as Honesty, Justice, Equality, building greater equity within the system of international relations for peace and security. In this context the United Nations must have a central role, able to protect multipolarity, impose peaceful methods of intervention. In this framework a UN Security Council reform is desirable for a more equitable resolution of international issues. The BRICS, he added, do not allow unilateral interventions, do not allow a double standard of judgment, disapprove the use of restrictive economic and military measures to punish the States, reiterate their commitment to a peaceful use of Space and wish for closer collaborations in the field of space technologies. In broader terms, it must be clear that the BRICS, with reference also to the new BRICS Plus strategy, are for collaboration, not competition, with the major international organizations, for example, the G7, the G20, the World Bank. To this end, the organization of Dialogue Platforms and economic cooperation in the markets of emerging countries are worthwhile.

**India**

**Ms *Gloria Gangte***

**Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India**

**People-to-people Cooperation**

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Indian Embassy in Rome, *Gloria Gangte* recalls, first of all, the fact that the present Rome conference on the BRICS takes place in coincidence with the visit of the Italian Premier Conte to the Indian Prime Minister Nerenda Modi. The BRICS represent 41% of the world population, a huge fact, and already at its first summit in Fortaleza (2014), Premier Modi had hoped for that BRICS would have to put people at the center of their initiative and follow an approach focused, in fact, on the inclusion of people in the growth processes. Since then, numerous initiatives have been promoted for this purpose. Strengthening the knowledge and connections between people is the best way to contribute to Global Security, Economic Stability and Tolerance. The BRICS People-to-People Cooperation policy includes, among others, the Youth Summit, the Diplomatic Youth Forum, the Young Scientists Forum, and the meetings between women engaged in legislative activity within the Parliamentary Forum. In order to enhance the role of women, at the Johannesburg Summit decided to promote a Women's Forum and a Women Business Forum. Further tools for this type of cooperation are: the meetings between the Think Tank, the Academic Forum, the Forum of civil society organizations. The summit decided also to set up a Working Group on Tourism (considerable is the increase in tourist exchanges between the BRICS countries) and to intensify joint initiatives in the sport sector. In the cultural field, South Africa has proposed a cooperation treaty in cinematographic co-production and the launch of a comprehensive cultural cooperation plan.

*(Annex: full version of the intervention)*

**SIOI**

**Diego Fabbri**

**Lecturer SIOI and Scientific Councellor of LIMES,**

*Fabbri* analyzes the geopolitical dimension of the BRICS, underlines the fact that the BRICS are not an alliance but a coordination, within which China has progressively assumed a prevailing role for its great economic expansion. The main open problems of the BRICS are: the relationship between China and the other member states, the relationship between the three states Russia, India, China of the same continent Eurasia, the comparison of the BRICS as coordination with the new policy of the US president,Trump.

**EURISPES**

**Enrico Molinaro**

**Member of the BRICS Laboratory and Secretary General of the Italian Network for Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue.RIDE-APS**

*Molinaro* presents the acquis of the results of the Research Laboratory on the BRICS of EURISPES; illustrates a proposal for the establishment of a permanent Italy-BRICS Forum, an innovative policy-oriented research tool in collaboration with the BRICS coordination on Euro-Mediterranean themes.

*(Annex: full version of the intervention)*

**ANNEX**

**Welcome Speech by the President of SIOI, FRANCO FRATTINI**

**“BRICS: a positive reality and an opportunity for Italy, for the European Union”**

*(Scheme of the intervention)*

**1-BRICS - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**2001** - Economist *Jim O'Neill*, then president of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, publishes an economic document in which the acronym BRIC is used for the first time to define the new geo-economic aggregate made up of Brazil, Russia, India and China that, in his opinion, would have had an ever greater weight on the world economy.

**2006** - Russian Foreign Minister *Sergey Lavrov* promotes the first informal meeting between the foreign ministers of the four countries in New York, on the sideline of the UN General Assembly, to discuss the start of coordination. (Since then the practice of informal meetings among BRICS foreign ministers has become constant, alongside the great international meetings: UN, G20, etc.)

**2008** - The first meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government of the BRIC countries, takes place in Toyako (Japan), on the sideline of the G8.

