

SUMMITS

G20 :

G20 Summit Held in Hangzhou, China

Highlights :

The Leaders of the G20 met in Hangzhou, China on September 4 and 5, 2016 and adopted package of policies and actions together called the '**Hangzhou Consensus**' in which the Leaders

- expressed determination to use all policy tools - monetary, fiscal and structural - individually and collectively to achieve our goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth,
- reiterated that excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates can have adverse implications for economic and financial stability,
- launched the Hangzhou Action Plan to support economic growth,
- recognized that in the long run, innovation is a key driver of growth for both individual countries and the global economy as a whole,
- endorsed the 'G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth' as a new agenda encompassing policies and measures in and across the areas of innovation, the new industrial revolution and the digital economy,
- expressed support for industrialization in developing countries, especially those in Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
- launched the 'G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative' to unleash the potential of digital economy,
- reiterated the essential role of structural reforms in boosting productivity and potential output, as well as promoting innovative growth in G20 countries,
- endorsed the 'G20 Agenda Towards A More Stable and Resilient International Financial Architecture',
- called for ratification by all the G20 members of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and endorsed the 2017-2018 G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan to improve public and private sector transparency and integrity, implementing stance of zero tolerance against

corruption, zero loopholes in our institutions and zero barriers in our actions,

- reaffirmed commitment to building well-functioning, open, competitive, efficient, stable and transparent energy markets,
- noted with concern the slow growth in trade and investment globally and committed to enhance an open world economy by working towards trade and investment facilitation and liberalization,
- reiterated opposition to protectionism on trade and investment in all its forms,
- launched the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to strengthen their inclusive growth and development potential,
- recognized that entrepreneurship is an important driver for job creation and economic growth, and reinforced commitments in the G20 Entrepreneurship Action Plan,
- reiterated commitment to sustainable development and strong and effective support and actions to address climate change,
- reiterated call for global concerted efforts in addressing the effects and root causes of refugee crisis, and
- strongly condemned terrorism in all forms which poses serious challenges to international peace and security and reaffirmed solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs.

Details :

The Leaders expressed determination to **foster an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy to usher in a new era of global growth and sustainable development**, taking into account the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement**.

The G20, as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, adopted the attached package of policies and actions - the **Hangzhou Consensus** - based on the following:

- **Vision :** The Leaders will strengthen the **G20 growth agenda to catalyze new drivers of growth, open up new horizons for development, lead the way in transforming our**

economies in a more innovative and sustainable manner and better reflect shared interests of both present and coming generations.

- **Integration** : The Leaders will pursue innovative growth concepts and policies by forging synergy among fiscal, monetary and structural policies, enhancing coherence between economic, labor, employment and social policies as well as combining demand management with supply side reforms, short-term with mid- to long-term policies, economic growth with social development and environmental protection.
- **Openness** : The Leaders will work harder to build an open world economy, reject protectionism, promote global trade and investment, including through further strengthening the multilateral trading system, and ensure broad-based opportunities through and public support for expanded growth in a globalized economy.
- **Inclusiveness** : The Leaders will work to ensure that our economic growth serves the needs of everyone and benefits all countries and all people including in particular women, youth and disadvantaged groups, generating more quality jobs, addressing inequalities and eradicating poverty so that no one is left behind.

Strengthening Policy Coordination :

Our growth must be shored up by well-designed and coordinated policies. The Leaders expressed determination to use all policy tools - monetary, fiscal and structural - individually and collectively to achieve our goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Monetary policy will continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central banks' mandates, but monetary policy alone cannot lead to balanced growth. Underscoring the essential role of structural reforms, the Leaders emphasized that our fiscal strategies are equally important to supporting our common growth objectives. The Leaders are using fiscal policy flexibly and making tax policy and public expenditure more growth-friendly, including by prioritizing high-quality investment, while enhancing resilience and ensuring debt as a share of GDP is on a sustainable path.

Furthermore, the Leaders will continue to explore policy options, tailored to country circumstances, that the G20 countries may undertake as nec-

essary to support growth and respond to potential risks including balance sheet vulnerability. The Leaders reiterated that **excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates can have adverse implications for economic and financial stability**. Relevant authorities will consult closely on exchange markets. The Leaders reaffirmed previous exchange rate commitments, including that of refraining from competitive devaluations and not targeting exchange rates for competitive purposes. The Leaders will carefully calibrate and clearly communicate our macroeconomic and structural policy actions to reduce policy uncertainty, minimize negative spillovers and promote transparency.

The Leaders are making further progress towards the implementation of their growth strategies, but much more needs to be done. Swift and full implementation of the growth strategies remains key to supporting economic growth and the collective growth ambition set by the Brisbane Summit, and the Leaders are prioritizing implementation efforts. In the light of this, the Leaders launched the **Hangzhou Action Plan** and updated their growth strategies, including new and adjusted macroeconomic and structural policy measures that can provide mutually-supportive benefits to growth. The Leaders will also strive to reduce excessive imbalances, promote greater inclusiveness and reduce inequality in our pursuit of economic growth.

Breaking a New Path for Growth :

Growth, to be dynamic and create more jobs, must be powered by new driving forces. While reaffirming the importance of addressing shortfalls in global demand to support short-term growth, the Leaders believe it is also imperative to address supply side constraints so as to raise productivity sustainably, expand the frontier of production and unleash mid- to long-term growth potential.

Innovation :

The Leaders recognized that in the long run, innovation is a key driver of growth for both individual countries and the global economy as a whole. The Leaders are committed to tackling one of the root causes of weak growth by taking innovation as a key element of our effort to identify new growth engines for individual countries and the world economy, which will also contribute to creating new and better jobs, building a cleaner environment, increasing productivity, addressing global challenges, improving people's lives and build-

ing dynamic, cooperative and inclusive innovation ecosystems. The Leaders thus endorsed the 'G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth' as a new agenda encompassing policies and measures in and across the areas of innovation, the new industrial revolution and the digital economy. In this context, the Leaders recognized the importance of structural reforms. The Leaders will act on the recommendations of the Blueprint in accordance with our national circumstances and in line with our vision for leadership, partnership, openness, inclusiveness, creativity, synergy and flexibility.

The Leaders committed to important cross-cutting actions related to multi-dimensional partnerships, supporting developing countries and improving skills and human capital. The Leaders will set up a G20 Task Force supported by the OECD and other relevant international organizations to take forward the G20 agenda on innovation, new industrial revolution and digital economy.

To achieve innovation-driven growth and the creation of innovative ecosystems, the Leaders supported dialogue and cooperation on innovation, which covers a wide range of domains with science and technology innovation at its core. The Leaders deliver the G20 2016 Innovation Action Plan. The Leaders committed to pursue pro-innovation strategies and policies, support investment in science, technology and innovation (STI), and support skills training for STI - including support for the entry of more women into these fields - and mobility of STI human resources.

G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan :

To seize the opportunity that the new industrial revolution (NIR) presents for industry, particularly manufacturing and related services, the Leaders delivered the G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan. The Leaders committed to strengthen communication, cooperation and relevant research on the NIR, facilitate small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to leverage benefits from the NIR, address employment and workforce skill challenges, encourage more cooperation on standards, adequate and effective IPR protection in line with existing multilateral treaties to which they are parties, new industrial infrastructure, and support industrialization, as committed in the action plan.

Industrialization in Developing Countries :

The Leaders also expressed support for industrialization in developing countries, especially

those in Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Leaders are committed to supporting our workforces throughout this transition and to ensuring that the benefits of the NIR extend to all, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups. The Leaders call for cooperation to maximize the benefits and mitigate the negative impact of the expected technological and industrial changes. In all these initiatives, the G20 will take into consideration the different opportunities and challenges for developing and developed countries.

'G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative' :

To unleash the potential of digital economy, the Leaders delivered the 'G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative', which builds on work begun in Antalya. The Leaders aim to foster favorable conditions for its development and to address digital divide, including through expanded and better and affordable broadband access, flow of information for economic growth, trust and security, while ensuring respect for privacy and personal data protection, investment in the ICT sector, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, e-commerce cooperation, enhanced digital inclusion and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Structural Reforms :

The Leaders reiterated the essential role of structural reforms in boosting productivity and potential output, as well as promoting innovative growth in G20 countries. The Leaders delivered the 'Enhanced Structural Reform Agenda', noting that the choice and design of structural reforms are consistent with countries' specific economic conditions. The Leaders endorsed the nine priority areas of structural reforms and a set of guiding principles identified in the Agenda to provide high-level and useful guidance to members, while allowing them to account for their specific national circumstances. The Leaders also supported the quantitative framework consisting of a set of indicators, which will be improved over time, to help monitor and assess our efforts and progress with structural reforms and challenges. The Leaders are putting in place an integrated strategy for growth with short, medium and long-term measures. The Leaders will ensure that the Enhanced Structural Reform Agenda and the relevant elements of the Blueprint on Innovative Growth are well articulated.

More Effective and Efficient Global Economic and Financial Governance :

Growth, to be resilient, must be underpinned by effective and efficient global economic and financial architecture. The Leaders will continue our work in this regard.

