



## **KAZAN Declaration of the 11th Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Education**

### **Preamble**

We, the BRICS Ministers of Education and assigned representatives from the Federative Republic of Brazil, the People's Republic of China, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, the Republic of South Africa and the United Arab Emirates met for the 11th BRICS Ministerial Meeting on the 11th of June 2024 in Kazan, Russia, to discuss the issues of educational cooperation for fostering global knowledge.

Welcoming the newly admitted member states to the BRICS grouping and reiterating our commitment to the BRICS spirit of mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, democracy, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration and consensus by upholding the principle of sovereignty of nations.

Acknowledging the role of educational cooperation in strengthening the connections between the BRICS member states and leveraging their respective abilities for developing mechanisms to promote academic collaboration.

Recognizing the need to provide the access to equitable, inclusive and quality lifelong learning opportunities for all in order to achieve the objectives of equality and sustainable development.

Reiterating the importance of joint mechanisms for implementing cooperative processes in the field of education between the BRICS member states.

Reaffirming the continuity in implementing the agreements adopted in 2023 in Mpumalanga, South Africa, to ensure cooperation between the BRICS member states in the field of education, we agree to take the following actions.

### **1. Development of the BRICS Network University**

We are pleased to sign the Protocol on accession of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Arab Emirates and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of the BRICS Network University dated 18 November 2015.

We welcome the outcomes of the meeting of the International Governing Board of the BRICS Network University held on 16 May, 2024, in a video conference format, aimed at further development of the BRICS Network University, namely, expanding membership of the BRICS Network University, including universities from the newly admitted member states and the thematic areas such as mathematics, natural sciences, social and humanity sciences, sustainable agriculture and food security, health sciences. We also encourage academic mobility of professors and students and

consider the establishment of the BRICS NU academic journal, which can provide an international expert platform for scientific and academic information exchange among scientific and educational centers of the BRICS member states.

## **2. Facilitation of mutual recognition of qualifications**

We acknowledge the efforts by South Africa in hosting the first workshop on mutual recognition of qualifications in December 2023.

To promote the development of the framework for mutual recognition of qualifications we support the establishment of a Working Group to explore multilateral cooperation amongst the BRICS member states. The Working Group will focus on joint events, information exchange and capacity building based on consensus.

We consider the development of a draft of Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the BRICS member states as a result of the common understanding to be identified by the activities of the Working Group.

## **3. University global ranking and evaluation system**

We reiterate our commitment to explore a comprehensive quality evaluation system of BRICS universities that reflects the characteristics of the education system of the BRICS member states. We see the global rankings needing diversification. To work in this direction, we reiterate the importance and the commitment to affirming the quality assurance mechanisms and evaluation systems that exist in every nation of BRICS. By strengthening and building capacities of our own evaluation systems we can gradually work towards dialog between systems that may result in an international framework that reflects the characteristics of the education system of BRICS states. For this purpose, we welcome organizing a series of workshops between the competent authorities, professional bodies and experts to study the best practices. The first outcomes can be presented at the BRICS Forum of University Rectors in 2024.

## **4. Digital education cooperation**

We reiterate support of the initiative to establish BRICS digital education cooperative mechanism. In this regard we favor organizing a series of workshops to promote digital education for BRICS member states. We welcome the initiative of China, that presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding for our further discussion and development of the subject.

## **5. Support of talented youth**

We express our appreciation for initiatives presented by member states that aimed to foster the sense of community in the field of education between BRICS member states, identifying and encouraging talented youth students from BRICS, as well as cooperation on education facilities. We appreciate Russia's initiative to host the pilot BRICS Olympiad with the aim of proposing the concept note for the consideration of the BRICS member states.

## **6. Education facilities for environmental literacy**

We recognize efforts of BRICS member states in developing environmental literacy at all levels of education. We welcome Russia's initiative to host the pilot BRICS international program of environmental and climate monitoring for students of the BRICS member states, including in the framework of the BRICS Network University, with the aim of proposing the concept note for the consideration of the BRICS member states.

## **7. BRICS Forum of University Rectors/Presidents**

We welcome the holding BRICS Forum of Rectors on October 17-18, 2024, at Lomonosov Moscow State University and recognize the importance of direct contact between universities of BRICS member states to foster and increase an effective partnership between higher education institutions that would result in more cooperation and academic mobility.

## **8. Support of humanities sciences**

We recognize the need to preserve the diversity of civilizations and strengthen humanistic values of the BRICS member states. It is important to enhance collaboration and exchange in this sphere between institutions of the BRICS member states.

## **9. BRICS TVET cooperation Alliance**

We reaffirm our commitment to enhancing BRICS TVET exchange and cooperation and to strengthening the pivotal role of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance (BRICS-TCA) as a multilateral platform for dialogue, experience sharing and project collaboration.

We welcome the development of common approaches to qualitative and quantitative assessment of technical and vocational education and training systems through joint research projects.

We look forward to early finalization of the BRICS-TCA Charter for adoption at the next Ministerial Meeting and explore opportunities for the new member states to join the Alliance.

We express our gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation for organizing and hosting the 11th Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Education.

11 June 2024  
Kazan, Russia