



Resolutions of the 8th Meeting of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group

20 October 2022

Distinguished representatives from the governments and scientific institutions of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, as well as several astronomers from these countries, attended the BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) on 20 October 2022, which was preceded by two days of Science Workshops. The meeting was hosted online on Zoom by the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NAOC) in China with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and the delegates deliberated on strategic and operational matters and resolved as follows:

1. The meeting received an update on the development of a Call for Proposals for BRICS flagship projects from the BRICS STI Framework Programme Secretariat. The meeting further raised issues that will be discussed further with this Secretariat to ensure that such a call and the proposal deadlines should be synchronised among the BRICS members. It was agreed that the Secretariat of the BRICS STI Framework Programme will be invited to future meetings to engage on any substantive developments to the STI Framework.
2. It was agreed that the BITDN project will proceed as previously discussed and that each country will continue to use existing facilities and resources to further develop the project and science framework.
3. The focal points and governments are encouraged to offer support and collaborate with the Secretariat and BITDN Project Coordinator in developing and implementing the Societal Benefit Activities, including Hackathons.
4. The Virtual BRICS Astronomy Association was adopted as a model, and all BRICS countries are requested to appoint co-ordinators through their respective governments or Astronomy Associations/Entities. The Secretariat will issue the draft Constitution and Framework for this Association for discussion at a meeting where focal points and coordinators will be invited. The meeting will be scheduled for around the first quarter of 2023.

5. It was agreed that bilateral cooperation between BRICS countries should be revived and encouraged to promote collaborations to allow for mutual access to resources and expertise within countries for the benefit of research and human capital development.
6. The BAWG thanked China for successfully hosting the 2022 meeting. South Africa will host the next BAWG meeting in 2023 in line with the rotation of the BRICS Presidency. South Africa will communicate the proposed venue and dates in due course.



Signed by the Secretariat of the BRICS Astronomy Working Group

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