

## **Resolutions of the 10th Meeting of the 2024 BRICS Astronomy Working Group**

The 2024 BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) meeting was hosted by the Russian Federation held at the Kazan Federal University and online with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Distinguished representatives from the governments and scientific institutions of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, as well as several astronomers from these countries, attended the BRICS Astronomy Workshop on 9 - 11 September 2024. The conference concluded with the BAWG business meeting on 12 September where the delegates deliberated on strategic and operational matters. The meeting started with a progress update of the resolutions of the 9th annual meeting, which was presented by the BRICS Secretariat.

The following resolutions were taken:

1. It was noted that the current resolutions were drafted before the new BRICS members joined so the suggestion is that the Secretariat and Coordination team compile all previous resolutions and send them to the country representatives for comments, inputs and responses, alternatively previous resolutions can be found on the BRICS Astronomy website.
2. There is an agreement that the BAWG has limited resources (e.g. funding, platforms, etc.) to participate as a bloc in large international astronomy facilities. Members are encouraged to seek guidance and advice from existing members on joining international astronomical projects. The BAWG should be utilized as a facilitating agent to form stronger bilaterals. Older members of the BAWG can lobby and facilitate applications of newer BRICS members into different projects on an informal basis as opposed to a bloc structure. Member countries are encouraged to table suggestions or proposals to the Secretariat who will then explore avenues that they can assist where possible.
3. Regarding collaborations, the BAWG members are encouraged to send projects which are open to collaborations to the Secretariat, reflecting the Principal Investigator (PI) and contact details, to be reflected on the BAWG website. Those members interested in these collaborations can then make direct contact with the respective PIs. These new collaborations will be presented in the next BAWG business meeting.
4. The new BRICS members are encouraged to identify and submit the details of their focal points to the Secretariat by the end of November 2024.
5. The focal points and participants should encourage other astronomers from their countries to take part in the annual BAWG science workshops to grow the BAWG network and foster more collaborations.
6. With respect to funding for the BRICS Intelligent Telescope and Data Network (BITDN) flagship project, as per the resolutions from last year, the BAWG encouraged member countries to continue to engage their respective funding agencies on funding opportunities. It is also resolved that the need for funding of the flagship should be raised at the BRICS Senior Officials Meeting. Each partner country should lobby their respective Senior Officials.

7. The BAWG noted the report on the BRICS STI Framework Programme and that the modalities of STI flagships are still being finalized and the Secretariat will source the updates and will share with the BAWG members and the lead PI of the flagship.
8. The BAWG has noted the report by the committee that was established to investigate solutions for the open access and free to publish journal. Member countries are encouraged to look at the report and submit their views and opinions to the proposal of recommendations to the Secretariat and they will then share with the chair and working group of the committee. BAWG members are further encouraged to respond to the questions by the committee on the status of open access journals in their countries. New members are also encouraged to join this working group. The draft report compiled by the working group committee will be shared by the Secretariat to be reported to Senior Officials.
9. New member countries are encouraged to nominate representatives to join the editorial team of the BRICS Astronomy Magazine. All the countries are further encouraged to explore ways of translating the magazine into their own native languages.
10. Explore linkages between the BAWG with the other working groups, such as with the BRICS ICT- HPC as well as the BRICS Research Infrastructure Working Groups. Moving forward, BAWG should include on the agenda reports from the other relevant working groups. This will be determined and facilitated by the Secretariat and chairs of the next BAWG meeting.

The BAWG thanked the Russian Federation for successfully hosting the 2024 meeting. The BAWG has noted that Brazil as the next Presidency of BRICS will host the BAWG meeting in 2025 in line with the rotation of the BRICS Presidency. The Secretariat will communicate the final venue and dates in due course.