The Leaders endorsed the '**G20 Agenda Towards A More Stable and Resilient International Financial Architecture**'. The Leaders will continue to improve the analysis and monitoring of capital flows and management of risks stemming from excessive capital flow volatility.

The Leaders supported the **Paris Club's discussion of a range of sovereign debt issues**, and the ongoing work of the Paris Club, as the principal international forum for restructuring official bilateral debt, towards the broader inclusion of emerging creditors. The Leaders welcome the admission of the Republic of Korea and the decision of Brazil to join the Paris Club. The Leaders welcomed China's continued regular participation in Paris Club meetings and intention to play a more constructive role, including further discussions on potential membership. Following the IMF's decision, The Leaders welcomed the **inclusion of the RMB into the Special Drawing Right (SDR) currency basket on October 1st.**

Building an open and resilient financial system is crucial to supporting sustainable growth and development. To this end, the Leaders remained committed to finalizing remaining critical elements of the regulatory framework and to the timely, full and consistent implementation of the agreed **financial sector reform agenda**, including **Basel III and the total-loss-absorbing-capacity (TLAC) standard** as well as **effective cross-border resolution regimes.**

The Leaders agreed to continue support for international tax cooperation to achieve a globally fair and modern international tax system and to foster growth, including advancing on-going cooperation on **base erosion and profits shifting (BEPS), exchange of tax information, tax capacity-building of developing countries and tax policies to promote growth and tax certainty.** The Leaders welcome the establishment of the '**G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS**'.

The Leaders supported a timely, consistent and widespread implementation of the BEPS package and called upon all relevant and interested countries and jurisdictions that have not yet committed to the BEPS package to do so and join the framework on an equal footing.

The Leaders also welcome the progress made on effective and widespread **implementation of the internationally agreed standards on tax transparency** and reiterated call on all relevant countries including all financial centers and jurisdictions, which have not yet done so to commit without delay to implementing the standard of automatic exchange of information by 2018 at the latest and to sign and ratify the **Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.**

Corruption :

Recognizing the **detrimental effects of corruption and illicit finance flows on equitable allocation of public resources, sustainable economic growth, the integrity of the global financial system and the rule of law**, the Leaders agreed to **reinforce the G20's efforts to enhance international cooperation against corruption**, while fully respecting international law, human rights and the rule of law as well as the sovereignty of each country.

The Leaders **called for ratification** by all the G20 members of the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption.** The Leaders will **endeavor to apply effectively the extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery provisions of the above Convention and other applicable international conventions.**

The Leaders **endorsed the 2017-2018 G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan to improve public and private sector transparency and integrity, implementing stance of zero tolerance against corruption, zero loopholes in our institutions and zero barriers in our actions.** The Leaders also welcomed outcomes of the London Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016 and the OECD Ministerial Meeting in March 2016.

Energy :

In line with the **G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration**, the Leaders reaffirmed commitment to **building well-functioning, open, competitive, efficient, stable and transparent energy markets, fostering more effective and inclusive global energy architecture** to better reflect the changing realities of the world's energy landscape, and shaping an affordable, reliable, sustainable and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions energy future while utilizing energy sources and technologies. The Leaders stressed that continued investment in energy projects and better regional interconnection, particularly in sustainable energy projects, remains critically important to **ensuring future energy security and preventing economically destabilizing price spikes.**

The Leaders stated that they would endeavor to work with **Sub-Saharan and Asia-Pacific countries** to improve **universal access to affordable, reliable, clean, sustainable and modern energy services, particularly by addressing barriers to electricity access**. The Leaders encouraged members to significantly **improve energy efficiency** based on the specific needs and national circumstances of each member and promote energy conservation through appropriate lifestyle changes. The Leaders will explore innovative collaborative arrangements for **international cooperation on energy efficiency**. The Leaders endorsed the **G20 Voluntary Collaboration Action Plan on Energy Access, the G20 Voluntary Action Plan on Renewable Energy and the G20 Energy Efficiency Leading Programme** issued by the G20 energy ministers and ask them to meet regularly to follow up on the implementation of these plans.

The Leaders **reaffirmed the importance of energy collaboration towards a cleaner energy future and sustainable energy security with a view to fostering economic growth**. The Leaders welcome the progress on the voluntary international collaboration on energy efficiency in six key areas, taking into consideration the policies outlined in the Energy Efficiency Leading Programme and in line with national circumstances, including in heavy duty vehicles, and improving the efficiency of these vehicles.

The Leaders also reaffirmed commitment to **rationalize and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption over the medium term, recognizing the need to support the poor**. The Leaders welcomed G20 countries' progress on their commitments and look forward to further progress in the future. Further, the Leaders encouraged G20 countries to consider participating in the voluntary peer review process. Given that natural gas is a less emission-intensive fossil fuel, the Leaders agreed to enhance collaboration on solutions that promote **natural gas extraction, transportation, and processing in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts**. The Leaders stressed the importance of diversification of energy sources and routes.

Robust International Trade and Investment :

Our growth, to be strong, must be reinforced by inclusive, robust and sustainable trade and investment growth. The Leaders noted with concern the **slow growth in trade and investment globally and committed to enhance an**

open world economy by working towards trade and investment facilitation and liberalization.

The Leaders recognized the importance of economic diversification and industrial upgrading in developing countries to benefit from more open global markets. The Leaders endorsed the outcome of the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting held in Shanghai on 9-10 July, and welcome the establishment of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG). The Leaders **committed to further strengthen G20 trade and investment cooperation**.

World Trade Organization :

The Leaders **reaffirmed determination to ensure a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system** with the **World Trade Organization** playing the central role in today's global trade. The Leaders reiterated commitment to shape the post-Nairobi work with development at its center and commit to advancing negotiations on the remaining DDA issues as a matter of priority, including all three pillars of agriculture (i.e. market access, domestic support and export competition), non-agricultural market access, services, development, Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and rules. The Leaders also noted that a range of issues may be of common interest and importance to today's economy, and thus may be legitimate issues for discussions in the WTO, including those addressed in regional trade arrangements (RTAs) and by the B20. The Leaders will work together with all WTO members with a sense of urgency and solidarity and with a view to achieving positive outcomes of the MC11 and beyond and the Leaders will work together to further strengthen the WTO.

Trade Facilitation Agreement :

The Leaders **committed to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement** by the end of 2016 and called on other WTO members to do the same. The Leaders noted the important role that bilateral and regional trade agreements can play in liberalizing trade and in the development of trade rules, while recognizing the need to ensure they are consistent with WTO rules. The Leaders **committed to working to ensure our bilateral and regional trade agreements complement the multilateral trading system, and are open, transparent, inclusive and WTO-consistent**. WTO-consistent **plurilateral trade agreements** with broad participation can play an important role in **complementing global liberalization initiatives**.

Protectionism :

The Leaders **reiterated opposition to protectionism on trade and investment in all its forms.** The Leaders extended commitments to standstill and rollback of protectionist measures till the end of 2018, reaffirmed determination to deliver on them and **support the work of the WTO, UNCTAD and OECD in monitoring protectionism.** The Leaders emphasize that the benefits of trade and open markets must be communicated to the wider public more effectively and accompanied by appropriate domestic policies to ensure that benefits are widely distributed.

Global Trade Growth :

The Leaders endorsed the **G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth**, under which the **G20 will lead by example to lower trade costs, harness trade and investment policy coherence, boost trade in services, enhance trade finance, promote e-commerce development, and address trade and development.** The Leaders welcomed the World Trade Outlook Indicator released by the WTO as an important leading indicator of global trade. The Leaders endorsed the **G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking**, which will help foster an open, transparent and conducive global policy environment for investment.

The Leaders recognize that the **structural problems, including excess capacity in some industries, exacerbated by a weak global economic recovery and depressed market demand, have caused a negative impact on trade and workers.** The Leaders recognized that **excess capacity in steel and other industries is a global issue which requires collective responses.**

The Leaders also recognize that **subsidies and other types of support from government or government-sponsored institutions can cause market distortions and contribute to global excess capacity and therefore require attention.**

Inclusive and Interconnected Development :

Growth, to be strong, sustainable and balanced, must also be inclusive. The Leaders **committed to ensuring the benefits of growth reach all people and maximize the growth potential of developing and low-income countries.** In this context, the Leaders placed sustainable development high on the G20 agenda.

The Leaders launched the **G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** to strengthen their inclusive growth and development potential through

voluntary policy options including: promoting inclusive and sustainable structural transformation; supporting sustainable agriculture, agri-business and agro-industry development; deepening, broadening and updating the local knowledge and production base; promoting investment in sustainable and secure energy, including renewables and energy efficiency; exploring ways to develop cooperation on industrial production and vocational training and sustainable and resilient infrastructure and industries; supporting industrialization through trade in accordance with WTO rules; and leveraging domestic and external finance and supporting equitable access to finance - with a focus on women and youth; and promoting science, technology and innovation as critical means for industrialization.

