

WELCOME ADDRESS
by H.E. Ambassador of Russia to Israel
Anatoly Viktorov
at the meeting with heads of diplomatic missions of
BRICS countries in Israel

October 24, 2024, Herzlia

Dear colleagues,

I am glad to welcome you to the meeting of the heads of diplomatic missions of the BRICS countries in Israel. The relevance of our current meeting is obvious: today in the city of Kazan, under the Chairship of Russia, the final day of the XVI BRICS Summit is taking place, which is held in a new expanded format for the first time.

The theme of Russia's Chairship "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security" corresponds to the spirit and very essence of BRICS – an association whose participants are committed to forming a more democratic multipolar international system. More and more responsible members of the international community share the universal approaches of our unique association of like-minded nations. I would like to

emphasize that BRICS does not compete with anyone and does not oppose itself to anyone. Our activities are not directed against anyone.

During the Russian Year, cooperation between the BRICS countries has advanced in all areas. The current Summit, which became the culmination of Russia's Chairship, has acquired a truly global scale. Representatives of 36 states, as well as six international organizations, are taking part in it. BRICS effectively faces modern challenges and threats, fruitfully develops cooperation in various spheres – from economics, politics and security to healthcare, sports and culture. One of our common priorities is the most complete disclosure of the economic potential of the participating countries. Along this line, ties in the financial and investment, energy, transport and logistics, as well high-tech continue to strengthen. Joint work in these areas brings concrete results. Thus, by the end of 2023, the share of BRICS in the global GDP grew to a record 36 percent – in this indicator, we have surpassed the G7. In addition, as of now, the BRICS countries account for 45 percent of the

population and 33 percent of the land area of the planet. This opens up very good opportunities for further progressive growth of the economies of our countries and mutual trade.

Our meeting today is fully consistent with the BRICS line on developing mutual ties in the interests of finding ways to resolve the most pressing global and regional problems. We note that certain important provisions of the Kazan Declaration of the BRICS member states adopted on October 23 are devoted to the developing catastrophic situation in the Middle East. Russia is extremely concerned that the atmosphere in the Middle East is extremely tense and a great danger of sliding into a major war exists. Our position on the Middle East settlement is consistent and well known. We are convinced that it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region without a just solution to the Palestinian problem based on the Security Council and the UN General Assembly resolutions. We call on all parties to exercise restraint and an immediate cessation of hostilities, which would stop the bloodshed, as well as to urgently address humanitarian issues and open

the way to a long-term political and diplomatic settlement. Russia is ready to continue to promote the achievement of lasting peace and stability in the Middle East in coordination with international and regional partners.

I would be glad to hear your opinions and assessments.