



PRELIMINARY REPORT

PORTFOLIO OF BRICS COOPERATION MECHANISMS

a joint research initiative coordinated by the
BRICS THINK TANKS COUNCIL

Brasília, June 2025



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Walter Desiderá, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

BACKGROUND

The establishment and evolution of the BRICS grouping has marked a significant transformation in the landscape of global governance and international political economy. Initially an acronym to refer to Brazil, Russia, India and China, the group gained political substance following the 2008 global financial crisis, when these emerging economies began to formally articulate their demands for greater representation in global decision-making forums. The political convergence of the countries during this period laid the foundation for the construction of BRICS as a platform through which large emerging markets could express shared concerns and align strategic aspirations within multilateral institutions.

From the outset, the BRICS countries articulated a common demand for the reform of the economic international order, particularly the Bretton Woods multilateral institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. These organizations, widely perceived as dominated by the interests of developed countries, were increasingly viewed as misaligned with the shifting balance of economic power in the twenty-first century. The foundational objective of the BRICS, therefore, has been to promote a more just and representative world order—one that recognizes the political weight of emerging powers and strengthens multilateralism. Despite their heterogeneity in terms of political regimes, development models, and regional contexts, BRICS members have consistently converged on the principles of sovereign equality, the defense of the right to development, and the need for democratized decision-making in international relations.

Over time, the BRICS agenda has expanded significantly beyond its economic and financial focus. What began as a coordinated push for reforming global governance has evolved into a mechanism for policy coordination across strategic sectors. The group now engages in dialogue and joint initiatives on issues such as technological innovation, climate change, food and energy security, infrastructure development, public health, security, sports, education, and cultural exchange. This thematic broadening has been accompanied by the institutionalization of annual summits, the establishment of various kinds of cooperation mechanisms, and the integration of different actors into the process, including think tanks, state agencies, and development banks. As a result, the BRICS has matured into a multidimensional platform that fosters both political dialogue and practical collaboration across a wide range of policy domains.

The enlargement of BRICS has progressively become another feature of its evolving identity as a coalition of emerging powers. The admission of South Africa in 2011 marked the first step toward a broader and more inclusive composition, bringing an African perspective into the group and reinforcing its continental reach. Relying on experiences such as the BRICS Outreach Dialogue, the expansion announced in 2024 and 2025—welcoming Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as member countries—has further diversified the bloc’s composition in geographic, political, and economic terms. The expansion signals a deliberate effort to enhance the relevance and legitimacy of the bloc as a forum for leading the Global South and articulating its priorities on the global stage. By integrating countries with distinct geopolitical profiles and considerable regional weight, the growth reflects a pragmatic openness to diversity and a recognition of the complex reality shaping international relations in the last decades.

Under Brazil’s presidency, the agenda for 2025 is guided by the motto *Strengthening Global South cooperation for more inclusive and sustainable governance*, which encapsulates the commitment to reinforcing

multilateralism, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing institutional capacities. The annual program is structured around six thematic priorities, each addressing critical dimensions of the contemporary global agenda.

First, Global Health Cooperation, seeks to foster tangible collaboration in areas such as universal health systems, primary care, and digital health infrastructure. Second, Trade, Investment and Finance, advocates for the advancement of sustainable, inclusive investment frameworks and the facilitation of trade flows supported by the use of local currencies. Third, Climate Change, calls for the articulation of a BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda ahead of COP-30 in Belém, aiming to reinforce the bloc's collective voice on the sustainable transition. Fourth, Artificial Intelligence Governance, addresses the urgent task of setting up inclusive and multilateral frameworks for the regulation of these emerging technologies, safeguarding digital sovereignty, data equity, and technological transfer. Fifth, Reform of the Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture, while reiterating long-standing BRICS demands to reform the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), calls for the strengthening of cooperation among regional mechanisms dedicated to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Finally, the sixth and overarching priority, Institutional Development, calls attention to the pressing need for greater cohesion, efficiency, and strategic depth within the BRICS architecture. As the group enlarges its membership and expands the policy domains of engagement, the sustainability and impact of its initiatives increasingly relies on updating its institutional underpinnings. While the bloc has constructed a considerable quantity of valuable initiatives, many of them hold untapped potential and could be more effectively leveraged to produce consistent and coordinated outcomes. Advancing the institutionalization of cooperation mechanisms and fostering greater synergy among them is essential to strengthen operational coherence and policy coordination. Consolidating these foundations is a necessary step for guaranteeing the full integration of new members into BRICS platforms, while

enhancing long-term effectiveness, credibility, and capacity to shape global governance through consistent and collective action.

GOALS AND JUSTIFICATION

In alignment with the above, a joint research initiative was conceived under the coordination of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC), proposed by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), chair of the council in 2025. The overarching *goal* of the **Portfolio of BRICS Cooperation Mechanisms** project has been defined as gathering a standard set of basic information about all cooperation mechanisms of BRICS institutional framework.

Specifically, the initiative responds to the first recommendation issued by BTTC at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum (FABRICS) in 2024. Within the document endorsed in Moscow, in order to promote the integration of BRICS states, BTTC members called for the elaboration of a shared portfolio that could guide both existing and incoming members toward deeper engagement. Anchored in a network-based approach among BTTC members, the project also aims to foster inclusivity and promote consensus-building among research institutions within BRICS.

The portfolio serves as a comprehensive resource to systematically identify, document, and strengthen the whole set of BRICS cooperation mechanisms. It contributes as a foundational tool for conducting thorough analyses of the group's cooperative efforts, leading to enhanced cohesion, institutional development, and the global influence of the coalition. In doing so, it supports the construction of a realistic and forward-looking narrative about BRICS cooperation—one that contrasts with some external misperceptions and highlights the bloc's evolution as a collective actor in global governance.

This research relies specially on the Depositary of BRICS documents launched by BRICS Expert Council – Russia within the framework of Russian Chairship in 2024 (<https://bricscouncil.ru/en/summits-and-documents>). By the end of the

project, all new and publicly accessible documentation compiled in the portfolio will be included in the depositary.

KEY METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

The research project was designed to produce results that guarantee coherence, comparability, and transparency in the mapping and description of the component platforms within the BRICS institutional framework. This general principle guided the methodological choices involving the steps described below.

The first task was to conceptually delimit the *units of analysis*. Referred to as *cooperation mechanisms*, they were generally defined as platforms (i) formally created or endorsed by BRICS leaders as part of the institutional framework, and (ii) which had maintained regular meetings and/or activities annually over the last five years—or since their creation, in the case of those established in 2021 or later. Conferences, congresses, exercises, roundtables, seminars, symposiums, trainings, workshops, and webinars officially promoted by BRICS were acknowledged as significant cooperative activities. However, they were not included as cooperation mechanisms precisely to limit the scope of this project.

The second step was to produce a *preliminary mapping* of the existing mechanisms. Conducted by IPEA, the compilation of a foundational list of initiatives relied on the event calendars published by the BRICS presidencies from 2020 to 2024 and made publicly available online. Based on this preliminary screening—and after excluding dozens of events that did not meet the criteria established by the research design—a total of 184 cooperation mechanisms were identified.

It must be highlighted that this process involved detecting and resolving minor discrepancies in the names used to refer to cooperation mechanisms across those years. In many cases, it proved challenging to determine with certainty whether similarly titled initiatives referred to events belonging to distinct

platforms or were variations in nomenclature. For this reason, a definitive and complete list of BRICS cooperation mechanisms will only be released in the final report. This situation reflects the gap in the availability of systematized information that the research aims to address, underscoring the pertinence of the project.

The third task was to define the remaining components of the research design. The *standard set of basic information* to be gathered has been generally defined as describing the creation, membership, work dynamics, and mandate of each cooperation mechanism, while enabling their classification according to dimensions such as issue area and participation profile. *Data collection and submission* were structured around an online form. The questions posed translate into a combination of categorical and numerical indicators, along with open-ended fields that provide the foundation for individual detailed description, standardized comparison, and context-sensitive interpretation. Finally, the fundamental *primary sources* consulted were the documents officially produced by the cooperation mechanisms themselves, complemented and validated by interviews with respective national representatives whenever necessary.

The high number of mechanisms mapped suggested it would be nearly impossible to deliver results covering the entire institutional framework in time to support the achievement of institutional development goals set for 2025. To address this challenge without compromising the quality of the outputs, and while improving the overall research process, a decision was made to further reduce the scope of the study through a grouping strategy.

The preliminary mapping revealed cases in which distinct mechanisms appeared to pursue the same general goal and address issues of a common policy domain, despite being designated under different classifications—such as *working groups* or *task forces*. In other cases, the names suggested variations in participation profile, including whether membership was limited to official

representatives or extended to a broader set of stakeholders, or whether the mechanisms functioned as intergovernmental platforms operating at different authoritative levels of decision-making or implementation. Drawing on prior knowledge and ensuring alignment with the project's overarching goals, some mechanisms were therefore grouped according to their shared thematic focus and functional purpose, resulting in a consolidated list of 126 cooperation mechanisms.

The main rationale that supported the decision to merge certain mechanisms was directly linked to the *historical summary of activities and outcomes* required in the data collection form. Preliminary exercises demonstrated that producing separate accounts for mechanisms that were closely related and had directly interacted in pursuing a common objective was both redundant and analytically unproductive. From a practical standpoint, it is also worth noting that, due to their textual nature, these descriptive components represented the most labor-intensive part of the research endeavor—meaning that their consolidation led to significant efficiency gains without compromising the depth or quality of the analysis.

ON THIS PRELIMINARY REPORT

In light of the time constraints, the members of BTTC agreed to focus initial efforts on a selected subset of cooperation mechanisms, with the aim of producing partial results ahead of the 2025 BRICS Summit, scheduled for July in Rio de Janeiro. The selection of this sample was carried out voluntarily by each institution, based on their own criteria and respecting operational capacities. The results obtained from this first phase are the content presented in the pages of this preliminary report. The final report, which will include a comprehensive analysis covering the full set of cooperation mechanisms, is scheduled for completion in December 2025.

RESULTS

AGRICULTURE MEETINGS – BRICS AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING and BRICS WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Agriculture

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2010

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“17. We express our satisfaction with the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development in Moscow, where they discussed ways of promoting quadripartite cooperation, with particular attention to family farming. We are convinced that this will contribute towards global food production and food security. We welcome their decision to create an agricultural information base system of the BRIC countries, to develop a strategy for ensuring access to food for vulnerable population, to reduce the negative impact of climate change on food security, and to enhance agriculture technology cooperation and innovation.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

- Minister of Agrarian Development of Brazil
- Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
- Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution of India
- Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China
- Minister of Agriculture of South Africa
- Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt
- Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia
- Minister of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates

Agriculture officials of member countries at director-general level or below.

MANDATE

Goal

The primary goal of the BRICS Agriculture meetings is to foster collaboration and coordination among BRICS member countries in the agricultural sector, aiming to enhance food security, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and facilitate trade, share knowledge and best practices as well as addressing key challenges in the sector and strengthen agri-food system.

“The joint statement of BRIC countries on the global food security, adopted at the Summit in Yekaterinburg (Russia) on June 16th 2009, considered the issue of global food security and resolved to address the problem of food production

and hunger without delay in a comprehensive manner through resolute action by governments and relevant international agencies.