The Leaders reaffirmed their **commitment to promote investment** with focus on **infrastructure** in terms of both **quantity and quality.** The Leaders welcomed the Joint Declaration of Aspirations on Actions to Support Infrastructure Investment by 11 multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Employment :

Generating quality employment is indispensable for sustainable development and is at the center of the G20's domestic and global agenda. The Leaders will work to ensure the **benefits from economic growth, globalization and technological innovation are widely shared, creating more and better jobs, reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive labor force participation.** The Leaders endorse the strategies, action plans and initiatives developed by G20 labor and employment ministers to enhance the growth and development agenda by taking effective actions to address changes in skill needs, support entrepreneurship and employability, foster decent work, ensure safer workplaces including within global supply chains and strengthen social protection systems. The Leaders endorsed **Sustainable Wage Policy Principles.**

The Leaders **recognized that entrepreneurship is an important driver for job creation and economic growth, and reinforced commitments in the G20 Entrepreneurship Action Plan.** They welcomed China's contribution in the establishment of an **Entrepreneurship Research Center on G20 Economies.** The Leaders also endorsed the **G20 Initiative to Promote Quality Apprenticeship** with policy priorities of **increasing the quantity, quality and diversity of apprenticeships.** The Leaders will further develop the **G20 employment plans in 2017** to address these commitments and monitor progress in a systemic

and transparent manner in achieving the G20 goals especially on youth employment and female labor participation. The Leaders recognize strengthened labor market institutions and policies can support productivity and promote decent work, and therefore higher, sustainable wage growth, in particular for the low-income workers. The Leaders recognize the importance of addressing opportunities and challenges brought into the labor market through labor migration as well-managed migration can bring potential benefits to economies and societies.

Agriculture :

The G20 will continue to **prioritize its work on food security, nutrition, sustainable agricultural growth and rural development** as a significant contribution to implementing the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The Leaders endorsed the outcome of the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting and encouraged agriculture ministers to meet regularly to jointly facilitate sustainable agricultural development and food value chains, including through technological, institutional and social innovation, trade and responsible investment, as a means of food security, rural development and poverty alleviation. The Leaders supported increasing efforts in this regard by the agricultural scientific and private sectors and welcome the opening of the **First G20 Agricultural Entrepreneurs Forum**. The Leaders **recognized the role of family farmers and smallholder agriculture in development**, and welcomed the Good Practices on Family Farming and Smallholder Agriculture that identifies a set of policies, programs and tools that can prove useful to G20 members and beyond. The Leaders welcomed the contribution by programs and initiatives that promote sustainable agricultural development, including the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Program**.

Further Significant Global Challenges Affecting the World Economy :

The **outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU adds to the uncertainty in the global economy**. Members of the G20 are well positioned to proactively address the potential economic and financial consequences stemming from the referendum. In the future, the Leaders hope to see the UK as a close partner of the EU.

Climate Change :

The Leaders **reiterated commitment to sustainable development and strong and effective support and actions to address climate change**. The Leaders committed to complete respective

domestic procedures in order to join the Paris Agreement as soon as national procedures allow.

The Leaders **affirmed the importance of fulfilling the UNFCCC commitment by developed countries in providing means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions in line with Paris outcomes**. The Leaders reaffirmed the importance of the support provided by the **Green Climate Fund**. The Leaders welcomed the G20 Climate Finance Study Group report on "**Promoting Efficient and Transparent Provision and Mobilization of Climate Finance to Enhance Ambition of Mitigation and Adaptation Actions**".

Displacement :

Worldwide massive forced displacement of people, unprecedented since the Second World War, especially those generated from violent conflicts, is a global concern. The Leaders **reiterated call for global concerted efforts in addressing the effects and root causes of refugee crisis**. The Leaders **called for strengthening humanitarian assistance for refugees and refugee resettlement, and invited all states, according to their individual capacity, to scale up assistance to relevant international organizations in order to enhance their capabilities to assist affected countries, intensifying efforts to find durable solutions**, in particular for protracted refugee situations, and in this regard, strengthening the contribution of development assistance to host communities.

The G20 will continue to address forced displacement in 2017 with a view to developing concrete actions. The G20 will also examine migration issues in 2017.

Terrorism :

The Leaders **strongly condemned terrorism in all forms and manifestations, which poses serious challenges to international peace and security and endangers ongoing efforts to strengthen the global economy and ensure sustainable growth and development**. The Leaders **reaffirmed solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs**. The Leaders stated that they will **tackle all sources, techniques and channels of terrorist financing, including extortion, taxation, smuggling of natural resources, bank looting, looting of cultural property, external donation, and kidnapping for ransom**. In confronting terrorism, the Leaders stated that they remain committed to effectively exchanging infor-

mation, freezing terrorist assets, and criminalizing terrorist financing. The Leaders called for the swift, effective and universal implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards and of the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution 2253 worldwide. The Leaders welcomed the progress achieved by the FATF in the implementation of its new Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing and called for effective implementation of its operational plan.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) :

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a serious threat to public health, growth and global economic stability. The Leaders affirmed the need to explore in an inclusive manner to fight antimicrobial resistance by developing evidence-based ways to prevent and mitigate resistance, and unlock research and development into new and existing antimicrobials from a G20 value-added perspective, and called on the WHO, FAO, OIE and OECD to collectively report back in 2017 on options to address this including the economic aspects. In this context, the Leaders stated that they will promote prudent use of antibiotics and take into consideration huge challenges of affordability and access of antimicrobials and their impact on public health.

Next Meeting :

Next G-20 Meeting will be held in Germany in 2017 and in Argentina in 2018.

Background :

G-20 was initiated in 1999 and consists of **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU).**

Before the outbreak of global financial crisis in 2008, G20 meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors were held to discuss international financial and monetary policies, reform of international financial institutions and world economic development.

Some guest countries and the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the Financial Stability Board, the International Labour Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD) were also invited to attend G20 Summit.

Past Summits :

2008 Washington : The first G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 14-15 November 2008 in Washington D.C., United States of America.

The summit focused primarily on strengthening financial regulation, with agreement on a 47-point action plan to improve financial regulation over the medium term.

2009 London : G20 leaders met on April 2, 2009 in London, United Kingdom.

The summit focused on coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus measures with the amount of 1.1 trillion US dollars to avert the threat of global depression, agreed on additional resources for the IMF and multilateral development banks to assist countries to weather the financial crisis and to establish the Financial Stability Board.

2009 Pittsburgh : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 24-25 September 2009 in Pittsburgh, United States of America.

Leaders designated the **G20 to be the premier forum for international economic cooperation**, agreed to act together to support the global recovery through a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth with a Mutual Assessment Process, and to reform global financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

2010 Toronto : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 26-27th June 2010 in Toronto, Canada.

The summit focused on the need for fiscal consolidation, with agreement that advanced G20 deficit economies would at least halve fiscal deficits by 2013 and stabilise or reduce sovereign debt ratios by 2016, complemented by ongoing structural reform across all G20 members to rebalance and strengthen global growth.

Leaders also agreed to conclude work in the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision on a new global regime for bank capital and liquidity by the Seoul G20 Summit and reiterated support for a successful conclusion to the Doha Round welcomed the fulfillment of their commitment to provide a US\$350 billion increase in capital to multilateral development banks and associated institutional reforms.

2010 Seoul : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 10-11 November 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

G20 leaders agreed to develop guidelines for addressing large current account imbalances under the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, delivered on International Monetary Fund (IMF) quota and governance reform and initiated the G20 development agenda and launched the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth.

2011 Cannes : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 3-4 November 2011 in Cannes, France.

Key outcomes of the summit are including the development of a country-specific Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs, agreement to strengthen the World Trade Organization by considering additional and parallel international trade negotiations beyond the Doha Round mandate and the adoption of an action plan to support the development and deepening of local bond markets.

2012 Los Cabos : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 18-19 June 2012 in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Key outcomes of the summit are including the establishment of country-specific measures each G20 member would take to strengthen demand, growth, confidence and financial stability under the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, reaffirmation of G20 member pledges to increase International Monetary Fund (IMF) resources by US\$456 billion and to implement the 2010 IMF quota and governance reforms and progress on the G20 development agenda, particularly on food security, financial inclusion, sustainable development and inclusive green growth

2013 St Petersburg : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held from 5-6 September 2013 in St Petersburg, Russia.

Key outcomes of the summit are including the St Petersburg Action Plan, which sets out reforms for achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth, coupled with an Accountability Assessment describing progress made on past commitments, extending the G20's and a reaffirmed commitment to implementation of agreed financial regulatory reforms and International Monetary Fund reform.

G20 leaders also marked the 5th Anniversary of the G20, reaffirming their conviction that the foundation for sustainable growth and rising prosperity for all is an open world economy based on market principles, effective regulation, inclusiveness and strong global institutions, underpinned by the closer partnership and collective action and shared responsibility of the G20, based on effective policy coordination.

2014 Brisbane : The G20 Leaders' Summit was held on 15-16 November 2014 in Brisbane, Australia.

The centrepiece was the delivery of country-specific growth strategies and a Brisbane Action Plan for growth. G20 leaders set an goal to lift the G20's GDP by at least additional two percent by 2018. Other outcomes from the Brisbane Leaders' Summit include:

Endorsement of landmark G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration. Leaders also agreed a G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan to deepen their collaboration on energy efficiency.

