



THE BRICS HANDOVER REPORT: 2015-2016

FROM RUSSIA AS CURRENT CHAIR OF BRICS
AND HOST OF THE SEVENTH BRICS SUMMIT IN 2015
TO INDIA AS THE INCOMING CHAIR OF BRICS
AND HOST OF THE EIGHTH BRICS SUMMIT IN 2016

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FOREWORD

Russia has the pleasure to present to India, the next BRICS Chair, the Handover Report on the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2015–2016, containing a summary of the activities carried out during this period, which enabled the BRICS countries to make a large step forward in intensifying, diversifying and institutionalizing their cooperation. The report, in compliance with the Terms of Reference for BRICS Chairpersonship, presents an informative account of the diversity of areas in which the participants of the group have cooperated during this time for the benefit of all the participants and which should be further developed.

BRICS has strengthened its global standing as an important factor in international affairs and an efficient mechanism for harmonizing the five countries' positions on the modern-day pressing challenges. The Group has been continuously improving its extensive architecture of cooperation mechanisms intended to promote hands-on enhancement of the global financial system's stability and reliability and the strengthening of trade, economic and investment cooperation between the BRICS participants and with other countries. The operationalization of BRICS financial institutions crowned our joint efforts in this area.

The new high level of intra-BRICS strategic cooperation is reflected in the documents adopted at our forums and meetings of different formats. The common understanding, as confirmed by the BRICS Leaders at the informal meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Antalya, that the fight against the terrorist threat will be effective only on the basis of concerted efforts of the international community, reflects the essence of the approach guiding the BRICS' activities. Our five countries are in full agreement that this particular methodology should be the foundation for dealing both with the issues of financial and economic cooperation requiring BRICS' priority attention, and with common tasks of countering global challenges and threats.

The Russian Chairmanship welcomes the considerable impetus given by the joint efforts of our five countries to the enhancement of our soft power mechanisms.

The collective achievements of the BRICS countries strengthen the role of the Group in international affairs, stimulate the interest in and attention to its work not only on the part of foreign policy experts, but also of civil society around the world.

Most of the documents referred to in this Report can be found at the official websites of Russian BRICS Chairmanship: www.brics2015.ru and www.infobrics.org/russia.

We hope that the Handover Report will be useful and interesting for everyone who deals with BRICS matters.

India is now set to take up the torch of the BRICS Chair. We wish our Indian friends every success in this huge joint effort and assure them that at the helm of the Group they will receive all necessary support and the most energetic assistance of the Russian Federation and, we are certain, of all other BRICS partners.

Sergey RYABKOV
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
Russian BRICS Sherpa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The key event of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship (April 2015–February 2016) has been the Summit in Ufa on 8–9 July 2015 under the theme ‘BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development’. The Summit adopted the Ufa Declaration, the Ufa Action Plan and the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, establishing major goals and areas for BRICS future development. The heads of relevant agencies of the five countries signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Creation of the Joint BRICS Website. The Russian Side initiated the preparation of a Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020.

The BRICS leaders’ meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Antalya reaffirmed the BRICS countries’ common determination to consolidate their unity in devising joint responses to global challenges.

A major practical achievement under the Russian Chairmanship was the launch of the New Development Bank and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement, which aim to promote greater stability and sustainability of the global financial system and to enhance economic and investment cooperation.

BRICS is not only about the economy. An important priority within its activities is the strengthening of global security and stability.

BRICS has been increasingly focusing on intensifying cooperation in countering new challenges and threats, particularly terrorism. A substantial discussion on objectives in this area took place during the National Security Advisors meeting in Moscow on 26 May 2015.

Over the past period, the dialogue between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs / International Relations has been actively developing. On the margins of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York a meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers, which has already become traditional, was held on 29 September 2015, reaffirming closeness and unity of participating countries’ approaches to the maintenance of international peace and security. A mechanism for consultations at the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers in charge of the MENA region (Moscow, 22 May 2015) has been launched. There are now newly created frameworks for meetings on foreign policy planning (Moscow, 15 May 2015), prevention of an arms race in outer space (Moscow, 20 May 2015) and peacekeeping (Moscow, 11 December 2015), as well as between legal departments of the BRICS Foreign Ministries (New York, 2 November 2015).

Under the Russian BRICS Chairmanship a whole range of targeted measures has been adopted in order to enhance, diversify and institutionalize cooperation. BRICS inaugural events were held in new sectoral areas, such as environmental protection (Moscow, 22 April 2015), youth policy (Kazan, 4 July 2015), migration (Sochi, 8 October 2015), industry (Moscow, 20 October 2015), telecommunications (Moscow, 22–23 October 2015), energy (Moscow, 19–20 November 2015), international development assistance (Moscow, 7 December 2015), labour and employment (Ufa, 25–26 January 2016).

Standing Working Groups on cooperation in international information security and the fight against corruption and illicit drug trafficking have been established.

The Russian Chairmanship promoted further consolidation of non-governmental actors’ contacts in academic, social, cultural and humanitarian dimensions. A number of major forums were organized: the Parliamentary Forum (Moscow, 8 June 2015), the BRICS Civil Forum (Moscow, 29 June–1 July 2015), the Trade Union Forum (Ufa, 9 July 2015), the Youth Forum (Kazan, 1–7 July 2015), and the Global University Summit (Moscow, 26–28 October 2015).

During the year of the Russian Chairmanship there were a total of over 100 events, more than two dozen of them held at the level of government ministers and agency heads. It was a period of further consolidation of BRICS, of active and consistent joint work on enhancing cooperation within BRICS and of opening new tracks for collaboration. BRICS continued to develop into a comprehensive mechanism of strategic cooperation on key issues of global politics and the economy. A table of events held during BRICS Russian Chairmanship is contained in Annex 1.

1. VII BRICS Summit

DATE

8–9 July 2015

PLACE

Ufa, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Seventh BRICS Summit was held under the theme 'BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development'.

At the Summit the Leaders discussed issues on the international agenda as well as key priorities in respect to further strengthening and broadening intra-BRICS cooperation. They decided to further enhance their strategic partnership on the basis of principles of openness, solidarity, equality, mutual understanding, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to the United Nations as a universal multilateral organization entrusted with the mandate to help the international community maintain international peace and security, advance global development and promote and protect human rights. They agreed to further enhance cooperation to defend common interests in respecting and upholding international law based on the UN Charter.

They agreed to step up coordinated efforts to respond to emerging challenges, ensuring peace and security, promoting development in a sustainable way, addressing poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment for the benefit of peoples of the BRICS countries and the international community, and confirmed their intention to further enhance the collective role of the BRICS countries in international affairs.

The Leaders formulated their common positions on terrorism, regional conflicts, the global drug problem and use of IT.

The Leaders expressed their concern over the unstable situation in the global economy and international finance. Issues of sustainable world economic growth and reform of international finance architecture were discussed.

The Leaders expressed mutual interest in expanding cooperation between the BRICS countries in the fields of trade, investment, manufacturing, mineral processing, energy, agriculture, science, technology, innovation, finance, connectivity and ICT.

The entry into force of BRICS financial institutions: the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement with total volume of \$200 billion was announced.

The Leaders adopted [the Ufa Declaration](#), [the Ufa Action Plan](#) and [the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership](#).

The Leaders held an outreach meeting with the Heads of States and Governments of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as well as the Heads of Observer States of the SCO.

On the margins of the Summit [the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation](#)

[in the Field of Culture](#) and [the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs / International Relations and Cooperation of the BRICS countries on the Creation of the Joint BRICS Website](#) were signed.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The VIII BRICS Summit is to be held in 2016 in India.

2. Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the margins of the G20 Summit in Antalya

DATE

15 November 2015

PLACE

Antalya, Turkey

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Leaders strongly condemned the abhorrent terror attacks in Paris and recommitted to strengthen cooperation among the BRICS countries and with other nations in the fight against terrorism.

They discussed the implementation of the Ufa Action Plan and instructed relevant agencies of the BRICS countries to engage actively in the implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership adopted at the Ufa Summit as well as in preparing a draft BRICS Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020.

They also expressed their expectation that the New Development Bank (NDB) would start its operating activities and launch its inaugural projects in the beginning of 2016.

The Leaders exchanged views on the main topics on the G20 Summit agenda and agreed to pursue issues of mutual interest to the BRICS countries. The Leaders agreed to continue the exchange and the coordination of positions among the BRICS countries to better accommodate interests of emerging market economies and developing countries. The Leaders expressed their deep disappointment at the lack of progress in modernizing international financial institutions.

The Leaders noted that geopolitical challenges, including the politicization of economic relations and the introduction of unilateral economic sanctions, continue to hinder future prospects for economic growth. They urged the need to ensure that trade and economic blocs are consistent with WTO norms and principles and contribute to strengthening a multilateral trading system.

The Leaders welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Summit held in September 2015 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and acknowledged the coordination and cooperation efforts made by the BRICS countries. The Leaders also expressed their expectation of a successful outcome at COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

The Leaders declared their readiness to support China in its upcoming G20 Presidency. They approved [the Media Note](#) at the end of the meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the margins of the G20 Summit is to be held in 2016 in China.

3. First BRICS Parliamentary Forum

DATE

8 June 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the role of parliaments of the BRICS countries in addressing the issues of global politics and economy as well as the prospects of development of the BRICS' parliamentary dimension.

The discussion focused on the cooperation and mutual support of the BRICS parliaments in strengthening the rule of international law, the UN key role in world affairs, enhancing international institutions, reforming international financial and economic architecture, promoting joint initiatives on peace and security matters, conflict resolution, counter-terrorism and other challenges, strengthening international information security, joint interaction in forming a non-biased global information and mass media system, and support of cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, science, education, health, youth contacts and sports.

