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BRICS AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP (AWG)

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE 15th MEETING OF BRICS MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

17th April 2025

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1. We, the BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, Agrarian Development and Family Farming, and Fisheries and Aquaculture, met on 17 April, 2025, in Brasília, Federal District, Brazil, under the co-chairpersonship of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming, and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to discuss strengthening public policies and initiatives to combat hunger and poverty and support farmers' welfare, promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and improve value chains and sustainable agricultural practices, facilitating intra-BRICS trade of agricultural products; encouraging women's and youth participation in agriculture and rural job creation, promoting the empowerment of rural and fishing communities, and ensuring inclusive policies for family and smallholder farmers.

2. The BRICS countries are key players in world food production and, as such, play a critical role in enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability, and ensuring global food security and nutrition. The group comprises approximately 59% of the world's population, 33% of agricultural land, and 39% of freshwater resources. It also represents 42% of agricultural production, 61.6% of fish production (24.7% of capture fisheries, and 75.3% of total aquaculture). Some of its members are global leading producers and exporters of major agricultural, aquatic and livestock products. The BRICS countries represent 35,4% of the world economy. They are also home to over half of the world's 550 million family farms (including 510 million smallholder farms under 2 ha), which collectively produce 80% of the global food supply in value terms. By acting collectively or coordinating their actions, BRICS countries are uniquely positioned to address the most significant agricultural challenges of our time.

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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

3. We remain greatly concerned with the ongoing challenges of food and nutrition insecurity worldwide. The cost of healthy diets is increasing globally, subjecting billions of people to preventable suffering and disease, and affecting mostly the Global South. Nevertheless, some developing countries, including BRICS countries, have made successful strides in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

4. Through international cooperation and coordination, BRICS countries can significantly contribute to global food security and nutrition. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to implement the BRICS Strategy on Food Security Cooperation, adopted in 2022. Building on the Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition, we also recognise the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty as an important initiative to promote international cooperation.

5. We note that South-South Cooperation in agriculture has played a positive role in enhancing the food production capacity of developing countries. Such cooperation provides an important avenue for helping host countries with human resource and institutional capacity building, technical assistance and best practice sharing regarding food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture.

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6. Considering that the New Development Bank (NDB) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are founding members of the Global Alliance and in conformity with their mandates, we encourage the NDB and IFAD to engage with members willing to implement policy instruments and programs of the Global Alliance's Policy Basket related to Agriculture, Food Security and Integrated Rural Development. In this regard, we welcome the first BRICS AWG Report on the Contributions to Implementing the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

Strategic Reserves to address Food Supply and Accessibility Crises

7. We acknowledge that food price volatility remains one of the most significant challenges to global food security and one that disproportionately affects people in vulnerable situations.

8. Emphasising the importance of ensuring food security and nutrition and mitigating the impacts of acute food price volatility, as well as abrupt supply crises, such as those derived from extreme weather events, slow onset events and public health emergencies, we support further discussions on policies that enhance food availability, accessibility, utilization, stability and affordability in BRICS and other developing countries, particularly those that strengthen national capacities to respond to supply disruptions. In this context, we acknowledge the relevance of strategic food reserves, investments in storage, and encourage implementing other policy instruments (e.g. minimum price support, production cost monitoring) aimed at stabilizing access to essential food staples for domestic markets and people in vulnerable situations, ensuring that such policies are aligned with national food security objectives.

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9. We also recognise that, in exceptional circumstances of supply shortages or acute food price spikes affecting a BRICS member, cooperation initiatives can facilitate emergency responses and natural disaster management, in accordance with established criteria and national decisions. None of these measures should lead to unfair trade practices or violations of international trade norms, as their sole purpose is to support food security and nutrition, including through international solidarity. While respecting each member's national agricultural strategy, we encourage sourcing food stocks from small-scale family farmers, as this can foster rural revitalization and development, and generate income for low-income rural communities while also promoting and preserving the production and consumption of local/native food.

