

Brazil's Growing Interest in Africa

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Abstract

This paper took a critical look at Brazil's growing interest in Africa with a view to previewing the challenges and prospects in Brazil – African relations in the years ahead. Relevant issues concerning Brazil and Africa were also examined in retrospect. The avalanche of literature on the topic showed that Brazil's interest in Africa has indeed been growing in recent years largely because Brazil needs the cooperation of Africa to become a world power economically and politically. Africa, on the other hand, sees Brazil as a partner in progress with whom she (Africa) can fast track her development objectives. It was recommended that areas of cooperation between Brazil and Africa should be broadened and strengthened to promote mutual benefits. Besides, Brazil should do more to aid technology transfer from that country to Africa.

Keywords: *Lulu's Administration, Trade and Investment, Economic Nexus, Security Council.*

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Background to the Study

Reflecting on Brazil's growing interest in Africa, especially in the new millennium, is intriguing and auspicious. This is premised on the fact that in many respects Brazil and Africa are birds of the same feather flocking together. This is underscored by the fact that both sides have a convergence of wide-ranging interests which they pursue with collaborative efforts.

For one, Brazil is home to a great number of black people of African descent who have over time entrenched African culture in that country, thereby creating cultural affinity between Brazil and Africa. For another, even though Brazil is fully industrialized, she still identifies herself fully with the south-south of which Africa is a part. Thus, Brazil shares the same worldviews on a number of world affairs with most African countries, since they are all confronted with a number of common problems, such as dependency, the nefarious activities of multinational corporations, foreign debt, etc. All these provide a common ground for Brazil and Africa to work together towards promoting their common interests and dealing with common problems that confront them.

This paper seeks to outline the genesis, the nature and dimensions of Brazil's interest in, and cooperation with, Africa with a view to ascertaining the factors that propel Brazil's growing interest in Africa.

Overview of Historical Links between Brazil and Africa

Brazil is a Latin American country with a population of 210, 433,953 by 2017 estimate. This is 2.83% of total world population. She was granted independence on September 7, 1822, by Portugal. The South Atlantic Ocean separates her and Africa.

There have been long-standing interactions between Brazil and Africa, dating back to the slave trade era (Elitis et al, 2000). When no less than four (4) million out of the 11 million blacks taken to America as slaves were dropped in Brazil (Brazilian Institute of Geography, 1990). Since then interactions between Brazil and Africa have grown from strength to strength in various aspects of their inter-state relations even long after the use of African slaves as workforce in the sugarcane plantations in Brazil had ended. Today, economic, political and social ties between Brazil and Africa have developed to an enviable height, and this has been mutually beneficial to both partners.

Admittedly, however, Brazil's relations with, and policy towards, Africa were for a long time chequered; the relations were swinging like a pendulum under different regimes and leaders until the emergence in 2003 of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as the president of that country. For example, at the end of the slave trade on May 13, 1888, Brazil distanced herself from Africa, preferring instead to do business with white immigrants from Italy, Portugal, Germany, Japan, and Spain because these white immigrants provided the needed skilled labour for coffee production (Decree Law, 1945) which had overshadowed sugarcane production. But under the governments of Janio Quadros and Joao Goulart (1961-64), Brazil began to develop foreign policy independent of Portugal,

and this ushered in renewed interest in Africa. Consequently, a Ministry of African Affairs was created, and embassies were opened in Accra, Tunis, Luanda, Maputo, and Harare. The first African - Brazilian Ambassador, Raymundo de Souza Dantas, was appointed in 1961 to serve in Accra, Ghana. President Quadros was an ardent supporter of self-determination and the decolonisation process going on in Africa at that point in time, insisting that Brazil and Africa share common interests and aspirations, especially in the area of domestic economic development. Unfortunately, the military regime that took over power in Brazil in 1964 after a coup d'etat in that year re-aligned the foreign policy of Brazil with that of Portugal. Consequently, Brazil turned her back on Africa, describing self-determination and the struggle for independence going on in some African countries as radical movements meant to establish communism in those countries.

