BRICS
INDIA 2026

Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

BRICS ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (EWG)

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 12th BRICS ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

PREAMBLE

1. We, the BRICS Environment and Climate Ministers and High Authorities, participated in the 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting, held under the Chairship of the Republic of India in New Delhi on 18 August 2026.
2. We recognise the interlinked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, drought, land degradation and pollution. In this context, we reiterate our commitment to strengthening BRICS collaboration on environmental protection and sustainable development, in alignment with the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation, its Plan of Implementation (2023–2027), and the mandate of the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CGCCSD). We also acknowledge the various cooperative mechanisms and initiatives established under BRICS to advance this shared agenda.

3. In alignment with the priorities articulated under India's Chairship, and guided by the spirit of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and

Sustainability," we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances. We underscore the importance of nationally determined just transitions and balanced mitigation and adaptation actions. We also highlight the importance of using all available solutions and technologies that contribute to emissions reduction and enhance adaptive capacity, including the critical role of ecosystems as carbon stocks and sinks, providers of ecosystem services, and contributors to climate resilience. We further reaffirm that enhanced international cooperation, including improved accessibility and availability of finance from developed countries, particularly concessional finance for developing countries as well as technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building, is essential to enable developing countries to effectively address environmental and climate challenges while advancing sustainable development and poverty eradication.

4. We recognize the active role of BRICS countries in conserving biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources and restoration of vulnerable and fragile ecosystems. We reaffirm our commitment to advancing the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity in pursuit of living in harmony with nature through the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. We take note of India's initiative for creating the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). We also take note of other BRICS countries' initiatives including,

the Action Initiative for the KMGBF and that of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund. We also recognize the need for enhanced intra-BRICS cooperation in capacity building and other mutually supportive measures on the implementation of access and benefit sharing measures consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols and to combat unauthorised access to genetic resources and the misappropriation of the benefits arising out of the use of such resources.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and strengthening global environmental governance. We reiterate that all measures taken to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, including unilateral ones, must be designed, adopted and implemented in line with the principles and provisions of relevant multilateral conventions including environmental agreements, climate change treaties and trade agreements and must not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.
6. We believe that cooperation and collaboration within BRICS, and beyond, including through South-South cooperation, will pave the way towards sustainable development with a people-centred approach. We appreciate the collaboration among the BRICS Member Countries and acknowledge the technical reports and compendiums on practices, platforms, and networks related to the priorities of promoting sustainable lifestyles; afforestation, forest fire management and disaster resilience and circular economy.

PRIORITY I: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

7. We recognise that the prosperity and well-being of present and future generations depend on our current development choices and actions and underline the importance of attaining SDGs according to our national

circumstances, capabilities and development priorities. Bearing in mind that nature and natural ecosystems are invaluable assets, we note the importance of environment friendly lifestyles, innovative environmental management practices, and voluntary approaches and initiatives leading to sustainable lifestyles, and highlight the importance of creating enabling environments in participatory, accessible, affordable and development-oriented manner, while accounting for the different national circumstances and acknowledging that countries may choose different models and practices to promote sustainable consumption and production.

8. We recall the UNEA-6 resolution on 'Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles' and welcome the possibility of organising a BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week during the first week of November 2026 as per national priorities and capabilities, in a voluntary and non-binding manner.

9. We recognise the importance of traditional knowledge, and sensitizing youth, women, and communities in promoting sustainable consumption and production, while respecting national priorities and advancing sustainable lifestyles. In this context, we support holding country-led initiatives such as a BRICS Green Conclave during the BRICS sustainable lifestyle week celebrations in 2026 to promote environmental issues and encourage sustainable lifestyles through experiential learning activities, in accordance with national priorities and capacities, on a voluntary and non-binding basis.

10. We acknowledge that sustainable lifestyles embedded in individual and community actions across society complement policy, finance, and technology-driven efforts, and address various dimensions of sustainable development, including climate action.

