



## **BRICS TB Research Network**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Charter**

- 1.1 These Terms of Reference establish the management and operational mechanism for the BRICS TB Research Network (hereinafter referred to as 'The Network') and is not intended to confer legal rights or obligations, or impose binding responsibilities on the participants.
- 1.2 Considering the burden of tuberculosis in the BRICS countries and the research capacity that lies within these five countries, the Network was conceived in light of the strong need of rigorous research to develop new tools and inform about the best use of existing and new interventions in TB control.
- 1.3 The Network is an outcome of the BRICS TB Cooperation Plan approved in the 6th Health Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, 2016, and supported by BRICS Heads of States, as agreed in the Xiamen Declaration, 2017.
- 1.4 All activities shall be conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations of BRICS countries and are subject to the availability of human, technical and financial resources.

#### **2. Purpose of the Network**

Promote and conduct collaborative scientific research along the spectrum, from basic to operational, for the development and innovation on diagnostics, vaccines, drugs and regimens, infection control for TB and patient service delivery.

#### **3. Goals**

- 3.1 Identify priorities of scientific research, development and innovation;
- 3.2 Foster the development of new effective, safe and affordable diagnostics and treatment regimens for all forms of TB, accessible to all patients;
- 3.3 Conduct multi-country TB studies for new medical products, vaccines and technologies, regarding feasibility, effectiveness and impact evaluation;
- 3.4 Promote multisectoral research towards achieving universal health access, provide patient-centered care and social protection to achieve the TB targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;

- 3.5 Identify sources and means of financing and support in country capacities for TB research activities, including technology transfer and manufacturing mechanisms;
- 3.6 Provide scientific evidences and findings from joint activities developed by the Network to support TB policies in the BRICS and other countries, as well as international organizations;
- 3.7 Strengthen the collaborations between the BRICS and the WHO for TB control, and promote the WHO End TB Strategy, in particular its pillar 3 'Intensified Research and Innovation';
- 3.8 Strengthen the collaborations between the BRICS TB Research Network and other international organizations and relevant partners to TB control worldwide, including the discussion and work around antimicrobial resistance (AMR) agenda;
- 3.9 Foster the development and implementation of innovative mechanism for R&D guided by the principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

#### **4. Structure**

- 4.1 The Network is composed of representatives from BRICS governments, research, academic and educational institutions;
- 4.2 The planning and monitoring the implementation of the activities will be the responsibility of the Coordinating Body, composed by NTP/ focal point of each country.
- 4.3 Civil society, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders may be granted observer member status;
- 4.4 The Network will meet preferably in person at least once a year, and alternatively via tele or videoconference in order to carry out its work. Discussions and decisions of The Network shall be documented in minutes;
- 4.5 The nomination of participants will be agreed by the BRICS governments, which can reach up to four participants, comprising of the NTP, research and academic/ education institutions;
- 4.6 The Network may create working groups to address specific issues;
- 4.7 The Network shall cooperate by the following means:
  - Exchange of information, experiences and good practices;
  - Organization or participation in events of interest;
  - Development of joint projects;
  - Other forms of cooperation as agreed.
- 4.8 The updates and outcomes of activities delivered by the Network shall be presented in the BRICS Senior Health Officials Meetings for ratification.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 5.1 The BRICS Pro-tempore presidency will be responsible for hosting and providing necessary technical support for the meeting of the Network.
- 5.2 The NTP managers/focal point of each BRICS country are responsible for coordinating the activities carried out nationally;
- 5.3 Representatives from BRICS research and educational/academia institutions are expected to participate, advise and propose activities for the Network.
- 5.4 Civil society, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders may be invited to participate in the Network's activities as observer members, to provide expert opinion and technical and financial assistance.

## **6. Amendment, Modification or Variation**

- 6.1 The present Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the Network, upon agreement by high level officials.
- 6.2 The participants may also agree on the development of additional working documents and annexes to this Terms of Reference on specific matters of interest.