

BRICS People-to-People Pillar

Recommendations to the 2nd Sherpas Meeting

Rio de Janeiro, April 24th



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Brasil 2025

COOPERANDO PARA UM MUNDO INCLUSIVO E SUSTENTÁVEL



Summary

BRICS Parliamentary Forum.....	3
BRICS Business Council.....	4
BRICS Civil Council.....	6
BRICS Youth Council.....	8
BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions.....	9
BRICS Trade Union Forum.....	11
BRICS Women’s Business Alliance.....	13
BRICS Think Tank Council.....	15
BRICS Small and Medium Enterprises Forum.....	16
BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities.....	17



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COOPERATING FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

BRICS Parliamentary Forum

BRICS 2025



The Brazilian Parliament is honored to host the 11th edition of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, which will take place at the National Congress Palace in Brasilia from June 3 to 5, 2025.

Since the first meeting in Moscow in 2015, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum has become an important platform for strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation among member countries.

In preparation for the 2025 meeting, the Brazilian Presidency plans to convene a meeting of BRICS women parliamentarians and a meeting of the Chairs of the Committees on Foreign Affairs. Both events are scheduled to take place in Brasilia on June 3.

To broaden the impact of the Parliamentary Forum's discussions and conclusions on the Leaders' agenda, we propose that our dialogue in Brasilia be guided by the priority axes set by the Brazilian BRICS Presidency: i) cooperation in global health; ii) trade, investment, and finance; iii) climate change; iv) artificial intelligence; v) reform of the multilateral peace and security architecture; and vi) institutional development.

Parliamentary contributions on each of these themes should serve as a beacon for the debates at the Parliamentary Forum and inform the content of the Final Declaration, which is expected to be negotiated throughout the month of May.

Building on the successful experiences of South Africa's (2023) and Russia's (2024) recent presidencies, the Brazilian Presidency also intends to promote discussions at the Parliamentary Forum on strengthening the role of parliaments, as representatives of our peoples, within the BRICS institutional framework.



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The logo of the BRICS Business Council (BBC) is located in the top right corner. It consists of five overlapping, stylized triangular shapes in blue, yellow, orange, red, and green, arranged in a fan-like pattern.

BRICS Business Council (BBC)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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We, the BRICS Business Council call upon the BRICS leaders to:

I. BRICS PRIORITY: TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND FINANCE

1. Improve trade efficiency in BRICS by digitalizing and streamlining trade processes through the adoption of advanced digital technologies such as blockchain, ensuring equitable opportunities for economic inclusion of SMEs in global value chains. BRICS Governments should focus on the harmonization of protocols for seamless flow of information across jurisdictions related to trade transactions, including data related to contracts, shipment origin, certification and digital signatures for customs clearance and logistics efficiency, while ensuring security and trust.
2. Reduce trade barriers among BRICS Countries through regulatory cooperation. Key actions for Governments include harmonizing regulatory standards among BRICS nations, including sanitary and technical standards, revising redundant or conflicting regulations, minimizing non-tariff barriers such as complex licensing requirements, adopting standardized forms and fast-track clearance programs and promoting mutual recognition mechanisms.
3. Expand innovative financial mechanisms to mobilize investments across BRICS countries, leveraging the catalytic role of the New Development Bank (NDB). Governments should establish public or blended-finance tools capitalized with NDB funding, offering favorable conditions for strategic sectors and underserved groups to address higher capital risks in BRICS economies. Examples include fast-tracking financing for low-carbon projects, and SME-focused funds with preferential interest rates, greater risk tolerance and reduced loan thresholds. It is also important to harmonize green finance frameworks and taxonomies, create enabling regulatory environments to attract private investment, and support workforce upskilling—particularly in high-tech and emerging industries.
4. Improve logistics connectivity among BRICS countries to stimulate trade growth and economic development. Key actions for BRICS include investing in the development of multimodal transport infrastructure, expanding strategic air connectivity routes through a Multilateral Air Service Agreement for BRICS nations, integrating smart storage and distribution solutions to minimize post-harvest losses, and establishing digital platforms to enhance cargo tracking and operational efficiency.

