Transcript of Special Press Briefing on the 18th BRICS Summit

September 13, 2026

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this special press conference on the 18th BRICS Summit.

We have with us Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Sudhakar Dalela. He will give you an update, go through the developments of the day, and to assist him with this briefing, we also have with us Shri Shambhu Hakki, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs who looks after BRICS and other subjects related to Multilateral Economic Relations.

With that, I turn it over to Secretary (ER) for his initial comments, after which we'll take some questions from the floor. Sir.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Well, good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining us as the 18th BRICS Summit draws to a close. Thank you very much, Randhir, for convening this wrap-up media session.

Let me take you through the proceedings of today, the second and concluding day of the summit, and then place today's outcomes in the context of India's chairship as a whole.

Today's proceeding, the open session held on the theme 'Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth'. The session was preceded by a family photograph of all participating leaders. This was the outreach segment of the summit, bringing together member countries, partner countries, outreach invitees, and the heads of international and regional organizations into a conversation over our common priorities.

The theme was chosen to flow directly from India's chairship theme: 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', and from the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Humanity First' approach. The emphasis throughout was on growth that is inclusive and that carries the Global South with it rather than around it.

The Prime Minister of India, as Chair, opened the session with welcome remarks and a national statement. This was followed by statements by leaders of member countries, leaders of partner countries, the outreach invitees, and the heads of international and regional organizations, in that order. The session also received the reports of the BRICS Business Council and BRICS Women's Business Alliance to bring the voice of

business, and particularly of women in business, directly before leaders.

Prime Minister delivered the closing remarks of the summit at the conclusion of the open session. In his closing remarks, Honorable Prime Minister extended his best wishes to President Xi Jinping as the next host of BRICS for 2027 and thanked all delegations and their teams for the success of the New Delhi BRICS Summit.

Taken together, the two days were structured to do two distinct things: yesterday's closed session allowed members to speak directly and candidly on global governance and multilateralism, and to adopt the New Delhi Declaration. Today's open session carried that consensus outward to the wider BRICS family and partners from the Global South.

As I mentioned earlier, apart from member countries and ten partner countries, we had invited outreach countries, namely the President of the African Union- the President of Burundi, the President of the Philippines who is currently the Chair of ASEAN, the current Chair of CELAC- Uruguay and the Chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council- Bahrain. International organizations and big institutions which included the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Directors-General of WHO, WTO, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the President of the New Development Bank, and AIIB. And as I mentioned, the Chairs of the BRICS Business Council and BRICS Women's Business Alliance also addressed the session.

In his statement, Honorable Prime Minister welcomed leaders to what he called the 'extended BRICS family'. Observing that the hall was bringing together different continents, cultures, and development journeys, he set out how India had organized the chairship around the four pillars of resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability, and how a shared vision had been turned into a win-win cooperation. He went on to highlight some key achievements around these four pillars, and I am sure all of you have been given a copy of a factsheet in which we have listed out, if not all, some key outcomes around these four pillars.

Honorable Prime Minister's central message on inclusive growth was that solutions developed in BRICS should not remain confined to BRICS; they must be made adaptable and accessible to the needs of the Global South. He underlined that as BRICS enters its third decade, the world expects from it not just ideas and commitments, but concrete results.

I would like to also underline that in this open session today, India's priorities found strong support across the summit from all the leaders, members, partners, and outreach countries. Leaders complimented the manner in which India, as Chair of BRICS, conducted meetings throughout the year, noting the convening of over 350

meetings and engagements across some 30 cities in India at various levels. The New Delhi Declaration, of course, records this aspect very, very clearly.

There was broad convergence on India's central proposition: that BRICS must be practical, actionable, and people-centric, rather than declaratory; that it must speak for the Global South in the reform of global governance; that terrorism must be condemned without qualification; and that BRICS cooperation must deliver visible outcomes in sectors such as health, food security, energy, digital public infrastructure, and disaster resilience.

Partner countries and outreach countries in particular welcomed the fact that India used this chairship to widen participation rather than narrow it, and several leaders spoke of the 'BRICS at 20' milestone as a moment to consolidate what the grouping has built over two decades.

