



BRICS
INDIA : 2016
BUILDING RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE & COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS

BRICS EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP (BEWG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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INTRODUCTION

1. BRICS (the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa) brings together five major emerging economies, comprising 43% of the world population, having 37% of the world GDP, 17% share in the world trade and 45% of the world's economically active population.

2. BRICS Ministers of Labour and Employment met in Ufa, Russian Federation, on 25-26 of January, 2016 at the first BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers meeting to discuss new areas of cooperation in labour and employment, social security and social inclusion, public policies. It was felt that Labour and employment policies are of critical importance to foster strong, sustainable and inclusive growth. Expansion of BRICS coordination and cooperation on promotion of quality and inclusive employment, strengthening intra BRICS dialogue and the exchange of experiences and information on labour and employment issues, social inclusion is an important step forward in the long-term cooperation for the benefit of BRICS peoples and the international community. Recognizing the on-going labour, employment and social inclusion challenges, the first BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers recommended that an Employment Working Group be established.

MANDATE OF BEWG

3. The mandate of BEWG is set out below:

- (i) BEWG will address labour, employment and social issues to foster strong, sustainable and inclusive growth. BEWG's work will be guided, in particular, by the directions from the Leaders and Labour and Employment Ministers. The specific issues to be discussed in each presidency will be drawn based on the directions of the Leaders and the priorities identified by the incumbent presidency.

- (ii) BEWG encourages members to make joint efforts to enhance the voice and influence of BRICS at international employment and labour fora.
- (iii) BEWG will explore and prepare proposals on specific areas of cooperation to address labour market challenges, enhance information sharing and development of labour and employment policies.
- (iv) BEWG will focus on preparation of strategies on labour market issues for the consideration of BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers.
- (v) BEWG will also address any other BRICS employment agenda, tasks given by Leaders, Labour and Employment Ministers, and new priorities that may acquire significance in the BRICS employment agenda.
- (vi) BEWG will report annually to Ministers of Labour and Employment on progress of the work done in its mandated areas.

4. BEWG will engage with tripartite partners to bring on board their views on labour market issues.

5. BEWG shall avail the expertise of ILO, ISSA, World Bank and other international organizations, wherever required.

BEWG CHAIR

6. The BEWG chair will be led by the present BRICS incumbent. The secretariat support for the BEWG will be provided by the incumbent BRICS presidency.

AREAS OF JOINT INTEREST

6. In the areas of joint interest, BEWG may work with other BRICS working groups and seek collaboration on those issues. In case specific

expertise is required in the implementation of BEWG's tasks, focussed and voluntary-based technical sub-groups may be established. The mandate, work plan, composition and co-facilitators of those sub-groups shall be decided by the member countries.

SETTING THE ANNUAL AGENDA OF BEWG

7. The incumbent BRICS presidency will set the annual agenda of the BEWG, in accordance with the mandate of the BEWG, the Leaders' Communiqué and the Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration in collaboration with BRICS member countries. This may be done in consultation with international organizations and social partners, if required. The priorities and planned outcomes of BEWG, deliverables and work themes of planned BEWG activities shall be discussed with other BRICS members at the beginning of each presidency term.

PARTICIPATION IN BEWG MEETINGS

8. Participation in the BEWG is open to representatives and experts from BRICS members and guest countries and international organizations.

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF BEWG

9. Should a need arise these Terms of Reference shall be reviewed amended at an appropriate time period, with the consensus of the BEWG members.

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BRICS EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP (BEWG)

Priorities of India Presidency 2016

- 1. Quality and Inclusive Employment**
- 2. Formalization of Labour Markets**
- 3. Labour and Employment Information Exchange**
- 4. Social Security Agreements**