

BRICS – INDIA PRESIDENCY : 2016

BRICS LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS' MEETING, NEW DELHI

Speech for Hon'ble MOS (IC) during the Valedictory Session

28.09.2016 at 11.45 AM.

Fellow Ministers, Officials from BRICS nations, Representatives from International Organizations, IHD, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great sense of satisfaction, at this juncture, to look back and see the road travelled by us. We have had constructive and fruitful deliberations, not only during this Ministerial, but throughout the years.
2. I am glad that the Ministerial Declaration adopted by us contains our agreement on a number of common challenges, the key being employment generation, securing decent work for our workers as well as our willingness to promote social security agreements amongst BRICS and networking BRICS Labour Institutes. In this context, may I, on my behalf and on behalf of other BRICS nations, acknowledge and appreciate the untiring and dedicated efforts put in by our officers.
3. India reiterate its resolve to work for inclusive growth. We have come a long way in terms of GDP growth and economic progress. The Global Competitive Index released yesterday shows a jump of 16 places for India. At the same time, the significant challenges remain in terms of poverty, unskilled workforce and equitable distribution of benefits of growth. WTO's

latest report indicate slowdown in world trade which can be of concern to all of us. We are committed to providing decent employment and dignified life to every citizen of India. I am encouraged by the openness of discussions that we had during these two days. We got to know a lot about the initiatives that fellow BRICS countries are taking to address problems which are of similar nature and to a large extent of the same magnitude. I am confident that together we will be able to develop workable and efficient solutions to these issues.

4. We look forward to China's Presidency of BRICS forum in the coming years. I am confident that the BRICS forum in the coming days will grow under their strong leadership, a strong multiregional platform to strengthen common dialogue and cooperation in several areas. India envisages BRICS to provide common voice to issues faced by growing economies. We host almost half of the world's population. It is our responsibility to ensure that challenges faced by this group get appropriate place in the global policy response.
5. We now await the leaders' summit. We will work with our Foreign Affairs Ministry to see that our deliberations/decisions are endorsed by the leaders. We will continue our co-ordination towards input for the leaders' draft.
6. I thank each one of you for your contribution for the success of this event.