A commitment to finalise and fully implement the agreed financial regulatory reforms, while remaining alert to new risks.

Leaders noted their deep concern about the humanitarian and economic impacts of Ebola and issued a standalone statement of the G20's commitment to fight the current outbreak and support the international response.

BRICS :

8th BRICS Summit held in Goa

Highlights :

The 8th BRICS Summit attended by Leaders of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) was held in Goa on October 15 and 16, 2016 under the theme "**Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.**" The Leaders

- emphasised the importance of further strengthening BRICS solidarity and cooperation based on common interests and key priorities to further strengthen our strategic partnership,
- noted with satisfaction the operationalisation of the New Development Bank (NDB) and of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which contributes greatly to the global economy and the strengthening of the international financial architecture,
- held an Outreach Summit of BRICS Leaders with the Leaders of BIMSTEC member countries - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation comprising of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand,
- reaffirmed the need for strengthening coordination of efforts on global issues and practical cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, mutual understanding and trust,
- reaffirmed commitment to contribute to safeguarding a fair and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
- reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges,

- reiterated the necessity to implement the two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict,
- expressed deep concern at the persisting security challenges in Afghanistan and significant increase in terrorist activities in Afghanistan and affirmed support to the efforts of the Afghan Government to achieve Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation,
- called upon developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance commitments to achieve 0.7% of Gross National Income commitment for Official Development Assistance to developing countries,
- committed to lead by example in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development inline with national circumstances and development context respecting the national policy space,
- welcomed the inclusion of the RMB (Renminbi-Chinese currency) into the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) currency basket,
- stressed the importance to foster an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy,
- reaffirmed commitment towards a globally fair and modern tax system and welcomed the progress made on effective and widespread implementation of the internationally agreed standards and supported the implementation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS),
- supported the strengthening of international cooperation against corruption, including through the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group,
- reiterated that outer space shall be free for peaceful exploration and use by all States on the basis of equality in accordance with international law,
- called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including Foreign Terrorist Fighters, blocking sources of financing terrorism,
- acknowledged that international terrorism, especially the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh) and affiliated terrorist groups and individuals, constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security,
- supported a wider use of natural gas as an economically efficient and clean fuel to pro-

mote sustainable development as well as to reduce the greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, and

- underlined the imperative to advance cooperation and action on HIV and TB in the BRICS countries, including in the production of quality-assured drugs and diagnostics.

Details :

Recalling all previous declarations, the Leaders **emphasised the importance of further strengthening BRICS solidarity and cooperation based on common interests and key priorities to further strengthen our strategic partnership in the spirit of openness, solidarity, equality, mutual understanding, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation.** The Leaders agreed that **emerging challenges to global peace and security and to sustainable development require further enhancing of our collective efforts.**

The Leaders agreed that **BRICS countries represent an influential voice on the global stage through tangible cooperation, which delivers direct benefits to our people.** In this context, the Leaders noted with satisfaction the **operationalisation of the New Development Bank (NDB) and of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which contributes greatly to the global economy and the strengthening of the international financial architecture.**

The Leaders noted with appreciation the approval of the first set of loans by the New Development Bank (NDB), particularly in the renewable energy projects in BRICS countries. The Leaders express satisfaction with NDB's issuance of the first set of green bonds in RMB (Renminbi. Chinese currency). The Leaders are pleased to note that the operationalisation of **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangements (CRA)** has strengthened the **global financial safety net.**

Outreach Summit with BIMSTEC :

In order to reach out and enrich our understanding and engagement with fellow developing and emerging economies, the Leaders held an **Outreach Summit of BRICS Leaders with the Leaders of BIMSTEC member countries - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** comprising of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.** The meeting served an opportunity to renew our friendship with **BIMSTEC countries** as well as to **jointly explore possibilities of expanding trade and commercial ties, and invest-**

ment cooperation between BRICS and BIMSTEC countries, while advancing our common goals of peace, development, democracy and prosperity.

Strengthening Coordination of Efforts on Global Issues and Practical Cooperation :

The Leaders reiterated common vision of ongoing profound shifts in the world as it transitions to a more just, democratic, and multi-polar international order based on the central role of the United Nations, and respect for international law. The Leaders reaffirmed the need for strengthening coordination of efforts on global issues and practical cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, mutual understanding and trust. The Leaders underlined the importance of collective efforts in solving international problems, and for peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means, and in this regard, the Leaders reiterated commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Leaders noted that the global character of current security challenges and threats confronting the international community. They reiterated that international efforts to address these challenges, the establishment of sustainable peace as well as the transition to a more just, equitable and democratic multi-polar international order requires a comprehensive, concerted and determined approach, based on spirit of solidarity, mutual trust and benefit, equity and cooperation, strong commitment to international law and the central role of the United Nations as the universal multilateral organisation entrusted with the mandate for maintaining international peace and security, advance global development and to promote and protect human rights. The Leaders underline the importance of further strengthening coordination of our efforts in this context.

Safeguarding a Fair and Equitable International Order :

The Leaders reaffirmed commitment to contribute to safeguarding a fair and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations including through consistent and universal respect and adherence to the principles and rules of international law in their inter-relation and integrity, compliance by all states with their international legal obligations. The Leaders express our commitment to resolutely reject the continued attempts to misrepresent the results of World War II. The Leaders recall further that development and security are closely interlinked, mutually reinforcing and key to attaining sustainable peace.

The Leaders stated that resolving international problems require collective efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means. Implementation of principles of good-faith, sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and cooperation excludes imposition of unilateral coercive measures not based on international law. The Leaders condemned unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions in violation of international law and universally recognised norms of international relations. Bearing this in mind, The Leaders emphasise the unique importance of the indivisible nature of security, and that no State should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others.

Reform of United Nations :

The Leaders recalled the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. The Leaders reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges. China and Russia reiterated the importance they attach to the status and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

Cognizant of BRICS countries' significant contributions to UN Peacekeeping operations, and recognising the important role of UN Peacekeeping operations in safeguarding international peace and security, the Leaders realised the challenges faced by UN Peacekeeping and emphasised the need to further strengthen its role, capacity, effectiveness, accountability and efficiency, while adhering to the basic principles of peacekeeping. The Leaders emphasised that UN Peacekeeping operations should perform the duty of protection of civilians in strict accordance with their respective mandates and in respect of the primary responsibility of the host countries in this regard.

The Leaders expressed deep concern about the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. The Leaders supported all efforts for finding ways to the settlement of the crises in accordance with international law and in conformity with the principles of independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries of the region.

Syria :

On Syria, the Leaders called upon all parties involved to work for a comprehensive and

peaceful resolution of the conflict taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people of Syria, through inclusive national dialogue and a Syrian-led political process based on Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and in pursuance of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and 2268 for their full implementation. While continuing the relentless pursuit against terrorist groups so designated by the UN Security Council including ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist organisations designated by the UN Security Council.

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict :

The Leaders reiterated the necessity to implement the two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of the relevant UNSC resolutions, the Madrid Principles and Arab Peace Initiative, and previous agreements between the two sides, through negotiations aimed at creating an independent, viable, territorially contiguous Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace with Israel, within secure, mutually agreed and internationally recognised borders on the basis of 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as envisaged in the relevant UN Resolutions.

Afghanistan :

The Leaders expressed deep concern at the persisting security challenges in Afghanistan and significant increase in terrorist activities in Afghanistan. The Leaders affirmed support to the efforts of the Afghan Government to achieve Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation. The Leaders expressed the view that capable and effective Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) should be the key to the stabilisation of Afghanistan. In this regard, the Leaders emphasised the need for continued commitment of regional countries and wider international community, including the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission, which as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF's) heir has a key role in the ANSF capacity-building. The Leaders stressed the importance of multilateral region-led interaction on Afghan issues, primarily by those organisations, which consist of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and other regional states, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Heart of Asia Conference.

Africa :

The Leaders welcomed the African Union's (AU) vision, aspirations, goals and priorities for

Africa's development enshrined in Agenda 2063, which is complementary with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Leaders reaffirmed support for Africa's implementation of its various programmes in pursuit of its continental agenda for peace and socio economic development. The Leaders will continue to engage in joint endeavours to advance Africa's solidarity, unity and strength through support measures for regional integration and sustainable development. The Leaders further welcomed recent elections that have been held in the continent and the peaceful manner in which they were conducted.

The Leaders supported the AU's efforts to resolving conflict through its peace and security architecture, in collaboration with the United Nations and the continent's regional organisations, and to contribute towards lasting and sustainable peace and security in Africa.

The Leaders welcomed the decision of the African Union's Assembly to operationalise its Peace Fund, in order to contribute to financing of its peace and security operations. The Leaders supported efforts aimed at full operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF) and noted the progress being made in this regard, including the contributions by the African Capacity for Immediate Responses to Crises (ACIRC).

The Leaders expressed concern that political and security instability continues to loom in a number of countries that is exacerbated by terrorism and extremism. The Leaders called upon the international community through the United Nations, African Union and regional and international partners to continue their support in addressing these challenges, including post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts.