**2009** - First official summit of the BRIC states in *Yekaterinburg* (Russia). From that date, the summits become an annual appointment, with the rotating presidency.

**2011** - Extension of coordination to South Africa: the acronym BRIC becomes BRICS

**2. THE BRICS EVOLUTION**

A progressive consolidation. During the first decade, the BRICS coordination was able to consolidate progressively and nevertheless:

a) the economic and financial crisis that in recent years has affected some member states such as Brazil, Russia and in part also China;

b) the tensions existing between some member states, for example China and India;

c) the lack of territorial contiguity and the different development rates among the member states.

Towards further enlargement. This consolidation process has denied numerous and authoritative forecasts of international experts who evaluated the BRICS as an ephemeral organization, of a conjunctural nature, destined to dissolve in the short term. On the contrary, in the first decade of life the BRICS have had the ability to establish themselves on the international scene as a new stable subject and the last two summits (Xiamen, China, 2017 and Johannesburg, South Africa, 2018) have opened a new decade based on the realistic perspective of further consolidation of the structure and of its further enlargement, on the basis of the new BRICS PLUS strategy; an hypothesized enlargement to states, for example, such as Indonesia, Nigeria, Mexico, Turkey (which, it must be added, has already submitted a request to that aim, with all the implications that it would entail in relations with the EU and in the Mediterranean area).

Main points acquired. In the evolutionary process of the BRICS, some important points have emerged:

a) *Not "against" but "for"*. The BRICS mission is to contribute to the construction of a more balanced, equitable and sustainable global development process, more oriented to meet the primary needs of many emerging countries.This approach, which at first sight might seem inspired by new forms of antagonism and juxtaposition between different geo-economic and geo-political blocs, was clarified in particular at the Ufa summit, Russia, 2015, in the sense that the BRICS coordination does not operate as a structure "against" the prevailing order but "to" collaborate with the main international institutions and the actors of world development to correct the most serious distortions of the current globalization process. The documents of the VII Summit (Ufa-Russia, 2015) make it clear that *the BRICS pursue a general political objective of coordination and collaboration, and not of opposition, with the main international institutions and other coordination structures, first of all the G20.*Very clear is the will to strengthen the *United Nations*, for the "*central role*" in solving the main challenges: peace, security, terrorism, development, human rights (points 4.27, 52 Ufa Declaration.). Even if the final document declares the commitment to a reform of the UN, starting with the Security Council. The commitment to strengthen the coordination of the G20 is also very clear ("*We call on the major economies to strengthen their political dialogue and coordination in the context of the G20*"; "*consolidate the role of the G20s as the main forum for economic and financial cooperation*".(Points 11, 18, Ufa Declaration.) as a tool to support the priority needs of developing countries and emerging markets. Also the *WTO*is recognized as a fundamental institution in defining multilateral trade rules (point 21, Ufa Declaration).

b) T*he opening of the BRICS*. The aforementioned collaborative approach (not "against", but "for") is accompanied by full openness and by the possibility to participate in the realization of the BRICS projects by public and private entities, such as national governments and economic operators, belonging to states external to the coordination. Consequently, the connection and the possible involvement in the BRICS activities constitute a new growth opportunity for all, primarily for Italy and for the European Union itself.This chance to participate in the BRICS strategic projects should be evaluated and taken not only in relation to the implementation of major infrastructure projects (major works and new corridors) but taking into account that the BRICS initiatives are articulated in numerous other sectors, as it is shown by the over 30 sectoral agreements promoted in different areas of development, such as: finance and coins, peace and security, demography and migration, work and social progress, tourism, environment, culture and education. All situations that over time have assumed characteristics and dimensions that offer important opportunities for collaboration.

