



# RUSSIA MOSCOW/KAZAN 2015

## FIRST BRICS YOUTH SUMMIT 2015 ACTION PLAN

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### PREAMBLE

We, the BRICS Youth, gathered in Russia in 2015 for the inaugural BRICS Youth Summit, exhibiting concerted efforts in discussing issues crucial to the development of the BRICS nations,

*Looking for* new sources of sustainable development of BRICS countries and youth engagement in economic, political, humanitarian, information, scientific and technological cooperation amongst the BRICS countries;

*Recalling* the principles of sovereignty and non-interference essential to the international system and to the BRICS countries;

*Recognizing* the principles of human rights and ensuring safety, security and peace in compliance with international law;

*Emphasizing* the necessity to develop a favourable environment for the youth by creating social, economic and political opportunities;

*Welcoming* the efforts made thus far by the BRICS partners towards the formulation of a comprehensive, transparent and efficient multilateral approach to establishing a polycentric world order;

*Recognizing* that the majority of the world youth population lives in the BRICS countries and it is becoming increasingly relevant to addressing our challenges;

*Recognizing* that all forms of poverty and prejudice should be eliminated by providing equal opportunities for the youth to build an inclusive society;

*Being aware* of the value of information and innovation for the BRICS economies;

*Bearing* in my mind the importance of current scientific and technical cooperation amongst our countries;

*Advocating* the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes;

Propose to undertake actions in five spheres of cooperation:

## **BRICS ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

*Convened* in order to address major imbalances in the economic systems of BRICS participants;

*United* in our resolve to contribute decisions on key financial and sustainability challenges;

Therefore propose:

### **Youth entrepreneurship**

- Include entrepreneurship as an integral part of the curriculum in schools and universities across the BRICS nations with specific focus on international conditions and to develop a program of intra-BRICS internships and apprenticeships.
- Set up an online centric platform and youth research group, acting in cooperation with the BRICS University to provide a social network for entrepreneurs, investors and governments across BRICS and create a detailed road map of legal framework and experiences to facilitate the creation of youth businesses in BRICS.
- Recognise the special needs of target groups within nations and set up a BRICS Women Entrepreneurship Forum and expand it to rural areas to assist inclusive growth.

### **BRICS institutions**

- Establish the Youth Research Society under the New Development Bank in cooperation with BRICS Universities League that would select young economists for internships in New Development Bank or help to find assistants for professional research work.
- Create the BRICS Youth Fund using a portion of funds from the New Development Bank in order to finance youth enterprises in BRICS nations.
- Promote youth participation in the BRICS New Development Bank through allocation of one seat per member state in the Board of directors. To promote youth participation BRICS Business Council through allocation of seats for one youth representative per BRICS member country.
- Convene the first BRICS meeting of young professionals and civil servants of state financial institutions and financial universities of BRICS countries in 2016 in order to strengthen economic cooperation of BRICS nations.

### **Cooperation in the energy sector**

- Create the BRICS Youth Energy Association in order to promote cooperation between youth interested in the energy sector and hold the first official meeting of the proposed BRICS Youth Energy Association in November 2015 in Moscow, following the meeting of Energy Association.
- Promote youth scholarship programs under the BRICS University, paying special attention to the research and development of the energy sector within the BRICS countries.

## **Capital markets**

- Set up the BRICS central depository agent and the BRICS clearing house within which the youth will actively participate.
- Encourage youth to innovate financial instruments in order to strengthen the investment climate.

## **Infrastructure and investment**

- Create sectorial Private Public Partnership standards, to issue infrastructural bonds, circulating in the common financial market and minimize risks, by means of providing reinsurance services on the common market.
- Establish an international centre of project finance, with the main function of providing revolving credit lines for launching BRICS infrastructural campaigns.
- Build a capacity forum for PPP framework, where each member country will engage in knowledge sharing, best practices and expertise.

## **BRICS POLITICAL COOPERATION**

*Admired* the efforts of BRICS countries political leaders in transforming the world into a more just and equitable place;

*Dedicated* to putting further efforts into addressing the issues of our common concern;

Therefore:

- Suggest making BRICS Youth Summit an annual event to enhance the role of the youth in all BRICS formats. Supplementing Academic, Parliamentary, Diplomatic, Civic and other forums with youth dimension will strengthen ties among young representatives of the BRICS countries.
- Emphasize the importance of an extensive and progressive reform of the United Nations and its organs leading to a more representative, just and equitable world order.
- Support public diplomacy, youth exchanges, people-to-people contacts to facilitate the sharing of experience, knowledge and the best practices in the field.
- Endorse the preservation and promotion of human rights within the framework of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a prerequisite for the holistic development and empowerment of the youth.
- Oppose terrorism in all its forms and suggests cooperation in identifying and eliminating its political, economic and social causes.
- Support the construction of a polycentric global order based on BRICS+ format. Engagement with various international actors is crucial for forging further understanding on key political issues of global importance.

