

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BRICS ENERGY RESEARCH COOPERATION PLATFORM**

November 11th, 2019

Brasilia, Brazil

The Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Power of the Republic of India, the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy of the Republic of South Africa.

Aiming to facilitate attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen energy security of the BRICS participating States and, at a global level, promote development of the energy sector and environmental sustainability.

Willing to implement the undertaking of the BRICS Leaders to strengthen cooperation in energy, especially in transitioning to more efficient and sustainable energy systems supportive of the global sustainable development agenda, balanced economic growth and the collective socio-economic well-being.

Recalling the agreement reached at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BRICS Energy Ministers (Johannesburg, 28 June 2018) to establish the “BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform” (BRICS ERCP) and to develop its Terms of Reference, which was acknowledged by the BRICS Leaders at the X BRICS Summit (Johannesburg, 25-27 July 2018).

Hereby adopt the present BRICS ERCP Terms of Reference.

## **Vision**

The BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (ERCP) is established to facilitate the development of efficient and sustainable energy systems, to promote the dissemination of advanced energy technologies, cooperation on capacity building, as well as the exchange of statistical data and plans on the development of national energy systems and information on best practices and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector.

## **Mission**

The BRICS ERCP will promote sustainable energy development through cooperation in energy research, technology, policy and innovation and develop a broad dialogue on energy issues with a view to ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, strengthening energy security of the BRICS countries and providing stronger voice for BRICS in global discussions on energy issues.

## **Objectives**

BRICS ERCP activities will, in principle, be aimed at:

- enhancing cooperation in research on energy sector development;
- promoting implementation of joint projects;
- developing cooperation on energy technologies;
- elaborating proposals for deepening energy cooperation among BRICS participating States;
- expanding educational and professional exchanges and interaction among academia, business and other relevant stakeholders in the energy field;
- developing synergies with other BRICS mechanisms as well as dialogue with international fora on topical issues of the global energy agenda;
- facilitating exchange of information, knowledge and best practices in the energy field.

## **Working Procedures**

1. The BRICS ERCP is a flexible voluntary cooperation format, with membership open to state bodies of the BRICS countries and, upon the recommendation of the concerned State, to scientific and research organizations, experts, companies and associations from BRICS participating States. Representatives of other States and entities may be invited by consensus among BRICS members to take part in the ERCP activities.

2. The BRICS Chair shall take the leading role in organizing or supervising regular and ad-hoc events within the BRICS ERCP, including general meetings and work-streams activities. General meetings of BRICS ERCP will be convened as and when necessary.

3. The activities of the BRICS ERCP will be coordinated by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials. The Committee of Senior Energy Officials will discuss the work of the platform on a regular basis at least once a year. The Committee will decide on the modalities of the work of the platform.

4. Members of the Committee of Senior Energy Officials may nominate focal points (public officials, representatives of research institutes, companies or any other entities) in their respective countries who will be engaged in the BRICS ERCP activities in specific areas (work-streams) consistent with the vision, mission and objectives of the ERCP. The focal points will collaborate and communicate through meetings, letters, videoconferences, webinars and other ways deemed appropriate.

5. Outcomes of the research activities will be considered by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials. The Committee shall decide on the adoption and possible submission of the outcomes to BRICS Energy Ministers meetings for decisions on follow-up actions.

6. Preparation of the BRICS ERCP annual reports will be coordinated by BRICS Chair and presented to the BRICS Energy Ministers meeting.

### **Funding**

Research and cooperation projects, as well as other activities will be carried out by the BRICS participating States on a voluntary basis collectively and individually in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations. Each country shall cover the costs of participation of its representatives in the activities carried out within the BRICS ERCP. BRICS participating States can make voluntary contributions in order to implement activities within the BRICS ERCP. Additional contributions can be made by the interested entities. Decisions on the acceptability of contributions to the BRICS ERCP will be taken by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials.

### **Amendments**

Amendments to the present BRICS ERCP Terms of Reference will be considered and approved by BRICS Energy Ministers.