**3. TERMS FOR ANY POSSIBLE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION**

a) *Establish a direct relationship between Italy and BRICS*. Our country has primary interests in many territorial and sectoral areas of the BRICS initiatives and, consequently, has an objective interest in seizing the opportunities offered by the coordination. This applies, for example, to the intervention strategies that the BRICS states are promoting with great intensity in the Mediterranean area and in Africa (although so far they are mainly initiatives of individual states, not of the coordination as such). To this end, it would be desirable for Italy to start a policy of confrontation and collaboration with the entire BRICS team, going beyond bilateral relations with individual member states. This in a condition of reciprocity.On the other hand, Italy could make a great contribution acting as a "bridge" between the BRICS coordination and the European Union, which continues to maintain an unproductive and now useless contradictory orientation.

b) *Correcting the contradictory position of the European Union towards the BRICS*. The main EU document concerning the BRICS (the Report approved in 2012 by the European Parliament - 10.01.2012 - n.A7-0010 / 2012) shows a contradictory attitude on the part of the EU. Indeed, on the one hand, the EU shows a very positive and collaborative attitude (see D,F points on a "*constructive partnership*" and a "*shared global governance*") but on the other hand explicitly invites EU member states to give preference to agreements with the individual states belonging to the BRICS to "*discourage the creation or consolidation of alternative groups of states*" (see Article 9), It is evident the EU's concern to prevent the BRICS from consolidating their reality as a real geo-political and geo-economic block. This contradictory position still characterizes the prevailing guidelines of the EU that Italy could help to correct with an appropriate initiative, useful for everyone.

**4.BRICS: OPEN QUESTIONS ON THE FUTURE**

The coordination of the BRICS is a very complex reality: political, economic, social, cultural. That refers to the structure, the mission, their evolutionary process, the new scenarios that this process can open on a global level. The main open issues are related to:

a-The institutional consolidation of the BRICS (currently the main institutions are the NDB development bank and the CRA Reserve Fund), and therefore the possibility of the coordination to promote international initiatives under the BRICS banner, as a collective body;

b-the possibility of enlarging the coordination as well as the implications of the recovery of an overall strategy aimed at enhancing the *South-South* of the world;

c-the impact on the international monetary system of new BRICS practices of using national currencies in transactions between member states and in large planned investments;

d-the attempt to bring the real economy back to the center of the dynamics of global development, where currently the main protagonism is exercised by the financial economy.

e-The effective contribution of the BRICS strategic projects to the sustainability of development: are we, in fact, faced with traditional (though far-reaching) or truly innovative interventions?

**Welcome Speech by the President of the Institute Eurispes, GIAN MARIA FARA**

**"Building a collaborative platform with the BRICS"**

*(full version of the intervention)*

Dear President Frattini,

This important seminar is the result of an intense collaboration between SIOI, EURISPES and the South African Embassy, which holds the chairmanship of the BRICS international coordination in this year 2018.

On behalf of EURISPES I thank you, President Frattini and your collaborators, I thank the Ambassador of South Africa, prof. *Shirish M. Soni*, the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the BRICS states who joined the initiative and decided to bring their contribution of reflection and knowledge.

I also take this opportunity to thank publicly the Italian and foreign experts who, since 2015, have been collaborating with the BRICS Laboratory of Eurispes in the analysis and evaluation of the activities of this new international subject, helping us to understand the great opportunities it offers for a better common progress .

A sincere recognition, finally, to the Italian Network for the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue RIDE APS and to the Italian Network of the Anna Lindt Foundation for their patronage at the seminar.

We are honored to be here at SIOI, one of the most prestigious and ancient Italian institutes of high education for diplomats and experts in international relations: certainly the best place, by tradition and competence, where to carry out an adequate reflection on the BRICS reality.

In this regard - I say it above all for our foreign guests - I want to underline an element that I consider fundamental: we are gathered here with a positive and constructive spirit, that is to understand if and how it is possible to organize forms of collaboration between Italy and the reality of the BRICS.

This is our main goal: to create the conditions for indentify and organize possible common collaboration platforms between Italy and the BRICS coordination and try, together, to extend such platforms also at European level.

Is it an ambitious goal? Of course: it's an ambitious goal.

But I add that it is a possible and also very useful goal for everyone because such collaboration’ initiative between Italy and BRICS would give an important positive signal at international level, would help to give a better order to the current processes of global development and to multiply the opportunities of common growth.

Globalization is a process that produces big costs but also big benefits and opportunities. Our interpretation of the BRICS contribution goes in this second direction.

On the other hand it is undeniable that we have entered a phase in which, faced with the uncertainties and inconveniences caused by the globalization processes, a negative tendency is emerging in the world to close in on oneself, to protect oneself. A trend marked by incertitude and fears.

