



**Communiqué of the 2nd Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Communications,
Bengaluru, November 11, 2016.**

We, the Ministers 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 on November 11, 2016 at Bengaluru, India, at the 2nd BRICS Communications Ministers meeting to take forward the theme of Goa declaration at the VIII BRICS summit **Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions** in the ICTs arena.

2. We stress the catalytic role of digital economy and its significance in all the sectors as varied as health, education, transportation, commerce, entertainment and power. The ICT framework has become a great facilitator and source of collaboration in connecting individuals, organizations and Governments to translate ideas into opportunities. Recognizing the critical role of ICTs in improving the quality of life and quality of governance for citizens, we encourage joint efforts towards promoting e-government systems among BRICS members.

3. Recalling the Vision of the Ufa summit to strengthen cooperation in ICTs, including Internet, we express satisfaction on the constitution of the BRICS Working Group on ICT cooperation. It is important that the working group will contribute decisively to the realization of the ICT aspirations of BRICS in tune with the five pronged approach envisaged in Goa Summit I4C - Institution building, Implementation, Integrating, Innovation and Continuity.

4. Acknowledging the unique and complementary strengths of BRICS members, we call on all the stakeholders to embrace the opportunity to strengthen research and innovation linkages among institutions and work towards a common platform in joint research, design, development, manufacture and promotion in the field of high technology products in ICTs.

5. We recognize the need to develop digital economy in a strategic manner by expanding cooperation in ICTs to address the challenges of inequality, unemployment and ensure distribution of digital fruits to empower our peoples. We are aware of the importance of setting up national digital agendas to create enabling environment as a foundation to build digital society and promoting the digital economy with enthusiastic participation from industry, citizens and all stakeholders.

6. Encouraging and promoting competition, lowering artificial barriers to entry and strengthening regulatory coherence are necessary for building capacities and skills to accelerate diversification of the world ICT market. We note the potential of public private partnership models in developing a pool of skilled people, including youth and women, in advanced hardware/software development to design software applications and manufacturing of IT and telecommunication equipment.

7. We note the enormous potential and applications of High Speed Broadband (HSB) in various facets of life and hence integrating it as part of BRICS ICTs strategy and making available HSB for all are vital steps in this direction. The need is for development of Information Highways as a cornerstone of Development agenda in our countries. Efficient Spectrum management is important to fuel digital economy and drive growth of HSB for socio economic development.

8. We acknowledge the central role of governments in internet public policy issues and appreciate the role and contribution of other relevant stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities. We support openness of internet where businesses, citizens and governments can innovate and develop services and applications to empower people and society. We recognize that it is critical to develop trust and security in the use of ICTs, services and applications to enable their wide spread use while protecting privacy and consumer rights.

9. Developing content in local languages and enhancing digital skill sets are key to enable participation by one and all in the digital economy. We acknowledge the need to enhance ICT R&D expenditure to develop multiple paths for innovation. We are aware of this strategic window of opportunity to work together in developing new technologies, joint R&D considering complementary strengths and diverse expertise with a goal to enhance value addition in exports and generate sustainable employment for youth. Joint efforts in new mobile technologies offer immense potential for BRICS to strengthen cooperation and potential to impact their ICT ecosystem and gamut of ICT engagement.

10. We note with appreciation the role of ICTs to catalyze development agenda and objectives as envisaged in the Connect 2020 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the WSIS+10 high level review. While acknowledging the need for universal connectivity and services, we emphasize that new technologies and applications through IoTs and M2M provide a great opportunity for collaboration to drive programmes under various sectors in line with SDGs and objectives of WSIS high level review. Active cooperation with ITU and other organizations in developing standards and global spectrum harmonization provides an opportunity to strengthen BRICS collaboration.

11. We fully endorse the ICT Development Agenda and Action Plan developed by the working group under digital partnership to deepen, sustain and institutionalize BRICS cooperation in ICTs. Today's world is characterized by a tremendous increase in the volume of information flows, which can be distinctly observed in industry, commerce, finance, banking, health and education and public administration fields. Recognizing this, the working group is exhorted to lay emphasis in building collaboration through well-designed plans and efforts with clearly identifiable goals and objectives to contribute to the development of knowledge societies in BRICS.
