



# 10th BRICS SUMMIT

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## BRICS-Africa outreach and the BRICS Plus Initiative: A path to inclusive development and shared prosperity

IN December 2010, South Africa joined the "BRIC" Forum thereby adding the "S" to the acronym and officially forming BRICS.

With South Africa's accession to BRICS, the reach of this nascent trans-continental formation, with a global projection that not only brings together the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was expanded to five continents and came to collectively represent more than 40% of the global population. Notably, these countries committed to responding to the clarion call of the 1955 Bandung Conference for greater cooperation between and amongst the countries of the Global South.

The year 2011 was also significant for the adoption of the Sanya Declaration at the Third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China. The Sanya Declaration was a seminal expression of the BRICS countries' commitment to global development and the broadening of relations between developing countries. BRICS Leaders committed themselves to the Sanya Principles of "openness, solidarity and mutual assistance"; which to this day underpin the core intention in BRICS, to foster inclusiveness and multilateralism to reflect the global realities of the 21st century, notably with regard to the reform of political and economic global governance institutions and addressing common challenges that impair development.

South Africa is honoured to host the 10th BRICS Summit in 2018, not only because 2018 marks a decade of BRICS cooperation at the highest diplomatic level but also because in this year our country commemorates the centenary of two of our great struggle stalwarts, Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. It is intended that our second rotation at the helm of BRICS will build on the first, through meaningful institutional development, expanded sectoral cooperation and a reflection and consolidation of BRICS activities undertaken since 2008.

One of the areas in which South Africa is keenly interested is in further enjoining the BRICS Forum with the African Continent. The African Continent has from the onset pledged its support to South Africa's membership of BRICS and it was incumbent on us to ensure that we created a constructive mechanism of dialogue and action between BRICS and African countries.

On the occasion of the Thekwini Summit in 2013, South Africa hosted the first BRICS Outreach Dialogue, during which African Leaders representing the regional groupings, and the African Union (AU), as well as the key development institutions of our Continent were invited to engage with BRICS Leaders.



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of the Africa Outreach, all the BRICS members have since hosted outreach initiatives on the margins of their respective Summits, inviting members (or a representative selection of the membership) of a formal Regional Organisation to which they are affiliated, and which represents a formation of the Global South.

The approach to the BRICS Outreach was innovated further in 2017 when under the Chinese Chairship the concept of a BRICS Plus Initiative was introduced. The initiative was positioned as a 'Dialogue with Emerging Markets and Developing Countries', and represented an expression of paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Sanya Declaration, where Leaders expressed the intention: "to enhance the voice of emerging and developing countries in international affairs and strengthen cooperation for common development". The Chinese Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr Wang Yi, best captured this sentiment when he eloquently noted that, through the BRICS Plus Initiative "We will widen the circle of friends of the BRICS and turn it into the most influential platform for South-South cooperation in the world."

From the onset of our membership in BRICS, South Africa has advocated for the inclusivity not only of the African continent but also the Global South more broadly. As a result, it is appropriate that our Chairship embraces a dual approach to the Outreach mechanism format by including the BRICS Plus Initiative in addition to the BRICS-Africa Outreach.

The rationale behind the BRICS Plus Initiative is to promote a platform for greater partnerships amongst countries of the Global South to shape the agenda and to effect changes in the global economy, notably for: (i) development and

economic growth through trade and investment integration; and (ii) cooperation in global governance financial, economic and political institutions.

As the 2018 Chair of the BRICS Forum and host of the 10th BRICS Summit, South Africa is seeking not only to fulfil the objectives set out in the Sanya Declaration, but also to realise the objectives expounded in the 1955 Bandung Conference by inviting countries of the Global South to the second BRICS Plus Initiative.