Yet, there was a rapprochement towards Africa by Brazil in the 1970s and 1980s. This period witnessed Brazil's unprecedented presence in and multi-dimensional cooperation with, African countries, especially the Portuguese speaking countries, such as Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau. To convince all doubting Thomases about her interest in, and support for, Africa, Brazil was the first country to recognize the independence of Guinea Bissau on July 16, 1974, even when negotiations between the colonial master, Portugal, and Guinea Bissau had not been concluded. During this period, Brazil increased the volume of her trade with African countries, notably Angola and Nigeria.

Even though democracy returned to Brazil in 1985, domestic economic consolidation took priority over consideration for enhanced trade relations with African countries. This was due to her heavy foreign debt and her desire to forge excellent relations with her Latin American neighbours, especially Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

In 1986, however, Brazil once again extended her hands of fellowship to African states when she championed the community of Portuguese language countries (CPLP) and Zone of Peace and Cooperation in the South Atlantic (ZOPACAS) in Africa. Apparently, Brazil's renewed interest in Africa then as now is contingent on Brazil's intention to have a strong presence and influence in Africa so that she can secure Africa's support for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

The period 2003 to 2010 marked a turning point in Brazil-African relations. This was the period that coincided with the reign of President Lula Silva who finally forged stable relations with Africa. Soon after his inauguration as president, Lula paid historic state visits to Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, and Namibia, Under President Lula, Brazil's presence in Africa became visible and conspicuous as Brazil increased her trade and investments exponentially in Africa.

During this time Brazilian trade with Africa grew from \$6 billion in 2003 to \$25.6 billion in 2012 (Brasilia, 2011). Since then there have been heavy Brazilian exports to Egypt, South

Africa, Angola, Nigeria, Algeria, Mexico, Libya, Ghana, Tunisia and Senegal. Today, Brazil has more than 500 companies doing businesses in various sectors of the African economy, especially construction and engineering, mining and energy.

On the other hand, African countries started massive importation of Brazilian manufactured products, ranging from automobiles, pharmaceuticals, to agro-allied products, while Brazil has continued to increase oil imports, mainly from Nigeria, and Angola, and a variety of raw materials for her domestic industries.

Under the administrations of Medici and Geisel, Brazil witnessed rapid economic development, popularly described as "Economic Miracle". Leveraging on her new-found economic prosperity and strength, the Country launched out to other parts of the world, including Africa, where she established numerous companies and entered into joint ventures for mutual benefits. The then Brazilian foreign minister, Mario Gibson Barbosa in 1972, visited nine African Countries to secure oil supplies and at the same time initiated joint declarations on strengthening the United Nations, technology transfer, condemnation of protectionism, support for self-determination of nations, legal equality of all nations, repudiation of all forms of racial, social and cultural discrimination as well as support for expansion of the territorial sea of the coastal states of the developing nations. In doing all this, Brazil has succeeded in projecting her image and in identifying with Africa and the South Atlantic countries.

Nature and Determinants of Brazil's Relations with Africa

Interestingly, Brazil realizes the inevitability of working hand in hand with Africa as partners in progress in view of certain interests and challenges that both of them share in common. These interests provide a platform for intimate cooperation and collaborative efforts between themselves.

Among these are:

(i) Misgivings about the Governance of the so-called International Institutions

Brazil and the whole of Latin America and Africa are aggrieved that they are denied active participation in key international institutions, such as the security council of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Security Council, for example, has no permanent member from Latin America or Africa. This is a source of irritation to Brazil which prides herself as a regional power in Latin America just as Nigeria which, no doubt, is Africa's regional power. Thus, Brazil and Africa are confronted with the challenge of working towards a fair representation on the Security Council, and in the Bretton Woods institutions as well as a restructuring of the world capitalist economic order that is at present dominated by the western powers.

(ii) Trade and Investment

Brazil and Africa need each other, essentially to increase the volume of trade between themselves, especially in the area of agricultural raw materials from Africa and the import of industrial products and pharmaceuticals from Brazil. Besides, there is a dire

need for both of them to jointly work towards liberalizing trade between themselves on the one hand, and between themselves and the rest of the world, on the other hand.

Unfortunately, Brazilian exports to Africa have been on a steady decline since the year 2011, when they peaked at \$12.224 billion (Augustino and Amora, 2014). Similarly, African exports to Brazil have not improved remarkably over the decades. Thus, there is an urgent need for Brazil and Africa to step up their bilateral and multilateral trade relations to reverse this negative trend. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) would be particularly useful to Africa in this regard if it can help to increase the agricultural production capacities of African states.