Dialogue on Public Policies to Strengthen Family Farming

10. Recognising that family farmers¹, including smallholders, pastoralists, artisanal and small-scale fishers and aquaculture producers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, are essential components of national agricultural and food systems, we recognise the fruitful discussions held during the BRICS AWG Dialogue on Public Policies for Strengthening Family Farming. Given their central role in global food security and nutrition, rural income generation, and the sustainable management of natural resources, we encourage further strengthening of international policy dialogue on public policies for small and medium-scale farmers, in collaboration with the FAO and IFAD, and in coordination with activities of the UN Decade on Family Farming (UNDIFF 2019-2028).

¹ According to FAO, Family Farming is "a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family capital and labour, including both women's and men's".

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11. In light of the upcoming 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be hosted in Belém do Pará, Brazil, in November 2025, we recognise the need to scale up cooperation in capacity building, research, access to finance, and technology development and transfer to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of farmers, particularly small-scale family farmers, and to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. In this regard, we commit to strengthening the recognition of family farmers in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, and to advocating for their inclusion in UNFCCC decisions related to agriculture, food systems, capacity building, and just transitions.

Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

12. We acknowledge that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture play a pivotal role in enhancing food security and nutrition, while generating income, livelihood, and employment opportunities to millions of people in the Global South. Aquatic foods are the most traded food products globally, and the demand for these products is growing. We are committed to contributing to increasing aquatic food production, by modernising our fisheries sector and promoting sustainable fishing practices. We are determined to promote responsible expansion and intensification of aquaculture production, as a means to enhance the availability and affordability of aquatic foods and the resilience of global food systems. In this context we welcome the constitution of the Dialogue on Fisheries and Aquaculture, which will hold intersessional meetings aimed at facilitating collaborative partnership among its members to strengthen cooperation in governance, best practices, science, innovation, voluntary technology transfer, and capacity building.

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13. We emphasise the importance of artisanal and small-scale fishers and aquaculture producers in strengthening the resilience of local food systems. Workers in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors are often socially vulnerable groups, particularly during economic crises, and natural disasters. Mindful of such vulnerabilities, we are committed to implementing programmes to support artisanal and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors, both financially and technically, with the objective of promoting economic inclusion and strengthening their resilience to environmental degradation, extreme weather events and slow onset events. National-level payments to artisanal and small-scale fishers and aquaculture producers for environmental services are an example of programmes that require proper evaluation and promotion.

14. We recognise FAO's Blue Transformation roadmap as a relevant guide for enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of aquatic food systems. Our purpose is to work collaboratively to develop policies and actions, including initiatives that align with the Blue Transformation initiative, by promoting responsible aquaculture expansion, effective fisheries management, improved value chains, and community-based programs that empower local fishing and aquaculture communities while preserving our rich marine biodiversity. We also underline that aquatic foods have a low carbon footprint and are climate-resilient, significantly contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly through carbon sequestration by algae and molluscs.

15. We acknowledge the nexus between the conservation and restoration of fish stocks, the safeguarding of the livelihoods of artisanal fishers, and the attainment of food security and nutrition for our societies. We commit to strengthening multi-scale governance of small-scale fisheries. We emphasise the importance of adaptive management at the local level, with particular regard for the preservation

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of traditional fishing, cultures and practices. Recognising artisanal fishers as bearers of a culture that promotes ecosystem stewardship, generates employment opportunities, and secures food and nutritional well-being for our citizens, we encourage actions that conserve artisanal fishery as a cultural heritage of the BRICS.

Promoting Women's Participation in the Agricultural Sector

16. We recognise that women living in rural areas are more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition than men, and that rural working conditions tend to be worse for women in comparison to those of men, and need improvement. These gaps not only limit women's potential but also negatively impact different types of agricultural and food systems. Empowering women and closing the gender gap in agriculture and food systems are crucial to eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and achieving the targets of SDG 2: Zero Hunger, and SDG 5: Gender equality, by 2030.

17. We commit to promote equality of men and women, empowerment of women and girls, and the economic autonomy of rural and coastal women through inclusive policies and strategic investments in agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture. We must ensure that women have equal access to land rights, marine and freshwater resources, credit, knowledge, technology, and training, recognising their essential role in food security and sustainable development. We will endeavour to support female-led cooperatives, self-help groups, foster digital innovation, and implement inclusive governance models. Strengthening our cooperation to share best practices and encouraging women's participation in decision-making processes are crucial steps toward reducing existing disparities.

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Together, we commit to transforming exclusionary structures and ensuring fair and sustainable agricultural, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture development.

