



**Declaration of the 10th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting
27 September 2024, Innopolis, Republic of Tatarstan,
Russian Federation**

1. We, the BRICS Communications Ministers met in Innopolis under the chairship of the Russian Federation at the 10th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting, on 27 September 2024.

2. We note with great satisfaction that Russia's chairship of BRICS marks the 10th anniversary of the BRICS Communications Ministers meeting and the first meeting after an expansion of BRICS membership in 2024. This meeting was conducted under the topic "Sovereignty vs Connectivity: looking for balance".

3. We affirm our commitment to the BRICS spirit featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and consensus. We reiterate our commitment to inclusive multilateralism. BRICS members welcome the wide involvement of the new members in current activities.

4. The development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) plays a key role in the modern economy and society. We recognize the importance of engaging BRICS members to promote an inclusive, open, secure, stable, accessible, peaceful and interoperable ICT environment.

5. We recognize the importance of creating an enabling inclusive, open, fair, non-discriminatory and secure digital economy.

6. We note that ICTs have a particular importance and an enormous potential for improving sustainable economic development, education, healthcare, transport and other areas. We encourage to provide wider access to education, enhance digital literacy, and create new competencies and skills for the population to bridge the digital divide.

7. We highly appreciate the opportunities and prospects for technological cooperation among BRICS members in the development and implementation of emerging technologies, which contribute to the development and improvement of ICTs among all participants. BRICS members have a diverse technological experience, and their mutual cooperation can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of ICTs.

8. We also recognize the importance of capacity building and exchange of experience and are ready to organize training programs and events that help to improve knowledge and skills in the field of ICTs.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

9. We recognize that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is leading to a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. At present, AI is experiencing an exponential growth and development, with increasing integration into the whole process of economic and social development in all fields.

10. In light of the previous Declarations of the Summits and the Communications Ministers' Meetings, we emphasize our commitments to strengthening information exchange and cooperation on AI, we strive to build consensus on AI development through dialogue and cooperation while keeping in view of ethical concerns of AI. Also, under this priority, we reaffirm our commitment to the BRICS resolutions in the field of ICTs. BRICS members are, in particular, developing the initiatives laid down in the previous Declarations of Summits and Declarations of BRICS Communication Ministers' Meetings.

11. We stand for an inclusive, fair, development-oriented, transparent, responsible and ethical approach in the development, deployment and use of AI, with the fundamental aim to improve peoples' lives, to bridge the digital divides and to promote prosperity for all through innovative and safe applications across important areas such as public services, health, education, economic development, etc. We promote the development and use of safe, reliable, secure AI for all.

12. We believe that in the rights of all countries to develop and use AI on an equal basis should be respected and protected. We advocate that the international community should strengthen solidarity and cooperation, help developing countries improve their AI capacity building.

13. We call upon the strengthening of cooperation among BRICS members for an exchange of ideas and solutions regarding AI to support a sustainable development of our countries.

14. We encourage exchanges of experience among BRICS countries in the development and use of AI that can play an important role in shaping the future views on AI technology development. We recognize that this would also facilitate an effective use and faster adoption of AI in the MSME sector.

15. We recognize the importance of capacity building on AI for BRICS members and note the efforts in the UN system, including the recently adopted UNGA Resolution "Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity Building of Artificial Intelligence".

16. We welcome efforts of BRICS members to build a safe and reliable AI ecosystem and work together to enhance their own AI development capabilities which can lead to more efficient, resilient and sustainable socio-economic development.

17. We note the initiative from Russia to establish an AI alliance as a platform for a private sector and its invitation to all interested parties from BRICS members to join it.

18. We note the initiative from China on the establishment of a center on AI development and cooperation and its invitation to all interested parties from BRICS members to join it.

19. We note the Russian AI Code of Ethics which contains recommendatory principles designed to create an environment for the trusted development of artificial intelligence technologies.

20. We wish to express our concerns about the risks and ethical concerns related to AI, such as privacy, generative AI, information manipulation, algorithmic biases, human-robot interaction, unemployment, effects of autonomy, and singularity among others.

21. We promote, in the spirit of cooperation, to establish regular consultations on AI topics, and to enhance cooperation among BRICS members directly or through the established BIFN Study Group on AI.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

22. Digital infrastructure has emerged as an essential prerequisite for digital transformation and for participation of different sectors in digital economy. We recognize the importance of digital infrastructure in ensuring universal and meaningful connectivity for digital services and its key role in facilitating digital transformation.

23. We recognize that safe, secure, universal and meaningful connectivity at affordable cost, which continues to be a policy priority, is necessary to have productive online experiences.

24. We encourage BRICS members to improve emergency response and notification mechanisms to further enhance resilience of digital infrastructure. The connectivity initiatives should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states.

25. Recognizing that the proper functioning of the Internet has become a vital function for any state, its population and its economy, we encourage strengthening cooperation to ensure the integrity, stability and security of national segments of the Internet. We welcome cooperation among all stakeholders in BRICS members to take appropriate measures to prevent, identify and address risks on the Internet.

26. We believe that a conducive regulatory environment is a key enabler for universal digital infrastructure development. We call for strengthening international cooperation among the BRICS members to facilitate active exchanges of best practices and to explore the possibility for joint activities in the field of digital infrastructure.

27. We recognize that emerging technologies such as 5G, satellite systems, terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks, have the potential to catalyze the development of the digital economy.

