# Nirantarta

# BRICS Journey Towards Sustainable Growth and Innovation











# Acknowledgement

BRICS CCI Compendium, "Nirantarta – BRICS Journey Towards Sustainable Growth and Innovation," aims to serve as an essential resource for policymakers, academicians, scholars, and students deeply invested in the arenas of international relations, trade, and economics. Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership in his second term has underscored the importance of agility, reassessment, and adaptation in governance. This compendium and the vision behind BARA are deeply aligned with his ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'- One Earth, One Family, One Future."

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This Compendium is a testament to the collaborative spirit of everyone involved. Their hours of dedication, expertise, and unwavering support have been invaluable in bringing this project to fruition. Hope this humble presentation of ours serves the purpose and avowed objectives.

SUSHI SINGH Founder Concept BARA; President Centre for CSR; Co-Founder BRICS CCI

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# The Abstract

BRICS is a partnership of countries, including governments, for inclusive growth, cooperation on economic expansion, sustainable development, trade, and prosperity. It seeks to complement existing international arrangements of governance. As an important voice for emerging economies and developing countries, it seeks dialogue and cooperation, not confrontation, with the developed countries through existing mechanisms like the G20, IMF, World Bank, WTO, and various organs of the United Nations. It also seeks fair and just representation for all countries, especially the developing and the least developed countries, in existing international and multilateral mechanisms. Its endeavours can be defined by the idealism of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" so passionately embraced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and inscribed in the Preamble of the G20 Delhi Declaration of 2023. This compendium relies mainly on the official documents of BRICS, especially the Summit Declarations, for the narrative presented above endlessly reiterated in Summit after Summit. The Compendium has divided BRICS deliberations, from 2012 onwards, as either "Intra BRICS" or "BRICS & The World" to reflect internal vis-a-vis 'external' priorities and focus of BRICS activities. The external component is dependent on internal consensus which has been comparatively slow. The result, partly, is reflected in reiterations of near-identical previous positions that were and are founded on just principles. Just how much has been achieved in the internal and external objectives is hard to estimate, except generally, because it is an evolving phenomenon. However, the creation of the New Development Bank, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and the use of local currencies for intra-BRICS trade are among the significant achievements. The narrative indicates the direction in which BRICS is moving.

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## Foreword Ms. Ravneet Kaur, The Chairperson Competition Commission of India









#### Foreword

Namaskar.

I extend my warmest greetings to you.

In today's interconnected world, where global challenges demand collective solutions, the BRICS comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, holds a pivotal position in shaping the course of global affairs. These BRICS nations bring their unique cultural and economic identities to the table, yet they have discovered common ground in the pursuit of shared objectives. It is within this spirit of unity and collaboration that as Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India, I express my appreciation for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS Chamber) Annual Recognition (B.A.R.A) Awards and the Compendium prepared by the Chamber.

The B.A.R.A. Awards symbolize collective dedication to recognizing and celebrating excellence within the BRICS business community. By acknowledging exceptional businesses and individuals, the awards would pay a tribute to their remarkable contribution and also underscore the shared progress achieved by the BRICS business fraternity.

As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, where global challenges require united solutions, the B.A.R.A. Awards emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts. They stand as a testament to what can be achieved when nations unite under a common vision, dedicated to crafting a brighter future for their people.

The Compendium will become an invaluable resource for researchers, policymakers, and business leaders alike, providing an inspiring roadmap for forging a sustainable, innovative and collaborative future.

I congratulate the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the momentous occasion of the 1st BRICS Chamber Annual Recognition Awards and the launch of the BARA Knowledge & Research Product. These endeavors will take us forward on the path of innovation, shared prosperity and a deeper understanding of the economic landscapes within BRICS nations.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Awardees and wish the event a great success.



## Message From Dr. Karan Singh, The Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

#### Message



Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Dated: 23rd December 2023

I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry's 1st signature event—the BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Award 2024 (B.A.R.A.) and the associated Compendium (B.A.R.A. Knowledge & Research Product). As someone deeply invested in the progress and collaboration of nations, I recognize the profound significance of such initiatives that transcend borders and contribute to the collective growth of the BRICS nations. The BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards, as well as the Compendium, stand as testaments to the vision and commitment of the Chamber in fostering excellence and innovation across various sectors. This commendable endeavor not only elevates the stature of the Chamber but also adds a significant chapter to the ongoing narrative of collaboration among the BRICS nations.

In this era of interconnected economies and shared responsibilities, initiatives like the BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards play a pivotal role in shaping a future characterized by sustainable development, responsible business practices, and the exchange of knowledge. As we celebrate this inaugural event, I reflect on the journey of the BRICS nations and the potential that lies in collective efforts aimed at addressing global challenges and advancing mutual interests.

The BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards, by recognizing and celebrating excellence, not only inspire individuals and organizations but also set a standard for responsible business practices and ethical conduct. As we navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world, these values become the cornerstone of sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The associated Compendium, B.A.R.A. Knowledge & Research Product, is a testament to the Chamber's commitment to knowledge sharing. It is through the exchange of ideas, best practices, and thought leadership that nations can learn from each other, adapt to evolving challenges, and collectively chart a course toward a brighter future. The Compendium, with its emphasis on sustainability, moral behavior, positive social impact, and environmental concerns, is poised to become a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders alike.

Throughout my extensive and diverse career spanning politics, education, literature, and other fields, I have witnessed the power of collaborative efforts in shaping the destiny of nations. The BRICS nations, with their unique strengths and challenges, have the potential to become a formidable force for positive change on the global stage. It is heartening to see the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry taking a leading role in facilitating this transformation. I offer my best wishes for the success of the BRICS-CCI Annual Recognition Awards and the associated Compendium. May this initiative serve as a beacon for future collaborations, inspiring generations to come and contributing to the shared prosperity of the BRICS nations and beyond.

(Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh)

Vacanlingh

## Message From P.P. Chaudhary, The Chairperson Standing Committee External Affairs

P. P. CHAUDHARY (Sr. Advocate) Member of Parliament (LS)

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(Former Union State Minister)



CHAIRPERSON Standing Committee on External Affairs Member:

- Estimates Committee, Lok Sabha
- Business Advisory Committee (LS)
- Consultative Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

#### **Appreciation Letter**

In today's interconnected and digital world, the spirit of partnership and collaboration is essential for tackling shared challenges and cultivating holistic progress. As emerging economies with growing influence, the BRICS nations have immense potential to drive positive change when we pool our strengths. The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) serves an invaluable role as a platform for bringing together diverse stakeholders across our different communities.

The inaugural BRICS Annual Recognition Awards (BARA) is a momentous step to champion excellence across our countries. This knowledge product of the event as a compendium of best practices provides a blueprint for forging a sustainable, innovative, and collaborative future for all global citizens. I appreciate the efforts to accelerate the adoption of responsible practices. We remain steadfastly committed to empowering entrepreneurs, innovators, and enterprises across BRICS countries to work synergistically for inclusive, equitable progress.

Initiatives like BARA are pivotal for the cross-pollination of ideas, technologies, and solutions needed to address shared challenges from climate change to food security. By combining our strengths of diversity and dynamism, we can uplift our nations and communities. True transformation arises from collaboration, insight, and tenacity.

I am confident the BRICS nations will continue navigating new frontiers hand-inhand. Please accept my earnest appreciation as you promote sustainability, ethics, and positive global impact. I take this opportunity to congratulate the BRICS CCI/BARA Committee for this mammoth task of promoting sustainability across the borders of BRICS and beyond.



**Dr. Sushi Singh** Executive Director & Founder Member BRICS CCI Head Posh Committee, BRICS CCI New Delhi

## Message From Mr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, The Minister of State For Home Affairs



अजय कुमार मिश्रा AJAY KUMAR MISHRA





गृह राज्य मंत्री भारत सरकार MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



#### <u>M E S S A G E</u>

I extend my warmest wishes to all of you for the upcoming B.A.R.A.: BRICS - CCI Annual Recognition Award 2024 and the release of the accompanying B.A.R.A. Compendium.

The B.A.R.A.-BRICS CCI Annual Recognition Award 2024 serves as a platform to acknowledge those who have gone above and beyond in their respective fields, embodying the spirit of collaboration and innovation. Moreover, the release of the B.A.R.A. Compendium is a commendable initiative that encapsulates the wealth of knowledge, experiences, and best practices within the BRICS nations. This compendium not only serves as a historical record of our collective achievements but also provides a roadmap for the generations that will follow, illustrating the remarkable journey of collaboration, growth, and resilience.

I extend my best wishes for a successful event and a fruitful future for the BRICS nations. May the B.A.R.A.-BRICS CCI Annual Recognition Award 2024 and the B.A.R.A. Compendium inspire us all to strive for greater heights and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

(Ajay Kumar Mishra)

21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 New Delhi

## Message From Mr. H.E. Demeke Atnafu Ambulo,

#### The Ambassador of Ethiopia



## Message From Mr. H.E. João Gilberto Vaz, The Ambassador Federative Republic of Brazil

#### H.E. João Gilberto Vaz

Ambassador, World Center of Excellence Sport ODS ONU, Paris, France; Member of the International Council, Brazil



#### December 26, 2023

#### MESSAGE

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations for the success of the BRICS CCI Annual Recognition Awards 2024 (BARA) and the unveiling of the accompanying Compendium. This momentous event stands as a testament to the dedication, innovation, and collaborative spirit within the BRICS community.

The theme of the Compendium, "BRICS Past, Present, and Future: Opportunities and Challenges," resonates profoundly with the missions and aspirations of Brazil. As a nation committed to sustainable development, international cooperation, and fostering positive change, we recognize the invaluable potential of this compilation to serve as a wellspring of knowledge and inspiration.

Brazil, with its rich history and dynamic present, eagerly anticipates exploring the depths of B.A.R.A. Knowledge & Research Product- Compendium to gain insights into the diverse narratives, challenges overcome, and opportunities harnessed by our fellow BRICS members. We anticipate it to be a source of inspiration, a reference for best practices, and a catalyst for further collaboration among BRICS nations. By delving into the stories encapsulated within its pages, we hope to find innovative approaches, successful strategies, and collaborative initiatives that align with Brazil's ongoing efforts in sustainable development and global cooperation.

I express my deepest appreciation to the organizers, contributors, and participants for orchestrating a truly outstanding event. Your commitment to advancing cooperation and understanding among BRICS members is commendable, and Brazil is honored to be part of this collective endeavor.

With best wishes,

João Gilberto Vaz®

(Ambassador João Gilberto Vaz)

### Message From Dr. Sanjay K. Dewan,

The Honorary Consul General of Cabo Verde

HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL , OF CABO VERDE, INDIA



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#### THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE

11<sup>th</sup> December'2023

#### Message from the Honorary Consul General of Cabo Verde

I extend warm Greetings to all participants and stakeholders of the BRICS CCI Annual Recognition Awards (B.A.R.A.) 2024 and the unveiling of its Compendium.

Though not officially part of the BRICS alliance, Cabo Verde recognizes the importance of this collaborative initiative in fostering global cooperation, intellectual exchange, and socio-economic development. Congratulations to B.A.R.A. 2024 on its achievements, and we express our unwavering support for the continued growth of the BRICS community.

The BARA Compendium, a collection of knowledge and insights tailored for BRICS nations, is commendable. It showcases the collaborative spirit and intellectual richness shared among BRICS nations and serves as inspiration globally.

We extend heartfelt best wishes for the success of BRICS, acknowledging its role as a catalyst for positive change, diplomatic ties, and economic development globally. The achievements at B.A.R.A. 2024 highlight the power of unity and collaboration, contributing not only to member nations but also to the broader international community.

May the bonds within the BRICS community strengthen, leading to shared successes, increased prosperity, and enhanced global cooperation

Dr. Sanjay K. Dewan Honorary Consul General

## Message From Mr. Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi, The Chairman BRICS CCI

श्री राजीव कुमार विश्नोई

Shri Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi

Chairman, BRICS CC



December 14, 2023

#### MESSAGE

BRICS - Chamber of Commerce and Industry has provided a marvelous platform to bring about the benefits of synergy in a multilateral manner. Today, the trade amongst the BRICS nations stands at 37% of the total global international trade. I am sure, the supporting environment provided by BRICS-CCI shall further invigorate international trade as well as diplomatic, social, cultural and technological relationships.

With the concerted impetus on multidisciplinary collaboration, BRICS Annual Recognition Awards(BARA) have been introduced. Through these awards, we honor those who have pushed the boundaries of innovation, those who have turned challenges into opportunities, and those who have set an example for the world to follow. Our awardees are the embodiment of excellence, and they inspire us to dream bigger, work harder, and reach further.

As we embark on this remarkable journey of recognition and celebration, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and optimism. The BRICS Annual Recognition Awards 2023 is not just an event; it's an affirmation of the incredible potential that resides within each one of us.

The BRICS community has always been a testament to the power of collaboration, and these awards highlight our collective commitment to excellence in every field. Together, we build a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and transformative.

With best wishes,

(R. K. Vishnoi)

### Message From Dr. B.B.L Madhukar, Director General BRICS CCI

**डॉ. बीबीएल मधुकर** महानिदेशक, ब्रिक्स सीसीआई

Dr. B.B. L. Madhukar Director General, BRICS CCI



December 14, 2023

#### MESSAGE

As the Director General of BRICS CCI, It fills me with immense pride as I extend heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation to all stakeholders for your invaluable inputs and unwavering support in bringing forth this knowledge product

The BRICS CCI ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS 2024 and its accompanying compendium serve as a powerful testament to the enduring vision that guided the establishment of BRICS CCI twelve years ago. The core vision of collaboration, which has been at the heart of the organization since its inception, is vividly reflected in the recognition awards and the comprehensive compendium that captures the essence of achievements and milestones within the BRICS community. This vision has been a driving force, fostering a spirit of unity, cooperation, and shared prosperity among the member nations. The awards not only celebrate excellence but also exemplify the success that can be achieved when nations come together with a common purpose.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the entire organizing team for the outstanding success of the BRICS CCI ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS 2024. Your meticulous planning, dedication, and hard work have resulted in a truly remarkable event that has set a new standard for excellence within the BRICS community. The seamless execution and attention to detail have not gone unnoticed, and the success of the awards is a reflection of your collective efforts. Your commitment to promoting recognition and excellence within the BRICS business landscape is commendable, and I applaud your role in making this event a resounding success.

We received an enthusiastic response from all the stakeholders for BARA 2024. As we compile the BRICS BARA Compendium, their noteworthy efforts will be prominently highlighted, showcasing the collective achievements and impact of our collaborative endeavors. Your continuous support is a testament to the shared vision of promoting excellence and recognition within the BRICS business landscape.

I convey my best wishes to all stakeholders in the journey ahead.

(Dr. B.B. L. Madhukar)

## Message From Dr. Sushi Singh, Founder Concept BARA; President Centre for CSR, and Co-Founder BRICS CCI



#### MESSAGE

It is my privilege to present to you the inaugural compendium for the 2024 BRICS Annual Recognition Awards (BARA), celebrating excellence and cooperation across the BRICS block and beyond. The prominence of BRICS on the world stage continues to rise rapidly. Together, our countries hold enormous potential to shape a shared future based on sustainability, innovation, and mutual prosperity. The BARA awards were born from a vision to bring together stakeholders from all corners of the BRICS block, forging bonds through common goals and a vibrant exchange of best practices.

This compendium chronicles the evolution of the BRICS partnership, drawing insights from critical summits over the years. As cooperation deepens across areas from policy and trade to

green technology, innovation entrepreneurship and digital governance, the compendium captures the bloc's expanding impact at the global stage. Yet this gathering marks only the start of the BARA mission to promote best practices, spearheading new conversations where global leaders meet to exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and recognize pioneering initiatives invested in our collective future.

The years ahead promise ever-stronger collaboration as BARA provides a forum to share knowledge on the most pressing challenges we can solve together, from climate change and equitable growth to healthcare access and sustainability. I could not be more excited to develop this initiative side-by-side with peers from across the BRICS block and beyond devoted to progress through cooperation. With BRICS leadership and values, I am confident BARA will motivate new generations to think boldly and advance inclusive innovation to benefit societies worldwide.

Dr. Sushi Singh

Section 1 **The Genesis** (Pre-2008) BRIC(S) was started before 2008 by Russia<sup>1</sup> which approached India, China and Brazil to participate in a mechanism of cooperation between States, not Governments, to insulate the cooperative mechanism from politics. Each of the 5 countries had a strong presence in their regions, and globally. South Africa and Nigeria were the largest economies in Africa with the highest per capita income. Russia was partly in Europe and partly in Asia and saw itself as a Eurasian power. China was the second-largest economy, and India was on course to become the third largest and the fastest growing economy in the world. Brazil was South America's biggest economy. Critics have viewed BRICS as a lopsided arrangement given the enormous weight of China, much like the weight of the US in the G-7. But the basic similarity of original BRIC countries is the size. They are on the list of the world's 10 largest countries in terms of population, area and GDP. South Africa was added as Africa's most progressive country giving BRICS representation across continents. It gives them the capacity to act individually as well. But they needed to work together as they were not adequately represented in the governance of the world which was dominated by Europe and America. They wanted to work

with the UN, G20, the IMF, World Bank and the WTO to make the US and Europe accept the new realities of the 21st century.