The Leaders welcomed the adoption of landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Summit on Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Leaders welcome the people-centred and holistic approach to sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and its emphasis on equality, equity and quality-life to all. The Leaders welcome the reaffirmation of the guiding principles of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

Official Development Assistance Commitments:

The **2030 Agenda**, with its overarching focus on poverty eradication, lays an equal and balanced emphasis on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Leaders called upon developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance commitments to achieve **0.7% of Gross National Income commitment for Official Development Assistance to developing countries**. Those commitments play a crucial role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Leaders further welcomed the establishment of a **Technology Facilitation Mechanism** within the UN with a mandate to facilitate technology for the implementation of the SDGs.

The Leaders committed to lead by example in the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** inline with national circumstances and development context respecting the national policy space. The Leaders welcomed the **G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** adopted during **G20 Hangzhou Summit** and committed to its implementation by taking bold transformative steps through both collective and individual concrete actions.

Economic Growth :

The Leaders stated they met at a time when the global economic recovery is progressing, with improved resilience and emergence of new sources of growth. The growth, though is weaker than expected with downside risks to the global economy continuing to persist. This gets reflected in a variety of challenges including commodity price volatility, weak trade, high private and public indebtedness, inequality and lack of inclusiveness of economic growth. Meanwhile, the benefits from growth need to be shared broadly in an inclusive manner. **Geopolitical conflicts, terrorism, refugee flows, illicit financial flows** and the outcome of **UK referendum** have further added to the uncertainty in the global economy.

The Leaders reiterated determination to use all policy tools - monetary, fiscal, and structural, individually and collectively, to achieve the goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Monetary policy will continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central bank's mandates. **Monetary policy alone, though, cannot lead to balanced and sustainable growth**. The Leaders, in this regard, underscored the essential role of structural reforms. The Leaders emphasised

that fiscal policies are equally important to support common growth objectives. The Leaders also took note that the spill-over effects of certain policy measures in some systemically important advanced economies can have adverse impact on growth prospects of emerging economies.

The Leaders recognised that innovation is a key driver for mid and long term growth and sustainable development. The Leaders stressed the importance of industrialisation and measures that promote industrial development as a core pillar of structural transformation.

The Leaders highlighted the need to use tax policy and public expenditure in a more growth-friendly way taking into account fiscal space available, that promotes inclusiveness, maintains resilience and ensures sustainability of debt as a share of GDP.

The Leaders noted the dynamic integration processes across the regions of the world, particularly in **Asia, Africa and South America**. The Leaders affirmed belief to promote growth in the context of regional integration on the basis of principles of equality, openness and inclusiveness. The Leaders further believed that this will promote economic expansion through enhanced trade, commercial and investment linkages.

The Leaders highlighted the importance of public and private investments in infrastructure, including connectivity, to ensure sustained long-term growth. The Leaders, in this regard, called for approaches to bridge the financing gap in infrastructure including through enhanced involvement of **Multilateral Development Banks**.

The Leaders welcomed the inclusion of the RMB (Renminbi-Chinese currency) into the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) currency basket on October 1, 2016.

Sovereign Debts :

The Leaders shared concerns regarding the challenges of sovereign debt restructurings, and noted that timely and successful debt restructuring is key for ensuring access to international capital markets, and hence economic growth, for countries with high debt levels. The Leaders welcomed the current discussions to improve the debt restructuring process.

WTO :

The Leaders reiterated support for the multilateral trading system and the centrality of the **WTO** as the cornerstone of a rule based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive

multilateral trading system with development at the core of its agenda. The Leaders noted the **increasing number of bilateral, regional, and plurilateral trade agreements**, and reiterated that **these should be complementary to the multilateral trading system** and encouraged the parties thereon to align their work in consolidating the multilateral trading system under the WTO in accordance with the principles of **transparency, inclusiveness, and compatibility with the WTO rules.**

The Leaders emphasised the importance of implementing the decisions taken at the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Conferences. The Leaders **stressed the need to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha Development Agenda (DDA) issues as a matter of priority.** The Leaders called on all WTO members to work together to ensure a strong development oriented outcome for Ministerial Conference 11 (MC11) and beyond.

MSMEs :

The Leaders agreed that **MSMEs provide major employment opportunities, at comparatively lower capital cost, and create self-employment opportunities in rural and underdeveloped areas.** MSMEs thus help assure **equitable wealth distribution nationally and globally.** The Leaders commended organisation of BRICS second round-table on MSMEs by India with a focus on technical and business alliances in MSMEs Sector. The Leaders agreed to work for greater integration of MSMEs in Regional and Global Value Chains.

Cooperation with G-20 :

The Leaders commended China for the successful hosting of the 11th G20 Leaders' Summit in Hangzhou and its **focus on innovation, structural reform and development as drivers of medium and long term economic growth.** The Leaders **recognised the role of G20 as the premier forum for international and financial cooperation** and emphasised the importance of the implementation of the outcomes of G20 Hangzhou Summit, that they believe will foster strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and will contribute to improved global economic governance and enhance the role of developing countries.

The Leaders **stressed the importance to foster an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy.** The Leaders will enhance consultations and coordination on the G20 agenda, especially on issues of mutual interest to the BRICS countries, and promote issues of importance for the Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs). The Leaders will

continue to work closely with all G20 members to strengthen macroeconomic cooperation, promote innovation, as well as robust and sustainable trade and investment to propel global growth, improve global economic governance, enhance the role of developing countries, strengthen international financial architecture, support for industrialisation in Africa and least developed countries and enhance cooperation on energy access and efficiency. The Leaders stressed the need for **enhanced international cooperation** to address **illicit cross-border financial flows, tax evasion and trade mis-invoicing.**

The Leaders welcome the reports of **BRICS Think Tanks Council** and **BRICS Academic Forum** that have emerged as **valuable platforms for our experts to exchange views.** They have submitted their valuable suggestions with regard to promoting market research and analysis in BRICS and developing countries and exploring possibilities of carrying this process forward. The Leaders believe that **BRICS institution-building is critical to our shared vision of transforming the global financial architecture to one based on the principles of fairness and equity.**

Globally Fair and Modern Tax System :

The Leaders **reaffirmed commitment towards a globally fair and modern tax system and welcomed the progress made on effective and widespread implementation of the internationally agreed standards.** The Leaders supported the implementation of the **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS)** with due regard to the national realities of the countries. The Leaders **encouraged countries and International Organisations to assist developing economies in building their tax capacity.**

The Leaders noted that **aggressive tax planning and tax practices hurt equitable development and economic growth. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting must be effectively tackled.** The Leaders affirm that profit should be taxed in the jurisdiction where the economic activity is performed and the value is created. The Leaders reaffirm our commitment to support international cooperation in this regard, including in the Common Reporting Standard for **Automatic Exchange of Tax Information (AEOI).**

Corruption :

The Leaders **supported the strengthening of international cooperation against corruption, including through the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, as well as on matters related to asset recovery and persons sought for**

corruption. The Leaders acknowledged that corruption including **illicit money and financial flows, and ill-gotten wealth stashed in foreign jurisdictions** is a **global challenge** which may **impact negatively on economic growth and sustainable development.** The Leaders will strive to coordinate their approach in this regard and **encouraged a stronger global commitment to prevent and combat corruption on the basis of the United Nations Convention against Corruption** and other relevant international legal instruments.

Nuclear Energy :

The Leaders recognised that **nuclear energy will play a significant role for some of the BRICS countries in meeting their 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement commitments and for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions in the long term.** In this regard, the Leaders underlined the **importance of predictability in accessing technology and finance for expansion of civil nuclear energy capacity** which would contribute to the sustainable development of BRICS countries.

Outer Space :

The Leaders reiterated that **outer space shall be free for peaceful exploration and use by all States on the basis of equality in accordance with international law.** Reaffirming that outer space shall remain free from any kind of weapons or any use of force, the Leaders stress that negotiations for the conclusion of an **international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space** are a **priority task** of the **United Nations Conference on Disarmament,** and supported the efforts to start substantive work, based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects submitted by China and Russian Federation. The Leaders also noted an **international initiative for a political obligation on the no first placement of weapons in outer space.**

Priority should be accorded to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as well as ways and means of preserving outer space for future generations. The Leaders noted that this is an important objective on the current agenda of the **UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS).**

Terrorism :

The Leaders strongly condemned the recent several attacks, against some BRICS countries,

including that in India. The Leaders strongly **condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other reasons.** The Leaders agreed to **strengthen cooperation in combating international terrorism both at the bilateral level and at international fora.**

To address the **threat of chemical and biological terrorism,** The Leaders **supported and emphasised the need for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, including at the Conference on Disarmament.** In this context, the Leaders welcomed **India's offer to host a Conference in 2018 aimed at strengthening international resolve in facing the challenge of the WMD-Terrorism nexus.**

The Leaders **called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including Foreign Terrorist Fighters, blocking sources of financing terrorism, including through organised crime by means of money-laundering, drug trafficking, criminal activities, dismantling terrorist bases, and countering misuse of the Internet including social media by terror entities through misuse of the latest Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).** Successfully combating terrorism requires a holistic approach. All counter-terrorism measures should uphold international law and respect human rights.

