



## **BRICS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC COLLABORATION ON TRADITIONAL & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS**

**20 July 2026 (Hybrid); Mumbai, India**

The BRICS Network University Conference on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems was held in hybrid mode on **20 July 2026** in **Mumbai, India**, under the theme **"Need and Challenges of Preservation of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Digital Age."** Representatives from BRICS Network Universities and participating member countries (Annexure-I) attended the conference to deliberate on strategies for identifying, preserving, protecting, and promoting traditional and indigenous knowledge systems through enhanced academic cooperation and the responsible use of digital technologies.

2. The conference recognized that BRICS countries possess rich and diverse traditional and indigenous knowledge systems representing centuries of civilizational wisdom. These knowledge systems contribute significantly to sustainable development, cultural diversity, innovation, and the well-being of societies.

3. Key deliberations covered during the conference:

- The participants emphasized the need for the systematic identification, documentation, and cataloguing of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems across BRICS countries while respecting cultural diversity and local traditions.
- Participants highlighted the importance of developing documentation standards, metadata frameworks, and classification methodologies, and encouraged collaboration among universities, research institutions, indigenous communities, and traditional knowledge holders to ensure comprehensive and authentic documentation.
- The participants reaffirmed the importance of preserving traditional and indigenous knowledge systems as a vital component of cultural heritage and sustainable development through strengthened institutional cooperation, research, and capacity building.
- It also underscored the need to prevent misappropriation, biopiracy, and unauthorized commercial exploitation through appropriate legal, policy, and institutional mechanisms, while ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, recognition of indigenous communities, and ethical governance.
- Recognizing the role of digital technologies, participants supported the development of secure, multilingual, and digital repositories and agreed to the ethical application of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital archiving tools, for the preservation and responsible dissemination of traditional knowledge.
- The conference further emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration among BRICS Network Universities to facilitate knowledge exchange consistent with national priorities and the sovereign rights of member countries.

4. The conference acknowledged the efforts of Government of India, Ministry of Education and IIT Bombay for successfully hosting the first BRICS Network University Conference on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems to successfully reaffirm the importance of strengthening academic cooperation on Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge Systems through the BRICS Network University and agreed on exploring opportunities for further collaboration within the BRICS NU framework.

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