The 2018 BRICS Plus Initiative will include countries currently chairing formations of the South and representing various regions around the globe. In this regard, South Africa has elected to invite: Argentina, as the Chair of the G20 and influential member of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR); Indonesia, as the Co-Chair of the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership with South Africa and influential Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Egypt, as Chair of the Group of 77+China; Jamaica, as the incoming Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Turkey, as the Chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); as well as Mr Antonio Guterres, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General.

It is trusted that this conversation between BRICS and these countries/entities will take forward the South-South solidarity, through a dialogue that furthers collaboration on the critical objectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The Theme for the 10th BRICS Summit and South Africa's BRICS Chairship is, "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution". This theme reminds us that the 21st Century, and indeed the approaching 4th Industrial Revolution, affords us both opportunities and vested responsibilities to address our common challenges.

The African continent and the Global South cannot be left behind.

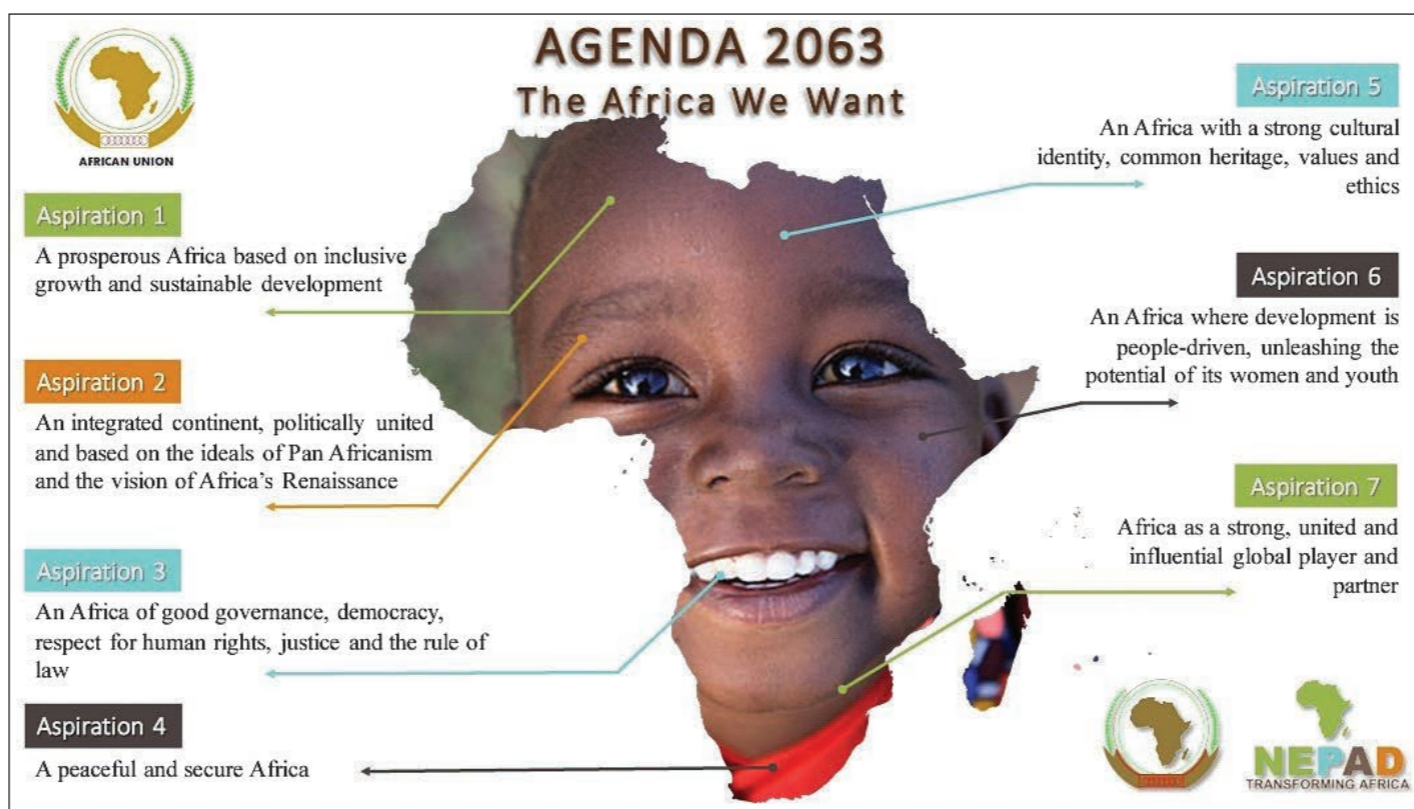
The BRICS Forum is an important mechanism through which cooperative partnerships can, and will be strengthened so that we may accomplish the objectives of an open, inclusive and transparent global order for shared prosperity.