18. We further commit to advocating for gender equality and empowerment of women in international and national policy dialogues, so that the role of women and girls can be strengthened across agricultural and food systems.

Promoting Youth Participation in the Agricultural Sector

19. We recognise that in some countries rural depopulation and outmigration adversely impacts the future of family farming and food security, and may add social burdens to urban areas. Keeping young people in rural areas is essential for sustainable agriculture, food security and rural development, where rural youth play a crucial role by bringing innovation, dynamism and entrepreneurship to farming practices and rural communities. To this end, we support policies and international cooperation that improve rural livelihoods, expand access to land, financing, education, extension services and technology to attract youth and reduce the drudgery of farm work, and ensure their active role in policymaking.

20. We encourage member states to leverage their existing resources and multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms to strengthen support for exchanges among young professional farmers, facilitating collaboration and exchange among experts, technicians, young entrepreneurs, young family farmers, and government officials, with a focus on sustainable agriculture, food security, and agricultural trade.

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SUSTAINABILITY, INNOVATION, AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCING

Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Innovation

21. We recognise that sustainable agri-food systems transformation underpin global food security and nutrition, rural revitalisation and development, resilient agriculture building, sustainable management and use of natural resources, and conservation of land, water, and biodiversity for future generations.

22. We reaffirm our commitment to enhancing technical cooperation among the BRICS countries to promote sustainable agricultural, aquaculture, and fisheries practices. We will facilitate the voluntary exchange of information, knowledge, expertise, innovations, technologies and best practices in climate-resilient and low-emission production systems. We will provide coordinated training of highly qualified personnel in the field of sustainable agriculture based on networking in priority areas.

23. We urge to continue cooperation within the framework of the Basic Agricultural Information System (BAIES) aimed at exchanging information between the BRICS countries on current policies, trade, investment, scientific achievements, legislation in the agricultural and food sector, and other relevant information.

24. We encourage investing in research and innovation for sustainable agriculture, including digital public infrastructure, digital technologies, precision farming, and biotechnology. We commit to strengthening the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP) to enhance effective cooperation in science, education, innovation, best practices, capacity building, and voluntary technology

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transfer in areas such as soil health, water resource management, and biodiversity conservation.

25. We will also promote environmentally friendly, efficient and inclusive agricultural practices, particularly the sustainable intensification of agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries, including through organic farming and agroecology. These efforts will focus on building sustainable and productive agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries systems including, but not limited to the recovery of degraded lands, use of bio-inputs sustainable use of fertilizers, including bio-fertilizers, promoting indigenous nutrient-rich and climate resilient crops, development of bioenergy solutions, expansion of sustainable aquaculture, and effective fisheries management.

26. Recognising the importance of soil health and effective water use, we will gradually implement policies and programmes aimed at sustainable watershed management, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable irrigation practices to ensure resilient and balanced production systems.

27. We will reinforce coordination within the BRICS countries and engage in cooperative discussions in multilateral forums to advocate for sustainable agricultural policies aligned with principles from the UNFCCC, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), established during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

28. In light of the upcoming COP 30, we recognise the important role of sustainable agriculture in global climate negotiations. This event presents a significant opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to sustainable, low-emission and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Respecting the principle of Common

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But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) we will actively engage in discussions on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and ensuring agricultural and food systems that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 and SDG 2.

29. We pledge to foster agricultural trade that supports food security and nutrition, sustainable economic development, and environmental conservation and restoration. We will encourage investment in resilient and flexible supply chains.

30. We are committed to collaborating in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and innovation as a means of promoting social inclusion within the agricultural sector, benefiting family farmers, smallholders, pastoralists, artisanal and small-scale fishers, aquaculture producers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. We will work to develop initiatives that enhance their access to resources, technology, infrastructure, inputs, and markets, ensuring equitable and sustainable development in agriculture.

31. We acknowledge the important contribution of resilient traditional farming practices to agricultural sustainability, smallholders' livelihoods, multifunctional agriculture, and rural revitalization. We reaffirm the role of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative in identifying, conserving, disseminating and developing indigenous and traditional agricultural knowledge for the benefit of local communities and stakeholders and in preserving this living heritage for future generations.

