

# Think Tanks and Academic Forum

## ISSUES NOTE

### BRICS 2025



#### 1. Background Information

Before the first BRICS Summit in 2009, the first conference of experts and policymakers from the original four countries was held in Moscow at the end of 2008. This meeting was dedicated to analyzing the political and economic processes underway in the world and debating the group's development perspectives. Later, this meeting became the BRICS Academic Forum, held regularly by the country occupying the annual rotating chairship.

In 2011 and 2012, with South Africa joining the group, the leaders declared their support for creating a network of research centers. They indicated at least two activities of interest: (i) evaluating the cooperation developed, (ii) examining and developing strategies to advance BRICS and achieve its collective objectives.

In 2013, the Declaration establishing the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC) was signed and in the following year, the first formal mechanism meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, during which additional procedural aspects for the council's functioning were negotiated.

Ten years later, another mechanism of experts was created. Introduced during China's 2022 rotating chairship, the leaders endorsed a document — drafted jointly by their economic ministers and top central bank authorities — defining the operational guidelines of a BRICS Think Tanks Network for Finance (BTTNF). Although similar, the BTTNF distinguishes itself by granting economic ministries and central banks the authority to request or commission studies. Its first effective operationalization will occur in 2025.

- **BRICS Academic Forum (FABRICS):** Established in 2009, this annual meeting fosters debates among group researchers. Currently, the nomination of participants and organization of the forum are exclusive responsibilities of BTTC members, with activities hosted by the chair country.
- **BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC):** Created in 2013, it is comprised of BRICS think tanks, each nominated by their respective national government. It facilitates exchanges among researchers, academia, and other research centers. Its chairship rotates annually, led by the think tank of the country chairing BRICS.
- **BRICS Think Tanks Network for Finance (BTTNF):** Established in 2023, it focuses on sharing experiences and knowledge around public finance, particularly its international components, and conducting research on global economic governance reform. Like the BTTC, it is composed of think tanks appointed by national governments.

The think tanks holding the rotating chairship in these mechanisms are responsible for coordinating, formulating, and implementing activities. In Brazil's case, the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) represents the country in both the BTTC and BTTNF.

To enhance operational efficiency, streamline logistics, and prevent duplicative efforts, IPEA convened a joint meeting with think tanks from both mechanisms in Rio de Janeiro on November

13, 2023. This meeting focused on aligning visions and synchronizing tasks by preparing shared agendas for the two research groups. Representatives of the Brazilian government, supported by IPEA, presented thematic priorities and gathered input and expectations from partners.

## **2. Priorities**

As part of Brazil's chairship in 2025, two central objectives will guide the management of these mechanisms:

2.1. Strengthen, promote, and develop cooperation in research, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy advice.

2.2. Establish a platform for exchanging information and conducting research on financial topics of mutual interest.

The research agenda will follow these guidelines: (i) conduct research with practical impact (deliverables); (ii) build on achievements secured by the Global South during the last three G20 chairmanships; and (iii) produce inputs bridging the agenda for South Africa's G20 chairship and COP-30.



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