II. BRICS PRIORITY: CLIMATE CHANGE

5. Accelerate BRICS countries' energy transition through diversification of the energy matrix and broader adoption of biofuels through targeted financing, incentives, and technological cooperation. BRICS Governments should focus on closing the adaptation and investment gap between developed and developing countries by expanding access to climate financing and creating tailored funding mechanisms. Efforts should also focus on supporting carbon market development, fostering research and development in climate technologies, diversifying the energy matrix by scaling up renewable sources such as solar, wind, and green hydrogen, promoting innovative biofuels including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and investing in resilient infrastructure and green skills training to ensure an effective and equitable energy transition.
6. Accelerate the decarbonization of industrial value chains and promote circular economy practices across BRICS manufacturing sectors. Key actions for Governments include adopting low-carbon production technologies, increasing the use of recycled and low-impact materials, fostering research and development in carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), and prioritizing workforce capacity-building and green skills training.

7. Promote coordinated action among BRICS countries to ensure food security in the face of climate change. BRICS should advance a joint agenda to guarantee food access, quality, and safety, invest in research, adopt of smart agricultural technologies, and establish a BRICS Program on Regenerative Agriculture and Degraded Land Recovery, with dedicated financial support, particularly for small and medium-sized farms.

III. BRICS PRIORITY: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE

8. Ensure inclusive economic development in the context of digital transformation. BRICS Governments should collaborate with technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education (HE) systems, and the productive sector to enhance workforce skills in high technologies and green transformation areas. Equally relevant is investing in universal, affordable, and high- quality digital infrastructure, especially for underserved communities and SMEs, modernizing regulatory frameworks to ensure meaningful connectivity in remote areas and effectively bridge the digital divide in BRICS countries.
9. Cooperate to establish trust and governance in the digital economy, particularly enhancing SMEs cyber resilience. Priority actions for Governments are ensuring interoperability of frameworks for seamless cross-border business operations, tiered funding mechanisms for SMEs adoption of secure digital technologies and fostering public- private partnerships to accelerate the digitalization and roll-out of AI applications, fully harnessing the benefits of digital transformation.
10. Strengthen technological cooperation in emerging fields and high technologies to accelerate innovation, productivity and efficiency across manufacturing industries. Key efforts include government support to develop technological skills in the workforce, strengthen R&D infrastructure for innovation projects, and foster partnerships between industry and academic institutions. It requires aligning investments in science and technology with research priorities that tackle practical needs of industries and society.

Finally, BBC highlights the contribution of the BRICS Solution Awards to promote innovative projects that drive climate change mitigation, environmental sustainability, and the efficient use of natural resources. The award is organized by BBC and spotlight high-impact initiatives tackling global challenges while fostering sustainable development across BRICS nations.



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BRICS Civil Council

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Introductory Note of the Civil BRICS Council

This year, due to the short period of time from the Brazilian Government's release of its concept note on BRICS (February 12th) to the opportunity to be heard in the 2nd Sherpas' Meeting (April 24th), the BRICS Civil Council did not have the required time to organize the meetings of representatives of all BRICS Countries to elaborate on their demands. At this stage, we are at the end of the Brazilian Civil Society's and Social Movements' debates, which comprised hundreds of people from dozens of organizations. Divided into 7 Working Groups, these representatives produced the documents that will be submitted to be discussed by the representatives of all BRICS countries in the coming months of May and June. By mid-June, we intend to release the final documents of each working group and a final declaration of the People's BRICS Civil Forum which truly corresponds to the will of our societies. In this sense, we hereby acknowledge the efforts of the Brazilian Chapter of the Civil BRICS Council to put together the preliminary recommendations from the internal Brazilian process of participation. These recommendations were submitted to an initial consultation with the international body of representatives of the Civil BRICS Council. The current one-pager document reflects proposals from various countries' representatives. However, further consultations with the civil societies of our countries are still being held. Notwithstanding, we would humbly ask our leaders to commit themselves to officially receive and consider the final documents that will be released in June after the comprehensive process of participation involving all BRICS countries

Brazilian Representatives' Address to the 2nd BRICS Sherpa's Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, April 24th

The transition to a new global order in the 21st century necessitates the reformulation of the multilateral institutions established during the post-war period. The enlarged BRICS symbolizes this multipolar trend and seeks better representation and defense of the sovereignty of historically marginalized countries.