We, the Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development of the BRIC countries first met in Moscow (Russian Federation) on March 26th 2010 and agreed on broad contours of quadrilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector with particular attention to family farming, the development of which will not only help long-term interests of the four states but contribute towards global food security.

Reiterating our support to the initiatives taken at international level such as FAO 2009 World Food Summit in Rome, we intend to develop effective and comprehensive measures for development of agriculture in BRIC countries through close cooperation and coordination in the field of agriculture and allied activities.

Realizing the need for ensuring food security at the global level and addressing the challenge of ensuring stable and sufficient production of basic food grains, to raise living standard, to provide steady and inclusive development of rural areas, to increase efficiency of small and medium sized agro-industrial units and productivity of family farms, there is a need for more intensive cooperation among BRIC countries through the exchange of experience, coordinated action and implementation of joint projects wherever possible and in the interest of the four countries.

Ensuring food security requires a well-functioning world market and trade system for food and agriculture based on the principles of fairness and non-discrimination. In this regard, it is of paramount importance to accelerate the Doha round of talks at the World Trade Organization (WTO)."

The BRICS Agriculture Working Group promotes cooperation in agricultural science, policy dialogue, sustainable food production systems, and food security strategies.

The 2025 Joint Declaration emphasizes strengthening public policies to combat hunger and poverty, supporting farmers' welfare, promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, improving value chains, facilitating intra-BRICS trade, encouraging women's and youth participation, and ensuring inclusive policies for family and smallholder farmers.

Main statutory/operational document

Moscow Declaration of BRIC Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development, 2010.

Action Plans of the BRICS Agriculture Working Group.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2010. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, since its inception, has focused on strengthening agricultural cooperation and addressing global challenges like food security and climate change. The meetings have led to joint declarations, action plans, and the establishment of initiatives like a BRICS grain exchange, aiming to enhance agricultural production and trade within the BRICS bloc and beyond.

BRICS have developed the Basic Agriculture Information Exchange System (BAIES) and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform to promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, exchange of information and policy, best practice sharing, training and capacity building. We express our intention to support and encourage the BAIES and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (ARP).

The meetings have consistently emphasized the development of sustainable agricultural practices, including promoting biodiversity and reducing the negative impact of climate change on food security. A major focus has been on improving food security and nutrition, particularly for vulnerable populations, through increased agricultural productivity and the development of effective solutions.

The meetings have also aimed to promote trade and investment in the agricultural sector, fostering economic opportunities and strengthening value chains. Furthermore, the meetings have resulted in the adoption of joint declarations and action plans, outlining specific areas of cooperation and setting targets for agricultural development. In 2016, BRICS acknowledged the establishment of the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (ARP) that is a virtual platform for agricultural research to promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, technology, policy, innovations, extension and technology transfer, training and capacity building, and information sharing among the BRICS member countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic period BRICS bloc encourage the BRICS members to make commitments to cooperate through the ARP and make available the relevant resources. In 2021, BRICS endorse the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS countries in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2022, the Strategy on Food Security Cooperation of the BRICS Countries was adopted. Agricultural expert working groups have been established to facilitate the implementation of action plans and to develop new initiatives.

Outcome documents

The meetings of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture since their inception have achieved different outcomes, including the adoption of joint declarations, the establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP), and discussions on key issues like food security, sustainable agriculture, and agricultural technology cooperation.

In Joint declaration of the 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, June 28, 2024, the ministers reiterated their appreciation for the accomplishments of the Agricultural Cooperation Working Group of BRICS and express our satisfaction with the implementation of the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries. Also agreed that within the framework of the chairmanship of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the BRICS during 2025, a new Action Plan 2025-2028 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries has been prepared and approved, so as to strengthen further cooperation to enhance food security in line with BRICS Strategy on Food Security Cooperation.

- Joint Declarations of BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meetings (2010-2025)
- Moscow Declaration of BRIC Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development (2010)
- Action Plan 2012–2016 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries (2012)
- Action Plan 2017–2020 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries (2017)
- Action Plan 2021–2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries (2021)
- Action Plan 2025–2028 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries (2025)
- BRIC's Joint Statement on Global Food Security (2009)
- BRICS Strategy on Food Security Cooperation (2022)

AGRICULTURE MEETINGS – BRICS AGRICULTURE EXPERTS MEETING

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Agriculture

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2011

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

III BRICS SUMMIT – SANYA DECLARATION (2011):

“(Action Plan) 6. Hold the Meeting of Agriculture Expert Working Group and the second Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in 2011 in China, and cooperate in issues including establishment of BRICS System of Agricultural Information and holding a seminar on food security.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

National representatives

Agricultural policy experts, researchers and representatives of national agricultural institutions from BRICS countries.

MANDATE

Goal

To provide technical inputs to the BRICS Agriculture Working Group and facilitate evidence-based policymaking, with a focus on food security, innovation in agriculture, and sustainable rural development.

Main statutory/operational document

Reports and recommendations from the Annual Meetings of BRICS Agriculture Experts.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2011. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Agriculture Experts Meeting functions as a technical advisory platform that supports the broader BRICS agricultural cooperation agenda. It enables the exchange of scientific knowledge, policy experiences, and innovations in fields such as food production, biotechnology, climate-smart agriculture, and value chain integration. The Experts Meeting informs ministerial deliberations and has contributed to shaping BRICS Action Plans on food security and sustainable agriculture.

Outcome documents

The meetings of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture since their inception have achieved different outcomes, including the adoption of joint declarations, the establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP), and discussions on key issues like food security, sustainable agriculture, and agricultural technology cooperation.

The BRICS Agriculture Working Group provides a platform for technical cooperation and strategic dialogue on agricultural issues among member states. It has developed and implemented several joint action plans and policy frameworks addressing food security, sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and trade facilitation. It also facilitates research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building initiatives in priority areas like biotechnology, agroecology, and digital agriculture.

In Joint declaration of the 14th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, June 28, 2024, the ministers reiterated their appreciation for the accomplishments of the Agricultural Cooperation Working Group of BRICS and express our satisfaction with the implementation of the Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries. Also agreed that within the framework of the chairmanship of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the BRICS during 2025, a new Action Plan 2025-2029 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries will be prepared, so as to strengthen further cooperation to enhance food security in line with BRICS Strategy on Food Security Cooperation.

BUSINESS MEETINGS – BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL and BRICS BUSINESS FORUM

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Economy and finance

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2010

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our countries: a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; e) the first Meeting of Development Banks; f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; g) the Conference of Competition Authorities; h) the first Meeting of Cooperatives; i) the first Business Forum; j) the Conference of think tanks.”

V BRICS SUMMIT – DURBAN DECLARATION 2013:

“42. We welcome the establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council and The BRICS Business Council and take note of the following meetings which were held in preparation for this Summit: Fifth Academic Forum; Fourth Business Forum; Third Financial Forum.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

The National Chapters are composed by senior executives and representatives from leading businesses (Chairs and Co-chairs), who are responsible for setting priorities and representing their respective countries.

MANDATE

Goal

The primary goal of the BRICS Business Forum is to foster economic cooperation and growth among the member countries by facilitating trade, investment, and business partnerships. The BRICS Business Council gives sequence to the same objective, further strengthening ties among the business communities of the BRICS countries by ensuring regular dialogue of the sector with the countries' governments. The BRICS Business Council aims to contribute to intra-BRICS cooperation, especially by identifying areas of cooperation from the perspective of the business communities of the BRICS countries and suggesting initiatives and actions to the BRICS Governments to address the key challenges and foster greater trade and investments ties.

Main statutory/operational document

Joint Statement of the BRICS Business Council Meeting, held on 19 August 2013
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2010. An average of 3-6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Business Council, established in 2013, aims to strengthen business, trade, and investment ties between the BRICS countries. It facilitates dialogue between business communities and governments, identifies potential barriers to economic cooperation, and recommends solutions. The council's activities have led to increased intra-BRICS cooperation and the development of joint initiatives in various sectors. The BRICS Business Council has promoted public-private partnerships among the five emerging economies, creating opportunities for joint ventures and investments.

BRICS Business Council and working groups meet in person twice a year at the Midterm Meeting and the Annual Meeting, which takes place before the BRICS Business Forum and the BRICS Summit. The BRICS Business Forum is an annual conference, having its first edition in 2010. Since the BRICS Business Council was created, the forum started being organized by its Chair. Both instances offer a platform for members of the BRICS business community to discuss and deliberate on key areas of economic cooperation, exchange perspectives, and put forward recommendations on intra-BRICS trade and industry issues. Its core activities include promoting and strengthening business ties, facilitating dialogue, advocating for a favorable business environment, and contributing to sustainable development in the BRICS economies. The Chairpersons of the

Business Council have the honor of presenting the BRICS Business Council Annual Report to the BRICS leaders.

As 2023 marks a decade since the establishment of the BRICS Business Council, the Council also shared a vision for the next ten years. “Looking ahead, the opportunity for intra-BRICS and BRICS–Africa investment remains promising. However, greater effort is required to position investment as a key driver of economic cooperation within BRICS and between BRICS and Africa. This is essential to foster sustainable and inclusive economic development within the bloc and to promote industrialisation across the African continent.”

BRICS Business Council has greatly contributed to strengthening economic cooperation and enhancing investment opportunities among its member countries. The council’s achievements over the last 10 years include:

- On July 26, 2018, during the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, JSC Russian Railways and Transnet signed a Joint Statement on development of cooperation in the field of railway transport.
- On October 5, 2018, Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of implementing projects for upgrading lines for speed passenger traffic, dispatching, signalling, freight traffic, multimodal terminals, and personnel training was signed between JSC Russian Railways and the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India.
- On September 6, 2017, in Vladivostok, JSC Russian Railways and the New Development Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the main areas on general cooperation including development of infrastructure projects, exploring of public-private partnerships, consultations, and exchange of knowledge and expertise.
- In 2016 and 2022, the Prime Minister of India proposed creation of virtual BRICS railway research network.

Furthermore, the main achievements were marked by the signing of joint documents and the results of work with the New Development Bank (NDB):

- On March 5, 2018, the Roadmap for development of cooperation was signed between JSC Russian Railways and Transnet and concentrates on implementation of infrastructure projects in South Africa, consulting services, joint projects in third countries, development of cooperation with the New Development Bank, personnel training, innovations, R&D, exchange in expertise. As part of the roadmap, specialists from Russian Railways and Transnet mutually visited railway transport facilities, including dispatch centres, test sites and research centres. Attention was also paid to organization of passenger services and heavy haul traffic.

Outcome documents

The BRICS Business Council's main outcome document is its annual report, and the Chairpersons of the Business Council have the honour of presenting the BRICS Business Council Annual Report to the BRICS leaders. This document contains key recommendations from the nine working groups, reflecting the outcomes that the BBC proposes for governments and businesses to implement in both the medium and long term.

BRICS CIVIL FORUM

Prepared by Ya Tan and Yukang Huang, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT - UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“74. We welcome the initiative of the Russian Chairship in hosting Civil BRICS Forum, which contributes to a dialogue between civil society organizations, academia, business and governments of the BRICS countries on a wide range of important socio-economic issues. We also welcome holding of the Trade Unions Forums as well as the launch of “youth dimension” of our cooperation under the Russian Chairship.”

