

Resolutions of the Inaugural Meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group

12 December 2015

At the inaugural meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group of senior officials and experts of the governments of Brazil (joined by teleconference), Russia, India, China and South Africa held in Cape Town on 12 December 2015, the following resolutions were agreed:

1. The Working Group took note of the various presentations and broad discussions on policy instruments, innovation and industry developments and opportunities in the BRICS countries at the BRICS Astronomy Workshop that took place on 10 December, and that this was followed by site visits to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) on 11 December 2015.
2. Following this inaugural Working Group meeting, future meetings and workshops would also be held back-to-back on an annual basis in South Africa, or elsewhere if so agreed. Furthermore, Russia (Ural Federal University) has offered to host the next workshop and Working Group meeting in September 2016.
3. The science workshop in Russia will focus on **Astronomical Data and Computation** involving data science, inter-operability of data, access to data archives, computational astrophysics, hardware and software access, etc.
4. Each BRICS member country will identify thematic astronomy priorities, which will be submitted to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa, who will integrate these submissions and the inputs and presentations made by each country during the Cape Town workshop and Working Group meeting into a draft astronomy science plan to be tabled at the next Working Group meeting.
5. The DST in South Africa will serve as the secretariat for the Working Group. The secretariat has been tasked in due course to develop a website for the Working Group. In the meantime, the secretariat will communicate with the relevant country Contact

and Focal Points, who in turn are responsible for communicating within their respective local astronomy communities.

6. The final draft of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group developed during the group's meeting will be circulated to all countries for finalisation and adoption at the next meeting.
7. The Working Group is composed of government officials (or their designated representatives) supported by the focal points on astronomy and expert observers from BRICS member countries. Each country will forward the names of their Working Group representatives to the secretariat by the end of January 2016.