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Cooperation and Investments in Mechanisation and Technological Advancements for Small-Scale Agriculture

32. We recognise that mechanisation and technological innovation in small-scale agriculture represent a strategic opportunity for the BRICS countries, with the potential to reduce the drudgery of work, increase the productivity and income and thus transform the lives of millions of small-scale farmers, particularly rural women, youth and the elderly, while accelerating the agroecological transition.

33. Our governments can connect industrial and agricultural policies in a virtuous way by supporting the design and production of machinery and equipment tailored to the specific needs of small-scale family farmers. In this regard, approaches that facilitate smallholder farmers' collective organization - including cooperatives, producer associations, and cluster farming models - can enhance their access to mechanization, shared resources, and markets.

34. The BRICS countries can play a central role in fostering a sustainable and inclusive increase in global agricultural productivity by aligning industrial capacities with the needs of smallholders within the BRICS countries and across the Global South. To advance this goal, we encourage members to explore investment strategies that establish joint ventures and collaborative research between BRICS countries' companies and universities, for the national production of machinery and voluntary exchange of innovative technologies adapted to local conditions.

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Financing Projects for Soil Conservation, Soil Health and Fertility, and Restoration of Degraded Areas

35. We recognise the fundamental role of healthy soils in ensuring food security, water availability, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity preservation. Integrated and sustainable soil health management is essential to combat desertification and land degradation, enhance agricultural productivity, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

36. We stress the need to create a dedicated and well-structured financing mechanism possibly involving relevant international organisations. This mechanism would facilitate investments among all stakeholders—through enhanced coordination with the private sector and international bodies—to support projects focused on soil conservation. These projects should address the correction of soil acidity, control of soil salinization, and the restoration of degraded lands, mangroves, riverbanks, floodplains, wetlands, and estuarine areas. The mechanism could also facilitate investment in research, infrastructure, and technical assistance for both farmers and landowners, ensuring the adoption of best practices in sustainable land management. Additionally, it could empower family farmers - including smallholders and rural communities - to implement soil conservation and restoration practices while advancing sustainable agricultural production.

37. We highlight the necessity of implementing agricultural practices that enhance soil health, such as crop rotation, no-tillage cultivation, agroforestry, phytomelioration systems, and the integration of crop production, livestock, and reforestation. We call for financial incentives and capacity-building programs to

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support these practices, ensuring their widespread adoption among family farmers, including smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

38. In light of all the concerns, objectives and actions mentioned in the previous paragraphs of this item, and considering the global and cross-cutting nature of the challenge, as well as the critical body of knowledge available among BRICS members, we agree to launch the BRICS Partnership for Land Restoration in line with the framework of the UNCCD.

39. In addition to representing a strong political commitment from Leaders who collectively represent 59% of the world's population, the partnership aims to advance three main objectives:

(i) Promoting land restoration for sustainable agriculture and livestock farming systems, planted forests and forest restoration as an important issue within international organisations and forums, contributing to food security and nutrition, production of inputs for biofuels – where applicable, without compromising food production -, and encouraging the expansion of organic farming, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, soil and water resources management, and the development needs of the Global South, including those of family farmers and low income and resource poor farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

(ii) Strengthening collaboration among agricultural research institutes of BRICS countries to identify the causes of land degradation and advance research, development and adoption of technical solutions, including innovative instruments, for land restoration and improving soil fertility; and

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(iii) Enhancing financial coordination among national, regional, and multilateral development banks, as well as the private sector, aiming to leverage innovative financial mechanisms, targeted funding and blended finance approaches to facilitate investments in land restoration for sustainable agricultural and forest systems including risk mitigation instruments.

40. The BRICS Partnership for Land Restoration (Annex I) will serve as a catalyst for transformative action in soil conservation and land restoration, ensuring long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits, strengthening food and energy security, and promoting sustainable rural development.

Financing Projects to Strengthen Aquatic Food Systems

41. Aware of the strategic role of aquatic food systems in enhancing food security and nutrition, we are committed to supporting the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. We recognise the need to expand financing mechanisms to support sustained growth and the resilience of all segments within their value chains. For such a purpose, we are committed to joining efforts to mobilise human and financial resources to modernize the fisheries industries and promote the intensification and expansion of aquaculture production, including through joint initiatives between BRICS countries' primary, industrial and financial sectors. In the pursuit of these objectives, we will promote the sustainable use and management of fisheries resources. We will also facilitate access to sources of financing, appropriate and efficient production equipment, and technologies to foster the development of our economies and the living standards of our communities.