On investment, African countries should do more to provide a more conducive investment climate to encourage Brazilian companies to further increase foreign direct investments in the continent. This will, among other things, create a window of employment opportunities for the teeming African youths, and will also help to strengthen the industrial base of the African economy, thereby stimulating and stimulate domestic growth on the continent. On her part, Africa can go to Brazil to establish cottage industries, especially agro-allied industries, in partnership with Brazilian industrialists and businessmen.

(iii) Drug Trafficking

Both Brazil and Africa face imminent danger of social instability, mental malady, and violence if the ever-increasing production of, and trafficking in, hard drugs between themselves are not curbed as soon as possible. This problem is already rearing its ugly head in Brazil (UN, 2015), and will in the near future certainly become a major social problem in Africa if the trend is not checked since a lot of the drugs are brought to Africa through Brazil and other Latin American countries. Therefore, it is in the interest of both Brazil and the Atlantic African countries to join hands to control drug trafficking in the South Atlantic.

(iv) Poverty Reduction

Although Brazil's economy has grown tremendously since the days of President Lula, her debt overhang and poor distribution of wealth have in recent times brought about relative deprivation and outright poverty among a sizeable segment of the population (Soares, 2012). This was partly responsible for her negative growth in 2015. In Nigeria and the rest of Africa, mass poverty resulting from mass unemployment and galloping inflation now threaten internal security and slows down growth rates. The governments of Brazil and African states should come up with a common pragmatic policy to reduce mass poverty and the sufferings of their citizens. This can be significantly achieved through a just and fair redistribution of income and material resources among their citizens.

(v) Health Cooperation

Brazil and African countries are not spared of certain deadly diseases, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has continued to have a telling effect on their youth

populations and by extension, on their workforce. On her own part, Brazil has been able to reduce the menace of the disease through effective national prevention programmes and massive infusion of funds into the health sector for that purpose. Africa can borrow a leaf from Brazil by reducing the price of the antiretroviral drugs, or freely distribute same to alleviate the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other deadly diseases whose prices cannot be afforded by most sufferers.

(vi) Corruption

Corruption has been the bane of development in most African countries. Efforts of African countries to put an end to corruption and its debilitating effects have not yielded the desired result. In Nigeria, the anti-graft crusade of the Buhari government is yielding positive results but the end of the menace is not yet in sight. Brazil is also contending with the hydra-headed phenomenon of corruption. Of recent, Brazil's largest company, Petrobras, was found guilty of stinking corruption. Therefore, both Brazil and Africa need to devise working cooperation to stem the tide of corruption since it is a clog in the wheel of investment and economic development.

Based on all these common interests and challenges, there is a compelling need for both Brazil and Africa to form a common front for promoting their common interests and for dealing with the challenges that confront them so that together they can achieve their common goals and aspirations. All these already tend to influence Brazil's relations with Africa. A corruption-free Brazil and Africa will be in a formidable position to accelerate their pace of economic development.

Brazil's Growing Interest in Africa

One, Brazil's growing interest and rising profile in Africa have been remarkable over the decades, particularly from the inception of President Lula Administration in 2003. Brazil's economic and commercial penetration of Africa has helped her to reap abundant foreign earnings from the shores of Africa, thereby contributing immensely to the much-desired globalization of her economy. The geological, climatic, economic and social similarities between Brazil and most African countries present Brazilian investors with an ample opportunity to make hay in the pursuit of their business ventures in the African economy generally. Accordingly, there has been a preponderance of Brazilian investments in infrastructure construction, tropical agriculture and Agric business, biofuels, hydrocarbons exploration, mining and telecommunications in many African countries. Thus, Africa represents a safe haven for Brazilian investors in the 21st century.

Two, Brazil is desirous of contributing significantly towards effecting a radical reform of the present world economic order with a view to enthroning a New International Economic order that will adequately accommodate the collective interests of the south-south of which Brazil and Africa are apart. In this regard, Brazil has a special interest in Africa considering that an equitable world economic order will open up Africa and Brazil to unhindered international trade between themselves on the one hand, and between them and the rest of the world. This will pave way for Brazil to further tap the abundant

material resources in Africa. Brazil sees Africa as a promising market for her commodities and an investment destination now and in the future.

