



ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 24 AUGUST 2023

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY(NYDA) WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF THE 15TH BRICS SUMMIT 2023 DECLARATION

The National Youth Development Agency welcomes the historic adoption of the Johannesburg II declaration by the BRICS heads of state, currently meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The declaration cements the establishment of the 1st BRICS Youth Council within the BRICS bloc which states, *"We recognise that youth is a driving force for accelerating the achievement of sustainable development goals. Leadership by young people is fundamental to accelerating a just transition premised on the principles of intergenerational solidarity, international cooperation, friendship, and societal transformation. A culture of entrepreneurship and innovation must be nurtured for the sustainable development of our youth. We reiterate the importance of the BRICS Youth Summit as a forum for meaningful engagement on youth matters and recognise its value as a coordinating structure for youth engagement in BRICS. We welcome the finalisation of the BRICS Youth Council Framework,"* on paragraph 76 of the document.

The adoption follows a presentation by the Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, Ms. Asanda Luwaca on the 23 August 2023 where world leaders attentively listened to a young person tabling the urgent resolutions of young people from BRICS members states. Ms. Luwaca persuaded the members to consider the establishment of the BRICS Youth Council and highlighted its potential impact on the globe.

The objectives of the BRICS Youth Council are:

- To coordinate the implementation of the BRICS Youth Summit resolutions among BRICS countries,
- To maintain a high public profile by publicising the implementation of its resolutions.
- To establish communication channels for dissemination of information in relation to BRICS Youth countries.
- To work within the mandate of the memorandum of agreement signed by BRICS.
- To lobby Heads of States on decisions and resolutions taken by young people.

The Executive Chairperson, Asanda Luwaca said "We welcome the endorsement and are encouraged that the voice of young people is receiving recognition. We look forward to the establishment of the BRICS Youth Council and implementation of the draft framework which was discussed at the 9th BRICS Youth Summit in July. Our agency will work with the Department of Women, youth, and persons with Disabilities as well as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to initiate the

first meeting of the Council under South Africa's chairmanship. This is a novel win for youth people within the BRICS member countries."

Luwaca further said "We should never betray the wishes of young people, who gathered at the 9th BRICS Youth Summit and collectively envisioned the role of youth in geo-politics. There is an unshakeable view which states that the youth are the present and are the future. Youth leaders across the BRICS bloc asserted that interactions as BRICS members cannot and should not be limited to an annual summit. The BRICS Youth Council joins the formations such as the BRICS Business Council, BRICS Women's Alliance and the new Development Bank and will be a historic achievement for young people of BRICS countries."

The agency congratulates the six countries who have joined as new member states of BRICS, namely, Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. We look forward to working alongside our counterparts in deepening collaboration for the youth development agenda, pursuing the 'Decade of Action' of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The NYDA believes that BRICS countries in general, and young people, 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 trade, education, skills development and training, economic participation and transformation, health and wellbeing, social cohesion.

For media enquiries:

Ms. Bongekile Skosana

Specialist: Media and Public Relations

Email : Bongekile.Skosana@nyda.gov.za

0822699246

