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Supplementary information

The phase evolution of NBT-100xBFO ceramics is shown in Fig.S1. XRD patterns of unpoled samples indicate that all the compositions exhibit a single-phase perovskite structure.



Fig. S1 XRD patterns of unpoled NBT-100xBFO: (a) x=0, (b) x=0.05, (c) x=0.1, (d) x=0.2, (e) x=0.3, (f) x=0.4, (g) x=0.5 and (h) x=0.6. The XRD data were obtained from crushed and annealed powders (annealing at 500 °C for 30 min).

Fig.S2 depicts SEM images obtained from the polished and thermally-etched surface of NBT-100xBFO ceramics. All the samples demonstrate dense surface morphology.







Fig. S2 SEM images of (a1, a2) NBT, (b1, b2) NBT-5BFO, (c1, c2) NBT-10BFO, (d1, d2) NBT-20BFO, (e1, e2) NBT-30BFO, (f1, f2) NBT-40BFO, (g1, g2) NBT-50BFO and (h1, h2) NBT-60BFO.



Fig. S3 Grain size distribution of (a) NBT, (a) NBT-5BFO, (c) NBT-10BFO, (d) NBT-20BFO, (e) NBT-30BFO, (f) NBT-40BFO, (g) NBT-50BFO and (h) NBT-60BFO.



Fig. S4 (a) Temperature dependent ϵ' of unpoled NBT-50BFO at different frequencies, (b) $1/\epsilon'$ as a function of temperature. The solid line is the fitting line from the Curie-Weiss law.



Fig. S5 P-E loops of NBT-50BFO under different electric fields at 1 Hz.



Fig. S6 S_{neg} and d_{33}^* of NBT-100xBFO. d_{33}^* is calculated by dividing S_{max} with E_{max} in Fig. 4.



Fig. S7 Rhombohedral lattice parameters obtained from the transformation of the hexagonal setting of R3c