



## Aide Mémoire

### South Africa's Chairship of BRICS in 2018 and hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit

South Africa assumed the BRICS Chairship on 01 January 2018 and will be Chair until 31 December 2018. The year 2018 holds special significance in the BRICS historical trajectory as it concludes the first decade of BRICS Summits at the highest diplomatic level. This year is also important as the BRICS Chairship coincides with the Year of Nelson Mandela, as South Africa celebrates the centenary of his birth. South Africa, as part of its Chairship, seeks to strategically align its approach with past Chairships of BRICS, whilst simultaneously retaining the focus on its domestic and regional priorities.

The new areas of BRICS cooperation as proposed by South Africa, are as follows:

- Establishment of a **Working Group on Peacekeeping**;
- Establishment of a **Vaccine Research Centre** for Collaboration with BRICS vaccine innovation and development partners – this is intended to be a physical research centre focused on research and development and vaccine innovation;
- Establishment of a **BRICS Gender and Women's Forum** – intended as a dedicated track for gender and women's issues, given the economic benefit to be derived from the socio-economic empowerment of women, particularly in developing countries;
- Leveraging the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership towards the pursuit of Inclusive Growth and **Advancing the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution** – this is intended to foster discussions to addresses opportunities provided by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, as a means of leapfrogging development stages and bridging the digital divide; and
- Establishment of a **BRICS Tourism Track of Cooperation**.

South Africa's approach to its Chairship is grounded in the intention to ensure programmatic continuity for BRICS, and is committed to executing approximately

100 sectoral meetings, reflective of the expanded BRICS architecture. It also intends to bring a specific focus to the challenges and opportunities presented by the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution.

The 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit will be chaired by President Ramaphosa at the Sandton International Convention Centre from 25 to 27 July. All four BRICS Leaders have confirmed participation.

The theme for the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit is: ***“BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution”***. The theme is reflective of the core priorities of each one of the BRICS members, notably to strive towards the creation of an inclusive society and global partnerships that will bring prosperity to all humankind.

The proposed theme is also intended to align and ensure strategic continuity with the approved themes for South Africa’s Chairship of both the South African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The same logo that was used in 2013 - with an amendment of the date and host city will be used again this year, due to its brand recognition.

The sequencing of the key Summit events is as follows:

**25 July 2018** - Business Forum, Gala Dinner for Heads of State/Government and Cultural Show

**26 July 2018** - 10th BRICS Summit (Restricted & Plenary Sessions) with briefings by the BRICS Business Council (BBC), New Development Bank (NDB) and National Security Advisors (NSA)

**27 July 2018** - Special Retreat with BRICS Heads of State/Government (only) to reflect on a decade of BRICS cooperation

- BRICS-Africa Outreach
- Working Lunch
- BRICS Plus Initiative

In 2013, South Africa took the initiative to activate the provision for a BRICS Dialogue with partners from the Global South, as per the Sanya Declaration that stated: *“We are open to increasing engagement and cooperation with non-BRICS countries, in particular emerging and developing countries, and relevant international and regional organisations”*.

Subsequent to South Africa having hosted this BRICS Outreach Dialogue between BRICS and African Leaders, all the BRICS members have also hosted an outreach dialogue on the margins of their respective Summits. In this regard, South Africa has determined that an Outreach will again be held on the margins of the Summit with

African leaders to ensure both continuity from the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in eThekweni in 2013 and BRICS support for African industrialisation and infrastructure development.

To the BRICS-Africa Outreach Dialogue South Africa has elected to invite the Leaders of the following countries

- Rwanda - as Chair of the African Union (AU);
- Senegal - as Chair of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC);
- Gabon - as Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
- Uganda - as Chair of the East African Community (EAC);
- Ethiopia - as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD);
- Togo - as Chair of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS);
- Burundi - as incoming Chair of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA);
- Namibia - as incoming Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- Angola - as Chair of the SADC Organ; and
- Chair of the African Union Commission, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat.

In 2017, China innovated on the traditional Outreach approach by introducing the concept of BRICS Plus, which entailed a dialogue with Emerging Markets and Developing Countries.

The rationale behind the BRICS Plus concept is to create a platform for greater interaction and partnerships amongst countries of the Global South to shape the agenda to effect changes in the global economy, notably for (i) development and economic growth through trade and investment integration, and (ii) cooperation in global governance financial, economic and political institutions.

In the interest of ensuring maximum synergy between South Africa's Chairship of BRICS and that of China's in 2017, South Africa has also elected to consider a BRICS Plus element. In this regard, South Africa has elected to invite the Leaders of the following countries representing Regional Economic Communities in the Global South and the United Nations:

- Argentina - as Chair of the G20 and influential Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) member
- Indonesia - as Co-Chair of the New Africa-Asia Strategic Partnership with South Africa and influential Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member

- Egypt - as Chair of the Group of 77 (G77)+China
- Jamaica - as incoming Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Turkey - as Chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Mr Antonio Guterres

The 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit marks the second BRICS Summit to be hosted by South Africa, the first having been the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit, hosted in eThekweni, in March 2013. South Africa is seized with preparations for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit and is intent on building on the legacy of 2013. Moreover South Africa wishes to seize the opportunity presented by its 2018 Chairship of BRICS to reiterate its commitment to further strengthening relations with and amongst its BRICS partners, the African continent and the Global South.