

STATEMENT
OF THE 10th BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING
(June 28, 2024, Nizhny Novgorod)

We, the BRICS Environment Ministers and High authorities, participated in the 10th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting, held under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in Nizhny Novgorod on June 28, 2024.

We are pleased to note that environmental cooperation within the BRICS format, which began in 2015, received a new impetus in 2024 following the accession of new countries to the BRICS. The expanded composition of BRICS signals and reinforces its growing role in international affairs and that we can, through cooperation among our countries, guided by the BRICS spirit of consensus, positively contribute to the global environmental agenda.

We take note of the importance of the UN International Decade for Action on "Water for Sustainable Development", the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

We are pleased to note the work done over the past decade to advance environmental cooperation within BRICS, including: the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Environmental Cooperation as well as its Plan of Implementation (2023-2027) between the BRICS member states, the creation of the necessary cooperation mechanisms: the BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology Platform (BEST) "BRICS Clean Rivers", "BRICS Partnership for Urban Environmental Sustainability", and the ongoing efforts to develop the compendium of BRICS best available technologies and environmental practices for key industries that we intend to develop, exchanging new ideas for cooperation.

We commit to making all efforts to implement the priority areas set out in the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation between the BRICS countries as well as other BRICS initiatives mentioned above and invite the new BRICS countries to join these initiatives.

Given our concerns about the problem of pollution of water bodies, we reaffirmed our intention to jointly seek solutions to address this challenge taking into account national circumstances and priorities. In this regard, we may declare our readiness to populate the BRICS Clean Rivers program with national policies and measures, aimed at preventing and/or cleaning up the water bodies of our countries from

pollution which aligns with other BRICS countries initiatives as that of the UAE's "Clean Rivers" initiative.

In terms of the rapid growth of the urban population and the development of urban infrastructure, we are ready to promote cooperation under the "BRICS Partnership for Urban Environmental Sustainability" and explore the possibility of creating a "network" of environmentally advanced BRICS cities to exchange the most modern ideas, solutions and projects.

Realizing the importance of involving various segments of society in solving environmental problems, we took note of the experience of the Russian Federation in working with youth "Ecomolodezhka.ru" and we intend to explore the possibility of creating a "BRICS Youth Environmental Network".

We recall the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation within sustainable development goals in line with SDGs 14 and 15 and encourage all BRICS countries to strengthen international cooperation and exchanges on experiences on enhancing biodiversity conservation. We also welcome and appreciate BRICS countries to holding more regular meetings to discuss common interests.

We highly appreciate the adoption of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) held under the presidency of China and call on BRICS countries to work towards the active and effective implementation of KMGBF, so as to realize the 2050 Vision of "living in harmony with nature" and make positive contribution to the process of global biodiversity governance.

We recognize that the available financial resources to support biodiversity conservation need to be enhanced, particularly to developing countries. We encourage countries to strengthen capacity building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote technical and scientific cooperation on biodiversity conservation. We welcome the contribution of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund.

While appreciating the efforts of our countries to preserve rare species and noting the high vulnerability of big cats, we take note of the Republic of India's initiative to create an International Big Cats Alliance and encourage BRICS countries to work together to make further contributions to the conservation of big cats. We also take note that the UAE established the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

In that regard we encourage BRICS countries to improve collective collaboration in areas of conservation and preservation of the most vulnerable species.

Recognizing that climate change is one of the global challenges of our time, which imperils global economic, social and environmental sustainability, we reiterate the goals and principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, in particular, the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and we welcome the UAE consensus adopted at COP28;

Acknowledging the progress made under the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation and its Plan of Implementation for 2023-2027, we recognize the importance of strengthening cooperation and participation of all BRICS countries in an effective and appropriate international response to climate change in the context of sustainable development;

We oppose trade barriers imposed by developed countries and reiterate our commitment to enhance coordination on these issues. We underline that measures taken to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss must not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade and must not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade. We express our concern at any discriminative measure that will distort international trade, risk new trade barriers and shift burden of addressing climate change to BRICS members.

We establish the BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CGCCSD) as an effective mechanism of cooperation on climate change issues. The BRICS CGCCSD will undertake its activities under the BRICS Environment Working Group, contributing to the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Environment. We agree to develop the Terms of Reference for the CGCCSD and the BRICS Framework for cooperation on Climate Change and Sustainable Development to identify the priority areas of cooperation for 2024 -2027 and look forward to adopting it at High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change in 2024 in Russia;

We look forward to establishing the BRICS Climate Research Platform (BCRP) to enhance the scientific and expert exchange of views, knowledge and best practices of the CGCCSD and agree to start discussions on its modalities and activities;

The special BRICS session on Forests took place on the 27th of June 2024 on the margins of the 10th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting. The BRICS countries agreed to consider strengthening their cooperation on Forestry under the auspices of BRICS and request BRICS senior officials to take appropriate action.

We express our gratitude to the host of the 10th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting – the Russian Federation – and welcome the invitation of the Federal Republic of Brazil to host the next, 11th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting in 2025.