The Leaders acknowledged that **international terrorism, especially the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh) and affiliated terrorist groups and individuals, constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.** Stressing UN's central role in coordinating multilateral approaches against terrorism, the Leaders urged all nations to undertake effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and reaffirmed commitment on increasing the effectiveness of the **UN counter terrorism framework.** The Leaders called upon all nations to work together to expedite the adoption of the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** in the UN General Assembly without any further delay. The Leaders recalled the responsi-

bility of all States to prevent terrorist actions from their territories.

The Leaders reaffirmed commitment to the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation** and called for **swift, effective and universal implementation of FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing**, including effective implementation of its operational plan. The Leaders sought to intensify our cooperation in FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).

Information and Communication Technology :

The Leaders reaffirmed that **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) expansion is a key enabler for sustainable development, for international peace and security and for human rights**. The Leaders agreed to strengthen joint efforts to enhance security in the use of ICTs, combating the use of ICTs for criminal and terrorist purposes and improving cooperation between our technical, law enforcement, R&D and innovation in the field of ICTs and capacity building institutions. The Leaders affirmed commitment to **bridging digital and technological divides, in particular between developed and developing countries**. The Leaders recognised that our approach must be multidimensional and inclusive and contains an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasising the quality of that access.

The Leaders noted that **increasing misuse of ICTs for terrorist purposes poses a threat to international peace and security**. The Leaders emphasised the need to enhance international cooperation against terrorist and criminal misuse of ICTs. The Leaders will continue to work together for the adoption of the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States. The Leaders recognised that the states have the leading role to ensure stability and security in the use of ICTs.

The Leaders advocated for an open, non-fragmented and secure Internet, and reaffirm that the Internet is a global resource and that States should participate on an equal footing in its evolution and functioning, taking into account the need to involve relevant stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities.

The Leaders recognised the importance of energy-saving and energy-efficiency for ensuring sustainable economic development and welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in this regard.

Energy :

The Leaders recognised the **challenge of scaling-up power generation and its efficient distribution**, as well as the **need to scale up low carbon fuels and other clean energy solutions**. The Leaders further recognise the level of investments needed in renewable energy in this regard. The Leaders therefore believe that international cooperation in this field be **focused on access to clean energy technology and finance**. The Leaders further noted the **significance of clean energy in achieving Sustainable Development Goals**. The Leaders recognised that **sustainable development, energy access, and energy security are critical to the shared prosperity and future of the planet**. The Leaders acknowledged that **clean and renewable energy needs to be affordable to all**.

The Leaders supported a wider use of natural gas as an economically efficient and clean fuel to promote sustainable development as well as to reduce the greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Health :

The Leaders noted that BRICS countries face challenges of **communicable diseases including HIV and Tuberculosis**. The Leaders underlined the imperative to advance cooperation and action on HIV and TB in the BRICS countries, including in the production of quality-assured drugs and diagnostics.

Recognising global health challenges, the Leaders emphasised the importance of cooperation among BRICS countries in **promoting research and development of medicines and diagnostic tools to end epidemics and to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines**.

The Leaders welcomed the **High Level meeting on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)** during United Nations General Assembly Session (UNGA-71), which addresses the **serious threat that AMR poses to public health, growth and global economic stability**. The Leaders will seek to identify possibilities for cooperation among health and/or regulatory authorities, with a view to share best practices and discuss challenges, as well as identifying potential areas for convergence.

The Leaders reaffirmed **commitment to promote a long-term and balanced demographic development and continue cooperation on population related matters in accordance with the Agenda for BRICS Cooperation on Population Matters for 2015-2020**.

Employment :

The Leaders welcomed the outcomes of the meetings of BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers held on 9 June 2016 in Geneva and on September 27 and 28, 2016 in New Delhi. The Leaders take note of the possibility of bilateral Social Security Agreements between BRICS countries, and of the commitment to take steps to establish a network of lead labour research and training institutes, so as to encourage capacity building, information exchange and sharing of best practices amongst BRICS countries. The Leaders recognised **quality employment, including a Decent Work Agenda, sustaining social protection and enhancing rights at work, are core to inclusive and sustainable development.**

Education :

The Leaders welcome the outcomes of the fourth BRICS Education Ministers' meeting held on 30 September 2016 in New Delhi, including the New Delhi Declaration on Education. The Leaders **stressed the importance of education and skills for economic development, and reaffirm the need for universal access to high-quality education.** The Leaders are satisfied with the progress of the **BRICS Network University (BRICSNU)** as well as the **BRICS University League (BRICSUL)**, which will commence their programmes in 2017. **These two initiatives will facilitate higher education collaboration and partnerships across the BRICS countries.**

Science and Technology, Innovation :

The Leaders welcome the outcomes of the fourth BRICS Science and Technology, Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting held on 8 October 2016, wherein they adopted the Jaipur Declaration and endorsed the updated Work Plan (2015-2018) **aimed at strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation, especially leveraging young scientific talent for addressing societal challenges; creating a networking platform for BRICS young scientists; co-generating new knowledge and innovative products, services and processes; and addressing common global and regional socio-economic challenges utilising shared experiences and complementarities.**

The Leaders stress the importance of implementation of the **BRICS Research and Innovation Initiative.** The Leaders welcomed the hosting of the first BRICS Young Scientists Conclave in India, instituting of BRICS Innovative Idea Prize for Young Scientists.

The Leaders welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Working Group on Research Infrastructure,

and Mega-Science to reinforce the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network (BRICS-GRAIN).

Agriculture :

The Leaders welcome the outcomes of the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, held on 23 September 2016, including the Joint Declaration. The Leaders **emphasised the importance of ensuring food security, and addressing malnutrition, eliminating hunger, inequality and poverty through increased agricultural production, productivity, sustainable management of natural resources and trade in agriculture among the BRICS countries.** As the world's leading producers of agriculture products and home to large populations, the Leaders emphasised the importance of **BRICS cooperation in agriculture.**

To further intensify cooperation among BRICS countries in agricultural research policy, science and technology, innovation and capacity building, including technologies for small-holder farming in the BRICS countries, the Leaders welcomed the signing of the MoU for Establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform.

Considering the dependence of agriculture on water, the Leaders called upon the development of infrastructure for irrigation to assist farmers in building resilience during times of drought and welcome sharing of experiences and expertise in these areas.

Usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) :

The Leaders affirmed that the value of sharing expertise and experiences among BRICS countries with regard to **usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in e-governance, financial inclusion, and targeted delivery of benefits, e-commerce, open government, digital content and services and bridging the digital divide.** The Leaders supported efforts aimed at **capacity building for effective participation in e-commerce trade to ensure shared benefits.**

Climate Change :

The Leaders welcomed the adoption of the **Paris Agreement anchored in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),** and its signing by a large number of countries on 22 April 2016. The Leaders emphasised that the **comprehensive, balanced and ambitious nature of the Paris Agreement reaffirms the principles of UNFCCC including the**

principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances (CBDR & RC).

The Leaders welcomed the Paris Agreement and its imminent entry into force on 4 November 2016. The Leaders **called on the developed countries to fulfil their responsibility towards providing the necessary financial resources, technology and capacity building assistance to support the developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.**

Gender Equality and Empowerment :

The Leaders **reiterated the commitments to gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls as contained in the 2030 Agenda.** The Leaders recognised that **women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledge that their equal and inclusive participation and contribution is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets.** The Leaders emphasised the importance of enhancing accountability for the implementation of these commitments.

Youth :

Cognizant of the potential and diversity of youth population in our countries, their needs and aspirations, the Leaders welcome the outcomes of the **BRICS Youth Summit in Guwahati** including, "Guwahati BRICS Youth Summit 2016 Call to Action" that recognise the importance of education, employment, entrepreneurship, and skills training for them to be socially and economically empowered.

Urbanisation :

As home to **43% of the world population and among the fastest urbanising societies,** the Leaders recognised the **multi-dimensional challenges and opportunities of urbanisation.** The Leaders affirmed engagement in the process that will lead to adoption of a **New Urban Agenda by the Conference of the United Nations on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III(Quito, 17-20 October, 2016).**

The Leaders welcome the BRICS Urbanisation Forum, BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave, held in Visakhapatnam on 14-16 September 2016, and in Mumbai on 14-16 April 2016, respectively, which contributed to fostering increased engagements between our cities and stakeholders. The Leaders **called for enhanced cooperation with regard to strengthening urban governance, making our cities safe and inclusive, improving urban**

transport, financing of urban infrastructure and building sustainable cities.

BRICS Background :

BRICS brings together **five major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), comprising 43% of the world population, having 30% of the world GDP and 17% share in the world trade.**

The acronym **BRIC** was first used in 2001 by **Goldman Sachs** in their Global Economics Paper, "The World Needs Better Economic BRICs" on the basis of econometric analyses projecting that the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China would individually and collectively occupy far greater economic space and would be amongst the world's largest economies in the next 50 years or so.

