



**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Keynote address**

**By**

**Dr. Makgathatso charlotte chana pilane-majake**

**Honourable deputy minister for public service administration**

**Republic of south africa**

**On the occasion of the**

**Brics anti-corruption ministerial meeting**

**13 JULY 2022**

**VIRTUAL**

## **PROTOCOLS**

- H.E. Mr. Yang Xiaodu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, Chairman of the National Commission of Supervision of the People's Republic of China & President of BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group;
- H.E. Mr. Wagner de Campos Rosário, Minister of State & Head of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- H.E. Mr. Andrey Chobotov, Head of the Anti-Corruption Directorate of the Executive Office of the President of the Russian Federation;
- H.E. Ms. S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Republic of India;
- H.E. Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna & Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- H.E. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy;
- H.E. Mr. Marcos Troyjo, President of the New Development Bank;
- Distinguished delegates;

### **Greetings to all on the platform**

Mr President, I thank China for convening this first BRICS Ministerial meeting convened after the BRICS Leaders' Summit. We are here as members of the BRICS Countries to affirm our shared desire for a world free of corruption. Corruption threatens social stability, security, fairness and justice. Corruption impedes sustainable development, and undermines the rule of law.

In recognizing the serious threat posed by corruption, BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group has strengthened multilateral coordination, and cooperation. Under the leadership of the rotating presidencies as

currently lead by China, mutual trust among member countries has been enhanced. Shared of knowledge and experience with various International Organisations helped fast track progress. The deliverables of the past BRICS leaders' summits reflected a common vision of intensifying a fight against corruption.

Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism, and other threats to human security to flourish. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) describes corruption as an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. This gathering is our highest level of commitment as BRICS Countries to extend assistance to each other in the prevention and combating of corruption.

BRICS proposes measures to be implemented by States parties to prevent and combat corruption through its mandatory and non-mandatory provisions. The Implementation Review process by States parties must be strengthened to identify challenges in implementation and good practices. South Africa has now completed its second cycle implementation review in 2020. I encourage the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group to use the implementation review reports as a foundation to design its action plan in the fight against corruption.

Mr President, at the fourteenth BRICS Leader's summit, our leaders reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening international cooperation against corruption. They declared that while respecting the legal systems of respective countries that BRICS countries should be committed to strengthening cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption. BRICS

countries must strengthen law enforcement and mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, asset recovery and Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption.

Illicit financial flows erode the integrity of the international financial system and undermine sustainable and inclusive growth. The BRICS Denial of Safe Haven initiative recognizes the serious impact of grand and systemic corruption on our economies and societies. Corruption generates vast amounts of illicit proceeds, creates an environment that fosters other crimes, large-scale tax evasion, transnational organized crime, human and drug trafficking and to a large extent undermines peace.

Brics States parties, have committed to taking decisive, coordinated, and effective action against these threats, in line with existing global commitments on illicit financial flows.

Mr President, BRICS Countries must work towards removing all the obstacles (administrative and otherwise) to cooperation in asset recovery. South Africa's domestic law applies to most requests for assistance in asset recovery case. South Africa has adopted a multidisciplinary approach to the fight against cross-border economic crimes and illicit money flows. This approach includes the following:

- (i) Creation of multidisciplinary law enforcement fusion centre to increase capacity to investigate and recover proceeds of crime
- (ii) Recovery of proceeds of crime from foreign crime syndicate which includes seeking assistance from other jurisdictions to enforce such action and repatriation of funds.
- (iii) Enhance measures for effectiveness detection and seizure of illicit cross-border cash flows at air, sea, and land border points.

South Africa has actively engaged in the development and adoption of BRICS Anti-Corruption ministerial communique that will pave the way to further efforts by BRICS countries in the global fight against corruption.

In 2020, South Africa as guided by the country National Development Plan vision 2030, adopted the National Anti-Corruption Strategy that serves as a blueprint to tackle corruption. The focus of this National Anti-Corruption Strategy is on corruption in both the public and private sectors.

The private sector corruption is often ignored and brushed aside as we concentrate on corruption in the public sector. We get blindsided by the fact that in the public sector it is the public resources that are abused for self-interest forgetting that the private sector colludes with corrupt officials who help siphon off public money out of government through ulterior means that will have been worked into the system. Experience and knowledge sharing with our international partners should further enhance our efforts to fight corruption.

Mr President, education and training is crucial in combating corruption in all sectors. Public education and awareness will effectively assist in prevention and detection of corruption. South Africa welcomes BRICS commitment and cooperation in this regard.

South Africa also welcomes the adoption of the BRICS Anti-Corruption agenda and framework and pledges full commitment and cooperation in implementation of this agenda and framework.

Together we can fight corruption towards total emancipation of BRICS countries.

**I thank you.**