1. Regarding the institutionalization of the BRICS, the following should be sought: a) reform of global institutions to reflect the actual diversity of sovereign nations; b) the creation of a permanent domain on the internet with multilingual access and jointly managed governance to maintain the group's institutional memory; c) the creation of a structured engagement framework for dialogue between the Civil BRICS Council and BRICS leadership, including a formal annual consultation;
2. To effectively address environmental issues and climate change, BRICS must consolidate itself as a protagonist in environmental governance within multilateralism based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and social, economic, and environmental justice. To achieve this goal, it is essential to guarantee a fair ecological and energy transition, ecologically friendly agriculture that promotes sovereignty and food security. Additionally, securing climate financing for adaptation, mitigation, and full reparation, losses, and damage becomes inevitable. It is also important to fight desertification, biodiversity loss and to guarantee water security. Ensuring popular participation and environmental education strengthens the bloc's leading role in the international climate and environmental agenda.
3. In financial matters, the BRICS should strengthen the use of national currencies in intra-bloc

trade and strengthen the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. They should promote the integration of national payment systems, facilitate fast and secure cross-border transactions. They should encourage debt sustainability reform, advancing countries' sovereignty in the Global South. The Contingent Reserve Arrangement should be revised, creating a "specific supervisory unit" to increase the BRICS' decision-making power over potential loans. Expand the contribution to the fund and the right to draw down to all BRICS members and their partners. Strengthen the NDB by expanding its fundraising among public funds of member countries, creating an alternative to fundraising in the capital markets. Continue studying the possibility of creating both BRICS Clear, and BRICS Reinsurance. Finally, they must encourage national input to create domestic Special Economic Zones, expand qualified employment in these locations, and ensure labor rights and respect for environmental standards.

4. Aiming at digital sovereignty, BRICS should consider in joint action, but respecting national discretion, to regulate taxation so that the resources collected are used to finance digital infrastructure, technology transfer between the countries of the group, expansion of meaningful connectivity, participatory governance and the development of artificial intelligence for peaceful purposes in order to ensure that the BRICS countries develop their digital and popular sovereignty.

5. In the educational agenda, education must be considered a strategic pillar for strengthening the BRICS in constructing a fair, egalitarian, and peaceful multipolar world. Accessible, quality public education is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed to all BRICS citizens without financial barriers. It is essential to overcome the hegemony of the Global North in educational metrics and models and to build collaborative models based on the cultural, territorial, and social foundations of the countries of the Global South. We propose combating the commodification and financialization of education, reaffirming its character as a social right; ensuring public, democratic, and sovereign management of educational systems; reinforcing the already existing initiatives like the BRICS Network University and the BRICS University League. We should seek financial mechanisms to support the promotion of academic cooperation and mobility, cultural and scientific exchange, and mutual recognition of diplomas.

6. Health, considered a fundamental human right, must be guaranteed in an equitable and universal manner among the BRICS countries, with special attention to the most vulnerable populations. BRICS must be committed to health based on social justice, overcoming inequalities, and strengthening public systems, as well as response to humanitarian crises and natural disasters. In this sense, we propose increasing financial resources for research and development of vaccines, medicines, and health technologies; technology transfer and flexibility of patents, to ensure production and capacity building of vulnerable communities and their access to health services, providing social and psychological and humanitarian supports; encouraging policies and projects that promote healthy habits and environments; and ensuring the production of and access to adequate food and nutrient-dense food, according to national priorities.

7. Valuing Culture as a vector for integration among peoples, the BRICS must formulate and implement policies that promote and expand cultural and artistic expressions through actions that enable the mapping, presentation, circulation, reflection, and stimulation of creativity in the various countries. We recommend the establishment of Common Investment Funds for artistic production and circulation, such as meetings, fairs, and festivals, as well as for ongoing initiatives that are not restricted to the logic of events but establish permanent exchanges between the cultures of the various countries of the bloc. Following the successful First International Blind Football Tournament, we also suggest the inclusion of sports-related activities to promote people's integration, with specific emphasis to paralympic movements, in order to promote accessibility policies within the group.