XVI BRICS SUMMIT - KAZAN DECLARATION 2024:

“132. We encourage strengthening ties between experts communities and civil society of BRICS countries. In this regard, we welcome the successful holding of the BRICS Academic Forum and BRICS Civil Forum, activities of the BRICS Think Tank Council enhancing cooperation in research and capacity building among

the academic communities of BRICS countries and the launching of the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance that will support the discussions of the BRICS Financial Track. We endorse the establishment of the Civil BRICS Council.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

National representatives

Each BRICS country (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) usually sends a national delegation of civil society representatives, which may include: NGO leaders, Academics and researchers, Youth and cultural activists, Environmental and development experts, Think tank representatives and Journalists or media professionals. In recent years, with BRICS expansion, representatives from new member states like Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, as well as invited partner countries, have also begun participating in side events or broader cooperation formats.

MANDATE

Goal

The mission of BRICS Civil Forum is to broadcast the initiatives and priorities of civil society on the BRICS agenda in order to form a human-centered discourse and, as a result, make more legitimate decisions by the leaders of the member countries of the association¹.

¹ BRICS Civil Council and Civil Forum will be described in the final report by analogy with BTTC and BRICS Academic Forum.

Main statutory/operational document

Principles of the BRICS Civil Council (2024). The purpose of the BRICS Civil Forums is to develop appeals to the leaders of the BRICS countries and/or Recommendations of civil society to the leaders of the BRICS countries.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The first BRICS Civil Forum was initiated by Russia and took place in Moscow on June 29 – July 1, 2015, Moscow, Russia, 2015. An 400 representatives of civil society from the BRICS countries took part in it. The participants and guests of the Forum received greetings from Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. The final product of the work of seven working groups on healthcare, science and education, peace and security, culture and inter-civilizational dialogue, economics and trade, harmonization of interethnic relations, and sustainable development was presented at the Civil Forum as a “Green Book. Recommendations of BRICS civil society to the governments of the participating countries.” The final document “Appeal to the leaders of BRICS countries” was also adopted and handed over to the official delegations at the BRICS summit in Ufa in July 2015. Since 2015, the BRICS Civil Forum has been included in the official calendar of the presidency.

On October 3–4, 2016, New Delhi, India. The BRICS Civil Forum began to be held annually on the principle of rotation in the country hosting the BRICS presidency. The theme of the Forum in the year of India’s BRICS presidency was “Towards

exploring inclusive partnerships and collective solutions.” The Forum participants discussed issues of ensuring the quality of economic growth in the BRICS countries, inclusive multilateralism, health, food security, sustainable urbanization, and quality education.

On June 10–12, 2017, Fuzhou. China has proposed its own format for the BRICS Civil Forum. In the year of the Chinese presidency, the BRICS Civil Forum was held within the framework of the Beijing-initiated Forum of Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations of the BRICS countries on the theme “Combining wisdom and efforts for common Development and a bright future”, attended by 400 representatives of the BRICS countries. The Forum participants also discussed new ideas for improving coordination between civil society organizations in the BRICS countries.

On June 25–27, 2018, Johannesburg. South Africa hosted the BRICS Civic Forum in the outreach format. The forum brought together more than 100 representatives of the BRICS countries, including 9 provinces of South Africa, as well as other countries of the African continent. The Forum participants discussed the prospects for the development of BRICS and the agenda until 2063, traditionally including issues such as gender equality, tolerance, energy efficiency, climate change, and inclusive development. The Forum participants paid special attention to discussing the development prospects and future investment projects of the New BRICS Development Bank, as well as issues of economic development of the BRICS countries in the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

On September 23–25, 2020, Moscow. Russia successfully hosted the fifth anniversary BRICS Civil Forum in the context of a pandemic. The leitmotif of the Forum was the issues of public institutions’ response to the negative consequences of the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection. For the first time, the Forum was held in a hybrid format, attended by more than 450 representatives of the civil society of the BRICS countries. The theme of the

Forum in the year of Russia's BRICS presidency was chosen as "Development of humanitarian cooperation within the framework of BRICS for the sake of a sustainable future." The topic of combating the pandemic was reflected on the agenda of the Forum from different angles, and civil society made every effort to help States overcome the crisis as soon as possible.

On July 28–29, 2021, the BRICS Civil Forum was held in an online format. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Forum was held within the framework of the Indian presidency in an online format. The Forum participants discussed the role of civil society in the fight against the pandemic, healthcare and traditional medicine, and women's participation in the BRICS economies.

On May 20, 2022, Beijing, China, the BRICS Civil Forum was held in a hybrid format. Once again, in the year of the Chinese presidency, the BRICS Civil Forum was held within the framework of the Beijing-initiated Forum of Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations of the BRICS countries. This time, the Forum was held in a hybrid format on the theme "Solidarity and cooperation in the interests of common development and a bright future", 130 representatives of the BRICS countries took part in it. The Forum participants discussed issues of global governance and the promotion of sustainable development while expanding BRICS cooperation.

On July 24–26, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa, the BRICS Civil Forum was again held in a face-to-face format. In the year of South Africa's presidency, the BRICS Civil Forum was once again held in a face-to-face format. The Forum participants discussed a just transition, strengthening multilateralism, women's participation in peace processes, post-pandemic socio-economic recovery, and the transformation of education systems.

On July 1–3, 2024, Moscow, Russia. For the first time, the BRICS Civil Forum was held with the participation of new members of the association. In the year of the Russian presidency, delegates from Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Ethiopia took part in the BRICS Civil Forum. In total, 650 representatives from

more than 20 countries took part in the Forum. The theme of the Forum in the year of Russia's BRICS presidency was "Right to Development: Equity, Equality, Justice." The Forum was a continuation of a long-standing tradition launched in 2015 and allowed us to take an important step towards unification, ensuring the institutionalization of the civil society process, as well as the active involvement of participating countries in the development of a consolidated position on ensuring equitable, sustainable and equitable development.

Outcome documents

- Final Report – 9th BRICS Civil Forum (2024)
- Final Communiqué of the BRICS Civil Forum (2024)
- Address to the UN Summit of the Future (2024)

BRICS CONTACT GROUP ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE ISSUES (CGETI)

Prepared by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Industry and trade

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2011

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE BRICS TRADE MINISTERS, GENEVA, DECEMBER 14, 2011:

“We, the Ministers of Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa, have met on 14 December 2011 in Geneva, before the 8th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference. Following up on our previous meeting held in Sanya, China, on 13 April 2011, we are pleased with the recent establishment of a contact group entrusted with the task of proposing an institutional framework and concrete measures to expand economic cooperation both among BRICS countries and between BRICS countries and all developing countries, within a South-South perspective.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

- Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, Brazil
- Ministry of Economic Development, Russia
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India
- Ministry of Commerce, China
- Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa
- Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt
- Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia
- Ministry of Trade, Indonesia
- Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, Iran
- Ministry of Economy, UAE

MANDATE

Goal

Established under the Economic and Financial cooperation pillar of BRICS, the CGETI is responsible for convening discussions on trade policy cooperation, initiatives and trade recommendations for BRICS Trade Ministers. CGETI aims to strengthen economic ties by upholding robust and inclusive trade and investment frameworks, that are beneficial for all member states, as well as to provide suggestions on initiatives to strengthen and develop multilateral institutions to provide for non-discriminative and favorable conditions for economic cooperation and trade to benefit the member states economic development.

Main statutory/operational document

Joint Statement of the BRICS Trade Ministers, Geneva, December 14, 2011 – the BRICS Ministers of Trade issued this joint statement to formalize cooperation on economic and trade matters, establishing the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) as the institutional mechanism for structured discussions.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2011. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The CGETI was established on 13 April 2011, in Sanya, China. The first CGETI meeting was held in Beijing, China, on 2 December 2011, setting the foundation for structured discussions on trade facilitation, market access, customs cooperation, investment, and services. Since then, CGETI has convened regularly.

The 10th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting was held in July 2020 under Russia's Chairship, during which, the 'Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025,' was adopted which emphasized promoting information exchange, enhancing transparency in trade, strengthening customs cooperation, and creating favorable conditions for MSME cooperation. At the time, BRICS Sherpas decided CGETI would negotiate this document, 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.

The year 2021 marked 15 years of BRICS cooperation. The first CGETI meeting for the year was held from 12-14 July 2021 under India's Chairship via video link. During the three day meeting, the BRICS Members deliberated on strengthening

and increasing the Intra-BRICS cooperation and trade discussing thematic proposals on BRICS Cooperation on Multilateral Trading System; BRICS Framework for ensuring Consumer Protection in E-Commerce; Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) Resolution Mechanism for SPS/TBT Measures; Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Working Mechanism; Cooperation framework for protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions; and the BRICS Framework on Cooperation in Professional Services. India proposed several deliverables aligned with the 2025 Strategy, including an action plan for economic cooperation, consumer protection in e-commerce, a mechanism for resolving non-tariff measures, and genetic resources and traditional knowledge protection.

The following year, the first CGETI meeting for the year was convened in Beijing, held virtually on February 24 to February 25, 2022. Along with BRICS delegations, international organizations (the WTO, UNCTAD, ILO, ITC, NDB), the BRICS Business Council and BRICS Women's Business Alliance attended the proceedings. Discussions focused on digital economy; trade, investment, and sustainable development; industrial and supply chains; coordination on multilateral fora; and so on. The members reaffirmed their commitment to WTO reform, while protecting the interests of developing nations. Initiatives such as the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre in China. Members discussed BRICS Business Council's tracking of intra-BRICS trade flows to identify areas where trade performance has fallen below expectations and recommendations, and the use of local currencies in international trade and financial trade within the BRICS in line with the Cross-Border Payments initiative were encouraged. Additionally, a BRICS Trade in Services Network (BTSN) was proposed and the implementation of the BRICS Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap was supported. Green trade barriers and other disguised restrictions on international trade were opposed.

The 2023 BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting in South Africa discussed issues of trade finance, investment facilitation, special economic zones and regional value

chain integration. CGETI meeting participants confirmed the need to remove the barriers hindering the development of SMEs within BRICS, the importance of digital mechanisms, and the need to integrate the companies into BRICS supply chains, while expressing their willingness to share the best practices and tools to improve existing support.

The first meeting under Russia's Chairship of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues was held online on 4–5 March, 2024. The meeting was attended by representatives of the WTO Expertise Center, Rospotrebnadzor (Russian Federal Agency), the Digital Economy Autonomous Non-Profit Organization, the Sberbank AI Regulation Center, the UNIDO Center for International Industrial Cooperation in Russia, and the Association of Clusters, Technology Parks, and SEZ of Russia. Support for African Union Agenda 2063 was reiterated through the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The protection of consumers in e-commerce was recognized as a priority for collaboration. The agenda also focused on strengthening global value chains and facilitating agricultural trade. The participants were unanimous in their regard for the positive trends in the development of trade within BRICS, the active expansion of economic cooperation, the launch of new infrastructure projects, and the continuation of cooperation in investment. The parties agreed to work on new areas of cooperation, such as the use of artificial intelligence in trade and investment, discussing cooperation in free economic zones, and reaffirming their willingness to work together.

