**The BRICS meet: All about the discussions!**

The BRICS Ministers discussed on several regional and international issues in various spheres like trade, security, sustainable and financial development, politics, and economics, and also reviewed BRICS’s activities and progress. The meet was a virtual one and was held on 4th September, on Friday. The ministers also discussed mutual supports and cooperation and initiatives at the UN General Assembly’s 75ths session.

Brazil, China, South Africa, and India, all supported the Russia in 12th BRICS Summit’s hosting in autumn 2020. They are also committed to working together for the best results.

**75th anniversary of UN:**

In 2020, it is the 75th anniversary for both- the founding of the UN and the end of World War II. Ministers supported for the BRICS nations’ cooperation, and extend the same even forward. The supports include continuous exchanges on permanent missions to UN and international aspects. UN was born during World War II’s horrors and terrors, and it was started to save the countries and their citizens from any sort of war.

**International Law and Human Rights:**

The ministers also confirmed their commitments on respecting and following the International Laws including all the principles and purposes preserved in the UN’s Charter. They agreed on ensuring the central role of UN in the international issues and systems, and they ensure maintaining peace, security, sustainable development, human rights protection and promotion, and also a right to fundamental freedom. They added that international organizations must be driven completely by the members and they must promote everyone’s interest.

**The fight with Covid-19:**

Focusing on several severe challenges raised with the Covid-19 pandemic, they restated the need for the preservation of income and jobs, especially for the lower-class citizens. They expressed their condolences for the lost lives and concern for affected people and families. They also extended their gratitude to the health workers.

The members also stated the urgency for the growth and trade’s restoration at the international level and the market stability’s strengthening. They stressed the issue of cooperation among the states too.

Acknowledging the WHO’s role in the pandemic, they stated that there is a need for the member states to contribute to international health security and need to go with the decisive actions including the UN’s framework, and that of the WHO too.

They expected from the international community for the measures to combat the pandemic and identify the right practices ensuring the preparedness at the international level and helping the states in fighting the pandemic. Members also stated the need for the top financial institutions to collaborate during the times of the ongoing crisis.

The members also re-implemented the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals and the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.

**Disarmament:**

Ministers addressed non-proliferation and disarmament’s need for continuous work in the assurance of long term sustainability of activities for outer space.

They also stressed on the need for the binding of multilateral instruments and equipment and prevent weapons’ placing in the outer space or use the forces against the objects of outer space.

**BRICS Co-operation:**

Members also disclosed the need and concern towards the cooperation enhancement with the BRICS members. It is to ensure peaceful purposes through outer space and other external explorations.

**Toxin Weapons:**

The ministers of BRICS emphasized the prohibition of the production and development of the Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons (BTWC) and its stockpiling too. They aim at adopting the protocols for the enhanced verification mechanisms for the same. The confirmed BTWC to be the core instrument for these weapons and the functions that it seeks are the several concerns of the Security Council of the UN.

**Chemical Weapons:**

Ministers confirmed their combined support for the OPCW (Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) and called several parties to the CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention) for preserving its integrity and restoring the consensus’s spirit in OPCW.

**Rising Violence:**

The members of BRICS exhibited their concern towards the growing violence and conflicts across several parts around the globe. These issues have some severe effects and serious impacts. The members stated that irrespective of nature and the backgrounds, the conflicts must be peacefully resolved with negotiations and political dialogues or diplomatic engagements. Everything must follow international laws.

They also talked about the armed conflicts and growing need for more security in Africa and called for several supports aimed at enhancing the security and peace in Africa based on “African solutions to African problems”. They also praised the African Union’s promotion of the initiative of “Silencing Guns by 2020” and stated the importance of better partnerships between the UN and African Union for ensuring international peace and security.

They also expressed concerns about Mali’s situation, and that the UN and African Union must soon restore the order of the constitution. They then called upon all the stakeholders for constructive working along with ECOWAS and ensuring peaceful solutions.

**Racism:**

Ministers also called for the actions against Nazi ideology’s rehabilitation and that of the xenophobia and racism. They called for the growing need for strengthening cooperation internationally for building a better future for all the communities across the globe.

They also exhibited their effort in inclusivity and participation of the international governance with ensured participation of the developing nations in the decision making at the international level.

**Terrorist Attacks:**

The members expressed disapproval for Afghanistan’s recent terrorist activities and called for establishing peace based on successful negotiations supported by the partners. However, they urged on the process to stay Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. Members also supported the negotiations for resolving the issues and ensuring peace.

They confirmed for the commitment aimed at ensuring the prevention of terrorism-related threats and emphasized that states must have responsibility for the eradication of terrorism. They stressed on the need for a balanced approach across the globe for the removal of terrorist activities and associations from their roots.

Ministers also welcomed the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Groups and subgroups for enhancing cooperation in terrorism affected regions and the ones funding them. They also stressed on the global need for the launch of negotiations for suppressing all types of terrorism acts.

**IT and communication:**

The member ministers of BRICS focused on the importance of ICTs (Informational and Communication Technologies) that are secure, open, stable, accessible, diversity-promoter, and peaceful. They also stressed on the global need for the development of ICTs and their security, business, and technical enhancement for safeguarding the state security and interests of the public.

They stressed the UN’s role in promoting the need for security in ICT and agreeing for the states’ responsibilities and principles in these sectors. They also emphasized the establishment of frameworks for legal assistance and cooperation among the states for enhanced security in it.

They also expressed their concern for the ICTs’ criminal misuse and the absence of the frameworks for countering them. Then they also discussed all the possibilities for a legal framework on countering the ICT’s criminal misuses.

**Drug Control:**

Members also acknowledged Anti-Drug Working groups and their importance in drug control measures. They emphasized on three measures and conventions for drug control and the preserving of the drug control system.

**Corruption:**

The member ministers of BRICS committed to promoting the anti-corruption cooperation and movements and strengthening their collaboration. They also encouraged the Anti-corruption Group of BRICS to work on domestic legal systems, anti-corruption law enforcement and related issues, and other related matters.

**World Trade Organization:**

The last matter of discussion was the WTO. The members confirmed their support in ensuring a transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory, and open trading system. They also agreed on the WTO’s importance, and that of its reforms and role in promoting legal certainty, stability, and predictability in the matters of international trade.

This was all that was discussed in the virtual BRICS meet on 4th September 2020.