BRICS Youth Council

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

BRICS is more than just an economic and political bloc; it is a strategic project, grounded in multipolarity, inclusion, and the self-determination of peoples. And what is the driving force capable of sustaining this transformation over time? The youth. The BRICS countries represent 42% of the world's population. And a significant portion of that population is young. Millions of young people bring energy, creativity, and commitment to an equitable and more sustainable world. That is why it is imperative to recognize: there is no future for BRICS without youth. In the Global South, young people are a vital asset for national development. We are at the forefront of technological and industrial innovation, capable of repositioning our countries on the international stage and in the global division of labor. We are leading social entrepreneurship, scientific advancement, and environmental activism -- all of which are essential for reducing inequalities and ensuring sustainability. Therefore, the development projects discussed within BRICS must be inclusive of young people. They must address youth employment, technical and political training, and the generation of opportunities. When BRICS invests in youth, it is investing in its own future: a future with more jobs, more knowledge, more income, more sustainability, and more sovereignty. Moreover, understanding that the diversity of BRICS countries is what determines the strength of this initiative, we recognize that youth have a decisive role in building cultural bridges between member countries and their peoples. Through exchange programs, academic cooperation, volunteer projects, and public diplomacy actions, new generations can foster shared values and strengthen the ties that unite our nations. This is also why we advocate for the strengthening of youth platforms within BRICS. The Meeting of Youth Ministers and the Youth Council are fundamental spaces to ensure that the decisions of Heads of State take into account the voices and proposals of young people. These fora make BRICS more vibrant, more connected to the realities of our people, and more capable of addressing 21st-century challenges. This year, we want to deepen the institutionalization of the Youth Council and update the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015 to include the new member countries. BRICS has the duty to reaffirm hope through the strengthening of multilateralism. And youth are our main ally in this task. Young people believe in the power of dialogue, in cooperation among differences, and in the possibility of inclusive development. Therefore, as we reaffirm BRICS' commitment to multilateralism, we also reaffirm the need to make youth a cross-cutting priority in our actions. We need public policies for youth in our countries, structured funding at both national and international levels, reliable data, and exchanges of best practices. We advocate for BRICS to produce joint knowledge about the youth of the BRICS; we advocate for BRICS projects and initiatives to consider youth perspectives; we advocate for BRICS structures, such as the New Development Bank, to contribute to expanding the financing of youth-led projects and public policies for young people. Encouraging youth participation may serve as a valuable focus area, helping nurture leadership, civic responsibility, and a stronger connection with community development goals. If we want BRICS to progress further, we must invest in those who can carry this project forward for decades to come. This generation is ready. It is up to us, now, to open the way.



BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

The representatives of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the BRICS countries:

Recognizing the role of SAIs in promoting good governance, transparency and effectiveness of public policies, in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 66/209, of December 22, 2011, 69/228, of December 19, 2014 and 79/231, of December 19, 2024, and in line with the Kazan Declaration of October 23, 2024, adopted at the 16th BRICS Summit, *Bearing in mind* that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize economic sectors, transform the labor market, and redefine human interactions, while also introducing significant challenges, such as the amplification of social inequalities, job loss and misinformation,

Emphasizing that international cooperation among the BRICS SAIs is essential to mitigate the negative impacts of AI and promote its ethical and responsible use, thus contributing to creating an environment that maximizes the benefits of AI while minimizing its risks, and considering the specificities of the BRICS countries,

Agree to:

1.A) Support the transformative potential of AI to enhance good governance, transparency, accountability and the effectiveness of public policies at the national level, while addressing associated challenges – such as social inequalities, job loss, and misinformation – through international cooperation and balanced approaches.

1.B) Work towards the implementation of audits that assess the impact of AI on the formulation and implementation of public policies, with a focus on evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and fairness of these policies, fostering broad distribution of AI's benefits and mitigating the risks associated with its use.

1.C) Monitor the effectiveness of public policies designed to mitigate the negative effects of AI, such as professional reskilling programs and digital inclusion initiatives.

1.D) Promote cooperation among the SAIs of the BRICS countries to exchange and develop best practices, methodologies, and audit tools related to AI, while supporting capacity-building efforts that enable SAIs to effectively address the challenges and opportunities presented by AI and effectively employ these technologies in audit processes.

Recognize the significance for the national governments to consider to:

2.A) Enhance national policies and programs for digital inclusion, reskilling, and technological training, focusing on AI-related and sustainability-oriented skills.

2.B) Develop frameworks and regulations that ensure fairness in the use of AI, respecting national legislation of the countries, by preventing algorithmic and data biases, ensuring good governance and transparency, protecting sensitive data, and enhancing cybersecurity measures, such as those aimed at preventing and combating the misuse of AI - for example, by the spread of misinformation.

2.C) Formulate and adopt strategies based on clear and measurable objectives to evaluate the impact of AI on public policies, incorporating social, economic, and technological

indicators.

