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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
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HEINRICH
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Emerging Power or Fading Star? South Africa's Role on the African Continent and Beyond

Date: 12-14 July 2016

Main Venue: Townhouse Hotel, 60 Corporation Street, Cape Town

Over the last two decades the international community has perceived South Africa to be among the most influential countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Without a doubt, the country continues to play an important economic role on the continent, remains a driving political force in the African Union (AU) and a major supporter of peacekeeping missions across the region. As such South Africa has received recognition as an important emerging power and gained access to key international platforms including the United Nations (UN) Security Council (2007-2008 and 2011-2012), the Group of 20 (G20) and the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) forum, and is one of nine strategic partners of the European Union (EU).

However, in recent years, the terrain has started to shift. While Africa is touted to be "rising", the expectation that the continent's most sophisticated economy would float at the very top has not been fulfilled. Instead, fast growing African economies like Ethiopia have begun to take the limelight away from South Africa, and Nigeria and Egypt are now the two largest economies in Africa. While the commodity price down-turn has put a damper on Africa's growth prospects, the international community's belief that South Africa can speak on behalf of the continent in global fora and the country's aspiration to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council continue to be contested in its own region.

The rise of other emerging powers such as China, India and Brazil on the continent has not only called into question the privileged relationships that the West has enjoyed in Africa, but also put South Africa in direct competition for investments and contracts with its newly found political allies. Europe and the US, which continue to be key trading partners, are increasingly questioning South Africa's commitment to human rights and good governance. As a result, Pretoria's reputation as a bridge-builder between the North and the South could be eroded.

These and related developments raise important questions about South Africa's future as an emerging power on the continent and beyond which we would like to discuss at a conference that will bring together academics, representatives from civil society and students with an interest in South African foreign policy.

12 July 2016

17.30 – 19.00	<p>Public dialogue South Africa: emerging power or fading star?</p> <p><i>Hosted in cooperation with the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR)</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Adekeye Adebajo, Executive Director, Centre for Conflict Resolution</p> <p>Speaker 1: Prof Chris Landsberg, South African Research Chair in African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, University of Johannesburg</p> <p>Speaker 2: Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs</p> <p><i>Venue: 6 Spin Street, Church Square, Cape Town</i></p>
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13 July 2016

08.30	<i>Registration, tea and coffee</i>
09.00	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Trudy Meehan, Director: Bing Overseas Studies Programme in Cape Town, Stanford University</p> <p>Layla Al-Zubaidi, Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation Southern Africa</p> <p>Dr Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Department: Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation, German Development Institute</p>
09.15	<p>Panel 1 From BRICS to MINT to TICKS – concepts and group identities of emerging powers in Africa</p> <p>Chair: Prof John Akokpari, Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town</p> <p>Speaker 1: Dr Ola Bello, Executive Director, Good Governance Africa</p> <p>Speaker 2: Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs</p> <p>Speaker 3: Dr Sven Grimm, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute</p> <p>Discussant: Prof Janis van der Westhuizen, Department of Political Science, Stellenbosch University</p>
10.45	<i>Tea & coffee</i>

11.15	<p>Panel 2 Still a scramble for Africa? Investment and trade in times of falling commodity prices</p> <p>Chair: Jochen Luckscheiter, Programme Manager, Heinrich Böll Foundation Southern Africa</p> <p>Speaker 1: Sanusha Naidu, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue</p> <p>Speaker 2: Simon Freemantle, Senior Political Economist, Standard Bank Research</p> <p>Discussants: Dr Yejoo Kim, Research Fellow, Centre for Chinese Studies & Hope Sheils, Student at Stanford University</p>
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30	<p>Panel 3 From human rights to national interest: what shapes and who makes South African foreign policy today?</p> <p>Chair: Prof Tim Stanton, Director Emeritus: Bing Overseas Studies Programme in Cape Town, Stanford University</p> <p>Speaker 1: Prof Chris Landsberg, South African Research Chair in African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, University of Johannesburg</p> <p>Speaker 2: Angela Mudukuti, International Criminal Justice Lawyer, Southern Africa Litigation Centre</p> <p>Speaker 3: Corlett Letlojane, Executive Director, Human Rights Institute of South Africa</p>
15.00	<i>Tea & coffee</i>
15.30	<p>Panel 4 Mission unaccomplished: reflections on South Africa's contributions to peace and security</p> <p>Chair: Dr Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Department: Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation, German Development Institute</p> <p>Speaker 1: Prof John Akokpari, Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town</p> <p>Speaker 2: Prof Tim Murithi, Head: Justice and Reconciliation in Africa Programme, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation</p> <p>Discussant: Elizabeth Trinh, Student at Stanford University</p>
20.00	<i>Speakers' dinner</i>

14 July 2016

09.00	<p>Panel 5 South Africa on the global stage: achievements, ideals and controversy</p> <p>Chair: Prof Chris Saunders, Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town</p> <p>Speaker 1: Catherine Grant Makokera, Director, Tutwa Consulting</p> <p>Speaker 2: Dr Philani Mthembu, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue</p> <p>Discussant: Prof Stephen Stedman, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University</p>
10.30	<i>Tea & coffee</i>
11.00	<p>Panel 6 Between competition and complementarity: rising powers on the continent</p> <p>Chair: Sanusha Naidu, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue</p> <p>Speaker 1: Prof Victor Adetula, Department of Political Science, University of Jos, Nigeria</p> <p>Speaker 2: Prof Rawia Tawfik, Political Science Department, Cairo University, Egypt</p> <p>Speaker 3: Dr Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari, Research Director, Amnesty International, Southern Africa Regional Office</p>
12.30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Trudy Meehan, Director: Bing Overseas Studies Programme in Cape Town, Stanford University</p> <p>Layla Al-Zubaidi, Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation Southern Africa</p> <p>Dr Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Department: Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation, German Development Institute</p> <p>Trey Hale, Student at Stanford University</p>
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>