



**9th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting
via video conference**

**BRICS STI Declaration 2021
26th November 2021, India**

1. In line with the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation signed in Brazil in March 2015 and the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the XIII BRICS Summit, held in India on 9th September 2021, we, the Ministers 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 on 26th November 2021 under the chairmanship of the Republic of India at the 9th Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting.

2. The theme for India's Chairmanship is «**BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**». The focus has been on the need to review the achievements and contributions of BRICS to the global agenda and also to our national growth stories. The four Cs are in a way the fundamental principles of our BRICS partnership. We reaffirm our commitment to advance sustainable development and ensure the further promotion of innovation and technology for enhancing welfare of people in BRICS countries.

3. We mark the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation. We positively acknowledge the great progress of BRICS cooperation achieved in science, technology and innovation since 2015 as reflected by our upward trend in collaborative activities in all tracks of cooperation.

4. The BRICS platform has witnessed several achievements in the last one and a half decades. Today we are an influential voice for the emerging economies of the world. This

platform has also been useful for focusing World attention on the priorities of developing nations as well.

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to wreak immeasurable political, economic, and social damage globally for almost two years. We call for better international preparedness and enhanced cooperation to fight the pandemic and other current and future health challenges through the mobilization of political support and necessary financial resources. This year, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, more than 150 BRICS meetings and programs were organized, out of which more than 20 were at the Ministerial level. In this sense, we appreciate that BRICS has maintained momentum and continuity, while consolidating its activities in the spirit of consensus in 2021. Under BRICS STI track more than 20 meetings were held.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental. We note with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and reversed years of progress on poverty, hunger, health care, education, climate change, access to clean water, and environmental protection. While the virus has impacted everyone, it is affecting the World's poorest and most vulnerable. We, therefore, call upon stronger STI Cooperation to foster BRICS development partnerships to address the impact of the pandemic and to accelerate the implementation of 2030 Agenda by advancing new means of implementation.

7. We appreciate the importance of BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Cooperation in bringing together our researchers to tackle new and emerging challenges and acknowledge the progress achieved by the BRICS STI Steering Committee and joint research projects, especially on the various thematic working groups.

8. We reiterate our continuous support to the young scientific community and welcome India holding the 6th BRICS Young Scientist Forum. The Conclave focused on three themes: Healthcare, Energy Solutions and Cyber Physical Systems which witnessed presentation of about 100 exciting innovative research carried out by young scientists. This forum is one of the most successful BRICS initiatives and networks for developing

scientific, innovation, educational, cultural and friendship links. Besides interacting in science, exchanging best practice and knowledge, the event also gave positive impetus to build new contacts for future joint scientific efforts both for common prosperity of our countries and global social development. We are pleased with the results of the BRICS Young Innovator Prize contest and call for its continuity to encourage young talented generation to make profound impact on the socio-economic environment in BRICS societies.

9. We welcome India hosting the seventh meeting of BRICS Astronomy Working Group Meeting virtually on 19-20 May 2021, providing future directions of research in this area such as building network of intelligent telescope and data network and the 5th BRICS Science Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship (BRICS-STIEP) meeting on 29th – 30th September 2021, recommending BRICS innovation action plan 2021-24 and its enabling framework.

10. We welcome Brazil hosting in a hybrid format, from the city of Manaus, the 3rd Meeting of BRICS Material Science and Nanotechnology Working Group, on 26th – 28th October, 2021, in which participants had the opportunity to discuss the BRICS Ecosystems of Materials and Nanotechnology as well as strategies to intensify collaboration on this thematic priority area.

11. We appreciate Russia hosting - a special session of the BRICS Working Group on Research Infrastructures and Mega-Science projects on the 3rd of March 2021(online) which stressed the need to continue ongoing efforts to improve BRICS GRAIN Platform and hosting BRICS Science Popularizers Forum on the 6th - 7th of October 2021 (hybrid format: both online and offline) which showed high demand of BRICS scientific community for popularization in the interest of sustainable development and a positive transformation of our world.

12. We acknowledge the effort of the BRICS Working Group on Photonics on establishing, support and further development of the Virtual Institute of Photonics of BRICS – VIP BRICS. We welcome development and finalizing a strategic document «BRICS Road Map in Photonics» to be presented to BRICS STI in February 2022.

13. We welcome China hosting the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Biotechnology and Biomedicine including Human Health and Neuroscience, 25th-26th May, the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology, 27th-28th July, the BRICS Workshop on Business Incubation, 18th/20th/22nd October, the 8th Meeting of the BRICS Solid State Lighting (SSL) Sub-Working Group, 8th - 9th September, and the BRICS Technology Transfer Network Cooperation Conference and related activities, 27th October. We are satisfied with the meeting results and encourage the Steering Committee to further discuss the recommendations of the WGs.

14. We welcome South Africa hosting virtually the 5th Working Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and High Performance Computing (HPC) on 27th -28th May 2021. The Working Group is determined to continue working together as they strengthen and develop their ICT and HPC systems.

15. Innovation is one of the key drivers of economic and social development. We appreciate efforts of India in developing the BRICS Innovation Action Plan 2021-24. We endorse the «BRICS Innovation Action Plan 2021-24» and associated Annex on «Enabling Framework for the BRICS Network for Technology Transfer Cooperation («BRICS Techtransfer») recommended by the STIEP WG and agreed by all BRICS countries.

16. The BRICS STI Framework Programme has been highly successful in attracting scientists and research organizations for collaborative research as evident from fact that more than 100 projects have been supported in the last five years. We reaffirm our commitment to the BRICS STI Framework Programme as an effective cooperation mechanism in the area of joint research on priority areas. We took note of the BRICS call 2021 in which more than 300 applications were received. We also acknowledge the implementation of 12 research project focusing on Covid-19 related Research and Innovation. We recognize the outcomes of the Meeting of BRICS STI Funding Working Group held by India virtually on 24th June 2021. We support the continuation of BRICS STI Framework Programme for implementation of BRICS STI calls and improved mechanism aimed at further strengthening BRICS research cooperation and raising the efficiency of operational activities.

17. Considering the emergence of new science, technology and innovation issues and challenges since the signing of the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on STI in 2015, we call for a review process of the priorities themes of our cooperation in order to update the BRICS STI agenda in the following years.

18. We acknowledge the efforts of the BRICS STI Steering Committee as the main mechanism to manage and coordinate BRICS STI activities. Faced with pandemic challenges of 2021 we appreciate the efforts of the BRICS STI Steering Committee meetings which were held from time to time and proved its efficiency and necessity.

19. We endorse the BRICS STI Calendar of activities 2021-22, in complement of the BRICS STI Work Plan 2019-2022.

20. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa extend their warm appreciation to the Ministry of Science and Technology of India for hosting virtually the 11th STI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and the 9th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting on 25th November 2021 and 26th November 2021, respectively.

21. Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa convey their appreciation to China for its offer to host the 10th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 12th BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting in 2022 and extend their full support to that end.

Done virtually on 26th November 2021