



BRICS 2025

Motto: "Strengthening Global South Cooperation to a more inclusive and sustainable governance"

CONCEPT NOTE OF BRAZIL 'S CHAIRSHIP

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1. Introduction

In 2025, Brazil will take on two major responsibilities: chairing BRICS and the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30). This comes at a time of deepening geopolitical tensions that challenge the fragile international multilateral order. The ill-advised resort to unilateralism and the rise of extremism in various parts of the world threaten global stability and deepen the inequalities that disadvantage the world's most vulnerable populations.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has emphasized the potential of BRICS as a platform for developing the solutions the world so urgently needs. Now, more than ever, the collective ability to negotiate and resolve conflicts through diplomacy is critical. Our group engages in dialogue with all parties and is at the forefront of advocating for global governance reform.

BRICS is consolidating itself as a platform for cooperation among countries representing nearly half of the world's population and accounting for 39% of global GDP (PPP). We are committed to promoting a more equitable, just, democratic, and balanced multipolar world order. Over the past 16 years, our partnership has produced concrete results in three pillars of cooperation: politics and security; economics and finance; and cultural exchange and civil society.

Last year, Brazil's presidency of the G20 demonstrated that consensus is possible in addressing major global challenges. Now it is time to reaffirm BRICS' mission to pursue a multipolar world and less asymmetric relations among countries.

This Concept Note outlines the priorities and key objectives for this year. Detailed thematic notes on specific issues or working groups will also be circulated.

Guided by the motto "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance", Brazil's 2025 BRICS Chairship will focus on **two main areas**: (i) **Global South Cooperation** and (ii) **BRICS Partnership for Social, Economic, and Environmental Development**. Within this framework, Brazil proposes to concentrate political attention on the following six priorities:

2. Priorities

2.1. Global Health Cooperation

Cooperation among BRICS countries can play a crucial role in concrete projects to promote sustainable development, particularly in health issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Mpox health crisis have once again highlighted the need for coordinated transnational action to combat infectious diseases. In the field of neglected tropical diseases and socially determined diseases - typically linked to poverty, inequality, and inadequate living conditions - cooperation from the Global South is essential to increase investment in research and production of medicines and vaccines. According to the WHO, about 1 billion people are affected by neglected tropical diseases, and about 40% of tuberculosis cases occur in BRICS countries.

The Brazilian chairship will prioritize these diseases on the international health agenda. It will focus on establishing an International Alliance for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases. This initiative will be linked to several other projects already underway within the BRICS framework, such as the strengthening of the BRICS Platform for Vaccine Research and Development, the expansion of the BRICS Research Network on Tuberculosis, the deepening cooperation between public health centers in BRICS countries, and the establishment of a platform for cooperation on the use of artificial intelligence in public health systems.

2.2. Trade, Investment, Finance

The BRICS countries can play a central role in improving the international monetary and financial system to make it more representative and responsive to the needs of all nations. They are committed to establishing a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net, with a reformed International Monetary Fund (IMF), based on quotas and adequate resources for its role as a central institution, complemented by other plurilateral, regional, and bilateral financial arrangements.

Under the financial pillar, the Brazilian chairship aims to strengthen coordination to reform the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions and to increase the representation of developing countries in their leadership positions, in order to better reflect the contributions of the countries of the Global South to the world economy. We also seek to improve initiatives such as the New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement.

The Brazilian chairship will focus on the recently established Network of Think Tanks on Finance and aim to enhance cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, taxation, and customs. The finance pillar also intends to support the climate finance agenda, leveraging issues such as the implementation of vertical funds implementation and the reform of Multilateral Development Banks, which can contribute to a climate finance architecture that facilitates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Although the BRICS countries have a significant impact on the global economy, trade and investment flows among them remain relatively small compared to flows between developed countries. To fulfill the mandate set by BRICS leaders at the Johannesburg Summit in 2023, the Brazilian chairship will continue cooperative efforts to develop local payment instruments that facilitate trade and investment, taking advantage of more accessible, transparent, secure, and inclusive payment systems

among BRICS members. In addition, trade facilitation measures, including regulatory cooperation, could contribute to increasing trade and investment exchanges.

The Brazilian chairship aims to deepen the BRICS Partnership for the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), which aims to diversify and technologically upgrade the industrial base of the BRICS countries. The objectives of PartNIR also include the deepening and integration of members' production chains and the development of sovereign artificial intelligence ecosystems that resonate with the realities and languages of BRICS countries, which will be a fundamental vector of economic competitiveness in the coming decade.

To provide long-term direction for economic cooperation among BRICS countries, an update of the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy for 2030 will also be undertaken, focusing on three major areas (i) trade, investment, and finance; (ii) digital economy; and (iii) sustainable development.

2.3. Climate Change

The COP-30 in Belém will mark ten years since the Paris Agreement and will conclude a series of four conferences held in countries of the Global South, three of which are members of the BRICS.