Outcome documents

- Joint Communiqués of BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting (2020-2024)
- Concept note on BRICS Initiative on Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development, 2022

The following documents were discussed/ proposed in 2021 CGETI meetings:

- BRICS Statement Cooperation on Multilateral Trading System
- BRICS Framework for ensuring Consumer Protection in E-Commerce

- BRICS Framework on Cooperation in Trade and Professional Services

The following documents were discussed in 2024 CGETI meetings in conjunction with the Joint Communique of the 14th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting:

- BRICS Statement on Ensuring Effective Functioning of Joint Value Chains
- BRICS Declaration on the WTO
- BRICS Statement on Environmental and Climate-Related Trade Measures
- BRICS Joint Statement on Fostering E-Commerce
- BRICS Principles on Trade Facilitation in Agriculture
- BRICS Cooperation Framework on Special Economic Zones (SEZS)

CULTURE MEETINGS – BRICS CULTURE MINISTERS MEETING and BRICS CULTURE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

*Prepared by Ya Tan and Yukang Huang, China Council for BRICS Think-tank
Cooperation (CCBTC)*

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Culture, tourism and sports

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“64. Taking into account 1966 UNESCO Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Cooperation and 2001 UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity, acknowledging that cultural diversity is the source of development and convinced that cultural exchanges and cooperation facilitate mutual understanding, we reiterate the importance of cooperation between the BRICS countries in the cultural sphere. Aiming at strengthening and developing friendly relation between our countries and peoples, we will continue to encourage in every possible way direct co-operation between our countries in the sphere of culture and art. We welcome the signing of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS Member States on Cooperation in the Field of

Culture. This Agreement will play an important role in expanding and deepening cooperation in the fields of culture and art, in promoting dialogue between cultures, which will help bring closer the cultures and peoples of our countries.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia and the UAE

National representatives

- Ministry of Culture, Brazil
- Ministry of Culture, Russia
- Ministry of Culture, India
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism, China
- Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture, South Africa
- Ministry of Culture, Egypt
- Ministry of Culture and Sport, Ethiopia
- Ministry of Culture, Indonesia
- Ministry of Culture and Youth, UAE

Culture officials of member states at director-general level or below.

MANDATE

Goal

The primary objective of the BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting is to strengthen ties among member states through cultural cooperation, fostering mutual understanding and friendship among their peoples.

The BRICS Culture Senior Officials Meeting serves as a foundational platform to implement and advance the cultural cooperation strategies set forth by the BRICS Culture Ministers.

Main statutory/operational document

- Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2015)
- Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017-2021)
- Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022-2026)

The BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting serves as the highest-level decision-making mechanism for cultural cooperation among BRICS nations, responsible for setting strategic directions, signing multilateral agreements, and promoting cultural exchange through initiatives like alliance-building and transnational events. The BRICS Culture Senior Officials Meeting (BRICS Culture Working Group), acting as a preparatory and executive body, focuses on technical consultations, project implementation, and policy coordination to ensure the execution of ministerial resolutions. Together, they form a "strategic decision-making to operational oversight" cycle, expanding collaboration from traditional arts to emerging fields like digital culture and the creative economy. This institutionalized framework strengthens BRICS' advocacy for pluralism in global cultural governance, with potential scope for further extension amid recent membership expansion.

- Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022–2026)

As the key outcome of the 4th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting held in 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil, the BRICS Culture Senior Officials Meeting (also known as the BRICS Culture Working Group) was established to implement cultural initiatives within the framework of BRICS.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The 1st BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting took place on June 16–17, 2015, in Moscow, Russia. This gathering marked a significant step in institutionalizing cultural cooperation among the BRICS nations. The primary goals of the 2015 meeting were to: Enhance mutual understanding and friendship among BRICS countries through cultural exchange, Collaborate on the preservation and promotion of each nation's cultural heritage, Encourage the development of cultural and creative industries within member states, Organize joint cultural events and artist exchanges to deepen interpersonal connections. The meeting set the stage for future initiatives, including the establishment of BRICS cultural alliances and joint cultural festivals.

From July 5 to 6, 2017, the 2nd BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Tianjin, China, bringing together ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to deepen cultural cooperation and enhance mutual understanding. During the meeting, the ministers signed the "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017–2021)" and promoted the establishment of four cultural alliances in the fields of art museums and galleries, libraries, museums, and theaters for children and young people. These alliances aim to facilitate exchange and collaboration among national

institutions. The meeting also highlighted the role of cultural festivals, exhibitions, and artist exchanges in fostering friendship and people-to-people ties, further institutionalizing cultural cooperation among BRICS countries. The first BRICS Cultural Festival was held during the meeting, showcasing diversified culture of BRICS countries.

The 3rd BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on October 31th, 2018. Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa listened to reports on activities organized by the BRICS Cultural Alliances since last year, shared insights about deepening pragmatic cooperation in the cultural field.

The 4th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held on October 11, 2019, in Curitiba, Brazil, bringing together representatives from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Key outcomes included the establishment of the BRICS Culture Working Group to implement cultural initiatives, a shared commitment to promoting cultural and creative industries as engines of economic growth, enhanced collaboration in preserving and digitizing cultural heritage, and the facilitation of people-to-people exchanges through festivals and artistic programs.

Since 2019, the BRICS Culture Senior Officials Meetings (also known as BRICS Culture Working Group) serves for the Meetings for BRICS Ministers of Culture. During the Meetings, culture senior officials make agreements on the agenda of the coming culture ministerial meetings and draft declarations of BRICS Ministers of Culture which need to be finally approved and signed during the ministerial meeting.

On September 3, 2020, the 5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held virtually under the chairmanship of Russia. The meeting focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sector and explored ways to strengthen cultural cooperation among BRICS countries. The meeting concluded

with the adoption of a joint declaration, reaffirming the BRICS countries' commitment to deepening cooperation in the cultural domain.

On July 2, 2021, India hosted the 6th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting virtually under the theme "Bonding and Harmonizing Cultural Synergy." Key discussions focused on enhancing cultural cooperation among BRICS nations, particularly in the context of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting reinforced the commitment of BRICS countries to collaborate on cultural initiatives, promote people-to-people connections, and leverage digital platforms to sustain cultural dialogue and cooperation during unprecedented times.

On May 24, 2022, the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held virtually under the China's presidency with participation from Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa. Centered on the theme "Establishing a Cultural Partnership Featuring Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning among BRICS," the meeting focused on cultural digitization, heritage protection, and platform-building for cultural exchange. Ministers agreed on deepening collaboration and mutual learning among BRICS in cultural field and signed the 2022–2026 Action Plan for cultural cooperation.

On July 21, 2023, the 8th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting was held in Mpumalanga, South Africa under the theme "BRICS and Africa: Strengthening cultural partnerships for post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and sustainable, inclusive development." Ministers reaffirm commitments to the implementation of the Agreement signed between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture in 2015 and the related Action Plan and signed the Mpumalanga Declaration.

On September 11, 2024, the 9th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting convened in St. Petersburg, Russia. This gathering marked the first cultural ministers' meeting following the expansion of BRICS, with new members Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia. Ministers agreed to the proposal to

establish two new cultural associations: the Alliance of Folk Dance and the Association of Film Schools. These would complement existing four alliances. The event also featured a second BRICS Cultural Festival, aiming to enhance cultural exchange and mutual appreciation among the BRICS nations.

The 10th meeting of BRICS culture ministers (held in Brasilia) approved a joint declaration reaffirming culture as the foundation for more inclusive, sustainable, and multipolar global governance. The "Brasilia Declaration" reflects the consensus reached by BRICS members, including Indonesia, and lays out guidelines for the coming years, ranging from creative economy strategies to cultural heritage protection in the face of climate change.

Outcome documents

- Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture - 2015
- 2017-2021 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture - 2017
- Maropeng Declaration - 2018
- Curitiba Declaration - 2019
- Moscow Declaration - 2020
- New Delhi Declaration - 2021
- 2022-2026 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture - 2022
- Mpumalanga Declaration – 2023
- Saint Petersburg Declaration - 2024
- Brasilia Declaration - 2025

ENERGY MEETINGS – BRICS ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING and BRICS ENERGY SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

Prepared by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Energy

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“69. Recognizing the importance of monitoring global trends in the energy sector, including making forecasts regarding energy consumption, providing recommendations for the development of energy markets in order to ensure energy security and economic development we call on our relevant agencies to consider the possibilities of energy cooperation within BRICS. Taking into consideration the role of the energy sector in ensuring the sustainable economic development of the BRICS countries, we welcome balancing the interests of consumers, producers and transit countries of energy resources, creating the conditions for sustainable and predictable development of the energy markets. Reaffirming the importance and necessity of advancing international cooperation in the field of energy saving, energy efficiency and developing

energy efficient technologies, we welcome the holding of the first official meeting on energy efficiency in May 2015 and look forward to developing intra-BRICS cooperation in this area, as well as the establishment of the relevant platform. We welcome the Russian proposal to hold the first meeting of the BRICS Ministers of energy in the end of this year. We urge businesses of the BRICS countries to jointly develop energy efficient technologies and equipment and we call upon BRICS Business Council to study ways of cooperation in this field.”

XI BRICS SUMMIT – BRASILIA DECLARATION 2019:

“56. We acknowledge the crucial role of energy in promoting social and economic development, as well as environmental protection. While recognizing that the energy transition of each country is unique according to national circumstances, we underscore the importance of securing access to clean, sustainable, affordable energy to our populations. In this regard, diversification of energy sources is paramount to achieve energy security. To that end, we commit to continue to pursue the efficient use of fossil fuels and to increase the share of renewable energy in our economies, including biofuels, hydro, solar and wind. We welcome the ongoing cooperation among our countries in the field of energy. We welcome the holding the 4th Energy Ministerial Meeting in Brasilia and the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform, which will further advance our mutual cooperation, allow for deeper exchange of views and best practices and significantly contribute to global research on energy.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

- Ministry of Mines and Energy, Brazil
- Ministry of Energy, Russia
- Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India
- National Energy Administration, China
- Ministry of Electricity and Energy, South Africa
- Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Egypt
- Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ethiopia
- Ministry of Energy, Iran
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), UAE

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Energy Ministers' meeting is a platform for deliberations on pertinent matters, programs and initiatives that seek to promote cooperation, growth and sustainable development of the member states' energy sector.

The BRICS Committee of Senior Energy Officials was formally established under the framework of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (ERCP), which was initiated to enhance collaboration among BRICS nations in the energy sector. The BRICS Energy Senior Officials meeting is a platform for deliberations on pertinent matters, programs and initiatives that seek to promote cooperation, growth and sustainable development of the member states' energy sector.

Main statutory/operational document

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015 - Since the first BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009, BRICS countries have expressed the need for co-operation in the field of energy and energy efficiency. In the Delhi Declaration 2012, the leaders mentioned the need for multilateral energy co-operation

within BRICS framework. In 2015, in accordance with the strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership adopted at the BRICS Ufa Summit, the first BRICS Energy Ministerial was held, marking the institutionalisation of energy co-operation within BRICS. In the Xiamen Declaration of 2017, BRICS leaders encouraged continued dialogue on the establishment of a BRICS Energy Research Co-operation Platform (BRICS ERCP). This led to the establishment of BRICS ERCP Platform, which was agreed upon and acknowledged in the Johannesburg Summit Declaration in 2018.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The First Meeting of BRICS Energy Ministers was held on the sidelines of the Fourth International Forum on Energy Efficiency and Energy Development (ENES), in November 2015. From 2020 to 2024, BRICS Energy Ministerial Meetings have served as platforms for high-level dialogue while producing concrete outputs to strengthen energy security, ensure uninterrupted supply during crises, and promote just and inclusive energy transitions. These meetings have evolved in response to global challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the imperatives of green transformation and climate action, while reaffirming the sovereign rights of nations to determine their own energy pathways.

