

The 9th BRICS Academic Forum

Recommendations to the 9th BRICS Summit

The 9th BRICS Academic Forum was held from June 10th to 12th in Fuzhou, China, and was attended by think-tank representatives from BRICS countries, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, as well as other emerging and developing countries including ****. Participants commend the efforts devoted by India during its BRICS presidency to promote BRICS think-tanks cooperation, express appreciation for the academic exchange and cooperation activities China has organized since it assumed BRICS presidency, and expect the China Council for BRICS Think-Tanks Cooperation to continue to play a guiding role in promoting deeper cooperation among BRICS think-tanks.

Participants are of the view that the key to productive BRICS cooperation over the past 10 years lies in, among others, the following factors: BRICS countries' persistent pursuit of shared development, the BRICS spirit of “openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation”, the working principle of “mutual inclusiveness, mutual trust, equal consultation, and practical cooperation”, and commitment to consolidating the foundation for

BRICS cooperation, to forging BRICS consensus, and to deepening the BRICS strategic partnership.

Participants are convinced that, the 9th BRICS Summit, scheduled for the coming September in Xiamen, will build on past achievements and usher in the second “golden decade” of BRICS cooperation through the review of experiences, the pooling of consensus, and the formation of a blueprint for the way forward. Furthermore, the summit, by offering more effective “BRICS solutions” for world peace and development, shall make even greater contributions to the development of the world economy, global governance, and democratization of international relations.

On the basis of reviewing the past decade of BRICS cooperation, taking into account BRICS research achievements of the past several years, and with a view to promoting the future development of BRICS cooperation, the 9th BRICS Academic Forum presents the following recommendations to the leaders of BRICS countries.

I. Reform and Improve Global Economic Governance

1. Take a clear stance in support of economic globalization. Aiming

for an open, inclusive, balanced, and all-win economic globalization, BRICS countries should jointly uphold an open global economy, review BRICS countries' development models and experiences, serve as models that offer guidance in reshaping the rules of global economic governance, continue to enhance the voice and representation of emerging and developing countries in global economic governance, and facilitate the creation of a community of shared future for all mankind;

2. Firmly support and protect the open trading regime with the WTO at its core, continue to push forward the Doha Round of negotiations, resist all kinds of protectionism and exclusive arrangements, ensure the equality in opportunities, rights, and rules for all countries in their development, continue to promote the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Asia-Pacific Free Trade Area, and facilitate sound global economic growth;
3. Continue to promote international development cooperation, jointly implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, strengthen South-South cooperation through various channels, boost North-South dialogues, call for and galvanize developed

countries to shoulder their due international responsibility while making the shared development of BRICS countries a model for global development, and help developing countries improve their capacity for development so as to narrow the gap between the North and the South;

4. BRICS countries should take united actions to promote the reforms of the existing global financial governance mechanism, to ensure that the IMF completes the 15th General Review of Quotas, to expand and strengthen the role of the Special Drawing Right Basket, to encourage the World Bank to complete the review of votes in accordance with the Lima Roadmap and Timetable, to initiate, in due course (by when??), the joint research project on the new round of reforms on the quotas and voting rights of the IMF and the World Bank, and to strive to achieve consensus within BRICS on the said matters;

II. Develop BRICS Partnership

5. Build a “BRICS Strategic Partnership” featuring win-win cooperation, strengthen communication and coordination within international organizations and multilateral mechanisms such as

the UN, the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, and the G20, uphold multilateralism, boost capacity-building (does this include capacity building through postgraduate student training??) and experience sharing, safeguard the shared interests of BRICS countries, and promote joint development;

6. Strengthen partnership (partnerships through “inter-BRICS countries” research projects??) with developing countries and their organizations, achieve strength in unity on the basis of win-win cooperation, strive to achieve common prosperity and progress, and turn BRICS cooperation into a platform for South-South cooperation with global impact;

7. Enhance dialogue with developed countries, boost developed countries' cognizance and understanding of BRICS countries through such dialogue, and promote cooperation between the South and the North;