The participants agreed to continue contacts and inter-parliamentary consultations, including meetings on the margins of the international parliamentary organizations' sessions and between the relevant national parliamentary bodies.

The '[Statement of the BRICS First Parliamentary Forum](#)' was adopted.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Indian representative informed that India could host the international meeting of experts in 2016.

4. Meeting of the BRICS National Security Advisors

DATE

26 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed issues concerning expansion of cooperation in the fight against terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking, collaboration in countering unilateral sanctions and attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states, and consolidation of common approaches to information security.

The Parties noted that they would explore opportunities of expanding cooperation and information exchange in the field of security, including between special services and law enforcement authorities.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the BRICS National Security Advisors is to be held in India in the second half of 2016.

5. Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations on the margins of the UN General Assembly

DATE

29 September 2015

PLACE

New York, USA

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Ministers noted the progress achieved in the implementation of the Ufa Action Plan.

The Ministers stressed the importance of closer economic, financial and trade cooperation, particularly through policy coordination, timely implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, and the full functioning of the New Development Bank and its African Regional Centre.

They reiterated their intention to contribute to safeguarding a fair and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The Parties discussed the possibilities of mutual support for their initiatives at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Ministers also discussed the current state of global economy and finance and expressed their full support for a successful outcome at the COP21.

The Ministers expressed their concerns over continued conflicts in different regions of the world which undermine stability and security. The Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that a comprehensive approach was necessary to ensure an effective fight against terrorism.

The Ministers reiterated their deep concern regarding the situation in Ukraine. They emphasized that there is no military solution to the conflict and that the only way to reconciliation is through inclusive political dialogue. The Ministers called on all parties to comply with all provisions of the Minsk Agreements adopted in February 2015. They urged the parties to observe the current ceasefire and make it sustainable.

The Ministers approved [a press release](#) at the end of the meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations on the margins of the UN General Assembly is to be held in 2016.

6. Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas Meetings

DATE

3–7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow and Ufa, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting was dedicated to finalizing the drafts of the Declaration and the Action Plan to be adopted by Leaders of the BRICS countries at the VII BRICS Summit (Ufa, 8–9 June 2015).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas agreed to meet in New York before the Meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers on the margins of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

DATE

27 September 2015

PLACE

New York, USA

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting on the margins of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. The Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas drafted the final document of the Ministerial. They also discussed the implementation of the Ufa Summit decisions.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas agreed to meet in Antalya before the Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the margins of the G20 Summit.

DATE

13 November 2015

PLACE

Antalya, Turkey

The Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas gathered to finalize the draft outcome document of the Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the margins of the G20 Summit. The Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas also discussed the implementation of the Ufa Summit decisions.

DATE

17 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Russian Sherpa briefed partners on the ongoing BRICS Chair activities and upcoming meetings.

It was underlined that the main objective of the Russian Chair was to further deepen and diversify BRICS cooperation by carrying out previous initiatives and expanding spheres of common interest that would strengthen strategic partnership among our countries and enhance the role and position of BRICS in world politics and economy.

The participants exchanged their views on current issues in financial and economic areas, and the fight against new threats and challenges. 2015 was marked as the year of the official launch of the New Development Bank and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement. Welcoming the appointment of Mr. Kundapur Vaman Kamath to the post of NDB President they stressed the importance of effective operationalization of the Bank and expressed the expectation that work on finalizing the agreement on the NDB Headquarters in Shanghai will be completed soon.

The participants discussed the implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. They agreed to speed up elaboration of the BRICS Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020 and noted that BRICS Business Council should play a more active role in this process.

The Indian Side made a presentation of its incoming 2016 BRICS Chair plans, which will be held under the theme 'Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions'.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas will be held under the Indian Chair.

7. BRICS Dialogue on Foreign Policy

DATE

15 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The representatives of the BRICS countries' Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations discussed the latest developments in international relations, the position and role of BRICS in the process of transformation of the international system, situations in various regions, and practices and methods of foreign policy planning.

The participants of the meeting reaffirmed their common viewpoint of the profound ongoing changes in the world, their commitment to a more just and democratic multilateral international system based on international law and the central role of the United Nations.

The participants underlined the importance of strengthening the coordination of efforts aimed at solving international problems in the spirit of solidarity, mutual understanding and trust. They highlighted that BRICS is a global international structure with huge potential for the further development of collective, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation on a wide range of issues.

They also reiterated a common intention to enhance the collective role of the BRICS countries in international affairs.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

An understanding was reached that Foreign Policy Dialogue should be continued. Its second round is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

8. Meeting of the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers on the Situation in the Middle East and North Africa

DATE

22 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the violent extremism and terrorism threat in the Middle East and North Africa, ways and principles of crisis settlement in the region, the situation in Syria and around it, internal conflicts in Libya and Yemen, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, agreements on the Iranian nuclear programme and their influence on the regional situation, as well as security in the Gulf region.

[The Final Joint Communiqué](#) was adopted and the decision was taken to hold consultations at the level of the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers in charge of Middle Eastern issues on a regular basis.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next consultative meeting of the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers in charge of Middle East issues is to be held in the first half of 2016.

9. BRICS Dialogue on Peacekeeping

DATE

11 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the current challenges of the UN peacekeeping and prospects to enhance its effectiveness. They also exchanged views on military and police peacekeeping personnel training in the BRICS countries and discussed how to exchange experience in this field.

The participants highlighted their common interest in contributing to the UN peacekeeping and to closely cooperate in this field, in particular at the level of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and in the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Indian Side will consider the opportunity to hold the next BRICS Dialogue on Peacekeeping.

10. Informal Meeting of Heads of Legal Departments of the BRICS Ministries of Foreign Affairs / International Relations

DATE

2 November 2015

PLACE

New York, USA

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants reached a common understanding on the topical international law problems of universal nature, in particular those on the agenda of the United Nations, legal aspects of intra-BRICS cooperation, and issues on the day-to-day agendas of legal departments of Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The idea to hold two meetings per year – a short one on the margins of the International Law Week in New York and possibly a two-day meeting in one of BRICS countries was generally supported. The next meeting of Heads of Legal Departments of Ministries of Foreign Affairs / International Relations is to be held in Moscow in April 2016.

11. BRICS Meeting on Security of Outer Space Activities

DATE

20 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants of the meeting emphasized that prevention of an arms race in outer space is a priority for the BRICS countries. The delegations pointed out the need for an international legally-binding treaty banning placement of weapons in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament.

The Sides highly valued Russian–Chinese efforts to promote the draft Treaty on the Prevention of Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and the Threat of Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) as well as the Russian No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space initiative (NFP initiative).

The participants also elaborated a common position on a Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities prepared by the European Union.

The Parties also discussed Russian initiatives on the security and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, issues of transparency in international practices, and confidence building measures in outer space activities as well as preparation for a joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly on probable security threats and the sustainability of outer space.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Sides reaffirmed their willingness to maintain close dialogue on the security of outer space activities.

12. Meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on Anti-Corruption Cooperation

DATE

1 November 2015

PLACE

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed approaches of the BRICS countries to international anti-corruption cooperation, matters on the agenda of the Sixth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the BRICS Anti-corruption Concept Paper.

They agreed to coordinate, when possible, positions of the BRICS countries on international anti-corruption cooperation and to continue the practice of convening meetings of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group on the margins of relevant international forums, as well as to hold separate meetings when feasible.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Further discussion of the Russia-introduced BRICS Anti-corruption Concept Paper will take place under the Indian Chair in 2016.

13. Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on the margins of G20 and WB/IMF Meetings

DATE

16 April 2015

PLACE

Washington D.C., United States

REPORT/OUTCOME

Ministers and Governors discussed recent developments in the global and BRICS economies, advancement in international financial architecture reform, and progress in establishing the New Development Bank and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement. They exchanged views on further possibilities for intra-BRICS financial cooperation, including payment systems and international settlements in national currencies.

Ministers and Governors also discussed items on the G20 agenda.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The participants decided to convene the Inaugural Meeting of the NDB Governors before the BRICS Summit in Ufa and scheduled the BRICS CRA Interim Standing Committee meeting for July in order to sign the Inter-Central Bank Agreement as required by the CRA Treaty.

14. Meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

DATE

7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

Ministers and Governors met to exchange views on the financial agenda of the Ufa BRICS Summit, the establishment of the New Development Bank and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement as well as any possible negative effects on the global economy caused by United States monetary policy.

On the margins of the ministerial meeting the Inter-Central Bank Agreement to the Treaty for the Establishment of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement was signed.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

15. Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank

DATE

7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

Upon completion of ratification procedures by all BRICS countries the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors of the NDB was held on 7 July 2015 in Moscow. This event marked the official launch of the Bank.

At this meeting the Governors elected the first President of the NDB – Mr Kundapur Vaman Kamath, appointed Vice Presidents, adopted Rules of Procedure for the Board of Governors and Board of Directors, and expressed their views on the NDB's strategic priorities for the next 5 years, to be reflected in the General Strategy of the Bank.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Upon invitation from the Governor for China the Board of Governors agreed to hold the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Directors in Shanghai.

16. Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Development Bank

DATE

21 July 2015

PLACE

Shanghai, People's Republic of China

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Shanghai, the city chosen to host the headquarters of the Bank.

The Director for Brazil Mr Luis Balduino was appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

A presentation was made by the President on the strategic vision of the NDB, highlighting the inputs received from the Governors during their Inaugural Meeting on July, 7 in Moscow. The Board held a discussion on the necessary activities for the effective operationalization of the Bank and endorsed an action plan that included preparation of the most important internal policies and documents of the Bank in time for the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The BRICS countries agreed to prepare an initial set of infrastructure projects for the NDB to consider for financing in 2016.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Management of the Bank was tasked with preparing the most important policies and documents required for effective operationalization of the Bank in time for the next meeting of Board of Directors.

17. Meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Development Bank

DATE

23–24 November 2015

PLACE

Shanghai, People's Republic of China

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting of the Board of Directors reflected the progress achieved by the management team in setting up the Bank. More than 40 policies were prepared by the Bank and those required for immediate operationalization of the Bank were considered by the Board of Directors.

The President prepared the Organizational Structure of the Bank and essential HR Policies that were adopted by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors reviewed the project pipeline of the NDB, while the management of the Bank announced that the first projects in the BRICS countries will be financed in the first half of 2016.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In the first quarter of 2016 the Board of Directors intends to approve all policies of the NDB, including key policies on operations and risk management. First project proposals will be approved by the management and subsequently considered by the Board of Directors.

18. Meeting of the Interim Committee of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement

DATE

7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Interim Committee welcomed the upcoming signing of the CRA Inter-Central Bank Agreement. The drafts of the CRA Governing Council Procedural Rules and the CRA Standing Committee Procedural Rules were in principle approved and recommended for adoption by the CRA Governing Council.

19. Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement

DATE

4 September 2015

PLACE

Ankara, Turkey

REPORT/OUTCOME

The CRA Standing Committee declared itself duly formalized and operational.

The draft CRA Standing Committee Procedural Rules were endorsed for submission to the CRA Governing Council for approval.

The draft CRA Governing Council Procedural Rules were endorsed for submission to the CRA Governing Council for approval.

The draft CRA Standing Committee Operational Procedures for Instruments (SCOPI) were considered and, in particular, new wording of the Early Notification provisions was discussed. In the absence of consensus and given agreement on the rest of the document, it was decided to continue work on that specific aspect of the SCOPI.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next regular CRA Standing Committee meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

20. Meeting of the Governing Council of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement

DATE

4 September 2015

PLACE

Ankara, Turkey

REPORT/OUTCOME

The CRA Governing Council declared itself duly formalized and operational.

The CRA Standing Committee Procedural Rules were approved.

The CRA Governing Council Procedural Rules were approved.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next regular CRA Governing Council meeting is to be held in 2016 under Indian Chair.

21. Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers

DATE

7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants exchanged views on the main issues of the development of BRICS economic cooperation. They approved the Framework for BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation.

The Ministers agreed on the draft of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. The Russian Side also submitted the BRICS Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020 and the list of projects proposed by the Russian partners from the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for possible joint implementation with the BRICS countries.

The Ministers exchanged information on the implementation of internal policies to support Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and confirmed their readiness to expand BRICS dialogue to develop new mechanisms of cooperation, including the realization of the initiative of Russia and India regarding the creation of the MSMEs discussion platform.

The Ministers took note of initiatives proposed by UNIDO for joint realization with BRICS, including the creation of the Consolidated Technological Platform.

The Ministers confirmed the importance of expanding cooperation between BRICS and third party countries as well as BRICS' participation in regional integration processes, including more active interaction with the EEU and the SCO.

The Ministers discussed the current situation at the WTO negotiations, confirmed their strong intention to achieve meaningful results at Doha Round of negotiations and declared their adherence to a flexible approach. The Ministers underlined their intention to give the respective instructions to the permanent missions of the BRICS countries in Geneva.

The Ministers adopted the Joint Communiqué that cemented the major achievements of the BRICS countries in the field of trade, economic and investment cooperation under the Russian Chair in BRICS.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS Trade Ministers meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

22. Meetings of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues

DATE

15 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the main initiatives in the sphere of trade and economic interaction of the BRICS countries.

The Russian Side suggested holding a BRICS MSMEs round table.

The CGETI members and the invited guests from the Eurasian Economic Commission discussed the agenda of the BRICS Seminar on Single Window for Trade Facilitation to be held on the margins of the CGETI meeting in December 2015.

Brazil presented its initiative to create a special BRICS Working Group for Trade Promotion. The initiative was in general supported by the partners.

The participants discussed the initiative of China regarding the creation of a BRICS Working Group on IPR Cooperation.

The Russian Side informed the CGETI members of activities in the energy sector, including negotiations on a BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting was scheduled for July 2016.

DATE

6 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants coordinated approaches to the main issues of the trade and economic agenda on the eve of the meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers. The CGETI members approved the Framework for BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation. The document defined the purposes, principles and priorities of the development of BRICS cooperation in this sphere.

The participants discussed the agenda of the BRICS Seminar on Single Window for Trade Facilitation and prospects of setting up the BRICS Working Group for Trade Promotion and of the BRICS Working Group on IPR Cooperation.

The Russian Side proposed to create a BRICS SMEs Internet Portal which would provide a number of services for exporters, importers and investors from the BRICS countries.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting was scheduled for December 2015.

DATE

3 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants summed up the results of BRICS interaction on the economic track in 2015 and discussed the main directions for further work in 2016 under the BRICS Indian Chair.

The participants paid special attention to the implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. The partners supported the thesis of the Russian initiative to develop the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy.

The Action Plan should include concrete actions, timelines of their realization and expected achievements.

The Russian Side announced progress made related to finalizing the BRICS Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020. The document includes 61 projects proposed by Russian companies for joint realization with BRICS partners.

For the development of BRICS e-commerce cooperation the participants discussed possible joint actions for the implementation of the Framework for BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation, namely holding a joint analysis of the barriers that prevent the development of e-commerce in the BRICS countries and considering possible ways to overcoming them as well as preparing a list of pilot projects to fulfill the Framework to a substantial degree.

The CGETI members will develop these initiatives together with the relevant experts.

The CGETI members discussed the outcomes of the BRICS Seminar on Single Window for Trade Facilitation. They confirmed their readiness to take part in the development of the Framework, defining the main areas of the interaction between the BRICS countries on single window issues.

The participants discussed the Terms of Reference of the BRICS countries IPR Cooperation Mechanism prepared by China. They agreed to finalize the document by the end of December 2015.

The Russian Side launched a new initiative to develop cooperation among BRICS young entrepreneurs and presented the interface and services of the BRICS SMEs Internet Portal. The participants agreed to expand cooperation in terms of updating the Portal with relevant and updated information.

The CGETI members agreed to form the scope of activities of the virtual BRICS Trade Promotion Working Group proposed by Brazil.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Preparing the Action Plan for the implementation of the BRICS Strategy.

Holding a joint analysis of the barriers that prevent the development of e-commerce in the BRICS countries and preparing a list of pilot projects to fulfill substantially the Framework for BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation.

Forming the scope of activities of the virtual BRICS Trade Promotion Working Group.

Informing organizations and companies from the BRICS countries of the services and opportunities provided by the BRICS SMEs Internet Portal and assisting in updating with by relevant information and data.

23. BRICS Expert Dialogue on e-Commerce

DATE

14 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed current trends in e-commerce markets of the BRICS countries.

The Russian Side submitted to the partners a review of current trends in e-commerce markets and government procurement in the BRICS countries.

The participants also discussed issues of trust and safety in the exchange of electronic documents and the protection of personal data, standards and linguistic technologies in e-commerce as well as possible joint actions of the BRICS countries in the field of integrating national information and analytic systems.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Developing the Framework for BRICS e-Commerce Cooperation.

24. Round table 'Support and development of BRICS MSMEs'

DATE

6 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the issues of MSME access to finance, and the development of innovative, export-oriented and youth entrepreneurship. The Russian Side initiated the creation of the BRICS SMEs Internet Portal as well as a platform for the direct communication of young entrepreneurs from the BRICS countries. The participants of the round table supported these initiatives and agreed to continue intersession discussion, taking into account the particular social and economic circumstances of the BRICS countries.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Organization of similar events on a regular basis. Creation of a discussion platform for BRICS entrepreneurs.

25. BRICS Seminar on Single Window for Trade Facilitation

DATE

2 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Seminar was attended by government officials, and the business and academic communities of the BRICS countries. During the Seminar experts discussed the organizational and legal issues of the implementation of national single window projects, the requirements of the business community and the role of public-private partnership in the creation and the development of single window systems. The representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission shared the experience of the EEU member states in the development and organization of interaction among national single window systems.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Preparing recommendations to the BRICS Trade Ministers on cooperation in the sphere of implementation of national single window projects.

Developing a Framework that defines the main areas of interaction between the BRICS countries on single window issues.

Holding target expert meetings on organizational and technical aspects of the implementation of national single window projects for the purpose of developing a concrete mechanism of interaction within BRICS (with participation of technical specialists in the field). Preparing a list of national focal points for inclusion in the discussion of specific single window issues.

26. Meeting of the BRICS Communications Ministers

DATE

22–23 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting was preceded on 22 October 2015 by the IT forum dedicated to the discussion of the opportunities of leading specialized companies from the BRICS countries to demonopolize the global software and IT equipment market. The Ministers discussed the following topics: 'Demonopolization on the World Market of Software and IT Equipment', 'Development of the Ecosystem of Internet Infrastructure Governance', and '[Expansion of Cooperation in the Field of Communications and ICTs](#)'.

The Parties decided to hold annual meetings of the BRICS Communications Ministers and the Working Group on ICT.

The participants acknowledged that ICTs has become a key factor in sustainable economic and social growth and development. They highlighted that facilitating the implementation and use of high-speed (broadband) Internet access is an important part of BRICS ICTs strategies.

The Ministers noted the need to strengthen international cooperation by sharing opportunities and achievements in the field of Internet development with a particular focus on developing countries.

They confirmed the right of all States to establish and implement policies for information and communication networks in their territories in accordance with their respective historical, cultural, religious and social factors.

They also noted the importance of the establishment of a mechanism for Internet governance based on the principles of multilateralism, democracy, transparency and mutual trust and involving relevant stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meetings of the BRICS Communications Ministers and Working Group on ICT are due to take place in India in September–October 2016.