28. We note that with the development of space technologies, there is an increasing demand for satellite orbits and associated spectrum resources. We commit to make joint

efforts to ensure the rational, equitable, fair and economical use of spectrum, resource and satellite orbits. We underscore the importance of space sustainability and highlight key role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in global management of spectrum resources and satellite orbits.

29. We believe that continued international cooperation in the field of radiocommunication resource harmonization is of paramount importance. BRICS members will continue to strengthen their cooperation with related international organizations to maximize the benefits of their common goals towards the full benefits of emerging and future digital technologies dependent on these resources.

30. We recognize that sustainability and resilience of digital infrastructure require creation of mechanisms for the exchange of experience and best practices to explore the possibility for joint activities.

DIGITAL COMPETENCE

31. We emphasize the need to continue our efforts to bridge the digital divide and all associated barriers to get benefits for digital transformation through the use of approaches, which promote digital literacy, re-skilling and expanding competencies in the current realities of digitalization in all sectors of life.

32. We endeavor to strengthen digital capacity building driven by BRICS countries to ensure meaningful and secure use of Internet resources and technologies and safe navigation the digital space by our people.

33. Digital competence involves not only the technical proficiency to use digital tools but also the ability to navigate digital environments, communicate effectively online, critically evaluate digital information, and protect one's privacy and security. It also encompasses the capacity to adapt to technological changes, learn new skills as needed, and leverage digital technologies creatively for personal and professional growth.

34. We note the Russian presentation about launching the “University of Future Technologies” for preparing professionals in the field of quantum technology and related fields.

35. We recognize the importance of skilling and digital literacy, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and people of all ages and backgrounds. We will foster national digital skills development strategies, including the use of green technologies, promote vocational training to minimize the adverse effect of digitalization, develop training and capacity-building programmes.

36. We recognize that harnessing the benefits of digital technologies for inclusive, affordable, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities requires the advancement of connectivity, capacities and content. We acknowledge the need for access to broadband Internet and technology devices, digital inclusion and literacy, and to incorporate digital competencies into the education system for the capacity-building of educators and students.

37. We recognize the need for all people to have media and digital literacy skills, which are important in order to meaningfully participate in an inclusive information society. We note the necessity to strengthen the capabilities of BRICS countries in advancing digital competencies.

38. We note importance to prevent and combat misinformation and disinformation online. We recognize the necessity to strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries in promoting public awareness in this regard, including through, inter alia, promotion of education and training.

39. We express our concern over the increasing challenge to protect children from all types of exploitation in the digital environment, as well as content harmful to their health and growth. We look forward to strengthening BRICS cooperation to develop initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety of minors in the digital environment through developing their digital skills and raising their awareness, sharing best practices, organizing preventive activities, strengthening interaction among public and non-public organizations, information dissemination promoters and web hosting providers on the matter.

40. In order to join efforts to create safe, secure and beneficial digital environment for children as well as to encourage the development of relevant social projects we recognize the need to launch BRICS Initiative to protect children in the digital environment as a platform to exchange knowledge and best practices. For this purpose, we request the BRICS Working Group on the ICT Cooperation to further deliberate in this regard.

STOCKTAKING AND WAY FORWARD

41. We reaffirm the role of the Working Group on ICT cooperation in assisting the implementation of the decisions of the BRICS Communications Ministers. We reiterate our commitment to strengthening and improving the Working Group on ICT cooperation by having regular interaction to take stock of the decisions.

42. We advocate that the BRICS members uphold BRICS principles, enhanced cooperation, mutual support and exchange of views within the ITU during the upcoming, World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24) that will be hosted by India this year as well as the Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 and the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27) to improving continuous exchange of ideas and cooperation.

43. We welcome the outcomes of the Digital BRICS Forum 2024 and encourage BRICS members to explore ways to improve the format of this forum, to enhance its role as a platform to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge, practices and trends, initiatives and results of digital development among others. We reaffirm the commitment to host the Digital BRICS Forum on an annual basis and acknowledge its outcomes through BRICS Working Group on ICT cooperation.

44. We recall the decision on creation of Focus Group on the Digital Public Goods Platform and notice the discussion on the draft Terms of Reference.

45. We encourage further actions to update and implement the Digital BRICS Task Force (DBTF) Work Plan and urge the establishment of expert groups on digital applications as soon as possible to facilitate activities on this track.

46. We reiterate our support to the BRICS Institute of Future Networks (BIFN) and encourage all BRICS members to nominate national branches for BIFN.

47. We recall the decision of creation of four study groups under the BIFN Council, namely Artificial Intelligence, Next Generation Communications, Internet in Industry 4.0, and Electromagnetic Radiation and note the discussion on their draft Terms of References. We encourage BRICS members to actively participate in this regard. We encourage the study groups to start work immediately.

48. We call for members to start development BIFN branch website as soon as possible and consider positively the use of the website to promote the sharing of information and resources within BIFN. These branch web-sites should have linkage with main web-site of BRICS Presidency.

49. We note China's invitation to participate in the BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation in 2024.

50. The BRICS Communications Ministers express their gratitude to Russia for its chairship in 2024 and for organizing the 10th BRICS Communications Ministers' Meeting.

51. The BRICS Communications Ministers are ready to support Brazil in hosting the 11th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in 2025.