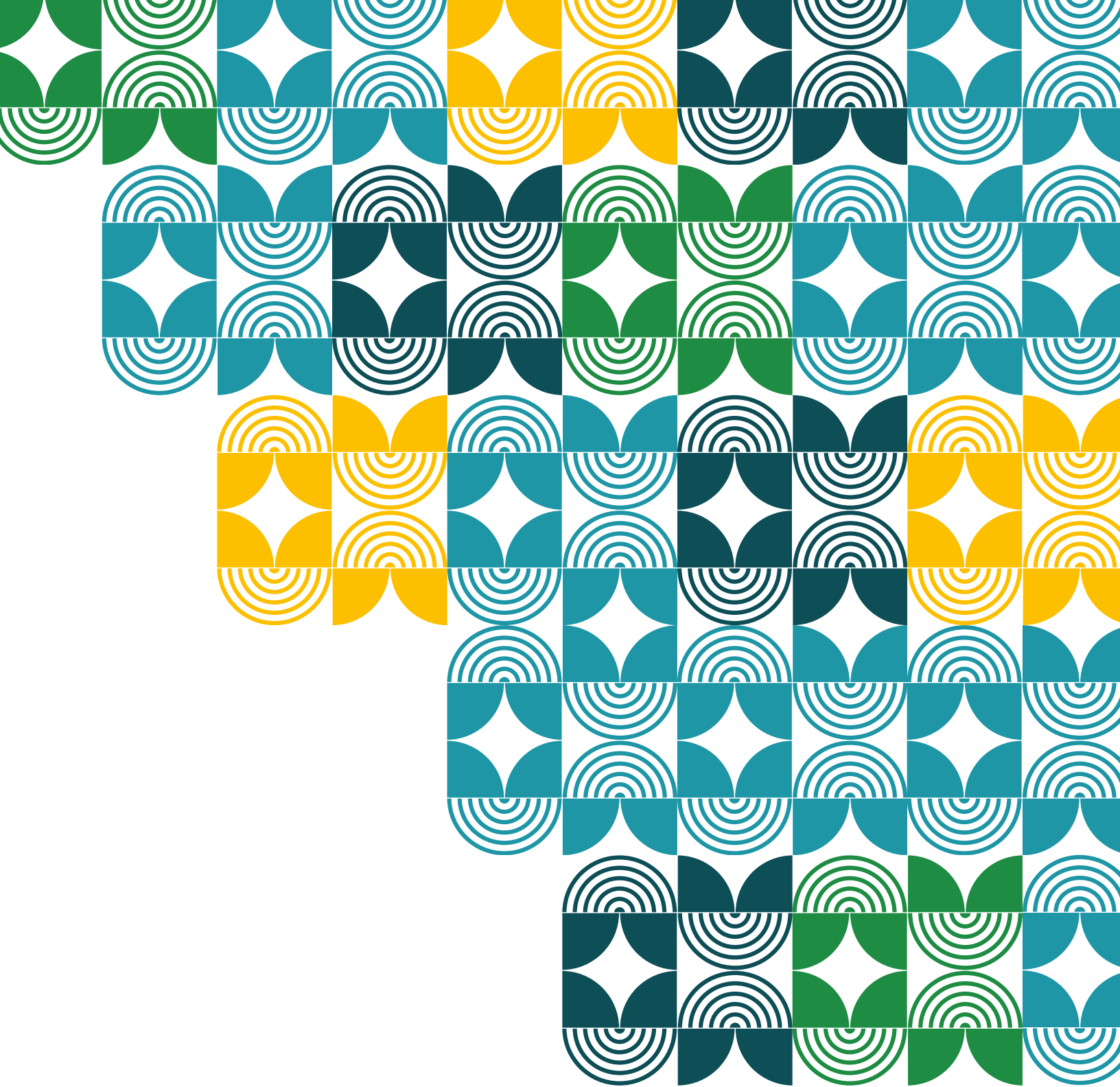




2024

Annual Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Brazil Africa Institute (IBRAF) continued to drive impactful international cooperation, focusing on strengthening Brazil-Africa relations and enhancing global partnerships. Through innovative programs, strategic collaborations, and high-level international engagements, IBRAF made significant strides in advancing its mission.

Key milestones included the successful hosting of the 12th edition of the Brazil Africa Forum in São Paulo, which brought together over 500 delegates from across 33 countries, resulting in the signing of key international agreements with prominent global institutions. Noteworthy partnerships included those with TRENDS Research & Advisory (UAE), the Port Authority of Las Palmas (Spain), and the Bank of Amazonia (Brazil), all contributing to IBRAF's growing influence and capacity to promote sustainable economic development across regions.