- Urge BRICS governments to create a joint action plan on combating transnational organized crime, including human and drug trafficking. The adoption of a cooperative action plan is vital for combating these dangers, which are equally damaging to all BRICS countries.

## **BRICS HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION**

*Reaffirming* that the empowerment of youth through social participation and community engagement both as state and non-state actors is important;

*Believing* that the BRICS nations will work further to protect youth rights, especially those of minority groups such as religious, caste, linguistic, ethnic, racial, gender, migrants, disabled, displaced and other; to realize their full potential and overall development, we have the following proposal:

### **Youth policy**

- Increase youth representation in all BRICS institutional bodies: Ensure that the youth contribute to BRICS decision-making processes and actively participate in strategic and policy direction.
- Create and support intra- and interstate governmental channels for social participation to deepen youth interaction amongst each of the BRICS governments.
- Commit to eliminate state violence against vulnerable groups, specifically against youth in disadvantaged situations.
- Ensure ample space for young people to contribute positively to nation-building activities.
- Ensure appropriate legal access and support for young people.

### **Sports, arts and culture**

- Establish BRICS arts and culture centres in order to promote the knowledge about BRICS nations.
- Establish a tradition of Youth Sports Tournaments among young people of the BRICS nations in order to promote activities and healthy life style<sup>1</sup>.
- Encourage linguistic learning programmes for young people of the BRICS countries to learn the languages in the BRICS nations.
- Encourage cooperation between the existing cultural institutions including Ministries of Culture of the BRICS nations.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the basketball game organized by ISBL during the First BRICS Youth Summit in Kazan.

## **Youth interaction**

- Encourage exchanges of young scientists, professionals, entrepreneurs, artistic people, sportsmen, journalists, etc. of the BRICS nations so that the youth could acquire a comprehensive vision of the polycentric world and the sense of cohesion.
- Establish a BRICS Exchange fund with the aim to support projects in the sphere of youth interaction as well as grant loans to young people.
- Develop specific labour and education policies aimed at vulnerable youth focusing on providing youth dignity and fostering youth`s autonomy as a way of empowerment.
- Simplify visa-granting procedures including reduction of prices and simplification of visa application system for the youth.
- Support volunteer projects and initiatives aimed at solving local problems in different spheres of youth development.
- Encourage sharing knowledge, experiences and resourceful support on humanitarian grounds, and for this purpose make sure that the youth organizations and civil society institutions are supported to work freely within the BRICS framework sharing across the borders.
- Support youth through exchange programmes in academic and humanitarian work aimed at improving capacity of the civil society for BRICS member states.

## **Institutions and platforms**

- Encourage organization of joint arts & cultural projects between young people of the BRICS nations and establish an Internet platform for getting acquainted with successful initiatives in this sphere and for effective communication among those involved in the projects.
- Establish a BRICS youth Association representing National Youth Councils, International youth organizations, international sector-based youth associations, National Youth NGOs, National Students organizations and local youth organizations as applicable. It will cooperate in order to create a BRICS youth Platform, realize the rights and interests of the youth, empower young people to participate actively in society and decision-making processes, representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations, influence youth policy and youth work development.
- Ensure that through this Association, grass-root youth organizations (including but not limited to CBOs, NGOs, NPOs) receive adequate support from the BRICS states to create a common virtual space for social and political transformation. A dedicated and safe Internet platform should be used and the activities should be coordinated through the BRICS Office or respective country-offices on a rotational basis.
- Develop and adopt the BRICS standard rules of engagement for the youth summit, coordination of conferences, workshops and seminars on a rotational basis.

## **Education**

- Encourage interaction of students, post-graduates, young scientists and entrepreneurs by means of:
  - launching an exchange programme for students and professors among the universities of the BRICS nations on the basis of already existing successful practices (in particular, by analogy with the Erasmus Programme);
  - organizing student BRICS Framework in universities of the BRICS nations;
  - using the Global Apprenticeship Network experience as the basis for launching of a relevant programme within the BRICS framework.
  - supporting and promoting online-education within the BRICS framework.
- Pursue a synergy among life-long, formal, non-formal and informal education that is developed and delivered with the help of grass-root youth organizations, as they will have a local youth-to-youth connection.
- Create strategic partnerships between the universities and centres of knowledge in areas that have been identified as scarce skills in member states, depending on the country's policy and position.

