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BRICS vows to fight terrorism and its sponsors

Summit calls on all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach to combating global threat

OCTOBER 16, 2016

The 2016 BRICS Joint Declaration after the weekend summit in Goa in India called for a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism and its sponsors.

They five member nationals also agreed to work together to combat “cross-border” terrorism, but India Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s guests held off from signing up to his fierce condemnation of India’s arch-rival Pakistan as the “mothership of terrorism”.

Strongly condemning the recent terror attacks against some BRICS countries, including India, the group said all nations should adopt a comprehensive approach to prevent the radicalization, recruitment and movement of terrorists.

They also called for the blocking of sources of financing terror through money laundering, drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

“We call upon all nations to work together to expedite the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN General Assembly without any further delay,” the Goa declaration said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said those who shelter, support and sponsor terror would be designated as terrorists.

The BRICS nations also agreed that states should cut off political support to terrorists, whether based on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or other reasons.

Earlier, Modi, who is pushing to isolate Pakistan following a surge in tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, urged his peers to take a strong united stand against the “mothership of terrorism” in the South Asian region, in a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.

He condemned the mindset which proclaims terrorism is justified for political gains. BRICS must speak in one voice against that threat, Modi said, without naming Pakistan directly.

Islamabad did not immediately react to Modi’s remarks.

Just weeks before the BRICS Summit, suicide attackers from across the border attacked an army camp in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 19 Indian soldiers.

Since that attack, India has been making efforts to diplomatically isolate its neighbor.