

**BUFFALO CITY DECLARATION OF
BRICS MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

WE, the Ministers responsible for Disaster Management in the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, acknowledge that the Joint Task Force met in Buffalo City, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa from 29th June to 1st July 2018;

RECALLING the Ufa Declaration signed at the 7th BRICS Summit on 9th July 2015, which identifies the need to promote cooperation in preventing and developing responses to emergency situations (Art. 35), acknowledging the fruitful discussions on natural disasters within the context of BRICS cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (Art.35);

RECALLING the BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration adopted in Xiamen, China on 4th September 2017 adhering to the principle of utilising outer space for peaceful purposes and emphasising the need to strengthen international cooperation in space activities by using space technologies to respond to global climate change, environmental protection, disaster prevention and relief and other challenges faced by humankind (Art. 26) and which underlines the importance of consistent joint work of emergency services of BRICS countries aimed at building a safer future (Art. 27);

RECALLING our commitments towards implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, and our shared vision to play a proactive and responsible role both at the regional and global levels with respect to disaster risk management;

RECALLING the St. Petersburg and Udaipur Declarations of BRICS Ministers for Disaster Management and the decision to establish a BRICS Joint Task Force on Disaster Risk Management, we underline the importance of consistent joint work of emergency services of BRICS countries aimed at building a safer future by reducing existing disaster risks, prevent new risks including exchange of information on best practices concerning disaster risk management and cooperation in the field of forecasting and early warning for effective response to natural and human induced disasters;

RECOGNISING the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity, exacerbated by climate change and variability, environmental degradation and unplanned urbanisation, migration and defined by growing vulnerabilities resulting in loss of life and livelihoods, which undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development;

RECOGNISING disaster risk reduction as an effective means to achieve resilience through prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

REAFFIRMING the commitments of the April 2016 St. Petersburg Declaration and August 2016 Udaipur Declaration where we agreed to a joint action plan for developing cooperation in the field of emergency management and working towards improving tools for monitoring and forecasting of emergencies, risk assessment and mechanisms of interaction in the provision of assistance in case of emergencies;

DO HEREBY:

1. Commit to risk-informed development by reducing existing risks and preventing new risks, through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction thereby strengthening resilience;
2. Commit to take necessary measures to implement the Joint Action Plan 2018â€“2020 agreed to in the meeting of the BRICS Joint Task Force held in Buffalo City from 29th June to 1st July 2018.
3. Mandate the Joint Task Force to implement the Joint Action Plan and present progress in the next BRICS Ministerial meeting in 2019.
4. Reaffirm our commitment to promoting a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach to the international agreements since 2015 including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Declare our resolve to contribute to substantially reduce disaster risks and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries as echoed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015â€“2030.

Adopted in Buffalo City, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa on the First Day of July in the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen.

1ST JULY 2018, BUFFALO CITY, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

Source: <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2018/07/01/brics-in-africa-collaboration-for-inclusive-growth-and-shared-prosperity-in-the-4th-industrial-revolution/>