



Transport Working Group

ISSUES NOTE

BRICS 2025

1. Background Information

During the 1st BRICS Transport Ministerial Meeting under the Russian chairship, the Ministers focused primarily on the development of the transport industry and the promotion of industry cooperation in BRICS countries, as well as the future of the transport industry in the digital era. Brazil proposes to build upon the successful Russian chairship on the 1st Transport Ministerial Meeting and suggests, for the 2nd meeting, the following main themes: 1) sustainable and resilient infrastructure; 2) establishment of a BRICS International logistics Alliance; 3) decarbonization of ports and maritime transport; 4) sustainable aviation fuels; 5) air connectivity; and 6) sustainable urban mobility.

1.1 Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

The increasing intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable regions, particularly in the Global South, causing significant economic and infrastructural challenges. Resilient infrastructure, capable of maintaining operations during and after natural disasters, is essential to minimize disruptions to critical services such as energy, water, communications, and transport, which affect livelihoods, productivity, and employment. Recognizing this urgency, BRICS has emphasized strengthening resilience and sustainability through improved governance in line with the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.2. BRICS International Logistics Alliance

The BRICS International Logistics Alliance is intended as a framework for integration by creating new routes and commercial operations through multimodal transportation. It aims to enhance business opportunities, strengthen partnerships between private and public organizations, improve the availability, and increase the efficiency of international logistics operations for cargo and passengers among member countries.

In this context, discussions would also include the BRICS Humanitarian Logistics branch, which involves creating international humanitarian aid corridors between member countries. This initiative would support local civil protection and humanitarian aid services, focusing on activities such as information management, planning, collection, sorting and identification, storage, international transportation, and local distribution of supplies to assist populations affected by climate disasters and other types of disasters.

Establishing the BRICS International Logistics Alliance is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and integration among member states, fostering stronger economic ties and streamlined trade operations. By improving the efficiency and resilience of international logistics, the initiative will support sustainable economic growth while addressing critical challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance. It will strengthen the collective capacity of BRICS countries to respond effectively to climate-related and other disasters, ensuring timely and coordinated assistance to affected populations.

1.3. Decarbonization of Ports and Maritime Transport

The decarbonization of ports and maritime transport underscores BRICS nations' commitment to the global climate agenda and the urgent need to address the environmental impact of the transport sector. By adopting innovative technologies and sustainable practices, they aim to transform this key sector into a model of environmental stewardship.

As global trade depends heavily on maritime routes, accounting for up to 90% of the world's trade volume, clean and resilient port operations are essential. Decarbonizing ports and vessels reduces emissions, supports economic growth, and protects ecosystems. BRICS cooperation can advance green technologies, such as zero-emission fuels and renewable energy for port infrastructure, in line with global goals such as the Paris Agreement and the IMO's 2023 GHG Strategy.

In preparation for COP30, BRICS countries have an opportunity to assert themselves as global leaders in sustainable maritime practices, foster cooperation, and demonstrate their commitment to combating climate change.

1.4. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

The development and implementation of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) constitute a critical milestone in advancing the aviation sector's decarbonization. As aviation remains one of the fastest-growing contributors to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, transitioning to renewable fuels is essential to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For BRICS countries, which collectively account for a significant share of global air traffic and economic influence, collaboration in SAF development offers a dual opportunity: advancing the group's leadership in sustainable aviation and strengthening its commitment to the global climate agenda. By leveraging shared research capabilities, technological advancements, and market integration, BRICS countries can position themselves as an international hub for innovation in SAF production and adoption.

In preparation for COP30 in Belém in 2025, BRICS nations would have a unique platform to showcase their joint efforts in SAF development. Organizing a dedicated seminar on sustainable aviation fuels during COP30 would highlight the group's commitment to decarbonizing aviation and present strategies for scaling SAF production and adoption globally.

1.5. Air Connectivity

Establishing a multilateral "open skies" agreement among BRICS countries presents a unique opportunity to unlock the group's significant economic and social benefits. Such an agreement would liberalize air transport policies, allowing airlines greater freedom to operate within and between member states, thereby increasing connectivity and fostering integration.