If there is one point I would leave you with, it is that India's chairship has focused on deliverables. The summit has endorsed a substantial package of outcomes across our four priority pillars. As I mentioned, I had illustrated a few outcomes yesterday, and subsequently, we have, of course, released the factsheet. There are concrete, over 50 outcomes across various thematic tracks, which is a significant achievement of India's chairship this year.

I think equally important is also what happened outside the negotiating rooms. India used the chairship year to take BRICS to its people, and to the young people in particular. Our youth engagement included the BRICS Youth Summit and Youth Council at Gandhinagar, the Young Scientists Forum was held in Bengaluru, and the Young Diplomats Forum was held in New Delhi. There was also a good focus on women engagement through the dedicated Women Working Group and priorities across other cross-cutting tracks. These outcomes included a digital repository of best practices on women empowerment, women's participation as one of the four priority areas of the CONNECT platform, and the report of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance presented to leaders this afternoon.

Sports was another area of people-to-people connectivity: the BRICS traditional and indigenous sports demonstration games at Ahmedabad, a new working group on sports technology, and the BRICS Run and Ride in New Delhi linking the BRICS community to the Fit India Movement are some of the mechanisms through which these engagements are being taken forward.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention the cultural dimension and cultural engagement among the BRICS countries. The cultural festival was held in Bhopal earlier this year. We are going to have a film festival in Goa in November; there is a

theater festival going to happen in Delhi; we had a WAVES Bazaar in Mumbai; and right now, we are having the BRICS Bazaar in the Crafts Museum. Also, yesterday evening at the dinner hosted by the Honorable Prime Minister, there was a BRICS Symphony—a music collaborative involving artists from BRICS nations was performed, and was very much appreciated by all the leaders and participants.

So, I would say that the BRICS chairship has also allowed us to showcase India's rich cultural heritage, has helped cultural exchanges between BRICS countries, and has provided a valuable platform to our civil society actors, including academia and think tanks, to contribute with ideas and inputs as to what BRICS can do more going forward.

Apart from that, the Honorable Prime Minister had several bilateral engagements, and I am sure you would have seen the press releases issued by our XP Division giving some details about these bilateral engagements.

So, this is the second day of the summit. Of course, the summit has been concluded. Yesterday, we had given you a detailed sort of feedback on what happened in the first session, and I'm sure you have had time to study the New Delhi Declaration. We are very happy, and it was a privilege to host all the member countries—leaders from member countries, partner countries, outreach countries, and international organizations—for this 18th BRICS Summit. We have got tremendous collaboration and support from every delegation, and as a result of that only we could develop a set of outcomes which our leaders have endorsed yesterday in the New Delhi Declaration.

With these words, I would be happy to take a few questions, Randhir, if there are any. Thank you.

Sidhant, WION: Hi, sir. I'm Sidhant from WION. My question is, you mentioned about the outreach countries which were invited. How did India select these outreach countries? And also, when it comes to the BIMSTEC chair, Bangladesh, what was the status? Who represented Bangladesh, or there was no one present in the room from the Bangladeshi side?

Sarjana Sharma, Sanmarg: Namaskar, sir. Main Sarjana Sharma hoon Sanmarg se. Aapne jab G20 tha tab bhi humne UN reforms aur relevance ki baat ki thi. Abhi bhi jo aapka 13th point hai, usme bhi aapne pura agenda kiya hai ki reform hona chahiye, relevance ho 21st century ka aur women General Secretary banni chahiye. Aur jo Asia, Africa aur Latin countries ko bhi equal representation milna chahiye. Toh aap jab reforms aur relevance ki baat karte hain, G20 mein bhi ki thi, toh in teen saal mein kya un logon se jinke jinko aap yeh kehna chahte hain, unse koi baat hui ya unhone ispar koi apni sehmati jatayi?

Aur doosra yeh ki kya South Global jo humne banaya G20 mein, kya hum aisa koi apne is South Global ka isi tarah ka UN jaisa koi sangathan banane ki bhoomika taiyyar kar rahe hain?

[Approximate Translation: Question in Hindi] *Namaskar, sir. I am Sarjana Sharma from Sanmarg. We had discussed UN reforms and the relevance of the United Nations during the G20 as well. Even now, in point 13 of the declaration, you have laid out a comprehensive agenda calling for reforms, making the UN more relevant to the 21st century, and having a woman as the Secretary-General. You have also called for equal representation for Asia, Africa, and Latin American countries. So, when you talk about reforms and relevance, as you did at the G20, have there been any discussions with the countries or people to whom you have been making this appeal over the past three years? Have they expressed any agreement or support on this issue?*

And secondly, regarding the Global South that we brought together through the G20, are we preparing to play a role in creating an organization for the Global South along the lines of the United Nations?