To this trend we would like to oppose opening policies of hope and trust, to spread a positive political culture that encourages everyone, public authorities and private operators, to better live the challenges of our time, strengthening international collaborations: building a positive relationship with Italy with the BRICS it is part of this general design.

Among the main positive elements of the BRICS reality, we have identified the following:

1) their contribution to the construction of a new governance system that gives an order to the chaotic process of economic globalization;

2) the fact that their strategies reject old and new forms of antagonism, are not strategies "against" someone or something, but strategies "for", that is strategies in favor of new and strengthened collaborations with the main international institutions, starting from United Nations;

3) the preference of the BRICS to restore the primary role of the real economy on the financial economy. These are the elements - new governance, inclusive policies, real investments - which, in our opinion, qualify more the BRICS contribution.

The BRICS support these positions and their initiatives in all international realities, such as the G20 summits, and in the main world geographical areas, such as the Mediterranean, Africa, Eurasia.

That is, in institutional bodies and regions where Italy is active and plays an important role.

For example, in the Mediterranean area, which is an area of strategic interest for Italy, the intense penetration of the individual BRICS states has changed in these years the conditions of competition and development.

The same is true for Africa, a continent for which just last week our Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized an important Italy-Africa summit, that was attended also by our president of the Republic.

Faced with the new development processes promoted by the BRICS it is clear that Italy has an objective interest in finding forms of connection and cooperation with this international coordination.

But on the other hand it is clear that the same BRICS coordination can have an objective interest in a connection with a State as Italy, one of the founders of the European Union, in order to be able to affirm the value of their message and their representativeness at European and international level

If we all of us work in this direction, as it is our will, then: will be possible to identify together common initiatives to be launched, for example, in the Mediterranean area or in the African continent?

I leave this question open to the evaluation of the participants in the Seminar

**CHINA :speech by Ambassador LI RUIYU**

**“Financial and Economic Governance issues”**

*(full version of the intervention)*

Distinguished President Prof. Frattini,

Distinguished President Prof. Fara,

Your Excellencies, dear friends,

Good afternoon everyone!

I am very delighted to be invited to take part in this seminar and to discuss, with you the achievements emerged from the BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg last summer. I will share with you my understanding of and impressions about the Summit from both economic and financial perspective.

The theme of the Summit was “*BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution*”, a title that brings about a very strong and practical significance. On the general current background of science and technology revolutions and industry transformations, we see on one hand, a constant rise in new cutting-edge technologies, formats and industries on multiple levels on emerging markets, that is very exciting to us. On the other hand, we see new geopolitical conflicts emerging, protectionist and unilateralist trends become more and more intensified, while international trade disputes keep rising. They bring a direct impact on the external environment of emerging and developing countries.

Facing these complicated situation and endlessly emerging new challenges, Chinese president Xi Jinping, during the Summit, pointed out that BRICS should catch this historical moment, deepen strategic partnerships and consolidate the cooperation framework of “three main drivers”. The concept of “three main drivers” was created during the BRICS Xiamen Summit and comprehensively implemented in Johannesburg. One of the “three main drivers” is economic cooperation.

Strengthened economic cooperation for common development and shared prosperity, is the original intention and priority of BRICS cooperation. It is also a cooperation of great potential, diversity and fruitfulness. All BRICS five countries agree to step up trade, investment, financial, and connectivity cooperation to make the pie bigger and bigger. The Johannesburg Summit has outlined two important focus points:

Firstly, all the parties reaffirm the core position of the rule-based, transparent, non-discriminating, open and inclusive multilateral trading regime represented by the WTO. The Summit is clearly opposed to unilateralism and protectionism, in particular pays close attention to the current unilateral measures that do not respect WTO rules and menace the multilateral trade regime. This reflects not only the point of view of BRICS countries and other developing countries, but also the common voice of the international community. As concrete instruments and measure to build up an open world economy and to oppose to protectionism, the Summit has gained a package achievements in area of trade and investment facilitation, IPR protection, e-commerce, SMEs, labor skill training and so on.