III. Safeguard World Peace and Security

8. Strengthen communication on major international and regional security issues, enhance consultation, coordinate stances, and

speak with one voice on global hotspot issues and regional flashpoints, jointly safeguard international and regional peace and stability, and play a constructive role in achieving international justice;

9. Condemn and oppose all forms of terrorism, strengthen dialogues within the mechanism of Anti-Terrorism Working Group, enhance cooperation in anti-terrorism intelligence-sharing, experience-sharing, and capacity-building, and boost cooperation in research, training, and intelligence-sharing on bilateral and multilateral levels;

10. Strengthen cooperation in technologies, standards, and R&D, facilitate the development of global cyber technologies and cyberspace governance, protect cyber security while ensuring the development of the internet sector, strive to reach consensus on maintaining cyber security. We recommend the BRICS Cyber Security Working Group to work to enhance BRICS cooperation in cyber laws and regulations, policy standards, and international cyber space rule-making, to jointly combat cyber terrorism and cyber crime, and to enhance the BRICS' voice in the cyber space;

11. Support reasonable research, utilization, and development of new frontiers such as outer space, international deep sea areas, and polar areas. We recommend that BRICS countries enhance dialogue, exchange views, and defend shared interests on the issue of security in these new frontiers;

12. Strengthen the national security agendas of BRICS countries, with stronger emphasis on unconventional security issues, and rein in terrorism, extremism, separatism, narcotics, organized crimes, and piracy;

IV. Deepen Practical Cooperation and Achieve Sustainable Development

13. Strengthen economic partnership of BRICS countries. On the basis of the “BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy”, BRICS countries should draw up a roadmap for future economic and trade cooperation of BRICS countries. We recommend BRICS countries to agree on cooperation plans for relevant fields so as to formulate a more detailed and operational “2020 Framework on Trade and Investment Cooperation of BRICS Countries”, to strengthen coordination in macro-economic policies, and to

unleash potential for production capacity cooperation;

14. Promote cooperation in sustainable development. BRICS countries should conduct assessment and set up, in due course, the BRICS Sustainable Development Working Group to allow BRICS countries to communicate with each other their plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN, and to provide support to other developing countries in terms of expertise, funding, and technologies;

15. BRICS cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative are effective mechanisms for promoting South-South Cooperation. BRICS countries should be encouraged to dovetail their national development strategies with the Belt and Road Initiative, so that both the BRICS and the Belt and Road Initiative can achieve positive outcomes in broader areas;

16. Promote the investment facilitation of BRICS countries, initiate a pilot project of expedited dispute resolution within BRICS, facilitate the creation of a unified set of trade standards within BRICS, establish a BRICS e-commerce alliance, encourage the development of cross-border e-commerce and digital trade,

improve cooperation framework in trade in services, draw up cooperation roadmaps, and explore the possibility of setting up a BRICS free-trade area;

17. Explore cooperation plans in the field of commodity pricing mechanism, leverage the strengths of BRICS countries in the supply and demand of commodities on the international market, strengthen dialogue and coordination mechanism, buffer and stock mechanism, multilateral contract system, balancing and constraining mechanism, crisis response mechanism, and joint intervention mechanism, build a pricing center for global commodities, change the current situation where developed countries control the prices of global commodities, encourage private investment in commodity mutual funds, practice bilateral local currency settlement, and avoid risks and shocks brought about by price fluctuations;

18. Promote multilateral dialogues of BRICS central banks, strengthen communication and coordination of monetary policies, and accelerate the establishment of local currency settlement and currency swaps;

19. Build up and manage well emerging multilateral developmental financial institutions such as the New Development Bank and the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, further improve governance frameworks, strengthen internal institutions such as the management, the board, and the council, and shape these organizations into professional, effective, green, and clean emerging multilateral developmental financial institutions;

20. The New Development Bank should enhance its support to BRICS countries and other developing countries by offering stronger financial support for their infrastructure and sustainable development projects. At the same time, the Bank should also strengthen its cooperation with the BRICS Think Tank Council, the BRICS University League (how is this different from the BRICS Network University??), and the BRICS Business Council;

