

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa on the Creation of the Joint BRICS Website**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Guided by the desire to strengthen comprehensive cooperation between the Member States,

Seeking to develop relations between the foreign policy departments of the Member States,

Driven by the desire to disseminate information on BRICS values, goals and practical activities among the public of our countries as well as the international community,

Seeking to use information and communication technologies to deepen cooperation among Member States and their peoples,

Following the Action Plans adopted at the BRICS Summits in Durban (2013) and in Fortaleza (2014),

The Parties hereby record their understanding to cooperate as follows:

#### **1. Creation of the Website**

The Parties will create a joint website to cover BRICS activities. The website will be a free online public resource.

#### **2. Objectives of the Website Creation**

The website will be created to:

- disseminate information on the activities related to BRICS of a State which currently chairs the BRICS, including its priorities and chairmanship programme, information on previous and upcoming events of the Chairmanship and BRICS-related keynote addresses by the leaders of the Chairing State;

- provide information on the BRICS Member States participation and on the events they hold within the BRICS framework;

- disseminate information on the activity of business and non-governmental organizations aimed at promoting the BRICS objectives;

- disseminate media publications on the BRICS activities;

- inform the public about the history of the BRICS and decisions adopted.

### 3. Website Structure

The website will have a modular structure and include:

- module of the incumbent BRICS Chair;

- module of the BRICS Official Documents Archive;

- national modules of the BRICS Member States;

- module of the BRICS News Feed;

- module of Scientific Publications on the BRICS;

- other modules as agreed upon by the Parties.

The module of the incumbent BRICS Chair will be maintained in the national language and in English. The module of the BRICS Official Documents Archive will contain publicly released documents and will be maintained by the Russian Party in Russian, by the Brazilian Party in Portuguese, by the Chinese Party in Chinese, by the Indian Party in Hindi and South African Party in English.

National modules of the BRICS Member States will be maintained by relevant Party.

The module of the BRICS News Feed shall be maintained in the same manner as the national ones.

The module of Scientific Publications on the BRICS will be maintained by the BRICS Think Tanks Council.

There may be other modules as agreed by the Parties.

### 4. Rights of the Parties

The Parties will have the right to:

- have an easy and full access to information published on the BRICS website, as well as information on the website software;
- participate on an equal footing in resolving issues of the BRICS website management applying the principle of consensus;
- upload relevant information that the Parties consider necessary to the national modules of the BRICS website, and in the period of the BRICS chairmanship – to the module of the incumbent Chair.

## 5. Responsibilities of the Parties

The Parties will:

- ensure that the Chairmanship module has proper content when the State acts as the BRICS Chair;
- maintain properly their national modules, including their software;
- upload official, public release documents in connection with BRICS events in relevant national languages to the BRICS Official Document Archive;
- take the necessary measures in order to provide for information security for national modules and the website as a whole.

## 6. Financing of the Website

Each Party intends to provide funding, within existing national resources already assigned to such activity, to support the operation of national module and to posting of all the information in the official language of the State of that Party in each module of the BRICS website.

The Chairmanship module will be financed by the Party whose State chairs the BRICS in the current year. Besides, this Party will provide English translations of all the information posted in that module.

## 7. Management of the Website

For purposes of managing the site the Party will establish a Board. It will include duly authorized Party's representatives (one from each Party). Functions of the Chair of the Board will be performed by the representative of the incumbent Chair of BRICS. In its work the Board will be guided by the principle of consensus. Its competence will include determining focus

areas of the website activities for the long term and resolving issues of its operation. The Board's decisions may be taken by absentee voting. The Board will meet preferably by teleconference or videoconference.

Any Party's representative may be substituted by another duly authorized person. There can be no more than one substitute person. The Board has to be informed in time and in writing about any such arrangements.

## 8. Final Provisions

The present Memorandum will apply starting from the date of its signature.

The present Memorandum is subject to annual review.

The present Memorandum is concluded for an indefinite period, unless any Party withdraws from it.

The present Memorandum is not an international treaty and does not create rights and obligations regulated by international law.

Signed in on 2015 in five copies in the English language.