

## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE BRICS ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING MOSCOW, RUSSIA, 14 OCTOBER 2020**

1. We, the Ministers of Energy and Heads of Delegations of the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa held the Fifth Meeting of the BRICS Energy Ministers under the Presidency of the Russian Federation on 14 October 2020 in video format.
2. Under these extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic we note with satisfaction that energy systems of our countries have achieved high level of reliability in providing uninterrupted supply of energy during this difficult period. We welcome international efforts undertaken to cope with negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the energy sector. We emphasize the importance of multilateral cooperation and mutual support for overcoming its consequences, enhancing resilience of energy industry and facilitating its inclusive and robust recovery.
3. Recent developments proved the importance and urgency of achieving access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Achieving of SDG-7 should remain the priority of the global energy agenda and a guiding principle for our energy policies. We will explore the most effective ways towards eradication of energy poverty and ensuring universal access to energy including clean cooking in close cooperation with other countries, paying special attention to the energy needs of vulnerable population.

### **BRICS Cooperation in Energy**

4. We reaffirm that deepening intra-BRICS cooperation corresponds to the national interests of our countries. Building upon achievements accomplished under previous Presidencies and Ministerial Meetings we will strengthen our strategic partnership to enhance energy security, promote economic growth and well-being of the peoples of our countries. We commit to develop our energy cooperation on the basis of equality,

mutual trust and respect for national policies, taking full advantage of immense economic, scientific and technological potential of BRICS and complementarity in the energy strategies and national energy systems.

5. BRICS energy cooperation is aimed at facilitation of sustainable development of the energy industries, research, development and deployment of advanced energy technologies, increase of mutual trade in energy-related goods and energy investments, as well as enhancing the role of BRICS countries in the global energy agenda. We endorse the Roadmap for BRICS energy cooperation, which establishes mid-term prospective, priority areas, stages and actions to achieve these goals.
6. We welcome the launch of the activities and the first joint reports of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (BRICS ERCP). The Platform will continue to be the main vehicle for collaborative interaction between all stakeholders, including government agencies, business, academic and expert communities. We take note of the BRICS ERCP annual report and invite the Committee of Senior Energy Officials to steer the work of the BRICS ERCP towards the earliest establishment of the work streams in agreed areas under the leadership of interested countries, implementation of joint projects and strengthening the organizational support for the BRICS ERCP through a network of national secretariats and focal points.
7. We emphasize the importance of data exchange, analysis of the situation, trends and challenges in the energy sector in the BRICS states and elaboration of independent forecasts enabling the expansion of mutual energy trade and investments. In this respect we endorse the first "BRICS Energy Report" jointly prepared by the BRICS ERCP experts and invite the members of the BRICS ERCP to continue its research.
8. We will also actively engage in cooperation on capacity building through establishing direct links between relevant agencies, research centers and sharing best practices. We will promote academic and student exchange in the energy field and continue to support BRICS youth energy cooperation.

## **BRICS Cooperation in Technology**

9. New technologies play central role in building secure, sustainable and resilient energy systems of the future. We reaffirm that intra-BRICS technological cooperation is one of the most promising and important spheres of the BRICS energy dialogue.
10. We welcome the “BRICS Energy Technology Reports” on the prospects of collaboration in the area of energy technologies undertaken within the BRICS ERCP on the basis of national contributions from the BRICS countries. Cooperation in energy technologies will be of cross-cutting nature, encompassing traditional and new sectors. We encourage participants of various work-streams within the BRICS ERCP, as well as interested economic entities to launch joint RDD&D projects in the specific areas of common interest identified in the report.
11. Special attention in our cooperation will be devoted to cutting-edge technologies in production, transportation, storage, distribution and consumption of energy including digital modelling, system integration, smart grids, advanced bioenergy and biofuels, new energy carriers and others. We support no discriminatory access to technological exchange and cooperation and will work to foster open, flexible and transparent markets of energy technologies.
12. Financing instruments are also critical for ensuring sustainable supply of energy and technological progress. We will consult with the NDB and other financial institutions in BRICS countries to support new energy projects.

