



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**  
**Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health**  
**[24 May 2016 : Geneva]**

The BRICS Ministers of Health met on 24 May 2016 on the margins of the 69th Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Ministers expressed concern at the severe public health impacts caused by the recent Ebola, Zika and Yellow fever outbreaks and emphasized the urgency for international collaboration. They also recognized the swift response to the Zika virus outbreak by initially affected countries, PAHO and WHO.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and emphasized the importance and need of technology transfer as a means to empower developing countries. They also emphasized the public health challenge of communicable diseases including vector borne diseases, TB , HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C and the need for making available vaccines, diagnostics and medicines to contain and eventually eliminate these diseases.

The Ministers further emphasized that prevention and control of NCDs including Cancer, Cardio - vascular diseases, Diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Airway and Pulmonary diseases, as well as mental health are essential to reduce premature mortality, enhance productivity and improve quality of life.

India hosted an official BRICS side-event on Access to Medicines and Trade Agreements on the margins of the 69th World Health Assembly.

A Joint Communiqué was issued after the meeting.

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