42. We highlight the need to expand financing mechanisms to enhance artisanal and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture production systems. Resources should

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be allocated to investment projects aimed at creating work and job opportunities throughout the entire agricultural and food value chain, improving working conditions, facilitating access to production equipment and machinery, renewing and modernizing artisanal and small-scale fishing fleets, enhancing aquafeed supply chains, expanding cold storage and transportation infrastructure, and developing certification, traceability, and monitoring systems. In line with its mandate, we encourage the NDB to explore the possibility of supporting such investment projects. Additionally, we recognise the importance of integrating low-emissions and renewable energy solutions to support fisheries and aquaculture production, particularly in remote areas. Special attention should be given to fish farming communities that are living in poverty.

Cooperation in Sustainable Livestock Development

43. BRICS cooperation in sustainable livestock development should prioritize advanced technologies, including improved breeding, feed formulation, and disease prevention and control. Collaborative efforts could focus on developing infrastructure such as veterinary clinics, laboratories, abattoirs, and vaccine production facilities with adequate cold storage. Expanding livestock trade among member states requires strengthening SPS measures and negotiating agreements to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers.

44. Joint research on breed improvement, high-quality vaccine production, and robust disease prevention and control systems (e.g., Foot and Mouth Disease - FMD, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia - CBPP, Peste des Petits Ruminants - PPR) is essential. Best practices in sustainable livestock management should be actively exchanged.

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45. Climate-resilient livestock initiatives, including drought-resistant and disease-tolerant breeds, as well as improved feed efficiency, should be prioritized. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can strengthen integrated livestock value chains, facilitate knowledge sharing, and promote the adoption of innovative farming practices. Harmonizing policies with international standards will enhance livestock trade, while targeted support for smallholder farmers will improve productivity, resilience, and rural livelihoods.

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Establishment of a BRICS Food Import Financing Mechanism

46. We encourage discussions over the establishment of a Food Import Financing Mechanism within BRICS. The initiative is inspired by the FAO Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF), as an emergency financial relief tool for low- and lower-middle-income countries affected by surges in food and key input costs, such as fertilizers and energy prices. The discussions comprise the adequate framework for its implementation, regional and multilateral development banks' role in the mechanism, compliance with multilateral trade rules, and assessment of possible impacts of food prices to avoid market distortions and inflation.

47. We recognise the need to improve the quality, affordability, and timely delivery of agricultural inputs to enhance production and productivity. In this regard, we reaffirm the commitment under the Kazan Declaration to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers, ensuring a continuous flow of food and essential supplies, that should be exempt from undue restrictive trade measures. To address this, we will enhance the cooperation among BRICS member states in supply of critical inputs such as fertilizers and organic

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agrochemicals, including encouraging investments in production plants within BRICS countries as a long-term solution.

Follow up on the discussions to facilitate and boost intra-BRICS trade of grains

48. We emphasise the vital role of BRICS countries as leading global producers and consumers of grains and reaffirm commitment to strengthening mutual agricultural trade. Our countries are engaged in advancing discussions over facilitating transactions between grain producers, exporters and importers ensuring transparent and secure payments. We acknowledge the importance of a continued elaboration of the initiative to establish a grain trading platform within BRICS (the BRICS Grain Exchange) and its subsequent development, and expanding into other agricultural products and commodities and the implementation of an equitable trading system.

Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Trade and Multilateralism

49. Recognising the important role of agricultural trade in ensuring food security, fostering economic development, and addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequalities, we will work collaboratively to ensure that agricultural trade policies align multilateral principles and support global food security. We commit to promoting fair, transparent, open, non-discriminatory, inclusive, and long-term agricultural trade policies that foster economic resilience, and social equity, contributing to resilient and equitable food systems. We are committed to removing trade barriers that are inconsistent with WTO rules, and working towards strengthening a rules-based non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system. Furthermore, the BRICS countries are open to

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cooperating with each other in areas such as fertilizer trade and manufacturing, improved seed and the supply and manufacturing of organic agrochemicals.