At present, Brazil's volume of foreign trade has been witnessing an annual growth rate of 15%, and of this, Africa represents 1.7% of Brazil's GDP accruing from it, and 7% coming from the rest of her world trade. In monetary terms, Brazil's trade with Africa grew from US \$85 billion in 2000 to about US \$26 billion in 2012. Nigeria alone represents one-third of Brazil's trade with Africa. On the whole, Brazil alone accounts for 70% of the entire volume of trade between Latin America and Africa, all of which amounted to US \$39.4 billion in 2011. Partly because of her trade relations with Africa, Brazil is today the sixth largest economy in the world. All this is an eloquent testimony to the fact that Africa is of immense strategic importance to Brazil, and therefore the exigencies of sustaining the momentum of her trade relations with Africa are compelling.

In the area of international politics and diplomacy, Brazil sees Africa as a strategic partner that can help to bolster her international image and visibility in the world community. To this end, Brazil seeks to establish cordial relations with Africa at different levels in order to gain its support and Cooperation towards achieving her big actor status at the world stage. Consequently, Brazil has demonstrated palpable support for African governments and Africa-based international organizations and institutions, such as the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), etc. For example, Brazil in 2006 hosted the second conference on Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora, and also played a pivotal role in the establishment of certain high level political summits such as the African-South American (ASA) Summit in 2006 which provided a platform for commercial negotiations, investments and developmental cooperation for their mutual benefits. President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Lula of Brazil arranged the 2006 Summit when Lula paid a state visit to Nigeria in 2005. Lula was the guest of honour at the 13th African Union Summit held in Libya in 2011, and also represented Brazil at the 17th Summit of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2011 even though he had ended his tenure as president of Brazil in 2010. There was the Brazilian-African Forum which was held in Brazil in 2003. All these have been used as fora to establish rapport and solidarity between Africa and Brazil for the good of the two sides. At diplomatic level, Brazil now has about 37 embassies in different African countries and will definitely open more embassies in the near future.

Three, cultural exchanges, military cooperation, and consultations on world issues between Brazil and Africa have continued to flourish, especially with the Portuguese-speaking countries - Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe. The two sides also demonstrate mutual interest in the field of music and literature. All these have gone a long way in consolidating bilateral and multilateral relations between the two sides.

In all of this, Brazil is a major beneficiary and it serves as a propelling force for Brazil's growing interest in Africa.

Brazil's African Policy: Some Informed Projections

Like every democratic society, Brazil has long-standing principles and tradition which provide a pivot on which her foreign policy is prosecuted. These principles which are categorically entrenched in Article 4 of the Federal Constitution of that Country are (Article 4, 1988):

1. National independence
2. Respect for human rights
3. Right of self-determination
4. Non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other Countries
5. Sovereign equality among states
6. Fighting terrorism and ethnicity
7. Collaboration among peoples for the welfare of humanity
8. Guaranteeing the right to asylum

A cursory look at these Principles reveals that, fortunately, Brazilian foreign policy is relevant to, and coterminous with, the peculiar circumstances and aspirations of the African peoples. This, therefore, provides a fertile ground for close cooperation and collaborative efforts towards pursuing their common goals and aspirations. It is against this background that Brazil has continued to demonstrate alloyed solidarity with Africa, especially in areas of self-determination and developmental programmes in Africa. In this regard, Brazil has extended her hands of fellowship beyond her traditional African friends, such as Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe to include Nigeria, Tunisia, Senegal, etc.

Consistent with Brazil's disposition to Africa as also a state in the south-south, she has intensified diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with well Over 37 African states irrespective of the colonial backgrounds and ideological inclination of some of the African states.

Brazil's penetration of African states has been facilitated by several factors. One, even though the slave trade ended centuries ago, yet the historical connection brought about during that period has left an enduring legacy between Brazil and African peoples. Part of this legacy is the presence of high concentration of African peoples still exhibiting African tradition and customs in their daily lives in Brazil. Consequently, there is a blend of the original Brazilian culture with that of the African-Brazilians. After Nigeria, Brazil has the highest concentration of black people in the world.

