

## DECLARATION OF THE BRICS POLITICAL PARTIES PLUS DIALOGUE 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Ekurhuleni, South Africa

1. We, the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, gathered in Ekurhuleni, South Africa, on 18 to 20 July 2023 under the theme, '*BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism*'. Our meeting coincided with the global celebrations of the Nelson Mandela International Day, as millions around the world recalled his contribution to the global struggles for democracy, peace, human rights, and social justice.
2. We held the Dialogue in a context of ongoing shifts in the geopolitical landscape, with accelerated movement towards a multipolar world in which countries of the global South are increasingly asserting themselves and their interests on the global stage. We also convened in the context of new and emerging threats to international peace and security.
3. We agree that BRICS countries and those of the global South should seek to diversify and transform the international financial architecture towards greater inclusivity and equity, including through the New Development Bank (NDB) and encouraging more local currencies financing. We will continue to champion the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions.
4. We believe that political parties should shoulder the political responsibility of leading the way, building consensus, promoting development, participatory democracy, boost engagement, encourage investments, strengthening cooperation and improving governance. Political parties should champion modernisation, the implementation of the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and the empowerment of young people and women.

5. Parties should jointly advocate robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, explore the building of a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation, enrich the contents of exchanges and expand avenues of cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and jointly advance the progress of human civilizations.
6. We reaffirm our commitment to a world of peace and stability and continue to support the central role of the United Nations, its purposes and principles as enshrined in the UN Charter and respect for and equitable application of international law.
7. We believe that political parties should advocate against interference in the internal affairs of countries, that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and dignity of all nations be respected, and that inclusive and mutual security should guide international relations. We support the right of countries to independently choose development paths and social systems, working together in their national interests.
8. We believe that political parties should commit to strengthening multilateralism, the transformation of global institutions and upholding international law. As an important part of the BRICS mechanism, the BRICS POLITICAL PARTIES PLUS DIALOGUE plays a critical role in building consensus among political parties and promoting BRICS cooperation. We are ready to work together for the continuous development of the BRICS POLITICAL PARTIES PLUS DIALOGUE.
9. We recognise the important complementarities between the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063. To accelerate growth in Africa, we support the implementation of Agenda 2063, especially the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). We believe this will further enhance the development of

industrial capacity, infrastructure and regional value chains across Africa, which will boost the continent's manufacturing capacity, ensure secured supply chains, economic resilience and intra-Africa trade. BRICS countries can play a catalytic role in supporting Africa's development priorities. We therefore support the strengthening of the BRICS-Africa cooperation.

10. We remain committed to addressing the challenges of terrorism, corruption and natural resource mismanagement, which contribute to instability.
11. We are committed to counter all forms of disinformation through policy measures, including education, capacity-building for prevention and resilience to disinformation, advocacy and awareness-raising.
12. We remain committed to resolving tensions and conflicts in a manner that addresses their root causes, in order to sustain peace and stability in our various regions, and across the world. We thus welcome efforts by BRICS countries and their partners to find a viable and durable solution to the conflict in Ukraine in a manner that encourages dialogue and diplomacy.
13. We gathered here having over decades and under different circumstances organized solidarity conferences, mobilized our people and governments to give political and material support to those that needed it most. Solidarity will remain part of our political parties' agenda.
14. We call on all Parties to honour and implement all UN and UNSC resolutions including resolution 2334 for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian question. We support the two-state solution by the creation of Israel living side by side with an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

15. We stressed that unilateral application of embargoes, economic and other sanctions, other than those approved by the UN Security Council, are incompatible with the principles of international law and have a negative impact on affected countries and on international relations.
16. We call for the implementation of the UNSC Resolutions, including resolution 1415 for resolving the Saharawi question. We welcome the relaunching of direct talks between the Saharawi and Moroccans under the supervision of the United Nations.
17. We remain committed to ensuring that BRICS countries facilitate and consolidate trade and investment, including through the regional trade formations in their respective continents.
18. We are committed to strengthen economic cooperation and urge the consolidation of the working groups to ensure that areas such as mining, industrialisation, infrastructure, climate change and environmental protection receive additional attention.
19. We are confident that increased BRICS cooperation will ensure greater complementarity and the sharing of important lessons in sectors where each has capacity and strengths, including in new technologies. We believe commodity exchange mechanisms must be established in participating countries that have a dominance and comparative advantage in specific resources or commodities. We are also committed to supporting SMMEs and co-operatives, leading to a balanced focus on both mega-projects and small businesses.
20. We agreed to continue to foster exchanges and build the infrastructure of political parties to enable them to enhance party-to-party relations that complement and reinforce the cooperation mechanisms of their respective governments. This will enable political parties to also share important lessons on how they have

introduced innovations in governance, fundraising, renewal and political education to ensure they remain relevant to drive transformation in their societies.

21. We remain committed to further strengthening the cooperation mechanisms of BRICS, which range from finance and economics to science, politics, and cultural exchanges.
22. We note the support from the Dialogue for BRICS expansion, and the recommendation for the finalisation of principles and modalities for expansion. We also urge government actors to explore the formalisation of a system of dialogue partners in efforts to strengthen internal and external cooperation.
23. Our commitment to these ideals is informed by the imperative to ensure an improving quality of life among the people in our countries and across the globe. We therefore urge governments to implement programmes that promote this ideal.
24. We the participants applaud the ANC for hosting the 2023 BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue and encourage other political parties of BRICS countries to host similar events in the future. Parties pledged their solidarity and support to the ANC as it forges ahead towards sustaining the vision and values of stalwarts such as Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Albertina Sisulu, Yusuf Dadoo and Charlotte Maxeke.
25. We the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, represented by over 45 countries and their political parties and organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America, will go back to our peoples and governments to share the vision of a future characterized by a transformed system of global governance, a multipolar world that will contribute to peace and security of all nations, sustainable development and goodwill among nations and peoples of the world.

20 July 2023

Ekurhuleni, South Africa