Secondly, all the parties have stressed the important role of the financial cooperation to better serve the real economy. For this reason, the BRICS have agreed on establishing the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund. Next year, in Sao Paulo, Brasil, the New Development Bank Americas Regional Office will be established. All five countries agree on promoting the network of financial institutions and the coverage of financial services, to facilitate BRICS financial market integration and to ensure greater communication and cooperation between financial sector regulators. We will continue to enhance currency cooperation, consistent with each central bank’s legal mandate, and to explore more modalities of the cooperation. We will also further expand green financing, so as to promote sustainable development in BRICS countries.

Dear friends,

BRICS countries are an important force in building a new type of international relations and a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. BRICS countries have an overall population that is 42,58% of global total population. According to China’s estimates, in 2017, the combined economic output of BRICS is 23,24% of the world economy, trade and direct investments are 15,88% and 12,45% of the world total amounts respectively. BRICS contribution to global economic growth is 50%. BRICS voting power in the World Bank is 13,24% and their total quota in the IMF is 14,91%. We are willing to actively deepen our new industrial revolution partnership within BRICS countries, to work together to catch the new opportunities that the 4th industrial revolution brings to us, and to contribute to the world economic recovery and peaceful development.

As the biggest developing country of the world, China has achieved great progress within 40 years of Reforms and Opening Up. In the future, we will continue to open widely our doors to the world and to promote the international cooperation within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework. We will integrate our policy, development and commercial resources of financing to create a system of multi-leveled and multi-typed financial services to the benefit of all the participating countries including BRICS. This is not only China’s plan and initiative for the BRI international cooperation, but also our solemn commitment to the international community. In the future, within the BRICS mechanism, we will make more China’s voice heard, and contribute more China’s knowledge and wisdom to promoting win-win cooperation among the BRICS and achieve common development. I believe that with our joint efforts, all the visions of BRICS will come true.

Thank you very much.

**BRAZIL: speech by Ambassador ANTONIO DE AGUIAR PATRIOTA**

**“Multilateralism and the Reform of the Global Governance Architecture”**

**“Brazil: Priorities and Vision for its BRICS Chairship in 2019”**

*(Scheme of the intervention)*

\*Geopolitical transformation in the world situation

\*Transition to multipolarity, a reality no longer open to debate

\*BRICS former declarations ⎯ not to mention its existence ⎯ derive from and attest this reality

\*In theory, multipolarity is more compatible with enhanced multilateralism than a unipolar world

\*Multipolarity alone does not automatically lead to enhanced international cooperation. It can also be marked by rivalry, antagonism and a breakdown in communications among divergent projects.

Note

BRICS previous declarations show a common view with regards to transition to multipolarity:

*«We underline our support for a multipolar, equitable and democratic world order, based on international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decisionmaking of all States. »* (Brasilia Declaration, 2010, paragraph 2)

*« We share the view that the world is undergoing far-reaching, complex and profound changes, marked by the strengthening of multipolarity, economic globalization and increasing interdependence.»*(Sanya Declaration, 2011, paragraph 7)

*« We further reaffirm our commitment to the centrality of the universal collective security system enshrined in the UN Charter. We recognize the importance of working towards an international system based on international law, with the UN Charter as its fundamental cornerstone, which fosters cooperation and stability in a multipolar order. »* (Johannesburg Declaration, 2018, paragraph 15)

What BRICS countries wish: a multipolarity that translates into a commitment to multilateralism of the XXI century and reform

\*Enemy: unilateralism, not a new phenomenon

\*In a unipolar geopolitical distribution of power, unilateralism may go unpunished; in a multipolar one, unilateral actions have extremely destabilizing effects

\*Although worrying signs point to threats to multilateralism, it continues to prove its strength (2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on Climate change, Security Council consensus on fighting terrorism)

Note

What BRICS countries wish (Johannesburg Declaration, paragraph 16):

*« Faced with international challenges requiring our cooperative efforts, we reiterate our commitment to shaping a more fair, just and representative multipolar international order to the shared benefit of humanity, in which the general prohibition of the use of force is fully upheld and which excludes the imposition of unilateral coercive measures outside the framework of the UN Charter. »*

President Trump did not invent unilateralism (bombing Syria in April 2018 and 2017, withdrawing from the JCPoA, from the UN Human Rights Council, moving the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem etc).

I cannot think of any other unilateral action more detrimental to multilateralism than the invasion of Iraq.