2.D) Ensure the responsible and efficient use of resources allocated for implementing AI technologies, by providing appropriate controls, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in how these resources are deployed.

2.E) Work towards the distribution and scaling of the benefits of AI, such as increased productivity and the creation of new business models and jobs, considering the needs of social inclusion and equality.

2.F) Ensure that AI is widely adopted in the digital transformation of the public sector, to optimize the delivery of essential services to society, and to support data-driven decision making for efficient allocation of limited resources in critical areas, such as health, education, and public security.

2.G) Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation of AI-related policies, in coordination with SAIs, to ensure continuous oversight and promote ongoing improvement.



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BRICS Trade Union Forum

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

Under the theme “Strengthening South-South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Global Governance”, the trade union centers of the BRICS member countries, gathered in Brasília on April 23 and 24, 2025, present the following recommendations to the governments of the bloc:

1. Institutionalization of the BRICS Trade Union Forum and Creation of a Permanent Secretariat

We reiterate the need to formalize the BRICS Trade Union Forum as a permanent space for structured social dialogue, with regular participation in the bloc's decision-making mechanisms. We propose the creation, over the next five years, of a Permanent Secretariat in a network format, with offices in all member countries, operating under the coordination of their respective national trade union coordinators.

2. Reform of Multilateral Institutions and Strengthening of Inclusive Governance

BRICS must lead an agenda for the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions (IMF and World Bank) and the WTO, so that they become more democratic, transparent, and focused on reducing inequalities. The New Development Bank should expand its operations with a focus on financing social infrastructure, combating poverty, and fostering sustainable reindustrialization.

3. Decent Work, Social Protection, and Just Transition

Decent work must be the central axis of public policies in the BRICS. We advocate for: strengthening the ILO and its fundamental principles; public policies for platform workers; ensuring quality employment during the transition to a low-carbon economy; and adequate protection against the indiscriminate application of artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems in society.

4. Opposition to Unilateralism, Sanctions, and Arbitrary Tariffs

We condemn illegitimate unilateral economic sanctions that violate the principles of the UN Charter. We also express concern over the recent tariff escalation promoted by the U.S. government. BRICS must take a stand in defense of multilateralism and economic sovereignty.

5. Promotion of Peace and Security as Pillars for Development

We reaffirm the role of peace as an essential condition for the exercise of labor rights. Armed conflicts and humanitarian crises deepen inequalities and weaken the working class.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

It is urgent to combat all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace. We advocate for policies ensuring equal pay and full participation of women in decision-making spaces.

7. South-South Cooperation and Strengthening of Trade Unions

We propose that BRICS expand technical training and trade union exchange programs; create a Support Fund for Trade Unions in Developing Countries; and promote networks with unions in partner countries.

8. Trade Union Participation in Public Policies

We urge BRICS governments to ensure the inclusion of trade unions in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies.



The logo of the BRICS Women Business Alliance (WBA) is located in the top right corner. It consists of several overlapping, stylized triangular shapes in blue, yellow, orange, red, and green, pointing towards the right.

BRICS Women Business Alliance (WBA)

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

We, the Women Business Alliance (WBA) call upon the BRICS leaders to:

I. BRICS PRIORITY: TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND FINANCE

Strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries on the agenda of women and international trade, providing support for women-led businesses to access and thrive in foreign markets. Governments should begin by collecting and analyzing data on the participation of women in trade. It is also important to break down this data specifically between small and medium-sized enterprises, as these two groups face distinct challenges and require differentiated policy responses. Based on the identified gaps, BRICS governments should develop targeted policy incentives, such as: Business promotion measures; Financial support for infrastructure and access to technology; financial literacy and investment-readiness programs supported by public institutions; mentorship and capacity building opportunities; as well as collaborative networks to strengthen women entrepreneurs' integration into international business operations.

Facilitate access to credit and financing mechanisms for women-led businesses across BRICS countries to enhance economic participation in strategic sectors, leveraging the catalytic role of the New Development Bank (NDB). Governments should establish public or blended-finance instruments backed by NDB resources, offering tailored credit lines and favorable conditions for financial products targeting women-led enterprises, as well as grants and seed funding for women entrepreneurs.

