



DECLARATION-BRICS YOUTH SUMMIT SOUTH AFRICA JULY 2023

PREAMBLE

We, the youth delegations from the, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, Republic of India, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province, South AFRICA from 18-20 July 2023 at the IX BRICS Youth Summit under the theme “*BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*” to discuss the current state, and future prospects for the development of youth cooperation in BRICS countries over a wide range of areas including the following identified priority areas:

- i. Developing a partnership towards an equitable Just Energy Transition;
- ii. Transforming education and skills development for the future;
- iii. Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement;
- iv. Strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;
- v. Strengthening multilateralism, including working toward real reform of global governance institutions, and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

Furthermore, as we have entered into the ‘Decade of Action’ for SDGs (2021-30), we believe that BRICS countries should use their collective strengths to prioritize the ‘development paradigm’, using it as a guiding principle for our work as we continue intra-BRICS cooperation across areas such as youth development, trade, education, entrepreneurship, climate change, skills and , economic participation and transformation, health and wellbeing, social cohesion, effective and responsive youth development machinery, and explore the establishment of the BRICS Youth Council amongst many others.

Therefore,

Recognizing the strength in terms of population and the economic power of the BRICS association;

Recognizing the need for strengthening and reforming the multilateral system.

Reaffirming the importance of the BRICS Youth Summit and believing it to be the appropriate forum for discussion of matters of youth;

Understanding that our youth share common goals and yearnings;

Recognizing the efforts of all delegations to be present in the aforementioned date and time to discuss these important topics;

Bearing in mind that youth are key for the development and economic growth of all our economies;

Reiterating the importance of prioritizing youth development at national, regional and global development agenda so as to empower youth development and global development;

Acknowledging that youth is a driving force for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Emphasizing that entrepreneurship and innovation are fundamental for the growth of any nation; and

Recalling the history and partnership of the BRICS summits,

We present the following recommendations emanating from our meeting to Ministers of Youth and Heads of State and Government of BRICS countries:

1. Developing a partnership towards an equitable Just Energy Transition;

- **Protecting jobs and livelihoods:** The transition to a low-carbon economy should not lead to job losses or displacement. Workers should be supported through the transition, and they should be given opportunities to retrain and find new jobs in the clean energy sector.
- **Investing in communities:** The transition to a low-carbon economy should benefit all communities, not just wealthy communities or communities that are already well-off. Investments in new technologies and infrastructure should be made in a way that benefits all communities, and that helps to reduce inequality.
- **Addressing social and environmental justice concerns:** The transition to a low-carbon economy should not exacerbate social inequality or environmental injustice. It should be designed in a way that benefits all people, regardless of their race, gender, class, or location.
- **Investing in training and education:** Workers should be supported through the transition. This includes providing them with skills, training and education.

Developing engagement of youth volunteering in the field of youth research in climate transitions, social and technological risks associated with the Just Transition.

2. Transforming education and skills development for the future;

- A focus on lifelong learning: In the 21st century, learning is no longer a one-time event that happens in school. It is an ongoing process that takes place throughout our lives. Education systems need to be transformed to support lifelong learning, so that learners can acquire new skills and knowledge as the world changes.
- A focus on problem-solving and critical thinking: In the 21st century, the ability to solve problems and think critically is essential for success. Education systems need to be transformed to focus on these skills, so that learners can develop the ability to think for themselves and come up with creative solutions to problems.
- A focus on innovation and creativity: In the 21st century, innovation and creativity are essential for economic growth. Education systems need to be transformed to focus on these skills, so that learners can develop the ability to come up with new ideas and solutions.
- A focus on digital skills: In the 21st century, digital skills are essential for success. Education systems need to be transformed to focus on these skills, so that learners can use digital technologies to learn, work, and communicate. It is timely to explore to create the Youth BRICS Media Platform where young people from states members will publish the reports, videos, texts, broadcasts. This will allow to develop critical thinking among young people.
- A focus on diversity and inclusion: In the 21st century, diversity and inclusion are essential for success. Education systems need to be transformed to focus on these values, so that all learners can succeed regardless of their background.
- The introduction of new technologies: new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality, are being used to transform education. These technologies can be used to create more personalized learning experiences, to provide learners with access to experts from around the world, and to simulate real-world experiences.
- The focus on problem-based learning: Problem-based learning is an approach to education that focuses on solving real-world problems. This approach is designed to develop learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- The use of project-based learning: Project-based learning is an approach to education that focuses on completing a project. This approach is designed to develop learners' collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- The focus on social-emotional learning: Social-emotional learning is the process of developing the skills necessary to understand and manage one's emotions, to build relationships, and to make responsible decisions. This approach is essential for success in the 21st century, as it helps learners to develop the skills they need to thrive in a complex and ever-changing world.

