



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITY

The city of Moscow

18 November 2015

We, the undersigned representatives of the BRICS Ministries of Education, plenipotentiary representatives of the BRICS countries Embassies in the Russian Federation and members of the institutions of the BRICS countries

testifying our agreement with the content of the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of the BRICS Network University (MoU) for the further amending and definite validation,

confirming adherence to the goals of *the World Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century: Vision and Action* adopted on 6 of October 1998,

assisting implementation of the UNESCO goal in the development of education as it is stated in the Article 1 of the UNESCO Constitution: *The purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture,*

guided by the Article 56 of the Fortaleza Declaration for the initiative to establish the BRICS Network University,

following the Brasilia Declaration of the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education adopted on 2 of March 2015, which provides for *establishment of a working group to work out the modalities of a BRICS Network University* (Article 9),

taking into account the *Principles of the Creation and Functioning of the BRICS Network University* declared and adopted by the BRICS Working Group on Education on 26 of June 2015,

guided by the Article 63 of Ufa Declaration with respect to the support for the establishment of the BRICS Network University and the BRICS University League as independent initiatives,

recognizing the strategic importance of education for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth in accordance with the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy

Have agreed as follows:



Article 1 **Definition of BRICS Network University**

The BRICS Network University (hereinafter – BRICS NU) is a network of the BRICS member countries' higher education institutions engaged in cooperation and joining the BRICS NU (hereinafter – BRICS NU participants).

BRICS NU is *an educational project* aimed at developing, preferentially, bilateral/multilateral short-term joint training, master's and PhD programmes along with joint research projects in various knowledge fields according to common standards and quality criteria, given recognition of the learning outcomes by BRICS NU participants as per national criteria.

Article 2 **Values and Principles**

Activities of the BRICS NU are oriented towards formation of the new generation of highly qualified and motivated professionals, who obtain critical thinking skills, abilities to make and implement innovative decisions concerning the economic and social problems, communication, skills for interactions in a multicultural environment and who are capable of combining traditional knowledge with science and contemporary technologies.

BRICS NU follows these principles:

Openness, which enables various institutions to join to/withdraw from the BRICS NU respecting national criteria and based on the selection procedure.

Focus on educational programmes that can be supplemented by network research and innovation projects.

Equal rights of all participants, meaning that all BRICS NU participants have equal rights in its implementation. The BRICS NU participants are autonomous, independent from each other and relate to each other as equals.

Reciprocity in treatment of all participants involved in joint activities.

Assurance of high quality of the BRICS NU educational programmes, to be ensured through close connections with the research and innovation activity. The BRICS NU participants are committed to the active use of the methods of the problem- and project-based teaching and learning.

Respect for the national regulations, procedures and practices of each BRICS country.

Article 3 **Objectives and Goals of the BRICS NU**

The BRICS NU is created for:

Providing opportunity of high quality life-long learning through different forms of education, such as traditional academic programmes, short-term programmes, modular courses, etc.;



Facilitating sustainable development of the BRICS countries through creation and dissemination of the knowledge and skills via joint research and educational activities in natural and social sciences, humanities, engineering and other areas in the spirit of pluralism and diversity;

Providing training for the professionals of high qualification for satisfying the needs of the BRICS countries in specific areas by expanding students' access to contemporary methods, forms and education technologies within the frames of the implementation of the BRICS NU educational programmes.

Article 4 The Main Activities of the BRICS NU

The main activities of the BRICS NU are:

Offering in conformity with own laws Masters and Ph.D. programmes; short-term training and modular courses;

Development and implementation of joint research projects, innovative activity within the frames of educational programmes;

Organization of the academic mobility of students, the university faculty and staff of the BRICS NU participants.

Article 5 Participants of the BRICS NU

The responsibility for determining the list of the BRICS NU participant institutions rests with the National Ministries of Education of the BRICS countries.

At the stage of the establishment of the BRICS NU the number of the BRICS NU participants does not exceed 12 from each BRICS member country.

Article 6 The BRICS NU Knowledge Field Priorities

Knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU activity shall correspond to the priorities and main areas of cooperation amongst the BRICS member countries, as they are stated in the Article 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between the BRICS member countries, as well as other documents adopted within the frames of the BRICS.

At the stage of the establishment of the BRICS NU the knowledge field priorities include:

- energy;
- computer science and information security;
- BRICS studies;
- ecology and climate change;
- water resources and pollution treatment;



economics.

In accordance with the decision of the BRICS NU International Governing Board, the grounds for creation and the empowerment of which are described in Article 10 of the present MoU, other areas of training may be included and other knowledge field priorities may be determined.

Article 7 Formation of the BRICS NU Curricula

The BRICS NU participants will work out the details of:
structure and content of educational programmes;
mutual recognition of the training outcomes;
academic mobility forms as decided by the International Thematic Groups on the knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU;
procedures for admission;
principles of educational process arrangement;
issues of interim and final certification which are regulated by agreements between BRICS NU participants on joint training of highly qualified personnel.

Article 8 The BRICS NU Education Certificate

Upon completion of the BRICS NU educational programmes, the person who has completed the course of study, passed the relevant examinations and met the requirement of conferment standards or relevant regulations of the graduation institution receives a formal qualification of the institution, in which he or she has enrolled (they may also receive two or more degrees/diplomas/certificates in accordance with the agreements between the BRICS NU participants), as well as the certificate of participation of the BRICS NU.

Article 9 The BRICS NU Governance Structures

The BRICS NU is characterized by transparent administration system aimed at addressing the issues across the network, and at the same time taking into account the priorities of national higher education systems of member countries.