In October 2020, amidst uncertainty caused by the pandemic, BRICS nations convened in Saransk, Russia, for a meeting that was both symbolic and pragmatic in video format. Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), remained the priority of the global energy agenda and a guiding principle for BRICS countries' energy policies. The event featured the BRICS

Festival 'Brighter Together' held on 10 October 2020, highlighting the resilience of national energy systems in ensuring uninterrupted supply during a global health crisis. Following the XII BRICS Summit, the states supported the cooperation within the BRICS Youth Energy Agency and the holding of an annual BRICS Youth Energy Summit. The launch of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform (ERCP) marked a major milestone, envisioned as a primary vehicle for collaboration among government agencies, businesses, academic institutions, and expert communities.

The 2021 meeting was held virtually, being chaired from New Delhi, India. The ministers reinforced the principles of energy security and sustainable development, reflected in the endorsement of the BRICS Energy Report 2021. Prepared by experts from the newly established BRICS ERCP, this report became a reference point for subsequent initiatives. Ministers reviewed the progress of joint studies and projects while deliberating on emerging themes such as the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) approach and the development of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) capacities. The BRICS Energy Technology Report 2021 was introduced, providing an overview of technological options addressing both demand and supply-side challenges. The 2021 meeting curated discussions on a new priority area under the BRICS ERCP focused on universal energy access. Proposals were made to showcase BRICS energy cooperation at global platforms such as the 25th World Energy Congress in Saint, demonstrating the intent to elevate BRICS influence in global energy governance.

In September 2022, the seventh BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was held online in Beijing, China. Participants exchanged insights on national energy developments, shared best practices, and reached a broad consensus on the need for a green and low-carbon energy transition. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a communique and the release of several reports, including the BRICS Energy Report 2022, BRICS Renewable Energy Report 2022, and BRICS Smart Grid Report 2022. Ministers agreed on a pragmatic, equitable, and

economically viable approach to meeting energy and climate objectives, aligned with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. There was an emphasis on adopting common guidelines for assessing carbon intensity, energy classification, and the mutual recognition of taxonomies, a significant step towards standardizing and benchmarking energy policies.

The eighth BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2023. This session focused on enhancing energy security and market stability by strengthening resilient supply chains and promoting transparent, competitive energy markets. The discussions on renewable energy reinforced the importance of research, development, and broader adoption of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, liquified natural gas (LNG) and bioenergy. Discussions focused on cooperation, energy security, universal access, and energy transition minerals. BRICS nations aim for balanced policies, aligning with national priorities to ensure supply security. Ministers committed to leveraging existing and emerging energy technologies to enhance sustainability and cooperation. They vowed to exchange best practices on critical minerals for clean energy and explore technologies for energy transitions and carbon reduction.

The ninth BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was held in Moscow during Russian Energy Week on 26 September 2024. The Moscow meeting was complemented by targeted workshops, including a session on energy skills held in Obninsk in June 2024. It also emphasized the potential of nuclear energy for power generation, the production of new energy carriers like hydrogen, and ensuring reliable energy supply in remote areas through small modular reactors. The representatives commended the Russian Presidency in preparing the BRICS Just Energy Transition Report.

Notably, the 2024 meeting welcomed representatives from new BRICS members, including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Iran. Ministers support the expansion of the BRICS ERCP report on skills for the

energy transition prepared in 2023, to cover the new BRICS member countries. Ministers noted the progress in implementing the Road Map for BRICS Energy Cooperation up to 2025, which serves as the foundation for energy dialogue among BRICS nations. Taking into account the expansion of BRICS membership and significant changes in the global energy landscape, they agreed to continue updating the roadmap under the Brazilian Presidency, with a view to extending it until 2030.

The 10th Meeting (Brasília, 2025) approved the updated Roadmap for Energy Cooperation 2025–2030, reaffirming commitment to just, orderly, and inclusive energy transitions aligned with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. The ministers stressed the importance of financing for energy transition, technological neutrality, use of local currency in the trade of energy goods, and the New Development Bank's role in financing sustainable energy infrastructure.

Throughout these meetings, Ministers recognised the role of international initiatives such as the Biofuture Platform and the International Solar Alliance in complementing BRICS dialogue on clean energy. Acknowledging technological and financial constraints, they called for non-discriminatory access to modern energy technologies and low-interest financing to promote sustainable development. The meetings also consistently emphasize the role of the New Development Bank (NDB) in financing sustainable energy infrastructure and promoting local currency trade.

As for the senior officials mechanisms, a first meeting in connection with the 4th BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting was held on 8th November 2019 in Brasilia, Brazil, to discuss the terms of reference of the ERCF framework. During the Russian Presidency in 2020, a Road map for BRICS energy cooperation up to 2025 was prepared and agreed upon by the Member countries. The implementation of the roadmap was led and coordinated by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials of BRICS, provided with the mandate to make decisions,

formulate proposals for the Ministers and report to them the results during the BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting. The 2020 Communique of the Energy Ministers Meeting noted the BRICS ERCP annual report and invite the Committee of Senior Energy Officials to steer the work of the BRICS ERCP towards the earliest establishment of the work streams in agreed areas under the leadership of interested countries, implementation of joint projects and strengthening the organizational support for the BRICS ERCP through a network of national secretariats and focal points.

India organized the first deliberative Meeting of BRICS Senior Energy Officials on 20-21 May 2021. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power chaired the virtual meetings through video conferencing. The two-day event had senior energy officials from all the BRICS nations. During the meeting, member countries agreed in-principle on India's proposal for an updated version of the BRICS energy sector report. India also proposed to prepare a BRICS Energy Technology Report with few additional priority areas and a BRICS Energy Research Directory. During the meeting, senior energy officials also discussed the informal consultations and possible coordination among BRICS representatives or delegates to UN High Level Dialogue on Energy, G20, WEC, Energy Efficiency Hub, Clean Energy Ministerial and other international institutions as appropriate.

As an outcome of the above meetings, Indian Chairship prepared three reports namely (i) BRICS Energy Report 2021 (ii) BRICS Energy Technology Report 2021 and (iii) BRICS Energy Research Directory 2021 in consultation with the member countries in accordance with the Road map for BRICS energy cooperation up to 2025.

On March 28, 2022, China hosted the BRICS Senior Energy Officials Meeting which was attended by representatives of BRICS countries, BRICS energy departments of Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa as well as representatives from universities and research institutes. An activity plan and proposed

deliverables of this year. The meeting participants discussed promising areas for cooperation both in traditional energy sectors, including coal, oil and gas, and nuclear industries, as well as technological cooperation in hydrogen, carbon capture, and storage technologies, including renewable energy sources.

In August 2023, South Africa hosted the 2nd BRICS Energy Senior Officials Meeting in Johannesburg, preceding the 8th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting. The senior officials met on August 16 and 17, and the ministers convened on August 18. The meeting was held under the theme "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism".

The Russian Chairmanship (2024) prioritized the just energy transition, balancing climate goals with the realities of energy supply and economic development. The Committee of BRICS Senior Energy Officials held a meeting in Moscow on 26–27 February 2024 with the participation of new member countries. The meeting was attended by experts on traditional energy, hydrogen and Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies, as well as renewable energy from BRICS countries. The dialogue primarily focused on prospects for cooperation between BRICS countries in the energy sector in light of the energy transition. The partners exchanged views on the role of natural gas in a just energy transition, and also discussed the energy transition principles that BRICS countries adhere to. The participants discussed the working plan of the BRICS ERCP. Experts from the Russian secretariat of the ERCP presented the interim results of their work. Russia played a key role in preparing the BRICS Just Energy Transition Report (2024), which outlines equitable pathways for decarbonization respecting national circumstances and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Outcome documents

- Communiqués Adopted in the BRICS Energy Ministers Meetings
- 10th Energy Ministers Meeting - Joint Communiqué (2025)
- Road Map for BRICS Energy Cooperation up to 2025
- Road Map for BRICS Energy Cooperation 2025-2030
- BRICS ERCP Framework (Interim Results and Plans of Development)
- Just Energy Transition Report (2024)

EXPERTS MEETINGS – BRICS ACADEMIC FORUM

Prepared by Walter Desiderá, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Education, academy and experts

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2008

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our Countries: a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; e) the first Meeting of Development Banks; f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; g) the Conference of Competition Authorities; h) the first Meeting of Cooperatives; i) the first Business Forum; j) the Conference of think tanks.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

The national members of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) are responsible for selecting the speakers who will compose the delegation of their countries annually.

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Academic Forum provides a platform for the exchange of ideas among experts within the group. The organization of the forum is assigned to BTTC. The event is coordinated by the think tank that presides over the council, with activities conducted in its country.

Main statutory/operational document

Declaration on the Establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (2013) - The BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) celebrates the bonds between BRICS countries by declaring their mutual intention to enhance cooperation in research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy advice. As the document states, BTTC is responsible for convening annual BRICS Academic Forum.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2008. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Even before the inaugural BRICS Summit in Yekaterinburg (2009), a foundational conference took place in Moscow at the end of the previous year. This initial gathering brought together experts and practitioners from the four countries that would form the original coalition. The meeting focused on analyzing ongoing global political and economic developments and discussing the prospective trajectory of the group. In 2009, another conference of top scholars took place in India. Since 2010, the meeting has been held regularly by the same country assuming the rotating presidency of BRICS. The name BRICS Academic Forum was adopted in 2012, when the fourth edition took place in New Delhi.

Already with South Africa's accession to the group, in 2012 the BRICS leaders expressed support for the establishment of a network of research centers across the five member states. They identified at least two key areas for joint exploration: (i) assessing the cooperation undertaken by the group thus far; and (ii) developing strategies to advance the bloc and realize its collective goals.

In 2013, the Declaration on the Establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) was signed in Durban, formally institutionalizing this mechanism for experts collaboration. The following year, the council held its first formal meeting in Rio de Janeiro, where procedural guidelines for its operation were negotiated. This effort led to the production of a document presenting 21 general recommendations to the BRICS leaders, along with the decision to undertake a joint study by BTTC members, structured around five thematic pillars.

In 2024, the Council marked a decade of activity. Over the course of the year, following the announcement of BRICS enlargement at the previous summit, two new countries—Ethiopia and Iran—joined the BTTC and actively participated in its meetings and initiatives. To provide renewed structure to the Council's work and formally incorporate these new think tanks, a Memorandum of

Understanding was negotiated among all parties during the Russian presidency. This agreement, to be concluded in the current year, will also include the accession of another new member: Egypt.

With regard to the activities undertaken by the BTTC over the past decade, it is important to emphasize that its direction has largely depended on the initiative of the country holding the rotating presidency. Although comprehensive joint studies have been produced, such efforts have not occurred regularly, primarily due to the operational challenges involved. Nevertheless, despite some variation in format, three core activities have been consistently carried out each year—including during the pandemic period: (i) the BRICS Academic Forum; (ii) the annual BTTC meeting, generally held on the margins of the Forum; and (iii) the formal submission of a joint statement with recommendations addressed to the BRICS leaders. In 2020, the BTTC System of Indicators was launched.