Section 2 Shaping of a Cooperative Future



# Honorable Prime Minister Modi's call for

# One Earth One Family One Future

at the G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration underscores the commitment to a shared global destiny.

# "BRICS formed as an economic and financial response to the inadequacies of existing global institutions post the 2008 financial crisis."

The BRICS process began as an economic and financial process, not as an integration between these countries, with the aim of changing governance in a fundamental way. After the 2008 financial crisis, it was clear that existing Bretton Woods institutions were not enough to tackle global financial issues. It is misleading to call BRICS a bloc. Relations with the US or G-7 are not discussed in the BRICS process, including in the Summits. It's a cooperative mechanism, with a focus on international governance, especially the 'Bretton Woods' institutions, (IMF, WB, ITO/GATT/WTO). This is now clearly mentioned in the BRICS Summit Declaration itself. The push for change is and has been through G20 where both the developed and developing are represented, especially now with the inclusion of the African Union during the New Delhi G20 Meet in 2023. BRICS agenda and approach within G20 has not been confrontational.

At the core of BRICS is partnership for **"Inclusive growth, development and prosperity"**  The thematic statement prefacing all BRICS Summit Declarations since 2011, when it became customary to do so, gravitates around these objectives. Security, in the sense of political stability and territorial integrity and not just economic security, as a sought-after objective was mentioned only twice - in the Delhi Summit of 2012, and the Moscow Summit of 2020. The centrality of partnership for inclusive growth, development, and prosperity in BRICS' agenda stems from the shock of the US financial crisis starting 2007 onwards which was in many ways responsible for the launch of BRICS.

## From Financial Crisis to Global Cooperation: BRICS' Transformative Role

# Financial Crisis Fallout (2007-2008)

- The U.S. financial crisis led to the bankruptcy of major entities.
- Unprecedented measures, including massive injections, nationalization, and bailouts

### Global Ramifications and BRICS Formation

- European institutions suffered losses from exposure to U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities.
- Financial crisis spurred global cooperation, leading to the formation of BRICS.

### BRICS Response and Institutional Challenge

- BRICS established the New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).
- Challenged dominance of G7-controlled institutions, advocating fair representation.



### Collaborative Global Governance

- BRICS promoted a collaborative approach in addressing global issues.
- Dissatisfaction with internet resource management led to calls for joint research, emphasizing inclusivity.

The US financial crisis, starting in 2007, dented the notion of the self-regulating character of the US economy. In April 2007, New Century Financial Corp, one of the largest subprime lenders, filed for bankruptcy. This was followed by American Home Mortgage Investment Corp and the Lehman Brothers, the latter with assets of \$639 billion. The seizure of Washington Mutual, the country's largest savings and loan company, and bailout of AIG by a US Treasury Department's loan of \$85 billion to cover losses related to its sale of credit default swaps (a financial contract that protected holders of various debt instruments including Mortgage-Backed Securities in the event of default on the underlying loans) had no parallel in the past. By the end of 2008, the US Federal Government became part owner of more than 200 US banks. It resorted to quantitative easing (QE) injecting massive liquidity into capital markets to stimulate economic growth. By the time the QE program was ended in 2014, the US Federal Reserve had pumped in a staggering \$4 trillion into the US economy<sup>2</sup>. Banks and investment companies in Europe, like PNB Paribas in France and North Rock in Britain, that were exposed to US MBSs, too suffered huge losses. North Rock was nationalized. The measures taken by the US Government were variously followed by many European countries as well. These developments convinced the major developing countries of the need to cooperate interse to stem the effect of spill-over in Asian countries of the financial crisis of 2008. The result was the formation of BRICS.

Many of the programs of BRICS as also the attempts to reform G7-controlled multilateral institutions like the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and an attempt to prevent a similar crisis. BRICS has endeavoured to foster greater cooperation between the developed West (represented by the G7) and the emerging economies and developing countries (EMDCs) by using, inter alia, the mechanism of G20. BRICS simultaneously built complementary institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) that were modelled around the WB and IMF respectively, but with the caveat of giving fair representation and voice to developing countries. This approach became visible in other domains also, like the BRICS prescription for: reforms in the UN

including in the UNSC; WTO dispute settlement system; climate change and sustainable development under UNFCCC and Paris Agreement which are bound by the maxim of 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities'; security issues, including the proposed Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism: and now with about information and communication technologies (ICTs) as in the discussions currently underway in the UN for 'Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes'. The 2017 Xiamen BRICS Summit Declaration expressed "dissatisfaction with the present management and regulation of critical internet resources" which were not seen as inclusive or representative. It therefore called for joint research in the "internet of things ... and building a network that was safe and secure". In short, the prescriptive approach of G-7 to global issues of governance was sought to be diluted by a collaborative and cooperative approach where developing countries and BRICS were equal partners as was apparent from the increasing economic clout of BRICS

### Economic Surge of BRICS (2006-2023)

## 12% to 22.5%

2006 – 2015 BRICS countries share in the world GDP rose from 12% to 22.5%.

## 42.27% to 29.92%

The share of G-7 countries fell from 42.27% to 29.92% between 2000-2023.

## 18.19% to 32.14%

BRICS countries' share in the world's GDP (in PPP) rose significantly from 18.19% in 2000 to 32.14% in 2023.

## 6.03% to 6.03%

Intra-BRICS trade more than doubled, reaching 12.12% of total trade by 2015 from 6.03% in 2001

An extraction of trade figures from the BRICS Statistical Publication for all BRICS countries is given below:

#### All in million \$

	2000	2015	2020	2021
China	477,398	4,362,434	5,119,223	6,645,784
Russia	168,991	674,824	686,327	929,982
India	125,940	882,242	686,244	928,585
Brazil	136,994	466,988		
S. Africa	70,187	196,678	171,501	235,469

The contention that BRICS has emerged as a major group powering global economic trade and development is borne out by actual trade statistics. The increase in intra-BRICS trade has been largely due to sustained intra-BRICS cooperation reflected in BRICS Summit Declarations from 2009 through 2023. Declarations were followed by meetings amongst BRICS Ministers and the ministry officials; meetings of BRICS Working Groups, Central Banks and EXIM Banks of BRICS countries; meetings facilitated by BRICS governments instrumentalities between private companies of BRICS countries; and by detailed 'Action Plans' that are reviewed in each BRICS Summit.

## **Overlapping Agendas of BRICS and G20:**

There is a large overlap between the economic, financial, climate change and sustainable development components of the Declaration and Action Plans of BRICS Summits, and the corresponding components of the 2023 G20 New Delhi Leader's Declaration.

Issue	BRICS Position	G20 Declaration 2023	
Role of G20	Views G20 as a vital platform for global economic cooperation, with BRICS as a driving component.	Reiterates commitment to G20 as the premier forum for global economic cooperation.	
Corruption Supports FATF, Convention Against Corruption, and anti-corruption initiatives.		Commits to zero tolerance for corrup- tion and supports FATF.	
Change & SDGs change and sustainable develop- ment with differentiated respon- sibility. Also the call for developed countries to meet their ODA com- mitments including technology transfer. Empowerment of women in the context especially of the		Commits to achieving the 2030 Agen- da, meeting ODA commitments, and enhancing climate change efforts by implementing the Paris Agreement. Recognizes the importance of interna- tional cooperation in finance and tech- nology, and supports increased wom- en's participation in climate change initiatives and disaster risk reduction.	
Reform of mul- tilateral institu- tions       Addresses reform in detail, in- cluding debt vulnerabilities and participation in the G20 Common Framework.		Stresses enhancing the representation of developing countries and stronger MDBs for SDGs. Mobilizing concession- al finance to boost the World Bank's capacity to support low and mid- dle-income countries that need help in addressing global challenges. Re-em- phasise the importance of addressing debt vulnerabilities in low and mid- dle-income countries in an effective, comprehensive and systematic man- ner.	

Issue	BRICS Position	G20 Declaration 2023
Reform of UN	Advocates for UNSC reform and greater roles for India, Brazil, and South Africa.	Indirectly supports UN reform for more representative, effective, and account-able global governance.
Digital Infra- structure	Calls for promoting the digital economy and welcomes discus- sions on CBDCs digital and tech- nological tools to promote sus- tainable development.	Supports an inclusive, fair, and secure digital economy with discussions on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CB- DCs), notably on cross-border pay- ments. Enabling, inclusive, open, fair, non-discriminatory and secure digital economy.
Africa	Stresses support for Africa, includ- ing Agenda 2063, and welcomes the African Union into the G20.	Reiterates support for Africa, including through the G20 Compact and wel- comes the African Union as a perma- nent member.
International Call to BRICS revenue authorities Taxation to implement the Global Anti-Base Erosion Rules.		Welcome the steps taken by various countries to implement the Global An- ti-Base Erosion Rules.
Gender Equality Repeatedly emphasizes women empowerment in the context of Sustainable Development.		Recognizes the fundamental impor- tance of gender equality and investing in women's empowerment.
TerrorismCondemns all forms of terrorism, supports FATF and FSRBs, and calls for an International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Chemi- cal and Biological Terrorism.		Condemns terrorism and supports re- source needs of FATF and FSRBs.
Role of WTO Advocates for a reformed WTO with a two-stage binding adju- dication system and the need to overcome the impasse over the appointment of members of the Appellate Body.		Supported rules-based, non-discrim- inatory, fair, open, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and transparent multi- lateral trading system, with WTO at its core with a functioning dispute settle- ment system accessible to all mem- bers by 2024

In the words of Jim O'Neill, the strongest critic of BRICS and who coined the term 'BRIC'

# "Clearly, the BRICS' symbolic power will grow."

BRICS approach to various international issues and institutions is not like either/or. It is based on the conviction about the indivisible nature of world peace, and of progress across all domains ranging from climate change to the war against Covid-19. It is in this context that Honorable Prime Minister Modi's signature call for 'One Earth One Family One Future' inscribed in the Preamble of the 'G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration' of 9-10 September 2023<sup>3</sup> is relevant.

# Section 3 A Decade of BRICS Diplomacy

Navigating Global Shifts and Promoting Economic Autonomy

## **Expansion and Geopolitical Standing**

Since the second cycle, starting in 2014, and continuing till the end of the third cycle in 2023

• Expanding influence with the addition of new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE starting January 2024.



 Strategic meetings with organizations such as SCO, Eurasian Economic Union, BIMS-TEC, and BRICS Africa Outreach have strengthened BRICS' economic heft and geopolitical standing.



The group has been able to tap the broader Global South suspicion that post Second World War, global governance organizations are too Western. It has occasionally been able to present itself as the voice of the emerging and developing world – a category that excludes the US and other advanced economies. Insofar as it has reminded everyone that the structure of international institutions does not reflect the global economic shifts over the past 30 years, it has succeeded". After questioning the purpose of BRICS, Jim O'Neill observed: "What the world needs is a resurrected G20, which already includes all the same key players, plus others.

It remains the best forum for addressing truly global issues such as economic growth, international trade, climate change, pandemic prevention, and so on<sup>4</sup>". The centrality of G20 to promote the BRICS agenda in general has been reiterated in successive BRICS Summit Declaration.

### **De-Dollarization Initiatives**

### Down by 70% since 1999 US dollar reserves accounts only 58% of global foreign exchange as of April 2023

Strategic efforts to promote de-dollarization, enhance financial sovereignty, and reduce vulnerability associated with over-reliance on the US dollar.

Master Agreement Extending Credit Facility in local currency under BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism

Use of local currencies for intra-BRICS trade and for trade with other countries

Building alternative robust cross-border payments clearance systems

Establishing BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund

Lending by New Development Bank

The term de-dollarization has not been used in any BRICS Summit document or Declaration. What has been strongly advocated and pursued is the use of local currencies of BRICS countries not only for intra-BRICS trade but also for trade with other countries; instituting a BRICS Survey on International Payments Systems and speeding up the work of the BRICS Payments Task Force in this direction; the building of alternative (to SWIFT) robust cross-border payments clearance systems with interconnected supply chains; conclusion (2012) of Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in local currency under BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism; Mutual Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement between BRICS EXIM/Development Banks; raising capital through the issue of bonds in local currencies; establishing BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund; financial market integration through a network of BRICS financial institutions; the resistance to unilateral sanctions against developing countries; and lending by New Development Bank in currencies of BRICS countries. The resolve to reduce the use of US\$ and to counter and/or bypass the sanctions regime which has led to the freezing/seizing of sovereign assets of other countries has been a clearly stated BRICS priority even prior to the sanctions against Russia after the conflict with Ukraine which has seen a spike in the use of local BRICS currencies especially in bilateral trade within BRICS countries. There is a sense of vulnerability due to overreliance on US\$.

# Section 4 A Journey through the Summits

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# The Third Cycle - (2019-2023) The Latest Wave



#### 2019 Summit (Brasília, Brazil)

#### Multilateralism:

Emphasis on strengthening multilateralism and adherence to international rules.

#### **Economic Reform:**

Calls to reform global financial institutions, including the IMF.

#### 2020 Summit - Virtual (Hosted by Russia)

#### COVID-19 Response:

Joint efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure global public health.

#### Sustainable Development:

Emphasized the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed commitment to the Paris Agreement

#### 2021 Summit - Virtual (Hosted by India)

#### Vaccine Cooperation:

Emphasis on equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.Proposal for the establishment of a BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center.

#### Economic Recovery:

Discussions on economic recovery post-pandemic.

#### 2022 Summit - Virtual (Hosted by China)

#### **Global Challenges:**

Addressing global challenges, including the pandemic and economic recovery.

#### **Economic Cooperation:**

Support for a robust multilateral trading system. Calls for reform in international financial institutions.

#### Condemned terrorism:

In all of its forms, including the movement of terrorists across borders and terrorist financing networks.

#### 2023 Summit (Cape Town, South Africa) •

#### **Global Governance:**

- Emphasis on UN reform for increased representation.
- Support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, WTO, and IMF.

#### Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- Reaffirmation of commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
- Urgent call for developed countries to fulfil Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments.

#### Intra-BRICS Cooperation:

- Emphasis on the digital economy, trade in services, and innovation.
- Support for MSMEs, human resource development, and agricultural cooperation.

# 4.1.1. 2019 Summit: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future

#### A Summit Devoted To Reiterations

The Brasilia Declaration of 14th November 2019 was devoted almost completely to regurgitation of past positions and commitments on multilateralism, economic and financial cooperation, sustainable development, terrorism & security issues, and intra-BRICS cooperation. This, after a fairly comprehensive exercise of 116 meetings of BRICS Ministers, meetings of BRICS Working Groups and meetings of senior officials of BRICS countries as evident from Annexes<sup>5</sup> to the BRICS Summit Brasilia Declaration. Reiterations in the Declaration were across all sectors from economy, finance and governance to intra-BRICS issues.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### Economy, Finance & Governance

The following reiterations were made:

- Commitment to a fair and representative multipolar international order.
- The commitment of BRICS to multilateralism to maintain peace and stability, advance sustainable development, and uphold the central role of the UN in international affairs.
- Urgent need to strengthen reform of the multilateral system, including the UN and UNSC with an enhanced role for India, Brazil and South Africa.
- Continued cooperation within the G20 to advance the interests of the EM-DCs and call on major advanced and emerging economies to hold dialogue and coordination in the context of the G20. The coordination with advanced economies was a new move within BRICS.
- Continued commitment to strong quota-based and adequately resourced IMF, and reiteration of disappointment over the failure to increase the quota size of the Fund and realigning quota shares in favour of emerging markets and dynamic economies (EMDEs).
- Importance of rule-based transparent and non-discriminatory international trade, and commitment to strengthening the multilateral trading system with a reformed WTO at its core to promote inclusivity and consider the interests of all members including developing

countries and LDCs.

- Emphasise the importance of WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism with a two-stage binding adjudication system, and the need to overcome the impasse over the appointment of members of the Appellate Body.
- Conducting the second test run of the CRA
- Progress in establishing the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund.
- Importance of BRICS Survey on International Payments System.

### Sustainable Development & Climate Change

The Declaration reiterated commitment to: sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the UNFC-CC including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities; the success of UNFCCC COP25; and to supporting Post 2025 Global Biodiversity Framework.