In alignment with its commitment to empowering youth and advancing capacity-building strategies, IBRAF launched the 2024-2025 Youth Technical Training Program (YTTP), providing a inaugural class of 11 young professionals from Sierra Leone with expert training in cassava management. The YTTP remains a flagship program, with plans to expand its reach and impact, aiming to train 1,000 African youth by 2025.

Through participation in prestigious international conferences, including the African Union Summit, the Tourism Investment Forum Africa, and the Islamic Development Bank Group Annual Meetings, IBRAF further solidified its role as a key player in fostering South-South cooperation and addressing global challenges through collaborative networks. IBRAF's dynamic partnerships and innovative programs underscore its unwavering commitment to driving development and creating lasting, transformative change for both Brazil and Africa.

João Bosco Monte
President

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Brazil Africa Forum 2024

October 14-15, 2024

São Paulo, Brazil

The 12th edition championed a powerful mission: to catalyze infrastructure investment for sustainable development across Brazil and Africa. Bringing together over 500 delegates from 33 countries—including foreign dignitaries, national authorities, and influential stakeholders—the event served as a dynamic platform for forging partnerships, stimulating trade, and addressing shared challenges.

Over 7 plenary sessions, 2 special side events, and numerous parallel discussions, 50 esteemed speakers explored key topics such as Brazil-Africa relations, infrastructure investment, and the opportunities in emerging markets. In the face of infrastructure deficits and climate vulnerabilities, both regions grapple with modernizing outdated structures while preparing for the demands of the future. Public-private partnerships and strategic investments emerged as vital solutions to these dual challenges.

Notable milestones included IBRAF's strategic agreements with the Port Authority of Las Palmas (Spain) and TRENDS Research & Advisory (UAE), aimed at fostering trade, advancing research collaboration, and driving sustainable economic development. Another highlight was the announcement by Luiz Lessa, president of Banco da Amazônia (Brazil), of a joint study with IBRAF to assess the potential of Northern Brazilian products in African markets.

By fostering impactful partnerships and facilitating inspiring dialogues, the event ignited a shared vision for resilient infrastructure, inclusive growth, and mutual prosperity.



Youth Technical Training Program (YTTP) 2024/2025

August 19-30, 2024

Bahia, Brazil

As IBRAF's flagship initiative for vocational advancement, the YTTP was designed to share best practices and foster South-South Cooperation between Brazil and Africa. Since its launch in 2017, the programme has empowered young African professionals across several key domains where Brazil has a special capacity for transformation such as agriculture, healthcare, ICT, education, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and the creative industries. With an ambitious goal of training 1,000 young Africans by 2025, YTTP aims to drive transformative development across the continent.

The inaugural class was hosted in partnership with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa). Held at the Cassava and Fruit Culture Research and Training Station, in Bahia, the program was made possible through collaboration with Sierra Leone's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

During the two-week program, eleven professionals from Sierra Leone joined, gaining hands-on experience, learning advanced techniques, and connecting with Brazilian experts. They attended specialized lectures and utilized state-of-the-art labs and machinery, equipping them with the skills to foster entrepreneurship and apply their training in their home communities.



Exhibition "Mandela, Ícone Mundial de Reconciliação"

May 7 - June 10: Brasília International Airport

July 10 - August 30: São Paulo Cultural Center

In partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Brazil Africa Institute organized a tribute to Nelson Mandela's legacy. The exhibition opened in Brasília before traveling to São Paulo, where it was displayed in one of the city's top cultural centers.

The collection featured 50 photographic panels, offering a compelling journey through Mandela's life and his fight for justice and equality.

In São Paulo, where the exhibition received support from the São Paulo Municipal Department of Culture, IBRAF held the seminar "The Life and Legacy of Nelson Mandela", on July 18 — Nelson Mandela International Day.

The event featured Professor Matilde Ribeiro (Unilab), Ambassador Antonio Augusto Martins Cesar (Itamaraty), and moderator Professor Duncan Chaloba (PUC-Campinas). Discussions centered on Mandela's strategies for peace, reconciliation, and the fight against racism, emphasizing education as a catalyst for social development.



Strategic Partnerships

1. TRENDS Research & Advisory (UAE)

On April 1, IBRAF and TRENDS Research & Advisory signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Abu Dhabi, marking a significant step in fostering international cooperation. Signed by IBRAF's President João Bosco Monte and TRENDS' CEO Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ali, the agreement focuses on food security, climate change, migration, and cybersecurity. Brazil's Ambassador to the UAE, Sidney Leon Romeiro, attended the ceremony, which positioned IBRAF as the first Latin American institution to formalize a partnership with TRENDS, advancing cooperation across Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.