Empower women and foster the resilience and integration of the tourism sector in BRICS countries. Priority efforts for governments are linked to enhancing female integration and leadership in new tourism trends, such as environmental, health, experiential, community-based and digital nomad tourism, including government support for Capacity-building; Access to finance; Technical cooperation in transport and security, and Air connectivity across BRICS nations.

II. BRICS PRIORITY: COOPERATION IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Develop public policies related to the healthcare of women in vulnerable situations. BRICS governments should allocate public funding for women-centric research and clinical support that address the women's health gap. Key priorities include expanding access to healthcare for low-income women and ethnic minorities, with particular attention to the prevention and treatment of socially determined and neglected diseases. These efforts must be guided by an intersectional lens, recognizing that women's health outcomes are shaped by overlapping factors such as race, socioeconomic status, disability, and other dimensions of vulnerability.

III. BRICS PRIORITY: CLIMATE CHANGE

Implement programs to provide technical assistance and capacity-building for rural women, in partnership with the public and private sectors, ensuring specific support for climate change adaptation, strengthening economic autonomy, and social protection. These programs should include measures to enhance soil health, promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve market access conditions, and foster financial

literacy, thereby increasing agricultural resilience, water retention, and natural fertility, reducing farmers' vulnerability to climate impacts.

IV. BRICS PRIORITY: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE

Foster public-private partnerships to empower women in high-technology and emerging fields, enabling them to become resilient and fully benefit from the transformative power of the digital economy. Priority efforts include Incentives for women leadership in R&D projects and grants/funding, Capacity building for women in high technologies and emerging fields and Mentorship and collaborative R&D networks.

Finally, WBA highlights the contribution of the BRICS Women's Startups Contest in promoting women-led solutions to global challenges. The 2025 edition is co-organized by CNI and SEBRAE, aiming to foster economic inclusion for women in key sectors, drive innovation, raise awareness of sustainable business practices and promote technological adoption and digital transformation.



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BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC)

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

Under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance," Brazil's 2025 BRICS Chairship focuses on two key areas: (i) Global South Cooperation, and (ii) BRICS Partnership for Social, Economic, and Environmental Development. Reaffirming its commitment to fostering a more equitable, just, democratic, and balanced multipolar world order, the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) has formulated 23 recommendations for consideration by the BRICS leaders. They have been delivered to the rotating presidency on April 8. Here, we would like to highlight three of them:

First, we want to recall that enhancing financial governance and resource mobilization may be key to supporting a just transition, in line with country circumstances, approaches and pathways. This could involve reforms in the international financial architecture, strengthening multilateral financing mechanisms and ensuring greater access to concessional funding for the Global South. Aligning fiscal and regulatory policies with sustainability objectives could also help reinforce BRICS leadership in this space. Additionally, recognizing the framework agreement to establish the BRICS Tax Authorities Forum, BRICS may consider promoting fairer global taxation structures while respecting the sovereignty of each country, particularly within the *United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation*. Considering the 1.5°C climate goal, strengthening financial flows to move forward the individual climate goals of members could be an area of focus. BRICS members could further enhance the role of the New Development Bank (NDB) in promoting sustainability by sharing experiences on green taxonomy to standardize investment criteria, issuing green financial instruments, and directing resources toward sustainable infrastructure and climate resilience projects. Through these measures, BRICS could lead in sustainable finance, influencing policies that balance economic growth with ecological responsibility, including climate resilience, adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity conservation, thus promoting sustainable and inclusive development. BRICS should also develop an adaptation financing taxonomy.

Second, we want to remark that improving health surveillance systems and global health crisis preparedness can further strengthen BRICS capacity to respond effectively to public health emergencies. Investing in early detection, integrated response mechanisms, and timely communication may reinforce national and regional capabilities to mitigate health crises. Greater coordination with global health systems, particularly through enhanced collaboration under the WHO's *International Health Regulations (IHR)* framework, can help strengthen public health security. In this context, active BRICS engagement in the ongoing negotiations of the WHO's pandemic agreement at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB/WHO) may ensure that emerging markets and developing countries (EMDC) and their perspectives and needs are reflected in shaping global health governance frameworks. Fostering multilateral cooperation in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response can contribute to more resilient health systems across BRICS nations and beyond, reinforcing a coordinated, inclusive, and equitable approach to future health challenges. Additionally, BRICS could explore establishing a Permanent Council of BRICS Ministers of Health, which can help coordinate solutions and assist in monitoring recommendations.