As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in 2006. The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in 2006. The 1st BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on June 16, 2009.

It was **agreed to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010.** Accordingly, **South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya, China on April 14, 2011.**

Seven BRICS Summits have taken place so far. The 8th BRICS Summit was hosted by India in 2016. The earlier Summits were held as under :

1st BRIC Summit - 16 June 2009 in Russia (Yekaterinburg)

2nd BRIC Summit - 16 April 2010 in Brazil (Brasilia)

3rd BRICS Summit - 14 April 2011 in China (Sanya)

4th BRICS Summit - 29 March 2012 in India (New Delhi)

5th BRICS Summit - 26-27 March 2013 in South Africa (Durban)

6th BRICS Summit - 14-16 July 2014 in Brazil (Fortaleza)

7th BRICS Summit - 8-9 July 2015 in Russia (Ufa)

Starting **essentially with economic issues of mutual interest,** the agenda of BRICS meetings has **considerably widened over the years to**

encompass topical global issues. BRICS cooperation has two pillars - consultation on issues of mutual interest through meetings of Leaders as well as of Ministers of Finance, Trade, Health, S&T, Education, Agriculture, Communication, Labour, etc. and practical cooperation in a number of areas through meetings of Working Groups/Senior Officials. Regular annual Summits as well as meetings of Leaders on the margins of G20 Summits are held.

NAM:

XVII Non-Aligned Movement Summit Held in Margarita, Venezuela

The Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, gathered in the **Island of Margarita**, Venezuela, for the XVII Conference Summit, on September 17 and 18 2016, under the theme '**Peace, Sovereignty and Solidarity for Development**'. At the end of the Conference, a Declaration was issued which contained following details.

1. Strengthening and Revitalization of the Movement :

The Leaders **reaffirmed their full and decisive support to the consolidation, strengthening and revitalization of the Non-Aligned Movement.**

2. Strengthening International Peace and Security :

The Leaders reiterated that they will continue to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with Article 2 and Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Leaders further rejected the illegal policies of regime change aimed at overthrowing constitutional Governments, in contravention of international law. Furthermore, they stressed that overcoming conflicts and the achievement of a firm and lasting peace requires a holistic approach that addresses the structural causes of conflicts, in order to realize the **three pillars** of the United Nations: **peace and security, development and human rights.**

3. Disarmament and International Security :

The Leaders reaffirmed their intention to redouble efforts towards eliminating the threat posed to the human species the existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this regard, they resolved to work to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The Leaders also resolved to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the

commitments reached during the Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in 1995, and its subsequent meetings.

The Leaders also **called for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament**, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their **possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction with a specified time frame.** The Leaders further reiterated the sovereign right of countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes keeping in view their independence and economic development.

4. Human Rights :

The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the **promotion and protection of all human rights**, which are **universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, through a constructive and cooperative international dialogue**, capacity building, technical assistance and the recognition of good practices, while ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development as a an inalienable, fundamental and universal right, and as a comprehensive part of universally recognised human rights, in order to build collective and sustainable peace and prosperity across the world.

The Leaders highlight the historical significance of the adoption of the **Declaration of the Right to Development** thirty years ago, which was promoted by the Non-Aligned Movement, and which requires a profound change in the international economic structure, including the creation of economic and social conditions that are favourable to developing countries. Likewise, the Leaders expressed once again that human rights should be strengthened by adhering to the **fundamental principles of universality, transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity, non-politicization and objectivity** while seeking to realize the human rights for all, pursuant to the principles contained in the **Vienna Declaration of 1993.**

5. Terrorism :

The Leaders **reiterated that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.** Hence, the Leaders reaffirmed their firm condemnation of terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations, whatever their motivations, wherever and by whomsoever they are committed. The Leaders further condemned the destruction of cultural heritage and religious

sites, as well as the commission of crimes against humanity by terrorist groups, among others, on the basis of their religion or beliefs.

Likewise, the Leaders recognized the threat posed nowadays by this despicable scourge, particularly the activities carried out by terrorist groups such as the **Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIS (Da'esh) and its affiliated entities, Jabhat Al Nusra, Boko Haram and Al Shabbaab.**

The Leaders considered that the adoption of a future **Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism** could complement the set of existing international legal instruments, including the implementation of the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.**

In addition, the Leaders reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counterterrorism measures that include, inter alia, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy.

6. Dialogue Among Civilizations:

The Leaders **stressed the importance of promoting respect for religious, social and cultural diversity, in order to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect between societies and nations, through intercultural, interreligious and inter-civilizations dialogue.** The Leaders also recognized the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the valuable contribution they can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind, as well as to **the promotion of economic and social development, peace and security.**

7. Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine :

The Leaders **reaffirmed once again that the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, constitutes a destabilising factor in the region,** and as such they demanded the withdrawal of the Occupying Power from those territories occupied since June 1967, in accordance with resolutions 242, and 338 as well as other relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Leaders reiterated that the continued injustice against the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation and its related policies and practices, including, the construction and expansion of settlements, the demolition of houses, the acts of collective punishment against the civilian population, impris-

onment and detention of thousands of civilians, and the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, are the main source of the violation of human rights of the Palestinian people. The Leaders called on the parties to exert all efforts to resume and support a credible peace process, based on the longstanding terms of reference and parameters, with a view to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace that is based on a two-State solution, with secure and internationally recognised pre-1967 borders, bearing in mind the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Leaders sought a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian refugees cause in accordance with resolution 194 of the UN General Assembly and the Arab Peace Initiative, in a way that preserves security, stability and peace of all the countries in the region.

8. Reform of the United Nations :

The Leaders **reiterated the need to recover and strengthen the authority of the General Assembly as the most democratic, accountable, universal and representative body of the Organization.** The Leaders further called for the reform of the Security Council, in order to transform it into a more democratic, effective, efficient, transparent and representative body, and in line with contemporary geo-political realities.

9. Peacekeeping Operations :

The Leaders reaffirmed that **peacekeeping operations must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter,** and emphasized that respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, are key elements of the joint efforts in the promotion of international peace and security. In this regard, the Leaders reiterated that the respect to the **basic principles of peacekeeping; namely, consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence,** is essential for the success of peacekeeping operations. The Leaders also took note of the reports of the High-Level Independent Panel and the Secretary General on UN Peace Operations and of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, and, in this regard, while emphasizing the importance of close consultation and coordination in the implementation of relevant recommendations.

10. Sustainable Development Goals :

The Leaders reiterated that their will to work towards the full implementation of the **2030**

Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind, remembering that the Agenda is based on people and is universal and transformative. Likewise, they reiterated the need to fulfil the Agenda's **17 Sustainable Development Goals and its 169 targets** for all nations and peoples, and for all sectors of society, in an integrated and indivisible manner, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Likewise, the Leaders reiterated that **ending poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development** and, in this sense, they reaffirmed all the principles recognized in the Agenda, particularly the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities**. The Leaders further **underlined the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments regarding the provision of finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries, in order to ensure the global realization of Sustainable Development Goals**.

The Leaders also reiterated their support to **strengthening the multilateral trading system** so as to provide and enabling environment for development, by ensuring a level playing field for developing countries in international trade, which is **an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction**, while also contributing to the promotion of sustainable development. In this regard, the Leaders reaffirmed their determination to move forward within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda, taking into account the developmental needs of developing countries. The Leaders further underlined the importance of increasing Aid for Trade and capacity building, in order to strengthen the participation of developing countries in the Global Value Chain and promote regional economic integration and interconnectivity.

11. Promotion of Education, Science and Technology for Development :

The Leaders **reaffirmed their commitment to combat illiteracy as a way to contribute to overcoming poverty and social exclusion**, while noting that **education is an inalienable human right** that must include all sectors of society. In this regard, the Leaders stressed that the **use of science and technology is essential to address the development challenges of countries of the South**. Hence, the transfer of technology from developed countries, on favorable terms, is crucial to ensure the sustainable development, for the benefit of all peoples of the world.

12. Climate Change :

The Leaders reaffirmed that **climate change is one of the greatest challenges of their times and expressed profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to raise globally**. The Leaders expressed concern about the increased adverse impacts of climate change, particularly on developing countries, which are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, the Leaders reiterated the concerns and particularities of all developing countries, based on the provisions of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, particularly in relation to the implementation of the **principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities**, and in light of the historic responsibilities of developed countries. Hence, the Leaders **urged the developed countries to fulfill their commitments of providing finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries**.

13. Economic Governance :

The Leaders reaffirmed that the **reform of the international financial architecture requires the democratization of the decision-making institutions of Bretton Woods (IMF and World Bank)**. Therefore, it is necessary to **widen and strengthen the level of participation of developing countries in the international decision and economic law making processes** and in the governance of a new world economic order. In this regard, the Leaders **urged for transparent and more opened multilateral development banks and international finance organizations or agencies**. Furthermore, the Leaders expressed concern on the negative impact that tax havens can have on the world economy, in particular on developing countries.

