

## BRICS Guiding Principles of Smart Grids and Energy Storage

### Preamble

We, the Energy Ministers of BRICS member states, convening in India in 2026 under its Chairship, acknowledge that energy security remains a cornerstone of BRICS cooperation. We reaffirm that ensuring secure, reliable, resilient and affordable energy supplies through diversified energy systems, while respecting the sovereign right of each country is integral to BRICS cooperation.

We note that global energy systems are undergoing significant transformation and unforeseen challenges marked by the growing role of renewable energy, digitalization and evolving demand patterns. In this context, we recognize smart grid technologies and energy storage systems as key enablers for advancing cooperation to foster sustainable, resilient, flexible and efficient energy systems.

We also recognize that smart grids and energy storage systems in many developing countries face several challenges including limited access to technology, lack of skilled human resource and financing constraints.

Recognizing these developments, BRICS Members adopt the following voluntary and non-binding guiding principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage.

### Principle I

#### Sovereignty, Non-Intrusive, Equity, and Technological Neutrality

- Respect the sovereign rights of each Member State to determine its own pace, pathway, and priorities for smart grid and energy storage deployment.
- Promote voluntary, non-prescriptive, transparent cooperation based on mutual benefit.
- Uphold technological neutrality across BRICS members while promoting technology co-development and deployment.

### Principle II

#### Strengthening Energy Security and Promoting Sustainability

- Leverage smart grids, energy storage systems, and related technologies to enable higher penetration of variable energy sources including but not limited to solar

and wind, while enhancing grid reliability, operational flexibility, and system optimization.

- Promote demand-side management and the use of distributed renewable energy solutions to improve energy efficiency, affordability, reliability, and accessibility.
- Recognize the importance of resilient and diversified supply chains for energy storage and smart grids and related technologies to support their reliable and sustainable deployment, and to drive job creation, local value addition, and sustainable economic development.
- Align deployment strategies with broader national development objectives, underpinned by sustainability, reliability, and affordability.

### **Principle III**

#### **Fostering Collaboration Through Enabling Mechanisms**

- Explore collaboration among research institutions, electricity regulators, system operators, utilities, industry stakeholders, financial institutions, and academia in emerging smart grid and energy storage technologies, such as digitalization, AI-enabled grid management, and advancements in energy storage technologies.
- Foster market development, encourage policy exchange, and promote mutual recognition of technical standards in accordance with respective national regulations, to enhance interoperability, while encouraging relevant technology transfer and deployment of pilot and scalable projects on voluntary and mutually agreed basis.
- Recognize the potential role of enabling mechanisms as well as the regular expert and focal points meetings, in facilitating knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and capacity building among BRICS members, while giving due consideration to the national cyber security requirements of each country.

### **Principle IV**

#### **Financing and Investment**

- Encourage enhanced engagement with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including the New Development Bank (NDB), and financial institutions for exploring blended finance mechanisms, risk mitigation instruments, public–

private partnership models, and other appropriate financing approaches, to scale the deployment of smart grid and energy storage solutions.

- Promote investment cooperation among BRICS countries in energy storage and grid systems.

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