27. First BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting

DATE

20 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

Before the event a ministerial meeting, the First BRICS Industrial Expert Council (26–27 August 2015), and the Second BRICS Industrial Expert Council (19 October 2015) were held in Moscow.

The Heads of Industrial Authorities discussed the prospects of multilateral cooperation in the metallurgical, aerospace, automotive, pharmaceutical and chemical industries, including the creation of production chains between the BRICS countries.

The Heads signed [the Declaration](#), which established a framework for long-term partnership on a wide range of industry branches, including the expansion of comprehensive cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

They expressed their commitment to promoting the development of comprehensive industrial ties as well as to enhance the volume of mutual supplies of modern equipment and new technologies in areas such as mining, mechanical manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, metallurgy, aircraft construction, the automobile industry, railway equipment, energy-efficient technologies, low-carbon industries, oil and gas equipment, shipbuilding, information technology, chemical engineering and capital goods.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Further work on the MoU in the mining industry and deepening cooperation in the creation of a joint technological platform.

Elaboration of the question of joint multilateral projects using the mechanisms of other international formats, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the European scientific and technical programme Eureka.

28. First BRICS Energy Ministerial Meeting

DATE

20 November 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

[The First BRICS Energy Ministerial Meeting](#) was held on 20 November 2015 in Moscow, Russia, on the margins of the IV International Forum on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving ENES-2015. It was preceded by the High-Level Consultations on Energy Efficiency which were held on 26 May in Merida, Mexico.

The Moscow Ministerial Meeting marked the beginning of institutionalization of energy cooperation within BRICS.

The meeting's key result was the signing of the Memorandum on Mutual Understanding in Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency Promotion between the ministries and governmental agencies of BRICS. It defines the spheres of cooperation that are in the interest of all BRICS countries, and will create a database of their energy efficient technologies, enhancing collaboration between public and private sector companies and international development banks in order to attract investments in energy efficiency projects and technologies.

The Ministers expressed their intention to establish a working group on energy conservation and efficiency, and to develop its action plan.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Ministerial Meeting is to be held in 2016.

29. First Meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministers

DATE

21–22 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Ministers discussed green economy” development in the interest of sustainability and competitiveness sustainable development and Rio+20, the economic consequences of climate change, urgent environmental issues and prospects of BRICS cooperation in environmental areas.

[The Joint Statement](#) by Ministers was approved, reflecting the key priorities of sustainable development in the field of environmental protection that are relevant to the BRICS countries. The Russian Side proposed to establish a permanent Working Group on Environmental Issues and a platform for public-private partnership to exchange experiences in the field of legal regulation of environmental protection, as well as the research, exchange and implementation of green technologies.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The first meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Issues is scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg in 2016.

30. Meeting of the BRICS Agricultural Cooperation Working Group

DATE

12–13 August 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Parties discussed issues of agricultural technologies and innovative development in securing food supply for the most vulnerable populations, reduction of the negative impact of climate change on food security, adaptation of agriculture to climate change, the exchange of relevant market information and trade and investment promotion. The Annual Calendar of Activities in 2015–2016 for the Implementation of the Action Plan 2012–2016 for Agricultural Cooperation of the BRICS countries was drafted.

The Parties approved the date and agenda of the Fifth Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The participants decided to hold their next meeting on 7 October 2015 in Moscow.

31. Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development

DATE

9 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The ministerial meeting was preceded by a meeting of the BRICS Agricultural Cooperation Working Group on 7 October 2015, where the countries' representatives adopted the draft Annual Calendar of Activities in 2015–2016 for the Implementation of Action Plan 2012–2016 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS. The participants to the ministerial meeting exchanged their views on food supply for the most vulnerable populations, reduction of the negative impact of climate change on food security, mechanisms for mutual trade and investment expansion, and agricultural technologies and innovations.

The Ministers approved [the Joint Declaration](#) at the end of the meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

32. Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Education

DATE

25–26 June 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants held [their meeting](#) to discuss the ways of implementing the provisions of the Brasília Declaration, adopted at the Second Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers held in Brasília, Brazil on 2 March 2015, and to prepare the Meeting of the BRICS Education Ministers (Moscow, 18 November 2015).

They agreed to:

- appoint BRICS permanent representatives at the decision-making level for coordination on education matters;
- encourage the establishment of the BRICS Universities League and the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) as independent and mutually supporting initiatives;
- adopt the structure of the national 'technical and vocational education and training' (TVET) stock-taking reports in the BRICS countries;
- explore the possibilities of skills development in BRICS cooperation through implementation of international best practices, including WorldSkills.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the Working Group is to be held in 2016.

33. Meeting of the BRICS Education Ministers preceded by the Meeting of the BRICS Education Senior Officials

DATE

17–18 November 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The BRICS Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Education was held to finalize the draft documents for the signing by the Ministers of the [Moscow Declaration of the BRICS Education Ministers](#) and [the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BRICS Network University \(BRICS NU\)](#).

The BRICS NU MoU states that the BRICS NU is a network of the BRICS countries' higher education institutions engaged in preferential cooperation and development, bilateral and multilateral short-term joint training, master's and PhD programmes along with joint research projects in various knowledge fields.

The BRICS National Ministries of Education will determine the list of the BRICS NU participant institutions (12 from each BRICS country).

The BRICS NU set the following knowledge field priorities at the stage of its establishment: energy, computer science and information security, BRICS studies, ecology and climate change, water resources and pollution treatment, and economics.

The BRICS NU International Governing Board (IGB), the BRICS NU National Coordination Committee (NCC) and other relevant national governing structures in each of the BRICS countries, including the International Thematic Groups (ITG) on the knowledge field priorities of the BRICS NU, will constitute the regulatory bodies of the BRICS NU.

The Moscow Declaration defines the main spheres of cooperation. The Ministers also agreed to facilitate the process of internationalization of higher education and academic mobility, ensuring the equivalence of education statistics in the BRICS countries, and the development of technical vocational education and training.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

It was agreed that the Conference on the Development of the BRICS NU is to be held in March–April 2016 in Yekaterinburg (Russia). The next BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Education will take place in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

34. Meeting of the BRICS Ministers on Science, Technology and Innovation preceded by the Meeting of the BRICS Senior Officials on Science, Technology and Innovation

DATE

27–28 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the implementation of the BRICS Research and Innovation Initiative and reviewed the following matters: (i) cooperation within large research infrastructures, including mega-science projects; (ii) coordination of the existing large-scale national programmes in science and technology of the BRICS countries; (iii) development and implementation of a BRICS Framework Programme for funding multilateral joint research projects, technology commercialization and innovation; (iv) establishment of a BRICS Research and Innovation Networking Platform.

The BRICS STI Ministers approved [the Moscow Declaration of the Meeting of the BRICS Ministers on Science, Technology and Innovation](#) and [the BRICS STI Work Plan for 2015–2018](#).

The Work Plan defines structures for collaboration within the BRICS Research and Innovation Networking Platform, developing communication channels between stakeholders in five thematic leadership areas:

- prevention and mitigation of natural disasters (monitoring & early warning): Brazil (National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disasters – Cemaden);
- water resources and pollution treatment: Russia (Technology Platform for Sustainable Ecological Development);
- geospatial technology and its application in development; development of ICT and geospatial technology based Decision Support Systems (DSSs) for multi-hazard and climate risk management and appropriate resilient development planning for sustainable habitat: India (National Spatial Data Infrastructure, Department of Science and Technology);
- new and renewable energy, energy efficiency: China (Ministry of Science and Technology – MOST);
- astronomy: South Africa (National Research Foundation).

The Work Plan also includes new research and innovation initiatives with indication of the coordinating country:

- BRICS Young Scientists Forum (India);
- Biotechnology and Biomedicine including Human Health and Neuroscience (Russia or Brazil);
- Information Technologies and high performance computing (China and South Africa);
- ocean and polar Science and technology (Brazil and Russia);
- material science including nanotechnology (India and Russia);
- Photonics (India and Russia).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

India offered to host the next BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the Sixth BRICS STI SOM in 2016.

35. The BRICS Seminar on Population Matters 'Demographic Challenges and Economic Development of BRICS Countries'

DATE

9–10 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The BRICS experts exchanged opinions and experience on the integration of demographic and economic policies.

They also discussed ways to turn demographic challenges into demographic opportunities for boosting economic growth and developing human potential, and also for expanding the opportunities and rights of women.

Other issues of the seminar's programme included demographic monitoring and forecasting, family and youth policies, and ways of adapting pension and social protection systems to demographic changes.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Based on the results of the seminar, the experts agreed to draft recommendations to integrate demographic issues into the macroeconomic, financial, labour and social policy guidelines, which will be forwarded to the BRICS leaders for their consideration.

36. Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Labour and Employment

DATE

25–26 January 2016

PLACE

Ufa, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Ministers discussed issues of quality and inclusive employment, labour market infrastructure development, protection of workers' rights, formalization of the labour market, labour and employment information exchange and harmonization of labour market indicators.

A [Declaration](#) was approved at the meeting.

According to this document further cooperation will focus on improving the quality and inclusiveness of employment by upgrading enterprises, developing professional standards and qualifications, introducing higher quality in professional education, providing social security to all workers, and supporting the unemployed.

The ministers agreed to compare their labour market indicators and work together with statistical services of the BRICS countries that collect and publish data.

A Russian initiative was supported to create a website dedicated to social and labour issues within the BRICS countries. It will focus on human resource development, including the development of modern requirements for workers' qualifications and skills.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Labour and Employment is scheduled to be held in 2016 in India.

37. First Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Culture

DATE

17 June 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The First Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Culture was preceded by the session of the experts working group on 16 June 2016.