50. We will advocate for trade practices that integrate environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability, while taking into account prevailing domestic conditions. This includes supporting long-term economic growth, sustainable supply chains conserving resources, and protecting biodiversity, reducing food loss and waste, empowering vulnerable communities and promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices among others.

51. We will encourage investments in sustainable agricultural production, infrastructure, and technology that enhance trade efficiency while maintaining environmental, social and economic integrity. Public-private partnerships will be promoted to drive innovation and capacity-building in sustainable family farming, and agribusiness.

52. We recognise the importance of Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) and international collaboration in fostering sustainable agricultural trade. We will engage in cooperative discussions within multilateral forums and other global initiatives to shape policies that promote food security as an integral part of sustainable agricultural trade.

53. We will support agricultural trade policies that prioritise food security and promote sustainable practices, prevent excessive volatility in agricultural markets, and safeguard against protectionist measures that are inconsistent with WTO and multilateral trade rules and undermine global food supply and security.

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Implementation of the Principles of Agricultural Trade Facilitation

54. We recognise that global trade and investment continue to be important drivers of agricultural growth, thus contributing to economic growth and development, job creation. We reaffirm that the multilateral trading system is pivotal to defending a free, equitable, open, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trading environment.

55. Recognising the need to enhance trade efficiency and security within BRICS countries, we highlight the importance of adopting electronic certification systems for the trade of fish and fishery products, plants, animals, and products of plant and animal origin. Digital phytosanitary and veterinary certification mechanisms provide a secure, transparent, and efficient means of ensuring compliance with international standards, thereby facilitating smoother trade flows across these sectors.

56. We support the use of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) standards to promote the interconnection and verification of electronic certificates among BRICS countries and facilitate agricultural trade through multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

57. In alignment with multilateral agreements, we commit to deepening cooperation among BRICS members and providing necessary assistance to implement harmonized electronic certification systems. The use of digital certification will enhance trade facilitation, reduce paperwork, mitigate fraud risks, reduce potential misrepresentation, and improve traceability, thereby contributing to the safety and sustainability of agricultural trade.

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58. We encourage the development of interoperability mechanisms between national certification platforms, ensuring seamless data exchange and recognition of digital certificates among BRICS members. This effort will not only streamline trade processes but also reinforce trust in agricultural exports within and beyond the BRICS framework.

59. To support this initiative, we will engage in technical cooperation, capacity building, and investment in digital infrastructure to strengthen our national regulatory systems. We also call upon multilateral organisations, such as the FAO to support and expand initiatives that promote the adoption of electronic certification in global agricultural and food trade.

60. We reaffirm our commitment to collectively advancing food security and nutrition, promoting sustainability and innovation in agriculture, enhancing agricultural financing, and fostering a fair and open international agricultural trade system. We agree to finalise and approve the BRICS Action Plan 2025-2028 for Agricultural Cooperation, and to submit it to the 2025 Leaders' Summit. It will be a key framework to guide our joint efforts, translating the priorities outlined in this declaration into concrete actions and strengthening further cooperation to enhance food security in line with BRICS Strategy on Food Security Cooperation. We will continue to work together and foster Global South cooperation for inclusive and sustainable transformation of agrifood systems worldwide.

61. We express our gratitude to the Brazilian side for the preparation and holding of the 15th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and pledge our support to the successor host country for the next Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2026.

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ANNEX I

BRICS Partnership for Land Restoration

Recognising that land degradation affects approximately 30% of the world's soils, leading to the loss of 100 million hectares annually, impacting 3.2 billion people worldwide, and resulting in economic losses of approximately USD 65 billion per year due to declining agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture productivity;

Acknowledging that BRICS member countries, representing a significant share of the world's population and agricultural production, have a strong interest in addressing land degradation and have already developed national initiatives that can serve as models for further cooperation;

Emphasizing that the restoration of degraded lands² can have multiple objectives, including forest restoration and afforestation, food production, biofuel generation – where applicable, without compromising food production -, carbon sequestration, effective water use and biodiversity conservation, rural and territorial development for agricultural production, including family farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as contributing to global environmental action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

Underscoring that combating land degradation is aligned with the achievement of multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals);

² Restoration of degraded areas: Recovery of anthropized areas through regenerative practices, with the implementation of sustainable, more resilient, and highly productive agricultural, livestock, and forestry production systems.

