



## **BRICS Women's Business Alliance Meeting on the eve of International Women's Day**

**7 March 2021**

The first meeting of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) under India's Chairship was held on March 7, 2021 on the eve of International Women's Day. The meeting was chaired by Dr Sangita Reddy, Chair, BRICS WBA. It was attended by the Chairs of all other national Chapters of BRICS WBA along with WBA members from the respective countries.

At this meeting, Dr Sangita Reddy presented India's WBA work agenda during the year 2021 which, besides the mid-term and annual meeting of WBA, will include holding a BRICS Virtual Exposition for Women-led Businesses to help women entrepreneurs from BRICS nations to expand their business prospects, publishing a BRICS compendium on Positive Stories to recognise women-focused and women-led initiatives that are doing commendable work in the BRICS nations and two knowledge papers: One on Inclusive Economy and another on the proposed BRICS Centre for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution. In addition to these, BRICS Joint Working Groups on the identified sectors viz. *Innovative Development, Healthcare, Food Security and Environmental Safety, Creative Industries and Tourism, and Inclusive Economy* will also be constituted this year.

The representatives from all other national chapters of the alliance welcomed India's proposal and offered full support. They also shared details about their respective women centric plans for the year.

At this occasion, Dr Reddy said, "As the Sustainable Development Goals demonstrate, adopting the gender lens properly and creating a culture to provide more opportunities to women requires collaborative and concerted action. In current trying times, we need to transform challenges into opportunities and accelerate the shift towards both greater inclusion of women in the workforce and women-led entrepreneurship. This forms the basis of BRICS WBA's agenda for this year during India's Chairship." She added that the overall agenda for BRICS Women's Business Alliance for the year 2021 will aim at promoting economic participation and empowerment of women across BRICS countries.

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