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Charity Registration Number: 208223

## Meeting Summary

# Brazil's Global Development Agenda

Minister Marco Farani

Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)

27 October 2011

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## **AIM OF THE EVENT**

This event was convened to provide a forum for debate around Brazil's approach to International Development between Minister Farani, policy-makers, journalists and business representatives. This is part of a wider debate that resonates across the world on the role of emerging economies and the articulation of their development agendas.

Minister Marco Farani has been the Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) since October 2008. Minister Farani joined the Brazilian Foreign Service in 1980, after studies in Communications at the Federal University of Brasilia, and has served in the offices of the President, Vice President and the President of the Senate. His postings abroad include a Mission to the United Nations in New York and in the Embassies in Tokyo and Beijing.

## MARCO FARANI ON BRAZIL'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Brazil is a 'new player'. Following the end of the military regime and a phase of democratization, it has experienced two periods of excellent governance. President Lula has maintained an orthodox economic policy that has stimulated widespread economic growth, whilst introducing social policies that have played a key role in raising standards of living. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted a growth rate of 3.75% for the next 3 years and an average annual growth of 4-5% over the next two decades: our GDP will more than double and per capita income will become comparable to that of a Southern European country. This growth will have a significant impact on Brazil's foreign policy: the country will be drawn into the global arena, becoming a more active member of the international community. However, we need more thinking about Brazil's role in the world from both an economic and political point of view; we need think tanks and improved dialogue with civil society – public dialogue – about the future. Brazil's profile is changing very rapidly, but the country still has a long way to go.

Lula has always understood 'Technical Cooperation' as key to Brazil's development agenda and foreign policy; key in the sense that it would enable Brazil to occupy more space in the global arena through aiding other countries and sharing experiences. Lula believes that the more we do, the more prestige, power and influence we will accumulate. However, in Brazil, when we talk about aid, we are talking about cooperation: South-South Cooperation (SSC). This involves collaboration and knowledge-sharing through a horizontal structure, not the vertical structure that is at the core of developed countries' approaches and embodied in the terms 'aid' and 'assistance'. Brazil does not view North-South Cooperation as wrong; however, we do believe our contribution may be to change attitudes and perhaps influence others in the world of development. The United States, Canada and Europe faced these problems a long time ago and the solutions employed at the time cannot be replicated today as the context has changed. Furthermore, these countries look at the world with a very different perspective from Brazil: with responsibility, of course, but also with a preoccupation that things can get out of hand. In Brazil, we believe things can improve and our approach is to help them help themselves. Of course, when countries begin to work together it does become political, but in the good sense of the word. This is an approach the North has lost.

At ABC, our work is based on genuine cooperation – it is non-conditional and neither commercial nor political. Whilst we are a small player, this approach remains feasible. However, if we continue to grow, we may have to consider

some criteria for our cooperation. We do not sell consultancy or engage with NGOs; our objective is to strengthen the institutions of other developing countries and build capacity at a very technical level. Experts are sent from Brazil's public sector to help national institutions address their problems and generate their own solutions, using techniques based on our past experiences.

Cooperation with Brazil has been very popular for a variety of reasons: from our foreign policy of non-intervention and peaceful conflict solution, to our multicultural society and the positive outlook of our people. Brazil's economic growth, our model of cooperation and position as a developing country of both 'Western' and African ethnicities, positions us well for the future of South-South Cooperation. Current work is focussed on the technical; a platform on which we can build more substantial political discussion to instigate change. Our challenge now is to expand this model of cooperation.