



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

### **DECLARATION**

**Adopted at New Delhi at the BRICS NU IGB Meeting via video-conference  
June 29, 2021**

We, members of the International Governing Board (hereinafter IGB) of the BRICS Network University (hereinafter BRICS NU), met on June 29, 2021 via video-conference organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, to discuss the themes, *'Leveraging digital and technological solutions for inclusive and equitable quality education'*, and *'Enhancing research and academic collaboration'*.

**Duly empowered** by the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the BRICS Network University (hereinafter, MOU) on 18 November 2015, we hereby,

1. Take due cognizance of the core point emphasised during the previous meetings of the BRICS Ministers of Education, viz., the need to strengthen cooperation in the field of education among BRICS member states, given its strategic importance for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth;
2. Reaffirm the important role of the BRICS NU in the development and implementation of bilateral and multilateral educational and research programmes among BRICS member states,
3. Recognise the important role of the BRICS NU to enhance collaboration in the field of higher education in general, and research and innovation, in particular,
4. Reaffirm our commitment to the founding principles of the BRICS NU as laid out in the MOU, viz., openness, equal rights of all participants, reciprocity, and respect for national education regulations of each BRICS member state;
5. Take note of the progress made so far by the BRICS NU across all spheres of activities laid out in the BRICS NU MOU, viz., development of Masters, post-graduate and PhD programmes, joint research projects and academic mobility of students, faculty and staff;
6. Acknowledge the efforts made towards implementation of the activities laid out in the BRICS NU MOU by the National Coordination Committees and the International Thematic Groups (hereinafter, ITGs) of each BRICS member state, within their national contexts, as well as, in collaboration with other international members of the BRICS NU;



**We hereby** pledge and call upon all the stakeholders of the BRICS NU and the educational authorities of the BRICS member states to:

1. Continue to work towards the fulfilment of the objectives of the BRICS NU and implement the activities as laid out in the BRICS NU MOU,
2. Enhance the sharing of experiences and best practices available in BRICS countries on collaboration in education, research and innovation through the BRICS NU,
3. Facilitate the creation of the necessary conditions to enable the international academic mobility of students and academic staff within the BRICS NU including in the virtual mode,
4. Motivate twinning arrangements' whereby students enrolled within a higher education institution (HEI) in one BRICS country may complete their programme of study partly in that country, in accordance with relevant national regulations, and in accordance with the agreements between the BRICS NU participants and partly in an HEI in another BRICS country, and thereafter receive a joint, co-badged Diploma/Degree from both the HEIs on successful completion of the programme of study,
5. Organize short term programmes such as study visits, internships etc. including in the virtual mode to enable exchange of learning opportunities among BRICS countries,
6. Develop mechanisms for enhanced coordination and research and academic collaboration among the ITGs,
7. Reiterate the recommendation made during the IGB Meeting held in 2020 (through videoconference), viz., the need for each of the ITGs to conduct annual thematic seminars in their priority fields of study.
8. Explore the mechanism to involve and engage the students to work together for mutual understanding.

**Specifically,**

In view of the theme '*Leveraging digital and technological solutions for inclusive and equitable quality education*' and '*Enhancing research and academic collaboration*' for this year;

**Recalling** the key recommendations made during the previous meetings of the BRICS Ministers of Education in this regard, and

**Recognising** the potential of digital technology for expanding access to equitable, inclusive, and quality learning opportunities in our countries, and the important role of research in enabling evidence-based decisions and programmatic initiatives to tackle the learning divide,



We hereby agree on the following recommendations in the short and medium term to carry forward the progress and development of the BRICS NU in the domain of the two themes. All participants of the BRICS NU and the education authorities may consider:

1. Encouraging collaborative research in areas of mutual interest, including those relating to the priority fields of study – Energy, Computer Science & Information Security, BRICS Studies, Ecology & Climate Change, Water resources & pollution treatment, and economics,
2. Promoting collaborative research on the use of digital and technological solutions for promoting inclusive and equitable quality education in BRICS countries,
3. Organizing seminars/conferences and annual meetings of experts to discuss research ideas, share research outcomes, especially to discuss the potential of digital and technological solutions for improving students' learning opportunities and outcomes,
4. Encourage policy dialogues that would bring together education authorities, experts and other stakeholders in BRICS countries to discuss ways to develop programmatic interventions required to facilitate research collaboration, student and faculty mobility, and facilitate effective use of digital and technological solutions for educational purposes,
5. Facilitating mobility of faculty and scholars by expanding tie-ups between HEIs involved in BRICS-NU in one country and HEIs involved in BRICS NU in another country for implementing collaborative research.
6. Facilitating the creation of a coordinating mechanism to support the ongoing development of the BRICS NU.

We extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of India and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay for the outstanding coordination and organization of the Meeting of the International Governing Board of the BRICS Network University.

The English version of this Declaration was unanimously approved on 29 June, 2021 and distributed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of India.



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**Federative Republic of Brazil**

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**Russian Federation**

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**Republic of India**

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**People's Republic of China**

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**Republic of South Africa**