Two, there is a close similarity between Brazil and Africa in terms of geology and climate. This serves as an impetus for collaborative efforts for dealing with issues associated with their respective environments and climatic conditions. To this end, President Lula of Brazil at the inaugural session of the first Africa-South America summit in Abuja, Nigeria in 2006 declared:

The Atlantic Ocean is nothing but a river that links between the two continents. Furthermore, the similar climate conditions in both

places open vistas for wider participation in various fields (Mahmoud, 2006).

Furthermore, Lula in his radio-transmitted address to Africa in 2003 emphasized that:

The Brazil and Africa share the same long strife for achieving freedom, social justice, democracy and development. Such, a mutual history can be considered fertile ground for mutual cooperation. (Lula, 2003).

Besides, Brazil has no record of colonial domination in Africa and can therefore not be accused of exploitation and pillage of African resources. Therefore, there is no reason why African states will not open up to her (Brazil's) quest to become an active player in African affairs. It is worthy of note that Brazil's development cooperation with Africa in various fields is enormous. Africa accounts for 36 out of the 81 countries (Ogwu, 1986) benefiting from Brazil's technical projects, pointing to the fact that Africa is the main recipient of Brazil's technical assistance in the world with Mozambique having the lion share. In view of all this, President Lula once said that "for each African problem, there is a Brazilian solution" (IPEA, 2009). Under Lula, development cooperation was used as a strategic instrument for facilitating the implementation of Brazil's foreign policy objectives in Africa and in the rest of the world. Thus, Brazil's economic interests in Africa have been mutually beneficial to her and Africa.

Impact of Brazil's Role in Africa on Nigeria

In the beginning, economic and diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Brazil were low key. This was largely due to the fact that Brazil was then toying the line of her former colonial master, Portugal, which was disposed to communism; an ideology which was then as now not embraced by Nigeria. Besides, Brazil for some time shared Portugal's insistence that Angola and Mozambique were integral parts of metropolitan Portugal. This Brazil's stance coupled with the fact that Brazil allowed her economy to be dominated by multinational corporations from Europe and the US as well as Brazil's disposition to apartheid South Africa during the minority regime in that country made Nigeria and Brazil operate on parallel lines.

But under President Jaoa Quadros in the 1960s, Brazil started charting her own course in her international relations independent (Ligiero, 2001) of Portugal. Pursuant to this policy shift, president Quadros at a meeting of the Republican party in Rio de Janeiro declared:

Brazil could not continue its current timid position, for the way was dear in Asia and Africa. Expansion in international relations and advantageous shifts in trade will increase our activity among nations, for already we are a country with a definite future (Globo, 1960).

This policy opened the gateway for close interactions between Brazil and Nigeria and the rest of Africa. Following this, a black Brazilian, Raymundo Sousa Dantas, was appointed

as Brazilian ambassador to Ghana (Dantas, 1960). Subsequently, Brazil established embassies in Nigeria and in the rest of West Africa. All this marked the beginning of sustained and mutually beneficial relations between Brazil and Nigeria. Even though this positive trend in the relations between Brazil and Africa was short-lived following the military coup d'etat of 1964 which overturned Brazil's favourable disposition to Nigeria and the rest of Africa under President Quadros, the post-military administrations beginning from the 1970s restored Brazil's favourable disposition to Nigeria and the rest of Africa. The official visit of the then foreign minister of Brazil, Mario Gibson Barbosa, to several African countries in 1972 provided an opportunity for the minister to categorically spell out Brazilian foreign policy objectives in Africa (Selcher, 1974). During his official visit, Gibson Barosa signed two trade agreements with Nigeria on behalf of Brazil. Nigeria responded to this gesture by sending a number of delegations to Brazil to solicit for technical assistance and investment ties (Daily Sketch, 1972).

Today Nigeria provides a ready market for a variety of Brazilian commodities, notably vehicles, textiles, gasoline, building materials, paper and paper products, food items, tropicalized refrigerators and air conditioners, On her own part, Brazil has remained a major importer of Nigerian crude oil. Brazil's exports to Nigeria in the decades 1960s and 1980s increased substantially. Between 1974 and 1975 Brazil's exports to Nigeria were phenomenal, rising sharply from \$3.1 million in the first quarter of 1974 to \$21 million in 1975 (Federal Ministry of Trade, 1975).