11. We acknowledge that BRICS Member Countries possess a rich repository of sustainable practices, traditional knowledge, and innovative

approaches, which can be leveraged through strengthened cooperation, including, knowledge sharing, technology cooperation, and capacity building to enable climate action to advance sustainable lifestyles and support the achievement of shared sustainable development objectives. In this regard, we welcome the initiative to establish a Network of BRICS Institutions to Advance Knowledge Sharing, Research and Innovation in Sustainable Lifestyles along with its Terms of Reference, to promote research, innovation, knowledge sharing and support evidence-based policy-making for promoting sustainable lifestyles in a voluntary and non-binding manner. The aforesaid Network of institutions is intended to function in accordance with the respective needs and priorities of BRICS Member Countries.

12. We recognize that sustainable lifestyles also encourage efficient resource utilization, environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods, equitable economic opportunities, energy access and conservation and environment friendly technologies that enhance the resilience and well-being of vulnerable communities. In this regard, we agree to strengthen international cooperation, technology transfer and sharing, knowledge sharing and capacity building in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

PRIORITY II: AFFORESTATION, FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

13. We acknowledge critical environmental challenges such as water availability, desertification, drought, land degradation, as well as sand and dust storms, and wildfire with significant implications for ecosystems, agriculture, livelihoods of people in vulnerable situations and socio-

economic development. These interconnected challenges accelerate climate change, increase biodiversity loss, and threaten food security, particularly in vulnerable regions where poverty and development deficits converge. We underscore the importance of afforestation, reforestation and ecosystem restoration, adopting an integrated, landscape-based approach that enhances forest quality, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration through a holistic approach to sustainable land and ecosystem management, including strengthened disaster resilience, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

14. We underscore that BRICS countries possess extensive experience in sustainable land management, including large scale greening initiatives through mass community mobilization that play a vital role in ecosystem restoration and increasing forest coverage. Recognizing the collective expertise of BRICS nations in wildfire management and governance, we highlight the importance of science-based approaches and technological innovation in strengthening resilience, including development of integrated early warning systems. We encourage multilateral collaboration on science-based and cost-effective solutions while ensuring that restoration efforts remain ecologically sound and locally adapted; which will offer an opportunity to promote knowledge-sharing and collaborative programs on afforestation, wildfire management, and ecosystem restoration within the BRICS framework.

15. We reaffirm the importance of aligning national efforts with relevant multilateral frameworks, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and stress the need for equitable access to afforestation finance, technology, and capacity-building, consistent with national circumstances and priorities. We also recognize the value of existing national and regional initiatives on afforestation and ecosystem

restoration and encourage greater convergence and cooperation among BRICS countries in advancing shared goals of land restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, and sustainable development. We encourage cooperation frameworks to enhance such efforts through different mechanisms including experience sharing, consideration of community-led and indigenous knowledge-based initiatives, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), where appropriate.

16. We take note of recent international initiatives aimed at strengthening drought resilience, including partnerships and collaborative platforms under relevant multilateral processes, and recognize the importance of long-term approaches to drought resilience through technical, financial and knowledge support.

17. We recognize the importance of mobilizing adequate, predictable, and long-term financing, including results-based and innovative approaches where appropriate, to support forest conservation, restoration, and resilient landscapes in accordance with national priorities and circumstances. We underscore the urgent need to foster international cooperation for forest conservation and restoration, including through securing reliable and predictable long-term funding, enhancing capacity-building efforts and technical support, and developing or scaling up innovative financial mechanisms in a flexible and inclusive manner, and leveraging private investment and public private partnerships, taking into account the specific challenges and needs of developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility at the Belém Climate Summit and recognize it as an innovative mechanism designed to mobilize long-term, results-based financing for tropical forest conservation.