The Africa Outreach was held under the theme, "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation", and was a tangible expression of the commitment made by BRICS Leaders in the Sanya Declaration to "support infrastructure development in Africa and its industrialisation". The support provided by fellow BRICS members is reflective of the realisation that global development cannot happen without Africa.

Indeed this support has not been merely rhetorical, but it has found practical and institutional expression as well. Key amongst the more noteworthy of these results is the establishment of the Africa Regional Centre (ARC) of the New Development Bank (NDB), which was first mooted by BRICS Leaders at the time of South Africa's Chairship in 2013. Launched in Johannesburg, on 17 August 2017, the ARC is the first regional centre to be established under the auspices of the NDB, and is intended to play a catalytic role in providing financial and project preparation support for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in South Africa and the African continent, with an initial phase focus on project preparation and project facilitation. As we take greater strides in developing our connections for intra-regional trade, notably through the Continental Free Trade Agreement, greater

infrastructure connectivity will be essential to assist us in enabling and maximising regional trade. The potential role of the ARC will thus be critical here. We will continue this legacy of development dialogue, notably by focusing on BRICS's potential contribution to the objectives as outlined in the Continent's development plan, Agenda 2063.

This year, the following Leaders have been invited to participate in the BRICS-Africa Outreach Dialogue: Rwanda, as Chair of the AU; Senegal, as Chair of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC); Gabon, as the Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Uganda, as the Chair of the East African Community (EAC); Ethiopia, as Chair of the Intergovern-



mental Authority on Development (IGAD); Togo, as Chair of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS); Zambia, as Chair of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); and, given South Africa's concurrent Chairship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we have invited Namibia, as incoming Chair of SADC and Angola, as Chair of the SADC Organ as well as all

other SADC member states. Furthermore, we have invited the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, as well as the heads of the Secretariats of the aforementioned Regional Economic Communities, the CEO of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Subsequent to South Africa's successful introduction

of hi-technology enterprises.

We should also spare no effort to promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship. In this regard, the DST hosted in the City of Durban, as a precursor to the BRICS Ministerial Meeting, the annual BRICS Young Scientist Forum, bringing together more than a 100 young scientists from the BRICS partners. The youth is our future. Eliminating poverty, unemployment and inequality starts by investing in our youth. The immense potential of their ingenuity, drive and commitments are our most precious assets for the future, and these should be permitted to blossom in the BRICS partnership.

In South Africa, we live by the credo that science knows no borders. It is only by sharing our resources, experience and expertise that the global community will effectively put research and innovation at the service of our societies, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We should therefore concertedly invest in and further develop our BRICS STI partnership, which has become a recognised force in the global science arena. Successful cooperation between South Africa, China and India, is for example one of the pillars underpinning the global partnership to advance the Square Kilo-

metre Array (SKA) global radio telescope project, of which we launched the MeerKAT precursor telescope on 13 July 2018. We hope the Russian Federation and Brazil will join soon.

Furthermore, in another example of the impact of our collaboration, South Africa and Brazil have launched a science plan for South-South research cooperation in the South Atlantic Ocean. I hope that we will also be able to support the building of STI capacities elsewhere in Africa through our BRICS partnership. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of China under the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation and also of all the BRICS partners who continue to invest in and support Africa.