Unidentified Speaker: India has described this summit as a step towards a more just and multipolar world. And then the New Delhi Declaration has called for reform of global institutions, the greater Global South representation, the more use of local currencies, etc. As India hands the BRICS chair to China, as it's just happened, what is one concrete change that you say that India has delivered through its 2026 chairmanship that will still be measurable in 5, 10 years' time?

Unidentified Speaker, CGTN: Thank you very much. I'm a journalist from Chinese CGTN. It was the first time in seven years that Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India and attended the BRICS Summit, and also had bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And how does India assess the outcomes of the bilateral talks, and in what specific areas can we expect a concrete cooperation or progress in the future? Thank you.

Amrit: Sir, the Prime Minister referred to, you know, weaponization of technology and critical minerals. Was there a talk about the BRICS cooperating on that, and what was the sense in the room?

Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER): Thank you very much for these questions. Let me attempt to respond and answer. The first question was about the outreach countries. I think one common thread in the discussion both yesterday and today was as to how BRICS can come up with outcomes and deliverables which are relevant for Global South in general. And in that context, it is in that spirit in terms of the BRICS grouping, nature of BRICS grouping and its membership, it was felt that perhaps it

would be a good idea to reach out to other continents and invite the country chairs of the developing country groupings such as ASEAN, African Union, CELAC in Latin American and Caribbean region, and also Gulf Cooperation Council and BIMSTEC, and see and share with them what BRICS is all about, what are we doing within the BRICS grouping, and we try to sort of understand what are their expectations.

As Honorable Prime Minister mentioned in his intervention that we should be very well aware of what are the aspirations of Global South, and then only we can articulate them at the global stage effectively to meet the aspirations of the Global South. So, from that perspective, we chose these few country chairs of these organizations. BIMSTEC chair was also invited, as I had mentioned earlier.

In terms of UN Security Council reform and Global South, I think you're right that BRICS has maintained a very consistent position on the need for UN reforms, reforms of institutional financial institutions. And we have discussed that aspect during the course of this year and at this summit. And what BRICS has agreed to has been captured in the Leaders' Declaration issued yesterday.

In terms of the next chair, as to what will flow the next year, I think I had tried to mention yesterday that what we have tried to do is there is a lot a lot of focus in BRICS on continuity. While every chair tries to bring up new issues and new initiatives which are relevant for all BRICS nations, but there is also an emphasis on consolidation and continuity. All of you know that there are three verticals, three pillars of collaboration under BRICS. One is political and security, the second is economic and financial, and third is culture and people-to-people engagement. And we did attempt, under the overall theme of Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, we developed number of initiatives and outcomes which we felt that BRICS can benefit to collaborate going forward. And as a result, as you know, we have number of outcomes around those four pillars.

I think one important thing about those outcomes is that they are not one-off event that you sign an MoU and then you tend to forget about it. They are essentially platforms, frameworks, guidelines, which will continue to sort of generate engagement as we go forward in the third decade of BRICS. So to answer your question, I think we have a number of concrete, practical, development-oriented outcomes and we have mechanisms to pursue them. And I'm very confident that the incoming chair and thereafter, these ideas will be pursued. We will certainly, as India, would like to have more engagement with our BRICS nations going forward.

I think in terms of bilateral meeting, there was a question on bilateral meetings. I think we have already issued press releases and we have given you a gist of what was discussed between the leaders, so I don't think I would like to add anything to that at

this stage.

There was a question about critical minerals. Yes, critical minerals is an important area for collaboration. There was some discussion about this matter during India's BRICS chairship, and we have some reference to this collaboration also in the New Delhi Declaration. My colleague is suggesting me that in para 67, we have discussed about the role of supply chains and how critical mineral cooperation can be pursued for the benefit of all BRICS members. Thank you.

Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson: With that, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the close of this press briefing. Thank you very much for your presence and thank you for being with us in the 18th BRICS Summit hosted here in India, in New Delhi. Thank you very much.

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