18. Recalling the BRICS 2021 Environment Working Group Declaration, which identified wildfires as a major driver of loss of wildlife habitats and livelihoods, we underscore the importance of advancing cooperation among BRICS Member Countries on wildfire management, including strengthening ecological health and local community engagement.
19. We further acknowledge the Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience adopted at COP30, Belém, and emphasize the need to elevate Integrated Fire Management (IFM) as a global priority. We call for enhanced cooperation among Member Countries in implementing UNEP/EA.7/Res.7, incorporating the development of interoperable early warning systems, risk assessment tools, and satellite- and ground-based ecosystem monitoring, alongside community-based alert mechanisms; strengthening regional and international cooperation focused on prevention, response, data gathering and reporting, and ecosystem restoration; establishing coherent and effective fire management strategies; promoting knowledge-sharing platforms on integrated fire management; and scaling up training and capacity-building programmes to enhance cooperation and institutional and technological capabilities, according to national circumstances and priorities.
20. We acknowledge with appreciation the documents titled 'Common Understanding for Forest Fire Preparedness and Response across BRICS' and the ‘BRICS Principles for Integrated Landscape Management for Combating Desertification, Sustainable Land Management and Ecosystem Resilience,' issued under the BRICS India Chairship.

PRIORITY III: CIRCULAR ECONOMY

21. We express our appreciation for India's leadership in advancing the circular economy as an enabler of sustainable development. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production and recognise the important role of circular economy for enhancing resource efficiency, reducing waste generation, and promoting sustainable, and inclusive economic growth.
22. We recognise that the transition from a linear "take–make–dispose" model to a circular economy constitutes one of the strategic priorities for BRICS Member Countries in light of increasing pressures on natural resources and the environment. We underscore that such a transition can contribute to innovation and employment generation.
23. We note the growing scale and complexity of waste generation driven by urbanisation, industrialisation, and evolving consumption patterns. We emphasise the importance of strengthening integrated waste management frameworks, supported by national policy instruments such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), eco-design and sustainable public procurement, enhanced monitoring mechanisms, and investments in recycling and recovery infrastructure, with a view to improving material circularity and resource efficiency.
24. We note with appreciation the national efforts undertaken by BRICS Member Countries, including the development of policy frameworks, strategies and action plans aligned with circular economy principles, building upon the respective national initiatives and experiences. We underscore the importance of sharing policies and best practices in the area of circular economy.

25. We recognise Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as an effective national policy approach that extends a producer's responsibility for a product to the waste stage of that product's lifecycle and further recognise that relevant stakeholders throughout the lifecycle have different responsibilities, thereby encouraging sustainable production and consumption patterns and strengthening waste management systems. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of ensuring that the implementation of EPR is consistent and compatible with the national capabilities, resources, priorities, and circumstances of each country.
26. We emphasise that circular economy approaches should be comprehensive and equitable, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities, especially for developing countries and acknowledge the meaningful contribution of informal sector participants, including waste pickers.
27. We recognise the increasing role of innovation, digital technologies, and data-driven systems in enhancing efficiency, traceability, and scalability of circular solutions including circular economy data platforms.
28. We underline the importance of strengthening institutional capacities, resources, regulatory frameworks, and monitoring systems, to support effective implementation. We emphasize the need for the availability, predictability, and accessibility of means of implementation. We encourage the adoption of appropriate incentives, strengthened national compliance mechanisms, technical assistance, and improved coordination across national and sub-national levels.
29. We highlight the importance of international cooperation in advancing the circular economy agenda. We call for enhanced collaboration among BRICS Member Countries in areas such as technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, investment, mobilizing financial resources,

research and innovation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. We encourage the development of scalable, adaptable and locally relevant solutions that can be replicated across BRICS Member Countries. We invite international financial institutions, including the New Development Bank, to support the national efforts of developing countries aimed at developing circular infrastructure, in accordance with their mandates. We welcome the possibility of strengthening of BRICS-led knowledge networks and training programmes, including dedicated platforms like BRICS Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Dialogue, for sharing best practices and technical expertise.

30. We reiterate our shared resolve to advance the circular economy as one of the enablers of sustainable development, and to further strengthen BRICS Member Cooperation towards a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future.

