

Strengthening multilateralism for just global development and security

OUTCOME DOCUMENT 6th Meeting of Heads of BRICS Prosecution Services

Modern Digital Solutions on Law Enforcement: Experiences of BRICS Prosecution Services

Recognizing the necessity of measures to coordinate the efforts of the international community in the fight against transnational crime, corruption crimes and the recovery of criminal assets and proceeds derived from transnational crimes,

Noting the primary responsibility of the prosecution services to uphold the rule of law and to protect human rights,

Noting the Concept of Cooperation between the Prosecution Services of the BRICS States, adopted in November 2015 in Sochi (Russian Federation) that establishes strategic partnership, openness, equality and mutual understanding as the basic principles of cooperation,

Taking into consideration the progress made in strengthening cooperation between the prosecution services within the BRICS framework, as reflected in the outcome documents of the previous meetings, We, the Heads of the Prosecution Services of the BRICS States:

Mr Ying Yong, Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the **People's Republic of China**,

Mr Mohamed Shawky Ayad, Prosecutor General of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Mr Mohammad Movahedi Azad, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Mr Igor Viktorovich Krasnov, Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation,

Ms Shamila Batohi, National Director of Public Prosecutions of the Republic

of South Africa,

Dr Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, Attorney General of the United Arab Emirates,

Mr Hindenburgo Chateaubriand Filho, Deputy Prosecutor General of the Federative Republic of Brazil,

Mr Tesfaye Daba Wakjira, State Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Mr K.M. Nataraj, Additional Solicitor General of the Republic of India,

Having discussed on 19 June 2024, in Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) the experiences of the BRICS Prosecution Services in the use of modern digital information and communication technology (ICT) solutions in law enforcement,

Noting the essential role of digital/ICT solutions in upholding the rule of law and combating crime in accordance to domestic laws,

Emphasizing the benefits of sharing best practices in the development and introduction of digital/ICT solutions when creating and operating information systems used for prosecutorial authorities,

Noting the need for advanced training of prosecution services members in implementation of best practices in security in the use of ICTs and combating the use of ICTs for terrorist purposes and countering, in accordance with domestic laws,

corruption and crimes committed with the use of digital/ICT solutions, including terrorism, extremism, laundering of the proceeds from crime, transnational organized crimes such as human trafficking, trafficking in firearms, drug trafficking, trafficking in antiques and cultural property, cybercrime and distribution of child pornography,

Sharing experiences in introduction of digital/ICT solutions in prosecution services, including automation of internal processes, forecasting, preventing and combating crime and analyzing the effectiveness of law enforcement,

Recognizing the importance of establishment of secure electronic channels of communication between the competent authorities of the BRICS States and introduction into international anti-criminal cooperation of such technological solutions as electronic document management and the use of video conference for investigative and other procedural activities, including in the sphere of extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and law enforcement assistance in accordance with domestic laws,

Highlighting the importance of automated document management and routine processes of prosecutorial activities for the efficient use of prosecutorial resources,

Affirming that a human-rights centric approach may be considered as a fundamental principle of use and implementation of digital/ICT solutions in prosecutorial activities,

Acknowledging the need to respect fundamental human rights in introducing technologies in anti-criminal activities,

Noting that the effective public-private partnerships are required to make significant progress in this sphere, while preventing possible monopolization of technologies by legal means,

Noting the need to enhance existing communication networks to enable realtime and rapid international cooperation in criminal matters,

Stressing the BRICS spirit of mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration and consensus,

Welcoming the new BRICS States – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE into BRICS and looking forward to mutually beneficial BRICS cooperation,

Have agreed to jointly implement the following activities:

1. To consider in 2024–2025 possible review and update of the Concept of Cooperation mentioned in the preamble between the Prosecution Services of BRICS States to enable new members of the partnership to express their opinions on the content thereof.

2. To collect and compile by the end of 2024 best practices on use of digital/ICT solutions adopted by the BRICS Prosecution Services and to explore possible ways and prospects of the use of these technologies.

3. To prepare studies or to compile legislation related to international cooperation and share them among member States in order to improve the mechanisms of judicial cooperation by explaining legislation relevant to each BRICS State in compliance with national laws and legislation.

4. To facilitate training activities relevant to prosecution services within the institutions that promote personnel training for prosecution services.

5. To study the possibility of drafting a guide or a handbook to shed light on the role of prosecution services in combating crimes committed with the use of technologies and on security in the use of ICTs and combating the use of ICTs for terrorist purposes, which will include best practices of member States. 6. To appoint English speaking focal points responsible for constant interaction between the BRICS Prosecution Services to ensure regular and direct communication for implementation of arrangements and organization of events in the period between the meetings of the BRICS Prosecution Services Heads, informal consultation at requests for judicial assistance or organizing advanced training and capacity building programs, to overcome obstacles that may arise during practical implementation of arrangements, with a primary operator of the Register of BRICS Prosecution Services' Focal Points rotating every year in accordance with the BRICS Chairmanship.

7. To find ways to overcome obstacles and challenges BRICS member States face in addressing requests for international mutual legal assistance subject to bilateral agreements and domestic laws.

8. To explore sharing statistics on extradition and mutual legal assistance requests, to subsequently measure the level of cooperation among member States subject to bilateral agreements and domestic laws.

9. For the purposes mentioned above, by 1 October 2024, the BRICS Prosecution Services may send to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation their suggestions for review and update to be included into the Concept of Cooperation between the BRICS Prosecution Services and Plan for Practical Implementation of the Concept for 2025–2027.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation will compile the suggestions received, to prepare a draft Plan for Practical Implementation of the Concept for 2025–2027 and send it to the Federal Prosecution Service of the Federative Republic of Brazil for further work which will circulate it to BRICS member States to seek their approval.

We would express our gratitude to the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation for the successful hosting of the 6th Meeting of BRICS Prosecution

Services Heads and look forward to the 7th Meeting of Heads of BRICS Prosecution Services to be hosted by the Federal Prosecution Service of the Federative Republic of Brazil under Brazil's Chairmanship of BRICS in 2025.

Russian Federation, Saint Petersburg, 19 June 2024