

Report for BRICS-TERN Partners' Meeting

New Delhi, March 27, 2012

Following the network meeting the founding members of BRICS-TERN met at a working dinner in New Delhi on March 27, 2012 to take the initiative forward. Gopal K Pillai, Chief Adviser of the Network, appreciated the quality of presentations and rich discussion in the meeting during the day. Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director of CUTS, discussed the agenda with reference to the minutes of the Network launch meeting, held in Shanghai in November 2011.

The following decisions were made and adopted:

1. Sun Zhenyu, former Ambassador of China to the WTO will continue as the Chairperson of the Standing Council of BRICS-TERN till November 2012, unless he feels otherwise which will be communicated to the partners by Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Centre (SCCWTO) colleagues.
2. The following persons were proposed and accepted as Chief Advisers for the term of 2012-2013 to the Standing Council of BRICS-TERN:
 - ✓ Brazil: Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa, former Ambassador of Brazil to the WTO (to be confirmed in July 2012)
 - ✓ Russia: Sergei Kisselev, Head, Economics of Agrobusiness Department, Moscow State University, Key Russia-WTO accession negotiator for agriculture
 - ✓ India: Gopal K Pillai, former Commerce Secretary of India
 - ✓ China: Sun Zhenyu, former Ambassador of China to the WTO
 - ✓ South Africa: Faizel Ismail, Ambassador of South Africa to the WTO
3. The following persons will continue to be the members of the Standing Council of BRICS-TERN:
 - ✓ Vera Thorstensen, Head of the Centre on Global Trade of *Fundação Getulio Vargas*, Brazil
 - ✓ Olga Ponizova, Executive Director, EcoAccord, Russia
 - ✓ Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, India
 - ✓ Baihua Gong, Associate President, SCCWTO, China
 - ✓ Catherine Grant, Project and Programme Head, Economic Diplomacy Programme of South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa
4. There was discussion on the need to invite other like-minded organisations, particularly business associations to join the Network. It was decided that a decision in this regard will be taken at the next meeting of BRICS-TERN. However, we will continue to invite other organisations to the meetings which TERN organises.
5. It was discussed that the BRICS, in future, might include more countries like Mexico and Indonesia and the TERN will need to consider expanding its membership in light of such a development. There was no consensus on this and it was decided to consider the issue when it arises.

6. On the topics to be researched for presentation at the next BRICS-TERN meeting it was decided that the studies presented in this meeting in New Delhi will be finalised and presented.
7. BRICS-TERN activities/outputs for the year:
 - Quarterly newsletter – CUTS International will continue producing this publication with inputs from all members and it will be disseminated widely in BRICS countries and to the trade and regulatory policy community at large.
 - Position papers – It was decided it might be too early for the network to come out with position papers and we should wait before we start working towards this output.
 - Policy briefs – The policy briefs based on the areas mentioned in the strategy paper will be presented in the next BRICS summit.
 - Policy research – This is ongoing and final studies will be presented in the next TERN meeting.
 - Policy advocacy – It was decided that the Network will work on the advocacy agenda and have concrete actions to take by next BRICS summit.
8. The next meeting of BRICS-TERN will be held in China in November 2012, and the Network will also celebrate its first anniversary. The subject of this meeting will be decided after the end of current BRICS Leaders' Summit and, the meeting of BRICS Contact Group.
9. G K Pillai suggested that we should have a TERN member as an observer in BRICS business summit. Catherine Grant informed Memory Dube from SAIIA is participating in the business summit organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and will provide an update to the TERN members.
10. It was also decided that the meeting of BRICS-TERN will be held in South Africa in 2013, immediately prior to the BRICS Leaders' Summit. The progress of the Network will be discussed and further actions will be taken to take the initiative forward.
11. Catherine Grant informed the group that the summit in South Africa will focus on Infrastructure and Trade Regulation. Brazil has done relevant work in this area and Lucas was requested to inform how this can be taken forward.
12. On the matter of BRICS-TERN members attending and collaborating for important international events, the following were discussed:
 - ✓ UNCTAD XIII in Doha will have participation from Vera Thorstensen (tbc), FGV, Peter Draper from SAIIA and Pradeep S Mehta and others from CUTS International.
 - ✓ Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro will have participation from Olga Ponizova, EcoAccord, Lucas Ferraz, FGV, and CUTS international. It was also mentioned that TERN partners will host side events and invite each other for the same.
 - ✓ For the WTO Public Forum, TERN partners should send proposals and coordinate positions.
 - ✓ South Africa BRICS symposium will be hosted by SAIIA on August 06, 2012. This symposium will provide inputs for the next BRICS Summit. It was discussed that all TERN partners should explore the idea of organising a National Symposium on BRICS and collaborate with other organisations working on BRICS.
13. For funding of the Network, it was decided that both approaches will be used – firstly, single source funding for the network from organisations like Department for International

Development, and secondly, partners will approach funders for their respective activities. It was also decided to explore funding from business houses which have strong presence in all five countries. A funding strategy and proposal will be developed. Catherine Grant informed that SAIIA has the required funding for its activities.

14. CUTS International will continue to host the BRICS-TERN website. All members will provide inputs to CUTS International to update this site regularly. The website will soon move to its individual domain.
15. It was decided that progressively BRICS-TERN should work towards being recognised as an official think-tank forum for cooperation among BRICS countries. This will require valuable research output and working with the BRICS Contact Group on Economy, Trade and Investment Issues. It was also informed that SAIIA will be hosting the next BRICS Academic Forum.
16. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Bipul Chatterjee.