TRENDS' CEO Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ali; Brazil's Ambassador to the UAE, Sidney Leon Romeiro, and IBRAF's President, João Bosco Monte, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

This partnership was reinforced during two major events. On July 16th, João Bosco Monte participated as a speaker at the TRENDS Global Round Table Series: Middle East and Africa in Cape Town, South Africa, discussing think tanks' roles in policy debates and strategies to address regional challenges. On October 23rd, he represented IBRAF at the TRENDS First Annual Conference of BRICS Think Tanks, held during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. IBRAF, as the sole Brazilian participant, contributed to discussions on "The Role of Think Tanks and Media in Strengthening the Soft Power of BRICS Nations." The conference emphasized think tanks' importance in a multipolar world, climate change, geopolitical stability, and economic integration within BRICS.

In both Cape Town and Kazan, João Bosco Monte highlighted the importance of training programs like IBRAF's YTTP and collaborative research projects as vital tools for strengthening think tanks across the Global South.

The partnership also featured prominently at the Brazil Africa Forum 2024, where TRENDS Research & Advisory joined as a Diamond Sponsor and launched its virtual office in Brazil. This initiative expanded TRENDS' global research scope and deepened its collaboration with IBRAF, fostering dialogue and cooperation among think tanks in Latin America, Africa, and the Arab world.

2. Port Authority of Las Palmas (Spain)

In a significant step toward enhancing international cooperation, the Brazil Africa Institute formalized a General Protocol of Cooperation with the Port Authority of Las Palmas. This agreement, signed by IBRAF's president, João Bosco Monte, and the president of the Port Authority of Las Palmas, Beatriz Calzada, aims to bolster trade and institutional ties between Brazil, Africa, and Europe, with the Canary Islands serving as a strategic bridge. The port offers comprehensive facilities to support trade across three continents, with a special emphasis on Africa's growing markets.

As IBRAF's president pointed out, 80% of Egypt's meat imports from Brazil currently bypass the Port of Las Palmas. The new agreement aims to harness the port's strategic location to improve efficiency and promote its use for these routes. The protocol focuses on knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives, including training programs, seminars, and project development support.



The president of the Port Authority of Las Palmas, Beatriz Calzada, and IBRAF's president, João Bosco Monte

3. Bank of Amazonia (BASA)

At the Brazil Africa Forum 2024, Luiz Lessa, president of Banco da Amazônia, highlighted the importance of collaboration between BASA and the Brazil Africa Institute by announcing the conduction of a study on the potential of products and services from the Northern Brazilian states in Africa. This initiative seeks to strengthen trade and cultural relations between the two regions, bonded by ancestral social and economic ties.

The Brazil Africa Institute, with its recognized competence in promoting international cooperation, especially between Brazil and Africa, will play a crucial role in identifying and creating new business opportunities, directly benefiting producers and entrepreneurs from Northern Brazil. The study is seen as an essential tool to diversify the region's exports, valuing its natural and cultural riches and boosting local economic development.

Furthermore, with COP 30 set to be held in Belém in November 2025, the event will bring discussions on environmental and sustainability issues to the forefront. This global spotlight may provide increased visibility to the study, highlighting the potential of sustainable products and services from the Amazon. COP 30 could promote partnerships that reconcile economic development with sustainable practices, attracting investments and strengthening international ties.



The president of Banco da Amazonia, Luiz Lessa, and IBRAF's president, João Bosco Monte

4. The Government of the United Arab Emirates

In August, the president of IBRAF, João Bosco Monte, met with the United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for International Cooperation, H. E. Reem Al Hashimy, at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abu Dhabi. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between IBRAF and the UAE government.



The leaders discussed areas of mutual interest, including agriculture, entrepreneurship, health, sustainability, technology, food security, and governance. They also reviewed the next steps for the Youth Technical Training Program (YTTP) with plans for further support from the UAE government. Minister Reem emphasized the importance of training young African professionals and expressed the UAE's interest in collaborating on the initiative.

5. Itaipu Binacional

In November, in a strategic effort to strengthen partnerships, IBRAF visited Itaipu Parquetec in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. Hosted by Directors Eduardo de Miranda and Yuri Benites, the meeting focused on knowledge exchange in open innovation and technological development — key priorities for Brazil and African countries.