Outcome documents

- Annual Recommendations to the Leaders of BRICS Countries (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024)
- Reports on the proceedings of BRICS Academic Forum editions (2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019, 2021)

EXPERTS MEETINGS – BRICS THINK TANKS COUNCIL

Prepared by Walter Desiderá, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Education, academy and experts

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2013

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

V BRICS SUMMIT – DURBAN DECLARATION 2013:

“42. We welcome the establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the BRICS Business Council and take note of the following meetings which were held in preparation for this Summit: i) Fifth Academic Forum; ii) Fourth Business Forum; iii) Third Financial Forum.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and Iran

National representatives

- Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil
- BRICS Expert Council – Russia, Russia
- Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India
- China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation (CCBTC), China
- South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), South Africa
- Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), Egypt
- Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), Ethiopia
- Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Iran

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) forms the platform for the exchange of ideas among researchers, academia and think tanks. It is responsible for convening the BRICS Academic Forum. The policy recommendation and guidance provided by the council is annually presented to the BRICS leaders for consideration.

Main statutory/operational document

Declaration on the Establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council, 2013 – the BTTC celebrates the bonds between BRICS countries by declaring their mutual intention to enhance cooperation in research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy advice.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2013. An average of 3–6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Even before the inaugural BRICS Summit in Yekaterinburg (2009), a foundational conference took place in Moscow at the end of the previous year. This initial gathering brought together experts and practitioners from the four countries that would form the original coalition. The meeting focused on analyzing ongoing global political and economic developments and discussing the prospective trajectory of the group. In 2009, another conference of top scholars took place in India. Since 2010, the meeting has been held regularly by the same country assuming the rotating presidency of BRICS. The name BRICS Academic Forum was adopted since 2012, when the fourth edition took place in New Delhi.

Already with South Africa's accession to the group, in 2012 the BRICS leaders expressed support for the establishment of a network of research centers across the five member states. They identified at least two key areas for joint exploration: (i) assessing the cooperation undertaken by the group thus far; and (ii) developing strategies to advance the bloc and realize its collective goals.

In 2013, the **Declaration on the Establishment of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC)** was signed in Durban, formally institutionalizing this mechanism for experts collaboration. The following year, the council held its first formal meeting in Rio de Janeiro, where procedural guidelines for its operation were negotiated. This effort led to the production of a document presenting 21 general recommendations to the BRICS leaders, along with the decision to undertake a joint study by BTTC members, structured around five thematic pillars.

In 2024, the Council marked a decade of activity. Over the course of the year, following the announcement of BRICS enlargement at the previous summit, two new countries—Ethiopia and Iran—joined the BTTC and actively participated in its meetings and initiatives. To provide renewed structure to the Council's work and formally incorporate these new think tanks, a Memorandum of

Understanding was negotiated among all parties during the Russian presidency. This agreement, to be concluded in the current year, will also include the accession of another new member: Egypt.

With regard to the activities undertaken by the BTTC over the past decade, it is important to emphasize that its direction has largely depended on the initiative of the country holding the rotating presidency. Although comprehensive joint studies have been produced, such efforts have not occurred regularly, primarily due to the operational challenges involved. Nevertheless, despite some variation in format, three core activities have been consistently carried out each year—including during the pandemic period: (i) the BRICS Academic Forum; (ii) the annual BTTC meeting, generally held on the margins of the Forum; and (iii) the formal submission of a joint statement with recommendations addressed to the BRICS leaders. In 2020, the BTTC System of Indicators was launched.

Outcome documents

- Annual Recommendations to the Leaders of BRICS Countries (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Joint-research: “Towards a long-term strategy for BRICS: a proposal by the BRICS Think Tanks Council” (2015); “Realizing the BRICS Long-Term Goals: Road-Maps and Pathways” (2017)
- Contributions by chairs: “A long-term vision for BRICS” (ORF, 2013); “Overview of Implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership in the period 2015–2020” (BRICS Expert Council – Russia, 2020); “Toolkit Women Economic Empowerment in BRICS: Policies, Achievements, Challenges and Solutions” (BRICS Expert Council – Russia, 2020); “Stocktaking and Recommendations for Consolidation” (ORF, 2021); “The future of BRICS” (ORF, 2021); “BRICS Cooperation Progress According to BTTC Indicator System” (BRICS Expert Council – Russia, 2024, since then annually)

EXPERTS MEETINGS – BRICS THINK TANK NETWORK FOR FINANCE

Prepared by Walter Desiderá, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Economy and finance

Education, academy and experts

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2022

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XIV BRICS SUMMIT – BEIJING DECLARATION 2022:

“40. We welcome the decision to establish the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance. We expect it to work independently and provide intellectual support, as and when tasked, for knowledge sharing, exchange of experiences and practices and cooperation on finance issues amongst BRICS countries, aiming at addressing global challenges and serving the interests of the EMDCs.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, Egypt and the UAE

National representatives

- Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil
- Financial Research Institute, Russia
- Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
- Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences (CAFS), China
- Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), Egypt
- Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), UAE

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Think Tanks Network for Finance (BTTNF) aims to establish a platform for the exchange of information, experiences, and knowledge among BRICS members in the field of finance, and to conduct research on topics of mutual interest, producing research reports and other related outputs.

Main statutory/operational document

Memorandum of Understanding among the BRICS Think Tanks Network for Finance Participants (2024) – the document outlines the establishment and objectives of the BRICS Research Network on Finance. Based on the decision adopted in the Beijing Declaration at the XIV BRICS Summit in 2022 and the Operational Guidelines agreed upon by the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 19 June 2023, the Network is tasked with operating independently to provide intellectual support on finance-related issues relevant to BRICS countries, particularly in support of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs). The document also states BTTNF will coordinate its activities with the BRICS Academic Forum, specially the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC).

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2024. An average of 3–6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance (BTTNF) was only recently launched. The idea was introduced by China in 2022 and received support from BRICS leaders in the same year. In 2023, the meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) adopted a document prepared under the South African presidency, which outlined the Network's operational guidelines.

During the 2024 Russian presidency, the first meeting of the BTTNF was held online in February, with initial participation from representatives of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Over the course of the year, three additional virtual meetings were held, with representatives from Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia joining the discussions. The last of these meetings featured a series of presentations that helped clarify the thematic priorities envisaged by each participant for the Network's analytical scope.

On October 9, the first in-person meeting took place in Moscow. Two key milestones were reached: first, the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among BTTNF participants, establishing the Network; and second, the convening of its first scientific conference. These events marked the institutionalization of the mechanism, and its launch was welcomed by the leaders in the Kazan Declaration, which recognized its strategic relevance in supporting discussions within the BRICS financial track. The Network's activities officially began in 2025.

Outcome documents

(not available)

FINANCE MEETINGS – BRICS FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS (FMCBG) MEETING and BRICS FINANCE AND CENTRAL BANK DEPUTIES MEETING

Prepared by Marco Aurélio Alves de Mendonça, Renato Ungaretti, and Tainari Taioa, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Economy and finance

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2008

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our Countries: a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; e) the first Meeting of Development Banks; f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; g) the Conference of Competition Authorities; h) the first

Meeting of Cooperatives; i) the first Business Forum; j) the Conference of think tanks”.

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

National representatives

Ministers of Finance, Central Bank Governors and respective Deputies.

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) and the BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies mechanisms aim to strengthen macroeconomic coordination among member countries, promote financial stability, and enhance the representation of emerging economies in global financial governance. Since their creation, both mechanisms have been instrumental in shaping collective responses to global economic crises, advancing institutional innovations such as the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and fostering cooperation in areas like public-private partnerships, local currency financing, digital financial inclusion, and monetary system reform. Through regular meetings and joint statements, supported by their deputies, the FMCBG provides a platform for dialogue, policy alignment, and the development of technical initiatives that foster sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth across the BRICS nations.

Main statutory/operational document

BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA AND CHINA FINANCE MINISTERS JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ, 2008 – the document expresses the commitment of the Finance Ministers of the BRIC countries to strengthen cooperation in the financial sector in response to the 2008 global economic crisis. The statement highlights the need for reforms in international financial institutions, greater representation of emerging economies in global economic governance, and the pursuit of a more stable and predictable international financial system.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2008. An average of 3–6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) mechanism was established in 2008 with the objective of strengthening macroeconomic coordination among member states and enhancing their collective voice in global financial governance. Originating in response to the 2008 global financial crisis, the mechanism has since developed into a key platform for dialogue on fiscal, monetary and financial issues, allowing BRICS countries to articulate shared perspectives and propose reforms in international financial institutions.

Regular meetings—held independently or on the margins of G20, IMF and World Bank events—have enabled sustained engagement and policy alignment. To support this high-level engagement, the BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies mechanism was created as a technical platform to prepare ministerial meetings, coordinate policy stances, and monitor the implementation of key initiatives.

Among the most significant outcomes of FMCBG are its contributions to the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve

Arrangement (CRA), both formalized in 2014. In addition, the FMCBG has facilitated cooperation in technical areas such as public-private partnership frameworks, local currency financing, digital inclusion, accounting and audit regulation, and financial integration and stability.

In recent years, these mechanisms have expanded their agenda to address emerging global challenges. As a result, FMCBG has produced joint statements on macroeconomic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FMCBG has also contributed to ongoing discussions on reforming the international monetary and financial system, including issues related to the use of local currencies, alternative payment platforms, and the principles guiding global financial architecture. As such, these mechanisms remain central to the BRICS agenda for a more balanced, inclusive and representative international economic order.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors – Joint Communiqué (2008, 2009, 2011).
- Agreed Elements of Financial Deliverables (2017)
- BRICS Good Practices on PPP Frameworks (2018)
- BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund (2018)
- BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Statement on Global Economic Outlook and Responding to COVID-19 Crisis (2021)
- BRICS Digital Financial Inclusion Report (2021)
- BRICS Economic Bulletin (2021)
- Social Infrastructure: Finance and use of Digital Technologies (2021)
- Information Security Regulations in Finance BRICS e-Booklet (2021)
- Compendium BRICS Best Practices Information Security Risks: Supervision and Control (2021)
- Country-Specific Experiences of Fintech Applications in MSMWs (2021)
- Establishment of the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance and its Concept Paper (2022)

- Technical Report on Public Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development (2022)
- Stocktaking report on BRICS countries' views and experiences on transition finance (2022)
- Operational Guidelines for the BRICS Think Tanks Network for Finance (2023)
- BRICS Authorized Economic Operator Joint Action Plan (2024)
- Adoption of the BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Governance Framework (2024)
- BRICS Finance Ministers Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors – Joint Statement (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

FINANCE MEETINGS – BRICS WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Prepared by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Economy and finance

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2023

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XV BRICS SUMMIT – JOHANNESBURG II DECLARATION 2023:

“51. We welcome the continued cooperation on topics of mutual interest on sustainable and transition finance, information security, financial technology, and payments, and look forward to building on work in these areas under the relevant work streams, including the proposed study on leveraging technology to address climate data gaps in the financial sector and support the proposed initiatives aimed at enhancing cyber security and developing financial technology, including the sharing of knowledge and experience in this area.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

National representatives

Ministry of Finance of BRICS member countries.

MANDATE

Goal

The goal of this working group is to give specific recommendations to the Finance Minister's and Central Bank Governor's on issues of just transitions and climate resilient economies.

