

Declaration of the Second Meeting of the Heads of the BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions

25 August 2020

I. Preamble

1. We, the Supreme Audit Institution Heads of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met virtually on 25 August 2020 for the Second formal meeting of BRICS SAIs Heads, coordinated by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, which was held under the theme "Relevance of BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of crisis on BRICS countries", where we adopted this Declaration by consensus.

II. Commitment to BRICS cooperation

2. We remain committed to BRICS SAIs cooperation aimed at achieving equality, solidarity, openness, knowledge-sharing and mutual support.
3. This year marks half a decade of BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) interaction and affirms the extensive potential for cooperation in the spirit of inclusiveness, openness and mutually beneficial knowledge-sharing.

III. Importance of BRICS cooperation and the role of BRICS SAIs in INTOSAI

4. We reaffirm the resolve of the BRICS SAIs to extend cooperation.
5. We welcome, among others, the appointments in key positions of BRICS SAIs within INTOSAI, including the Chair and Vice Chair of INTOSAI, members of the Governing Board, Chairs of Strategic Goal Committees, the Chair of the Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues, Chairs of various working groups or task forces, and the Secretariat of ASOSAI

and AFROSAI-E, which reflect the significant impact of BRICS SAIs on the international audit community.

IV. Cooperation in critical situations

6. In line with the BRICS 2020 motto “Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative growth” and due to the COVID-19 crisis, which requires a united effort to ensure global security and prosperity, we reaffirm the importance of prompt and reliable exchange of knowledge and approve the following steps:
 - 6.1. Reinforce the existing framework for BRICS SAIs cooperation to ensure effective and rapid knowledge-sharing on issues of substantial importance;
 - 6.2. Coordinate efforts in monitoring the social and economic impact in order to have an efficient response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical situations, and identify areas of common concern with case-specific solutions.
7. We recognize our role in the enhancement of national public administration systems as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis and the promotion of good governance mechanisms in the post-pandemic global landscape.

V. Formats of cooperation

8. We underscore the importance of all possible ways of communication, including face-to-face meetings, organized as formal BRICS activities, or virtual meetings within the current COVID-19 pandemic, or informal meetings on the sidelines of international events (INTOSAI, UN, World Bank and other international events), as well as videoconferences, seminars and webinars, and working-level activities aimed at the development of projects and case studies of mutual interest in order to promote the exchange of good practices.

VI. Capacity building

9. We recognize the long-term priority of the following topics for capacity building and adopt them for further consultation and joint research: the fight against corruption and promotion of transparency in the public sector; auditing of public procurement; leveraging technologies to strengthen public control and audit, including remote public control and audit; audit measures to support the resolution of social and economic issues, with a focus on poverty alleviation, sustainable urban mobility, education, healthcare and law enforcement, sustainable agriculture and food security.

VII. Promotion of Sustainable Development and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

10. We reiterate our commitment to our governments' efforts to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, improve people's well-being and promote sustainable economic and social development, as stipulated in the outcome document of the First Meeting of the BRICS SAIs Heads.
11. We reaffirm our role in the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a specific focus on the achievement of SDGs through the provision of expertise and independent recommendations to support national sustainable development policies.

VIII. Conclusion

12. In conclusion, we as the BRICS SAIs commit to strengthening cooperation among the BRICS SAIs by means of experience exchange and capacity building and by working together more efficiently with the aim of solving global challenges and promoting global stability.