Improved air connectivity among BRICS countries would strengthen economic ties by facilitating the movement of goods, services, and people. It would stimulate trade, tourism, and investment, creating new opportunities for economic growth. Additionally, increased competition in the aviation sector would lead to better service quality, competitive pricing, and greater passenger accessibility.

From a social perspective, increased connectivity would deepen cultural exchanges and strengthen relations between citizens of member states. An open skies agreement would encourage innovation, efficiency, and collaboration in the aviation industry.

1.6. Sustainable Urban Mobility

The 2024 Ministerial Declaration on Transports emphasized further developing urban public transport systems and promoting active mobility to create more equitable, liveable, healthier, and less congested urban environments.

It also recognized the need to transition to clean energy technologies in public transport and the use of low-emission and renewable energy in transport, considering all members' interests.

In this context, the government has been working on several fronts to improve the regulatory framework and accelerate the structuring of projects to implement public and active transport systems.

2. Priorities

2.1. Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure:

The BRICS Transportation Working Group provides an excellent opportunity for member countries to share experiences and identify common policies that promote sustainable and resilient transportation systems. For instance, Brazil has integrated interministerial sustainability guidelines into its policies and programs, ensuring that infrastructure projects consider socio-environmental, climatic, and economic aspects.

Specific examples Brazil could share include:

- **Adaptavias Project:** Highlighting the importance of integrating climate adaptation measures into all phases of transport infrastructure planning, construction, and maintenance to ensure resilience against extreme climate events.
- **Pricing Adaptation Measures:** Methodologies developed for evaluating and pricing climate change adaptation measures throughout the infrastructure lifecycle.

By exchanging these experiences, BRICS members could collaboratively explore innovative solutions and develop shared strategies to address the challenges of climate change while advancing sustainable transportation development.

2.2. BRICS International Logistics Alliance:

With regard to multimodal integration, the Brazilian chairmanship proposes fostering discussions on strengthening partnerships between public and private organizations to enhance seamless connectivity among member states. The aim is to optimize the movement of goods and people, boost trade efficiency, and drive regional economic growth. This effort includes harmonizing transportation systems, aligning policies, and addressing logistical bottlenecks to advance sustainable development.

With regard to crisis response mechanisms, the Brazilian chairship proposes fostering discussions on developing robust systems to address global challenges such as natural disasters and humanitarian crises. The BRICS Humanitarian Logistics Corridor aims to ensure coordinated resource mobilization, efficient aid delivery, enhanced disaster preparedness, and strengthened international cooperation, supported by innovative technologies to streamline operations.

2.3. Decarbonization of Ports and Maritime Transport:

To encourage progress in decarbonizing ports and maritime transport, the Brazilian chairship proposes facilitating a comprehensive dialogue among BRICS countries. This initiative aims to

foster the exchange of experiences, strategies, and lessons learned in adopting effective and sustainable policies in this sector.

2.4. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):

Joint initiatives among BRICS countries could accelerate the development and adoption of SAF. Collaborative projects would focus on advancing SAF technologies, diversifying feedstocks, and improving production processes, complemented by incentives to boost production and usage. Additionally, facilitating the exchange of expertise and best practices on SAF technologies, certification, and supply chain management is essential to achieving these goals.

2.5. Air Connectivity:

Recognizing the importance of air connectivity, the Brazilian chairship highlights the need to strengthen links among BRICS countries. Improved connectivity will promote both economic and social integration, expand investment opportunities, stimulate tourism, and enhance competitiveness in domestic and international aviation markets.

2.6. Sustainable Urban Mobility:

Placing sustainable urban mobility should be at the forefront of the 2025 BRICS agenda, focusing on two key strategic priorities. The first involves supporting the renewal of each country's urban bus fleet to enhance and expand service delivery, particularly in peripheral and socially disadvantaged regions. Special attention is given to improving passenger comfort and satisfaction, promoting inclusive fare systems, adopting low-emission technologies such as electrification and biofuels, and strengthening the national bus manufacturing industry.

The second priority centers on advancing national strategies to expand medium- and high-capacity transport networks in metropolitan regions. This includes efforts to finance metro rail systems while exploring innovative business models to improve intergovernmental governance in metropolitan areas. By fostering collaboration among municipalities, state governments, the federal government, and the private sector, the aim is to ensure the sustainability of transport infrastructure and promote sustainable, transport-oriented urban development.



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