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Society for International Development

Lecture Series 2011-2012 'The State in a Globalizing World'

Lecture and Discussion:
Multipolarity of states or regions?

Alcides Costa Vaz (University of Brasilia)

Monday 16 January, 2012

Lecture in the series 'The State in a Globalizing World: Problematic, yet indispensable'

Abstract: We are moving slowly but definitively towards a multipolar world and the growing economic and political weight of certain nations creates new demands for global decision making. The ordinary discourse is about Europe as regional block and individual countries (China, India, Brazil, Russia, South Africa). Is the multipolar world of the future a multipolarity of states or a multipolarity of regions? Will individual countries increasingly be forced to seek alliances in order to defend their position in international relations? Is it in the interest of the emerging individual countries to seek regional alliances (Brazil in Latin America, India in the South Asian subcontinent) in order to strengthen their position? What are its implications for current power relations, for individual states and for global governance and how should this development be considered?

Speaker: **Alcides Costa Vaz** is Professor and Former Director of the Institute of International Relations of the University of Brasilia (UnB), one of Brazil's premier research and teaching institutes in the field of international politics. He holds a Doctorate in the Sociology of International Relations. Previously he worked as a researcher at the Center of Strategic Studies of the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic and served as Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Institute of International Relations. He is a well-known commentator on Brazil's foreign policy and is author of several books and studies on international politics and security, regional integration, Latin American politics and Brazilian foreign policy. Among his books and articles are "Brazilian Strategic Culture" and "Intermediate States, Regional Leadership and International Security".

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