PRIORITY IV: ADAPTATION- ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH PEOPLE-CENTRIC AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION BUILT ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

31. We acknowledge the cross-cutting nature of addressing climate change and the need for strengthening and mainstreaming climate action by governments, businesses, academia and society, in the wake of the widespread and growing impacts of climate change. We underscore our commitment to address climate change in line with principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, including its principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC). We recognize that inadequate adaptation action

can increase risks of loss and damage, particularly for developing countries that face disproportionate and compounding risks despite minimal historical responsibility. We welcome the continued emphasis on adaptation and resilience across BRICS processes and deliberations through the Chairship, which collectively highlight the need for strengthened, inclusive, and context-specific adaptation action. In this context, recognizing the critical importance of adaptation for developing countries, we welcome the outcomes of UNFCCC's COP30 held in Belém, Brazil (2025) and urge Parties to engage constructively on the Global Goal on Adaptation agenda item and ensure that COP 31 (2026) produces party-driven outcomes aligned with the objectives of the Convention and its Paris Agreement. We welcome the operationalisation of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), including the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience the Belém Adaptation Indicators and the Belém-Addis Vision on Adaptation emphasise that their application could inform national approaches to supporting adaptation action and progress, for instance national adaptation plans, in a manner that is non-prescriptive, voluntary and aligned with national circumstances and respective development priorities and should not create additional reporting burdens for developing countries.

32. We note the emphasis placed by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Sixth Assessment Report on inclusive governance and community participation, highlighting the importance of integrating traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems with scientific approaches, as well as recognition under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement in strengthening resilience, with full respect for knowledge holders and relevant safeguards. We also highlight the

importance of mainstreaming adaptation into national and sectoral planning, where appropriate, supported by data-driven approaches and early warning systems to enhance preparedness and resilience. Such integration can contribute to addressing climate risks across various sectors. Recognising the diversity of vulnerabilities across and within regions, economic sectors and social groups we will strive to strengthening BRICS cooperation through structured knowledge exchange, and learning-oriented approaches to support implementation, including south-south cooperation.

33. We reiterate the need for a significant scaling-up of new, additional, predictable, adequate and accessible international support for adaptation, through provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, to accelerate action and effectively support implementation of National Adaptation Plans for developing countries. Adaptation support should be accessible, grant-based and concessional in nature and should avoid exacerbating financial vulnerabilities in developing countries. Recognising the significant adaptation finance gap faced by developing countries and considering the growing needs for adaptation and climate-resilience, we call for immediate, accelerated and measurable financial support of by developed countries to fulfil and scale up their commitments, including under the new collective quantified goal (NCQG), in line with their obligations under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. We further stress the importance of simplified access procedures and strengthened direct access modalities for developing countries. We urge the developed countries to fulfil the Decision 1/ CMA.7 adopted at COP30 on tripling of adaptation finance, to developing countries by 2035 while improving the quality and accessibility of adaptation finance, avoiding increased financial burdens. It is equally important to effectively track the provision, delivery

and impact of adaptation support, including for the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAP).

34. We oppose unilateral, punitive, discriminatory and protectionist measures that are not in line with international law, such as carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAM), and express concern that such measures undermine efforts by countries, specifically the developing countries aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, increasing adaptive capacity and resilience.

35. We welcome the activities of the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CGCCSD), established under the Russian Chairship of 2024. We also welcome the adoption of the BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda in 2025, under the Brazilian BRICS Chairship. We also highlight the potential of the BRICS Climate Research Platform and the BRICS Laboratory for Trade, Climate Change and Sustainable Development for promoting climate action and building resilience in the BRICS Member Countries and we look forward to their further development. We welcome the initiatives under India's BRICS Chairship and endorse the BRICS Principles for Advancing Climate Resilience through People- Centric and Community- based Adaptation Built on Traditional Knowledge adopted under the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development. We appreciate knowledge sharing through the BRICS High-level Dialogue on People- Centric Community-based Adaptation Approaches and the Dialogue on Aligning Carbon Markets with Adaptation Goals.

CONCLUSION

36. We recognise the leadership of BRICS Member Countries in the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, and other Rio Conventions - United

Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). We commend the successful conclusion of the Brazilian COP30 presidency and express support to Ethiopia's UNFCCC COP32 presidency.

37. We welcome the Co-Chairship of India on the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (2026-28), to advance the goal of promoting resource efficiency and sustainable development

38. We reaffirm our commitment to continue pragmatic cooperation under BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation as well as initiatives, including the BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology Platform (BEST), "BRICS Clean Rivers" and "BRICS Partnership for Urban Environmental Sustainability".

