

Draft Joint Communiqué of the 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting 20th July 2018, Durban, South Africa



1. Ministers of Health and heads of delegation from the Republic of South Africa, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China met on 20th July 2018 in Durban, South Africa, for the 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting.
2. Acknowledged Mandela Centenary highlighting the legacy of Madiba and placing emphasis on the culture of volunteerism and the 18th July 2018 marking the day that Nelson Mandela would have turned 100 years old.
3. Recalled previous Declarations and Joint Communiqués of BRICS on health issues, in particular the Tianjin Declaration of the 7th BRICS Health Ministers meeting, which reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen intra-BRICS coordination and cooperation to promote public health in accordance with "BRICS Framework for Collaboration on Strategic Projects in Health" as well as the Communiqué of the BRICS Health Ministers on the sidelines of the 71st World Health Assembly, in May 2018.
4. Reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and recognized the centrality of the World Health Organization in advancing the global health agenda and reaffirmed the intergovernmental nature of WHO and the need to preserve WHO as the coordinating and leading authority in global health. They reaffirmed the importance of strengthening WHO's emergency response, while maintaining WHO's excellence in meeting its public health functions and mandates.
5. Acknowledged the choice for the 2018 World Health Assembly main theme: "Health for All: commitment to Universal Health Coverage", wherein they reiterated the call for global, regional and national efforts towards achieving Universal Health Coverage, in line with SDG 3.8. They reiterated their commitment to ensuring the achievement of specific BRICS Member States commitments towards ensuring the attainment of UHC, as pronounced in the opening plenary of the 71st World Health Assembly, in May 2018. They emphasized the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation of UHC efforts in this area.

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6. Reiterated their commitment to collaborate in key areas, focusing on strengthening health systems; reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) risk factors through prevention and health promotion; achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC); promote use of traditional medicine, strategic health technologies, with a focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases; develop new medical technologies and new medical products including vaccines.
7. Reiterated the work on the BRICS TB Cooperation Plan, approved in the 6th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting, in New Delhi, in 2016, which called for the creation of the BRICS TB Research Network and collaboration with the WHO and other stakeholders to promote scientific research, development and innovation on diagnosis, vaccines, drug regimens for TB and patient service delivery. They noted progress made thus far by the collaboration arising from the meetings held in Rio de Janeiro, Moscow and Johannesburg. They also recognised the need for establishing a BRICS mechanism for financial support of joint research projects that might contribute to global progress.
8. Welcomed the 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral response, that was organised jointly with the government of the Russian Federation held in Moscow on 16 and 17 November 2017, and the resulting Moscow declaration to End TB with commitments and support its implementation.
9. Stressed the importance and affirmed strong support for the 1st High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Ending Tuberculosis; and the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases, to be held in September 2018. They expressed their full support for all resolutions adopted at the 71st World Health Assembly in preparation for these meetings.
10. Resolved to strengthen efforts to make affordable medicines available, including through enhanced R&D innovative approaches, and reiterated their support for the approval of decision WHA71(8), which calls for the elaboration of a comprehensive roadmap report on access to medicines and vaccines, and their support for the approval of decision WHA71(9) which calls for implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI).
11. Welcomed the recommendations of the UN High Level Panel on access to medicines and resolved to continue working together to improve the access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies. They committed to strengthen the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries, and welcomed the proposal to establish a BRICS vaccine research and development center as mentioned in the Declaration of the BRICS Science and Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting held on 3rd July 2018.

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12. Resolved to continue strengthening efforts to combat Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) through enhanced R&D innovation approaches and multi-sectoral coordinated actions in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR and promoting equity and sustainable access to antibiotics.
13. Reaffirmed the need to support efforts to strengthen Member States' capacities to deal with health emergencies and implement the WHO International Health Regulations (2005). Reemphasized the important work and role of BRICS countries in addressing health emergencies.
14. Emphasized that prevention and control of NCDs including Cancer, Cardiovascular diseases, Diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Airway and Pulmonary diseases, as well as mental health are essential to reduce premature mortality, enhance productivity and improve quality of life.
15. Resolved to collaborate in implementing best practices in creating healthy environment through legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, in promoting healthy lifestyles, improving nutrition and preventing and controlling NCDs and their risk factors.
16. Reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen collaboration for the full implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and recognized the need to build on the results achieved so far. They also called for the further step-up of tobacco control measures during the Eighth Conference of Parties to the WHO FCTC, to be held in Geneva, in October 2018.
17. Agreed to convene the 9th BRICS Health Ministers and Senior Officials meeting in Brazil, in 2019.