In Belém, world leaders will have a moral imperative to close the gap between ambition and finance in the fight against the climate crisis.

New climate leadership, based on global solidarity, can steer humanity towards an effective and equitable response to climate change. Together, the BRICS countries have the potential to lead a renewed mobilization for ambitious outcomes at the COP-30 without neglecting the goals and principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To this end, the Brazilian chairship will promote a BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda, which will provide political and practical solutions for scaling up efforts to stay within the critical limit of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

This agenda will be organized around five lines of action: (i) a Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance; (ii) concrete solutions to facilitate climate action; (iii) cooperation on climate technology, with a focus on intellectual property; (iv) cooperation on climate and trade synergies; and (v) high-level principles within BRICS for common approaches to carbon accounting.

2.4. Artificial Intelligence Governance

The future of the world depends on the establishment of truly representative and inclusive multilateral regimes that promote peace and sustainable development. Artificial Intelligence represents a revolution in knowledge and technology, the benefits of which must be shared by all of humanity. The world needs fair and equitable global governance for AI, where all nations – not just big corporations – have a voice.

BRICS can contribute to building international governance of artificial intelligence that focuses on promoting sustainable and inclusive development, defending non-discriminatory access to technology transfer, respecting human rights and international law, protecting personal data, and ensuring information integrity for the ethical, safe, reliable, and responsible use of this technology.

Combating algorithmic bias and discrimination is also essential to reflect the linguistic and cultural diversity of humanity and to promote transparency, access, and dissemination of technology in the public interest. Promoting data governance for development, with a focus on reducing inequalities, creating economic opportunities, and defending competition adapted to the platform economy, is essential to enable developing countries to benefit from the digital economy and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

In addition, as directed by the Kazan Summit, the Brazilian chairship aims to enhance intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the vast potential of information and communication technologies. BRICS cooperation should promote a human-centered, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach to improving people's lives and reducing digital inequalities. By working together in this area, our countries can make significant advances in artificial intelligence and related technologies.

2.5. Reform of the Peace and Security Multilateral System

Since its creation, the United Nations has been dedicated to the maintenance of international peace and security through collective action aimed at preventing and dealing with threats to peace and promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes in accordance with the principles of international law.

On the eve of its 80th anniversary, the UN faces the dilemma of dealing with emerging threats and persistent challenges that can only be effectively addressed through multilateral cooperation. Yet its structure remains rooted in outdated concepts and dynamics and is in urgent need of reform to ensure its continued relevance.

Wars around the world destabilize the international order and have devastating consequences, with increasing numbers of civilian casualties, refugees, and internally displaced persons, along with the destruction of essential infrastructure and worsening food insecurity.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has once again revealed its most inhumane aspects, resulting in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians, especially women and children, and pushing the two-state solution further out of reach. In Sudan, Yemen, and Haiti, forgotten tragedies continue to deny millions of people a future.

The current context of polarization and mistrust hinders the strengthening of peace and security multilateral fora. BRICS can serve as a voice for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, to make it more democratic, representative, effective, and efficient—capable of responding adequately to contemporary global challenges. The Brazilian chairship intends to discuss the follow-up to the “Call to Action on Global Governance Reform”, which emerged from the open meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers held in New York on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly.

As a country that traditionally promotes peace and dialogue, Brazil will also work to ensure that BRICS can be a space for building trust and mutual understanding, capable of promoting peaceful solutions to conflicts and disputes, such as the Common Understandings between China and Brazil on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

2.6. Institutional Development

Since its inception, BRICS has significantly expanded its membership and its agenda. Originally composed of four countries, the group now includes eleven members and nine partners. The topics discussed in the forum have also grown in scope and complexity, covering the most important issues on the international agenda. This evolution is reflected in the creation of various working groups and initiatives aimed at improving decision-making processes and sectoral cooperation.

The adoption of a revised version of the BRICS Terms of Reference (ToR) in 2021, during India's chairship, was an important milestone. The inclusion of new members approved at the Johannesburg Summit in 2023, and the establishment of the Partner category at the Kazan Summit in 2024, indicate the need to update the functioning and procedures of BRICS.

Brazil will propose the formation of a Task Force on Institutional Development to (i) update the BRICS ToR and (ii) discuss the implementation of its provisions. This work will help maintain cohesion, harmonization, and efficiency within the group, as well as facilitate the transition of the chairship, improve working methods, and better integrate new members into the BRICS structure.

3. Member and Partner Countries

BRICS includes Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates. Originally consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, the group was first expanded in 2011 to include South Africa. At the 15th Summit in Johannesburg in August 2023, BRICS leaders decided to expand further by adding Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Indonesia formally accepted the invitation to join the group in 2024.

In line with the Johannesburg Declaration, at the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan in August 2024, the leaders approved the creation of the "BRICS Partner Country" status. In 2025, nine countries were granted this status: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.



COOPERATING FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD