



Joint Declaration of BRICS countries on strengthening cooperation in traditional medicine

1. Participants at the BRICS Ministers Meeting and High Level Meeting on Traditional Medicine, in Tianjin, China, this sixth day of July in the year two thousand and seventeen;

2. Acknowledging the importance of UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030

3. Recalling the Resolution WHO 62.13 and WHO 67.18 affirming the growing importance and value of traditional medicine in the provision of health care nationally and globally;

4. Noting the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on November 8th, 2008, the Shanghai Declaration on November 21st, 2016, recommendations of the BRICS Wellness Workshop held in Bengaluru in September 2016, Goa Declaration, October 2016 and Action Plan adopted in BRICS Health Ministers High Level Meeting in December 2016 at New Delhi;

5. Recognizing traditional medicine as one of the resources of primary health care, including promotive, preventive and affordable health care and to contribute in improving health outcomes;

6. Noting the concern in the health sector faced by countries including the spread of diseases caused by unhealthy lifestyle, the global financing constraints to provide health care services and the challenges imposed by the aging process in the global society;

7. Noting that BRICS countries are located in different regions of the world and have rich heritage, wide experience and application of traditional medicine as precious treasure of health, culture, science and technology resources.

8. Considering the different background, legislations, regulations and application of traditional medicine in each BRICS country and the scope for knowledge exchange and beneficial collaboration within the BRICS and other countries.

9. Realizing the significance to promote the inheritance, development, integration and use of traditional medicine in health care services, in accordance with national circumstances, BRICS countries, hereby make the following Declaration:

10.I. It is necessary to strengthen the integration of traditional medicine in the national health care systems as a valuable means to promote and encourage practice, education and training, therapies and medicines and practitioners of traditional medicine to improve the quality and outreach of health care services in a systematic manner.

11.II. The knowledge of traditional medicine should be respected, protected, promoted and appropriately disseminated for proper understanding in terms of safety, efficacy and quality and the role of traditional medicine for preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitation health care.

12.III. Efforts should be made to regulate traditional medicine products and implement the objectives of the Forum set up during the High Level Meeting on Traditional Medicinal knowledge held in Delhi on 16 December, 2016.

13.IV. Knowledge and experience of traditional medicine should be scientifically explored for research, development and innovation of health care solutions.

14.V. BRICS countries should adopt equitable and harmonized approaches to promote effective communication and exchange of knowledge, experiences and expertise among practitioners of traditional medicine and modern medicine.

15. In accordance with five above-mentioned basic principles, participants at the BRICS High Level Meeting on Traditional Medicine, hereby propose the following initiatives:

16. WHO is requested to assist BRICS countries in implementing the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014-2023) and promote cooperation and collaboration among member states for this purpose.

17. Governmental and non-governmental organizations in BRICS countries should be encouraged for continuing cooperation and collaboration in the area of traditional medicine including exchange of knowledge, expertise and scientific experiences, capacity building and R and D activities.

III. Other interested governments of professional institutions are welcome to participate in the BRICS traditional medicine dialogue.