This year marks the centenary anniversary of democratic South Africa's first President, our beloved and iconic leader, Nelson Mandela. His legacy should also inspire our BRICS partnership, including in science and technology, to take action and inspire change.

In the words of one of the other historic leaders of South Africa's liberation struggle Chief Albert Luthuli, who in 1961 stated: "Scientific inventions, at all conceivable levels should enrich human life, not threaten existence. Science should be the greatest ally, not the worst enemy of mankind."

## BRICS STI partnership a recognised force in global science arena

Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane  
Minister of Science and  
Technology

THE Department of Science and Technology (DST) is strongly committed to the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) partnership in science, technology and innovation (STI). Over the years the five BRICS partners have developed an impressive portfolio of jointly funded BRICS research and innovation initiatives, which have also played a critical part in fostering friendship, solidarity and political and economic relations between the BRICS partners. We have put Science Diplomacy into practice.

When we meet as BRICS ministers recently, our mission was to strengthen our partnership to ensure STI plays an optimal role in further enhancing the competitiveness of the BRICS economies and in improving the quality of living of all our citizens. Our Heads of State entrusted this critical task to us when at the 2017 BRICS Summit they explicitly recognised innovation as a key driver for growth and sustainable development. The 2018 BRICS Summit, to be hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa in July, under the theme of "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and



Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution", will provide a further opportunity to consider the critical role of STI as part of the overall BRICS partnership.

As policymakers for our governments, the BRICS Ministerial Meeting provided a valuable opportunity for us to share within our partnership, our respective experiences and expertise, in formulating and implementing policies and strategies, which will ensure innovation-driven growth. This

is especially useful for South Africa, as the Ministry of Science and Technology is preparing a new White Paper on STI. The White Paper is intended to guide our efforts to ensure we are successful in promoting inclusive development in South Africa through science and innovation.

The new policy document will have an important focus on the role government should play in enabling innovation, notably by instilling a national

innovation culture across all spheres of government. This is certainly an area where we can learn much from our BRICS partners. In addition, receiving attention will be ensuring that appropriate supply-side measures such as funding and other incentives fulfil their role as drivers for innovation performance. Equally important will be the role of demand-side measures to promote the so-called innovation pull, through for example the leveraging of public

procurement and specific support for small and medium enterprise development. This is an area where Brazil has significant experience.

Another priority will be the promotion of grassroots innovation, ensuring all South Africans enjoy the opportunity to create and exploit innovation opportunities. Grassroots innovation is notably a strategic focus area in our bilateral cooperation with India.

Of course, we will not

achieve our vision without successful policies and practices to facilitate the contribution of industry and business to innovation-driven growth. Without the participation of our enterprises, the so-called innovation chasm, which hampers our economies, will continue to persist. Unless our enterprises assist us to bridge this divide between research and the marketplace, we will be faced with the continued inability to translate a significant proportion of our research and development results into socio-economically useful products and services. Through STI, the business sector also has a critical role to play in diversifying our economy, helping us to develop a competitive knowledge economy, not dependent on raw materials and other commodities.

For South Africa cooperation with and learning from our BRICS partners is crucial also in this domain. We therefore greatly value the strategic partnership with China on Science Park Cooperation, launched during Vice Premier Liu Yandong's visit to South Africa last year. We, for example, admire the success of the Skolkovo Innovation Centre in the Russian Federation, a prime example of concerted investment in a public-private partnership to boost innovation and the de-

velopment of hi-technology enterprises.

We should also spare no effort to promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship. In this regard, the DST hosted in the City of Durban, as a precursor to the BRICS Ministerial Meeting, the annual BRICS Young Scientist Forum, bringing together more than a 100 young scientists from the BRICS partners. The youth is our future. Eliminating poverty, unemployment and inequality starts by investing in our youth. The immense potential of their ingenuity, drive and commitments are our most precious assets for the future, and these should be permitted to blossom in the BRICS partnership.

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