Although we have witnessed unilateral actions by great powers, we have also testified the resilience of the multilateral system and what it can accomplish.

Special mention to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to minimize risks and maximize opportunities in the transition to multipolarity:

1. reaffirm the commitment to a few mainstays of multilateralism –rules regarding the use of force (Chapter VII) and cooperation to sustainable development

2. create coalitions able to denounce and reject unilateralism, violations of basic international rules (UN Charter), the non-proliferation regime and international trade rules

3. Adapt global governance architecture to new realities (e.g. G7 → G20, reform of the Security Council)

Global challenges which cannot be tackled individually favour this process (e.g. Climate change, terrorism, epidemic diseases)

Note

Johannesburg Declaration:

*« We emphasise the indivisible nature of peace and security and reiterate that no country should enhance its security at the expense of the security of others. »* (paragraph 16)

*« We recall the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges. »* (paragraph 17)

*« We reaffirm the centrality of the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system, as embodied in the WTO, that promotes a predictable trade environment and the centrality of the WTO, and recognise the importance of the development dimension, and will make all efforts to strengthen the multilateral trading system. » (paragraph 62)*

**Brazil: Priorities and Vision for its Chairship in 2019**

Priority areas:

\*Financial cooperation (New Development Bank)

\*Cooperation on science, technology and innovation (e.g. small and medium companies, professional training)

\*Cooperation on health (treating tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, smoking abuse)

\*Cooperation on energy (e.g. energy efficiency and the reduction of environmental impact

Note

Financial cooperation is the field in which BRICS countries have found the greatest convergence of interests so far, having reached significant and concrete results:

Progress on the reform of institutions of global governance (e.g. IMF quota reforms approved in Seul in 2010)

Establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) (Fortaleza, 2014)

It were the results achieved in the financial field that garanteed a successful narrative to the group in its first decennium. This process reached its climax in 2014.

From 2015 onward, BRICS started to look into new areas of cooperation. Brazil places special importance to cooperation on health, science, technology and innovation, as well as energy.

With these areas in mind, Brazil aims at increasing the life standard of Brazilians, modernizing the country’s industrial and technological sectors, and diversifying energy sources.

The three mentioned areas play an important role in helping our countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**INDIA: speech by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Mrs GLORIA GANGTE**

**“People to People Cooperation in BRICS”**

*(full version of the intervention)*

Prof. Franco Frattini, Presidentt SIOI, Prof. Gian Maria Fara, President EURISPES, distinguished Ambassadors, esteemed ladies and gentlemen. I’d like to thank South Africa and SIOI for organizing this BRICS Feedback Seminar and inviting us.

The 10^ Edition of the BRICS Summit was a significant landmark in our collective endeavor to bring prosperity to3.1 billion people. As we collectively are home to 41% of world’s population, people to people exchanges have emerged as one of the important piòòlars of BRICS engagement. It has been for “centuries established that when people from diverse cultures and backgrounds know and understand one another and gain the skills needed to contribute as citizens and leaders; they form the global partnerships that provide a firm basis for global security, economic stability, and tolerance”.

Indian PM Modi, in his first BRICS Summit at Fortaleza emphasized that people should be at the heart of BRICS and that BRICS should develop a people-centered approach to inclusive development. Since then, a number of initiatives across different spheres have been taken for further this.

**Youth Summit, Young Scientists Forum and Young Diplomats Forum**

BRICS Leaders have stressed youth involvement as they are our future. There are regular contacts among BRICS youth through events focused on them.

4th BRICS Youth Summit was held from 16th to 21st July in Free State

3rd BRICS Young Scientists Forum was held from 25th to 29th June in Durban

4thYoung Diplomats Forum was held from 25th to 29th June in Pretoria

The emphasis is on unlocking the potential of youth, to learn and share experiences.

**BRICS women**

Acknowledging the role played by women in promoting inclusive development, BRICS is working towards the establishment of the BRICS Women’s Forum and the BRICs Women’s Business Alliance. Even during the interactions of our Parliamentarians, special focus is on exchange of views amongst our women lawmakers. There is acknowledgement of the balancing role of women in decision making particularly when it concerns law.

