



**Inter-State Council Secretariat
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs**



The Fourth International Conference on Federalism

Unity in Diversity: Learning from Each Other

New Delhi, India – 5-7 November 2007

FACT SHEET

India announced its intention to host the next International Conference on Federalism at the Third Conference in Brussels in March 2005. The Inter-State Council Secretariat, Government of India, was identified as the central agency to organize the 2007 conference in India, and the Forum of Federations was invited to cooperate with Secretariat in the Forum's capacity as the permanent secretariat to the International Conferences on Federalism. This conference is the fourth in a series organized in partnership between host governments and the Forum of Federations. The earlier conferences were held in Canada in 1999, Switzerland in 2002 and Belgium in 2005.

About the International Conferences on Federalism

The triennial conferences provide a unique forum where practitioners of federalism, academics and NGOs are able to interact and learn from one another. The thematic work sessions are the core events of these conferences. Unlike academic conferences, no theoretical papers are either presented or discussed at the work sessions. Instead, state-of-the-art academic papers commissioned prior to the conference are expected to provide the background and framework for policy relevant discussions. These papers influence the selection of issues and case studies which inform discussions at the conference work sessions. Also unlike inter-governmental conferences, senior officials and ministers are not provided an opportunity to present existing government positions from prepared texts. Rather, senior practitioners are expected to actively participate in the interactive work sessions, where colleagues from around the world are exposed to diverse points of view and new insights as resulting from dialogue. Such a format allows for maximum active participation, while providing an opportunity for peers to draw inspiration from each others' experiences. The work sessions feed their conclusions to the topical theme based dialogue at a session held