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**Prospects of the BRICS countries collaboration
in the field of combatting corruption**

Dear organizers and participants of the BRICS Academic forum, good afternoon and thank's a lot for a unique possibility to speak out during such an important event! I represent Russian Institute for Strategic Studies and this year we have conducted a research on the topic of the potential of the BRICS countries collaboration in the field of combatting corruption. And this particular question I would like to present to your attention.

Despite the unique national peculiarities of each of the BRICS members they are all united by a mutual threat of corruption. Today it is a serious challenge to social and economic development of our countries that also endangers their national security and sovereignty as well as their authority in international relations. All the BRICS countries have the same or close zones of corruption risk: political and judicial system, police, public procurement, construction and real estate, natural resources and extractive industry. Besides due to complicated administrative procedures facilitation payments are quite widespread.

In order to solve the mentioned problems in all member states specific legal regulations on preventing and criminalizing corruption crimes are adopted and the system of corresponding institutions and instruments is created. However anti-corruption initiatives are weakened by dependence on political influence, low efficiency of investigations and inadequate law enforcement. The situation is even more worsened due to external factors: export of corruption from developed countries via transnational corporations, quite prejudged rankings of international anti-corruption organizations, exaggeration of corruption problems in BRICS by Western media (the majority of newsmakers prefers to cover corruption scandals instead

of anti-corruption initiatives of the BRICS countries). Impact of extraterritorial application of national law, notably US and British, is contradictory too.

In spite of the mentioned problems and threats all the BRICS member states have accumulated so called good practices recognized by the international expert community in different fields of combatting corruption. For example India is well-known for its practice of disclosing official information, Brazil – for implementing anti-corruption compliance control, China – for monitoring government expenditures and prosecuting corrupt officials abroad, South Africa – for whistleblowers protection and collaboration with private sector, Russia – for developing E-governance and Ombudsman institution and for attracting business to combatting corruption. It is worth mentioning that good practices of the BRICS member states are quite different and therefore complementary which opens the door to mutually beneficial collaboration.

In such conditions combining efforts of the BRICS countries will contribute to development of anti-corruption policies in every member state and to lowering of destabilizing influence of the external threats. First time anti-corruption initiatives were marked among the prospective spheres of collaboration during the Durban summit in 2013. In 2014 this topic was already included in Fortaleza declaration as a separate article – paragraph 58. Besides paragraph 20 of Fortaleza action plan states the intention of organizing the meeting of the BRICS experts on cooperation in the field of combatting corruption.

This year it is very important to move forward and academic community should play an important role in this process. In particular our role is extremely important in studying and exchanging best practices as well as in promoting the culture of zero-tolerance for corruption in our countries. Thank you very much for your attention, I will be very happy to further cooperate with those who are interested in this topic.