



JOINT DECLARATION STATEMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 9TH BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Preamble

We, the leaders and representatives of the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliament of the Republic of India, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, convened for the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum (PF) meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 27 to 28 September 2023 under the theme of "Harnessing Inclusive Multilateralism and Parliamentary Diplomacy to Deepen BRICS and Africa Partnership for Accelerated Implementation of the Africa Free-Trade Agreement."

We appreciate the friendly relations among the BRICS member countries, which are based on the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration, and consensus.

We recall the First BRICS Parliamentary Forum (PF) held in Moscow, Russia, on 8 June 2015, where the Parties declared their intention to strengthen and promote contacts among BRICS parliaments at the leadership level of chambers, committees, and groups of parliamentarians; perform inter-parliamentary exchanges and hold regular expert consultations; and create and develop new inter-parliamentary cooperation mechanisms.

We further recall the 2016 Jaipur Declaration, in which BRICS Women Parliamentarians expressed commitment to intensify mutual cooperation and strengthen partnership in sustainable development, economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

We also remember the call to strengthen BRICS parliamentary exchanges, highlighted in the Johannesburg Declaration of the 10th BRICS Summit held in South Africa from 25 to 27 July 2018.

We reiterate the decision of the Fourth BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Geneva on the margins of the 139th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly to formalise the establishment

of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum through the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

We congratulate the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the successful hosting of the XV BRICS Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, from 22 to 24 August 2023 under the theme: BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.

We note with appreciation the resolutions agreed upon at the XV BRICS Summit under the following five broad thematic areas of BRICS and Africa partnership: (a) developing a partnership towards an equitable Just Transition, (b) transforming education and skills development for the future, (c) unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), (d) strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and (e) strengthening multilateralism, including working towards real reform of global governance institutions and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

We appreciate, in particular, the opportunities the AfCFTA holds for BRICS trade partnerships in Africa, the continent's development and integration, the strengthening of South-South cooperation, and the role our parliaments can play in these efforts. Also, we appreciate the progress made towards the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade.

We welcome the invitation extended by the XV BRICS Summit to the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024.

We remain convinced of the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue to develop multifaceted cooperation within BRICS and actively promote mutual interests in the international arena.

Therefore, we resolve as follows:

1. We value the presence and active participation of stakeholders from diverse sectors who graciously shared their valuable expertise and insights with us. As the elected representatives of our respective parliaments, we are resolute in our commitment to fostering these meaningful people-to-people exchanges within the realm of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum. We strongly reaffirm the critical importance of BRICS inter-parliamentary dialogue in enhancing and fostering contacts across parliamentary chambers and committees, facilitating fruitful inter-parliamentary exchanges. In addition, we recognise the value of utilising modern information technologies to establish a dedicated section on the websites for the BRICS inter-parliamentary dimension, thereby encouraging seamless access to relevant information and promoting enhanced collaboration among our esteemed counterparts.
2. We call for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner by mobilising the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda. We further

reaffirm the call for donor countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of technology along with additional development resources to developing countries, in line with the national policy objectives of recipients.

3. We reiterate the commitment of BRICS countries to strengthening multilateralism based on upholding international law, including the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain peace and security, advance sustainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and promoting cooperation based on the spirit of solidarity, mutual respect, justice and equality.
4. Through parliamentary diplomacy, we aim to enhance our strategic partnership for the benefit of our people, promoting peace, a more representative and fairer international order, a reinvigorated and reformed multilateral system, sustainable development, and inclusive growth.
5. We agree, respecting our respective domestic constitutional mandates, to facilitate the implementation of the XV BRICS Summit resolutions within our individual parliaments and among our parliamentary stakeholders to further strengthen the impact of BRICS, notably in terms of the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA for BRICS trade partnerships, the development and integration of Africa, and the strengthening of South-South cooperation. We further intend to actively promote and prioritise these opportunities for the benefit of our people.
6. We also stress the importance of BRICS parliamentary exchanges of Women Parliamentarians.
7. We remain resolute that BRICS Parliamentary cooperation is an integral element of BRICS cooperation.
8. We adopt the "Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum" to define the general cooperative strategy of the legislative organs 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. This will enable us to coordinate efforts aimed at developing and strengthening the inter-parliamentary relations of BRICS Member States concerning issues of common interest.
9. We further emphasize that signing the MoU on BRICS Parliamentary Forum would further contribute to the formalization and/or institutionalization of the parliamentary dimension of the BRICS cooperation manifesting the Forum as a veritable hub of parliamentary democracy in the Global South.

10. We look forward to welcoming, at the appropriate time, the parliaments of the newly invited countries of BRICS to join the BRICS Parliamentary Forum.
11. We appreciate the attendance of various delegations representing the parliamentary community in Africa, including regional parliamentary assemblies in Africa, national parliaments of the Southern African Development Community, and provincial legislatures of the Republic of South Africa.
12. We congratulate the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa for the successful hosting of the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum and express our gratitude for the hospitality received from the Parliament and people of South Africa.
13. We express our continued support of the South African Parliament's BRICS Parliamentary Forum Chairship for 2023.
14. We extend our support to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for their BRICS Parliamentary Forum Chairship in 2024.