



## **FIRST YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM OF THE BRICS COUNTRIES ACTION PLAN**

*11-14 October 2017, St. Petersburg, Russia*

We, the participants of the first Young Parliamentarians Forum of the BRICS Countries, gathered in St. Petersburg with the desire to achieve synergy between both ‘youth’ and ‘parliamentarian’ dimensions of the BRICS countries’ cooperation introduced in 2015. As a group of young leaders with diverse backgrounds including youth parliamentarians, entrepreneurs, academics, NGO leaders, journalists and scientists we consider it important to have at the core a multi-stakeholder approach towards youth, which we believe is inherently a BRICS characteristic.

We welcome the decisions made at the BRICS youth summits and fora in Kazan (2015), Guwahati (2016) and Beijing (2017) and would like to propose the inclusion of youth parliamentarians as participants of the future summits and specifically to the forthcoming BRICS Youth Summit in South Africa in 2018.

We attach particular importance to the development of the BRICS parliamentary diplomacy. We are sure that the BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg on 14 October 2017 will give impetus to the development of this format of interaction between our countries.

Therefore, as our central shared aspiration, we recommend the establishment of the International Youth Parliamentarian Association (IYPA), which will centralise the research and implementation of actions towards a fair and polycentric world order.

Moreover, we propose the following youth-oriented actions that can be taken by all active young people in the BRICS countries and IYPA members with regard to three different spheres:

### **YOUTH PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY**

1. Establish responsibilities to structure the International Youth Parliamentarian Association (IYPA) in 2018 with its own Charter.



2. Establish a network aiming at sharing best practices from countries with formalised youth parliamentary structures and foster capacity building and knowledge sharing towards empowering future parliamentarians.
3. Encourage young parliamentarians to prioritise the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda in the legislative processes.
4. Foster an in-depth 'Cultural Exchange Youth Programme' among BRICS countries with the aim to promote global understanding through short-term programs related to education, sports and culture among young people.
5. Create and coordinate a regular bulletin called "Youth Parliamentary Worldviews and Forecasts" that will be written by the associated members of IYPA to address the subjects of interest of the global youth.
6. Facilitate the mobility of students and young academics among BRICS countries by forging collaborations among knowledge institutions and the establishment of joint scientific projects among the BRICS scholars and researchers.

## **E-DIPLOMACY**

1. Conduct young professionals round-tables and conferences to discuss and explore ways of the global Internet governance based on a multilateral model with a leading role of the states and relevant roles of international organizations and civil society and to set up a legal framework for future global Internet governance.
2. Advocate for balanced private and public media narratives based on credible information, including the promotion of intra-BRICS media cooperation, such as TV BRICS.
3. Lobby legislators, civil society and business in the BRICS countries to champion the call for the international regulation of foreign intelligence liaison through regulating arbitrary and unlawful signals intelligence and the collection of metadata of global citizens.

## **ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY**

1. Search for alternatives for a limited number of dominating reserve currencies in the world economy through establishing international expert



discussions on the opportunities of using cryptocurrencies for fair and secure international trade.

2. Promote digital economy and the best available technologies, including but not limited to smart manufacturing, e-certificates and blockchain-based technology, to ensure effective and secure business cooperation and trade.
3. Foster expert and public discussions on implementation of the principles of sharing economy and sustainable consumption, aimed at ensuring industry-environment balance and better welfare conditions globally.

## **FINAL REMARKS**

The parliamentary community of the BRICS countries, with a vast geography of its relations, can make a significant contribution to the formation of an objective, unbiased view of the current world economic and political processes, and to promote the search for optimal collective answers to modern global challenges. The philosophy of BRICS implies openness and the union is constantly expanding.

The IYPA will inspire the youth to express their views in an organised way. It will also allow for the emergence of bright future leaders. The platform will be an open dialogue to share common agendas among the countries for mutual cooperation and development of youth related projects.

India will host the first India-Russia Youth Parliament in New Delhi in 2018 as a follow-up of Young Parliamentarians Forum of the BRICS Countries held in St. Petersburg in October 2017 as a bilateral approach to strengthen the multilateral relations. As a part of this event, we are going to gather for further elaborating of the IYPA.

In line with South Africa's presidency in BRICS in 2018, we commit to engaging South Africa to host the 2nd Young Parliamentarians Forum of the BRICS countries as part of the IYPA.