

BRICS Business Council (BBC)

ISSUES NOTE

BRICS 2025



1. Background Information

The BRICS Business Council (BBC) is a platform that connects businesses with BRICS governments, promoting and strengthening economic, trade, and investment ties among the business communities of its member nations.

The BBC was established in 2013 during the Fifth BRICS Summit in Durban, South Africa. Initially composed of business leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the Council underwent a significant expansion in 2024, welcoming new members such as Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. Indonesia will formally join the grouping in 2025. This enlargement has broadened the Council's representation, increased its global influence, and enhanced its potential for fostering collaboration among emerging economies, further solidifying its role as a key driver of South-South cooperation.

The Council's primary deliverable is the BRICS Business Council Annual Report, which is approved by the Chairs and Co-chairs during the BBC's Annual Plenary Meeting and presented to the Heads of State at the BRICS Summit.

1.1. Governance

The BRICS Business Council comprises 45 senior executives and representatives from leading businesses (Chairs and Co-chairs), who are responsible for setting priorities and representing their respective countries while reporting the Council's recommendations to the BRICS Heads of State.

The BBC operates through nine specialized Working Groups, each dedicated to discussing and developing strategic recommendations to enhance economic integration and improve the business environment across key sectors: (1) Aviation; (2) Agribusiness; (3) Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence; (4) Energy, Green Economy and Climate; (5) Financial Services; (6) Infrastructure; (7) Manufacturing; (8) Skills Development, Applied Technology and Innovation; (9) Trade and Investment.

For reference, please consult the preliminary organizational chart at the end of the document.

1.2. Methodology of Work

- Each Working Group holds monthly virtual meetings and convenes in person once a year during the BRICS Summit;
- The final recommendations developed within the Working Groups are submitted to the BBC Chairs and Co-chairs for review and approval;

- Recommendations that achieve consensus are incorporated into the BRICS Business Council Annual Report and presented at the BBC's Annual Plenary Meeting;
- The Annual Report is subsequently delivered to the BRICS Heads of State at the Summit.

2. Priorities

The following four pillars will guide the BBC's initiatives during Brazil's Presidency in 2025, shaping discussions within the Working Groups and forming the foundation for actionable proposals:

2.1 Energy Transition and Sustainable Development

Promote decarbonization, the advancement of renewable energy, and clean technologies, financing sustainable infrastructure for energy transition projects, positioning BRICS as a global leader in the low-carbon economy.

2.2 Strengthening Intra-BRICS Trade and Supply Chain Resilience

Remove trade barriers and foster economic integration and building resilience to manage supply chain disruptions, creating a more dynamic and accessible business environment benefiting companies of all sizes and sectors within the group.

2.3 Innovation and Digital Transformation

Advance the digital transformation agenda and promote regulatory cooperation with a focus on artificial intelligence, automation, and the data economy, enhancing BRICS' global competitiveness.-

2.4 Governance and Integration of New Members

Improve governance within the BBC and ensure the equitable integration of new members, leveraging diverse perspectives and economic approaches.

2.5 Working Group Priorities

2.5.1. Aviation

- Integration, Air Connectivity and Sustainability in the Aviation Sector.

2.5.2. Agribusiness

- Agricultural Trade and Global Sustainability
- Food Security and productivity through innovation

2.5.3. Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence

- Frameworks for responsible AI development and deployment
- Digital Trust
- Innovation and Technological Collaboration in BRICS

2.5.4. Energy, Green Economy and Climate

- Energy Transition and Climate Sustainability
- Circular Economy and Bioeconomy

2.5.5. Financial Services

- Innovative Finance and Economic Integration in BRICS
- Sustainability and Financial Inclusion

2.5.6. Infrastructure

- Logistics Connectivity and Sustainable Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Financing and Modernization

2.5.7. Manufacturing:

- Sustainability and Value Added Production
- Productivity through innovation

2.5.8. Skills Development, Applied Technology and Innovation

- Digital Inclusion and Skills Development
- Re-skilling and up-skilling the Workforce for the Future

2.5.9. Trade and Investment

- Trade facilitation and economic integration within BRICS
- Sustainability and resilience of supply chains
- Trade efficiency through automation and regulatory harmonization