21. Continue to develop and improve the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement through measures such as setting up a research entity for the Contingent Reserve Arrangement to improve the research on the warning function, and strengthening cooperation between the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the IMF, further enhance the operational

capacity of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, boost its capacity for preventing and resolving crises, and consolidate the financial safety net for BRICS countries;

22. Conduct assessment and set up a BRICS ratings agency, explore the possibility of establishing a market-oriented, independent ratings agency, boost the sovereign credit of BRICS countries and avoid biased assessment in risk regulations;

23. Steadily advance the integration of BRICS capital markets, design plans for investment facilitation, strengthen investment cooperation in infrastructure projects such as railways, highways, and ports. Boost infrastructure connectivity, promote the construction of BRICS industrial cooperation parks and production capacity cooperation parks, further expand investment within BRICS, encourage private investors to set up BRICS investment funds, and carry out joint investment;

24. Deepen BRICS cooperation in public-private partnership (PPP), promote the establishment of a BRICS PPP cooperation mechanism, make assessments on setting up a reserve fund for PPP

projects, provide exchange platform and technical assistance to PPP development, promote the implementation of PPP projects, formulate good practices in implementing PPP projects, and encourage experience-sharing that may serve as references for the application and extension of the PPP model in BRICS countries;

25. Enhance industrial capacity cooperation, move the BRICS countries up the global value chain, and make efforts to turn BRICS into a key hub in the global value chain by transforming the single circulation structure of global value chain between developed countries and developing countries to a double circulation one featuring the flow between developed and BRICS countries, and the flow between BRICS and developing countries;

26. Expand international cooperation and exchange in agriculture, enhance food security, promote climate cooperation and exchange, improve agriculture's resilience to natural disasters, enhance science and technology innovation and demonstration, increase sustainability, optimize trade cooperation in agricultural products, widen investment channel, strengthen information exchange and sharing, and promote agricultural information technology application among BRICS countries;

27. Enhance policy dialogues in energy cooperation to address challenges and safeguard energy security, accelerate energy transformation, explore clean energy's production and consumption models, assess the potential for cooperation in the energy sector among BRICS countries, and promote pragmatic cooperation;

28. Enhance cooperation in innovation, including scientific innovation, promote the establishment of a *BRICS Science and Technology Innovation Framework Plan*, intensify cooperation and exchange in data sharing, data analysis, and cloud computing, actively explore a cooperation mechanism for innovation, promote partnerships among technology companies, and organize BRICS Innovation Contest and BRICS High-tech Trade Exposition;

29. Coordinate positions on climate change, provide financial and technological support to address the issue, encourage the New Development Bank to intensively develop green loans, green investment, and green bonds, and spearhead the development of green finance in the world.

30. Pay more attention to marine economy, unleash the potential for

cooperation among ocean-based resource, manufacturing, and service industries, and rely on ports, ship building, and fisheries to further enhance cooperation in maritime oil and gas sectors;

31. Boost cooperation among Small-and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME), and adopt measures to increase their vitality and viability in the international market. Such measures could include the establishment of a small and micro enterprise development fund and a special team on small and micro enterprises within the New Development Bank;

32. Strengthen anti-corruption cooperation, utilize the BRICS anti-corruption taskforce mechanism to bring back fugitives and recover their assets, consolidate international anti-corruption cooperation, coordinate actions in accordance with the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* and other relevant international laws, support the compilation of BRICS anti-corruption gazette, and enhance cooperation in returning relocated assets;

V. Promote Stronger People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation to Consolidate the Foundation for Cooperation

33. Realize the importance, necessity and urgency of BRICS people-to-people and cultural cooperation, designate this as an important direction of future work, recommend to build a high level people-to-people and cultural exchange mechanism, and formulate a road map and action plan in this regard;

