

Prasad Biraja
Political Counsellor
Embassy to India in the Russian Federation

Text of the speech

Hon'ble Vice-Rector Mr. Ivanov, Mr. Orlov, Mr. Toloraya, Mr. Lukov,
Excellencies, colleagues and dear participants,

It is my honour to represent India at today's conference on "Global Security on the 2015 BRICS Agenda: from Fortaleza to Ufa". I also take this opportunity to convey warmest greetings to all participants from my Ambassador who is currently in India for the India-Russia Annual Summit, which took place in New Delhi yesterday.

2. India attaches high importance to the BRICS forum for promoting global economic growth, peace and stability. In the course of the past six summits and several ministerial and official processes, BRICS has made major strides in pursuit of these goals.

3. Restoring a climate of peace, security and stability is an urgent global need. We believe that BRICS must provide a united and clear voice in shaping a peaceful, balanced and stable World. Terrorism is emerging in new shape and new name. No country is free from its threats. Comprehensive and united efforts to combat terrorism and extremism should therefore be our strong focus area. We should also intensify our cooperation in confronting global challenges like Cyber Security and Climate Change.

4. We already have BRICS mechanisms for consultations at the level of National Security Advisers. Our National Security Advisers have been meeting since 2009. New Delhi hosted the first-ever stand-alone meeting of NSA in January 2013. This meeting focused its attention not only on current regional and global developments, including West Asia and North Africa but also provided an opportunity to exchange views on how to enhance our cooperation on important international security issues such as terrorism, piracy and cyber security. India supports holding of such meetings in order to coordinate our efforts in tackling these threats.

5. The BRICS Foreign Ministers during their meeting on the sidelines of the 69th session of UN General Assembly in September, 2014 also discussed pressing regional and security issues. The Ministers supported the UN Security Council resolution of September 24, 2010 on foreign terrorist fighters and called on the international community to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by the foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing their recruitment, movement across borders and disrupting their financial support. Our roadmap for the future should focus on consolidating and deepening our existing cooperation and we need to work more cohesively in international forums.

6. Economic development is an important dimension of our cooperation. There are several areas of active work ahead of us, including on Development Bank and Contingency Pool Arrangement. We have suggested the target of 2016 for inauguration of the BRICS Development Bank. Strong and sustainable global economic growth is vital to all BRICS countries. For this an open trading regime is important which must also address the development aspirations of the developing world. In this context, Food Security is another important element for all BRICS countries.

7. I thank the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Committee on BRICS Research for organizing such an useful conference today, which, I hope, will certainly help in throw up ideas and initiatives to be evaluated this forum.

Thank you.