Finally, it is important to highlight that strengthening cooperation in the international monetary system should be a key area of engagement for BRICS. The BRICS expansion presents an opportunity to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and payment systems to promote trade and investment flows. Sharing experiences and best practices in payment infrastructure can help develop faster, low-cost, more efficient, transparent, safe and inclusive cross-border payment instruments, such as local currency payment systems, built upon the principle of minimizing trade barriers and non-discriminatory access. With a view to increasing the operational flexibility of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS could expedite the process of amending the CRA Treaty and related documents to incorporate alternative eligible currencies, including CRA's parties' national currencies, into the CRA mechanism.



Empowering MSMEs: Strategic Civil Society Partnerships in BRICS Nations

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

No one is safe unless everyone is safe - whether addressing climate change, digital transformation, poverty alleviation, or social inclusion.

- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the cornerstone of BRICS economies, representing around 90% of business entities and generating 50% of employment opportunities.
- Catalysts for economic inclusion: youth, women, and others with untapped economic potential into the formal economy; sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction; sources of entrepreneurship driving innovation and growth.
- Challenges: access to financing, innovation and skills gaps, regulatory requirements, vulnerability to economic shocks, climate disasters; digital adoption and environmental sustainability.
- Five strategic interventions:
 - Creating exchange networks to facilitate transfer of proven practices and establish direct pathways for youth participation in economic development.
 - Championing green transition pairing established green enterprises with traditional MSMEs; repositioning sustainability as a competitive advantage
 - Securing access to digital resources, with support networks for digital transformation and responsible AI integration; bridging skill gaps, to empower MSME transformation and upgrades, thereby enhancing their resilience.
 - Elevating MSME voices through rigorous policy recommendations, advocacy and multi-stakeholder dialogues.
 - Fostering innovative, specialized development and competitiveness of MSMEs
- Tangible outcomes: enhanced MSME resilience, more inclusive economic growth with youth, women and others with untapped economic potential; economic participation; accelerated sustainability adoption; improved digital capabilities; strengthened civil society coordination, and more responsive policy frameworks.

Civil society organizations and MSMEs share a pivotal position in creating inclusive development and growth throughout BRICS economies, with particular emphasis on generating self-sustaining revenue through inclusive entrepreneurship. The collective challenges we face---from climate vulnerability to digital divides to economic inequality---demand unified responses grounded in the principle that true security and prosperity can only be achieved when extended to all.



BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities

RECOMMENDATIONS

BRICS 2025

We, Mayors and local leaders of the BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities (hereinafter referred to as the Association), meeting in Maricá, Brazil, for the General Assembly on May 26-28th 2025, extend our sincere gratitude for the increased recognition of the role of cities and municipalities in global governance, and we appreciate the space given to local governments within the BRICS framework.

In this spirit, we respectfully request that the following components and priorities be considered for ministerial and technical discussions within official BRICS processes:

1. Recognizing that cities play a crucial role in policy implementation, we emphasize the need for local priorities to shape national and global agendas. Cities and municipalities are harbors of innovative public policy and are spaces where groundbreaking solutions are born and where international agendas are transformed into concrete action.
2. We commend the Brazilian 2025 BRICS Presidency for recognizing local leadership, following the Russian 2024 initiative that enabled the Association's foundation, and invite future Presidencies to maintain and increase this engagement with local governments. We urge BRICS members to engage subnational governments in strategic policymaking for climate action, disaster response, public health, housing, and migration.
3. We advocate for direct municipal engagement in trade and investment frameworks by matching local economic needs and opportunities with international funding. Local governments are the primary engines of economic innovation, and by reducing bureaucratic barriers and creating direct international investment networks for local governments, the multilateral system can unlock unprecedented potential for sustainable local economic development.
4. Municipalities require access to finance, technology, capacity building, and data to drive sustainable action. The Association supports governance mechanisms and sustainable funding models that empower local governments to implement sustainable policy at the local level. For that, we would like to stress the need for developed nations to facilitate the transfer of novel, adequate, accessible, ambitious, and predictable climate finance for subnational governments in developing countries, empowering cities of the BRICS+ countries and their partners to implement ambitious climate policies effectively.
5. We ask the Sherpas to champion these priorities within the BRICS framework, reinforcing the role of cities as essential in global governance. The Association stands ready to collaborate in designing and implementing these mechanisms.