The Ministers discussed the current issues and prospects for the development of cooperation in the field of arts, culture, and heritage among the BRICS countries and exchanged views on the prospects of strengthening cooperation and building a legal framework for multilateral cooperation within BRICS.

The Parties expressed interest in the further development of their cooperation, which would contribute to mutual understanding, protecting and promoting cultural diversity, enhancing mutual respect, encouraging exchange, and sharing expertise and knowledge about the lives and traditions of the peoples living in the BRICS countries.

The Ministers have emphasized the need for using the achievements of modern technology in arts, culture and heritage and other related spheres.

As a result of the meeting the draft Agreement on the Cooperation in the Field of Culture among the BRICS countries was adopted. The Parties expressed their willingness to sign this document during the BRICS summit in Ufa on 8–9 July 2015.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Parties will assist exchanges in mutually agreed areas of cooperation in arts, culture, heritage and other related spheres through various activities to be arranged at the multilateral and bilateral levels.

The next Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Culture will be held under the Indian Chair in 2016.

38. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services

DATE

10 November 2015

PLACE

Sochi, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Leaders of the BRICS countries' prosecution services met on the margins of the Seventh Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors for Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia which was hosted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation (Sochi, 9–12 November 2015).

The meeting focused on possible areas of cooperation with a view to countering new challenges and threats, and ensuring human rights and freedoms. An agreement was reached to promote cooperation within the prosecution services of BRICS states. The Concept of Cooperation including the main tasks, directions and forms of interaction was approved.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The participants of the meeting have agreed to hold the next meeting in December 2016 in China (on the margins of the 14th meeting of the General Prosecutors of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

39. BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Combating the Drug Threat

DATE

22 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the meeting of experts on combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors in the BRICS countries (Moscow, 20 April 2015).

During the Ministerial Meeting the participants discussed the drug situation in the BRICS countries and the prospects of development of international cooperation in the sphere of combating illicit drug trafficking.

The Ministers decided to create a BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Ministerial Meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

40. First Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group

DATE

10 November 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Parties discussed the draft Regulations of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group and issues of preparation for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the global drug problem to be held in 2016.

They agreed to take into account the need to work out global anti-drug policies aimed at elaborating and providing international legal decisions for concrete ways of assisting Afghanistan with regard to eliminating drug production.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

41. Meeting of the BRICS Healthcare Ministers

DATE

30 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The ministerial meeting was preceded by two Senior Officials Meetings on Health Issues in Irkutsk on 13–15 July 2015 and in Moscow on 29 October 2015.

The Ministers discussed innovative solutions to achieve sustainable development in the field of healthcare until 2030, adopted at the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The meeting reaffirmed the need to enhance cooperation in reforming the healthcare systems in the BRICS countries. In addition the Ministers discussed issues of non-communicable and communicable diseases, combating the tobacco epidemic, and road safety. Agreements reached are reflected in the Moscow Declaration. The Parties are planning to create working groups, to hold (jointly with the WHO) the International Forum on Coordination of Efforts in the Fight Against Tuberculosis in the BRICS countries and countries with high a TB burden, to organize an expert discussion on the development of healthcare during the Ninth Global Conference on Health Promotion to be held in Shanghai in 2016, and to participate in the Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety in Brazil in November 2015.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS Healthcare Ministers Meeting is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

42. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of National Standardization Bodies

DATE

15 September 2015

PLACE

Seoul, South Korea

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Parties discussed the feasibility of establishing a Standardization Working Group of the BRICS countries. The primary goal of the working group is the identification of existing technical barriers to trade among BRICS economies, as well as the possibilities and processes for their removal. The working group will contribute to raising awareness in the field of standardization, as well as the exchange of best practices between the national standardization bodies within BRICS.

The Parties also discussed the opportunities for the creation and co-management of a data portal on standardization.

Each country will chair the working group for two years on a rotating basis. At the initial stage it was proposed the Chinese Side lead the Secretariat for a term of two years.

The Parties agreed to hold annual meetings in the chair-country or on the margins of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) events, as well as to hold web conferences.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The first meeting of the Working Group is to be held in July 2016 on the margins of the Seventh International Industrial Trade Fair INNOPROM 2016.

43. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Tax Administrations

DATE

19 November 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The BRICS Heads of revenue authorities discussed the following:

- practical steps to implement the BEPS Action Plan;
- prevention of cross-border tax evasion through implementation of a Common Reporting Standard for the automated exchange of tax information;
- supporting the engagement of developing countries in the BEPS Project and increasing tax administrations' capacity in the implementation of AEOI.

The Parties expressed their commitment to continuing the exchange of experiences, to cooperation in combating base erosion and profit shifting, and to improving compliance. They reiterated their endorsement for the global Common Reporting Standard for the automatic exchange of information on a reciprocal basis and reaffirmed their commitment to commencing the automatic and mutual exchange of information between the Parties and with other jurisdictions by 2017 or 2018 subject to fulfilling the necessary legal requirements.

The participants have also expressed commitment to working closely with each other and with developing countries to facilitate and deepen collective involvement in the implementation of the BEPS measures as well as to share best practices in international taxation.

The participants have agreed to compile a single document encompassing the BRICS Tax Administrations' experience in providing assistance to developing countries in terms of capacity building from a tax administration perspective with a focus on BEPS and the automatic exchange of information.

The Final Communiqué was approved at the end of the meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS Heads of Tax Administrations meeting is to be held in India in 2016.

44. Meeting of BRICS Experts on Customs Issues

DATE

13 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The parties finalized the draft Regulation on the Customs Cooperation Committee of BRICS.

They also continued drafting the BRICS Multilateral Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Parties reported the results of the meeting to the BRICS Heads of Customs Agencies.

45. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Customs Agencies

DATE

10 June 2015

PLACE

Brussels, Belgium

REPORT/OUTCOME

The representatives of the BRICS Customs Agencies discussed and approved the draft Regulation on the Customs Cooperation Committee of the BRICS. The Parties decided to move forward with internal procedures with the aim of signing the Regulation.

The participants decided to continue discussion on the draft BRICS Multilateral Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Meeting of the Heads of BRICS Customs Agencies will be held in 2016.

46. Meetings of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities on the margins of the International Competition Network's Annual Competition Conference

DATE

28 April 2015

PLACE

Sydney, Australia

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed priority spheres of work of the BRICS Competition Authorities, in particular joint research on socially important sectors and markets of the BRICS countries. They will consider the opportunities for cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, the automobile industry, housing construction markets, oil and oil products markets, the international telecommunications services market via roaming services market, and retail services of distribution networks.

They also considered mechanisms of cooperation on the basis of the BRICS Working Group for Research on Competition Issues in Socially Important Sectors of the Economy.

Russia introduced the draft of the Concept Note on the BRICS Working Group, which was agreed by all participants of the meeting as a basis for further consideration by all BRICS countries.

Participants of the meeting also discussed the major provisions of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Competition Law and Policy and confirmed the necessity of signing it.

They noted that the BRICS countries face similar problems and the BRICS Competition Authorities should enhance their efforts in promoting cooperation.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting was scheduled to be held during the Russian Competition Week on 21–22 September 2015 in Moscow.

47. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities during the Russian Competition Week International Event

DATE

21–22 September 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities was preceded by the meeting of experts of the BRICS Competition Authorities.

The Parties discussed the key provisions of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Competition Law and Policy between the Competition Authorities of the BRICS countries as well as possibility of signing it at the Fourth BRICS International Competition Conference in Durban, South Africa.

The participants also approved the Concept Note on the BRICS Working Group for Research on Competition Issues in Socially Important Sectors of the Economy.

The Parties discussed the prospects of cooperation, in particular, in the field of socially important sectors of the economy. Russia shared its experience on developing self-regulation methods in the automobile and pharmaceutical sectors of the economy and suggested the application of its experience in the BRICS format. The Parties agreed on organizing separate meetings for discussing possible methods for implementation of self-regulatory mechanisms in the socially important sectors of the economy.

Russia also made a presentation on the Food Value Chains Project on 'Regulation of the Food Industry: a New Model of Competition and Innovation Policies for the BRICS Countries'. The key aim of the project is a complex analysis of food chains – from agricultural and biotechnological production to retail trade.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Parties agreed on the importance of the Project on 'Regulation of the Food Industry: a New Model of Competition and Innovation Policies for the BRICS Countries' and decided to discuss it in detail at the Fourth BRICS International Competition Conference (Durban, November 11–13 2015).

48. Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities during the Fourth BRICS Competition Conference

DATE

13 November 2015

PLACE

Durban, South Africa

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed specific mechanisms for cooperation between BRICS Competition Authorities in the framework of the BRICS Working Group for Research on Competition Issues in Socially Important Sectors of the Economy. The Russian Side proposed to set up a single platform for exchange of non-confidential information and knowledge in the field of competition policy in socially important markets of the BRICS countries with the involvement of leading academics and research centres. This idea was supported by the BRICS Competition Authorities.

The Parties signed [the Joint Statement of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities](#) which defined sectors and mechanisms of the BRICS Competition Authorities' cooperation.

The Parties also discussed steps aimed at implementation of Russia's Project on 'Regulation of the Food Industry: a New Model of Competition and Innovation Policies for the BRICS Countries'.

The participants agreed an intensification in the process of internal approval of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Competition Law and Policy in order to sign it at the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum

(St. Petersburg, 18–21 May 2016).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities is to be held in 2016.

49. Round Table 'Creation of Fair Rules of the Game in the Pharmaceutical Markets of the BRICS Countries'

DATE

12 March 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants noted that in the globalizing world joint coordinated activities of the BRICS Competition Authorities are required. They also supported Russia's proposal of elaborating a Concept Note on the Working Group, especially in the format of a BRICS Working Group for Research on Competition Issues in Socially Important Sectors of the Economy.

