



## **SKUKUZA Declaration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting BRICS Ministers of Education 13 July 2023**

### **Preamble**

We, the BRICS Ministers of Education and assigned representatives from; the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of South Africa, having convened in Mpumalanga Province, in South Africa, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 to discuss issues of mutual interest, deepen cooperation and exchanges to improve the responsiveness and relevance of education and training in the current global context amongst BRICS Member States in the BRICS spirit featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness , and consensus hereby:

**Acknowledging** the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in ushering new forms of learning, through digital technologies to aid education and training. Agreed to accelerate innovative digital transformation in education and training.

**Welcoming** the establishment and significance of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance (TCA) to strengthen technical vocational education and training as a driver of economic development across all BRICS Member States.

**Reaffirming** the important work of the BRICS Network University in advancing research collaborations, exchange of students and staff mobility between higher education institutions within the BRICS Member States. In this regard, we welcome the BRICS Network University (NU) International Governing Board consideration to expand membership of the BRICS NU to include more universities from the BRICS Member States.

**Appreciating** the exchange of information, good practices, and strategies thereof in mitigating and adapting to climate change, reimagining and rethinking of university global rankings, fostering entrepreneurship development in education and skill training systems, delivering responsive and relevant programmes for out-of-school youth, utilising labour market

intelligence for responsive and relevant education and skills development, and facilitating the Mutual recognition of qualifications within BRICS Members States as an enabler for the movement of skilled persons, mobility of students, academics, and professionals between member states.

To ensure coordination and deeper cooperation among the member states, we hereby declare to:

**1. Climate Change**

Reaffirming our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal: 13 which aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Education and training play a pivotal role to developing resilience against such devastating impacts of climate change. Education and training programmes can improve climate literacy and promote environment friendly lifestyles among children, youths and adults, and motivate them to play their part in **adapting to and** mitigating the effects of climate change.

**2. University Global Ranking and Evaluation System**

Supporting initiatives to explore a holistic and scientific quality evaluation system of BRICS universities that reflects the characteristics of the Education System of each Member State.

**3. Entrepreneurship Development**

Strengthening entrepreneurship development in all levels of education and training amongst BRICS Member States and impart the requisite skills set to students to consider self-employment as a valuable career path.

**4. Out-of-School Youth**

Encouraging sharing of experiences of BRICS member countries on initiatives in delivering responsive and relevant programmes for out-of-school youth, to ensure employability and absorption in the labour market.

**5. Labour Market Intelligence**

Facilitating the sharing of labour market information to guide education and skills development interventions to address skills mismatch and skills shortages in the context of a rapid changing world of work.

**6. Mutual Recognition of Qualifications**

Facilitating the mutual recognition of **academic** qualifications amongst BRICS Member States to ensure mobility of skilled professionals, academics, and students and recognition of qualifications obtained in each other's countries subject to compliance of applicable domestic laws.

## **7. Skills for the Changing World**

Facilitating exchanges of in-country experiences within BRICS countries on equipping learners with skills fit for the future through multiple learning pathways;

## **8. Early Childhood Development**

Encouraging sharing of best practices between BRICS Education Ministries, on expanding access to holistic Early Childhood Care and Education to provide a better start in life for all children within the BRICS countries.

## **9. BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance**

We look forward to the early finalization of the Charter of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance. We commit to strengthen collaboration in technical vocational education and training amongst BRICS Member States through hosting of a seminar to provide an overview of the TVET education systems and foster closer collaboration.

We **emphasize** that the TVET programmes and projects **should be** coordinated by relevant BRICS senior TVET officials and focal points assigned by their respective Ministries.

We encourage participation of BRICS Member States in the Presidents Forum of BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance and **take note of** the outcomes of the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance Seminar and the President's Forum organized in the Republic of South Africa in July 2023.

## **10. Digital Education Cooperation**

Exploring opportunities on BRICS digital education cooperative mechanisms, hold dialogues on digital education policies, share digital educational resources, build smart education systems, and jointly promote digital transformation of education in BRICS Member States.

The Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, extend their appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers. We welcome the participation of the invited guests.

The Declaration has been adopted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 in the Mpumalanga province, South Africa.