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8th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting,

**Closing session: BRICS STI Declaration 2020
and Calendar of Activities for 2020- 21 (3 Mins)**

Excellencies

The 8th BRICS Science Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting has come to a successful conclusion. I take this opportunity to complement all participants for their valuable contributions in finalizing the BRICS STI *Declaration 2020* and the Calendar of BRICS STI Activities 2020-21... which will act as a roadmap to enhance and take our cooperation forward.

Innovation for inclusive development finds significant mention in the *Declaration*. We recognize the

importance of engaging with BRICS countries in order to foster dialogue and mutual knowledge sharing, capacity building as well as cross-incubation ... with a broad aim of advancing the BRICS system of innovation.

I can assure you that India will actively contribute in implementation of the BRICS STI Calendar of Activities for the year and also support continuation of scientific activities under the BRICS MOU on Science, Technology and Innovation.

We reiterate the importance of the implementation of the BRICS STI MOU Agenda for sustainable development and improvement in quality of life of our people.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi bears strong commitment to the strengthening of

cooperation within BRICS countries in the sphere of science, technology and innovation. It is in the interest of all of us to enhance the scale, scope and impact of BRICS collaboration in synergy with other bilateral efforts.

Finally, I wish to thank our Russian host **His Excellency Mr Valery Falkov** for convening this meeting at this crucial juncture when the world is reorienting itself and technologies are playing a premium role.

India will assume BRICS Chairmanship from January 2021 and several activities have already been planned. I look forward to welcoming you all to India for the next BRICS STI Ministerial meeting, and hopefully this shall be in person. It has been my privilege to address this august and learned audience. Thank You !