50. Meeting of the BRICS Heads Responsible for National Statistics

DATE

27–28 September 2015

PLACE

Sochi, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting was focused on the following issues: cooperation of the BRICS National Statistical Offices in the field of economic statistics, release of the Joint Statistical Publication, implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Post-2015 Agenda. Special attention was paid to countries' capacity related to statistical data production for SDGs.

The countries presented progress reports on strengthening the national statistical capacity for production of indicators for measuring sustainable development in the post-2015 period, analyzed interim results of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators and also discussed further cooperation in this field.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of the BRICS countries chaired by India is scheduled for the second half of 2016.

51. First Meeting of the BRICS Heads of the Migration Authorities

DATE

8 October 2015

PLACE

Sochi, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed:

- migration as a factor in the successful development of a society;
- new challenges and strategies;
- the international protection of migrants;
- information exchange.

They noted the similarity of approaches to various aspects of migration.

The Heads of Delegations adopted the [Joint Declaration](#), which confirmed the mutual interest in continuing the dialogue on migration issues and sharing best practices in this area.

The round table discussion on 'Migration as a factor in the successful development of society in the context of migration processes' was held on the margins of the meeting. It was attended by participants of the meeting and representatives of migration and foreign affairs authorities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Participants of the meeting supported the idea of regular meetings between representatives of immigration departments of the BRICS countries and discussed the possibility of enhancing the legal framework of migration cooperation between the BRICS countries. The next meeting is to be held in 2016.

52. Meetings of the Heads of Delegations of BRICS on the margins of the FATF

DATE

24 February 2015

PLACE

Paris, France

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants of the meeting discussed the issue of training AML/CFT experts and the latest round of FATF mutual evaluations and National Risk Assessments. The Russian initiative on the development of a BRICS secure AML/CFT information exchange network was also reviewed.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Parties agreed to organize and conduct a training seminar within the meeting of the Heads of Delegations of BRICS on the margins of the FATF in Moscow.

DATE

23–24 April 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants of the meeting developed common approaches in preparation for the new round of FATF mutual evaluations.

The Russian draft action plan on preparation for the FATF mutual evaluation was circulated. The draft was commended by partners and will be used for similar national plans.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The decision was taken to establish a mechanism for the possible participation of colleagues from BRICS in national risk assessments, in the preliminary analysis of their results, and in the upcoming mutual evaluation of the BRICS countries.

It was concluded that the participation of BRICS experts in the FATF missions is necessary.

DATE

24 June 2015

PLACE

Brisbane, Australia

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants of the meeting discussed the Russian initiatives on the development of a BRICS secure AML/CFT information exchange network and the development of an international mechanism of for the confiscation, partitioning and recovery of criminal assets within BRICS.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Russia is to draft a universal document on the development of a BRICS secure AML/CFT information exchange network including the organization of its work. Russia will also start preparing a draft legal act regulating international cooperation in the confiscation, partitioning and recovery of criminal assets.

53. Meeting of the BRICS Council on AML/CFT

DATE

21 October 2015

PLACE

Paris, France

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants of the meeting discussed the Russian initiatives on the development of a BRICS secure AML/CFT information exchange network and on the development of an international mechanism for the confiscation, partitioning and recovery of criminal assets within BRICS.

The Parties agreed on the consolidation of BRICS actions in counter-terrorism financing and on the intensification of training programmes, especially using the Network AML/CFT Institute.

The idea of establishing a Secretariat of the BRICS Council on AML/CFT in Moscow on a permanent basis was approved.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The BRICS countries have agreed to examine draft statutory instruments of the BRICS Council on AML/CFT before February 2016.

54. Forum of the Heads of the BRICS Countries' Leading Media Outlets

DATE

8 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME:

The main goal of this meeting, which brought together representatives of the leading media outlets and experts from the five BRICS countries, was to create effective cooperation plans in the sphere of information as a basis for the development of a common media space in the BRICS countries.

The forum participants analyzed modern challenges in the global information space and discussed the development of national media outlets in the 21st century.

The participants discussed ways to promote dialogue on relations between the media, society and the state, and the connection between journalism and information literacy, national development and international cooperation.

In addition to the main programme the Forum's agenda included an academic session of delegates from the main universities of the BRICS countries. The academicians reached tentative agreements on bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

In their [Declaration](#) participants welcomed the initiative of the Russian BRICS Chair to discuss a common information space based on plurality of opinion, journalistic ethics, openness, and a desire to learn more about partner countries' cultures.

The participants also signed the Memorandum of Intention to establish a BRICS Information Centre and the Memorandum of Intention to create Radio BRICS.

The BRICS Information Centre project will be an international media service comprising a website and a multimedia newswire in the BRICS countries' languages (Russian, Chinese, English and Portuguese).

The Radio BRICS project will provide for the joint use of radio material within the framework of a cooperation mechanism, joint preparation of radio programmes on issues related to BRICS and the creation of a special platform for the exchange and cross-broadcasting of information materials and programmes among project participants.

The participants also announced the launch of bilateral cooperation between Rossiya Segodnya and the three foreign media outlets with which it has signed cooperation agreements – Empresa Brasil de Comunicação (Brazil), African News Agency (South Africa) and South African Broadcasting Corporation (South Africa).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Forum participants expressed their interest in holding similar meetings on a regular basis.

55. BRICS Youth Summit and Meeting of BRICS Ministers and Heads of Departments for Youth

DATE

1–7 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Kazan, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

In the aftermath of the meeting on 6 July 2015 the Heads of Departments of Youth of the BRICS countries signed [the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in Youth Affairs](#). It defines the main areas of cooperation which include exchange of experience and information on the implementation of state youth policy, international youth exchanges, and business, research and innovative activities. The MoU envisages annual technical meetings on youth affairs.

At the Youth Summit the participants approved [the Plan of Action](#), which reflects the results of the discussion in the form of working sessions, dedicated to the expansion of cooperation in political, economic, informational, research and humanitarian areas.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS Youth Summit is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

56. International Conference ‘Common Threats, Joint Actions: The Response of the BRICS Countries to Dangerous Infectious Diseases’

DATE

23–24 June 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

During the conference attended by more than 200 representatives from specialized authorities, international organizations and academia, discussions were held covering the most crucial issues in fighting communicable diseases: the experience of the BRICS countries in eliminating the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the prospects for cooperation in preventing and combating HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and tropical infectious diseases that are relevant to the BRICS countries, opportunities for developing cooperation among the BRICS countries in the development of immunobiological and diagnostic preparations as well as the role of BRICS in the development agenda.

The participants recognized the need to develop cooperation between experts and organizations of the BRICS countries working in the field of protecting human health, as well as with relevant international organizations. To this end conference participants called for regular dialogue between services responsible for the sanitary and epidemiological wellbeing of the BRICS countries.

[The Final Resolution](#) was published at the end of the Conference.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

In accordance with the Ufa Declaration provisions on elaboration by specialized authorities of practical midterm measures to tackle infections, Rospotrebnadzor developed and proposed to the BRICS partners a draft Set of Practical Measures to maximize the effectiveness of each BRICS country's individual input in achieving the goals of reducing global threats coming from communicable diseases. The Set of Practical Measures can form a basis for the BRICS countries joint actions to manage risks related to emerging infections, to eradicate communicable diseases that hamper development and to begin scientific research and development aimed at providing increased access to prevention and treatment for communicable diseases.

Rospotrebnadzor also proposed that the BRICS partners consider the possibility of organizing regular meetings between representatives of the BRICS countries authorities responsible for communicable disease control and prevention. Such meetings could be held before ministerial meetings or on the margins of international organizations.

57. Meeting of the BRICS Senior Officials Responsible for International Development Assistance

DATE

7 December 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

The aim of the meeting was to initiate a discussion between the BRICS countries on development assistance cooperation.

- The following issues were discussed: sharing information and best practices on the systems, institutions, priorities and other topical issues in the field of development assistance;
- possible joint initiatives;
- private sector funding engagement to implement the global development assistance agenda;
- implementation of joint BRICS projects through its operational programmes and funds as well as specialized institutions of the United Nations;
- a possible future framework for cooperation.

The participants stressed the importance of the concept of mutual solidarity and respect of sovereignty of states, and the priorities of partner countries' development. Humanitarian assistance and emergency response were identified as the most promising spheres of cooperation.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting is planned to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair.

58. International Workshop ‘Effective Regulation of Industrial Safety as an Element of Stability of the National Economy’

DATE

11–12 November 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed topical issues and current trends in industrial and energy safety regulation as well as key tasks of the national regulators, including enhancement of regulatory and legal controls.

In particular, they exchanged views on significant changes in legislation related to industrial and energy safety in the BRICS countries, the systems of regulatory and legal control and structures of regulatory documents, issues of control and supervision at hazardous industrial and energy facilities, and issues of prevention and mitigation of large-scale industrial accidents and man-made disasters.

The round table discussion focused on the need for unifying the approaches to supervisory activities and the development of safety requirements. The panelists noted that the BRICS countries possess a significant intellectual, scientific, technical and technology potential that is capable of exerting great influence on the development of their economies.

The participants stressed the need for further cooperation between the industrial and energy safety regulators within BRICS.

59. BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of ICTs

DATE

16–18 June 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants at the meeting exchanged views on the security of information and communication technologies, and discussed issues pertaining to effective cooperation in fighting crime and terrorism in the digital world. They emphasized the importance of joint efforts and the key role of the United Nations in developing universal rules, regulations and principles of behaviour of countries in the digital world.

The delegations agreed to develop an action plan to enhance practical cooperation.

A draft BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation to promote safe use of information and communication technologies was presented by the Russian Side.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The date and place of the next Working Group meeting will be agreed through BRICS Sherpas channel.

