BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BRICS CLIMATE RESEARCH PLATFORM

We, the BRICS High-Level Officials on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, assembled in Brasilia May 28th, 2025, to discuss the priorities of BRICS cooperation on the issue of climate change in the context of sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for an effective, open, transparent and progressive response to climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge,

Acknowledging that BRICS countries have extensive national expertise and knowledge on climate change that can contribute to a more detailed analysis of potential risks and opportunities of climate actions and lead to a more effective response to climate change in the context of sustainable development,

Aiming to facilitate combating climate change in the context of sustainable development, develop science-based approaches to addressing climate change and enhance cooperation on climate issues within BRICS,

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation and its Plan of Implementation for 2023-2027, which promotes cooperation amongst the BRICS States in the area of climate change,

Recalling further the agreement reached at the 10th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting (Nizhny Novgorod, 28 June 2024) to establish the "BRICS Climate Research Platform" (BCRP) to enhance the scientific and expert exchange of views, knowledge and best practices of the CGCCSD, which was acknowledged by the BRICS Leaders at the XVI BRICS Summit (Kazan, 23 October 2024),



Recognizing the successful work undertaken under the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework Programme, as well as the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform and the BRICS Environmentally-Sound Technology Platform, which have promoted joint research, knowledge exchange and innovation in addressing common challenges,

Hereby adopt the present Terms of Reference (ToR) for the BRICS Climate Research Platform.

Vision

The BCRP is established under the BRICS Contact Group on Climate and Sustainable Development (BRICS CGCCSD) to enhance expert and scientific cooperation among the BRICS countries and contribute to mutual capacity-building of the BRICS members in addressing climate change in the context of sustainable development.

Mission

The BCRP will feed into the work and activities of the BRICS CGCCSD, by providing science-based inputs, fostering expert collaboration and developing a broad dialogue on climate issues with a view to address this challenge in the context of sustainable development.

Areas of work

The main areas of cooperation of the BCRP with a view to implementing its vision and mission, may include but not be confined to:

- I. Climate science and relevant practices
 - a) approaches to monitoring, reporting, and verification of emissions;



- b) mitigation and adaptation measures to support improved policies and institutions;
- c) low-emissions and renewable energy;
- d) emissions reduction trajectories modeling aligned to the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement;
- e) risks, impacts, vulnerabilities and capacity for adaptation planning, including methodologies for conducting vulnerability assessments;
- f) ecosystem-based approaches;
- g) loss and damage.
- II. Economy of climate change
 - a) just transition pathways based on nationally determined development priorities;
 - b) climate finance instruments;
 - c) carbon market and non-market mechanism;
 - d) mitigation approaches;
 - e) adaptation needs, including in infrastructure.
- III. Relevant climate change technologies

Objectives

The main objectives of the BCRP are:

- Enhancing scientific and expert cooperation on climate issues within BRICS;
- Facilitating exchange of scientific information, data, national studies and results of research activities on multidimensional aspects of climate change;



- Conducting joint research studies in the field of climate change in concert with the BRICS STI Framework Programme, as well as other relevant BRICS cooperation platforms;
- Providing regular updates on climate change research programs in the field of adaptation and mitigation;
- Organizing joint scientific and expert events and consultation to deepen discussions on climate change;
- Expanding capacity-building efforts at various technical levels by holding educational and training programs in the field of climate change, with a particular focus on financing and technology transfer;
- Developing synergies with other BRICS mechanisms, particularly by ensuring complementarity with the activities undertaken under the BRICS STI Framework Programme, the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform and the BRICS Environmentally-Sound Technology Platform, as well as strengthening partnership dialogue with international fora on the issues of combating climate change.

Working Procedures

- I. The BCRP is a voluntary, flexible cooperation format, with membership open to the BRICS states and, upon the recommendation of the concerned State, to scientific and research institutes, consulting organizations and think tanks, companies and associations from the BRICS members. Representatives of other States and entities may be invited by consensus among BRICS members to take part in the BRICS CRP activities.
- II. The activities of the BCRP will be determined by the BCRP Working Plan that should be discussed and agreed by the BRICS CGCCSD, approved on the High-Level Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development and informed to the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of the Environment in due course. The Working Plan may include the implementation of a pilot initiative in a research area to be defined by BRICS member countries.



- III. The BRICS Chair shall take the leading role in organizing or supervising regular and ad-hoc events within the BCRP Working Plan, including general meetings and work-stream activities.
- IV. The BRICS CGCCSD will discuss the work of the BCRP according to its Working Plan on a regular basis at least once a year.
- V. The first BCRP Working Plan will be proposed in due course by the BRICS Chairship, agreed by the BRICS CGCCSD and approved by the BRICS Ministers and representatives, assembled for the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Environment or the High-Level Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development.
- VI. The BRICS members may nominate focal points (public officials, representatives of research institutes, companies or any other entities) in their respective countries who will be engaged in the BCRP activities in specific areas (work-streams) consistent with the vision, mission and objectives of the CRP. The focal points will collaborate and communicate through meetings, letters, videoconferences, webinars and other ways deemed appropriate.
- VII. Outcomes of the research activities will be considered by the BRICS CGCCSD in conjunction with the discussion on the work of the BCRP on a regular basis at least once a year. The BRICS CGCCSD shall decide on the adoption and possible submission of the outcomes to the BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting or the BRICS High-Level Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development for decisions on follow-up actions.
- VIII.Preparation of the BCRP annual reports and research activities will be coordinated by BRICS Chair and presented to the BRICS CGCCSD meetings.
- IX. Participation in data sharing activities within the platform shall be voluntary. Members retain full sovereignty and control over their national data.





Research and cooperation projects, as well as other activities will be carried out by the BRICS participating States on a voluntary basis collectively or individually in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations. Each country shall cover the costs of participation of its representatives in the activities carried out within the BCRP. BRICS participating States can make voluntary contributions in order to implement activities within the BCRP. Additional contributions can be made by the interested entities. Decisions on the acceptability of contributions to the BCRP will be taken by the BRICS Chair and the BRICS members states on the basis of consensus.

Amendments

Amendments to the present BCRP Terms of Reference shall be considered by the BRICS CGCCSD, approved on the BRICS High-Level Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development and informed to the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of the Environment in due course.



