

## **President Vladimir Putin's message of greetings to participants and guests of the BRICS Youth Summit**

Developing direct contacts between youth in the BRICS countries bolsters considerably the influential international group's social dimension and opens up new, long-term prospects for its work. It is young people who will have the task of preserving and strengthening the traditions of friendship and mutual respect that bind our peoples and finding new forms of productive, multilateral cooperation.

I am pleased to see that the summit's agenda reflects in full the priorities Russia is pursuing during its presidency of the BRICS group. Youth issues hold a very important place among these priorities. Particularly relevant today are issues such as establishing the BRICS Network University, and holding the Global University Summit and the Young Diplomats' Forum. Your ideas and recommendations and your energy and creative potential are crucial for successfully implementing these and many of the other projects the BRICS countries have planned.

I am sure that this summit will help to bring our countries' peoples closer together, develop partnership and cooperation through the BRICS group, and boost the group's international standing".