



DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OF THE BRICS COUNTRIES

on Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution through Capacity Building in Mediation and Arbitration

We, the BRICS Ministers of Justice, convened under the Chairship of India, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, during 21-22 May, 2026, agreed to continue dialogue and cooperation on key legal, institutional and related issues of mutual interest among member countries:

Noting the Kazan Declaration of 2024, adopted following the XVI BRICS Summit, in which the Leaders of the BRICS countries recognised the need of deepening cooperation in the field of justice within the BRICS framework;

Considering an increasingly interconnected global economy, efficient and reliable dispute resolution mechanisms are essential for ensuring legal certainty, strengthening investor confidence, and facilitating international trade and investment. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including mediation and arbitration, have gained prominence as effective means of resolving disputes in a timely, flexible, and cost-effective manner while complementing formal judicial processes;

Given the possibility of having deeper cooperation in the area of institutional arbitration, the BRICS countries take note of the need to further discuss and deliberate on its ways and means;

Taking into account that the ADR frameworks and professional capacities can contribute significantly to improving access to justice and supporting a predictable legal environment conducive to economic cooperation and sustainable development;

Recognizing that the BRICS platform holds significant potential to strengthen multilateral legal cooperation by facilitating the exchange of legal research, best practices, comparative legislative developments, and targeted training programmes for stakeholders nominated by the respective member countries;



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Acknowledging that the digitalization and innovation in ADR by use of technology driven platforms, namely, mobile apps, video and tele-conferencing etc. thereby supporting access to speedy and amicable settlement of disputes;

Encouraging BRICS countries to advance ADR as an accessible, cost-effective, and people-centric mechanism, particularly for the marginalized and financially disadvantaged people;

Reaffirming that capacity-building initiatives including training programmes, professional exchanges, joint workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms can play a vital role in enhancing the skills of stakeholders including Government Legal Officers, Mediators, Arbitrators, Judges, and Legal Professionals while strengthening institutional ecosystems for dispute resolution;

We, the Ministers of Justice of the BRICS countries, have accordingly agreed as follows:

1. To promote dialogue and cooperation among BRICS countries on strengthening ADR frameworks, particularly mediation and arbitration.
2. To facilitate the exchange of best practices, policy approaches, and institutional experiences in dispute resolution mechanisms.
3. To strengthen cooperation in ADR which provides valuable opportunities for sharing legislative and institutional experiences, strengthening professional capacity, and promoting collaboration among arbitration institutions, mediation centres, and training institutions across member countries.



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4. To encourage capacity-building initiatives and professional training programmes for stakeholders including Government Legal Officers, Mediators, Arbitrators, Judges, and Legal Professionals.
5. To enhance capacity building through cooperation amongst judicial academies for promoting court-referred mediation, subject to national legislation.
6. To promote pre-litigation mediation, including awareness of the option.
7. To explore the role of digital technologies in enhancing accessibility and efficiency in dispute resolution.
8. To support greater cooperation in addressing cross-border commercial disputes, thereby strengthening legal certainty and investor confidence.
