

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

## Preamble

We, the respective representatives of –

The National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliament of the Republic of India, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, herein after referred to as "the Parties";

*Considering* the friendly relations that exist among the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of South Africa, particularly in terms of the BRICS partnership;

*Recalling* the First BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Moscow, Russia, on 8 June 2015 where the Parties declared their intention to strengthen and promote contacts at the leadership level of chambers, committees and groups of parliamentarians; perform inter-parliamentary exchanges and hold regular expert consultations; and create and develop new inter-parliamentary cooperation mechanisms;

*Further recalling* the 2016 *Jaipur Declaration*, in which BRICS Women Parliamentarians expressed commitment to intensify mutual cooperation and strengthen partnership on the dimensions of sustainable development, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection;

*Noting* the call to strengthen BRICS parliamentary exchanges, as emphasised in the *Johannesburg Declaration* of the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit, held in South Africa from 25 to 27 July 2018;

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

*Convinced* of the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue to develop multifaceted cooperation within the BRICS and to actively promote mutual interests;

*Founded on a common willingness and effort to cooperate in finding solutions to similar challenges that the Parties may face;*

*Hereby resolve in accordance with the intention of the Parties to establish the BRICS Parliamentary Forum as follows:*

### **Article One**

#### **Objective**

The objective of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum is

- i. Without creating new international legal obligations for the Parties, to define the general cooperative strategy of the legislative organs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.
- ii. To coordinate efforts aimed at developing and strengthening the inter-parliamentary relations of BRICS Member States concerning issues of common interest.

### **Article Two**

#### **Commitments and Implementation**

The Parties commit to make every reasonable effort to:

- i. Strengthen the BRICS Parliamentary Forum;
- ii. Cooperate in the establishment of exchange programs to promote mutual understanding of the Parties' culture and legal systems through inter-parliamentary exchanges on matters of mutual interest;
- iii.* Coordinate parliamentary diplomacy among the BRICS countries, as appropriate;
- iv. host annual meetings of Presiding Officers or more members of the Parties on the basis of rotation in each of the respective countries;
- v. Within their budgets, and in accordance with the principle of reciprocity, to provide resources for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article Three**  
**Responsibilities**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Memorandum of Understanding, Parties shall not bear any responsibilities or liabilities in the event that certain provisions cannot be implemented. The present Memorandum of Understanding does not entail any legal and financial obligations for any of the Parties.

**Article Four**  
**Amendments**

The Parties may, by written consent, amend this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article Five**  
**Resolution of Disagreements**

Any disagreements between the Parties that arise during the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding or in connection with it, will be resolved through consultations and negotiations.

**Article Six**  
**Effectiveness**

The Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the day of the last signature of the respective Parties and will remain effective for as long as the Parties consider it appropriate.

**Article Seven**  
**Withdrawal**

The legislative organ of any BRICS Member State that withdraws from BRICS, ceases to be a Party to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ 2023, in five original copies in Portuguese, Russian, English, Chinese, and Hindi each being equally authentic. However, in case of divergence in interpretation, English text should prevail over other languages.

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

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

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

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

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

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