39. We express our gratitude to the Republic of India as the host of the 12th BRICS Environment Minister Meeting and welcome the People's Republic of China to host the 13th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting in 2027.

Annexure 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

NETWORK OF BRICS INSTITUTIONS TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE SHARING, RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Background:

BRICS Member Countries recognize the importance of promoting sustainable lifestyles and advancing sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices to address emerging environmental challenges and support resource efficiency. In order to strengthen cooperation and facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences, it is proposed to establish a non-binding and voluntary BRICS Network of Institutions comprising institutions proposed by BRICS member countries, including academia, research and government institutions. The aforesaid Network of institutions is intended to function in accordance with the respective needs and priorities of BRICS Member Countries.

Objectives:

- Facilitate structured knowledge exchange including technical and technological knowledge among BRICS institutions as per national circumstances and priorities.
- Promote innovation in advancing sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development
- Support evidence-based decision-making and voluntary exchange of experiences

- Strengthen capacity across member institutions to support research, knowledge sharing, and capacity-building initiatives in a voluntary and non-binding manner.

Engagement & Coordination

- The Network is intended to function as a collaborative platform under the BRICS Environment Track.
- Each Member Country may identify a nodal point within the identified institution to facilitate communication and coordination.
- The Network may strive to organise interactions in the future.
- The institutions comprising the Network may, through consensus, decide the operational modalities.
- Participation in these activities carries no legal or financial obligations for Member Countries.

Scope of Activities

- The Network is intended to encourage exchange of knowledge on policies, programmes, initiatives and leading practices. It will facilitate interactions on key thematic areas as sustainable consumption; resource efficiency; climate-resilient lifestyles and community-based approaches; traditional knowledge and practices towards sustainable living.
- The Network is intended to conduct capacity-building workshops on thematic areas related to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production.
- The institutions identified by respective BRICS countries may coordinate with research institutions and academia based in their own countries to

promote research and innovation in sustainable lifestyles as per their national priorities and circumstances.

- Network may also facilitate dialogue among stakeholders including academic and research institutions. It may, inter alia, connect with civil society organizations, industry bodies and start-ups, policy and technical experts.
- Network may undertake compilation of case studies and development of digital toolkits for sustainable lifestyles for knowledge sharing amongst Member Countries.

Annexure 2

BRICS PRINCIPLES FOR INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION, SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

Preamble

Recognizing land degradation, desertification, drought, biodiversity loss, and climate change as interlinked global challenges, we underscore that the coordinated and transformative action should be considered, as appropriate, to restore degraded lands, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and secure sustainable livelihoods for food security, water availability, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

Recognizing the critical role of healthy and productive landscapes for ecosystem resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods, and recognizing that integrated sustainable land management and land restoration can generate multiple environmental, social, and economic co-benefits. We are committed to integrated protection and systematic management of mountains, water bodies, forests, peatland and mangroves, farmlands, grasslands and deserts for holistic ecosystem restoration. We reaffirm the importance of promoting voluntary cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and the sharing of best practices among BRICS Member Countries, while respecting national priorities, circumstances. The BRICS Member Countries present the following voluntary and non-exhaustive principles to support the design, implementation and scaling of Sustainable

land management and land restoration initiatives and to promote strengthened cooperation and collective action within BRICS, and further reiterating the need for adequate, predictable and accessible finance from developed countries to enable developing countries to implement large-scale land restoration.

The Principles:

Principle I - Adopt integrated, landscape-based, ecosystem-specific and context-responsive approaches: Integrated landscape-based intervention/ initiatives may be context specific and aligned to national priorities, including drylands, semi-arid zones, forest landscapes, agricultural lands, watersheds and mixed-use landscapes, where appropriate.

Principle II - Promote policy convergence and whole-of-society approaches: Effective land restoration requires coordination across multiple sectors not limited to forestry, agriculture, water, etc. supported by coherent policies, strengthened governance and institutional mechanisms. National restoration strategies may be aligned, where appropriate, with voluntary LDN targets, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), climate adaptation plans, and relevant national development priorities.