## **Energy Sources and Energy Transition**

13. Energy sector is undergoing profound transitions in our countries and worldwide due to technological progress, changing economic and social conditions and growing environmental concerns. We reaffirm our common view that national governments of all countries have a sovereign right to determine the pace and pathways of energy transitions depending on national conditions and priorities. Efficient use of all energy sources, including fossil fuels, nuclear and renewables is necessary for meeting growing demand for energy, achieving universal access to energy and ensuring energy security. We strongly support international cooperation in protecting environment and

mitigating climate change noting that the climate agenda should not be used for perpetuation of inequality, unfair competition, discriminatory practices and erection of barriers to energy trade and investments.

14. We note that fossil fuels will continue to play a major role in the energy balance and national economies of the BRICS as countries follow cleaner pathways towards reliable and sustainable energy systems. It is important to develop conventional fuel industries in environmentally friendly way through adequate investment and innovations in cleaner technologies in order to satisfy the demand for reliable and affordable baseload generation, and avoid disruptions in energy supply.
15. We envisage a key role for natural gas, as, affordable and relatively clean energy source. We plan to enhance our cooperation in natural gas sphere through trade, facilitating mutual investments in exploration, production, transportation and distribution of natural gas, development of infrastructure for pipeline gas and LNG trade, as well as in promoting wider use of gas motor fuel in transport sector.
16. We note the rapid growth of renewable energy in power sector and its important role in diminishing ecological footprint of the energy industry and recognize the need to accelerate renewable energy adoption in transport, heat and industry sectors. The BRICS countries will cooperate in research, development and deployment of renewable energy such as wind, solar, bio, hydro and geothermal energy and expansion of its use in other sectors. In this regard we support the activities of the International Solar Alliance and Biofuture Platform and the International Forum on Energy Transitions.
17. The BRICS countries consider nuclear energy as an important contributor to cleaner energy systems as it produces almost no polluting substances and GHG emissions. Nuclear energy can also be effectively utilized for production of new energy carriers such as hydrogen, as well as for reliable supply of energy to remote areas through deployment of small modular reactors. The BRICS countries will encourage cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, as appropriate, bearing in mind the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.
18. Energy efficiency has huge potential for stimulating sustainable economic growth and lowering negative anthropological influence on the environment. We express

satisfaction with the efforts of the BRICS Energy savings and energy efficiency working group. We will enhance synergies in BRICS collaborative action in this important cross-cutting dimension, which includes different sectors through improved coordination between existing mechanisms. We welcome a successful BRICS Festival #BrighterTogether, which was held in Saransk, Russia, on 10 October 2020, and raising public awareness of the importance of energy efficiency.

### **Global Energy Issues**

19. Stability and predictability of energy markets benefit the interests of both producers and consumers of energy resources. Collaborative multilateral actions taken recently with a view to rebalance global energy markets are instrumental for further stable development of the energy sector and set a positive example of constructive international cooperation in the energy field.
20. The BRICS countries fully support further deepening of international cooperation in the field of energy on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and mutual respect, free and transparent markets, and unhindered exchange of technologies. We strongly believe that it is in the common interest to build secure, reliable, sustainable, resilient and efficient energy systems, which will underpin and facilitate growth in all sectors of the global economy.
21. BRICS countries must have a greater role in the global energy agenda in line with their share in the world energy production and consumption. We welcome the informal consultations among BRICS states on topical energy issues and discussions in international organizations and fora. We will enhance this dialogue in order to promote BRICS countries interests on the global scale.
22. We express our appreciation for the Russian Federation organizing the Fifth BRICS Meeting of Energy Ministers. We look forward to further strengthening our energy cooperation under the Presidency of the Republic of India in 2021.