#### **Security and Terrorism**

The Summit reiterated:

- Clear condemnation of terrorism in all its forms which should not be associated with any religion, and the unjustifiable acts of terror regardless of their motivations.
- The importance of preventing the financing of terrorism, and implement-

ing UNSC Resolution 2462 (2019).

- The need to comply with the Convention on the Prohibition of Development Production Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction (BTWC). The functions of BTWC should not be duplicated by other mechanisms.
- The importance of a secure and non-discriminatory environment for ICTs under the auspices of the UN in accordance with universally agreed norms and principles, with the further affirmation of tackling the misuse of ICTs for criminal and terrorist activities. In this regard it noted the progress made by BRICS through the Working Group on Security in the Use of ICTs (WGSICT). In view of previous BRICS Summits, the Declaration affirmed the importance of establishing a legal framework among BRICS countries.
- Commitment to combat illicit financial flows and to closely cooperate within the FATF and the FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).

#### Intra-BRICS

- The Declaration encouraged dialogue among BRICS countries on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). It welcomed the holding of a seminar on BRICS Strategies for Countering Terrorism.
- The Declaration welcomed meetings

of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS High Representatives for Security, BRICS Ministers of Technology and innovation BRICS Ministers of Communication, BRICS Trade Ministers, BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers, BRICS Health Ministers and BRICS Agriculture Ministers.

- It noted the progress in the implementation of the Johannesburg Summit decision to commence the operationalisation of PartNIR.
- It noted progress by Customs Administrations on the draft BRICS Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement as well as in the implementation of the Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation, and of establishing BRICS Customs Training Centres.
- It acknowledged the support of BRICS revenue authorities to the implementation of minimum Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.
- It expressed commitment to addressing tax challenges of the digitization of the economy and automatic exchange of information for tax purposes. It called for the signing and ratification of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.
- It emphasised the importance of fighting corruption by strengthening the domestic legal framework, anti-corruption law enforcement and returning

of assets, including civil and administrative proceedings, and making full use of the BRICS Meeting on Asset Recovery. It was also decided to enhance the exchange of views in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

#### Initiatives

There were a few fresh initiatives such: as the expansion of membership of NDB, the decision to open new regional offices in Russia and India; and coordination with advanced economies within G20 as an agenda item in BRICS. The new architecture on Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) would be implemented through the BRICS STI Steering Committee and the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform.

# 4.1.2. 2020 Summit: Navigating Challenges and Enhancing Cooperation

The Summit was held in Moscow, Russia on 17th November 2020 in virtual format under the shadow of the military standoff (since June 2020) between India and China in Ladakh, and amid the global outbreak of Covid-19. It systematically dwelt and noted progress on BRICS' positions on issues of: economy, finance & governance, sustainable development & climate change, security and terrorism, and people-to-people exchanges that were discussed and deliberated in 2018 and 2019 BRICS Summits.

#### **BRICS & The World**

# **Governance, Economy, Finance & Trade** Briefly the Summit deliberations included:

- Valuing the continued role of G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation ,and coordinating BRICS efforts to advance the interests of EMDCs in G20.
- Commitment to quota-based and adequately resourced IMF, and to the implementation of long overdue governance reforms in the IMF
- Commitment to multilateralism, equality and inclusiveness, and international cooperation through reformed multilateral systems, including the principal organs of the UN especially the UNSC with increased representation of developing countries.
- Emphasis on reform in WTO, WHO, the IMF and other international organiza-tions.
- Urging WTO members to expeditiously restore the Appellate Body to full strength.
- Supporting cooperative approaches to the development and production of COVID-19 vaccines. It expressed the commitment to disseminate COVID-19 vaccines on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.
- Supporting African Union Agenda
   2063 and the implementation of the
   Agreement on African Continental
   Free Trade Area, and welcoming the
   progress achieved in the framework of

NEPAD.

- Deepening international cooperation and trade, developing supply chains for industrial and agricultural goods and promoting sustainable macroeconomic policies.
- Welcoming support to low-income countries through Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

# Sustainable Development & Climate Change

The Declaration called for full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the Summit leaders, countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America would take longer to recover from Covid 19, so it called on donor countries to honour their official development assistance (ODA) commitments, and also transfer required technologies to developing countries. This Summit Declaration also reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of UNFCCC, including the principle of common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It also resolved to strengthen cooperation on environmental projects, in particular, the BRICS Clean Rivers Program. It acknowledged the importance of the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the 15th Conference of Parties (CB DCOP 15). It commended exchanges of best practices in the field of energy. It also welcomed the activities of the BRICS Interbank

Cooperation Mechanism and the progress in developing the principles for BRICS institutions responsible for efficient green finance mechanisms.

Cooperation in sustainable and efficient use of energy from all sources including technological cooperation and investment was reiterated. For this purpose the Declaration welcomed the Roadmap of BRICS Energy and launch of BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (ERCP). Cooperation in promoting sustainable agriculture in conformity with WTO rules was also emphasised.

#### **Security and Terrorism**

Reiterations in the Declaration included:

- Recalling the central role of the UN in maintaining peace and security, advancing sustainable development and promoting democracy and human rights.
- Support for a multipolar international system, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and independence of any state.
- Tribute to those who fought against fascism tyranny and militarism which was previously aired at Ufa Summit, also hosted by Russia.
- Taking a resolute stand against the rehabilitation of Nazi ideology, colonialism and distortion of history.

- Emphasising the fundamental importance of BTWC and the need to strengthen it by adopting a legally binding Protocol for an efficient verification mechanism.
- Support for the preservation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and constructive dialogue in the OPCW.
- Supporting the negotiation for a legally binding regime applicable to the peaceful use of outer space, including the prevention of placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects. Also commitment to strict adherence to the Outer Space Treaty.
- Welcoming the adoption by UNCOPU-OS of the 21 Guidelines for long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
- Commitment, among other things, to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and advancing a Syrian-led Syrian-owned UN-facilitated political process in line with UNSCR 2254.
- Support for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, but without referring to the illegality of Israeli settlements in so-called 'Occupied Palestinian Territories 'or to the sanctity of the 1967 boundary for the State of Palestine.
- Expressing solidarity with the people of Lebanon it called upon the international community to assist Lebanon.
- Opposition to any interference in the

internal affairs of Iraq and condemned the violence perpetrated by self-styled ISIS on Iraqi territory.

- Supporting inclusive negotiations mediated by the UN in Yemen, and emphasising the importance of providing humanitarian assistance to Yemenis.
- Supporting an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process in Afghanistan, and condemning terrorist attacks.
- Welcoming the agreement reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the ceasefire since 10 Nov 2020 in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- Support for complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
- Supporting a Libyan-led Libyan

   owned political process in Libya under the auspices of the UN, and reiterating the need to implement the decisions of the international Conference
   on Libya held in Berlin 19th January
   2020 and the UNSCR 2510. It noted the
   significant contribution of the African
   Union and the League of Arab States
   for promoting intra-Libyan dialogue.
- Welcoming the Juba peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and the armed opposition movement on 3rd October 2020.
- Condemning terrorism in all its forms, and rejecting any association of terrorism with religion. It called for negotiations for an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical

and biological terrorism at the Conference of Disarmament.

 Calling for the conclusion and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN.

In the context of V BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group outcomes, the Declaration noted: BRICS advances in counter terrorism financing and combating radicalization as well as countering use of the internet for terrorism purposes; the importance of establishing legal framework of cooperation among BRICS on ensuring security in the use of ICTs; commitment to combat illicit financial flows, money laundering and financing of terrorism by cooperating within FAFT and FAFT style regional bodies (FSRBs). It welcomed the agreement reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the ceasefire since 10 Nov 2020 in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It called for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

#### **Other Initiatives**

The call for a reformed WHO was a new development. Instead of referring to the aspirations of India, South Africa and Brazil to play a greater role in the UN, the phrase 'increased representation of developing countries' was used in the context of reform of the UN. The Declaration supported UN Security Council Resolution 2532(2020)<sup>6</sup> calling for a global ceasefire for 90 days in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic. call for a global ceasefire. The Declaration expressed regret at the disruption of strategic stability mechanisms and arms control regimes and called on parties to agree to the extension of the 2010 Russia-US Treaty on Measures for Further Reduction & Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. It called on WTO members to ensure that all COVID-19 related measures did not create unnecessary trade barriers or disrupt supply chains and were consistent with WTO rules.

#### **Intra BRICS**

#### **Economy and Finance**

Economic Partnership, Digital Economy, MSMEs, NDB, CRA, BPTF, PartNIR, Local Currency Bonds, e-commerce commerce, and Customs cooperation figured in Summit discussions. The Declaration reiterated the important role of implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership to enhance trade, investment and finance, digital economy and sustainable development in BRICS countries. Similarly, it viewed the role of BRICS Understanding on Investment Facilitation. The adoption of Guidelines for Promoting the Effective Participation of MSMEs was seen as crucial for their integration into global value chains. It was decided to explore sharing existing data on infrastructure investment projects in a common Data Room voluntarily.

The NDB was meant to be an important vehicle for infrastructure development and

sustainable development in the Bank's member countries, not just BRICS countries. It was decided that expansion would be gradual and balanced taking into account: geographical representation, the candidate's support for the Bank's goals of institutional development and the attainment of the highest credit rating. Negotiations were started with potential candidates. A Regional Centre was opened in Moscow with a Regional Office expected to come up in India in 2021. Meanwhile, the CRA had started receiving analytical support from BRICS central banks and had successfully completed the third test run.

The Declaration commended the work done on national payments system cooperation and the creation of the BRICS Payments Task Force (BPTF). It also noted progress in establishing the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund. It further noted advancement in trade and investment within the framework of the BRICS Partnership on Industrial Revolution (PartNIR). Recognizing the increasing importance of the role of the digital economy, a need was expressed for bridging the digital divide, and for that it was decided to enhance cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

The Summit expressed commitment to enhance cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies. BRICS countries look forward to progress in information sharing and the capacity to deter, detect, and disrupt tax evasion and avoidance. The Summit called for enhancing intra BRICS cooperation to jointly combat customs offences, and develop customs technologies and capacity. It recognised that progress had been made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation.

The Declaration recognised and supported the role of the BRICS Business Council to forge closer links between BRICS countries in the field of digital economy, trade promotion, and infrastructure development. It also commended strengthening cooperation in intellectual property regulations and standards. It discussed cooperation in meeting the challenges of sustainable urbanization and promoting tourism.

#### Health, S&T, People-to-People

The Declaration reiterated enhanced BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges of diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria and against the COVID-19 pandemic and operationalization of BRICS Vaccine Development Centre which was decided to be set up in the 2018 BRICS Summit. On S&T cooperation the Declaration recalled that under the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework Programme more than 100 BRICS projects were funded by BRICS funding agencies. This was to be harnessed to counteract the spread and impact of COVID-19. Affirming the importance of People-to-People exchanges in fostering mutual understanding and friendship among nations and peoples, it emphasised the importance of BRICS parliamentary exchanges, the Young Parliamentarians Fora, BRICS Chief Justices Forum, Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Culture, BRICS Sports Ministers Meeting, Meeting of BRICS Youth Official, BRICS Young Diplomats and BRICS Young Scientists Fora, and BRICS Youth Energy Summit within the framework of BRICS Youth Energy Agency. It commended the outcomes of the Meetings of BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC) and BRICS Academic Forum in strengthening BRICS expert dialogue and exchanges

# 4.1.3. 2021 Summit: Consensus in a Changing World

In the **September 2021 New Delhi** Summit, the theme was 'Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus' under seven heads. The deliberations under the 7 heads have been bifurcated under two broad heads: BRICS & the World, and Intra-BRICS

#### Intra-BRICS

#### **Consolidation and Stock Taking.**

It listed the creation of NDB, the CRA, the Energy Research Cooperation Program, the Partnership for New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), and the Science Technology and Innovation Framework as the most notable. It reiterated the strengthening of consensus-based working methods in BRICS at all levels.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### **Global Health Challenges**

It noted the cooperation in the study of the origins of SARS-COV-2. It regretted the inequity in access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics and called for safe, efficacious, accessible and affordable vaccines. It supported the discussions under WTO for IPR waiver on COVID-19 vaccines, and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS Agreement and Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. It noted the provision of 1 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine bilaterally and to international organizations.

#### Intra-BRICS

It supported the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious disease risks in accordance with IHR 2005 and WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network for identifying future pandemics. It congratulated India for convening the BRICS Digital Health Summit. It commended the work done by the BRICS TB Research Network.

#### Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System

A responsive, effective, transparent, representative, and accountable multilateral system has been a continuous theme of BRICS. Under the overarching BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System adopted by BRICS Foreign Ministers, the reforms entailed the following:

- Making the global governance instruments more inclusive representative and participatory of developing countries and LDCs especially in Africa;
- Making multilateral organizations more action-oriented, solution oriented and credible;
- Using digital and technological tools to promote sustainable development in an affordable manner;
- Strengthening capacities of States to meet the challenges emanating from terrorism, money laundering, cyber, infodemics and fake news;
- Making international cooperation more people centred.

The Declaration called for reform of UNGA, UNSC and UN Economic and Social Council, and for an increase in the representation of developing countries. China and Russia again reiterated the importance of a greater role of India, Brazil, and South Africa in the UN. It reiterated the need for a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF and called for the successful completion of the 16th General Review of Quotas by December 15, 2023, to address the underrepresentation of EMDCs following the failure of the 15th GRQ. It welcomed the IMF's approval of a general allocation of SDRs equivalent to USD 650 billion.

# Sustainable Development and Means to Achieve it.

Full implementation of UFCCC, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities was reiterated. The Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the achievement of all SDGs, in the three dimensions of economic, social and environmental, including SDG 12, which identified sustainable consumption and production patterns as a vital element of sustainable development. With regard to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, it urged donor countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments to facilitate capacity, to transfer technology needed by recipients and provide equitable and inclusive access to digital resources for all people.

It recommended the 'use of digital and technological solutions to achieve SDGs' as one of the BRICS priorities to be discussed and deliberated upon by BRICS line agencies. Similarly, it reiterated BRICS' commitment to enhancing intra-BRICS agricultural cooperation for food security. For this purpose, it welcomed the BRICS Agriculture Information Exchange System and the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform, and the adoption of the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries Initiatives. It emphasised the need to build reliable energy systems and practical cooperation within the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (ERCP). It appreciated the launch of the BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism. It welcomed discussions on the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) and BRICS PartNIR Start-up events from India. It called for strengthening cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the exchange of best practices was reiterated.

# Economic and Financial Cooperation for Sustainable Development.

The Declaration stressed the importance of implementing the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 through all relevant Ministerial tracks and Working Groups. An important limb for cooperation for sustainable development was BRICS Customs especially the BRICS Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters. Sustainable development required strengthening of infrastructure through NDB using the BRICS Integrated Digital Platform on infrastructure investment projects. It welcomed the work carried out by BRICS Finance Ministries and Central Banks in preparation for a survey on Fintech applications in MSMEs.

# Peace Security and Counter Terrorism Cooperation.

The Declaration flagged the outcome of the meeting of BRICS High Representatives for Security and the adoption of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan for the Implementation of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It endorsed the position taken by BRICS Foreign Ministers on the situation in Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, the Palestinian-Israel issue, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran nuclear issue and Myanmar, and reiterated the commitment to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. On Afghanistan, it, inter alia, condemned the terror attack near Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport.

It reiterated:

- The importance of preserving the JCPOA to address the Iran nuclear issue;
- Strengthening BTWC with a legally binding Protocol with a verification mechanism.
- Support for OPCW and CWC.
- Support to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Including Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.
- Need for implementation of UNCOPU-OS.
- The need for the conclusion of a Comprehensive International Convention

on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes under the auspices of the UN, under UNGA Resolution 75/282.

- The rejection of associating terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
- Call for expeditious finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.
- Endorsement of BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan for implementing the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by BRICS' National Security Advisors.
- Commitment to combating illicit financial flows (IFFs), money laundering and financing of terrorism and to cooperating within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).
- Opposition to unilateral sanctions. The BRICS Declaration reaffirmed the UNSC as the sole authority for imposing sanctions.

#### Focus on NDB

The Declaration welcomed the expansion of membership of NDB in 2021 to include Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt and Uruguay, and its prospects of financing more infrastructure projects, including those that used digital technologies. It noted the relocation of the NDB headquarters in Shanghai and the opening of a regional NDB office in India in 2021. It complimented the successful completion of the fourth CRA test run and the move to improve coordination between CRA and the IMF. It welcomed the continued discussions under the BRICS Payments Task Force (BPTF). It recommended the 'e-Booklet on 'Information Security Regulations in Finance' and the 'Compendium on BRICS Best Practices in Information Security Risks: Supervision and Control'.

