

# Brics IKS conference kicks off in Durban

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THE inaugural Brics Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) conference kicked off at the Moses Mabhida Stadium has been hailed for recognising the important role of IKS in finding solutions to the world's problems.

"This conference is in line with the African philosophy and principle of Ubuntu because it is about mobilising local communities, their knowledge systems and indigenous institutions for sustainable food security, environmental governance for climate change adaptation," inkosi Themba Mavundla,

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executive member of the provincial House of Traditional Leaders, said.

The two-day conference is exploring how indigenous knowledge could be used to address problems such as

climate change and human rights violations. A central focus will be the contribution made by traditional leaders and healers and the inclusion of indigenous languages, religions and value systems such as ubuntu.

"It affects everyone regardless of race, class and gender. Therefore its mitigations requires a collective effort within and across national borders, especially among Brics countries as emerging economies," Mavundla said.

Representatives of development agencies, civil society, the business sector, policy makers, practitioners and traditional leaders from within

and outside Brics countries will come up with solutions that will be put forward at the 8th Brics Summit in Goa, India, next month.

"The significance of incorporating IKS in combating these global challenges is based on the awareness that once people and communities feel that they are part of the business of the state, they become inspired and ready to protect the state, resources and the environment in general as a home and place of work," director of the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems at UKZN, Prof Hassan Kaya, said.

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