



## **INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITY DECLARATION**

**Adopted**

**at the BRICS NU IGB Meeting | Virtual**

**July 21, 2026**

We, the members of the International Governing Board (hereinafter "IGB") of the BRICS Network University (hereinafter "BRICS NU"), met on 21 July 2026 in (online format), hosted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, to discuss strengthening the BRICS Network University through the expansion of its membership, the proposal for a new International Thematic Group on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, the promotion of collaborative research, innovation and technology co-creation, and the further development of key policy frameworks for academic cooperation.

Duly empowered by the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the BRICS Network University (hereinafter, "MOU") signed on 18 November 2015, we hereby pledge and call upon all the members of the BRICS NU and the educational authorities of the BRICS member states to:

1. Take due cognizance of the decisions and recommendations adopted during the previous meetings of the BRICS Ministers of Education and the International Governing Board, reaffirming the strategic importance of strengthening cooperation in higher education, research, innovation, and academic mobility among BRICS member states.
2. Express our appreciation to the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) for its dedicated service as the Coordinating University of the BRICS Network University from 2022 to 2025, and welcome São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil, and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), China, as the Joint Coordinating Universities of the BRICS Network University for the 2025–2028 term.
3. Reaffirm our commitment to the founding principles of the BRICS Network University as laid down in the MOU, namely openness, equality among all participants, reciprocity, consensus, mutual respect, and due regard for the national education systems and regulations of each BRICS member state.
4. Take note of the continued progress achieved in the implementation of the BRICS Network University through joint academic programmes, collaborative research, faculty and student mobility, the activities of the International Thematic Groups, and the preparation of common policy frameworks to strengthen academic cooperation among member institutions.



**We hereby agree to:**

1. **Welcome the participation of universities** designated by the BRICS member countries and acknowledge the composition of the BRICS Network University, while appreciating the continued contribution of the existing International Thematic Groups (ITGs) towards strengthening academic and research cooperation.
2. **Express our appreciation to Brazil (São Paulo State University – UNESP) and China (Harbin Institute of Technology – HIT)** for their joint leadership as the Coordinating Universities of the BRICS Network University for the 2025–2028 term and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring continuity and effective coordination of BRICS NU activities.
3. **Recognise the importance of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems** in promoting sustainable development, cultural diversity, innovation, and inclusive higher education, and explore the **establishment of a dedicated International Thematic Group** within the BRICS Network University.
4. **To disseminate the previously developed documents**, namely the Concept on academic mobility of professors, researchers and administrative staff within the BRICS NU, the Concept on student academic mobility within the BRICS NU, the Agreement on double degree master program within BRICS NU, the Concept on BRICS International Academic Interdisciplinary Journal, the BRICS NU Certificate, with all the BRICS member countries and to explore the implementation of these documents across the BRICS Network University.
5. **Strengthen collaborative research, innovation and technology co-creation** among BRICS Network University member institutions by promoting joint research programmes, interdisciplinary research networks, technology transfer, innovation ecosystems, knowledge exchange, entrepreneurship, and the responsible, ethical and inclusive use of Artificial Intelligence in higher education and research.
6. **Encourage the National Coordination Committees and International Thematic Groups** to continue consultations on the proposed documents with relevant stakeholders, with a view to developing mutually agreed frameworks that promote academic excellence, mobility, and institutional cooperation across BRICS member countries.
7. **Reaffirm our shared commitment to further strengthening the BRICS Network University** as a leading platform for higher education, research, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges, guided by the principles of mutual respect, equality, inclusiveness, reciprocity, and consensus.



8. To explore convening an extra ordinary meeting of the IGB, by the end of 2026 to assess the revised Action Plan 2025-28, as well as the discussions on the financing from the New Development Bank and inclusion of the new ITG group.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Government of India for hosting the IGB meeting 2026. The English version of this Declaration was unanimously adopted on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 under the Chairship of India.