

BRICS Online Declaration in 2021 on Applying Traditional Medicine to Combat COVID-19

Participants at the 2021 BRICS Symposium on Traditional Medicine, held online on June 30th, 2021, recalled the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on November 8th, 2008; the recommendations of the BRICS Wellness Workshop held in Bengaluru in September 2016; the Goa Declaration in October 2016; the Action Plan of BRICS Health Ministers High Level Meeting, held in December 2016 in New Delhi; the Joint Declaration of BRICS Countries on Strengthening Cooperation in Traditional Medicine adopted in the BRICS Health Ministers Meeting and the High-Level Meeting on Traditional Medicine in Tianjin, China in July 2017; and the Joint Communiqué of the 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting in Durban, South Africa in July 2018.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments of some BRICS countries have actively leveraged the unique advantages of traditional medicine, supported traditional medicine to participate in prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, and in the meantime, vigorously promoted international exchanges and cooperation against the pandemic, with remarkable achievements.

It is recognized that COVID-19 is still affecting countries around the world, representing a serious threat to people's lives. As humankind is a community with a shared future, solidarity and cooperation is our most powerful weapon against the pandemic. Supporting the traditional medicines application in BRICS countries, where traditional medicine is acknowledged as a priority constituent of the national healthcare system and national legislation permits, in the global fight against COVID-19 will continue to facilitate protection of life and health of our people and serve the global cause of public health.

With the intent of strengthening BRICS cooperation, and fighting against this pandemic together, participants at 2021 BRICS Symposium on Traditional Medicine hereby make the following Declaration:

Firstly, recognizing the contribution of traditional medicine to COVID-19 prevention and control; i.e. to support relevant institutions in BRICS countries, where traditional medicine is acknowledged as a priority constituent of the national healthcare system and national legislation permits, in conducting joint research to assess the clinical effect of traditional medicine formulas and drugs in treating COVID-19, and in improving the diagnosis and treatment protocol integrating traditional and modern medicine, in order to provide more experience and guidance for further involving traditional medicine in the global

COVID-19 response, taking into account different national conditions, legislation, strategies, priorities and possibilities.

Secondly, to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the field of traditional medicine; i.e. to encourage relevant institutions in BRICS countries, where traditional medicine is acknowledged as a priority constituent of the national healthcare system and national legislation permits, to work more closely on traditional medicine-related treatment, education, scientific research and production; and to share the experience and outcomes in the development of traditional medicine, with the objective of fostering traditional medicine in the provision of a stronger protection to the health of local communities.

Thirdly, produce and share evidence-based communication material in order to formulate public policies fully adapted to the population. Support research and dissemination of the best evidence-based practices of care to the population, which is important for local managers and health professionals to establish care strategies.

It is our firm belief that with solidarity and cooperation, BRICS countries will prevail over the pandemic and build a better future.