## **Public policy**

- Improve public security systems to make them more youth-centric and youth-friendly.
- Improve the human capital of young public policy professionals, institutional support for social policy making beyond bureaucracy and strengthening the pre-legislative consultative policy process.
- Suggest broadening the mandate of the BRICS Think Tank Council to include collaboration with Universities/Centres of Excellence in each member states of BRICS in order to create avenues for young students to share experiences in the fields of public policy and social entrepreneurship.

## **BRICS COOPERATION IN INFORMATION SPHERE**

*Recognising* fair and free journalism as a strong tool to guarantee democracy in a society;

*Expecting* every nation to ensure the work of free press and protection of journalists from every kind of threat or aggression;

*Acknowledging* the necessity of promoting access to new media and mass media in all regions in order to guarantee the equality for all and not allow any discrimination;

*Emphasising* the importance of youth inclusion and participation in the media fields and in the areas mentioned below, we have the following proposals:

## **Traditional media**

- Support establishing an independent BRICS News Agency to increase the media coverage of the BRICS group development in each of the member countries and providing privilege in access to information for people from BRICS News agency according to their working spheres.
- Recommend launching of mutual multilingual TV projects, movies and radio programs between the BRICS member states, ensuring their newsworthiness and cultural relevance for BRICS citizens, especially the youth, with the further possibility of creating the BRICS TV channel.

## **New media**

- Call for creation of a mutual multilingual BRICS website linked with existing BRICS-related websites and its mobile application, which would contain relevant information on topics of: culture, science, business, tourism, youth opportunities, etc.
- Propose creation of a mobile application for information sharing between media professionals on a regional and a global level.

## **BRICS brand**

- Recommend establishment of professional marketing team, which promotes a consistent development of BRICS brand.
- Propose to build BRICS as a global brand through: BRICS Awards, BRICS Games, BRICS Talk Show and BRICS Week.

## **Information security**

- Encourage a joint mechanism for training and exchanging of cyber security professionals, which will support strengthening of the cooperation and mutual respect between the BRICS countries in countering cyber-threats.
- Suggest a global Internet management reform to ensure transparency and democratisation of the Internet.

## **Education and training**

- Propose establishment of a BRICS Media School for training programs, professional exchanges and sharing best practices among media professionals and aspiring youth.
- Call upon leaders for the creation of BRICS Youth Media Strategy to provide opportunities for work and professional growth within BRICS nations to incentivise talent retention.

## **BRICS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

*Recalling* the Cape Town Declaration,

*Promoting* the establishment of a harmonized approach for scientific research and information exchange,

*Stressing* collaboration of academics, scientists and innovators in the prioritized areas, which will be of mutual benefit for our nations, we have the following proposals:

- Endorse the establishment of the Youth Fund within the BRICS Development Bank, which is to commit funds for youth research and development, innovation and technology.
- Reaffirm the BRICS Universities League to facilitate exchange of students and educators in science and technology.
  - Recognition of qualifications from the BRICS Universities League in prioritized fields (particularly medicine, engineering and other);
  - The Youth Fund is to be employed in providing research grants and funding to the BRICS Universities League.
- Propose to introduce the BRICS scholarship within the BRICS Universities League.
  - The scholarship would be awarded to undergraduates, postgraduates, young researchers and scientists;
  - The scholarship could be funded by the Youth Fund within BRICS Development Bank, public and private sectors, donations and other forms;
  - Establish the BRICS Scholarship alumni association, which will contribute to the youth development in the form of funding, coaching, mentoring, lecturing or providing internships;
  - Organize BRICS Youth Technical Innovation Competition and Exhibition, from which excellent contestants could be sponsored.
- Recommend facilitating collaborative technology and innovation promotion.
  - Organization of the joint program “BRICS Space for Innovation”, which will include the collaboration of science and technology techno parks and technology entrepreneurship networks;
  - Creation of a Young Scientist Council which will be a governing body that will coordinate the activities, programs and projects;
- Support the exchange of information by adding a portal on scientific collaboration to the existing website for Youth Cooperation including a) current programs in BRICS States; b) new ideas, ventures and opportunities; c) contact data of BRICS Youth; d) feedback from BRICS Youth Summits and Conferences; e) online database of scientific materials (publications, statistics, multimedia and other); f) social network enabling mutual assistance, joint research and exchange.