Principle III - Ensure climate-resilient greening and restoration approaches/initiatives: Considering that land degradation is both a consequence and a driver of climate change adopting greening approaches and land restoration initiatives may take into account current and projected climate challenges that promote long term sustainability, economic and social well-being particularly for communities in vulnerable situations.

Principle IV - Recognise interlinkages and maximise ecological, social and economic co-benefits: Approaches on sustainable land management and restoration may aim at multiple outcomes -environmental, social and economic like enhanced soil health, protection and conservation of water resources, increased biodiversity, reduced disaster risk, and strengthened livelihoods, as per national circumstances and priorities.

Principle V - Ensure full and effective participation of local community, including women in land-related restoration and greening programmes: Recognizing the value of local and traditional knowledge community stewardship, and monitoring of land restoration and greening initiatives for long-term restoration outcomes.

Principle VI - Investing in local capabilities for sustainability and local stewardship of programmes: Enhancing the capacity of local institutions and stakeholders across sectors and levels of governance is vital to achieve LDN, integrate programmes effectively, and generate sustainable, locally-led solutions. Investing in peer-to-peer learning and joint training on integrated land use and landscape planning tools will build the expertise needed for long-term sustenance.

Principle VII - Science-based planning, monitoring and adaptive management: Greening and restoration should be guided by science, technology, robust baselines, and local knowledge, using geospatial tools, ecological indicators, and transparent monitoring to ensure credible outcomes. Cooperation on technical exchange and reporting will accelerate LDN by 2030, with priorities spanning degraded forests, drylands, wetlands, peatlands, mangroves, grasslands, and rangelands.

Principle VIII - Strengthen Cooperation and Partnership: By fostering collaborative approaches and partnerships BRICS Member Countries may

promote cross-sectoral approach, scale up impact, and ensure that greening and restoration efforts contribute to shared and long-term development objectives, invest in strengthening cooperation through sharing of knowledge, technologies, and best practices.

Principle IX – Prioritise ecological integrity, biodiversity safeguards, and the use of appropriate native species: Greening and restoration should recover ecological integrity, functionality, and biodiversity through locally suited pathways, prioritizing native and adapted species.

Annexure 3

JOINT OUTCOME: COMMON UNDERSTANDING FOR FOREST FIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACROSS BRICS

Preamble

We, the BRICS Member Countries, recognize that fire can be an important ecological component in certain ecosystems, while wildfires may, in some circumstances, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and can have adverse impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. We encourage Member Countries, to promote Integrated Fire Management, as appropriate, to enhance resilience to wildfire challenges and support ecosystem conservation and restoration.

BRICS cooperation on wildfire management may be guided by the following:

i. **Ecological Cycle of Fire –** BRICS Countries may recognize fire both as a natural ecological process and a growing hazard through pyrodiversity based on country specific fire regimes, capable of shaping high risk ecosystems through nutrient recycling and regeneration, while also posing profound risks to the environment, economy, and society.

ii. **Integrated Fire Management:** BRICS countries may adopt a comprehensive and landscape-based approach to wildfire management, encompassing prevention, detection, preparedness, response, and post-fire recovery, while ensuring alignment with national forest, climate and disaster management policies.

iii. **Prevention and Risk Reduction:** BRICS countries may prioritize fire prevention through land-use planning, awareness programmes, fire smart agriculture practices, agroforestry buffers and mitigation measures aimed at reducing fire incidence and intensity.

iv. **Early Warning and Risk Assessment:** BRICS countries may strengthen early warning systems through the use of advanced technologies, including satellite-based monitoring and ground-based detection networks, and promote risk-informed planning through wildfire risk zone mapping and vulnerability assessments.

v. **Preparedness and Coordinated Rapid Response:** BRICS countries may enhance institutional preparedness by developing robust preparedness plans, establishing effective incident command systems, and ensuring well-coordinated rapid response mechanisms supported by trained personnel, modern firefighting equipment and improved inter-agency collaboration.