Main statutory/operational document

Not applicable.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2023. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Under the South African Presidency in 2023, the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors focused on sustainable and transition finance as part of their agenda, recognising its role in achieving green, resilient, and inclusive global economic recovery, aligned with the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap. The working group recognised the importance of transition finance to support orderly, just, and affordable transitions toward a low-greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient economy. The Ministers and Governors expressed support

for scaling up sustainable finance markets and improving access for countries and firms, including developing economies and SMEs.

In 2024, sustainable finance remained essential to Russia's BRICS members' policy cooperation efforts, which focused on improving macroeconomic resilience amid ongoing geopolitical and geoeconomic risks. The recommendations to the BRICS countries included to consider the possibility of the National Development Bank (NDB) playing an active role in supporting transition finance projects as a part of financing aimed at achieving climate goals, given the important role of the NDB in promoting sustainable development of its member countries.

The importance of sustainable and transition finance under the BRICS Finance Track was reflected in discussions throughout 2023 and 2024, and in its inclusion in the schedule for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meetings in 2025.

Outcome documents

(not available)

FINANCE MEETINGS – BRICS WORKING GROUP ON DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Prepared by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Science, technology and innovation

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2021

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XIII BRICS SUMMIT – DELHI DECLARATION 2021:

“55. We welcome the outcomes of the MSME Roundtable, which has helped enhance our cooperation in the area of development of MSMEs to integrate them to global value chains. We also welcome the work being carried out by our Finance Ministries and Central Banks on the preparation of a survey on Fintech applications in MSMEs and a Report on ‘Digital Financial Inclusion’ respectively.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa

National representatives

- Central Bank of Brazil (CBB)
- Central Bank of the Russian Federation
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- People's Bank of China
- South African Reserve Bank

MANDATE

Goal

Under the aegis of India's Chair in 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had proposed a report to highlight policy initiatives undertaken by the BRICS in the area of digital financial inclusion in order to build on shared knowledge and experiences. The proposal was approved at the BRICS Deputies and the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings held in February 2021 and April 2021, respectively.

Main statutory/operational document

BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Statement (2021) - the first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Digital Financial Inclusion was held in 2021. The BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors issued a statement in 2021 stating, "COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of affordable and resilient social infrastructure alongside economic infrastructure. We reaffirm the positive role of digital technologies, such as tele-medicine, e-health initiatives and online education, in ensuring inclusive access and affordability of social services. We endorse the Technical Report on Social Infrastructure: Financing and Use of Digital Technologies as a collaborative effort to share knowledge. We recognize the significant potential of digital financial inclusion in achieving economic growth. To this end, we welcome the

Report on Digital Financial Inclusion in BRICS and look forward to continued sharing of best practices in these areas”.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2021. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Digital Financial Inclusion was held in 2021. The BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors issued a statement in 2021 stating, ‘COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of affordable and resilient social infrastructure alongside economic infrastructure. We reaffirm the positive role of digital technologies, such as tele-medicine, e-health initiatives and online education, in ensuring inclusive access and affordability of social services. We endorse the Technical Report on Social Infrastructure: Financing and Use of Digital Technologies as a collaborative effort to share knowledge. We recognize the significant potential of digital financial inclusion in achieving economic growth. To this end, we welcome the Report on Digital Financial Inclusion in BRICS and look forward to continued sharing of best practices in these areas’.

The BRICS Digital Financial Inclusion Report was released in 2021 under India’s Presidency. This Report on Digital Financial Inclusion in BRICS was produced by the RBI with collaboration and inputs from other BRICS central banks, i.e., Central Bank of Brazil (BCB), Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia, BoR), People’s Bank of China (PBoC) and South African Reserve Bank (SARB).

In a broad sense, digital financial inclusion refers to the use of digital financial services to further the goal of financial inclusion. It aims to leverage digital means to reach out to the financially unserved as well as underserved

populations with a basket of formal financial services and products suited to their needs in an affordable, safe and transparent manner. At the same time, it promotes efficient and effective networking among participants. Any digital financial service is based primarily on three components, viz., digital transactional platforms, devices and retail agents. The rapid and widespread availability of all these components have prepared a fertile ground for exponential growth in digital finance access.

This Report builds on the G20 High-level Policy Guidelines (HPLG) on Digital Financial Inclusion for Youth, Women, and SMEs, which were endorsed by the G20 Leaders at the Riyadh Summit, held November 21-22, 2020. It focuses on the experience and performance of BRICS countries in the area of digital financial inclusion. The Report highlights the major success stories, innovations, lessons learnt, and unique initiatives in the form of case studies that are in line with the HPLGs.

Subsequently, under Russia's Presidency in 2024, as part of the Meeting of the BRICS working group on digital markets, a meeting of BRICS Working Group on Digital Financial Inclusion was held.

Outcome documents

- Report on Digital Financial Inclusion in BRICS

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MEETINGS – BRICS LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS MEETING and BRICS EMPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP

Prepared by João Vítor Silveira Pereira, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Labour and employment

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“57. We note with satisfaction the progress achieved in coordination of efforts with regard to human resources and employment, social welfare and security, as well as social integration policy. We expect the first meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Labour and Employment, which is to take place in February 2016 and will focus on the creation of decent jobs and information sharing on labour and employment issues, will lay a solid foundation for our long-term cooperation in the sphere of social relations and labour.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, UAE

National representatives

- National Ministers of Labour and Employment
- Ministry of Labour and Employment staff members
- Delegates of the BRICS Trade Union Forum (optional)
- Trade Union Observers (optional)

MANDATE

Goal

To further enhance cooperation with international organizations (ILO, World Bank, ISSA and others) to address specific issues of common interest and provide support in working out of coordinated BRICS Strategy to promote decent work.

Main statutory/operational document

BRICS LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTERS DECLARATION, 2015:

“We, the Ministers of Labour and Employment from the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa met in Ufa, Russia, to discuss new areas of cooperation in labour and employment, social security and social inclusion, public policies.”

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 3–6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The first BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting took place under the Russian presidency in 2015. The Declaration and Joint Communiqué adopted at the meeting recognized the importance of BRICS cooperation to foster employment policies and called for an expansion of the collaboration between BRICS and international organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and the World Bank. In 2018, under South African presidency, the group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote mutual collaboration in the social and labour spheres.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group committed to “ensuring stability and inclusiveness of labour markets during this crisis and in implementing commitments made during our previous meetings to ensure the creation of high quality formal employment and to promote the transition from the informal to the formal economy through employment generation programs that encourage innovation and entrepreneurship”, expressed its support for the ILO's Global call to action for a human-centered recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, in 2021. In 2022, the meeting chaired by China highlighted promoting green jobs for sustainable development on national and supranational levels, developing skills for a resilient post-pandemic recovery, and protecting worker's rights in new forms of employment. In 2023, under the presidency of South Africa, the meeting focused on the importance of supporting a South-South network of productivity ecosystem, promoting labour rights and reducing decent work deficits, closing the skills gap in the informal economy, and achieving universal access to social protection and ensuring minimum basic income.

In 2024, the BRICS LEMM brought together Labour and Employment Ministers from the expanded BRICS group for the first time. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to build consensus on policies for a human-centered future of work, including comprehensive strategies for the promotion of life-

long learning, vocational guidance, continuous professional education and vocational skills training, enhancing modernization of employment services, ensuring safe and healthy working environments, and, once again, bolstering robust social support mechanisms.

In 2025, BRICS Employment Working Group meetings are held under the presidency of Brazil and focus on two main priorities, namely, the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the future of labour market and the impacts of climate change on work and a Just Transition. In its work, BRICS Employment Working Group increasingly cooperates with the International Labor Organization.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers Declarations (2015, 2016, 2019-2025)
- BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers Joint Communiqué (2015, 2016)

BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITY

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Education, academy and experts

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“63. We note the direct interdependence between investment into education, the development of human capital and the improvement of economic performance. We reaffirm the need for equally accessible, high-quality, and lifelong education for all, in line with post-2015 development agenda. We support efforts to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. We recognize the importance of Vocational Education and Training as an instrument of improving employment opportunities, including for young people entering the labour market. We encourage students’ mobility among BRICS countries. We encourage exploring the possibilities of skills development cooperation through implementation of the international best practices, including relevant WorldSkills programmes. We underscore the primary

importance of higher education and research and call for exchanging of experiences in recognition of university diplomas and degrees. We call for working towards cooperation between competent authorities of the BRICS countries for accreditation and recognition. We support the independent initiatives to establish the BRICS Network University and the BRICS University League.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia

National representatives

BRICS countries’ higher education institutions, as designated by National Ministries of Education

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Network University is a union of educational institutions of higher education of the BRICS countries which implement cooperation. The BRICS-NU is a unique project aimed at developing, testing and endorsing, and implementing the educational interaction model by implementing mostly bilateral/multilateral short-term joint educational programmes, master’s and postgraduate programmes, as well as joint scientific and research projects in various areas according to the general standards and quality criteria provided that the learning outcomes are in compliance with the national state standards.

Main statutory/operational document

Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BRICS Network University, 18 November 2015, Moscow, Russia

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The Road Map for Program Implementation (2017–2019) began by presenting the NU BRICS Economics Programs at the July 2, 2017 Zhengzhou Conference and securing ITG approval. updated versions were then presented at the ITG Meeting in Saint Petersburg (September 15–16, 2017). From September 16 to October 30, 2017, proposals for prospective NU BRICS Economics programs were solicited from other ITG Universities, requiring alignment with the structure of HSE's Sustainable development and Investment in BRICS presentation. Subsequently (October 30 – December 1, 2017), academic plans were exchanged to identify opportunities for course matching. This was followed by the development of joint academic and student mobility projects among partner Universities (December 1, 2017 – March 30, 2018). pilot academic and student exchanges commenced in March 2018, while faculty seminars for program instructors were arranged from March 1, 2018, to September 1, 2019. An advertising campaign for the new programs launched on September 1, 2018, culminating in the full implementation of the NU BRICS Economics Programs by September 1, 2019.

In 2020, the BRICS NU Concept of Functioning and Development and the BRICS NU Roadmap for the short- and medium-term periods were adopted. The concept sets out the main goals, areas of work, and the main stages of the BRICS NU's operation: the preparatory stage (2015–2020), the development

stage (2020–2022), the piloting and implementation stage (2023–2025), and the stage of full-fledged operation (from 2026).

The 11th meeting of the BRICS Education Ministers in 2024 resulted in an agreement to expand the list of priority areas of education and training within the BRICS Network University, as well as to increase the number of universities participating in the project up to 20 from each of the BRICS countries (currently – 56); to establish a working group on mutual recognition of qualifications; to support Russia's proposals to strengthen joint work to improve eco- literacy, including the launch of international eco-education programs; and further development of the BRICS Network University.

In May 2024, the International Governing Council of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) held a meeting at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), that has been serving as the BRICS NU international coordinator since 2022. The meeting resulted in the support of the initiative to establish the BRICS NU certificate in addition to the national diplomas of the BRICS countries to increase the brand recognition of the Network University.

In 2024 Egypt, Iran and the UAE joined this initiative by signing the Protocol of Accession to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BRICS Network University.

