BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020)

I. Foreword

We, BRICS countries,

1. With 42% of the world population, contribute 18% of global GDP, 17% of global R&D investment and 27% of science papers published on international journals, as an important force of international economic cooperation and one of the most dynamic and promising emerging economies, BRICS countries are major representatives of emerging economies in the world. Our collective efforts are to undertake innovation and cooperation and facilitate innovation-driven development for sustainable development of the world economy.

2. Reaffirm that innovation refers to the embodiment of an idea in a technology, product, or process that is new and creates productive value. An innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process which derives from creative ideas, technological progress, a new marketing method or a new organizational method in business practices, workplace organization or external relations. Innovation covers a wide range of domains with science, technology and innovation (STI) as the core.

3. We will actively promote cooperation in STI under bilateral and multilateral frameworks in accordance with the *MoU on Cooperation in STI between the Governments of BRICS Countries*, *Jaipur Declaration*, and the theme of the 5th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting, thus drive rapid and sustainable economic growth

and social progress in the BRICS countries.

4. Stress that innovation is one of the key driving forces of global sustainable development, playing a fundamental role in promoting economic growth, supporting job creation, entrepreneurship and structural reform, enhancing productivity and competitiveness, providing better services for the citizens and addressing global challenges. The BRICS countries aim to encourage innovation through practical actions to promote sustainable economic growth today and lay a solid foundation for tomorrow.

II. Action Plan

BRICS countries are facing new challenges in economic development though our economic prospects and growth momentum remain unchanged. In this context, we are committed to the following steps:

1. Promoting exchanges and good practices among the BRICS countries on innovation strategies and policies; enhancing mutual understanding, complementarity and coordination for the BRICS cooperation in innovation, and in particular, for the attainment of socio-economic progress driven by scientific, technological and social innovation, for the building of a BRICS community of shared values and common future, and for the realization of sustainable development goals.

2. Strengthening cooperation in scientific and research activities, enhancing cooperation in innovation based on existing mechanisms and joint research programmes including such cooperation conducted through public-private partnerships; fostering strategic and long term university-industry partnerships to address the needs of industry and contributing directly to economic growth and development; continuing to encourage and support research and development projects in the areas of fundamental and applied research and innovation within bilateral and multilateral frameworks and continuing to carry out joint calls for STI projects; understanding the importance of implementing BRICS initiatives related to research and innovation; promoting open science and the sharing of research infrastructure;

developing and initiating international mega science programmes.

3. Organizing joint activities on identifying priorities for STI cooperation of BRICS countries based on foresight and monitoring of global STI development.

4. In view of the importance of science and technology parks for regional economic development, encouraging cooperation among science parks including supporting the transnational establishment of BRICS hi-tech enterprises in S&T parks. We welcome the establishment of exchange mechanisms for science parks, and expanding areas of cooperation in these domains.

5. Encouraging technology transfer among the BRICS countries, strengthening training of technology transfer professionals, developing platforms for collaboration among businesses and academia, enabling extensive and orderly transfer and translation of innovation achievements in the BRICS countries. Utilizing existing technological network platforms as instruments of search for foreign partners for technological collaboration and initiation of joint STI projects.

6. Promoting BRICS Partnerships on Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship to carry out pragmatic cooperation, advocating the entrepreneurial spirit of encouraging innovation and tolerating failure, and to create a favorable ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship amongst the younger generation.

7. Acknowledging the importance of supporting STI investment and the need to establish inter-BRICS investment instruments, we support explore the possibilities of driving BRICS cooperation on innovation and entrepreneurship through the National Development Banks, New Development Bank and other existing financing institutions.

8. Supporting the mobility of STI human resources, especially exchanges among young scientists and entrepreneurs, supporting efforts to help address the future demand for new skills, sharing best practices on enhancing skills training for innovation and entrepreneurship, including improving access to Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, creating jobs through joint research and collaboration in innovation and entrepreneurship, and stressing the role of youth in innovation. Stressing the role of women in science, technology and innovation activities as one of the key priorities of the BRICS STI Agenda.

III. Implementation

The BRICS Science Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership (STIEP) Working Group will be responsible for the development of mechanisms and opportunities to implement the Action Plan, which will in the first period focus on the following deliverables:

1. Creation of networks of science parks, technology business incubators and SMEs, where the innovation actually happens.

2. Creation of cross-cultural talent pools for converting ideas into solution in domains of ICT, materials, water, health, energy, natural disaster risk reduction and resilience etc.