In order to accomplish the objectives and goals of the BRICS NU the following regulatory bodies are created:

- BRICS NU International Governing Board (IGB);
- BRICS NU National Coordination Committee (NCC) or other national governing structure in each of the BRICS countries;
- International Thematic Groups (ITG) on the knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU.



Article 10

The BRICS NU International Governing Board

The BRICS NU International Governing Board (IGB) is the principal integral body responsible for the activities and development, including outcome assessment of the BRICS NU.

The BRICS NU IGB consists of three representatives of each BRICS country, including:

- plenipotentiary representative of the National Education Ministry for the term appointed by the country in accordance with the national practice but not less than two years;
- representative of the BRICS NU participants from each BRICS NU NCC for the term appointed by the country in accordance with the national practice but not less than three years;

The appointed terms could be extended to another consecutive term.

The BRICS NU IGB arranges in-person meetings upon the request of BRICS NU NCC and ITG or when major decisions need to be made, but at least once a year.

Responsibility for conducting the meetings of the BRICS NU IGB rests on the National Education Ministry from the current BRICS Chairship country whose representative serves as the President of the BRICS NU IGB.

The Vice-President will be appointed from the representatives of the next BRICS Chairship country.

Article 11

The BRICS NU National Coordination Committees (or other national governing structures)

The BRICS NU National Coordination Committees (NCC) or other national governing structures in each of the BRICS countries:

created by the Ministries of Education of the BRICS countries to ensure operative management of the BRICS NU at the national level;

operate on the basis of the national provision for the establishment of the BRICS NU NCC;

formed in accordance with national guidelines, norms and regulations in each of the BRICS countries;

consist of the BRICS NU participants and of at least two representatives of the National Education Ministries;

may also include scientific community experts in knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU, representatives of the business community, civil society and international organizations.



Article 12

The BRICS NU International Thematic Groups

International Thematic Groups include representatives of the BRICS NU participants. The members of the ITGs are nominated by the BRICS NU NCCs or other national governing structures in accordance with the national guidelines, norms and regulations in each of the BRICS countries. ITGs are established in line with the BRICS NU knowledge field priorities set out in the Article 6 of the present MoU. The activities of the ITGs are regulated by the statute for the BRICS NU ITGs approved by the BRICS NU IGB.

The ITGs provide support to the BRICS NU's educational activity in identified knowledge field priorities.

Article 13

The BRICS NU Funding

The BRICS NU activities, concerning each country, will be financed by participating universities' budget, grants, special purpose funds, charitable contributions, etc.

The activities of the national BRICS NU participants and NCCs are financed by each country independently. The financial responsibility for the organization of the meetings of the BRICS NU IGB rests with the current BRICS Chairship country. According to the international practice, international travel fee, board and lodging expenses will be covered by the dispatched party; local transportation, venue rental, etc. will be covered by the current BRICS Chairship country.

Article 14

Other Activities

BRICS NU participants:

Exchange information on BRICS member states' education priorities and national legislation, share documents as well as other information materials in the field of education and science;

Conduct conferences, symposiums, seminars, round tables and other events on topical issues of multilateral cooperation in the field of education;

Arrange short-term network educational programmes: summer and winter schools, graduate seminars, training courses, etc. in knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU;

Make efforts to launch joint bilateral and multilateral research programmes, as well as contribute to the organization of innovative projects directly related to the BRICS NU educational activities and to jointly own the IPRs that result from such research;



Encourage mutual participation of students belonging to the BRICS NU in various international competitions, festivals, expeditions, as well as sports, tourism, environment etc. related events;

Cooperate in the sphere of education quality assurance;

Exchange information on licensing, certification and accreditation of educational institutions / organizations of the BRICS countries and their educational programmes.

Article 15

Introduction of Amendments

The present MoU may be amended and supplemented by mutual agreement of the Ministries of Education of the BRICS countries. The amendments and supplements are executed as separate protocols and are considered as integral part hereof.

Article 16

Conflict Resolution

Disagreements between the BRICS NU participants arising from application of the MoU shall be resolved through negotiations and consultations mediated by the BRICS NU IGB.

Article 17

Accession to and Withdrawal from the BRICS NU

The accession to the BRICS NU higher education institutions to the BRICS NU shall be effected on the basis of the application submitted to the BRICS NU NCC or other national governing structure and be approved by a special decision of the BRICS NU IGB, and is executed as a separate protocol which is considered as integral part hereof.

This accession shall be immediately valid and effective for the acceding party from the date of the decision of the BRICS NU IGB.

Any BRICS NU participant higher education institution may withdraw from BRICS NU through a written notice sent to the BRICS NU NCC or other national governing structure not less than 90 days prior to the notice of intention to withdraw. The BRICS NU NCC or other national governing structure shall inform the BRICS NU IGB, which in turn will inform the other BRICS NU participant higher education institutions of this intention to withdraw within thirty days from the date of notification.

In case of the withdrawal of an institution the present MoU's provisions shall remain in force in respect of projects and programmes under implementation until their full completion or with the approval of the BRICS NU NCC or other national governing structure.



Article 18
Duration and Termination of MoU

The present MoU shall be concluded for an indefinite period and shall come into effect upon signature.

The decision on the termination of the present MoU shall be taken by the Ministries of Education of the BRICS countries. All the BRICS NU participant higher education institutions shall be informed of this decision within thirty days from the date of the decision.

In the event of the termination of the present MoU its provisions shall remain in force in respect of ongoing projects and programmes.

Article 19
Other provisions

All other matters not addressed herein shall be resolved by the BRICS NU IGB.

Completed in the city of Moscow on 18 November 2015 in 5 copies in the English language.

The Federative Republic of Brazil

The Russian Federation

The Republic of India

The People's Republic of China

The Republic of South Africa