34. Enhance cooperation in innovation, including science and technology innovation, facilitate the implementation of the *Memorandum of Understanding on BRICS Inter-governmental Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation*, *BRICS Science and Technology Framework Plan*, and its *Implementation Plan*, prioritize areas such as new energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency, natural disaster management, information technology and high performance computing, astronomy, and other areas listed in the MOU, enhance cooperation and exchange in these areas, co-sponsor multilateral research and development projects, young talent exchange, actively explore innovation cooperation mechanisms such as policy exchanges, corporate technology cooperation, technological transfer and adaptation, science park cooperation, and boost BRICS science and technology entrepreneurship and platform building;

35. Support cooperation in education and training, intensify work on building BRICS University Alliance, launch projects to send students to study in other BRICS countries, and carry out BRICS Research programs to jointly train post graduate students, post doctoral students, and research fellows;

36. Encourage cooperation in cultural industries and cultural trade, adopt the “Internet Plus” model, and support businesses, think-tanks, the media, cultural and art troupes to enhance cooperation in cultural tourism, art performance and entertainment, handcraft and painting, animation and games, innovative design, and digital culture;

37. Enhance cultural exchanges in sports, radio, film, TV, music, and publishing, recommend to enhance mutual understanding and garner public support for BRICS cooperation through activities such as BRICS Games, Cultural Festival, Film Festival, Days of Books, Music Festival, and Traditional Medicine High-level Conference;

38. Foster stronger mutual learning in traditional medicine, form a cooperation framework and a long-term mechanism, and facilitate comprehensive cooperation in clinic service, professional training,

scientific research, industrial coordination, cultural communication, disease prevention, and healthcare, so that traditional medicine can deliver benefits to people's health and promote people-to-people connectivity;

39. Encourage joint research among BRICS think-tanks, train talents, jointly hold seminars, and deepen research on BRICS countries and developing countries;

40. Commend the idea of establishing the BRICS Research and Exchange Fund proposed by the China Council, agree that the establishment of this fund is of great significance for pushing forward BRICS think-tanks cooperation, recommend to gradually expand its size, and, in due course, set up a BRICS Research Prize to encourage BRICS research and exchanges;

41. Facilitate visa application among BRICS countries to make it easier for business people, tourists, and officials to travel, and promote mutual recognition of diplomas and professional ranks;

42. Strengthen local cooperation, establish the BRICS Province-State Council on the basis of mutual consensus, and encourage the

twinning of more provinces, states, and cities;

43. Pay more attention to the rights and interests of women, continue to hold the BRICS Female MPs Forum, and carry forward the positive outcomes achieved by the BRICS and SCO Women's Conference;

44. Hold the BRICS Cultural Year, Cultural Festival, and Cultural Day in due course, launch the BRICS Traditional Culture Forum, expand the influence of the BRICS mechanism, and boost the knowledge, understanding, and recognition for BRICS among the people in BRICS and the rest of the world;

VI. Improve Cooperation Mechanism

45. Recognize the flaws in BRICS mechanism, in particular the overlapping of institutions, and streamline the cooperation mechanisms in various fields, clarify the functions to avoid overlapping, and increase inter-institution communication and operation efficiency;

46. Continuously strengthen cooperation in standardization among

BRICS countries, and make assessments on establishing the BRICS Standardization Research Center to study the standardization of laws, rules, strategies, mechanisms, and institutions among BRICS countries;

47. Enhance dialogue and cooperation with other emerging countries and developing countries, uphold the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, enrich the connotation of “BRICS Plus”, and actively expand the “friend circle” of BRICS countries;

Participants congratulate the successful convening of the BRICS Political Parties, Think-tanks, and NGOs Forum held in Fuzhou, congratulate the China Council for BTTC’s successful convocation of the 9th Academic Forum and 6th Think-tank Council Meeting, and appreciate their constructive role in pushing forward BRICS think-tanks cooperation and exchanges. The BTTC will, as ever, spare no efforts in supporting the China Council to play a positive role in BRICS research and exchanges.

The BTTC anticipates to actively engage in the next Academic Forum to be held in South Africa in 2018, and endeavors to fully

support and make joint efforts to galvanize successful academic cooperation, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

There seems to be no true commitment to these recommendations through implementation dates???