



## Meeting of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth VII BRICS Youth Summit

(Virtual)  
31 August 2021



The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Youth Summit and the Meeting of ‘BRICS Ministers and Heads of Agencies Responsible for Youth’ on 31 August 2021 through video conference from New Delhi, India.

The delegates from Ministries of 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 participated in the meeting. The discussion was held under the theme “Youth as a Bridge for Peace and Friendship” for advancing the agenda of ‘youth’ in BRICS countries.

The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports addressed the participants and presented India’s perspective for the development of youth for their broader social and economic engagement, through coordinated interventions among BRICS countries; building capacity, sharing good



practices; and advocated for multi sectoral support for youth projects and programs across countries.

Taking cognizance of the Covid-19 pandemic scenario, the Shri Anurag Thakur 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.

He stated that the BRICS countries needed to anticipate the impact of mitigation and recovery measures across different age groups, and apply effective interventions supported by dynamic governance to avoid increasing intergenerational inequalities and to ensure that young people are involved in building societal resilience.

Taking note of the outcomes by way of an Action Plan at the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Youth Summit 2021, the Minister emphasized the need for committed, coordinated efforts by BRICS nations, for identifying challenges and opportunities for the youth. He 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.

He appreciated the endeavors of governments, corporate sector, civil society and other development partners of BRICS countries for effectively responding to the crisis via public health and hygiene promotion, selfless volunteering and innovation. He said the young people will be a key element in ensuring an inclusive recovery that focuses that 'no one is left behind'.

To expedite youth advancement amid COVID recovery actions, he emphasized that BRICS nations needed to ensure continuity in learning and skilling of its youth by promoting high-tech and low-tech solutions infused with innovation.

He further stated that for BRICS countries youth, the challenge going forward, will be to build stronger international 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.

The Minister urged for more 'youth-responsive' policies, initiating dialogue on 'Digital Public Goods' and digital transformation for Youth'. Given the particular context of the COVID pandemic and the threat to youth, he further proposed a 'Lifecycle Approach to Youth Healthcare in BRICS nations'. He emphasized the need for youth ownership by way of making 'Youth, the Game Changers in The Decade of SDG Action'.



At the end of the Ministerial Meeting of VII BRICS Youth Summit (Virtual), the Ministers Responsible for Youth of BRICS Nations adopted the Joint Statement and agreed upon to continue efforts to ensure the advancement of the BRICS partnerships for youth development, under the people-to-people exchanges pillar of BRICS cooperation.

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