



**BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE, INNOVATION,
COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE
FOURTH BRICS WOMEN MINISTERIAL MEETING
2026**

08TH - 09TH JULY 2026, KOCHI, KERALA, REPUBLIC OF INDIA



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Preamble

1. We, the BRICS Ministers for women's affairs, convened under the Chairship of India, at Kochi, India during 8th - 9th July 2026, agreed to continue dialogue and cooperation in advancing women-led development and women's all-round development to achieve inclusive, just, sustainable and prosperous societies across BRICS.
2. We reaffirm existing national commitments under internationally agreed frameworks for gender equality such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, SDG 5, in accordance with national priorities, legislations and circumstances. We welcome the Global Leaders Meeting on Women held in China in 2025.
3. We acknowledge the catalytic role of past BRICS Chairships in steering the discussion on women. We welcome the continued convening of the BRICS Women Ministerial meeting under India's BRICS Presidency in 2026, following its establishment during South Africa's BRICS Presidency in 2023. We reaffirm that this platform continues to discuss key concerns related to women across BRICS, promotes gender equality and mainstreaming, and facilitates exchange of best practices, to advance women's rights, justice and empowerment, in accordance with national circumstances.
4. We recognize the cross-cutting nature of the challenges and opportunities experienced by women and girls, including those arising from age, race, ethnicity and socio-economic status.

5. We acknowledge the continuing efforts of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) in promoting women's entrepreneurship and economic cooperation across BRICS.
6. We take note of the significant progress made by BRICS Members on equal and inclusive development ensuring women's participation, inclusion, empowerment and leadership across key domains.
7. Anchored in the vision of women-led development and women's all-round development, we recognise women as active leaders, decision-makers and drivers of economic growth, social transformation and sustainable development. We underscore that this is a shared responsibility for all of society.
8. We reaffirm the importance of recognition, reduction and equitable sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, and the implementation of policies in this regard. We recognise families as the base of society and acknowledge the role of the State in fostering social cohesion and enabling women's full participation in society.
9. We affirm that women's participation in governance; their financial and digital inclusion; their capacity building, access to skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities, access to productive and social services and their crucial role in climate action, food security and nutrition, which are interconnected is key for sustainable development.

A More Resilient BRICS – Women in Governance and Leadership

10. We recognize that women's equal participation in governance and leadership, including in the workforce, contributes to more inclusive and effective decision-making. We acknowledge the progress made by BRICS on enhancing women's representation across all areas of governance, public life and the corporate sector, especially in leadership positions, and encourage countries to adopt, in accordance with national circumstances, policy measures in this regard.

11. We recognize the vital role of women in peace building process in accordance with global Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Financial and Digital Inclusion for Women– Key to Catalyse Change

12. We express concern that women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, rural, remote and hard to reach areas, continue to face barriers to economic empowerment due to exclusion from and difficult access to formal and digital financial systems and the persistent gender digital divide, which limits access to inclusive financial services and digital skills, information, opportunities and meaningful digital inclusion.
13. We commit to expanding women's access to formal financial systems, digital financial services, microfinance and diversified financial instruments, including affordable credit, guarantees, entrepreneurship support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and innovative financing mechanisms.
14. We encourage voluntary exchange of experiences on digital public infrastructure, affordable digital connectivity and community-based financial inclusion models, as appropriate, to promote digital and financial capabilities, online safety, cyber security awareness and multilingual accessibility of information. We also encourage investments in gender-responsive digital ecosystems that enable women's full participation.
15. We recognise that women and girls face disproportionate risk and are particularly vulnerable in digital environments. We commit to promoting their digital inclusion and to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, through strengthened legal and policy frameworks, survivor-centred services, multi-sectoral coordination, community engagement and investments in prevention.
16. In this regard, we encourage the systemic exchange of best practices, innovative policies and successful experiences and learnings across BRICS members. We also support the Indian Chairship's priority to promote women's digital capacity building that would empower women from BRICS, including

strengthening women's digital skills, AI literacy and effective participation in digital economy.

Women's Entrepreneurship and Skill Development

17. We recognise that holistic skill development, targeted capacity building initiatives, mentorship and lifelong learning strengthen women's empowerment, economic agency and help mitigate poverty; while noting the need to address barriers faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing credit, markets and business support.
18. We acknowledge that shared care responsibilities and comprehensive care policies are fundamental to advancing women's economic empowerment, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship and we encourage countries to adopt care policies that enable women to participate fully in economic life, expand access to financial services, and strengthen their entrepreneurial opportunities and economic autonomy.
19. We recognize the importance of advancing the economic empowerment of women in poverty and vulnerable situations, particularly women-headed households who often face compounded challenges.
20. We support inclusive, safe, accessible, quality education and holistic skill development systems, including STEM, and lifelong learning opportunities. We promote strengthening women-led and women-owned businesses, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, through improved access to markets, professional networks, finance, value chains, mentorship, business development services and procurement opportunities. We encourage the development of inclusive policies that advance the economic agency of women.

Women in Climate Action, Food Security and Nutrition

21. We note the important role of women in food production, nutrition and traditional knowledge, while recognising that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and food insecurity.

22. We recognize the importance of enhancing women's participation, leadership and agency in climate action, disaster risk reduction and the green economy including the promotion of clean-energy solutions such as e-cooking and encourage gender-responsive, climate-resilient agricultural and food systems. We also promote engagement with grassroots women's organisations, including healthcare organizations, to improve nutrition, health outcomes and early childhood care and development, recognizing their unique knowledge, experience and contributions. We further acknowledge the important role of women from rural areas, local, traditional and indigenous communities, as appropriate, as agents of resilience and custodians of traditional knowledge, and encourage their meaningful participation in policies and strategies for climate adaptations, disaster risk reduction, and food security.

WAY FORWARD

23. We appreciate the BRICS spirit of mutual respect and understanding, solidarity, openness and strengthened collaboration, cooperation and note that the BRICS Women's Ministerial track provides a valuable platform for cooperation and knowledge exchange, capacity building and sharing of best practices.
24. We welcome the development of BRICS Women's Digital Capacity Building Guidelines and take note of India's Chairship initiative for creation of a voluntary and non-binding digital repository of best practices.
25. We express our appreciation to the Government and the People of India for convening this meeting in Kochi, India and look forward to a continued deepening of cooperation on matters concerning women, within the BRICS framework and extend our support to China for BRICS Chairship in 2027.

Adopted in Kochi, Kerala, Republic of India, on 08 July 2026.