Discussions explored potential training programs for African technicians and engineers in areas like renewable energy, dam safety, and entrepreneurship. A tour of Itaipu Parquetec's facilities highlighted its contributions to technology and sustainability.

João Bosco Monte emphasized the importance of Brazil-Africa cooperation in energy infrastructure and sustainable development, noting that cross-cultural knowledge exchange drives effective solutions for African challenges.

International conferences and engagements

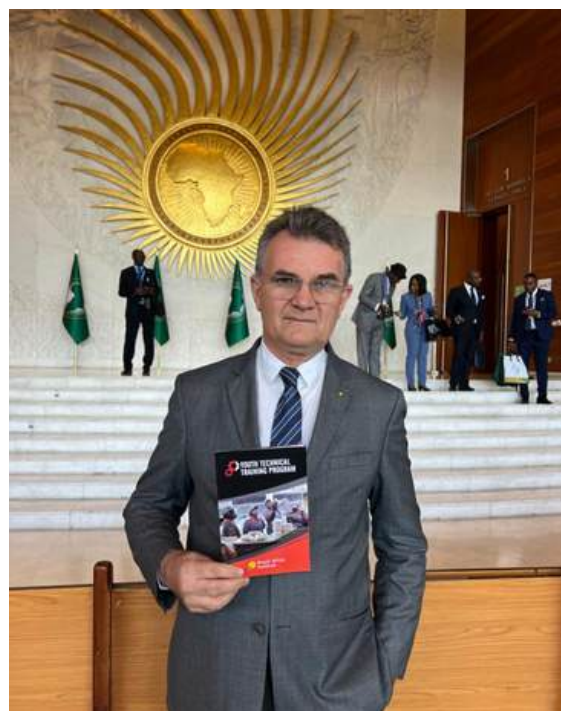
African Union Summit

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: February 17-18

The 37th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with a focus on "Educating an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems to ensure inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning across Africa."

Representing the Brazil Africa Institute, President João Bosco Monte announced the 2024/2025 edition of the Youth Technical Training Program. This special edition of IBRAF's flagship initiative will offer 1,000 young Africans aged 18-39 an immersive learning experience in Brazil, focusing on agriculture and rural development, with additional coverage in health, IT, education, sports, and entrepreneurship.



President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on his first official visit to Africa in 2024, was invited to attend the YTTP launch event at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa. The occasion also saw the participation of key partners, including Dr. Simeon Ehui, Dr. Martin Fregene, and Zemedeneh Negatu. Since its inception in 2017, the YTTP has been instrumental in training young African professionals in areas where Brazil has strong expertise.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Location: Cairo, Egypt
Date: March 28

A productive meeting took place at the FAO headquarters in Cairo, where João Bosco Monte engaged with Abdulhakim Elwaer, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa (NENA). The discussions, attended by other FAO officials, centered on enhancing collaboration in areas such as irrigation systems for sugarcane cultivation, improving agricultural cooperatives, and shared development goals. This dialogue underscores a commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and capacity-building initiatives that benefit both regions.

Fundação Cultural Palmares

Location: Brasília, Brazil
Date: April 6

Professor João Bosco Monte visited the new headquarters of Fundação Cultural Palmares in Brasília and met with the institution's president, João Jorge Santos Rodrigues. The discussions focused on potential collaboration, particularly regarding the exhibition “Mandela, Ícone Mundial de Reconciliação”. The meeting also highlighted broader opportunities for cooperation in cultural initiatives and social development projects, all aimed at strengthening the ties between Brazil and Africa.

Tourism Investment Forum Africa (TIFA)

Location: Cape Town, South Africa
Date: April 10-12

The Tourism Investment Forum Africa (TIFA) is a key platform for promoting the development and economic growth of African destinations, facilitating investment and trade opportunities in tourism-related sectors. This edition of the forum, organized in partnership with the World Travel Market Africa (WTM), attracted a diverse array of speakers, including ministers and representatives from the tourism departments of South Africa, Cape Verde, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone, as well as ambassadors, investors, and professionals from both the African and international private tourism sectors.

2024 Islamic Development Bank Group Annual Meetings

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Date: April 27-30

The 2024 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group Annual Meetings brought together decision-makers to address challenges and explore collaborative opportunities under the theme “Cherishing our Past, Charting our Future: Originality, Solidarity, and Prosperity.” Among the key voices at the event, Professor João Bosco Monte underscored the importance of fostering development and solidarity among nations.

During the event, he highlighted the YTTP, IBRAF’s flagship initiative aimed at empowering African young professionals through South-South Cooperation. He also underscored the transformative impact of the program, noting that participants become catalysts for development upon returning to their home communities.