**Civil Society, Think Tank and Academia**

We have made progress towards strengthening cooperation and interaction among our people, through various exchanges involving civil society, a network of think tanks and academia. The 10th BRICS Summit saw:

Meeting of BRICS Think Tank Council on 28th May in Parktown

BRICS Academic Forum was held from 28th to 31st May in Johannesburg

The Civil BRICS Forum, a meeting of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) was held on 25th and 26th and Civil BRICS from 25th to 27th June in Johannesburg.

BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Forum was held on 28th and 29th June in East London

**Tourism**

Tourism has seen an uptick in numbers of travelers within BRICs, especially during the football world cup in Russia. All the BRICs governments are taking positive strides in promoting tourism that also gives opportunities for people to people interactions and also learning about each other’s cultures. A working Group on Tourism has also been established at the 10th BRICs Summit. Tourism Ministers of BRICs countries also meet periodically

**Cultural exchanges**

BRICs leaders recognize the importance and role of culture as one of the drivers of the 4th Industrial Revolution and acknowledge the economic opportunities that it presents. A number of events were held to promote cultural exchanges at the 10th BRICS Summit including a 3rd BRICS Film Festival held on 22-28th July in Durban

There was recognition of the need to further deepen cooperation in the field of culture. South Africa has proposed a draft BRICS Treaty on Co-Production of Films to further promote cooperation in this sphere and to showcase the diversity of BRICS cultures. PM Modi has also suggested conducting a workshop on film technology and include Music in the ambit of BRICS cultural cooperation.

BRICs states are also working on an action plan for the implementation of the Agreement between the Government s on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017-2021) for creative and sustainable cultural cooperation, and there are various ongoing activities and initiatives of the BRICS culture experts under this gambit.

**Sporting events**

Sporting activities not only help to keep people healthy but will no doubt help in increasing on army of young stakeholders that will ultimately carry forward this partnership.

South Africa successful hosted the 3rd BRICS Games on 17-22nd July in Johannesburg. Considerable progress has been made in establishing the BRICS Sports Council.

BRICs may be a new grouping but the connections have been centuries old, be it cultural exchanges between India and China or popularity of Indian movies amongst the Russians or India tele-novelas in Brazil and who can ever forget that peace-filled journey of Mahatma Gandhi started in South Africa, that still reverberates as path of non-violence throughout the world.

People-to-People exchanges among BRICS countries help in forging new friendships, deepen relations and mutual understanding between BRICS people in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, diversity and mutual learning. BRICS is a bridge connecting North, East, West and South where people are it’s core strengths. After all, it is people who lend freshness and vibrancy to BRICs and carry this endeavour forward for years to come .

Thank you

**COMMENT by ENRICO MOLINARO, BRICS Laboratory of Eurispes**

*(full version of the intervention)*

**Premise**

The BRICS Laboratory of Eurispes was established in 2015 and operates as a Think Tank of experts from the most diverse scientific disciplines applying a multidisciplinary and systemic analysis approach. The aim of the Laboratory is to analyze the complex reality of BRICS coordination, evaluate its general and specific strategies, examine the conditions for building possible collaborations with Italy and other non-BRICS entities, starting with the European Union. The Laboratory conducts periodical meetings and conferences, develops documents and reports, participates with its representatives in international initiatives.

**A-The main clear points on the BRICS reality achieved by the EURISPES-Lab.**

**The nature of BRICS**

The BRICS are an international subject that has a precise ideological identity glue: it promotes, protects, enhances the identity of its member states, enhances *national sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, unity and sovereign equality of nation-states*. Respecting specific identities has the positive effect of stimulating knowledge and mutual exchange between states that are so different from each other and of enhancing the original contribution of each of them to common experience. The BRICS cultural model can be defined as a sum of national identities, not an integration / cancellation of the same.

