



5th BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting

Communiqué

The 5th Meeting of BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies under India's chairpersonship was held on 24th June 2021 via video conferencing.

2. The BRICS countries exchanged their views on a broad array of narcotics related issues and challenges being faced by them. They reaffirmed their collective commitment to combat drug trafficking for the well being of their citizens.

3. The deliberations and exchange of opinions on the prevailing drug trafficking and abuse scenario in the BRICS countries, international and regional trends as well as its impact on the member states were arrived at achieving mutual cooperation to contain the drug menace. They recognized the serious challenges being faced in the areas of drug trafficking owing to new and emerging technologies and border-less crime and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation under BRICS.

4. With the objective of containing both illicit supply and demand of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals, the BRICS countries resolved to work towards establishing a mechanism for exchange of information within context of the BRICS. Further, to combat drug trafficking through dark-net and courier/postal parcels, they agreed to exchange the expertise garnered by them to enhance the capacity in the field of drug interdiction. They expressed concerns at increased maritime drug trafficking by international drug conduits which has posed a major challenge to BRICS countries having vast maritime boundaries. Brazil pledged to offer vacancies to BRICS countries in the Intercops program, which fights drug trafficking through passenger's profiling in Brazilian airports, when the coronavirus pandemic is under control.

5. The participants highlighted the need to curb illicit financial flows to contain drug trafficking, primarily aimed towards accrual of monetary gain, and agreed to offer capacity building assistance to track and disrupt money laundering, including the use of convertible virtual assets associated with trans-border drug trafficking, based on the expertise and experience of the BRICS countries. They also agreed to call an expert meeting on frozen assets management,



coordinated by Brazil, so as to further develop mechanisms to defund criminal organizations. BRICS countries further agreed to exchange, preferably within 60 days after this 5th Anti Drug Working Group, the contact details of a focal point that works in the fight of the money laundering of drug trafficking proceeds, in order to facilitate the exchange of information on the matter among the countries. They also took a note of the exploitation of legitimate supply chains by traffickers for trafficking of non-medical synthetic opioids and related dangerous substances through e-wallet services, social media and other internet-based services. BRICS countries agreed to explore maximum possibility of conducting Controlled Delivery operations provided under the ambit of UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

6. During the general discussion session of the meeting, the detailed deliberations were also held on the Questionnaire on Asset Management prepared by Brazil and Mechanism of BRICS Anti-Drug Liaison Officers proposed by India.

7. The BRICS countries acknowledged the need to continue collective actions in the spirit of cooperation to combat prevailing challenges and threats emerging from world drug problem, in compliance with the three international drug control conventions.