14. South-South Cooperation :

The Leaders reiterated that **South-South Cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for the sustainable development of their peoples, as a complement and not as a substitute to the North-South Cooperation**, which allows for the transfer of appropriate technologies, in favourable conditions and preferential terms. In this regard, the Leaders **reaffirmed that South-South Cooperation is an expression of solidarity and cooperation among the peoples and countries of the South**, which contributes to their national wellbeing, guided by the principles of **respect for sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in the internal affairs, and mutual benefit**.

15. International Solidarity :

The Leaders recognized that the **response of the international community to pandemics that constitute a threat to public health and to various natural disasters is an example to follow in terms of solidarity and international cooperation.** In this sense, the Leaders highlighted the efforts of the international community to counter and eradicate the spread of various pandemics, among them the **Ebola**, as well as for confronting the aftermath of natural disasters around the world.

16. Refugees and Migrants :

The Leaders welcomed the convening of the High Level Meeting to address **large movements of refugees and migrants** in New York to discuss responses to this growing global phenomenon that mainly affects women and children.

The Leaders acknowledged the **acute humanitarian emergencies resulting from the high number of refugees, mainly due to the conflicts created in the territories different Member States of the Movement.** The Leaders further stressed the **importance of translating political statements into tangible support to countries affected the most by this phenomenon as well as, the need to assist the host countries and communities.**

The Leaders also **acknowledged the historical contribution of international migration to nations from an economic, political, social and cultural perspective** and, in this regard, they reaffirmed the responsibility of Governments, at all levels, to safeguard and protect the rights of migrants in accordance with international and domestic laws.

17. Youth, Women, Peace and Security:

The Leaders recognized the **important role that youth and women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts**, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, the Leaders underscored the need to achieve **full gender equality and the empowerment of women**, including their participation in these processes.

NAM Background :

The collapse of the colonial system after the second world war and the independence struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the emergence of a bipolar world and the formation of two military blocks (NATO and the Warsaw Pact) brought about a new international context that led to the necessity of multilateral coordination fora

between the countries of the South. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was created and founded during this context.

During the early days of the Movement, its actions were a key factor in the decolonization process, which led later to the attainment of freedom and independence by many countries and peoples and to the founding of tens of new sovereign States.

While some meetings with a third-world perspective were held before 1955, historians consider that the Bandung Asian-African Conference is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement. This Conference was held in Bandung on April 18-24, 1955 and gathered 29 Heads of States belonging to the first post-colonial generation of leaders from the two continents with the aim of identifying and assessing world issues at the time and pursuing out joint policies in international relations.

The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the "**Ten Principles of Bandung**", were proclaimed at that Conference. Such principles were adopted later as the main goals and objectives of the policy of non-alignment. The fulfillment of those principles became the essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership.

In 1960, in the light of the results achieved in Bandung, the creation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was given a decisive boost during the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly, during which 17 new African and Asian countries were admitted. **A key role was played in this process by the then Heads of State and Government Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, who later became the founding fathers of the movement and its emblematic leaders.**

Six years after Bandung, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was founded on a wider geographical basis at the **First Summit Conference of Belgrade, which was held on September 1-6, 1961.** The Conference was attended by 25 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Cambodia, Srilanka, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia.

The Founders of NAM have preferred to declare it as a movement but not an organization in order to avoid bureaucratic implications of the latter.

The membership criteria formulated during the Preparatory Conference to the Belgrade Summit (Cairo, 1961) show that the Movement was not conceived to play a passive role in international politics but to formulate its own positions in an independent manner so as to reflect the interests of its members.

Thus, the **primary of objectives of the non-aligned countries focused** on the support of self-determination, national independence and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States; opposition to apartheid; non-adherence to multi-lateral military pacts and the independence of non-aligned countries from great power or block influences and rivalries; the struggle against imperialism in all its forms and manifestations; the struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, foreign occupation and domination; disarmament; non-interference into the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence among all nations; rejection of the use or threat of use of force in international relations; the strengthening of the United Nations; the democratization of international relations; socioeconomic development and the restructuring of the international economic system; as well as international cooperation on an equal footing.

Since its inception, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has waged a ceaseless battle to ensure that peoples being oppressed by foreign occupation and domination can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

As one Summit after another was held in the 1960s and 1970s, "non alignment", turned already into the "Movement of Non-Aligned Countries" that included nearly all Asian and African countries, was becoming a forum of coordination to struggle for the respect of the economic and political rights of the developing world. After the attainment of independence, the Conferences expressed a growing concern over economic and social issues as well as over strictly political matters.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries could not spare itself difficulties to act effectively in an **adverse international political situation** marked by **hegemonic positions and unipolarity as well as by internal difficulties and conflicts given the heterogeneity of its membership and, thus, its diverse interests.**

Nevertheless, and in spite of such setbacks, the principles and objectives of non-alignment retain their full validity and force at the present international juncture. The primary condition that led to the emergence of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, that is, non-alignment from antagonistic

blocks, has not lost its validity with the end of the Cold War. According to analysts, the demise of one of the blocks has not done away with the pressing problems of the world. On the contrary, renewed strategic interests bent on domination grow stronger and, even, acquire new and more dangerous dimensions for underdeveloped countries.

Heart of Asia :

Amritsar Heart of Asia Conference

Sixth Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, held at Amritsar in India on December 3 and December 4, 2017, called for

- countering terrorism to create stability in Afghanistan,
- providing connectivity to Afghanistan to strengthen economic activity,
- development of Afghanistan,
- effective counter radicalisation involving all the Heart of Asia countries to prevent terrorism,
- ending the nexus between drug menace and terrorism,
- early finalisation of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism,
- early meeting of experts to discuss a draft regional counter terrorism framework strategy prepared by Afghanistan, and its finalisation,
- expressed concern over violence caused in Afghanistan, and the adjoining region by terrorist groups like Al Qaeda, Daesh, Lashkar-e-Toiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, and
- appreciated regional connectivity efforts like India, Iran and Afghanistan trilateral agreement for developing Chabahar port, and OBOR for connecting China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and their economic development .

Heart of Asia Istanbul Process is an intergovernmental organisation founded in Istanbul, Turkey on November 2, 2011 for achieving regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan and for its near and extended neighbours.

Second Ministerial Conference: Kabul , Afghanistan June 14, 2012

Third Almaty, Kazakstan. April 26, 2013

Fourth Beijing, China. October 31, 2014

Fifth Islamabad, Pakistan. December 4, 2015

Sixth Amritsar, India. December 4, 2016

Participating Countries of Heart of Asia:

1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

2. Republic of Azerbaijan
3. People's Republic of China
4. Republic of India
5. Islamic Republic of Iran
6. Republic of Kazakhstan
7. Kyrgyz Republic
8. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
9. Russian Federation
10. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
11. Republic of Tajikistan
12. Republic of Turkey
13. Republic of Turkmenistan
14. United Arab Emirates

Supporting Countries :

1. Commonwealth of Australia
2. Canada
3. Kingdom of Denmark
4. Arab Republic of Egypt
5. European Union
6. French Republic
7. Republic of Finland
8. Federal Republic of Germany
9. Republic of Iraq
10. Italian Republic
11. Japan
12. Kingdom of Norway
13. Republic of Poland
14. Kingdom of Spain
15. Kingdom of Sweden
16. United Kingdom
17. United States of America

Supporting Organizations:

UNO, SAARC, EU, SCO, NATO, OIC Etc.

ASEAN :

30th ASEAN Summit, 2017 at Manila, Philippines

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World" was the theme of 30th Summit of Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) held from April 26 to 29, 2017 at Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

The theme envisions an integrated, peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN Community that actively takes a leading role as a regional and a global player in securing security, sustainable economic growth and socio cultural development in Southeast Asia and also in the world.

During the Summit meetings, discussions were held on the implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and views were exchanged on regional and international issues and future directions of ASEAN.

On April 29, 2017, the Summit of Heads of State/ Government of ASEAN was held under Chairmanship Rodrigo Duterte, the President of Philippines, wherein ASEAN Declaration on the Role of the Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 was signed. Thus, the Summit recognised the significance of the civil service as the backbone of good governance in the region, and its critical mission in providing vital public services to the people of ASEAN.

Preparatory meetings were held from April 26 to 28, 2017 among Foreign Ministers, Representatives of both public and private industrial enterprises, etc. of the member nations preceding the Summit of ASEAN leaders on April 29, 2017.

With regard to the politically contentious issues concerning the region, the Summit expressed concerns about the recent launching of missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads by North Korea and urged North Korea to comply with international obligations. Further, mentioning of South China Sea tangle vis-à-vis the role of China was not highlighted as expected initially.

It is to be noted that ASEAN Community Vision 2025 is a decision taken by the Leaders of ASEAN at the 23rd Summit in November 2013 to realise a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN.

ASEAN was established in Bangkok, Thailand on August 8, 1967 with five member countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Subsequently, ASEAN has expanded its membership with the inclusion of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Thus, the ten Member States are working for the goal of bringing more opportunities and benefits to the peoples in the region. The ASEAN Summit is ASEAN's highest policy-making body convened every year. The chairmanship rotates annually based on the alphabetical order of the member states' English names. It is to be noted that the present Summit is coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN.