



## **Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 | Virtual Meeting**

We, the Ministers responsible for Youth, of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa met virtually under the Indian BRICS Chairship on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 for the Ministerial meeting on the margins of the VII BRICS Youth Summit. The discussion was held under the theme “Youth as a Bridge for Peace and Friendship”.

Taking cognizance of the Covid-19 pandemic scenario, we expressed concerns over the risks the pandemic had posed for the development of the youth, especially regarding education, employment, physical and mental well-being and secure livelihoods.

Noting the outcomes including the Action Plan of the VII BRICS Youth Summit 2021, we emphasized the need for committed, coordinated efforts by BRICS nations, for better identifying challenges and opportunities for the youth. We highlighted five thematic areas for enhancing cooperation on the ‘youth agenda’ in the BRICS countries i.e. Youth Engagement for sustainable development ; Education and Capacity Building for youth ; Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment ; Youth for Health, Fitness, Culture and well-being ; and Social Justice and Inclusion for youth.

We appreciated the endeavors and contributions of governments, corporate sector, civil society and young volunteers in particular of BRICS countries for effectively responding to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis via public health and hygiene promotion, selfless volunteering, innovation and international cooperation. We express concerns over challenges brought by COVID-19 for youth development. We reiterated that the young people will be a key element in ensuring an inclusive recovery to focus that ‘no one is left behind’.

To expedite youth development amid COVID-19 recovery actions, we emphasized that BRICS countries needed to ensure continuity in learning and skilling of youth by promoting high-tech, low-tech and even no-tech solutions infused with innovation.

We took note that for BRICS countries’ youth, the challenge going forward, will be to build stronger partnerships to foster learning from each other, develop advanced skills, create better jobs, and promote economic, social and political growth and stability that has a higher level of youth ownership.

We also took note of the recommendations of the BRICS Youth Summit. We agreed to continue efforts to ensure the advancement of the BRICS partnerships for youth development, in the people-to-people and cultural exchanges pillar of BRICS cooperation.