



**Declaration**  
**of the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government**  
**Cooperation Forum**  
**“Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Modern Cities”**

**Kazan, Russian Federation**

**2020**

We, the representatives of local governments of the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of South Africa and the Federative Republic of Brazil, held **the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Forum** in Kazan, the Russian Federation, on October 19-20, 2020, under the theme “Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Modern Cities”.

Remaining committed to the principles of transparency, equality, mutual understanding and mutually beneficial partnership, as well as to the common goal of building a peaceful, stable and prosperous world,

Reaffirming the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals for improving the quality of life of our cities’ and human settlements’ populations,

Considering the necessity to develop mechanisms for effective planning and management of urban systems and to share the results of practical activities aimed at countering the threats associated with the rapid process of urbanization,



Emphasizing the significance of the meeting of the representatives of the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments to join forces to ensure the transparency, safety, resilience and environmental sustainability of our municipalities,

Recognising the need to define joint steps to expand cooperation at the inter-municipal level and to implement specific initiatives and projects in various fields,

**Declare our common determination to:**

- 1. Focus** the public attention on crucial role that municipalities play in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- 2. Expand** inter-municipal cooperation between BRICS members based on the principles of transparency, solidarity, equality, mutual understanding and mutually beneficial partnership as a contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- 3. Intensify** cooperation between the metropolises of the BRICS countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in localizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the framework of the current international agenda,
- 4. Collaborate** with international organizations to learn from positive experiences and share best practices,
- 5. Continue** work on building interaction with national and regional governments on localization of Sustainable Development Goals in national strategies and their inclusion in regional and municipal development plans,
- 6. Appreciate** the collective contribution, as well as the contribution of each participant to international and inter-municipal interaction to implement the Sustainable Development Goals,



7. **Take measures** to find and attract resources to support rapid recovery from crises, including ones forced by the COVID-19 pandemic,
8. **Create** a resilient, equitable and inclusive urban environment and provide conditions which improve the physical, mental and environmental health of our communities,
9. **Protect** social and cultural achievements and promote their growth by developing and implementing multi-pronged approaches to addressing problems in the fields of cultural heritage preservation, safety, environmental protection, health protection and decent work for everyone,
10. **Promote** culture as the way to unite people and overcome the crisis. Culture has got a new social role – to help us, being separate, to unite and to survive the crisis,
11. **Ensure** the protection and preservation of world cultural and natural heritage sites in human settlements during periods of intensive development and urbanization,

Participants from the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of South Africa and the Federative Republic of Brazil express their sincere gratitude to the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation for organizing the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Government Cooperation Forum in Kazan. We welcome the holding of the next meeting in India in 2021.