

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Working Group On Science,  
Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership (STIEP WG)**

**Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, 12-15 May 2019**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, from 12 to 15 May 2019, with the participation of representatives from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (see Annex I).

The Meeting was divided into the following 4 sessions according to the agenda (see Annex II).

**Session 1: Innovation BRICS Network (iBRICS Network)**

The session started by the Brazilian delegation presenting a follow-up on the process of the creation of the Innovation BRICS network (*iBRICS Network*) and by discussing the text of the “Enabling Framework for the Innovation BRICS Network”. The Brazilian delegation emphasized the importance of the four main objectives of the iBRICS Network, which is to foster 1) dialogue and mutual knowledge, 2) capacity-building, 3) cross-incubation and 4) soft-landing.

The Chinese delegation ratified its support to the initiative of the iBRICS Network. After presenting the landscape of the system of tech-incubation in China, the Chinese delegates appointed the “Shanghai Technology Innovation Center” as one of the focal points for the iBRICS Network.

The Indian delegation supported the initiative of the iBRICS Network. Further, it was proposed that this network focus on ICT, medical devices and diagnostics, new energy alternatives and innovations for challenged and elderly people. It was further desired to use this network to launch BRICS innovation calls in due course with dedicated resources by all BRICS countries.

The Russian delegation made formal suggestions for the text of the Enabling Framework. The Russian delegation also suggested to define the terms in the document and to align iBRICS Network initiative with the technology transfer centers projects. The Russian delegation supported the role of science and industrial parks associations in the iBRICS Network.

The South African delegation commented that the iBRICS is aligned with BRICS identity and can act as a platform to promote STI development of BRICS countries, and can integrate systems for innovative enterprises bridge portals. The South Africa delegation suggested to include grass roots innovation outside academia.

The South African delegates emphasized the importance of exploring the possibility of having financial support of the BRICS New Development Bank.

The Brazilian delegation welcomed the suggestions of the other delegations. Agreed changes were incorporated to the draft text of the “Enabling Framework” (see Annex III).

The Brazilian delegation presented the “Land2land Platform”, supported by the Brazilian Association of Science Park and Business Incubators (ANPROTEC), as a tool for implementing the first objective of the iBRICS – to foster dialogue and mutual knowledge. The other delegations welcomed the proposal and emphasized the importance of integrating or linking it to existing and future mechanisms of information sharing of the other BRICS countries. The Brazilian delegation welcomed the offer of “The Innovation Bridge Portal” from South Africa as an example of a mechanism that can be integrated with the “Land2land Platform”.

**Next steps:**

1. The STIEP WG recommends the “Enabling Framework for the Innovation BRICS Network” for the consideration of BRICS STI Senior Officials with a view to submitting it for approval during the 7th Meeting of the BRICS STI Ministers, that will take place in Campinas, on 19-20 September 2019. Following adoption by the BRICS STI Ministers, the Enabling Framework is to be signed by them in the presence of BRICS leaders during the 11th BRICS Summit, in November 2019.
2. The STIEP WG calls for all BRICS countries to nominate two institutions among science parks, incubators, accelerators, their associations, other innovation actors and enabling bodies, which will act as national focal points to the iBRICS Network as well as members of the Steering Committee for the first mandate. The names of the nominees shall be sent before 30 August 2019 through the channel of communication of the BRICS STI Focal Points.
3. The STIEP WG recommended the “Land2land Platform” to be upgraded to fulfill the function of the iBRICS Network. It will serve as a tool for fostering dialogue and information sharing between innovative actors. The iBRICS Network will be operational in 2019 and work for integrating or linking to existing and future mechanisms of information sharing of the other BRICS countries.

**Session 2: BRICS Technology Transfer Cooperation**

The delegation of China presented a follow-up on the creation of the Technology

Transfer Center of Kunming, including details on its future work plan, and called for BRICS countries to nominate their respective focal point institutions, in order to build a network of technology transfer centers.

The Russian delegation commented that the Technology Transfer Center in Kunming could be the first step of an initiative that could be expanded to all five countries, including the regional dimension.

The Indian delegation recommended that the discussion on technology transfer should emphasize on translational research. The Indian delegation recalled that the two deliverables of the first period of the BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation 2017-2020 are: the creation of networks of science parks, technology business incubators and SME, and the creation of cross-cultural talent pools for converting ideas into solutions. It was suggested that the proposed elements of the TTC are covered by the iBRICS Network initiative. Further, the Indian delegation suggested that the other goals for BRICS Action Plan could be deferred to a later stage.

The Brazilian delegation acknowledged the efforts of China in preparing a technology transfer center specifically for BRICS cooperation. The National Forum of Innovation and Technology Transfer Managers (FORTEC) and the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) are Brazilian actors that could act as focal points of the initiative, pending further internal discussion.

The South African delegation supported the idea of the establishment of a technology transfer center network. Further discussion on the implementation model of technology transfer cooperation can help expand business readiness level (BRL) and market readiness levels (MRL) to support market uptakes of ideas.

The Chinese delegation welcomed the considerations of the other delegates and ratified that the technology transfer center in Kunming is to be the first step for building a network of BRICS centers.

**Next steps:**

1. The STIEP WG welcomes the offer of the Kunming Technology Transfer Center to be networked with similar entities of BRICS countries.

**Session 3: 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS Young Scientist Forum: Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

The Brazilian delegation presented the proposal of the theme “Young Innovation and Entrepreneurship” as the main topic of the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Scientist Forum, that will take place in Campinas, from 15 to 18 September 2019, on the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup>

STI Ministerial. Each country is expected to nominate 20 participants to this event.

The Russian delegation suggested that clear criteria should be set up for choosing young scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs for the 4<sup>th</sup> YSF.

The Indian delegation desired that the BRICS Young Innovator Prize rules and regulations be set out to ensure that young scientists, young techno entrepreneurs, early stage startups are recognized and motivated instead of mature and existing established enterprises. Further, the Indian delegation requested for including “young women in science” dialogues in the scope of the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS YSF. The scope of the forum should sustain addressing the needs for advancement of research career of young scientists.

The Chinese delegation presented the proposal to host a technology transfer-related activity during the 4<sup>th</sup> YSF. The Brazilian delegation welcomed the suggestions.

All delegations agreed on the Brazilian proposal and suggested to add topics also related to sciences and research to the 4<sup>th</sup> YSF. The announcements are to be made no later than June 20<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**Next steps:**

1. The STIEP WG agreed on the proposal to have the theme “Young Innovation and Entrepreneurship” as the main topic of the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Scientist Forum. The Brazilian delegation will circulate through the channel of BRICS STI Focal Points a new and more detailed version of the proposal after exploring the possibility of new themes, including a special session on science and research, and cyber physical systems.

**Session 4: Discussion on the next meeting**

1. The STIEP WG confirms that its annual meetings will report on to the BRICS STI Ministers through the STI Senior Officials.
2. The STIEP WG recommends that the date for the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the STIEP Working Group to be defined before 30 August 2019.
3. The delegations thanked Brazil and the Itaipu Technology Park for hosting the event.