vi. **Technology and Innovation:** BRICS countries may promote the adoption, co-development, and dissemination of modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and decision-support systems, joint BRICS innovation platform to develop low-cost technologies on mutually agreed terms, ensuring accessibility, adaptability and cost-effectiveness across diverse national contexts.

vii. **Community Participation:** BRICS countries may encourage the active participation of local communities, community-based fire brigades and forest-dependent communities including women, and excluding unsuitable participants as appropriate, incentivised forest stewardship, integrating traditional knowledge systems into fire

management and promoting people-centred approaches that support sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem stewardship.

viii. **Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening:** BRICS countries may invest in continuous capacity building through training programmes, simulation exercises, knowledge exchange, and strengthening of institutional frameworks at national and sub-national levels, including through South – South and triangular cooperation.

ix. **Post-Fire Recovery and Ecosystem Restoration:** BRICS countries may prioritize post-fire damage assessment, ecological restoration, and long-term resilience building, integrating these efforts with broader land restoration, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation initiatives.

x. **International Cooperation:** BRICS countries may strengthen cooperation through exchange of best practices, joint research, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building initiatives, fostering South-South cooperation, and collective action.

xi. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Continuous Improvement:** BRICS countries may establish mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and periodic review of fire management strategies to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Annexure 4

BRICS PRINCIPLES FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH PEOPLE -CENTRIC AND COMMUNITY- BASED ADAPTATION BUILT ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Preamble:

Recognizing that climate change poses risk to ecosystems, habitats, livelihoods, and threatens sustainable development. Insufficient adaptation action increases risks of loss and damage, particularly for developing countries and vulnerable communities.

Affirming that adaptation to climate change, including through the application of traditional knowledge, and knowledge of indigenous people(s) and local knowledge systems, is a critical enabler for sustainable development, poverty eradication, and inclusive growth in developing countries that provides context-specific, time-tested practices for strengthening ecological sustainability and community cohesion;

Recalling that the integration of traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, into climate adaptation has been recognized under the relevant decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; while upholding the principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances, committing to “Leaving No One

Behind" (LNOB), and recognizing the need for enhanced support to developing countries;

Recalling further that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement to Climate Change, and its relevant processes such as the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), the UAE-Belém Work Programme and the Belém Addis Vision on Adaptation, reinforce the role of traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, in informing adaptation methodologies and metadata with a view towards implementation, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

Welcoming the Decision 12/CMA.7 at COP30, which adopts the Belém Adaptation Indicators , under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience for measuring progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and recognizes the important role of traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems; recalling in this regard that Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement provides for the integration of adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;

Recognizing that consideration of traditional knowledge and knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems in national and multilateral climate adaptation policies ensures that adaptation measures remain culturally and locally relevant and globally significant, based on international cooperation, and multilateralism. Use of traditional and indigenous sources of knowledge should be undertaken, as appropriate, with the involvement of the holders of such knowledge, consistent with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) where applicable, and should be in accordance with national legislation, while taking into account community protocols, customary practices, as appropriate and relevant international frameworks.

Emphasizing the value of South–South cooperation as complementary approaches and knowledge exchange among BRICS countries in advancing inclusive and locally grounded adaptation and sustainable development;

The BRICS Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development identifies the following voluntary, non-prescriptive and non-exhaustive principles:

PRINCIPLE 1: People-Centric and Community- Based Approaches to Adaptation

Adaptation actions should be people-centric, country-driven and community-based prioritizing vulnerable populations, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), in line with Decision 12/CMA.7, and ecosystems, while supporting poverty eradication, access to clean water and sanitation, food security, livelihood resilience, and sustainable development priorities, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, following country-driven gender-responsive participatory and transparent approach. Sustained engagement with local communities should be strengthened to enhance ownership, sustainability, and effectiveness of adaptation, based on demand driven approaches aligned with national priorities.

