

# Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI)

## ISSUES NOTE

### BRICS 2025



#### 1. Background Information

The Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was established in 2011 to propose cooperation, initiatives, and economic and trade issues recommendations to BRICS Trade Ministers.

#### 2. Priorities

The Brazilian chairship has identified three key priorities for the CGETI discussions in 2025, aiming to reinforce its commitment to navigating the global trade and investment landscape while emphasizing the importance of economic cooperation and multilateralism.

##### 2.1. WTO and the Strengthening of the Multilateral Trading System:

Brazilian chairship proposes that the BRICS members negotiate and adopt a declaration on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Multilateral trading system to express the priority we attribute to economic multilateralism and an open, transparent, and equitable multilateral trading system.

The declaration would reiterate BRICS firms' political support for WTO reform, the strengthening of the Multilateral Trading System, and the importance of the development dimension in WTO work. Members could also consider supporting specific issues as priorities for the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14), tentatively scheduled for March 2026.

##### 2.2. Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2030:

During the 2020 Russian chairship, BRICS leaders adopted a strategic document to guide the group's cooperation on economic issues, entitled "Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025". The Strategy is divided into three sections: (i) trade, investment, and finance; (ii) digital economy; and (iii) sustainable development.

At the time, BRICS Sherpas decided CGETI would negotiate this document, even though its implementation would eventually fall to different ministerial tracks and working groups. BRICS members also agreed that the document was to be revised at least once every five years. Since the document has not been reviewed since 2020, the Brazilian presidency proposes updating the Strategy.

##### 2.3. Leveraging data economy across the BRICS' digital economy community:

To tackle the dual challenges of bridging the digital and data divides in the Global South, Brazil's chairship proposes exploring mechanisms to enhance data flow among BRICS countries, recognizing that data exchange is fundamental to the digital economy.

Taking into account the fifth pillar of the Digital Economy Working Group's Work Plan, our goal is to share policy and practice experiences related to national data governance frameworks as well as to discuss alternatives to improve BRICS' data economy. The latter would entail the analysis of the benefits of establishing a common regional data market based on exchange amid the digital platforms of the member countries and the creation of data spaces and data exchanges to organize transactions among different economic sectors. The final objective is to draft a roadmap to improve data flows among BRICS countries, as well as agree on a BRICS Data Economy Governance Understanding, gathering shared principles from national data economy governance strategies as a first step towards disseminating good practices and measures to ensure the ethical, responsible and accessible use and flow of data for economic purposes.