60. BRICS Business Forum 'BRICS Economic Cooperation: Opportunities for Growth and Development'

DATE

18 June 2015

PLACE

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

BRICS Business Forum was held for the first time on the margins of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

The participants of the discussion shared their views on trade and investment between the BRICS countries, ways of stimulating economic recovery in the BRICS countries, mechanisms for building and strengthening inter-regional ties, opportunities for establishing a favorable business environment, harmonizing trade regulations and removing administrative barriers and bottlenecks.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS panel within the framework of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum is to be held in 2016.

61. BRICS Business Council Meeting preceded by the Working Groups Meetings

DATE

6–8 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Ufa, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

During the Working Groups Meetings project initiatives were discussed along with the prospects of building cooperation with the New Development Bank and the possibility of creating a BRICS Rating Agency.

The BRICS Business Council summed up the interim results of activities and identified future tasks. The participants discussed possibilities for cooperation between the BRICS BC and the New Development Bank, joint infrastructure projects and financing mechanisms.

Focus areas of work were prioritized as a result of BRICS BC and Working Groups Meetings:

- preparing a joint investment projects list, which could be recommended to the New Development Bank;
- analyzing existing administrative barriers and ways for their removal, trade terms facilitation, technical standards and regulations unification;
- promoting e-commerce among the BRICS countries;
- supporting joint projects and programmes aimed at development of national markets (including industrial cooperation, investment cooperation, access to innovative technologies and skills development);
- developing inter-regional business ties.

The BRICS BC members supported the RDIF's initiative to create a joint investment mechanism for the financial support of infrastructure projects. They expressed an intention to provide support for the promotion of projects and initiatives recommended by the BRICS BC Working Groups.

[The Annual Report for 2014–2015](#) and Declaration of Investment Principles were signed and presented to the BRICS Leaders on 9 July 2015.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next meeting of the BRICS Business Council will be held in 2016.

62. Meeting of Exhibition Companies of the BRICS Countries

DATE

26 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russia

REPORT/OUTCOME

The meeting was held for the first time on the initiative of the Russian Chapter of the BRICS Business Council.

During the meeting issues of integration of exhibition activity among BRICS countries were discussed.

The participants agreed that it is necessary to develop cooperation in the exhibition sector. Creation of a special advisory body within the BRICS Business Council responsible for exhibition activities was suggested in order to coordinate the activities of the exhibition organizations of these countries.

The delegations agreed that it is necessary to establish direct contacts between exhibition organizations of the BRICS countries for regular interaction and information exchange.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The Parties agreed to continue cooperation and consider the creation of an advisory council of the exhibition companies of the BRICS countries to coordinate the cooperation both on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

63. BRICS Think Tank Council Meetings

DATE

21 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

Agenda:

- summarizing the work on the [‘Towards a Long-Term Strategy for BRICS’ analytical report](#);
- discussing prospects of its publication and presentation to the Leaders of the BRICS countries during the summit in Ufa;
- planning for BRICS Think Tank Council activities in 2016.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The participants agreed to elaborate on a strategy for the BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goals forecast and to exchange work plans for BRICS national coordinators in 2016.

DATE

25 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

Agenda:

- work on the ‘BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goal’s joint forecast research project;
- coordinate the BRICS Think Tank Council’s activities.

The participants divided areas of research between the members of BRICS Think Tank Council and agreed to begin working on the forecast research on ‘BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goals’ starting from 1 January 2016.

Forecast research on ‘BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goals’ will be presented to the BRICS Leaders in 2017.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Forecast research on ‘BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goals’ is to be published in 2017.

64. VII BRICS Academic Forum

DATE

22–23 May 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The agenda of VII BRICS Academic Forum included the following items:

- building a fair world order;
- international law;
- peace and security;
- the role of international institutions;
- reform of the international financial system and the future of BRICS financial institutions;
- social issues;
- trade development;
- new priorities of economic interaction within BRICS;
- all-round development of cooperation.

The participants welcomed the analytical report 'Towards a Long-Term Strategy for BRICS', formulated [the recommendations](#) regarding the Ufa summit (8–9 July 2015) and agreed to prepare the joint BRICS research project 'BRICS 2025: Anniversary Goals'.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The VIII BRICS Academic Forum will take place under the Indian Chair in 2016.

65. BRICS Civil Forum

DATE

29 June–1 July 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The BRICS Civil Forum included plenary sessions, panel discussions, working group meetings, open sessions of the international drafting committee for the final document, and open discussion platforms on a wide range of social issues such as healthcare, education, culture, development, urbanization and finances.

The Forum was divided into several sections. Members of each section offered their [recommendations](#), which were included in the final document [‘Statement of the 2015 BRICS Civil Forum’s participants’](#).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The participants of the BRICS Civil Forum declared their readiness to continue cooperation within this format under the Indian Chair in 2016.

66. BRICS Young Diplomats Forum

DATE

28 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The Forum of Young Diplomats from the BRICS countries was attended by diplomats of foreign ministries and embassies of Brazil, India, China and South Africa and representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry under 35 years old.

The speakers noted the successful cooperation of the BRICS countries in economy, trade, finance, science and technology and emphasized the importance of establishing direct contacts between young people of their countries.

The results of the contest for the best analytical essay on BRICS development were announced.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next BRICS Young Diplomats Forum is to be held under the Indian Chair in 2016.

67. BRICS Global University Summit

DATE

26–28 October 2015

PLACE

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The BRICS Global University Summit was held on the premises of four top-ranked Moscow universities: MGIMO, Lomonosov Moscow State University, People's Friendship University of Russia and National University of Science and Technology MISiS.

Over 300 representatives from leading universities of the BRICS countries and from international organizations and research centres gathered to discuss issues of cooperation, including the project on the establishment of the BRICS Network University.

The experts exchanged their opinions on the bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the BRICS countries in the fields of global governance, international security, economy, trade, industry, energy, new technologies, transport, education, science and academic mobility.

68. BRICS Trade Union Forum

DATE

8–10 July 2015

PLACE

Ufa, Russian Federation

REPORT/OUTCOME

The participants discussed the following issues:

- the current socioeconomic situation in BRICS and the world as a whole;
- BRICS initiatives in the world financial sphere (the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and the IMF reform);
- trade union actions in defending and protecting the interests of trade union members both in the BRICS countries and globally;
- interaction of trade unions in social and labour spheres;
- interaction of trade unions in research areas;
- interaction of BRICS trade unions in the information field;
- organizational matters.

The Forum's programme included visits to the leading enterprises of Ufa (the Ufa Engine Industrial Association and Alekseevsky State Farm), and meetings with union leaders and membership.

The Forum resulted in finalizing and signing [the Trade Union Declaration](#). Resolutions were adopted on organizational and information initiatives, and on inter-union exchanges within BRICS.

On 9 July 2015 a delegation of trade union representatives met with the Russian President Vladimir Putin to exchange views on topical issues of the trade union agenda.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The next Forum is to be held in 2016 under the Indian Chair. The BRICS trade unions will coordinate their actions at various international forums, such as the ITUC and ILO.

ANNEX 1

EVENTS HELD UNDER THE RUSSIAN BRICS CHAIRMANSHIP

No.	Event name	Date	Venue
April 2015			
1.	Meeting of the BRICS Experts on Customs Issues	13–14 April	Moscow
2.	BRICS Expert Dialogue on e-Commerce	14 April	Moscow
3.	Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues	15 April	Moscow
4.	Meeting of the Working Group on the Creation of the Multilateral Contingent Reserve Arrangement	14–15 April	Washington (USA)
5.	Meeting of the Official Negotiators on the Creation of the New Development Bank	15 April	Washington (USA)
6.	Meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors	16 April	Washington (USA)
7.	Meeting of the BRICS High-level Working Group on the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership	16 April	Moscow
8.	Meeting of Experts on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors	20 April	Moscow
9.	Consultations of Experts on Environmental Issues	21 April	Moscow
10.	Meeting of the Environment Ministers	22 April	Moscow
11.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies	22 April	Moscow
12.	Meeting of Heads of BRICS Delegations to FATF	23–24 April	Moscow
13.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities at the International Competition Network Conference	28 April–1 May	Sydney (Australia)
May 2015			
14.	International Conference 'Education and Global Cities: Prospects of BRICS'	14–15 May	St. Petersburg
15.	Foreign Policy Dialogue	15 May	Moscow
16.	BRICS Consultations on Military Aspects of Outer Space Activities	20 May	Moscow
17.	BRICS Think Tanks Council Meeting	21 May	Moscow
18.	Third International Congress 'Arterial Hypertension from Korotkov to the Present Day' and Round Table 'Contribution of BRICS Countries to the Victory over Arterial Hypertension'	21–23 May	St. Petersburg

19.	Consultations of Deputy Foreign Ministers on the Middle East and North Africa	22 May	Moscow
20.	BRICS Academic Forum	22–23 May	Moscow
21.	Consultations on Energy Efficiency	24 May	Merida (Mexico)
22.	Round Table 'Fight against Child Oncological Diseases: BRICS' Experience'	25 May	Geneva (Switzerland)
23.	Meeting of Heads of Exhibition Companies from BRICS and SCO Countries	25–27 May	Moscow
24.	Meeting of the BRICS High-level Working Group on the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership	26–27 May	Moscow
25.	Meeting of the BRICS Healthcare Ministers	26 May	Geneva (Switzerland)
26.	BRICS High-Level Meeting on Energy Efficiency	26 May	Merida (Mexico)
27.	Meeting of the BRICS National Security Advisors	26 May	Moscow
June 2015			
28.	Meeting of the BRICS High-level Working Group on the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership	4–5 June	Moscow
29.	BRICS Parliamentary Forum	8 June	Moscow
30.	Round Table 'Urgent Issues of Prevention of HIV Transfer from Mother to Child'	10–11 June	St. Petersburg
31.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices	10–11 June	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
32.	Meeting of Representatives of Customs Agencies of the BRICS Countries on the Margins of the Conference of the World Customs Organization	11–13 June	Brussels (Belgium)
33.	Meeting of BRICS Central Banks Experts for Drafting an Operating Agreement on the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement	13–14 June	Bodrum (Turkey)
34.	Expert Meeting on Security in the Use of ICTs	16–18 June	Moscow
35.	Meeting of the Ministers of Culture	16–17 June	Moscow
36.	BRICS Business Forum	18 June	St. Petersburg
37.	International Conference 'Common Threats, Joint Actions: Response of the BRICS States to the Challenges of Dangerous Infectious Diseases'	23–24 June	Moscow
38.	Meeting of Heads of BRICS Delegations to FATF	24 June	Brisbane (Australia)
39.	Meeting of the Working Group on Education	25–26 June	Moscow
40.	BRICS Civil Society Forum	29 June–1 July	Moscow
July 2015			
41.	BRICS Youth Summit	1–7 July	Kazan
42.	Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas Meeting	3–6 July	Moscow, Ufa

