DIGITAL BRICS CONCLAVE

CONCEPT NOTE

The digital economies of BRICS countries will crucially determine their overall growth in the coming years. A significant share of the next billion internet users will come from BRICS, offering the promise of efficient e-governance as well as a vibrant digital marketplace that lifts many from poverty and allow them to a chance to benefit from opportunities offered by this sector. On the other hand, their rapidly growing digital constituencies will require states to maintain a secure and stable cyber-environment. The challenge for BRICS regulators and the private sector alike will lie in fostering greater access to the Internet while protecting the integrity of data that flows through their networks.

International regimes, both in the domain of cyber resilience as well as the regulation of the digital economy, should account for the concerns of emerging economies. The Digital BRICS summit will offer an avenue to share domestic experiences in keeping the internet safe, data uncompromised and access affordable. How can the various stakeholder institutions in the BRICS countries work together to address these common challenges? The Digital BRICS summit aims to bring together stakeholders from government, businesses and civil society to generate discussion on four themes related to Internet policies: *Institutional Cooperation in Cyberspace, Access and Inclusion, Internet and Pluralistic Governance* and *the Digital Economy.* The Digital BRICS Summit will host six panels, covering the themes described above.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

17:30-18:00   Registration *(Diwan-i-am, Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi)*

18:00-18:40   **Inauguration**

Sunjoy Joshi, *Director, Observer Research Foundation, India*

Amar Sinha, *Indian BRICS Sherpa and Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs, India*

Samir Saran, *Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, India*

*Moderator***:** Arun Mohan Sukumar, *Head, Cyber Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, India*

18:40-19:50	**Institutional Cooperation in Cyberspace**
	This panel will identify emerging issues and explore common ground among BRICS Countries for strengthening the resilience, openness and stability of digital spaces. It will take stock of global cyber debates and offer a roadmap for institutional cooperation on internet governance.
	Panellists
	Pedro da Silva, *Ministry of External Relations, Government of Brazil*
	Guo Feng, *China Academy of Telecommunications Research, China*
	Anna Kuznetsova, *Russian International Affairs Council, Russian Federation*
	Sandiso Ngcobo, *Mangosuthu University of Technology, South Africa*
	Lang Ping, *China Academy of Social Sciences, China*
	Moderator*:* Arun Mohan Sukumar, *Observer Research Foundation*, *India*
19:50- 20:00	**Dinner Address by Mukta Tomar**, *Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India*
	(Diwan-i-Am)
20:00-	Dinner hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

10:00- 10:30	Tea and Registration *(Longchamp, Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi)*
10:30- 11:00	**Opening Remarks by Sunjoy Joshi,** *Director, Observer Research Foundation, India*
	Aruna Sharma, *Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India*
	Moderator: *Samir Saran, Senior Fellow and Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, India*

11:00- 12:10	**Advancing Gender Equality in Cyberspace**

Access and Inclusion Track 1: This panel will address concerns of gender disparity in cyberspace and discuss steps that can be taken to increase access and enhance the voices of the disenfranchised.

Panellists

Victoria Pavlyushina, *National Research University- Higher School of Economics, Russian Federation*

Chen Wei, *State Internet Information Office, China*

Mahima Kaul, *Twitter, India*

Latha Reddy, *Observer Research Foundation, India*

Moderator: Alison Gillwald, *Research ICT Africa, South Africa*

12:10- 13:10	**Social Inclusion and Technology**

Access and Inclusion Track 2: This panel will explore common challenges, facing many emerging economies, like increasing financial inclusion, access to healthcare and education that can be solved by technological solutions. It will consider ways in which BRICS economies can cooperate to bridge the digital divide.

Panellists

Luis Claudio Kubota, *Institute of Applied Economic Research, Brazil*

Lang Ping, *China Academy of Social Sciences, China*

Karuna Nundy, *Advocate, India*

Nicholas Palmer, *Group IB, Russian Federation*

Anna Kuznetsova, *Russian International Affairs Council, Russian Federation*

Moderator: Krish Chetty, *Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa*

13:10- 14:05	*Lunch*

14:05-14:20   **Keynote Address by Gulshan Rai,** *National Cyber Security Coordinator, Government of India*

14:20- 15:20   **Internet and Pluralistic Governance**

This panel will discuss accessibility and inclusion in digital spaces, highlighting the important role that intellectual property rights, data protection laws and affordable connectivity play in enhancing right of users.

Panellists

Cai Cuihong, *Fudan University, China*

Daniel Oppermann, *University of Sao Paulo, Brazil*

Sibusiso Manzini, *Green Matter, South Africa*

Parminder Jit Singh, *IT For Change, India*

José Eduardo Brandão, *Institute of Applied Economic Research, Brazil*

Moderator: Arun Mohan Sukumar, *Observer Research Foundation, India*

15:20- 16:40   *Tea Break*

16:40- 17:50   **Regulatory Challenges to e-tailing**

Digital Economy Track 1: This panel will identify concerns about e-tailing, including legal and regulatory challenges for ease of doing business in BRICS countries. It will envisage ways in which trade and commerce over the internet can be enhanced so that the BRICS economies can overcome geographical distances to make cyberspace a seamless single market.

Panellists

Lucas Ferreira Mation, *Institute of Applied Economic Research, Brazil*

Sebo Tladi, *University of South Africa, South Africa*

Ashish Chandra, *General Counsel, Snapdeal.com, India*

Vladimir Korovkin, *Skolkovo Business School, Russian Federation*

Moderator: Xu Jing, *Government Affairs, Alibaba Group, China*

17:50- 18:10	*Tea Break*

18:10- 19:20   **Startup Economies and Global Innovation Hubs**

Digital Economy Track 2: This panel will highlight the opportunities and challenges for creating a specialised workforce to leverage the opportunity provided by the internet. It will also focus on regional BRICS cooperation in creating global innovation hubs in emerging economies.

Panellists

Shi Dongwei, *Vice President, Alibaba Group, China*

Sairee Chahal, *Sheroes, India*

Rachit Ranjan, *Uber, India*

Rajat Kathuria, *Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, India*

Moderator: Arvind Gupta, *Bharatiya Janata Party, India*

19:20- 19:45   **Valedictory Address**

Ajay Kumar, *Additional Secretary Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India*

*Moderator***:** Arun Mohan Sukumar, *Head, Cyber Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, India*

19:45- 21:30   Dinner hosted by the Observer Research Foundation