- Strengthen the intra-BRICS educational cooperation under the framework of existing institutions including BRICS-Technological and Vocational Education and Training Cooperation Alliance (BRICS TCA), BRICS-Network University, and BRICS-Universities League.
- Expand collaboration in higher education by accelerating mutual recognition curriculum, credits and diploma, creating joint degree programs, joint research projects, summer schools or internships to promote mutual understanding and to elevate the intercultural competency and leadership of the BRICS-youth.
- Call upon multi-stakeholder concerted efforts to enhance the accessibility and quality education, especially for the disadvantaged groups.
- Utilize remote and hybrid learning platforms and provide open access to education resources to transform learning modes and to promote continuous learning, reskilling and upskilling, in order to address the challenges of skill mismatch and to prepare for the future occupation.

3. Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement;

- The need to address infrastructure challenges: Africa's infrastructure is underdeveloped, which could hinder the flow of trade. Countries need to invest in infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and ports, in order to make the AfCFTA a success.
- The need to address skills gaps: Africa has a skills gap, which could hinder the development of new businesses and industries. Countries need to invest in education and training in order to address this gap. Countries should support young entrepreneurs through implementation of cross-country incubator program.
- The need to strengthen international cooperation. We call on BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation and share experiences to achieve shared prosperity.

4. Strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

- Economic recovery: The global economy needs to be rebuilt in a way that is more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. This means investing in infrastructure, education, and social protection, and creating jobs that are decent, green.
- Social protection: Social protection is essential to ensuring that everyone has access to essential services and that they can withstand shocks and stresses. This includes social security, healthcare, and education. They should be research into youth migration trends and analytical reports should be developed and prepared such that youth unemployment can be addressed through BRICS collaboration.

- Gender equality: Gender equality is essential for sustainable development. Women and girls should have the same opportunities as men and boys to participate in the economy and society.
- Climate change: Climate change is a major threat to sustainable development. We should take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Sustainable consumption and production: We need to change the way we produce and consume goods and services in order to reduce our impact on the environment. This includes shifting to renewable energy, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: We need to enhance industrial innovation and infrastructure development, including investments in research and development, technology innovation, and the construction of efficient and sustainable infrastructure. The creation of a system for financing the best startups of young people while seeking support of the New Development Bank.
- We should work towards youth development-oriented cities, promoting more friendly environment for the youth development and empower youth to contribute.

5.Strengthening multilateralism, including working toward real reform of global governance institutions, and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

- Reaffirming that multilateralism should promote international law, peace, democracy, equity and justice, mutual respect, right to development and non-interference in internal affairs of any country without double standards.
- Building support for multilateralism: young people and different sectors of society need to engage for promoting sustainable and common development and facilitating affordable and equitable access to global public goods for all and upholding multilateralism.
- Reforming global institutions: Global institutions need to be reformed in order to make them more effective and representative. This includes increasing the representation of developing countries and giving them a greater say in decision-making.
- Enhancing youth collaboration and innovation: Principles in promoting innovation, diversity, and sustainability should be implemented amongst enhanced youth collaboration.

- Accelerating the youth exchange: explore the establishment of BRICS Community that includes experts and illustrates their best practices (BRICSologists).

6. Establishment of the BRICS Youth Council

1. The Summit resolved on exploring the creation of a coordinating structure for BRICS youth such as a BRICS Youth Council subject to the sovereign consultations of each member country.