PRINCIPLE 2: Integration of Traditional, Indigenous, Local and Scientific Knowledge in Adaptation

Adaptation should be based on and guided by the best available science, as appropriate, and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous people and local communities, and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where applicable. Adaptation should also promote innovation, particularly in early warning and risk management, through integration of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge systems with scientific, modern

approaches and technologies, ensuring context-specific, evidence-based, and culturally appropriate solutions, while maintaining scientific robustness and credibility. It should also enhance cooperation among BRICS countries in research, technology development, scientific and technological exchange and sharing of relevant expertise and best practices, so as to develop comprehensive adaptive capacity.

PRINCIPLE 3: Embedding Traditional, Indigenous and Local Knowledge in Planning Frameworks through systemic approach

Adaptation should be integrated through whole-of-government and multi-sectoral approach, and embed traditional, indigenous and local knowledge into national and local adaptation planning instruments, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and national climate strategies; supported by strengthened policy and institutional mechanism including governance frameworks, research and data systems, in accordance with national circumstances. Adaptation and mitigation should advance in a coordinated manner and prioritize measures that deliver co-benefits for both mitigation and adaptation, responding to immediate and long-term needs.

PRINCIPLE 4: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation across Key Sectors

Adaptation efforts should promote ecosystem-based approaches informed by traditional, indigenous and local knowledge across key climate sensitive ecosystems, including most vulnerable regions, and across various socio-economic sectors, that impact lives and livelihoods in accordance with different national circumstance and priorities. Such approaches should strengthen ecological integrity while enhancing adaptive capacity of communities and production systems in a context-specific and integrated

manner, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.

PRINCIPLE 5: Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing

Adaptation strategies should promote fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing (EBS) arising from the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, respecting and recognizing the role and contribution of indigenous people and local communities, in accordance with national legislations through appropriate national institutional framework. This may entail involvement of knowledge holders in promoting community protocols, customary laws and practices, as appropriate. The benefits may be monetary or non-monetary such as capacity-building, recognition, co-authorship, technology access, support and participation in governance, in line with national circumstances.

PRINCIPLE 6: Capacity Building and Empowerment of Local Communities and Indigenous peoples

Enhance capacity and empower Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) through targeted capacity building, to lead adaptation while preserving and evolving their knowledge systems. Invest in strengthening community capacities to learn, document, share and apply traditional knowledge, through community- and people-driven training, leadership platforms, inter-and intra-generational knowledge transmissions and exchanges that are inclusive and context-specific.

PRINCIPLE 7: Knowledge Sharing and Cooperation

International cooperation should promote knowledge exchange, capacity building, and mutual learning on traditional, indigenous and local knowledge-based adaptation practices, facilitating replication, scaling, and innovation across countries with similar climate and development contexts.

Documentation, data systems and knowledge-sharing arrangements should be governed by ethical standards, community protocols, mutually agreed terms where applicable, and measures to prevent misappropriation or unauthorized use. Such arrangements should respect data sovereignty, protect confidential, sensitive, culturally significant, and proprietary information, and ensure that participation in knowledge-sharing activities remains voluntary and does not give rise to obligations regarding intellectual property rights, financial commitments, or the disclosure of protected information. These actions should value and protect cultural heritage and communities' own forms of knowledge transmission, particularly those that are oral and intergenerational in nature, as well as strengthen community leadership and local organizational structures. We underscore the potential of the various knowledge sharing platforms within BRICS and beyond, focusing on climate change and sustainable development, as effective mechanisms for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

PRINCIPLE 8: Means of Implementation for People-centric and Community-based Adaptation

People-centric and community-based adaptation require financial, technological and capacity building support. Developed countries shall provide additional, adequate, predictable, accessible financial resources, capacity building support, technology development and transfer to developing countries for adaptation. Financial flows should prioritize grant-based or concessional support, while avoiding additional financial burdens on developing countries. It should further strengthen direct access modalities that facilitate implementation of context-appropriate solutions, aligned with national adaptation plans and priorities, and enable scaling of traditional knowledge-based solutions.

These principles are voluntary, facilitative in nature, without additional reporting requirements or any basis for assessment, and are intended to guide cooperation among BRICS member countries in advancing climate resilience through people-centric and community- based adaptation, built on traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, while supporting inclusive, sustainable, and context-specific adaptation pathways, and contribute to global efforts under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

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