



Ministerial Communiqué of BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting

13 July 2021

1. We, the BRICS Tourism 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 on July 13, 2021 via video conference, under India's BRICS Presidency to discuss the sustainable and resilient recovery of travel and tourism to ensure its contribution to global economic recovery.
2. We acknowledge that tourism continues to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affecting the international tourist arrivals and consequent job losses in tourism sector. We also acknowledge that Covid-19 pandemic has severely endangered public health security and presented immense challenges to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. We emphasize that the resumption of travel and tourism is crucial for global economic recovery because of the direct and indirect economic impact this sector has on others. Travel and tourism are key drivers for sustainable and balanced growth and development and offer a valuable contribution to the SDGs.
4. We recognize that tourism can be a powerful tool for community development and reducing inequalities if it engages local populations and all key stakeholders in its development. Tourism is one of the driving forces of global economic growth and currently provides for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide.
5. We envision that the present crisis provides us an opportunity to rethink tourism for the future, and forge BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism to promote measures, which can shape a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive tourism sector.
6. We recognize that BRICS alliance for Green Tourism can accelerate action in the following key areas:
 - a. Mainstreaming Sustainability – by incorporating principles of sustainable tourism in travel and tourism sector policies and introduce measurement of sustainability for destinations and tourism enterprises
 - b. Sustainable Development Goals – by adopting green tourism, the tourism sector can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals
 - c. Shift to Renewable Sources of Energy – by encouraging sustainable modes of travel and use of renewable energy for accommodation and hospitality sectors
 - d. Support conservation efforts – Green tourism will encourage investment in nature-based solutions and supporting fragile ecosystems.

- e. Creating Jobs – Investments in transforming tourism value chain for making them green and sustainable will create new job opportunities in tourism sector
 - f. Social Inclusion – focus on inclusive growth with support and involvement of vulnerable groups particularly women and youth through capacity building and empowerment. It will require to repurpose tourism as a supporter for community.
 - g. Needs of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) - to encourage MSMEs to adopt green and sustainable tourism practices development will be require to be addressed.
 - h. Focus on health and hygiene - post COVID scenario, greater focus should be on health, safety and hygiene and therefore wellness tourism especially Yoga can play an important role.
 - i. Promoting off beat destinations – which naturally promote social distancing such as nature and eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, wellness retreats, mountaineering and trekking, among others.
7. We emphasize the importance of cooperation in tourism, and hospitality sectors and encourage the citizens of BRICS countries to travel to each member country. We also emphasize to enhance intra-BRICS tourism cooperation through information sharing, exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development, visits of Tour Operators/ Media/ Opinion Makers for promotion of tourism, experience sharing in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management and participation in travel fairs/ exhibitions.
8. We resolve to work together and realize the full potential of BRICS countries through cooperation in the tourism sector. We express our thanks to the Indian BRICS Presidency for its leadership and agree to continue our cooperation to ensure further progress.