From 1974 to the early 1980s, Brazil recorded substantial surpluses in her trade with Nigeria (Dialogue, 1985). Even though Nigeria's trade with Brazil has, more often than not, been more favourable to Brazil, Nigeria is not discouraged because of the relatively cheap prices at which Nigeria is paying for Brazilian exports and also because most of the industrial products from Brazil are adaptive to the Nigerian tropical environment.

Prospects of Brazil-Nigeria Relations

The prospects of enhanced socio-economic, political and diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Brazil in the years ahead are very bright. However, this is subject to the way and manner issues of common interests and areas of disagreements are handled by successive leaders of both countries. But no matter what, the interactions and cooperation that have long been established are likely to be sustained because of the prevalence of certain factors that serve as centripetal forces between both countries. Prominent among these factors are:

(i) Regional Leaders

Both Nigeria and Brazil are unequivocally the hegemonial powers in their respective regions. This is hinged on the fact that in relative terms, each of them possesses an overwhelming amount of the elements of state power (population size, economic strength, natural resources, military strength, etc) that are used to determine the relative powers of states. It is on the basis of this that each of them is angling a permanent seat on the security council of the United Nations so that they can champion the interests of their

respective regions at the world stage. For example, Nigeria's leading role in African affairs over the decades has unequivocally established the fact that she is indeed the leader and beacon of hope for Africa.

Similarly, Brazil has over the decades proved that she is the voice and leader of Latin America. Realising that Nigeria is a major player in the African Union and ECOWAS, Brazil has always tried to identify herself with these organizations in order to win the support of Nigeria for her Security Council bid, knowing fully well that Nigeria is an influential power in these organizations. Brazil and Nigeria are emerging power centres and are therefore partners in progress.

(ii) Economic Nexus

The economic ties between both countries are mutually beneficial and irreversible. The volume of trade and investments flourishing between the two countries is an eloquent testimony to the fact that both countries need each other. Between 1973 and 1977 half of Brazil trade with Africa was done with Nigeria with Brazilian exports increasing from \$3 million in 1973 to \$115 million in 1977.

(iii) Cultural Affinity and Race

There can be no gainsaying the fact that Brazil and Nigeria are racially and, therefore, culturally bound together. A sizeable number of the blacks taken to Europe and America in the days of slave trade were dropped in Brazil. These blacks were mostly from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana, etc in West Africa. At the end of the slave era, most of them remained there as Afro-Brazilians like the Afro-Americans in the USA. Among the Brazilian citizens today, there are Yorubas from Nigeria, Ewes and Mandigos from Ghana, Ashantis from Ghana with their respective distinctive identities and cultural practices. The cultures of these African communities in Brazil are similar to the ones in their African ancestral homes, thereby creating a sense of cultural harmony and oneness between Brazil and Nigeria and the rest of Africa. The African culture is a permanent legacy bequeathed to Brazil (Ogwu, 1986).

(iv) Football

Interestingly, Brazil and Nigeria are great football power houses. Both countries have won laurels in football at both continental and world levels. Between them, they have played a number of friendly matches in each other's country thereby strengthening the bond of friendship and solidarity between themselves. Indeed, sports constitute a unifying factor.

In the light of the above, relations between Brazil and Nigeria will certainly endure and will continue to improve with the passage of time.

Conclusion

This paper is concluded on an optimistic note - that, Brazil's growing interest in Africa looms large and is contingent on her economic interest and global aspirations, all of which, interestingly, coincides with the economic interests and aspirations of most African countries. How soon and how well these mutual interests, aspirations and needs

are ultimately achieved by both sides depends on how challenges that may be thrown up along the way between them as well as issues that may crop up in the international environment are managed with the passage of time.

Brazil no doubts desires to become a global economic power at the earliest possible time, and will, therefore, stop at nothing to achieve this with the support of Africa. On the whole, the prospects of Brazil-African relations are very bright, but the intensity will be determined from time to time by the successive leaders of both sides who will set and define the parameters of their interactions and cooperation depending on their respective national interests and the exigencies of the time. In the final analysis, Brazil-African relations will surely continue to blossom for the foreseeable future.

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