In 2020 NDB committed \$10 billion for crisis-related assistance, including financing healthcare, social safety-related expenditures, and support for economic recovery. By June, it had provided \$4 billion worth of emergency finance to China, India, Brazil and South Africa. It successfully placed two issues of a \$1.5 billion 3-year COVID response bond and a \$2 billion 5-year COVID response bond in international capital markets. In 2021 NDB Board of Directors approved a \$3 billion emergency assistance facility as follows: \$1 billion for Russia to support incentive payments to healthcare personnel, \$1 billion for South Africa to stimulate job creation, and \$1 billion for China to revive economic activities and generate employment<sup>7</sup>. The CRA stood ready with its liquidity and precautionary instruments to respond to the balance of payments pressures if needed<sup>8</sup>.

The money for financing recovery and sustainable development was raised by issuing a 3-year fixed rate RMB 5 billion bond in the China Interbank Bond market (CIBM), a 5-year \$1.5 billion benchmark bond, and a 3-year \$2.25 billion bond in the international market. The NDB became one of the first banks to pilot the United Nations Development Programme's SDGs Impact Standards for Bond Issuers<sup>9</sup>. Investments into physical sustainable infrastructure projects, accompanied by support for digital infrastructure development, amounted to almost \$1.5 billion. BRICS combined flexibility, innovation and continuity, but held no outreach meetings in 2019, 2020 or 2021.

'People to People Exchanges'.

The Declaration reiterated the importance of BRICS people-to-people exchanges for promoting understanding and friendship amongst BRICS countries and people, especially in the fields of governance, culture, education, sports, arts, films, media, youth and academic exchanges. The Declaration specifically supported the following:

- Meetings of BRICS Business Forum;
- BRICS Business Council, particularly the virtual trade fairs;
- BRICS Women's Business Alliance;
- BRICS Solution for SDG Awards 2021;
- BRICS Smart Cities Workshops;
- Friendship Cities & Local Government Cooperation Forums;
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Culture;
- India's efforts to host BRICS Youth Summit;
- BRICS Sports Ministers Meeting 2021;
- Meetings of BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC), BRICS Academic Forum; and

BRICS Civil Forum.

The Declaration further listed the following achievements:

- Agreement on BRICS Cooperation on Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation,
- Agreement on BRICS Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters;
- Discussion on MOU on Cooperation in the field of Regulation of Medicinal Products for Human Use;
- Agreement on BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan;
- Action Plan 2021-24 for Agricultural Cooperation;
- Innovation Cooperation Action Plan 2021-24;
- BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism.

The Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to implement the strategy for the BRICS Economic Partnership 2021-25 under various ministerial tracks and working groups. It lauded the outcomes of over 100 events listed in Annex II of the Declaration in the following areas: Foreign affairs, National Security, Finance, Trade, Industry, Labour and Employment, Agriculture, Energy, Health, Traditional Medicine, Environment, Education, Customs, Youth, Culture and Tourism. It complimented India for strengthening consensus-based working methods in BRICS at all levels and for emphasising the principles of continuity, consolidation and consensus.

# 4.1.4. 2022 Summit: Shaping a Sustainable Future

The BRICS **Beijing, China** Summit of **23-24 June 2022** was structured on six pillars of: strengthening and reforming global governance; combatting COVID-19; promoting peace and security; economic recovery following Covid; implementing agenda for 2030 Sustainable Development; and promoting people to people exchange.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### Strengthening and Reforming Global Governance

The focus was on reiteration of previous positions, including:

- Promotion of multilateralism under the auspices of a reformed UN which gave a greater voice to the EMDCs and LDCs;
- Strengthening of the role of G20 for global economic governance;
- WTO reform anchored on special and differential treatment, especially for promoting the interests of developing members and LDCs, and speeding up the selection process of Appellate Body members to restore the binding two-tier multilateral dispute settlement mechanism;
- BRICS commitment to promote quota based and adequately resourced IMF; and
- Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Expediting Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This implementation in three dimensions -economic, social and environmental- was reaffirmed. Donor countries were urged to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and facilitate transfer of technology as required by recipient countries. The implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement was to be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities because of different national circumstances. The Declaration reiterated that developed countries had historical responsibilities for global climate change and should therefore take the lead in scaling up mitigation actions and also supporting developing countries. It opposed green trade barriers and unjustified discriminatory measures that sought to shift the burden of addressing climate change to other trading partners, developing countries and BRICS members.

Calling on all parties to adopt the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it welcomed the first phase of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). It also reiterated the importance of implementing the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries and welcomed the Strategy on Food Security Cooperation of BRICS Countries which produced 1/3 of world's food. It proposed a High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development to deepen cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, digital transformation, stability of supply chains and low-carbon development. It expressed support for the African Union Agenda 2063 and for Africa's integration through the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

#### Intra-BRICS

#### Solidarity to Combat Covid-19

Solidarity was imperative to ensure the availability of safe, efficacious, accessible and affordable vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics to people, especially in developing countries. Major deliberations included:

- Calling for the leading role of WHO, and strengthening local production of vaccines.
- Welcoming the convening of the BRICS
   High Level Forum on Traditional Medicine.
- Launch of BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.
- Emphasis on the urgent need to establish a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infection disease risks in accordance with WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.

#### **Promoting Economic Recovery**

The post-Covid environment entailed a re-emphasis on implementing the Strate-

gy for BRICS Partnership 2025 by activating all relevant ministerial tracks and working groups. This included: The 'Buy BRICS' online initiative, the BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework, the BRICS Initiative on Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development, the BRICS Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on Supply Chains, the BRICS Framework of Cooperation on Trade in Services, and the role of BRICS Business Council for implementing BRICS Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap.

The admission of 4 new members to the NDB and the opening of the NDB's regional office in India led to the enhancement of the NDB's international influence. The Bank was encouraged to mobilize finance from diversified sources. A decision was taken to establish the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance to provide intellectual support on finance issues amongst BRICS countries. The core for economic recovery and sustainable development was the key role in infrastructure investment through the NDB. The Declaration supported the amendment to the Contingent Reserve Arrangement Treaty which would enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of the CRA mechanism, which was tested for the fifth time through a CRA test run in 2022.

Significantly, the Summit Declaration supported the coordination between CRA and the IMF. It viewed the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism as playing a very important role in BRICS economic and trade cooperation. The renewal of the MOU between Member Development Banks of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism and the NDB was a step in this direction.

The need for strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation in human resource development through the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competences, the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre, and BRICS Start-up Events was reiterated. The Declaration recognized the importance of BRICS customs enforcement cooperation. Cooperation in the fields of standardization, tax information exchange, IPR, patents, trademarks and industrial design was seen as essential for promoting the role of MSMEs in BRICS economies.

#### **Safeguarding Peace and Security**

The major focus of the Declaration was on the following:

- In the context of the War in Ukraine, the Declaration supported talks between Russia and Ukraine and provided humanitarian assistance through UN agencies and ICRC.
- Support for an independent, stable and secure Afghanistan without interference in its internal affairs. Reiterating the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, it called on Afghan authorities to combat drug-related crime, free it from the scourge of drugs, and not allow its territory to be used for sheltering ter-

rorists.

- On the Iranian nuclear issue the Summit supported the preservation of JCPOA and UNSCR 2231.
- It called for complete denuclearization of North Korea.
- The role of the African Union was commended for addressing regional challenges as well as for maintaining peace and security in Africa in collaboration with the UN.
- It devoted substantial attention to strengthening arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, agreements and negotiations, especially of BTWC and CWC, including a call for a legally binding Protocol to CWC that provided for an efficient verification mechanism.
- It called for a legally binding multilateral instrument to address the prevention of arms race in outer space (PAROS) and its weaponization. It recognized the contribution of the existing Draft Treaty on The Prevention of Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) pending in the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva.
- It welcomed the 22 Jan 2022 Joint Statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races signed by the UK, France, the US, China, and Russia.
- It expressed concern over the criminal

misuse of ICTs. While calling for a legal framework for cooperation among BRICS countries for security in the use of ICTs, the Beijing Declaration supported the role of the UN in promoting dialogue on ICT security and developing a universal legal framework in this realm. Significantly it acknowledged the need for practical intra-BRICS cooperation for security in the use of ICTs by implementation of the BRICS Roadmap of Practical Cooperation.

- While condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations it warned that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
- It called for early finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework, and negotiations on an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Chemical and Biological Terrorism at the Conference of Disarmament.

#### Corruption

- It welcomed the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption and called for strengthening international cooperation against corruption. The first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting took place.
- It commended the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group's role in combating transnational drug trafficking, and the

three UN Drug Control Conventions.

#### **Deepening People-to-People Exchanges**

Such exchanges for understanding and friendship among the people of BRICS countries have been an important limb of intra-BRICS cooperation. 'Agreement between Governments of BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022-2026)' was meant to deepen cooperation in art, culture, cultural heritage, and cultural industry. The Declaration recognized the progress in education, especially Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) cooperation, and the establishment of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance. It reiterated the importance of digitisation in education and the strengthening of cooperation between BRICS Network University and the BRICS University League. It looked forward to the holding of the BRICS Sports Ministers Meeting in 2022. It recognized the contributions made by the BRICS Women's Business Alliance for deepening BRICS economic and trade cooperation. It supported the fifth BRICS Media Forum and BRICS International Journalism Training Program within the Forum.

# 4.1.5. 2023 Summit: Collaborative Strategies for Global Progress

BRICS Joint Statement of June 2023 following the Summit in Cape Town, South Africa in large measure reiterated previous commitments on political and security issues, economic and financial cooperation, and cultural people to people exchanges. The Summit Declarations were mostly in the nature of reiterations.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### **Governance & Security**

The Summit resolved to strengthen the framework of mutually beneficial BRICS cooperation under the three pillars - political and security, economic and financial, and cultural people-to-people cooperation - and to enhance BRICS strategic partnership.

#### Economy, Trade & Finance

The Summit leaders acknowledged that global trade had weakened, that there were tighter financial conditions globally, higher interest rates and inflation, and increased debt vulnerabilities. It called on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to increase their lending capacities, while safeguarding MDBs' long-term financial stability. It called for addressing debt vulnerabilities through coordinated implementation of the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment, with the participation of official bilateral creditors, private creditors and Multilateral Development Banks.

The Declaration reiterated the importance of the role of G20 as the premier multilateral forum in the field of international economic and financial cooperation that comprises both developed and emerging markets and developing countries where major economies jointly seek solutions to global challenges. The Declaration encouraged cooperation with UNIDO and requested the PartNIR Advisory Group to coordinate with UNIDO. As noted already, it reiterated support for the African Union Agenda 2063 and for Africa's efforts towards integration, including through the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

#### **UN Reform**

It expressed concern over the use of unilateral coercive measures, which are incompatible with the principles of the Charter of the UN and produce negative effects notably in the developing world. It expressed strong support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Council as well as the legitimate aspirations of emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Brazil, India and South Africa, to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the United Nations, including in the UN Security Council.

#### **Reform of IMF & WTO**

The Declaration supported a robust Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its centre. Any adjustment in quota shares should result in increases in the quota shares of emerging markets and developing economies (EM-DCs) while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members. It again called for reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, a greater role for emerging markets and developing countries, including in leadership positions in Bretton Woods institutions, that reflected the role of EMDCs in the world economy.

It also supported open, transparent, fair, predictable, inclusive, equitable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading systems with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core, with special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing countries, including Least Developed Countries. It also committed itself to pursue the necessary WTO reforms including the restoration of a two-tier binding WTO dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024, and the selection of new Appellate Body Members without further delay. It expressed concern over trade-restrictive measures inconsistent with WTO rules, including unilateral illegal measures such as sanctions, that affected agricultural trade.

#### Africa

The Declaration reiterated cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, to address regional challenges including maintaining peace and security. It reiterated that the principle 'African solutions to African problems' should continue to serve as the basis for conflict resolution. It reiterated concern about the worsening violence in Sudan. It supported the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya and called for a "Libyan-led and Libyan-owned" political process with UN-led mediation as the main channel. It supported a solution to the question of Western Sahara in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions and MINURSO. It reiterated support for the African Union Agenda 2063 and Africa's efforts towards integration, including through the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It congratulated the inclusion of the African Union as a member of the G20 at the New Delhi G20 Summit.

### Conflict in Syria, Palestine, Yemen & Ukraine

For Syria the Declaration supported all efforts conducive to a political and negotiated solution that respected Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity and the promotion of a lasting settlement to the Syrian crisis. It welcomed the readmission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the League of Arab States. It expressed deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories due to escalating violence under continued Israeli occupation and the expansion of illegal settlements. It called for negotiations based on UNSC and UNGA resolutions for a two-state solution, leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine. It supported the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy. It supported Yemen's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and commended the positive role of all the parties involved in bringing about a ceasefire and seeking a political solution to end the conflict.

#### Iran

The Declaration supported the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through peaceful and diplomatic means in accordance with international law, and stressed the importance of preserving the JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231. It welcomed the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

#### ICTs

It again expressed concern over the dangers of misuse of ICTs for criminal activities and threats and over the increasing level and complexity of criminal misuse of ICTs. It welcomed the ongoing efforts in the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes. The Declaration supported the leading role of the United Nations in promoting constructive dialogue on ensuring ICT security, including within the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Security. It flagged the importance of establishing legal frameworks of cooperation among BRICS countries to ensure security in the use of ICTs.

#### **BTWC, CWC & PAROS**

It supported the strengthening of disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, especially BTWC and CWC including by adopting a legally binding Protocol to the BTWC that provided for, inter alia, an efficient verification mechanism. It called for long-term sustainability of outer space activities and prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) and its weaponization, including through negotiations to adopt a relevant legally binding multilateral instrument

# Sustainable Development & Climate Change

The Declaration reaffirmed the call for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner by mobilising the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda. It urged donor countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of technology along with additional development resources to developing countries, in line with the national policy objectives of recipients.

It resolved to continue to actively participate in international biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its protocols, and advance the implementation of its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances, priorities and capabilities.

The Declaration emphasised the importance of implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). It called for enhancing low-cost climate technology transfer, and capacity building as well as mobilizing resources for environmentally sustainable projects. BRICS countries would work together for a successful outcome of the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28).

The Declaration stressed the need for support by developed countries to developing countries for access to existing and emerging low-emission technologies and solutions that avoid, abate and remove GHG emissions and enhance adaptation action to address climate change. It expressed a strong determination to contribute to a successful COP28 in Dubai in 2023 with a focus on implementation and cooperation. It called upon developed countries to fill outstanding gaps in means of implementation for mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries. It also urged developed countries to honour their commitments, including mobilizing USD 100bn per annum by 2020 and through 2025 to support climate action in developing countries. This would extend to support for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Declaration opposed trade barriers, including those under the pretext of tackling climate change, imposed by certain developed countries, and it reiterated BRICS' commitment to enhancing coordination on these issues. It underlined that measures taken to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss must be WTO-consistent and must not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

It expressed the belief that the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to be held at the UN General Assembly in September 2023 would be a critical step for mobilizing the highest political support for UHC as the cornerstone to achieving SDG 3 (good health and well-being). It reiterated support for the international initiatives with the leadership of WHO, on addressing tuberculosis (TB) and looked forward to actively engaging in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in New York in September 2023 and encouraging an assertive political declaration.

#### **Agriculture & Food Security**

The Declaration emphasized the need to deliver on agriculture reform in accordance with the mandate in Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, while recognizing the importance of respecting the mandates with regards to a Permanent Solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes and special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries.

#### **Terrorism & Corruption**

The Declaration again expressed commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens. It reiterated that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It called for expeditious finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework and for launching multilateral negotiations on an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Chemical and Biological Terrorism, at the Conference of Disarmament. It supported the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

#### **International Law in Conflict Situation**

It supported the imperative of refraining from any coercive measures not based

on international law and the UN Charter. It voiced respect for international humanitarian law in conflict situations and the provision of humanitarian aid in accordance with the basic principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence established in UNGA resolution 46/182.

#### Intra-BRICS

#### **Economy & Finance**

Within BRICS the Declaration emphasized the importance of continued implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 in all relevant ministerial tracks and working groups.

## Digital Economy, Part NIR, Business Council, & Trade in Services

The Declaration recognized the dynamism of the digital economy in enabling global economic growth and welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Digital Economy Working Group. It called for cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and payment systems to promote trade and investment flows and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in trade in services as established in the BRICS Framework for Cooperation on Trade in Services and the BRICS Business Council. It reiterated its call for strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation to intensify the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) and create new opportunities for accelerating industrial development. It supported intra-BRICS

cooperation in human resource development on new technologies through the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competences (BCIC), BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre, and BRICS Start-up Forum. It also reiterated the importance of implementing the Action Plan 2021-2024 for the Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries and welcomed the Strategy on Food Security Cooperation of the BRICS countries. It underscored the need for resilient food supply chains.

