

**IBSA Tourism Ministers Joint Statement
New Delhi (Virtual) 12th August 2021**

'Speedy Recovery of Travel and Tourism'

The Minister of Tourism of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. G. Kishan Reddy, the Minister of Tourism of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Gilson Machado Neto, and the Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Fish Amos Mahlalela, (hereinafter referred to as “the Ministers”) met through videoconferencing under India’s IBSA Chairship on 12th August 2021.

2. The Ministers acknowledged that tourism is a vital contributor to IBSA economies, and a tool for socio- economic development. The sector has a wide range implication on the economies of the three countries through its significant forward and backward linkages with other sectors. The Ministers also noted that the tourism sector is a significant foreign exchange earner.

3. The Ministers recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis to the global economy. Tourism was one of the first economic sectors to be deeply impacted by the pandemic with measures to contain its spread, including restrictions on movement. Operations were halted under various phases of lockdown and tourism revenues were severely diminished. The sector is thus facing profound and simultaneous demand and supply shocks.

4. The Ministers expressed their commitment to continue enhanced cooperation in the field of tourism to overcome the impact of pandemic on the tourism sector. The Ministers agreed to share their national approaches with each other to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken for revival of tourism and safe mobility of tourists.

5. The Ministers underscored the importance of domestic tourism in reigniting the tourism economy as it can prepare the domestic tourism industry for the arrival of international visitors.

6. Taking into account Post COVID scenario, the Ministers put greater emphasis on sustainable and responsible tourism and on promoting off-beat destinations and places which naturally promote social distancing such as nature and eco-tourism, wildlife, wellness retreats, mountaineering and trekking among others.

7. The Ministers recognized the need to focus on health, safety and hygiene post COVID, and therefore the importance of wellness tourism especially Yoga.

8. The Ministers endorsed the addendum to the IBSA Tourism Action Plan 2021-23 to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed on immediate areas of mutual interest that may rescue and sustain the IBSA Tourism Industry. The Ministers also agreed to implement various tourism activities mentioned in the Tourism Action plan to be actioned by respective member country to ensure speedy recovery of the tourism sector.

9. The Ministers resolved to work together and realize the full potential of their respective countries through cooperation in the tourism sector.
