



**DECLARATION OF THE
IX BRICS MINISTERS OF CULTURE MEETING**

11 September 2024

Russian Federation

Saint Petersburg

PREAMBLE

We, the BRICS Ministers of Culture under the chairship of the Russian Federation met on 11 September 2024 to deliberate on the development and enhancement of cultural cooperation among the BRICS countries, and hereby agree to:

Adhering to the BRICS spirit of consensus, mutual respect and understanding, openness and solidarity, sovereign equality within BRICS cooperation, realising the paramount importance of diversity and inclusivity in advancing cultural dialogue;

Underscoring the vital role of culture in the sustainable development of human society as it largely benefits economic growth, social cohesion and wellbeing;

Acknowledging our traditional cultural ties deeply rooted in history;

Welcoming BRICS enlargement and sincerely believing that the promotion of cultural dialogue in an expanded format will further enrich the cultures of our countries;

Recalling our commitments under the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture signed on 9 July 2015, and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement 2022-2026 signed on 24 May 2022, as well as the Maropeng Declaration - 2018, the Curitiba Declaration – 2019, the Moscow Declaration – 2020, the New Delhi Declaration – 2021, the Beijing Declaration – 2022 and the Mpumalanga Declaration – 2023.

Calling for more efforts to respect diversity of cultures, highly valuing inheritance, innovation and creativity, jointly advocating robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, and recognizing the adoption the UNGA Resolution “International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations” (A/78/L.75).

Noting the interlinkages between culture and climate and the important achievement at COP28, which paid attention to the funding on economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with climate change, including cultural heritage, and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience with a target of protecting cultural heritage from the impacts of climate-related risks by preserving cultural practices and heritage sites, guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and local knowledge systems.

Understanding culture as the cornerstone for further strengthening our cooperation and achieving new milestones in our partnership;

We pledge to further strengthen our ties that bind our countries together through the following:

1. BRICS FESTIVALS

1.1. *Welcome* the hosting of the BRICS Culture Festival, an event that showcases the diversity and beauty of the cultures of the BRICS countries.

- 1.2. *Reaffirm* our willingness to hold an annual BRICS film festival and to support the development of a business programme on the sidelines of the event, aimed at enhancing collaboration and creating better opportunities for networking and business development in the film sector among the BRICS countries.
- 1.3. *Facilitate* organising other BRICS festivals, featuring the participation of artists and performers from all BRICS countries. The terms of participation in these festivals will be outlined in separate letters in accordance with the regulations of the festivals.
- 1.4. *Encourage* the formulation of a calendar of international cultural events of the BRICS countries. The exchange of such documents can be carried out through Sherpa/Sous-Sherpa channels to disseminate details regarding key international cultural events in which artists and national groups of the BRICS countries can engage.

2. ALLIANCE PLATFORMS

- 2.1. *Encourage* the new BRICS members to join the existing BRICS Alliances, including the Alliance of Museums, the Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries, the Alliance of Libraries and the Alliance of Theatre for Children and Young People, through the signing of letters of intent by the leading cultural institutions in cooperation with the institutions overseeing the BRICS Alliances.
- 2.2. *Express* our support for cultural events, exhibitions, forums, conferences, master classes and other events held within the framework of the BRICS Alliances.
- 2.3. *Noting* that folk culture reflects the unique national character of our countries, we welcome the establishment of the BRICS Alliance of Folk Dance and confirm our willingness to engage related institutions in the activities of the new Alliance.
- 2.4. *Encourage* the establishment of the BRICS Film Schools Alliance, which will provide a platform for talented young people to share professional experience, exchange contacts and implement joint projects under the auspices of BRICS.

3. CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MUSEUM COOPERATION

- 3.1. *Agree* to favor and expand support for the preservation and restoration of our cultural heritage, along with the exchange of knowledge, expertise, skills and technologies in the field.
- 3.2. *Reaffirm* our commitments to the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, archaeological sites, archives and the exchange of knowledge, expertise, skills and technologies in the field.
- 3.3. *Facilitate* the Alliance of Libraries to cooperate in the field of preserving the literary heritage of the BRICS countries and to share best practices in the digitising of literary monuments.

4. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

- 4.1 *Fostering* cooperation in the sphere of creative economy, we encourage the establishment of a BRICS platform on cultural and creative industries within the BRICS Working Group on Culture, a mechanism for cross-sectoral interaction for the advancement of cultural and creative industries in BRICS with the involvement of experts in the field of creative economy.
- 4.2 The following goals are proposed to be considered as primary areas of focus:
 - *Achieving* within BRICS the harmonization regarding the terminology and methodology related to creative industries, including concepts such as creative industries, the creative economy, creative products, creative clusters, creative entrepreneurship and content-based industries;

- *Sharing* best practices for the promotion of creative industries in the BRICS member states;
- *Encouraging* knowledge exchange and visibility of activities undertaken by entities within the creative economy in the BRICS countries;
- *Sharing* best practices on national intellectual property management systems;
- *Collaborating* to champion sustainable ways of production, consumption and redistribution in the cultural sector through culture's unparalleled capacity to educate and raise awareness through storytelling and creativity in order to create systemic change needed to tackle the climate crisis.
- *Exploring* the possibility to support joint projects through the New Development Bank (NDB) for the financing of creative economy initiatives as per the approved policies of the Bank.

5. MISCELLANEOUS AND OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

5.1 Recalling the 2022 UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT) and the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration 2023, which call to advance the inclusion of culture as a standalone goal to future discussions in a possible post 2030 Development Agenda, recognize the power of culture as a catalyst for sustainable development including creativity, innovation and inclusive economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection.

5.2 Encourage the new BRICS members to join the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture signed on 9 July 2015.

5.3 Call for exploring new forms of cooperation across various domains of cultural cooperation.

The English language version of this Declaration is signed on 11 September 2024 in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, by the BRICS counterparts following the meeting of BRICS Ministers of Culture under the Chairship of the Russian Federation.