



Indian Council of World Affairs  
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

November 29, 2013

## Press Release

### **First Meeting of the Re-constituted Advisory Group on Africa** (25 November 2013)

Indian Council of World Affairs, in pursuit of its sustained research on Africa and commitment to promote the India–Africa dialogue further, held the meeting of its Re-constituted Advisory Group on Africa on November 25, 2013 at Sapru House. The meeting centred on de-briefing by the seven member ICWA delegation that participated in the India-West Africa Conferences in Ghana and Senegal from October 14-18, 2013, and stated suggestions and recommendations for the forthcoming third India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS III).

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, DG, ICWA, outlined that purpose of the meeting is to have a proactive, rather than reactive approach towards India-Africa relations. He highlighted ICWA’s contributions to the Second India-Africa Forum Summit dialogue process and briefly spoke about the two India-West Africa conferences. He underlined the need for an assessment of various programmes announced under the IAFS I & II, before heading towards the IAFS III.



*The Chair, Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia chairing the Session*

The seven member delegation of strategic analysts, diplomats and academics that represented ICWA in the above mentioned conferences, briefed about the conferences. Some of the important points highlighted were: the requirement for institutionalized dialogue between the civil society and academia of India and West Africa for a sustained interaction at all levels; promotion of African studies in India and Indian studies in Africa to address the issue of

knowledge deficit; leveraging the popularity of Indian cinema, to strengthen cultural and people-to-people linkages between India and West Africa; the desirability of exploring a public private partnership (PPP) model in economic and other related areas of engagement to have an abiding partnership; and disseminating information about the Lines of Credit (LoCs), given by India.

The members of the Advisory Group shared their reflections on the major trends in Africa, the status of India-Africa relations under the IAFS and the way forward. It was widely recommended that there should be a comprehensive assessment of current programmes concerning India-Africa engagement, as we head toward IAFS III, to be held in 2014.



*Session in progress*

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