#### **MSMEs**

Recognizing the crucial role that Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MS-MEs) play in unlocking the full potential of BRICS economies, the Declaration reaffirmed the importance of their participation in production networks and value chains. It called upon Member States to facilitate the exchange of business missions and promote sector-specific business-to-business (B2B) meetings amongst the MSMEs, to enhance enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and business alliances between the MSMEs.

#### **Payment Systems**

The Summit welcomed the sharing of experience by BRICS members on payment infrastructures, including the interlinking of cross-border payment systems. It believed this would further enhance cooperation among the BRICS countries. For that, it encouraged further dialogue on payment instruments to facilitate trade and investment flows between the BRICS members as well as other developing countries. It called for a report by the BRICS Payment Task Force (BPTF) on the mapping of the various elements of the G20 Roadmap on cross-border Payments in BRICS countries.

#### **Use of Local Currency**

The Summit stressed the importance of encouraging the use of local currencies in international trade and financial transactions between BRICS as well as their trading partners. It encouraged the strengthening of banking networks between the BRICS countries and enabled settlements in local currencies. The Summit Declaration tasked BRICS Finance Ministers and/or Central Bank Governors to consider the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms and report back to BRICS by the next Summit.

#### NDB & CRA

NDB was seen as an important member of the global MDB family, given its unique status as an institution created by EMDCs for EMDCs. Recognising the key role of the NDB in promoting infrastructure and sustainable development, the Summit Declaration expected the NDB to provide and maintain the most effective financing solutions for sustainable development. A steady process in membership expansion was envisaged along with improvements in corporate governance and operational effectiveness towards the fulfilment of NDB's General Strategy for 2022-2026. It welcomed three new members of the NDB, namely Bangladesh, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) continued to be an important mechanism for mitigating the effects of a crisis, complementing existing international financial and monetary arrangements, and contributing to the strengthening of the global financial safety net. The Declaration reiterated BRICS' commitment to the continued strengthening of the CRA and looked forward to the successful completion of the sixth Test later in 2023. It supported progress made to amend the outstanding technical issues on the Inter-Central Bank Agreement.

#### Energy

While emphasising the fundamental role of access to energy in achieving SDGs and noting the risks to energy security, the Declaration highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation amongst the BRICS countries as major producers and consumers of energy products and services. It shared a common view on the efficient use of all energy sources, namely: renewable energy, including biofuels, hydropower, fossil fuels, nuclear energy and hydrogen produced on the basis of zero and low-emission technologies and processes, which were seen as crucial for a just transition towards more flexible, resilient and sustainable energy systems.

#### Education

The Declaration expressed the need to facilitate mutual recognition of academic qualifications amongst BRICS countries to ensure the mobility of skilled professionals, academics, and students, and recognition of qualifications obtained in each other's countries subject to compliance with applicable domestic laws. It agreed to explore opportunities on BRICS digital education cooperative mechanisms, hold dialogues on digital education policies, share digital educational resources, build smart education systems, and jointly promote the digital transformation of education in BRICS countries. It called for developing a sustainable education by strengthening the cooperation within BRICS Network University and through other institution-to-institution initiatives.

#### Think Tanks, Space, Tourism, IPR

It welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance in 2022. It supported the work of the Task Force on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Infrastructure in sharing knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt on the effective development and delivery of infrastructure for the benefit of all member countries. It encouraged the BRICS Space agencies to continue enhancing the level of cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing and applications, to provide data support for the economic and social development of the BRICS countries. It called for exchanges and cooperation among BRICS countries in tourism, competition, standardisation, and intellectual property rights through the BRICS IPR Cooperation Mechanism (IPRCM) as well as through the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices in BRICS countries.

#### **People-to-People Exchanges**

The Declaration reaffirmed the importance of BRICS people-to-people exchanges in enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation. It reiterated the importance of the BRICS Youth Summit as a forum for meaningful engagement on youth matters. It commended the successful holding of the BRICS Business Forum. It welcomed the BRICS Business Council's self-reflection with a focus on milestones achieved and areas of improvement. It welcomed the intention of the BRICS Business Council to track intra-BRICS trade flows, identify areas where trade performance had not met expectations and recommend solutions. It recognised the value of the BRICS Academic Forum as a platform for deliberations and discussions by leading BRICS academics on the issues confronting BRICS. It reaffirmed commitments under all the instruments and Agreements signed and adopted by the Governments of the BRICS States on cooperation in the field of culture and committed BRICS to operationalise the Action Plan (2022-2026) as a matter of urgency through the BRICS Working Group on Culture. The Declaration supported the protection, preservation, restoration and promotion of the cultural heritage of BRICS countries, including both tangible and intangible heritage. It committed BRICS countries to promoting the digitization of the culture. It welcomed the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Sports to develop a BRICS Sport Cooperation Framework.

#### Institutional Development

BRICS countries reached a consensus on the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process. They decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024. The Summit leaders tasked BRICS Foreign Ministers to further develop the BRICS partner country model and a list of prospective partner countries and report by the next Summit.

# Motivations, Aims and Performance of NDB and CRA

The flagship of BRICS is the New Development Bank, backed by the CRA, as it gives it teeth to directly operationalize its core commitments, which are regularly aired in all BRICS Summit Declarations to, inter alia, promote sustainable development in the EMDCs and LDCs. There are frequent references in BRICS Summit Declarations to 'negative spill-over effects of policy actions of the US' and Europe. These references were raised initially by Paulo Nogueira Batista, a Brazilian economist who was an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund from April 2007 to June 2015, and who was one of the founding members of the New Development (NDB) where he served as Vice President between 2015 and 2017. According to him, the international lending rules of IMF were opaquely changed overnight, during the financial crisis starting in 2008, for Greece by adding a clause that there could be spill-over and risk of international contagion. According to him, fiscal austerity and capital controls, enforced by the IMF tended to undercut growth in Greece, Portugal and Iceland. Decrease in wages and prices, to make their economies competitive, actually led to an increase in the debt burden of these countries.

According to Batista after the 2008 crisis, it was agreed that BRICS countries would cooperate with developed countries to solve the crisis, including providing funds to the IMF. Russia, India, China, Brazil and South Africa lent money to the IMF. So instead of borrowers, BRICS countries became creditors of the Fund. It was India that initiated the process of creating the New Development Bank in 2013. This was followed by Brazil starting negotiations for the CRA which is like the Monetary Fund of BRICS, which moved from fighting only for reform of the IMF and World Bank to creating its own Bank and a Fund. As already noted, treaties were signed in 2014 at the Fortaleza Summit in Brazil to create the CRA and NDB. A multilateral Bank with global reach was created by emerging markets alone with no participation of developed countries. The NDB works in cooperation with the IMF, WB and ADB. CRA is a mechanism to address the balance of payment issues. The major contributor of the \$100 billion CRA is China. It did not have a surveillance mechanism like the Chiang Mai Initiative which has a surveillance unit in Singapore. The CRA reserves are with respective Banks of BRICS countries, they are not deposited anywhere and would be disbursed only when the need arises. So, it is a potential virtual reserve pooling arrangement like the Chiangmai Initiative, different from the IMF which has actual reserves deposited with the Fund.

According to the World Bank (WB), developing countries need about \$2.4<sup>10</sup> trillion per year to address the global challenge of climate change, conflict and pandemic. The WB alone has approved 322 operations in 90 countries for a total of \$72.8 billion from IBRD & IDA, \$43.7 billion from IFC, and \$6.4 billion in guarantees from MIGA from a total of \$122.9 billion in fiscal 2023. Like the New Development Bank, the WB also is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement. It mobilized \$37.5 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine. The total crisis financing between 2022 April and 2023 June was \$171.6 billion. Africa received \$38.6 billion, Latin America \$18.2 billion, South Asia \$15.4 billion, East Asia & Pacific \$13 billion, Europe & Central Asia \$36.2 billion, and Middle East & North Africa received \$6.8 billion. The bulk of the WB financing was on Public Administration, Energy, Social Protection, Agriculture, Water and sanitation, and Health and Transport. For 2023 World Bank Group commitments are \$128.34 billion and disbursement \$91.39 billion. It has Executive Directors from India, China, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Indonesia and Russia, so it is represented despite the debate on quotas and vote share.

In comparison, the financing by the New Development Bank of BRICS countries, which started in earnest in 2016 for renewable energy projects, is rather modest. According to a 24th August 2023 Press Release<sup>11</sup>, "since its inception, the Bank has supported 98 investment projects corresponding to approximately \$33 billion". These projects are overwhelmingly 'sovereign projects' (87%) all of them in BRICS countries. The only exception is Dhaka Water Supply Project<sup>12</sup> in Bangladesh with an "approved" status as of 29th Aug 2023 and a "proposed limit" equivalent to US\$ 320 million. Project wise the share of China is 25%, India 24%, South Africa 18%, Brazil 17%, and Russia 16%. The maximum number of projects are for Emergency Assistance 31%, followed by Transport 23%, Clean Energy 13%, Urban Development 13%, Irrigation Water and sanitation 7%, Environment 4%, Infrastructure 2% and 'Multiple' 5%. Surprisingly the allocation is predominantly in US\$ 67%, Euro 8% and CHF 2%, with BRICS member currencies accounting for only 22%, of which the Chinese Yuan is 18%, ZAR ~4% and the Indian Rupee a mere 0.3%. The actual amounts disbursed are not clear.

While the voting power of each member is equal to the number of its subscribed shares in the capital stock of the Bank, no BRICS member has veto power. India, China, Brazil, Russia and South Africa have an equal shareholding of 18.98% each. Egypt has 2.27%, Bangladesh 1.79% and UAE 1.06%. Even though the NDB is not a Bank only to fund projects in BRICS countries alone, in actual practice its lending to non-BRICS countries has been negligible despite the stated goal of BRICS Declarations to provide funding for sustainable development projects in other emerging economies and LDCs.

# The Second Cycle - (2014-2018) Building on the success

Shift towards a greater focus on Africa and sustainable development with a Steadfast commitment to economic collaboration, with emphasis on currency cooperation, technological innovation, and counter-terrorism underscores BRICS' evolving role in shaping global affairs.



#### 2014 Summit (Fortaleza, Brazil)

- Signing of Agreements to establish the New Development Bank and the Treaty for the Establishment of a BRICS Contingency Reserve Arrangement.
- Development Funds: Agreement to fund projects supporting infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging markets.

#### 2015 Summit (Ufa, Russia)

- Signing of Agreements: BRICS Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, the MOU on Cooperation between the BRICS Banking Mechanism and the New Development Bank, and the MOU on the Establishment of a BRICS Joint Website.
- Accepting constituting agreements of the CRA and the New Development Bank

#### 2016 Summit (Goa, India)

#### **Expansion of Outreach:**

Meetings with leaders from Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BIMSTEC.

#### **Economic Achievements:**

The Paris Agreement contribution, establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), and progress in customs cooperation.

#### 2017 Summit (Xiamen, China)

#### **Economic Cooperation:**

Emphasis on practical economic cooperation within BRICS, with positive outcomes in trade and investment, banking, and efforts against restrictive trade practices.

#### **Innovation Focus:**

Recognition of dissatisfaction with internet resource management, stressing joint research in emerging technologies, and commitment to increasing investment in ICT research.

#### 2018 Summit (Johannesburg, South Africa)

#### Focus on Africa:

A significant shift towards Africa, highlighting the importance of Africa's industrialization, supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area, and recommending the establishment of the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution.

#### Currency Cooperation:

The decision to promote local currency bond markets and establish a BRICS local currency bond fund to enhance financial cooperation.

#### Sustainable Development:

Reiteration of commitment to sustainable development, cooperation on universal energy access, and support for initiatives in agriculture, environment, and biodiversity conservation.

#### Counter-Terrorism:

Continued support for international counter-terrorism efforts, adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism, including its misuse on the internet.

# 4.2.1. 2014 Summit: Shaping Global Dynamics Through Unity and Critique

# Claiming The Material & Moral High Ground

The BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil<sup>13</sup> on 15th July 2014 was held in the backdrop of momentous events in BRICS countries. Brazil saw the beginning of economic recession in the first half of 2014. Referendum in Crimea on 16th March 2014 in favour of Russia. In India the NDA won a landslide victory in the General Elections of May 2014 securing 336 seats in Parliament with Narendra Modi as the new Honorable Prime Minister. China, despite an economic slowdown, achieved a GDP growth rate of 7.4% in 2014. In South Africa, the May 2014 election saw the ANC under leadership of Jacob Zuma retain power with a landslide victory securing 249 seats in Parliament.

The Summit witnessed a sharp criticism of the economic policies and political postures of Developed Countries, and also of the governance of international financial and monetary organizations controlled by them. The criticism was complemented by claims of the robust financial and economic strength of BRICS countries. The Fortaleza Declaration drew attention to "non-conventional emerging threats", even as international governance structures were "losing legitimacy and effectiveness" at the expense of multilateralism. While again holding monetary policies of advanced countries responsible for renewed stress and volatility in global financial markets, it remarked that "robust levels of reserves have allowed EMDCs in general and in the BRICS countries, in particular, to "better deal with the risks and spill-overs". It described BRICS economies "as the main engines for sustaining the pace of the international economy", maintaining that BRICS "economic growth and social inclusion policies have helped stabilize the global economy" and contributed to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. It was confident that BRICS would continue to play a significant role in contributing to "define the international agenda". It saw the solution predictively in "macroeconomic coordination amongst all major economies, in particular, the G20" to attain a "vigorous and sustainable recovery worldwide". It commended Russia for the successful presidency of G20 in 2013.

#### **Intra BRICS**

The high point was the signing of the Agreement amongst BRICS countries establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other EMDCs. It was carefully projected as an institution to "supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development". NDB had an authorized capital of US\$100 billion, and an initial subscribed capital of US\$50 billion, equally shared amongst the founding members. Positions were carefully distributed amongst all BRICS countries: Brazil held the first chair of the Board of Directors; Russia held the first Chair of the Board of Governors; India appointed the first President of the Bank; China got the Bank's location in Shanghai; and South Africa hosting the NDB Africa Regional Centre.

Complementing the establishment of NDB was the announcement of the signing of the Treaty for the establishment of the **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement** (CRA) with an initial size of US\$100 billion to help countries forestall short-term liquidity pressures, promote BRICS cooperation and strengthen global financial safety net complementing existing international arrangement. The amounts committed were: China – US\$41 billion; Brazil, Russia, and India - US\$18 billion each. Significantly the "commitments shall not involve outright transfer of funds, committed resources shall be made available for any eligible request<sup>14</sup>", meaning thereby that the committed amounts would remain with respective Central Banks of BRICS countries. The signing of the MOU on Cooperation among BRICS Export Credit and Guarantees Agencies was also announced.

Concern was expressed over aggressive tax avoidance and non-compliance practices. Therefore, it was decided to exchange information for tax purposes. It emphasised the importance of establishing a "road map for intra-BRICS economic cooperation and welcomed proposals for a 'BRICS Economic Cooperation Strategy' and a 'Framework for Closer Economic Partnership'. Based on inputs from the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC), sherpas were instructed to submit firm proposals by the next summit. It reiterated the important role of State Owned Companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

To maintain the momentum of the BRICS Third Business Council, Fifth Business Forum, and Fourth Financial Forum meetings, the Declaration encouraged respective business communities to follow up on these initiatives by deepening dialogue with Industry/Sector Working Groups with a view to intensifying trade and investment flows amongst BRICS countries and other countries. It also commended the work of BTTC especially the study: 'Towards a Long-Term Strategy for BRICS: Recommendations by the BTTC', and the establishment of the BRICS Information Sharing and Exchange Platform. In continuation of the past practice, the Declaration laid out the Fortaleza Action Plan<sup>15</sup> which was entirely intra-BRICS oriented.

#### **BRICS & The World**

# Economy, Finance and Governance Issues

The Declaration reiterated: disappointment over non-implementation of 2010 IMF reforms; call for implementation of 14th General Review of Quotas to increase the voice and representation of EMDCs; call for democratizing the governance structures of the World Bank; continuation of efforts towards successful conclusion of the Doha Round of WTO following positive results of MC9 held in Bali in December 2013; support for the WTO dispute settlement system. The Declaration supported the UN Convention Against Corruption. While recognizing the value of demographic dividend, the Declaration called for meeting the challenges of ageing population and mortality reduction.

#### **UN Reform**

It expressed a strong commitment to the UN for maintaining peace and stability and sustainable development and the need for comprehensive reform of the UN including the UNSC.

#### Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The Declaration reiterated the BRICS commitment to implement the Convention on Biodiversity and its Protocols, especially the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets. It again urged countries to build on decisions adopted in the UNF-CCC to reach a successful conclusion by 2015 of negotiations on the development of a protocol having legal force in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities. It reiterated the dynamic link between renewable and clean energy and sustainable development. It recalled the acceptance by BRICS of the Rio Principles on sustainable development and welcomed the UNGA Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals. The Declaration reiterated support for the UNGA Open Working Group on SDGs to achieve a consensual proposal on SDGs. It called for sustainable development financing with ODA as a major source of financing along with the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

#### **Counter Terrorism & ICTs**

The Declaration once again affirmed the BRICS commitment to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy expressing deep concern over the increasing use by terrorists of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It condemned acts of mass electronic surveillance and data collection of individuals.

# 4.2.2 2015 Summit: Fostering Global Development and Economic Innovation

The theme of the Ufa, Russia Summit of 9th July 2015 was 'BRICS Partnership- A Powerful Factor of Global Development'. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks<sup>16</sup> at the Plenary Session centred on development underlying the core of India's vision and agenda as a member of BRICS. It resonated with the raison d'etre of BRICS. He made the following points:

#### Honorable Prime Minister Modi's Address

- BRICS was a vital pillar of hope in a world faced with political and economic challenges.
- The work of BRICS was not limited to just BRICS countries, but also towards the welfare of the world, especially developing countries.
- Because challenges were fundamentally the same, there was a need for consensus, collaboration and cooperation among big countries.
- The world needed to make major decisions on issues of climate change.
- Reforms in the UNSC are essential.
- BRICS countries had to fight together as one in the BRICS forum and in the United Nations, in the UNSC and various committees of the UN.
- The main agenda for the UN should be development and poverty alleviation.
- BRICS had achieved success in the economic field which included: the National Development Bank, Contingent Reserve Fund, Export Credit Insurance, Financing for Innovation, and proposals for Customs Cooperation and Insurance Pool.
- BRICS Economic Cooperation Strategy was a milestone in the development of BRICS.
- On the major global issue of climate change, BRICS countries should establish an Energy Efficient Technologies

programme to provide cheap renewable energy to the world, with the NDB playing a key role.

- BRICS should focus on BRICS Digital Initiative, and use digital technology to make delivery of services more efficient.
- The world needs to focus on women's empowerment.
- There was a need to establish BRICS Agriculture Research Centre.
- BRICS countries could contribute to making water available in developing countries.
- To meet the challenges of urbanisation, there was a need for BRICS countries to cooperate.
- There was a need to establish a BRICS Sports Council to conduct yearly BRICS sports meets.

# **Overarching Political Component**

The Declaration<sup>17</sup> had a strong political message. It was decided to hold meetings with Heads of State of Eurasian Economic Union as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). BRICS also took upon itself the task of "coordination of global politics in order to prevent war and conflict". It paid tribute to those "who fought against fascism and militarism" in World War II. It condemned unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions that were in violation of international law.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### Economy, Trade & Finance

The Summit Declaration called for the coordination of macro-economic policies between all leading economies, especially for the free movement of capital, labour and goods. It emphasised the need for coordination within G20 to reduce the risk of potential spill-overs due to the unconventional policies of advanced economies. It resolved to continue intra-BRICS consultation and coordination on the G20 agenda, especially on issues that were of mutual interest to the BRICS countries. It reiterated the role of the G20 as the premier forum for international financial and economic cooperation. It expressed disappointment, with the prolonged failure of the United States to ratify the IMF, 2010, Reform Package. It expressed concern regarding the challenges of sovereign debt restructuring and welcomed discussions in the UN to improve sovereign debt restructuring processes and called on all G20 countries as well to participate in these processes. Regarding the WTO, it again reiterated its support for an open transparent non-discriminatory rulebased multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO.

## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

The Declaration welcomed the Report of the Open Working Group of the UNGA on Sustainable Development Goals and emphasized that proposals of the Open Working Group should be the main basis for the integration of sustainable development goals into the Post-2015 development agenda. It stressed the need for a coherent approach to attain inclusive and balanced integration of economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development. It urged developed countries to honour their commitments of Official Development Assistance in full and on time. It expressed readiness to address climate change in a global context and at the national level and to achieve a comprehensive, effective and equitable agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It again stressed the importance of the transfer of technology and scientific knowledge to address climate change. It also supported the establishment of a platform for sharing environmentally sound technologies as a new international mechanism for public-private partnerships that could assist in addressing environmental challenges in BRICS countries.

#### **Terrorism & Security Issues**

The Declaration reiterated strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed again that there could be no justification for any act of terrorism. It supported relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN global counterterrorism strategy. It again reaffirmed BRICS' support to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation. It sought to intensify cooperation on FATF as well as FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).

## Disarmament

It reaffirmed the need for using outer space only for peaceful purposes and for discussing issues that were on the agenda of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS).

#### **Intra BRICS**

### Economy, Trade & Finance

#### Use of National Currencies

In a significant move the Declaration acknowledged the potential for expanding the use of BRICS national currencies in transactions between BRICS countries and asked authorities in BRICS countries to continue the discussion on the feasibility of a wider use of national currencies in mutual trade. Simultaneously, it again remarked that robust levels of reserves had allowed BRICS countries to better deal with the spill-over effects of the policies of developed economies.

## NDB & BRICS Inter-bank Cooperation Mechanism

It reaffirmed the important role played by the BRICS Inter-bank Cooperation Mechanism and welcomed the signing of the MOU on Cooperation with the New Development Bank and national development banks and institutions. It reiterated that the NDB would serve as a powerful instrument for financing, infrastructure, investment and sustainable development projects in the BRICS and other developing countries as well as emerging market economies. NDB would cooperate closely with existing and new financial mechanisms including the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It adopted the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership and asked relevant ministries in BRICS countries to take practical steps for the efficient implementation of this strategy. It emphasised the important role of the New Development Bank, the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism, the BRICS Business Council, the BRICS Business Forum, and the BRICS Think Tanks Council in the implementation of this strategy.

#### **Taxation & IPR**

It applauded the progress made in the implementation of the BRICS Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework. It also welcomed the initiative on strengthening IPR cooperation among the BRICS countries. On tax matters, it reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate for countering erosion of tax base and profit shifting. Profits were to be taxed where the economic activities driving the profits were being performed and value created.

## Industry, Energy & Agriculture

The Declaration stressed the importance of intensifying cooperation in enhancing industrial production capabilities and encouraging investment in infrastructure, logistics and renewable sources of energy. It also reiterated the commitment of BRICS countries to further develop agricultural cooperation, particularly in agricultural technology and innovation, mitigation of the negative impact of climate change on food, security and the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

### **Connectivity, Population & Health**

It recognised the significance of connectivity in enhancing economic ties and fostering closer relationships among BRICS countries. It welcomed the first meeting of BRICS ministers responsible for population matters in Brasilia on 12 February 2015. It underscored the challenge of an ageing population and the need to reduce mortality for effective use of the demographic dividend. It called for the implementation of universal and equitable access to health services by BRICS countries and to coordinate efforts of BRICS countries for combating communicable diseases through research, production, development and supply of medicines.

#### **Education, Science & Technology**

The Second BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting took place in Brasilia in March 2015 and celebrated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation, which provided a strategic framework for cooperation in this field. Taking into consideration immense research and technological potential in the BRICS countries and building on the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovations, it reaffirmed the importance of the BRICS Research and Innovation Initiative. The Declaration supported inclusive and equitable quality education and recognized the importance of Vocational Education and Training as an instrument of improving employment opportunities, including for young people entering the labour market. It encouraged students' mobility among BRICS countries.

#### **Terrorism & ICT**

On ICTs The Declaration called for bridging the gap between developed and developing countries. To strengthen cooperation in the area of ICT it decided to constitute a BRICS Working Group on ICT Cooperation. It condemned mass electronic surveillance and data collection of individuals all over the world as a violation of the sovereignty of states and of human rights. It reaffirmed the approach to ICT as set forth in the eThekwini and Fortaleza Declarations. It resolved to seek to develop practical cooperation within BRICS countries to tackle the challenges in the use of ICT.

## 4.2.3. 2016 Summit: Advancing Cooperation, Innovation, and Global Governance

#### **Recalling Some Achievements of BRICS**

The 7th BRICS Summit was held in Goa, India on 15-16 October 2016. It saw the continuation of a distinct trend to increase the footprint and outreach of BRICS. In the 2015 Summit, it was decided to hold meetings with Heads of State of the Eurasian Economic Union as well as the Shanahai Cooperation Organization (SCO). At the Goa Summit, it was decided to hold meetings between BRICS and the leaders of BIMSTEC. The Summit dwelt on the progress that had been achieved through sustained efforts by BRICS countries. This included BRICS contribution to the Paris Agreement, the BRICS Network University as well as the BRICS University League, the signing of the Regulations on Customs Cooperation Committee of the BRICS in line with the undertaking in the 'Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership to Strengthen Interaction Among BRICS Customs Administrations, the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the BRICS countries' national development banks and the New Development Bank, and the first loans by NDB for renewable energy projects.

## Intra BRICS Economy & Finance

### Banking & Trade

The Goa Declaration noted the operationalization of the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the fact that NDB had given the first set of loans to renewable energy projects. It expressed the confidence that close cooperation between the sectoral cooperation mechanisms - the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues, the BRICS Business Council, the New Development Bank, and the BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism - was crucial for strengthening the BRICS economic partnership. It welcomed the hosting of the First BRICS Trade Fair in New Delhi as an important step to implement the 'Strategy of BRICS Economic Partnership'. It directed the BRICS Business Council to accelerate the development and realization of joint projects.

It recognises the important role of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism and welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the BRICS countries' national development banks and the New Development Bank. It welcomed the initiative of the Export-Import Bank of India to institute annual BRICS economic research awards to promote advanced research in economics which was of relevance to BRICS countries. In order to strengthen the BRICS partnership it endorsed the Goa Action Plan.

### Customs

The Declaration called for enhanced cooperation to address not only illicit cross-border financial flows and tax evasion but also trade mis-invoicing. It commended the establishment of the Customs Cooperation Committee of BRICS aimed at creating a legal basis for customs cooperation and facilitating procedures of customs control. It noted the signing of the Regulations on Customs Cooperation Committee of the BRICS in line with the undertaking in the 'Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership to Strengthen Interaction Among BRICS Customs Administrations'.

## **Taxation & Corruption**

The Declaration reiterated: the importance of the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the BRICS Academic Forum as a platform for the exchange of views of experts. It reaffirmed the commitment of BRICS towards a fair and modern tax system and called for effective tackling of 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting'. It reaffirmed that profits should be taxed in the jurisdiction where the economic activity is performed and the value created. On corruption, it called for the strengthening of international cooperation against corruption, including through the BRICS anti-corruption working group.

#### **ICTs, FATF & FSRB**

The Goa Declaration reaffirmed BRICS' commitment to FATF International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation and called for swift implementation of FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing. It sought to intensify BRICS cooperation in FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs). It again called for strengthening security in the use of ICTs and reiterated the need to use and develop ICT through international and regional cooperation on the basis of principles of international law, including the Charter of the UN. It cautioned against increasing misuse of ICT for terrorist purposes, which posed a threat to international peace and security. It called for bridging the digital divide by sharing experiences among BRICS countries with regard to the usage of information and communication technology (ICT) in e-governance, and for financial inclusion and targeted delivery of benefits. It welcomed the setting up and the first meeting of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism on 14 September 2016, in New Delhi. It called for cooperation on population matters from 2015 to 2020.

## **Health Agriculture & Environment**

The Declaration noted that BRICS countries faced challenges of communicable diseases including HIV and tuberculosis. It noted efforts by BRICS Health Ministers to achieve the 90–90–90 HIV treatment target by 2020. It welcomed the high-level meeting on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR). It reaffirmed BRICS' commitment to promote balanced demographic development in accordance with the agenda for BRICS. It called for intensifying cooperation among BRICS countries in agricultural research policy, science and technology, innovation and capacity building. It welcomed the signing of an MOU for the establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform.

Welcoming the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Goa in September 2016, it welcomed the decision to share technical expertise in the areas of abatement and control of air and water pollution, efficient management of waste and sustainable management of biodiversity. The Declaration emphasised the importance of BRICS cooperation in the industrial sector including through BRICS Industry Ministers Meetings.

## Education, Youth, Tourism, Gender Equality, & Urbanization

On educational matters, it expressed satisfaction with the progress of the BRICS Network University as well as the BRICS University League, which would commence their programmes in 2017. It stressed the importance of implementing the BRICS Research and Innovation Initiative and welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Working Group on Research, Infrastructure and Mega Science to reinforce the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network. The Declaration reiterated BRICS' commitment to gender, equality and empowerment of all women and girls as contained in the 2030 agenda. It welcomed the outcome of the BRICS Youth Summit, the BRICS Convention on Tourism. It recognised the multidimensional challenges and opportunities of urbanization and welcomed the BRICS Urbanization Forum, and the BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave held in Visakhapatnam and in Mumbai.

## **BRICS & The World**

### **Economy Finance & Governance**

In many ways the Goa Declaration succinctly listed BRICS' core agenda for governance by reiterating:

- The need and importance of BRICS solidarity across all platforms ranging from the UN to G20;
- Recognition of the role of G20 as the premier forum for international and financial cooperation;
- Need for enhanced BRICS coordination on the G20 agenda;
- The need for an equitable and just multipolar international order;
- The global character of security challenges and threats facing the international community;
- The condemnation of unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions;
- the need for comprehensive reform of the UN including of the UNSC, and the aspirations of India, South Africa and Brazil to play a greater role in the UN;
- The deep concern over the situation in the Middle East, North Africa, Syria and

Afghanistan;

- Support to African Union's vision for Africa's development enshrined in Agenda 2063;
- The guiding principles of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR);
- The need for developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) to achieve 0.7% of gross national income commitment for ODA to developing countries;
- The adverse impact on the prospects of emerging economies of the spillover effects of certain policy measures in some advanced economies;
- The role of innovation as the key driver for long term growth and sustainable development;
- BRICS' commitment to a strong quota based and adequately resourced IMF;
- Concerns over challenges of sovereign debt restructurings;
- The centrality of a rule based non-discriminatory WTO in the multilateral trading system with development as its core agenda;
- Strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
- Need for International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Chemical and Biological Terrorism at the Conference on Disarmament.
- The need for negotiation for an in-

ternational agreement to prevent an arms race in outer space in the Conference on Disarmament.

 The need for substantive work based on the Draft 'Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of The Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects ' that was submitted by China and Russia.

## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

The Declaration welcomed the adoption of the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Summit on Sustainable Development on 25th September 2015. BRICS countries committed themselves to leading by example in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It welcomed the inclusion of RMB in the SDR currency basket on 10th October 2016. It welcomed the adoption of the Paris Agreement anchored in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It emphasised that the Paris Agreement reaffirmed the principles of UNFCCC, including the principle of equity and common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It called on advanced European countries to meet their commitment to cede two chairs on the Executive Board of the IMF. It decided to hold an Outreach Summit of BRICS Leaders with Leaders of BIMSTEC countries - Bay of

Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

## Disarmament

It welcomed the recent decision by UNCO-PUOS' Scientific and Technical Sub-committee Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to conclude negotiations and arrive at a consensus.

## 4.2.4. 2017 Summit: Unveiling Economic Synergy

The focus of Xiamen, China Declaration<sup>18</sup> on **4 September 2017** was on promoting and assessing the 'practical economic cooperation' within BRICS, and on taking a stand, intra-BRICS as well as on global, security issues. The most far-reaching deliberations of the Summit were as follows:

## Intra-BRICS

#### **Economy Trade & Finance**

#### Banking & Trade

- The Declaration recalled the fruitful results of intra-BRICS cooperation including in the establishment of NDB, CRA, and the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership and meetings of BRICS High Representatives for Security Issues and Foreign Ministers Meetings.
- It noted positive outcomes of the 7th

Trade Ministers Meeting in terms of the cooperative framework on trade and investment, facilitation and connectivity, enhanced policy sharing, information exchange, and capacity building through joint effort.

- It commended the BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism for playing an important role in supporting BRICS economic and trade cooperation.
- It called for the suppression of restrictive trade practices through interaction between Competition Authorities of BRICS countries.
- The Declaration noted solid global economic growth and warned against 'inward-looking policies'.
- It underlined the importance of enhancing BRICS, financial cooperation and the utilisation of existing facilities of the multilateral development banks (MDBs).

## Currency

- BRICS countries decided to promote the development of BRICS local currency bond markets and to jointly establish a BRICS local currency bond fund as a means of contributing to the capital sustainability of financing in BRICS countries.
- BRICS countries agreed to communicate closely for the enhancement of currency cooperation, including through currency swaps, local currency settlement and local currency di-

rect investment.

