



## **Sixth BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting**

### **Durban Declaration**

*Theme: Leveraging BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation to Enhance Inclusive Growth and Development*

**Durban, South Africa, 3 July 2018**

1. In line with the Johannesburg Declaration and Action Plan to be adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit 25-27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, we, the Ministers for Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, met in Durban, South Africa on 3 July 2018, for the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting.
2. Taking into consideration the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit “*BRICS in Africa: Cooperation with Developing Countries for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity*”, we restate the importance of implementing the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership harnessing science, technology and innovation as key socio-economic change agents for global and regional progress, growth and stability.
3. Underlining the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting “*Leveraging BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation to Enhance Inclusive Growth and Development*”, we reaffirm our commitment to promote science, technology and innovation for human development utilising people-centred and public-good driven policy and implementation frameworks. We welcome in this regard the planned joint establishment of the Platform for Vaccine Research and Innovation by the BRICS Ministries for Science and Technology and of Health.

4. Based on the BRICS STI Work Plan 2015-2018, we recognise the progress of STI cooperation since 2015 and in particular under the present 2017-2018 BRICS STI Action Plan.

5. We welcome the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call of the BRICS STI Framework Programme, which once again illustrates the strategic significance of this R&D research programme as a mechanism for pooling BRICS resources and strengths and promoting new research and technology development. We support the decision to launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call of the BRICS STI Framework Programme in eight priority areas with Russia continuing as the Call Secretariat. We restate the support of our Ministries and Funding Agencies to continue joint funding of the BRICS STI Framework Programme.

6. We welcome the successful convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> BRICS Young Scientist Forum in Durban, South Africa which included a number of new elements such as the *Young Women in Science Dialogue*, the *Young Innovator Prize* and the *Young Programmer Competition*. We fully endorse the idea that these activities should become permanent features of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum going forward. We thank Brazil for offering to host the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS Young Scientist Forum in the lead up to the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Brazil in 2019.

7. We welcome Brazil convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Research Infrastructure and Mega-science Projects in March 2018 and the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Funding Working Group Meeting in June 2018 for the shortlisting and approval of the projects to be funded in the second round of the BRICS STI Framework Programme.

8. We welcome Russia hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Meeting on Foresight and the S&T Priority Setting and the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meetings on Nanotechnology and Material Science, Biotechnology and Biomedicine, and Photonics.

9. We welcome India hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Information and Communication Technology and High Performance Computing in May 2018 which discussed several cooperation proposals, including the preparation of

joint submissions under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals in the BRICS STI Framework Programme.

10. In order to streamline and strengthen cooperation in research infrastructures and mega-science projects, we agree to adopt the BRICS Action Plan for Coordination of Research Infrastructures and Mega-science Projects. We view this as an important instrument to forge closer cooperation on existing major and mega-science projects in the BRICS member states and plan the possible establishment of future inter-BRICS mega-science projects and initiatives.

11. Recognising the need to establish inter-BRICS investment instruments for STI, we endorse the initiative to explore possible avenues for assistance from the New Development Bank (NDB) and other development financing platforms to support BRICS STI cooperation on innovation and entrepreneurship.

12. Cognisant of the significant achievements of BRICS STI since the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation in March 2015, we note the organization of these activities, which increase in scope and complexity with each passing year, remain ad-hoc in nature. In this regard, we endorse the initiative to investigate the feasibility of establishing a permanent mechanism to manage and coordinate BRICS STI activities.

13. We adopt the updated BRICS STI Action Plan 2018-2019 and endorse the draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS STI Work Plan 2019-2022. We call on our officials to finalise this document prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Brazil in 2019.

14. Brazil, Russia, India and China extend their warm appreciation to the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting.

15. Russia, India, China and South Africa convey their appreciation to Brazil for its offer to host the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting in 2019 and extend their full support to that end.

Done at Durban, South Africa on 3 July 2018

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**Federative Republic of Brazil**

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**Russia Federation**

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**Republic of India**

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**People's Republic of China**

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**Republic of South Africa**