

**PROTOCOL TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

We, the respective representatives of the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Parliament of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Parliament of the Republic of India, the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

Pursuing the goal of strengthening cooperation between the Parties and promoting inter-parliamentary interaction between BRICS member states through a regular exchange of views, experiences, including best practices,

Striving to create favourable conditions for the development of BRICS through legislative support for activities to strengthen the potential of BRICS member states;

Expressing intentions to strengthen and promote direct contacts at the level of chairpersons of the Parties;

Guided by the BRICS Spirit of mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, democracy, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration and consensus.

Based on the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum signed on 28 September 2023 in Johannesburg, we hereby decide to develop mechanisms of inter-parliamentary cooperation, including the annual BRICS Parliamentary Forum (hereinafter referred to as the Forum), assuming the following:

1. The Forum may make decisions in accordance with the goals defined by the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

Forum's decisions will be advisory in nature and will be formalized in the form of statements, appeals and declarations.

Decisions will be made without voting and approved upon reaching consensus by the chairpersons of the Parties.

The decisions made at the Forum will be signed by the chairpersons of the Parties.

2. Based on the initiative by the Chairship and upon consultation and consensus among BRICS members Forum can be held in an extended format. That would allow for the participation in discussions on the Forum platform of representatives of parliaments of the States other than BRICS Members.

3. The Chairship at the Forum will be delivered by the Chairperson of the Party of a BRICS Member State (hereinafter referred to as the "Chairperson") that hosts the scheduled Forum in consonance with BRICS Chairship.

The Chairperson will:

- Moderate the Forum session and manage the Forum operation;

- Provide general management of preparation of the issues submitted to the Forum for consideration.

In the event that the Chairperson fails, for a good reason, to preside over the Forum, he/she will appoint an authorized representative and notify the Forum participants thereof at least thirty days prior to the date of the Forum.

4. A Meeting of the chairpersons of committees on international affairs or equivalent of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as the Meeting) can be held as part of the inter-parliamentary exchange programme in order to:

- Elaborate proposals on basic lines of activities in the area of inter-parliamentary cooperation within the BRICS for the chairpersons of the Parties;
- Exchange experience and information in the field of law-making;
- Encourage cooperation of the BRICS Member States in the areas envisaged by the documents effective within the BRICS;
- Shape proposals to be included in the BRICS inter-parliamentary exchange programmes.

5. The Meeting will be held once a year, usually in the Party of the BRICS Chair State. The timing of the regular Meeting will be agreed upon in advance via the coordinators of the Parties.

The chairship at the Meeting will be delivered by the Chairperson of the Committee on International Affairs or equivalent of the Party of the BRICS Chair State (hereinafter – the "Chair").

The Chair will liaise with the competent Committees on International Affairs or equivalent of the Parties, as appropriate, for the purposes of preparation and delivery of the Meeting.

In the event the Chairperson of the Committee on International Affairs or equivalent of the Party of the BRICS Chair State is unable, for a good reason, to preside over the Meeting, he/she will appoint an authorized representative and notify the Parties thereof at least thirty days prior to the date of the Meeting.

6. The draft agenda of the Meeting will be formulated by the Chair building upon the forthcoming Parties' proposal submitted to the Chair via diplomatic channels at least thirty days prior to the date of the Meeting.

The Meeting agenda will be consensually approved directly in the Meeting.

7. To provide coordination of the Parties during the preparation of agenda of the Forum, a Coordinator from the legislators of each Party is designated.

8. The Parties may establish parliamentary working groups.

The Coordinator of the Party may appoint a person responsible for organization of activities of the working group. This person will:

- interact with the coordinators of working groups of the Parties;
- ensure elaboration of issues on the agenda of the Forum, the Meeting.

In agreement with coordinators working groups of the Parties may propose to include in the programme of inter-parliamentary exchanges, seminars and

conferences on specific topics related to the development of inter-parliamentary cooperation within the BRICS framework.

9. Recognizing the critical role of the capacity building in fostering effective parliamentary cooperation, the Parties reaffirm their commitment to facilitate initiatives to enhance the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. Exchanges on national experiences and best practices in addressing the challenges facing BRICS nations will be encouraged by the Parties.

The Parties will be encouraged to ensure adequate women and youth parliamentarians within official delegations attending Forum meetings and events.

10. Expenses for the stay of delegations of the Parties during their participation in the work of the Forum, expenses for the stay of delegations for participation in the Meetings, as well as other expenses related to participation in the sessions of working groups of experts of the Parties, seminars and conferences will be borne by the sending BRICS Member State.

Expenses for sending participants to the Forum will be borne by the sending States, international organisations and associations.

The host State will provide the necessary conditions for the work of the Forum, the holding of Meetings and working group of experts of the Parties sessions.

11. This Protocol will enter into effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect for as long as the Parties deem appropriate.

The present Protocol is not a treaty and does not create rights and obligations governed by international law.

Signed on "11" July 2024 in Saint-Petersburg, in nine original copies in English language.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE ARAB
REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDIA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE ISLAMIC CONSULTATIVE
ASSEMBLY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