- It again emphasised the need for concluding a memorandum of understanding among national development banks of BRICS countries on inter-bank local currency credit lines as well as on inter-bank cooperation on credit rating.
- It agreed to facilitate financial market integration by promoting the existing network of financial institutions and the coverage of financial activities within BRICS countries, subject to WTO obligations.

## Priority Areas

 The priority areas being implemented through 'Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership' were: trade and investment, manufacturing and minerals processing, infrastructure connectivity, financial integration, science, technology, innovation and ICT cooperation.

Accounting Standards

- The Declaration encouraged cooperation and coordination by BRICS accounting standards setters and audit regulators to explore convergence of accounting standards, and continue cooperation on auditing oversight in the area of bond issuance and to lay the groundwork for bond market connectivity among BRICS countries.
- The declaration welcomed the setting up of the BRICS E port network and the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Customs

 It lauded the role of the BRICS Customs Cooperation Committee and BRICS Customs Working Group for trade facilitation, security and enforcement, and capacity building.

Corruption

 It supported the compilation of a compendium on fighting corruption in BRICS countries and combating corruption based on the UN Convention Against Corruption.

## Agriculture

On agricultural cooperation, given the unique characteristics and complementarity of BRICS countries, the BRICS countries agreed to deepen cooperation in five priority areas of food security and nutrition; adaptation of agriculture to climate change; agricultural technology cooperation and innovation; agricultural trade and investment; and ICT application in agriculture. For this purpose, it welcomed the establishment in India of the Coordination Centre of BRICS Agriculture Research Platform as a virtual network.

## **Technology & Innovation**

A very important observation in the Declaration was the dissatisfaction of BRICS countries with the present management and regulation of critical internet resources which were not seen as inclusive or representative. It noted progress by the BRICS Working Group on ICT Cooperation which needed further strengthening. The declaration called for joint BRICS research in ICT, including in the Internet of things, cloud computing, big data, data, analytics, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, and 5G to elevate the level of ICT infrastructure in BRICS countries. It advocated building a network that was safe and secure. It resolved to increase investment in ICT research and development. The Declaration highlighted the importance of innovation as the key driver for long-term economic growth welcomed the BRICS Science Technology and Innovation Cooperation MOU and supported the implementation of the **BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan** 2017 to 2020.

## **BRICS & The World**

#### **Governance** Issues

The Declaration reiterated: the principle of multilateralism for a more representative, just and equitable international political and economic order; continuing cooperation with EMDCs; the central role of the UN in upholding fair and equitable international order; coordination in the UN to improve global economic governance; enhancing the voice of BRICS countries and EMDCs in global governance; need to enhance the role of BRICS in global health governance especially in the context of WHO, particularly to improve surveillance capacity to combat infectious diseases like Ebola, HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria;

## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

The Declaration reiterated: BRICS commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the three dimensions - economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner; support for the role of UN including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) for coordinating and reviewing global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It reiterated the need for developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance commitment. It reiterated BRICS cooperation on climate change and expanding green financing. It again called on all countries to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the UNFCCC, including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities, and urged developed countries to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries.

## Adoption of Outcome Documents and Record of Ministerial Meetings

Some very important documents were adopted, which showcased the maturity of BRICS to meet global challenges. Ministers of every important Department of the Government of BRICS countries, their Working Groups, and senior officers held meetings in 2017 in every area of intra-BRICS cooperation. The full List<sup>19</sup> of the Documents and Action Plan covers the entire spectrum of BRICS activity. The Documents and Action Plan annexed to the Declaration included the following:

- BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation.
- BRICS Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap.
- BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation Initiative
- BRICS IPR Cooperation Guidelines
- Action Plan to Deepen Industrial Cooperation Among BRICS Countries
- Strategic Cooperation of BRICS Customs Cooperation
- BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020)
- Action Plan 2017-2018 in the Framework of BRICS 2015-2018 STI Work Plan
- BRICS Memorandum of Cooperation in Respect of Tax Matters (2017)
- Action Plan 2017-2020 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries (2017)
- Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (2017)
- BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2017
- MOU Between BRICS Export Credit Agencies and NDB on General Cooperation (2017)
- Meetings of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Beijing June 18-19 2017
- Meetings of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (2017)
- BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund Working Group Meetings (2017)

- BRICS Energy Ministerial Meeting(2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture (2017)
- BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting (2017)
- Meetings of BRICS Joint Committee on Space Cooperation (2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education (2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Customs Cooperation Committee (2017)
- BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers (2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers (2017)
- BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting (2017)
- BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting (2017)
- BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting (2017)
- Meeting of BRICS Head of Tax Authorities (2017)
- Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB (2017)
- BRICS Business Forum Meeting (2017)

## 4.2.5. 2018 Summit: Embracing the 4th Industrial Revolution

## Reiteration of Past Positions & Focus on Africa

The BRICS Summit of 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa was in large measure devoted to a larger focus on Africa, and the reiteration of positions and commitments of past BRICS Summits. As in the previous Summits, a very detailed record of meetings of BRICS' Ministers, Working Groups and senior officials was made as an Annexure called 'Johannesburg Plan of Action'<sup>20</sup>.

#### **BRICS & The World**

#### Economy, Finance & Governance

The announcements in the Johannesburg Declaration were largely like reiterations of previous positions such as the continued push for an adequately resourced quota-based IMF strengthening the voice and representation poorest members of IMF, including Sub-Saharan Africa; emphasising centrality of rules-based, transparent non-discriminatory multilateral trading system embodied in the WTO whose members were called to honour their commitments; the importance of WTO Dispute Settlement System and early finalisation of selection process for new Appellate Body Members; the operational readiness of CRA with the successful test run of the CRA mechanism; establishing BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund; continued stress for financial market integration through network of financial institutions in BRICS countries, subject to countries' regulatory framework and WTO obligations; commitment to combating illicit financial flows, including cooperation with FATF and World Customs Organization; strengthening BRICS Working Group on Anti-corruption Cooperation; operationalising the 'Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership'; appreciating

cooperation between BRICS Customs Administrations for implementing Strategic framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation; work on Action Plan for Implementation of Agreement Between Governments of BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017-2020) for cultural cooperation. It reiterated the central role of the UN for world peace and stability and reiterated the commitment of BRICS to multilateralism and a multipolar world order as well as to the reform of the UN, including of the UNSC.

# Africa: 4th Industrial Revolution & Africa Outreach

The Declaration centre-staged the need for Africa's industrialisation and the realisation of Africa Union's Agenda 2063, and commended the signing of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Declaration recommended the establishment of BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) and setting up an Advisory Group composed of representatives of BRICS Ministries of Industry to develop the Work Plan for the 4th Industrial Revolution to be submitted to the BRICS Chair. It called for digitisation, industrialisation, innovation, inclusiveness, and investment to meet the challenges arising from the 4th Industrial Revolution. The Declaration saw new opportunities by advances in ICTs especially for the 4th Industrial Revolution in line with the theme of the Summit: 'BRICS in Africa- Collaboration for inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution'. The Declaration reiterated the central role of the African Union in the development of infrastructure and connectivity in Africa, including through the New Partnership For Africa's Development (NEPAD)

#### Sustainable Development

The Declaration reiterated commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; urging developed countries to honour their ODA commitments; finalising the Work Programme of Paris Agreement and concluding the negotiations at the UNFCCC towards UNFCCC COP24; strengthen BRICS cooperation for universal energy access, energy security, energy affordability with environmental conservation; support establishment of BRICS Agricultural Research Platform initiated by India; implementation of Environmentally Friendly Technology Platform, Clean River Umbrella Program, and the Partnership for Urban Environment Sustainability Initiative; enhanced cooperation in the field of water on the basis of sustainable development; collaboration in the field of biodiversity conservation and advancing ocean economy amongst BRICS countries;

#### **Counter Terrorism & Security**

The Declaration reiterated support for UN central coordination to establish an international counter terrorism coalition and early finalisation and adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as well as the starting negotiations for an International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Chemical & Biological Convention at the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva. It called on all countries to adopt a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism especially misuse of the internet by terrorist entities through misuse of latest ICTs.

It again reiterated support for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and for an agreement at the Conference of Disarmament on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It reiterated support for the ongoing dialogue within BRICS for security in the use of ICTs and on counter terrorism.

#### Intra BRICS

Significantly it flagged the signing of MOU on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology in the Context of the Development of Digital Economy. There was a new thrust for the role of MDBs, in particular the NDB, in catalysing private sector financing for public infrastructure and early operationalisation of the Project Preparation Fund. It welcomed the establishment of NDB's Americas Regional Centre in Sao Paulo Brazil.

## The First Cycle - (2009-2013) Formative Years

Key policy shifts, institutional developments, and diplomatic positions that shaped the BRICS cooperation during the first cycle 2009-2013



## 2009 Summit (Yekaterinburg, Russia)

## Formation of BRICS:

The inaugural summit brought together Brazil, Russia, India, and China, forming BRIC as a cooperative grouping of major emerging economies.

## Global Economic Governance:

Reformation of International Financial Institutions, and urging a comprehensive revamp of the UN; emphasizing the crucial roles of India and brazil in global affairs, with continued backing for their enhanced engagement within the UN.

## WTO Stability:

Urged stability in the multilateral trading system, discouraging trade protectionism, and promoting comprehensive and balanced outcomes for the WTO's Doha Development Agenda.



#### 2010 Summit (Brasília, Brazil)

#### Expanding Membership:

South Africa officially joined, making it BRICS. The group's name changed from BRIC to BRICS.

## Call for Local Currency Trade Settlement:

called for local currency trade settlement among BRIC countries and regional monetary arrangements. Laid the groundwork for the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

## Reform of IMF, WB & WTO, and MDGs:

Urged stability in major reserve currencies and sustainable fiscal policies for balanced growth. Advocated fair burden-sharing in IMF reserves among BRIC nations, emphasizing the necessity of a reformed and stable financial architecture with open, merit-based appointments. Reiterated commitment to UN MDG's and achieve them by 2015.

## 2011 Summit (Sanya, China)

## Global Governance and Diplomacy:

Emphasized engagement with non-members, committed to UN-centric multilateral diplomacy and called for comprehensive UN reform, condemned terrorism in all forms amid global turbulence.

## Economic Cooperation and Reform:

Advocated macro-economic policy coordination, supported an expanded role for the G20, and called for reform in international financial institutions. They emphasized increased support for developing countries and renewable energy development.

## Sustainable Development & Climate Change:

Reiterated support for UNF-CCC and endorsed an action plan for concrete actions, emphasizing climate change mitigation, sustainable development, and South Africa's role in hosting related conferences.

## 2012 Summit (New Delhi, India)

#### Institution Building:

Announced plans for a New Development Bank to fund infrastructure projects and institutionalized meetings in health, trade, and urbanization

## Economy, Finance, & Governance:

Addressed global economic challenges, urged advanced economies to adopt responsible policies, and emphasized the negative spill-over effects of their actions.

#### Security and Terrorism:

Reaffirmed commitments to sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and combating terrorism.

#### 2013 Summit (Durban, South Africa)

#### Financial Developments:

Establishment of the New Development Bank and the creation of a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) to enhance financial stability.

#### Multilateral Agreements:

Conclusion of multilateral agreements on cooperation and co-financing for sustainable development and African infrastructure.

#### **Global Economic Concerns:**

Reiterated concerns about the negative spill-over effects of advanced economies' policies and emphasized inclusive development and global economic stability.

## 4.3.1. The Founding Principles

Leaders from Russia, China, India, and Brazil met in Yekaterinburg, Russia on June 16, 2009 and issued an important Joint Statement<sup>21</sup> in the context of the financial crisis, which among other things, stressed:

#### **Central role of G20**

First, the central role played by the G20 Summits in dealing with the financial crisis by fostering cooperation, policy coordination and political dialogue regarding international economic and financial matters, and implementing the decisions adopted at the G20 Summit in London on 2 April, 2009.

## Reform of International Financial Institutions

Second, and significantly, the leaders resolved to advance the reform of international financial institutions, to reflect changes in the world economy. It demanded that emerging and developing economies should have greater voice and representation in international financial institutions, whose heads and senior leadership ought to be appointed through an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process. It underlined a strong need for a stable, predictable and more diversified international monetary system.

## **Stability of WTO**

Third, it urged the international community to keep the multilateral trading system stable, curb trade protectionism, and push for comprehensive and balanced results of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda.

## ODA Commitments of Developed Countries

Fourth, it reminded the developed countries to fulfil their commitment of 0.7% of Gross National Income for the Official Development Assistance (ODA), and make further efforts to increase for increasing assistance, debt relief, market access and technology transfer to developing countries.

## Sustainable Development & Climate Change

Fifth, it called for implementation of the

concept of sustainable development, comprising, inter alia, the Rio Declaration, Agenda for the 21st Century and other multilateral environmental agreements.

## **Cooperation on Energy & Climate Change**

Sixth, it advocated strengthening coordination and cooperation among states in the energy field, decreasing uncertainty, and ensuring stability and sustainability. It called for diversification of energy resources and supply, including renewable energy, security of energy transit routes and creation of new energy investments and infrastructure. It called for a constructive dialogue on how to deal with climate change based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, given the need to combine measures to protect the climate with steps to fulfil BRICS' socio-economic development tasks.

## International Humanitarian Assistance

Seventh, to enhance cooperation in socially vital areas and strengthen efforts for providing international humanitarian assistance, and for the reduction of natural disaster risks.

#### **Multipolar World**

Eighth, supported a more democratic and just multi-polar world order based on the rule of international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making.

## **Condemnation of Terrorism**

Ninth, it strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supported the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism under the consideration of the UN General Assembly, and called for its urgent adoption.

### **Comprehensive Reform of UN**

Tenth, underlining the central role of the UN in dealing with global challenges and threats, it stressed the need for comprehensive reform of the UN with a view to making it more efficient, and reiterated the importance of India and Brazil in international affairs, and supported their aspirations to play a greater role in the United Nations.

These positions taken by BRICS in the first official Summit formed the bedrock of BRICS issues to guide, including after the addition of South Africa in 2010, its deliberations till the 2023 Summit in Cape Town.

## 4.3.2. 2010 Summit: Consolidating Priorities and Charting New Frontiers

The principal positions taken by the BRICS Summit of 2009 were reiterated and expanded in the 2010 BRIC Summit in **Brazilia**, **Brazil on 15th April 2010**<sup>22</sup>.

## Reform of IMF, WB & WTO, and Need to Achieve MDGs

The Summit made a clear call for maintaining the stability of 'major reserve currencies' and sustainability of fiscal policies to achieve balanced economic growth. It flagged the growing contribution of BRIC countries to IMF reserves on the principle of 'fair burden sharing' for IBRD and IFC. It called for a reformed and stable financial architecture for a predictable and diversified IMF. Once again open and merit-based selection methods for top posts of IMF and World Bank were reiterated. The Declaration opposed disguised restrictions on trade and trade protectionism under WTO. It supported Russia's bid to accede to WTO. Reiterating the importance of UN Millennium Development Goals, and the need to achieve MDGs by 2015. Referring to the meeting of BRIC Ministers of Agriculture in Moscow it flagged the importance of their declaration to create an agriculture information base system for BRIC countries.

Significantly it bluntly called for long-overdue reform of the Bretton Woods institutions the IMF and World Bank to 'address their legitimacy deficit' through a 'substantial shift in voting power' in favour of EMDCs. The voting power reform of the World Bank and quota reform of the IMF was to be initiated through the G20 summits mechanism in which BRIC was well represented.

## **Call For Local Currency Trade Settlement**

The Summit saw what appeared to be new positions taken by the BRIC countries: call for 'local currency trade settlement between our (BRIC) countries' and call for 'regional monetary arrangements'. This was a precursor for Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), by initiating discussions among BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

## Energy & Climate Change

Reiterating the need for cooperation in the area of energy security, it called on BRIC countries to work together to facilitate the use of renewable energy, through international cooperation, and the sharing of experiences on renewable energy, including biofuels technologies and policies. It also called for cooperation in training, R&D, consultancy services and technology transfer in the energy sector.

On climate change it supported the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 6th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Mexico, to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and binding result to strengthen the implementation of the UFCCC and the Protocol.

## Terrorism

Reiterating its stand on terrorism, it condemned terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations. It supported the fight against international terrorism under existing international conventions and protocols and under the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism. It again urged the early conclusion of negotiations in the UN General Assembly on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States.

## **Alliance of Civilisations**

It affirmed the importance of encouraging dialogue among civilizations, cultures, religions and peoples and supported the UN initiative of the "Alliance of Civilizations", for building understanding around the world. It hailed the joint publication by respective national statistical institutions and the launch of a feasibility study for developing a Joint BRICS Encyclopaedia.