43.	Meeting of the Youth Affairs Ministers	4 July	Kazan
44.	Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues	6 July	Moscow
45.	Meeting of the BRICS Science and Technology Funding Parties	6–7 July	Moscow
46.	BRICS Business Council	6–8 July	Moscow, Ufa
47.	Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers	7 July	Moscow
48.	Meeting of the Board of Governors of the New Development Bank	7 July	Moscow
49.	Meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors	7 July	Moscow
50.	BRICS Financial Forum	8 July	Ufa
51.	Annual Meeting of the Heads of Banks of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism	8 July	Ufa
52.	BRICS Trade Union Forum	9 July	Ufa
53.	Annual Summit	8–9 July	Ufa
54.	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Issues	13–15 July	Irkutsk
55.	BRICS and SCO Youth Forum	26–29 July	Ufa
August 2015			
56.	Agricultural Expert Working Group Meeting	12–13 August	Moscow
57.	Expert Consultations on Industrial Issues	26–27 August	Moscow
September 2015			
58.	Preparatory Group for the Meeting of the Heads of the Migration Authorities	10 September	Moscow
59.	Global Forum on Implementation of Social Protection Programmes for Food Security and Nutrition: Towards Partnership for Development	10–11 September	Moscow
60.	Founding Conference of the BRICS Network University	15–16 September	Moscow
61.	Working Consultations of Experts on the Margins of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) Executive Committee Meeting	17–18 September	Paris (France)
62.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities	21–22 September	Moscow
63.	Twin Cities and Local Governments Meeting	23–25 September	St. Petersburg
64.	BRICS International Forum of Young Scientists and Entrepreneurs	24–26 September	Rostov-on-Don

65.	Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions of BRICS	27–28 September	Moscow
66.	Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas Meeting	27 September	New York (USA)
67.	Meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers	29 September	New York (USA)
68.	Forum of Young Scientists 'Future Science: the Science of the Young', Round Table 'Problems of Multilateral Cooperation within BRICS (economic, policy, and humanitarian spheres)'	30 September –2 October	Sevastopol
October 2015			
69.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Intellectual Property Offices	6 October	Geneva (Switzerland)
70.	Agricultural Working Group Meeting	7 October	Sochi
71.	Meeting of the Heads of the Migration Authorities	8 October	Sochi
72.	Forum of the Heads of the BRICS Countries' Leading Media Outlets 'Towards Creating a Common Information Space for the BRICS Countries'	8 October	Moscow
73.	Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers	9 October	Sochi
74.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Industrial Authorities	20 October	Moscow
75.	Meeting of the BRICS Communications Ministers	22–23 October	Moscow
76.	Mid-term Working meeting of the BRICS Think Tank Council	25 October	Moscow
77.	International Conference 'Approaches of the BRICS Countries towards Common Spaces: Lines and Potential of Cooperation'	26–27 October	Moscow
78.	BRICS Global University Summit	26–28 October	Moscow
79.	BRICS Young Diplomats Forum, Contest among Young Diplomats for the Best Analytical Report 'The Ways for the Future Development of the BRICS' (final)	27–28 October	Moscow
80.	Meeting of the BRICS Senior Officials on Science, Technology and Innovation	27 October	Moscow
81.	Meeting of the BRICS Ministers on Science, Technology and Innovation	28 October	Moscow
82.	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Issues	29 October	Moscow
83.	Meeting of the BRICS Health Ministers	30 October	Moscow
November 2015			
84.	Senior Officials Meeting on Corruption	1 November	St. Petersburg
85.	Meeting of Heads of Legal Departments of the BRICS Foreign Ministries	2 November	New York (USA)
86.	Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group	10 November	Moscow

87.	Meeting of the BRICS Prosecutors General	10 November	Sochi
88.	International Workshop of Industrial Safety Management Bodies of BRICS Countries 'Efficient Industrial Safety Management as an Element of a Stable National Economy'	11–12 November	Moscow
89.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities	12–13 November	Durban (South Africa)
90.	Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas Meeting	13 November	Antalya (Turkey)
91.	Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the Margins of the Meeting of the G20 Heads of State and Government	15 November	Antalya (Turkey)
92.	Senior Officials Meeting on Education	17 November	Moscow
93.	Meeting of the Education Ministers	18 November	Moscow
94.	Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Labour and Employment	18–19 November	Moscow
95.	Meeting of the BRICS Energy Ministers	19–20 November	Moscow
96.	Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities	19–20 November	Moscow
December 2015			
97.	Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues	2–3 December	Moscow
98.	Meeting of BRICS Senior Officials Responsible for International Development Cooperation	7 December	Moscow
99.	Seminar on Population Matters	9–10 December	Moscow
100.	BRICS Dialogue on Peacekeeping	11 December	Moscow
101.	Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas Meeting	17 December	Moscow
January 2016			
102.	Meeting of the Labour and Employment Ministers	25–26 January	Ufa

ANNEX 2

LINKS TO KEY DOCUMENTS APPROVED UNDER THE RUSSIAN BRICS CHAIRMANSHIP

1. Ufa Declaration
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381158>
2. Ufa Action Plan
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381487>
3. Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381830>
4. Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381755>
5. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/International Relations and Cooperation of the BRICS countries on the Creation of the Joint BRICS Web-site
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381606>
6. Media Note on the Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the margins of the G20 Summit in Antalya
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/674920>
7. Statement of the BRICS First Parliamentary Forum
<http://www.duma.gov.ru/news/273/1142005/>
8. Press release on the Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations on the margins of the UN General Assembly
http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/general_assembly/-/asset_publisher/lrzZMhfoYRUj/content/id/1817659
9. Final joint communique on the Meeting of the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers on the Situation in the Middle East and North Africa
http://archive.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/0/66F46F68D9A4F78E43257E4E002BA037
10. Communique of the BRICS Ministers of Communications on the outcomes of the meeting on "Expansion of Cooperation in the Field of Communications and ICTs"
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/637860>
11. Declaration of the BRICS Industry Ministers
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/582514>

12. Joint Statement of the BRICS Environment Ministers
http://www.mnr.gov.ru/upload/iblock/274/zayavlenie_briks.zip
13. Joint Declaration of the 5th Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/591888>
14. Conclusions of the BRICS Working Group on Education
http://минобрнауки.пф/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/5878/%D1%84%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BB/6023/Conclusions_26june2015.pdf
15. Moscow Declaration of the BRICS Education Ministers
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/791579>
16. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU).
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/796626>
17. Moscow Declaration of the BRICS Ministers on Science, Technology and Innovation
http://минобрнауки.пф/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/6577/%D1%84%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BB/5620/Moscow_Declaration_STI_28_Oct2015.pdf
18. BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Work Plan for 2015-2018
http://минобрнауки.пф/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/6577/%D1%84%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BB/5619/Work_Plan_STI_28Oct2015.pdf
19. Declaration of the BRICS Ministers of Labour and Employment
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/870097>
20. Moscow Declaration of the BRICS Health Ministers
http://static-3.rosminzdrav.ru/system/attachments/attaches/000/028/206/original/Moscow_declaration.docx?1446473778
21. Communique of the BRICS Heads of Tax Administrations Meeting
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/795871>
22. Joint Statement of the BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/678744>
23. Joint Declaration of the BRICS Heads of the Migration Authorities
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/581313>
24. Declaration of the Participants in the Forum of the BRICS Countries' Leading Media Outlets
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/555141>
25. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in Youth Affairs
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/843356>

26. First BRICS Youth Summit Action Plan
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/273254>
27. Resolution of the International Conference “Common Threats – Joint Actions: The Response of the BRICS Countries to Dangerous Infectious Diseases”
http://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru/en/documents/?ELEMENT_ID=5389
28. The Annual Report for 2014-2015 of the BRICS Business Council
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/381263>
29. Analytical Report of the BRICS Think Tank Council «Towards a Long-Term Strategy for BRICS»
http://www.nkibrics.ru/ckeditor_assets/attachments/55cca92662726921aa020000/na_puti_k_dolgosrochnoy_strategii_stran_briks_angl.pdf?1439476006
30. Recommendations of the VII BRICS Academic Forum to the Leaders
http://www.nkibrics.ru/ckeditor_assets/attachments/55b71d3462726917d92c0000/recommendations_of_the_7th_brics_academic_forum_to_the_leaders.pdf?1438063924
31. Civic BRICS Green Paper: Message for the BRICS Leaders. Problems’ overview and pathways towards sustainable solutions
<http://www.civilbrics.ru/upload/iblock/960/960773a51b23cc4d8a4ae4088d997df1.pdf>
32. Civil BRICS Forum Statement
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/245178>
33. BRICS Trade Union Forum Declaration
<http://en.brics2015.ru/load/458489>