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Recognising that striving to achieve land degradation neutrality on a voluntary basis has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving a number of the SDGs and as catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing;

Recalling the proclamation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) with the aim of supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration; adopting an integrated, best practice approach to land restoration based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge; as well as to encourage States to foster political will, the mobilization of resources, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, scientific research and cooperation and momentum for ecosystem restoration at the global, regional, national and local levels;

1. We, Ministers of the BRICS member countries agree to launch a BRICS Partnership for Land Restoration as a flexible and non-binding initiative to strengthen cooperation, mobilise resources, and advance efforts in combating and preventing desertification, land degradation and drought, promoting land restoration, including through hydromeliorative and agroforestry systems, prevent and reduce desertification, transform deserts into sustainable, diversified agricultural and forestry production systems, and fostering sustainable land, soil and water management. The Partnership aims to advance three main objectives, which are detailed in the section 2.3 of the 15th Agriculture Ministerial Declaration.
2. We encourage BRICS members to make full use of their existing instruments, including “the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BRICS-ARP)” and “Basic Agricultural Information Exchange System” and other relevant tools, to promote the exchange of knowledge, best practices, technologies and information related to land restoration.
3. BRICS member countries should set priorities that include joint research, personnel exchanges, and sharing best practices in soil regeneration. They

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must invest in new technologies, create dialogue platforms, and establish pilot projects and demonstration sites to showcase successful practices. Building networks among countries, research institutes, NGOs, and the private sector—along with promoting public-private partnerships and robust monitoring frameworks—is essential for mobilising resources and ensuring accountability in large-scale land restoration efforts.

4. While respecting each Multilateral Development Bank's (MDB) mandate and governance structure, we issue a call for action, urging the relevant mechanisms within BRICS to encourage financial institutions — including the World Bank, and other MDBs —, to take a positive role in structuring financing for land restoration, while also engaging with the private sector through public-private initiatives. These institutions might mobilise resources and coordinate efforts with national development banks, regional funds, sovereign investment funds, agricultural traders, and major agricultural producers and biofuel consumers, among other actors, family farmers and low income and resource poor farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The feasibility of investments in land restoration may require innovative financial solutions and instruments such as green bonds and de-risking tools, including public-private partnerships and blended finance mechanisms.
5. Recognising the critical role of land restoration and productive reforestation³ in ensuring food security and - where applicable - energy security, enhancing

³ The concept of “Productive Reforestation” refers to integrated land-use systems that combine ecological restoration with sustainable production. It encompasses agroforestry and other nature-based solutions that link the cultivation of native and adapted tree species with food crops and non-timber forest products. These approaches aim to restore degraded lands while strengthening local livelihoods, increasing food security, conserving biodiversity, and increasing climate resilience - especially through the empowerment of family farmers and traditional communities. Productive forests are aligned with the principles of sustainable development and offer scalable models for inclusive rural transformation.

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climate resilience, rural development, and promoting socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable development, BRICS members may consider setting quantitative targets for the recovery of degraded lands, in consonance with commitments by partner countries under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), bilateral agreements and international conventions and with national circumstances and capabilities as well as internationally recognised technical references, with a view to ensuring long-term socio-economic benefits for the Global South.

6. We recognise that restored lands can have multiple uses, including sustainable agricultural production, integrated crop-livestock-forestry systems, inputs for biofuels – where applicable, without compromising food production -, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity protection and efficient water use. These efforts will strengthen food security and energy security - where applicable, without compromising food production - promote rural development, and support agricultural supply chains.
7. In this regard we will strive to seek coordination with international organisations, private sector stakeholders, and the relevant mechanisms within BRICS to pursue standards verification and certification mechanisms suitable to each country's unique environmental conditions, and fully aligned with international standards, which will be key to ensure credibility, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of food, fisheries, aquaculture and agricultural systems.
8. BRICS Members agree to convene periodic sessions on the Partnership for Land Restoration within the BRICS Agricultural Working Group mechanism. Its outcomes will be submitted to the Ministerial Meetings, which will assess progress, identify challenges, and refine cooperation strategies under the Partnership, ensuring continuity and long-term impact.