## First Meetings And The Beginning of Intra-BRICS Institution Building

It placed on record the following BRICS cooperative initiatives: First meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; the first Meeting of Development Banks; the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; the first Conference of Competition Authorities; the first Meeting of Cooperatives; the first Business Forum; and the Conference of Think Tanks. In December 2010, South Africa was invited to join the group as a full member. In 2011, BRIC thus became BRICS.

# 4.3.3. 2011 Summit: Unity and Global Engagement

The BRICS Summit of 2011 was held in Sanya Hainan China on 14th April 2011. It was attended by heads of India, Brazil, China, Russia, and South Africa, the new member member member. The Hainan Declaration reiterated the stand and commitments made at the 2019 and 2010 BRICS Summit. Important aspects of the Hainan Declaration<sup>23</sup> are as follows:

## **Governance** Issues

- Openness to increasing engagement and cooperation with non-BRICS countries, in particular emerging and developing countries (EMDCs), and strengthening their voice in international affairs and relevant international and regional organizations;
- Reiteration of strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy with the United Nations playing the central role;
- Need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council; and reiteration of the importance India, Brazil and South Africa in inter-

national affairs, and their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN;

- Coordination among BRICS countries on issues under consideration of UN Security Council especially since all are presently members;
- Reiteration of need to respect independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of each nation especially in the context of turbulence in North Africa, West Africa and in the Middle-East;
- Reiteration of strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there can be no justification for acts of terrorism;
- Reiterate the need to conclude negotiations in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States;
- Reiterating the need for coordination between major economies on macro-economic policies to achieve sustainable and balanced growth;
- Reiteration of support for G20 to play a bigger role in global economic governance;
- Reiteration of the need to reform of the governing structure of International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, and increase the representation of EMDCs;
- Reiterating the need to increase support to the developing countries in terms of funding and technologies;

- Reiteration of support for development and use of renewable energy resources and of its role in addressing climate change;
- Reiterating the need to achieve the objective of MDGs by 2015 as scheduled, and to implement the outcome document adopted by the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the MDGs held in September 2010;
- Brazil, China, India and South Africa called upon other members to support a strong, open, rule-based multilateral trading system embodied in the WTO and for a successful, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round. Brazil, India, China and South Africa extended full support to an early accession of Russia to the WTO.

## Economy & Finance

The Declaration welcomed the discussion about the role of the SDR in the existing international monetary system including the composition of the SDR's basket of currencies and; the need to address risks of massive cross-border capital flows faced by the emerging economies which called for greater international financial regulatory oversight and reform; strengthening of policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation within BRICS; promotion of sound development of global financial markets and banking systems.

# Sustainable Development & Climate Change

While reiterating support for UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, it supported South Africa's hosting of UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, the Cancun Agreements, the negotiations at the Durban Conference applying the mandate of the Bali Roadmap in line with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. It also supported the need for practical cooperation in adapting the society and economy of BRICS countries to climate change. In a significant move, BRICS leaders expressed the determination to translate BRICS' political vision into concrete actions and therefore endorsed an Action Plan<sup>24</sup> attached to the Sanya Declaration, which would serve as the foundation for future cooperation. The implementation of the Action Plan would be reviewed during subsequent meetings of **BRICS** leaders.

### Security

The Declaration reiterated BRICS' strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there could be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism. It again called for the early conclusion of negotiations in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States. It expressed the commitment to cooperate to strengthening international information security. In Libya, it called on all the parties to resolve their differences through peaceful means and through dialogue in which the UN and regional organizations should play their role. It supported the African Union High-Level Panel Initiative on Libya.

## 4.3.4. 2012 Summit: Institutional Growth and Economic Strategies

The 29th March 2012 Delhi Declaration<sup>25</sup> of the 4th BRICS Summit while carrying forward the positions taken by BRICS countries in the earlier summits, made some new announcements on institution building and continuity, and clearly charted out future action plans. It boldly called out the need for reform not only in the IMF and WB but also advised advanced economies to adopt responsible macroeconomic and financial policies, avoid creating excessive global liquidity and to undertake structural reforms to lift growth. In the context of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the Declaration significantly observed that there was the need to avoid unilateral steps, in particular the settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

#### Intra-BRICS

## Institution Building : New Development Bank

It announced the possibility of setting up a New Development Bank to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and in other emerging economies and developing countries (EMDCs), the central idea being to supplement the efforts of the IMF and World Bank for growth and development. Finance Ministers of BRICS countries were directed to examine the feasibility and report back by the next summit.

## Regular Meetings, Consultations & Action Plans

In a significant move, the BRICS Health Ministers Meetings, following the one held in Beijing in 2011, were institutionalized to address common challenges of universal access to health services, health technologies, and medicines. Similarly, following the 2nd meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers, the Summit called for regular consultations amongst BRICS Trade Ministers. It welcomed the conclusion of the Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism and the Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement between BRICS countries EXIM/Development Banks. This was expected to enhance intra-BRICS trade. An Urbanization and Urban Infrastructure Forum was created for regular interaction to meet challenges of rapid urbanization and to learn from available best practices and technologies in BRICS countries.

Cooperation amongst BRICS countries on a continuous basis was seen as necessary to share vast knowledge, know-how, capacities, and best practices available within BRICS countries. For that reason, an Action Plan was set out for the year ahead, a practice followed in successive Summits. While welcoming the outcome of the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, the Ministers were directed to take this process forward with further meetings in order to improve agricultural production, productivity and markets. In the same way, in the area of renewable energy sources, it was agreed to exchange knowledge, knowhow, technology, and best practices in BRICS countries.

The first ever BRICS Report coordinated by India with special focus on the synergies and complementarities in BRICS economies was released along with an updated edition of BRICS Statistical Publication as a reference on BRICS countries. Similarly a BRICS Exchange Alliance, pursuant to a joint initiative of BRICS Securities Exchanges, was set up. The III BRICS Business Forum and the II Financial Forum were convened.

#### **BRICS & The World**

## Economy, Finance & Governance Issues: Calling out the 'Spill-Over'

The Summit referred to the 'transcontinental dimension of BRICS' which was said to add to its value. In an unprecedented observation, the Summit Declaration noted that the build-up of sovereign debt in 'advanced countries' was creating an uncertain environment for global growth and that excessive liquidity from aggressive policy actions taken by central banks of advanced countries to stabilize their domestic economies was spilling over to into EMDCs and causing excessive volatility in capital flows and commodity prices. It advised advanced economies to adopt responsible macroeconomic and financial policies, avoid creating excessive global liquidity and undertake structural reforms to lift growth. It called on the IMF to make its surveillance framework more integrated and even-handed even handed. It advised the World Bank to shift from an institution that essentially mediated North-South cooperation to an institution that promoted equal partnership with all countries.

#### Reform of IMF, WB and WTO

The Declaration continued to reiterate the following: primary role of G20 as premier forum for international economic cooperation and facilitating enhanced macroeconomic policy coordination to enable global economic recovery; more representative international financial architecture with more voice and representation to EMDCs; concern over the slow pace of quota and governance reform in the IMF which was questioning the legitimacy of the IMF; the need to implement the 2010 Governance and Quota Reform quickly; the pressing need to enhance the flow of development finance to EMDCs while reducing lending costs; heads of IMF and World Bank to be selected through open and merit based process. While congratulating Russia for its accession to WTO, it cautioned against

plurilateral initiatives that went against the fundamental principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism.

## **UN Reform**

The Summit emphasised the need for multilateral diplomacy, with the UN playing a central role, and reiterated the need for comprehensive reform of the UN including the UNSC, the importance of India, Brazil and South Africa in international affairs and their aspirations to play a greater role in the UNSC. Importantly it called for continued close coordination in the UNSC.

## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

On climate change BRICS continued to emphasise the relevance of sustainable and inclusive growth without capping development. Developed countries parties to UNFC-CC were asked to provide enhanced financial, technological and capacity-building support to mitigate actions by developing countries. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was seen as a unique opportunity for high-level political commitment to support sustainable development in accordance with Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The concept of green economy was to be seen in the framework of sustained devel-

opment and poverty eradication, and not as an end in itself, and trade and investment barriers erected on grounds of developing green economy were to be resisted. Attainment of MDGs by 2015 were seen as fundamental for ensuring inclusive, equitable and sustainable global growth. The highest priority was attached to economic growth that supported development and stability in Africa, especially within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Declaration linked mitigation of climate change to BRICS efforts to expand sourcing of clean and renewable energy, and the use of energy efficient and alternate technologies to meet expanding demands for energy. IAEA's essential role in enhancing nuclear safety standards was similarly supported as a source for clean and affordable energy.

## **Security and Terrorism**

Once again the Summit reiterated that there was no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism in any form and that there was need for finalizing the draft of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UNGA and its adoption by all Member States.

## Israel-Palestine Conflict, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan

In the context of Israel-Palestinian conflict, the Declaration significantly reiterated that

there was need to avoid unilateral steps, in particular settlement activities in Occupied Palestinian Territories. It called for just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework including the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. It expressed deep concern over the situation in North Africa, Middle East, and called for respect of territorial integrity and independence of Syria. It expressed concern over the situation emerging out of Iran's nuclear issue, that needed to be resolved through negotiations with IAEA and according to relevant UNSC Resolutions. It expressed support for Afghanistan efforts to emerge as a peaceful democratic state.

## **Action Plan**

Of great importance was the announcement of the Delhi Action Plan which indicated the institutionalization of cooperative consultation and meetings between BRICS Ministers, Working Groups, senior officers, Central Banks, experts in various fields. Such meetings and consultations included:

- Meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of UNGA.
- Meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on the sidelines of G20 meetings/other multilateral (WB/IMF) meetings.
- Meeting of financial and fiscal authorities on the side lines of WB/IMF meet-

ings as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.

- Meetings of BRICS Trade Ministers on the margins of multilateral events, or stand-alone meetings, as required.
- The Third Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts on agro-products and food security issues and the second Meeting of Agriculture Expert Working Group.
- Meeting of BRICS High Representatives responsible for national security.
- The Second BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting on S&T.
- The First meeting of the BRICS Urbanisation Forum and the second BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum in 2012 in India.
- The Second Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers.
- Mid-term meeting of Sous-Sherpas and Sherpas.
- Mid-term meeting of CGETI (Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues).
- The Third Meeting of BRICS Competition Authorities in 2013.
- Meeting of experts on New Development Bank.
- Meeting of financial authorities to follow up on the findings of the BRICS Report.
- Consultations amongst BRICS Permanent Missions in New York, Vienna and Geneva, as required.

- Consultative meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on the margins of relevant environment and climate related international fora, as necessary.
- New Areas of Cooperation to explore:
- Multilateral energy cooperation within the BRICS framework.
- A general academic evaluation and future long-term strategy for BRICS.
- BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue.
- Cooperation in Population related issues

## 4.3.5. 2013 Summit: Shaping Global Finance, Sustainable Development, and Security

The 5th BRICS Summit was held in Durban, South Africa on 27th March 2013. Continuing the momentum of the Delhi Summit of 2012, the Durban Summit too produced a significant and path breaking Declaration called eThekwini Declaration and Action Plan<sup>26</sup>. Some important decisions were announced in the Declaration.

## Intra-BRICS

First was the decision to set up the New Development Bank primarily for financing infrastructure projects in BRICS and other EMDCs. Second, it was decided, based on reports of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, to set up a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) with an initial size of US\$100 billion to address short term liquidity pressures and strengthen financial stability in BRICS countries as a complement to existing international arrangements. Third, the conclusion between BRICS countries' Export Import Banks (EXIM) and Development Banks of the 'Multilateral Agreement on Cooperation and Co-Financing for Sustainable Development' as well as the 'Multilateral Agreement on Infrastructure Co-Financing for Africa'. Fourth, the Declaration called for long-term financing and foreign direct investment in developing countries for infrastructure development. Five, for the first time BRICS supported a two state solution to Israel-Palestinian conflict ,based on the borders existing on 4th June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

It reiterated the importance of coordination within BRICS countries for intra-BRICS solidarity. Significantly it highlighted the role played by State Owned Companies (SOC) and encouraged them to cooperate, exchange information and best practices. Similarly it recommended cooperation between SMEs through respective Ministries and agencies of respective BRICS countries. It welcomed the establishment of BRICS Think Tank and BRICS Business Forum.

## **BRICS & The World**

#### Economy, Finance, & Governance

The Declaration restated several previous positions.

• It reiterated BRICS commitment to inclusive & equitable development

including deeper engagement with EMDCs.

- It again pointed to negative spill-over effects of policy actions of US, Europe, Japan aimed to reduce tail risks in world economy, and expressed concern over high levels of unemployment and high levels of private and public indebtedness. It maintained that monetary policies of Central Banks of advanced economies were leading to increased global liquidity and concomitant volatility of capital flows, currencies and commodity prices in developing countries.
- It re-emphasised the importance of the G20 development agenda for global economic stability, sustainable growth and job creation.
- On the IMF, echoed the urgent need to implement the 2010 IMF Governance and Quota Reform to strengthen the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF, specifically Sub-Saharan Africa.
- It urged the need to establish a broadbased international reserve currency system including composition of SDR's basket of currencies.
- It reiterated the need for an open merit-based process for selection of heads of international financial institutions which was open to considering candidates from EMDCs.
- It expressed the hope that the next
   Director General of WTO would be from

a Developing Country.

- It supported the successful completion of Doha Round while upholding the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism.
- It reiterated UNCTAD's mandate as the focal point in a UN system dedicated to consider interrelated issues of trade, investment, finance and technology from a development perspective.
- It again reiterated the need for reform of the UN especially the UNSC by making it more representative, effective and efficient. It reiterated the importance of India, Brazil and South Africa in international affairs and their aspirations for a greater role in the UN.

## Sustainable Development & Climate Change

It welcomed the reaffirmation of Rio Principles at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. It again reiterated that climate was among the greatest threats and challenges to sustainable development, and called on all countries to build on decisions adopted in COP18/CMP8 in Doha to reach a successful conclusion by 2015 of a Convention applicable to all parties. Referring to the internationally agreed MDGs, it reiterated BRICS commitment towards attaining MDGs by 2015 with a focus on poverty alleviation and human development, and the centrality of Goal 8 on Global Partnership for Development. It welcomed the establishment

of an Open Working Group on SDGs in line with the Rio+20 Outcome Document, which reaffirmed the Rio Principles of Sustainable Development for addressing emerging challenges.

## **Security and Terrorism**

It reiterated strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms with no justification of acts of terrorism and again called for conclusion of negotiations in UNGA on Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by UN member states.

It emphasised, for the first time, the need for security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) through universally accepted norms and practices. The emphasis on ICTs was set to become more pronounced in coming Summits.

## Action Plans & Revisits of Previous Action Plans

Significantly the Summit placed on record the Meetings that took place in pursuance of the Delhi Action Plan which were enumerated as:

- Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the margins of UNGA.
- Meeting of National Security Advisors in New Delhi.
- Meetings of Finance Ministers, and Central Bank Governors in Washington DC and Tokyo.

- Meeting of Trade Ministers in Puerto Vallarta.
- Meetings of Health Ministers in New Delhi and Geneva.
- The Summit Declaration thereafter set out, as in the previous summit, the 'eThekwini Action Plan' clearly spelling out its priorities in the immediate future with possibly other areas of cooperation as follows:
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the margins of UNGA.
- Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors.
- Mid-term meeting of Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas.
- Meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the margins of G20 meetings, WB/IMF meetings, as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.
- Meetings of BRICS Trade Ministers on the margins of multilateral events, or stand-alone meetings, as required.
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development, preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts on agro-products and food security issues.
- Meeting of the Agriculture Expert Working Group.
- Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers and preparatory meetings.
- Meeting of BRICS Officials responsible for population on the margins of relevant multilateral events.

- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Science and Technology and meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on Science and Technology.
- Meeting of BRICS Cooperatives.
- Meetings of financial and fiscal authorities on the margins of WB/IMF meetings as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.
- Meetings of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI).
- Meeting of the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum.
- Meeting of the BRICS Urbanisation Forum.
- Meeting of BRICS Competition Authorities in 2013 in New Delhi.
- 5th Meeting of BRICS Heads of National Statistical Institutions.
- Consultations amongst BRICS Permanent Missions and/or Embassies, as appropriate, in New York, Vienna, Rome, Paris, Washington, Nairobi and Geneva, where appropriate.
- Consultative meeting of BRICS Senior Officials in the margins of relevant sustainable development, environment and climate related international fora, where appropriate.

## New areas of cooperation to be explored:

- BRICS Public Diplomacy Forum.
- BRICS Anti-Corruption Cooperation.
- BRICS State Owned Companies / State Owned Enterprises.

- National Agencies Responsible for Drug Control.
- BRICS virtual secretariat.
- BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue.
- Energy.
- Sports and Mega Sporting Events.

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