



STATEMENT BY BRICS HEALTH MINISTERS DURING THE CLOSING DAY OF THE 13TH BRICS HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING – DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

FRIDAY, 04 AUGUST 2023

As Health Ministers from Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, we would like to thank the Senior Health Officials and World Health Organization Country Office for robust and productive discussions in the past three days in preparation for the meeting of Health Ministers. Today as finally conclude the meet, we are happy to announce that a number of resolutions taken to bridge the Gap on Sustainable Health on the road to UHC 2023.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING & UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE –

- BRICS Member States should collaborate to strengthen health systems and to “build back better” as we evaluate the midpoint of assessment of progress towards UHC 2030
- A common BRICS platform can be considered for developing indicators to track progress in improving the health of the BRICS population and in pursuit of SDG UHC Indicator 3.8;

BRICS TB RESEARCH NETWORK

- Deepen collaboration in research activities and programme and research exchanges, building on the capabilities of the BRICS countries through TB surveillance and epidemiology, conducting multi-centre / multi-country TB studies and expedite TB vaccine development process.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR PREDICTING PANDEMICS

- Agreed on a need to identify vulnerable populations (social determinants of health, climate change)

ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES (PHEOC) IN THE BRICS COUNTRIES.

- BRICS countries are facing multiple and concurrent emergencies in recent years. These includes floods, ongoing drought, water shortages, energy crises, communicable disease outbreaks including COVID-19, cholera and others that keep impacting on the lives and livelihood of the population with severe health consequences and disrupted health service delivery.
- The establishment of a network of PHEOC in BRICS countries will allow for the integration of public health services into an emergency management model for prompt response to public health threats and emergencies.

BRICS WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR MEDICINE

- BRICS Countries currently have varying degrees of nuclear medicine capabilities and recognize that collaboration will enhance and accelerate further development for each of these countries.
- Member states agree on the formation of a Nuclear Medicine Working Group, and BRICS Countries Conference in Nuclear Medicine to enhance execution of related activities by member states.
- BRICS countries agree on close collaboration in areas such as Knowledge sharing in Nuclear Medicine applications in clinical settings, Research and surveillance, Production of radiopharmaceuticals and related medical devices

BRICS Digital Health

- The BRICS Digital Health session noted the agreement amongst all the BRICS countries on Digital Health collaboration.
- The BRICS countries agreed that the priority Digital Health collaboration areas should be Capacity Building, Digital Health Standards, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Telemedicine.
- It was, however, acknowledged that the BRICS countries are at different levels with regards to the maturity of their Digital Health technologies.
- A common architecture was proposed as an important framework for cross-border Digital Health collaboration.

BRICS HEALTH JOURNAL

- The BRICS Health Journal should be established and will be an academic peer-reviewed journal addressed to global Health experts, policy-makers, a wide range of practitioners and administrators of public health.
- All BRICS countries supported the establishment of a BRICS Health Journal and the proposed steps for its establishment