**The feature of the BRICS**

In the international scene the BRICS represent an element of structural novelty, not conjunctural. This is confirmed by the experience of the first decade that has just ended, the prospects that have been opened for the near future with the new BRICS PLUS policy, the requests for further enlargement to new member states

**The vision and the opening of the BRICS**

The BRICS support the "great correction" of the current globalization processes approved by the United Nations with the 2030 Agenda to build a different world governance that ensures a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. From this two important elements derive: a) their position of openness to the broadest collaboration with the main international, formal and informal subjects, such as the UN, WTO, IMF, G20 summit; b) their commitment to collaboration and involvement of the most excluded realities from the global development process, such as emerging countries. The final declaration of the 2015 UFA summit makes it very clear that “*the BRICS pursue a general policy goal of coordination and collaboration, not of opposition, with the main international institutions and other coordination structures, first of all the G20*”. And again: "*We call on the major economies to strengthen their political dialogue and coordination in the context of the G20"; "Consolidating the role of the G20s as the main forum for economic and financial cooperation*" (points 11, 18, Ufa Declaration) and supporting the priority needs of developing countries and emerging markets.

**Economic strategies**

The BRICS pursue with their projects and investment plans the recovery of the primary role of the real economy on the financial economy, the creation of a monetary system more consistent with the inclusion policies. In this direction operate, for example, major infrastructural projects, such as the Eurasian and African "corridors" that are functional to the collaboration between the different regional areas, consolidate the situation of emerging countries; as, on the other hand, the organization of baskets of local currencies in financial support for investments

**B-The main interpretations and proposals from Italy**

1-**A positive interpretation**. On the basis of the elements described above, Italy expresses a positive assessment of the BRICS reality, as a new growth opportunity for all, of a new and more qualified / balanced type of world development.

2- **Expand the area of collaboration with the BRICS**. Italy intends to seize the opening attitude of the BRICS to extend the area of cooperation. Consequently, as a contribution to this strategic goal, the BRICS Laboratory of Eurispes, which is a member of the Italian Network for Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue RIDE-APS, proposes the organization of a facilitation tool that operates within this network: a***Italy-Brics Permanent Forum on Cooperation and Development***. The establishment of a collaboration platform, on the "***model 5 plus*** *1*", *BRICS plus ITALY*, could be useful for all participants and constitute a fact of considerable innovation on the international scene.

3- **A European perspective**. Italy, with the aforementioned centers and structures, is committed helping to create the conditions for extending cooperation with the BRICS reality also within the European Union. To this aim, specific initiatives may also be very important in the Mediterranean area and / or in the African continent, in order to build "bridges" of collaboration between the EU, the Mediterranean countries, the UpM and the BRICS coordination.

**INVITATION**





**The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Rome withSocietà Italiana per l’Organizzazione Internazionale SIOIandIstituto EURISPES**

**has the honour to invite You to a seminar to discuss the outcomes**

**of the Tenth BRICS Summit (July 2018) hosted by South Africa**

***Tuesday, 30 October, from 16:00 – 18:00 - SIOI, Piazza San Marco, 51 (off Piazza Venezia)00186, Rome***

Welcome by the President of SIOI, prof. ***Franco Frattini***

Welcome by the President of EURISPES, prof. ***Gian Maria Fara***

**First session: moderator prof. *Franco Frattini*(SIOI)**

**Reports by the Bilateral Ambassadors and Multilateral Ambassadors**

South Africa: **Ambassador Prof. *Shirish M Soni:*** New areas of BRICS Cooperation asagreedduring the Tenth Summit

China: **Ambassador *Ruiyu Li:*** Financial and EconomicGovernance issues

Brazil: **Ambassador *Antonio De Aguiar Patriota:*** Multilateralism and the reform of the global governancearchitecture

Russia: **Mr*Pavel Knyazev*, Russian Federation BRICS Sous-Sherpa, Deputy Director**

**of the Policy Planning Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** Peace and Security Issues

India: **Ms*Gloria Gangte*, DCM:** People-to-people Cooperation

**Second Session: moderator prof. *Marco Ricceri* (EURISPES)**

**Comments by Italian experts**

SIOI: ***Dario Fabbri***, docente SIOI e Consigliere scientifico di LIMES

EURISPES: ***Enrico Molinaro***, Laboratorio sui BRICS di EURISPES

**Questions and answers**

**Closing remarks**: by Ambassador prof**. *Shirish M Soni***

*The Seminar has the Patronage of the Italian Network for Euro-mediterranean Dialogue RIDE-APS*

*and of the Italian Network of the Anna Lindt Foundation ALF*





***A picture of the conference, venue SIOI, Rome, October 31 2018***

***References***

***Southafrican Embassy to Italy***

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