



DECLARATION OF THE
VIII BRICS MINISTERS OF CULTURE MEETING
21 JULY 2023
SOUTH AFRICA

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers of Culture 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 in Mpumalanga, South Africa under the chairship of South Africa on 21 July 2023 under the theme “**BRICS and Africa: Strengthening cultural partnerships for post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and sustainable, inclusive development.**”, and hereby:

Acknowledge the spirit of BRICS cooperation, featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, and consensus.

We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Agreement signed between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture in 2015.

We also reaffirm our commitments under all the instruments and Agreements signed and adopted by the Governments of the BRICS States since the inclusion of the culture workstream in BRICS since 2015, which are the following:

- 2017-2021 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture.
- 2022-2026 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture.
- Pretoria Declaration – 2018
- Curitiba Declaration - 2019,
- Moscow Declaration - 2020.
- New Delhi Declaration – 2021
- Beijing Declaration- 2022

We also affirm our commitment to promote culture and the creative economy as a global public good, as adopted by UNESCO during MONDIACULT2022 – World Conference on Culture and Sustainable Development.

Acknowledge that culture plays an essential role in supporting the resilience and the regeneration of our economies and our societies, heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and that culture is the foundation for relaunching prosperity, social cohesion and the well-being of people and communities.

Recognise the contribution of culture to the achievement of economic prosperity and enhancing people-to-people exchange.

Pledge to continue our cooperation to further strengthen our cultural bonding through the following.

1. BRICS WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE

1.1. *We affirm* our commitment to the establishment of the BRICS Working Group on Culture comprising of senior officials to strengthen cooperation in the field of culture.

1.2. *Noting* the commitments made by the BRICS member countries in previous BRICS Ministerial Declarations and continue to advance the exchange of ideas and dialogues on current issues of both multilateral and bilateral cooperation affecting BRICS member countries.

1.3. *We commit* to the development of a Terms of Reference of the Culture Working Group to enhance the work of BRICS countries in the field of arts and culture, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries and creative economy, and BRICS Alliance platforms to strengthen the implementation of the BRICS Culture Action Plan 2022-2026.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION

2.1. *Agree* to support the protection, preservation, restoration *and promotion* of our cultural heritage including both tangible and intangible heritage.

2.2. *Recognising* that all threats to cultural resources, including looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property, may result in loss of irreplaceable assets and affects the cultural identity of countries.

2.3. *Commit* to take strong action to fight against illicit trafficking of our cultural property and encourage cooperation among culture and heritage *stakeholders*.

2.4 *Encourage* an open and inclusive international cooperation on the return and restitution of cultural property, with a view to facilitate the full exercise of cultural rights, including rights to heritage and identity.

2.5. *Encourage* support for BRICS Cooperation in the field of heritage preservation, including intangible cultural heritage, and continue to engage in knowledge sharing initiatives, promoting awareness-raising and capacity building campaigns among different institutions and stakeholders between countries.

2.6. Encourage BRICS initiatives for mutual support and assistance in the management of cultural heritage sites and submission of such sites for inscription onto the World Heritage list and removal of sites from the list of World Heritage in Danger.

3. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

3.1. *Commit* to deepen inter-governmental exchange on cultural creative industry policies; strengthen the alignment of cultural industry resources, platforms, and projects; expand cultural market cooperation; skills exchange and explore the establishment of a BRICS cooperation mechanism for cultural industries.

3.2. *Commit* to ensure the integration of culture into our national development policies, involving all levels of societies, including local communities, as a driver and an enabler for the achievement of the goals set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and work towards the inclusion of Culture as a stand-alone goal in the setting of the post 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

3.3. *We reaffirm* our commitment to support participation of cultural enterprises and institutions in international exhibitions and festivals, hosted by BRICS countries and extend mutual assistance in the organisation of such events.

3.4. *We recognise*, the need to promote digitization of the culture and creative sectors by finding technologically innovative solutions and pushing for policies to transform ways in which cultural contents are produced, disseminated, and accessed.

4. ALLIANCE PLATFORMS

4.1. We commend the participation of all BRICS members in the events held under the BRICS Alliances of cooperation in the field of Museums, Art Museums and National Galleries, Libraries and Theatre for Youth and Young People.

4.2. We further encourage the full participation of all BRICS countries in the programmes developed to promote the BRICS alliances cooperation based on the letters of intent signed in 2017.

4.3. We look forward to greater support and cooperation among member countries to further strengthen the Action Plan (2022-2026) and promote the sustainable development of the alliance programmes and reaffirm our commitment to provide support to the existing members of the alliances in areas such as project establishment, and personnel exchange.

5. BRICS FILM

5.1. *We note* that the BRICS Film Festival has become one of the key programmes under the BRICS Culture Programme and that it has grown over the last few years.

5.2. *We commit* to continue our cooperation in the field of cinematography of the BRICS countries by holding BRICS Film Festivals annually and endeavour to make it part of the BRICS event calendar.

5.3. *We commit* to support exchanges and cooperation between BRICS countries on film festivals.

6. OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

6.1. *Call* for greater cooperation of the BRICS countries in implementing the key thematic areas of the 2022-2026 Action Plan such as arts and culture, cultural heritage, cultural industries, cinematography, and alliance platforms, as well as establishing the BRICS Working Group on Culture.

6.2. *Consider* expanding the horizon for women, girl child and the youth to be key players in the heritage and culture sector industries through promoting education and training of youth and women in the arts and culture space, developing, and providing measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the industry and integrating and advocating for the promotion of indigenous knowledge and intangible cultural heritage practices, transmitted particularly by women in societies.

The English language version of this Declaration is signed on 21 July 2023 in Mpumalanga, South Africa by the five BRICS counterparts following the meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Culture under the Chairship of the Republic of South Africa.

For the Ministry of Culture
of the Federative Republic of Brazil

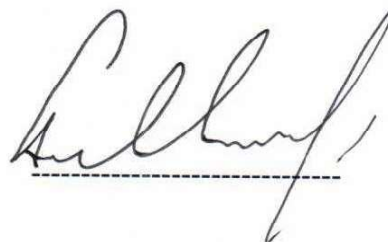
H.E. Márcio Tavares, Deputy Minister



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For the Ministry of Culture
of the Russian Federation

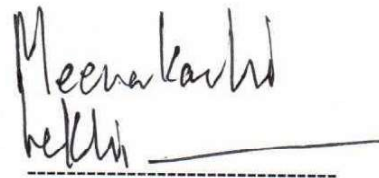
H.E. Andrey Malishev, Deputy Minister



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For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of India

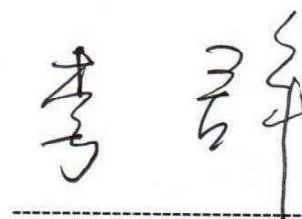
H.E. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State
for Culture and External Affairs



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For the Ministry of Culture and Tourism
of the People's Republic of China

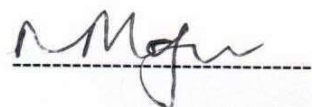
H.E. LI Qun, Vice Minister



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For the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
of the Republic of South Africa

H.E. Nocawe Mafu, Deputy Minister



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