Seminar “Brasil-África: Novas pontes sobre o rio chamado Atlântico”

Location: Brasília

Date: May 22-23

IBRAF participated in the seminar “Brasil-África: Novas Pontes Sobre o Rio Chamado Atlântico” (Brazil-Africa: Forging New Connections Across the Atlantic), hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation at the Itamaraty Palace in Brasília.

Held in the lead-up to Africa Day (May 25th), the event aimed to strengthen diplomatic ties between Brazil and African nations. Key discussions centered on pressing global issues, including climate change, energy transition, global governance, and inequality.

IBRAF contributed to the panel “African Heritage: Mobilizing the Diaspora,” alongside distinguished participants such as the Ambassadors of Cape Verde and Ghana, and Minister Anielle Franco. The seminar also honored the legacy of Ambassador Alberto da Costa e Silva, a pivotal figure in fostering Brazil-Africa relations.



Afreximbank Annual Meetings

Location: Nassau, Bahamas

Date: June 12-15

IBRAF participated in the 31st Annual Meetings of Afreximbank held in Nassau, Bahamas. This marked the first Afreximbank Annual Meeting of Shareholders hosted in the Caribbean, alongside the 3rd Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF). With the theme “Owning Our Destiny: Economic Prosperity on the Platform of Global Africa,” the event aimed to strengthen economic ties between Africa and the Caribbean.

ICLEI 2024 World Congress

Location: São Paulo, Brazil

Date: June 18-21

IBRAF was represented by its president, João Bosco Monte, at the ICLEI 2024 World Congress. During his speech, he emphasized the private sector's critical role in sustainability efforts and stressed that relying solely on public resources is insufficient to meet global sustainability goals. João Bosco Monte also highlighted the importance of youth empowerment, calling for greater youth participation in future ICLEI events. The ICLEI 2024 plenary explored South America's leadership in global climate and nature agendas ahead of COP16 in Colombia (2024) and COP30 in Brazil (2025). Discussions underscored the need for an integrated, multi-level approach to address climate and biodiversity challenges. ICLEI members emphasized the role of local governments in bridging global strategies with practical solutions for cities and regions, fostering collaboration for a sustainable future.

Conference of the African Diaspora of Americas

Location: Salvador, Brazil

Date: August 29-31

The president of IBRAF attended the opening of the Conference on the African Diaspora in the Americas. Supported by IBRAF, the event aimed to strengthen African roots and foster dialogue between the African Union and the Americas. Organized by the African Union, Togo's government, and Brazil's federal and state governments, the conference focused on pan-Africanism, memory, restitution, reparation, and reconstruction. João Bosco Monte participated in the opening alongside high-level officials, emphasizing IBRAF's role in promoting integration and highlighting the importance of cooperation in advancing pan-African ideals.



Looking ahead

The Brazil Africa Institute stands as a cornerstone of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, fostering meaningful connections between Brazil, Africa, and partners worldwide. Building on the successes of 2024, IBRAF is focused on deepening its transformative impact through strategic partnerships with public institutions, private organizations, and academia. By uniting stakeholders from diverse sectors, the Brazil Africa Institute continues to facilitate dialogue and collaboration, creating opportunities to address shared global challenges with innovative and inclusive approaches.

Looking ahead, IBRAF will continue to address critical areas such as agriculture, infrastructure investment, and equitable development, with a firm commitment to delivering tangible outcomes that drive progress across both regions. Through its expanding global network, the Institute aims to scale its capacity to promote knowledge-sharing and develop impactful solutions. These efforts will be amplified by IBRAF's active role in major international conferences, regional dialogues, and multilateral initiatives, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of shaping a future rooted in collaboration and mutual growth.

At the heart of IBRAF's mission is the empowerment of young professionals, the advancement of research, and the strengthening of regional ties. By nurturing a new generation of leaders equipped to tackle complex global challenges, IBRAF not only fosters capacity-building but also ensures the long-term viability of its initiatives. Its training programs, policy dialogues, and research projects are strategically designed to contribute to inclusive growth while fostering innovation and adaptability across a range of sectors.

Through these transformative efforts, IBRAF reaffirms its dedication to bridging gaps and cultivating lasting partnerships that transcend borders. By uniting expertise, resources, and shared purpose, the Brazil Africa Institute is well-positioned to amplify its impact, creating new opportunities and paving the way for a resilient and prosperous future. Together, Brazil, Africa, and the global community are building a legacy of progress, cooperation, and shared prosperity that will endure for generations to come.



**Brazil Africa
Institute**