Outcome documents

- Paris Minutes of BRICS Education Ministers and UNESCO Meeting (2013)
- Moscow Declaration of the 3 meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education (2015)
- Brasilia Declaration of the 2 meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education (2015)
- New Delhi Declaration on Education (2016)
- Beijing Declaration of Education (2017)
- Stellenbosch declaration (2018)
- Cape Town Declaration on Education and Training (2018)

- Russia (online) Declaration of the 7th meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education (2020)
- Kazan Declaration of the 11th Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Education (Kazan, Russia)
- Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of the BRICS Network University (2015)
- Regulations of the International Governing Board of the BRICS Network University (2017)
- Academic Year Roadmap for IGB of the BRICS NU (2017-2018)
- Zhengzhou Consensus of the BRICS Network University Annual Conference (2017)
- Statute for the BRICS Network University International Thematic Groups (2017)
- BRICS Network University Master Programme Proposals: HSE master programme proposal, RUDN master programme proposal; Henan University master programme proposal; UNICAMP master programme proposal (2017)
- Moscow IGB BRICS NU Declaration (2020)
- Protocol on Accession of The Arab Republic of Egypt, The Islamic Republic of Iran, The United Arab Emirates and The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of the BRICS Network University (2024)

POLITICAL PARTIES MEETINGS – BRICS POLITICAL PARTIES PLUS DIALOGUE and BRICS POLITICAL PARTIES, THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FORUM

Prepared by Ya Tan and Yukang Huang, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Law and government

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2017

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

IX BRICS SUMMIT – XIAMEN DECLARATION 2017:

“66. We note with satisfaction the progress in the exchanges and cooperation in various areas, including governance, film-making, media, think-tank, youth, parliament, local governments and trade union, and agree to further advance such exchanges and cooperation. We commend the first joint film production by BRICS countries and commend the success of the BRICS Film Festival, the Media Forum, Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum, Youth Forum, Young Diplomats Forum and Young Scientists Forum. We appreciate the successful hosting of the BRICS Forum of Political Parties, Think-Tanks and Civil

Society Organizations as well as the Seminar on Governance, and will carry these good initiatives forward in the future. In this regard, we note the proposal to establish by China the BRICS Research and Exchange Fund.”

XV BRICS SUMMIT - JOHANNESBURG II DECLARATION 2023:

“80. Dialogue among political parties of BRICS countries plays a constructive role in building consensus and enhancing cooperation. We note the successful hosting of BRICS Political Parties Dialogue in July 2023 and welcome other BRICS countries to host similar events in the future.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

National representatives

- Communist Party of China (CPC)
- United Russia
- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress (INC), Communist Party of India (CPI)
- Workers’ Party (PT), Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB), Progressist Party (PP)
- African National Congress (ANC), South African Communist Party (SACP), Democratic Alliance (DA), Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
- Other representatives of political parties, think tanks, and NGOs from other developing countries

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue aims to foster inclusive multilateralism, promote equitable global governance reforms, and strengthen cooperation among political parties to address shared challenges and advance sustainable development.

The BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum aims to intensify policy communication, expand cooperation, and enhance collaboration with other emerging markets and developing countries, while promoting BRICS visibility on global and regional issues.

Main statutory/operational document

FUZHOU INITIATIVE, 2017 – the BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks, and Civil Society Organizations Forum is dedicated to fostering collaboration among political entities, academic institutions, and civil society groups within BRICS nations. The forum focuses on addressing global challenges such as economic development, climate change, and social equity by promoting dialogue, sharing best practices, and reinforcing the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and mutual benefit.

The BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue serves as a vital platform within the BRICS framework, facilitating consensus-building among political parties and enhancing cooperation among BRICS nations. By bringing together political leaders from BRICS countries and beyond, the dialogue fosters mutual understanding, strengthens partnerships, and contributes to the collective efforts toward global peace and prosperity.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2017. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

On June 11, 2017, China hosted BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum in Fuzhou, Fujian Province. Organized by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation, and the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, this event marked the first time that Political Parties Dialogue, Academic Forum and Civil Society Organizations Forum were integrated into one platform. The forum featured over 400 representatives from 37 political parties across 26 countries, 105 think tanks, and 79 civil society organizations. Participants engaged in discussions across three main tracks: the BRICS Academic Forum, the BRICS Civil Society Organizations Forum, and the BRICS Political Parties Dialogue. The forum concluded with a broad consensus on enhancing cooperation among BRICS nations through inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

From July 4 to July 6, 2018, South Africa hosted the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue. Discussions centered around themes such as economic development, peace and stability, multilateralism, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The dialogue aimed to develop approaches to address common economic and political challenges, strengthen multilateralism, and devise strategies to tackle ongoing economic threats. The event underscored the importance of political parties in shaping policies that promote sustainable development and global cooperation.

On October 22, 2020, the BRICS Political Parties Roundtable was conducted via video conference, hosted by the United Russia Party within the framework of the "SCO+" International Political Parties Forum. Co-chaired by Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, and Pligin, Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the General Council of the United Russia Party's International Affairs Committee, the roundtable included representatives from major political parties of BRICS countries. Participants exchanged experiences in pandemic response, emphasized the importance of

enhancing international cooperation against COVID-19, and discussed deepening exchanges on governance and policymaking. The event was attended online by more than 8,000 participants from BRICS countries and Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states.

On May 19, 2022, the BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks, and Civil Society Organizations Forum was held virtually in Beijing. Over 130 leaders from political parties, think tanks, and civil society organizations across 10 countries attended the forum. Foreign representatives praised China's development achievements under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and acknowledged initiatives like the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping. Discussions emphasized the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation, highlighting the role of political parties, think tanks, and civil society in promoting global peace, development, and a shared future for humanity.

From July 18 to July 20, 2023, the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue convened in Ekurhuleni, South Africa, under the theme "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism." Organized by the African National Congress, the event coincided with Nelson Mandela International Day, honoring his legacy. The dialogue brought together representatives from over 40 political parties across 34 countries, including 23 African nations. Discussions focused on strengthening BRICS-Africa partnerships, promoting inclusive multilateralism, and addressing global challenges. The forum concluded with the adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration, emphasizing the importance of sustainable development goals, equitable global governance, and the expansion of BRICS membership.

On June 17, 2024, Vladivostok, Russia, hosted the International Inter-Party Forum in the BRICS and partner countries format, themed "World Majority for a Multipolar World." Organized by the United Russia Party, the forum was

attended by over 150 representatives from 30 political parties and international organizations across 28 countries. Key figures included Dmitry Medvedev, Chairman of the United Russia Party, and Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. Discussions centered on promoting a multipolar world order, opposing hegemonism and unilateralism, and strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries and developing nations. The forum highlighted the growing role of BRICS in global governance and the importance of political parties in fostering international collaboration.

Outcome documents

- Fuzhou Initiative (2017)
- Declaration of the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, 18th – 20th July 2023, Ekurhuleni, South Africa

SECURITY MEETINGS – BRICS ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM COUNCIL

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Security

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“27. We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic, or any other justification. We are determined to consistently strengthen our cooperation in preventing and countering international terrorism. We stress that the UN has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, which must be conducted in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter, international refugee and humanitarian law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that terrorist threats can be effectively addressed through a comprehensive implementation by states and the international community of all their commitments and obligations arising

from all relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We call upon all states and the international community to adhere to their commitments and obligations and in this regard to resist political approaches and selective application. The BRICS countries reaffirm their commitment to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism & Proliferation. We seek to intensify our cooperation in FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs). We recognize that active international collaboration to counter the spread of violent extremism and its ideologies is a necessary prerequisite in the fight against terrorism. At the same time, we underscore that international cooperation on those tracks should rest upon international law taking into consideration that it is the sovereign governments that bear the primary responsibility for preventing and countering violent extremism-related threats”.

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, Ethiopia

National representatives

National Financial Intelligence Units and agencies responsible for combatting money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism

MANDATE

Goal

To enhance coordination among BRICS Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and related agencies in combating money laundering and terrorist financing through joint initiatives, information sharing, and alignment with FATF standards.

Main statutory/operational document

Declarations and reports adopted at the BRICS Anti-Money Laundering Working Group meetings.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Anti-Money Laundering platform was established to strengthen cooperation among national agencies in detecting and disrupting illicit financial flows. It has facilitated technical dialogue on regulatory frameworks, risk-based approaches, and enforcement practices. The Working Group also supports joint training and aims to enhance the effectiveness of national and cross-border investigations related to financial crimes and terrorism financing.

Outcome documents

(not available)

SECURITY MEETINGS – BRICS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS MEETING and BRICS HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY MATTERS/NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS MEETING

Prepared by Rodrigo Costa de Andrade and Luiz Marcelo Michelin Zardo, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Security

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2009

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our Countries: a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; e) the first Meeting of Development Banks; f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; g) the Conference of Competition Authorities; h) the first

Meeting of Cooperatives; i) the first Business Forum; j) the Conference of think tanks”.

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

Advisors and high representatives for national security from each member

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS NSAs grouping aims to contribute to counter-terrorism efforts, cybersecurity initiatives, and also to processes of peacekeeping and mediation for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It equally aims at contributing to the resolution of major international and regional crises and to the combat against transnational organized crime. Given their weight in international affairs, the forum recognizes that BRICS countries have major responsibilities in conflict prevention, while confidence-building measures that promote de-escalation are also considered an essential role of the bloc. Therefore, during high representatives’ encounters, it is sought to discuss/address pressing issues in the international arena but also to strengthen cooperation and information-sharing on how to deal with domestic issues and challenges.

Main statutory/operational document

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2009. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The first meeting of the BRICS NSAs was held in May 2009, initially discussing the security implications of the global financial crisis on the sidelines of the I BRICS Summit, in Yekaterinburg. The group has met annually (usually once a year) since then, discussing peace and national security affairs. In 2013, in New Delhi, the grouping met for the first time in a structured encounter held independently of the leaders' summit. Also, given the prominence of the terrorism issue, in the same meeting it was decided to create a more specialized Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), which formally met for the first time in 2016 and launched a Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2020 and a Counter-Terrorism Action Plan in 2021. In this context, it is noteworthy that the 2020 Leaders' Declaration indicated the NSAs forum to lead the review of the implementation of such a strategy, including the resulting Counter-Terrorism Action Plan. In 2024, the grouping counted, for the first time, with the participation of Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE.

Outcome documents

(not available)

SECURITY MEETINGS – BRICS WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Security

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2016

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

The arrangement to establish the CTWG was reached at the 4th Meeting of the BRICS National Security Advisers and High Representatives on National Security (Cape Town, December 6, 2013). On September 14, 2016 in New Delhi, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, a new mechanism for cooperation within the framework of BRICS was launched, namely the CTWG.

VIII BRICS SUMMIT – GOA DECLARATION 2016:

"60. We acknowledge the recent meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security and, in this context, welcome the setting up and the first meeting of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism on 14 September 2016 in New Delhi. We believe it will further promote dialogue and

understanding among BRICS nations on issues of counter terrorism, as well as coordinate efforts to address the scourge of terrorism."

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia

National representatives

(not available)

MANDATE

Goal

- Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way, and implementation of the provisions of the relevant international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols;
- counter the global threat of terrorism on the basis of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, where applicable;
- improve the practical cooperation among security and law-enforcement authorities to prevent and combat terrorism, including by sharing timely and accurate information, and consider, if necessary, creating legal framework for such sharing;
- suppress the facilitation of terrorist groups, entities and associated persons by not making available to them any resources, such as human, financial, or material, including weaponry;
- undertake steps to improve relevant necessary measures to strengthen border and customs controls in order to prevent and detect the cross-

border movement of terrorists, including by comprehensively using, whenever appropriate, international databases on terrorism and the consolidated list of sanctioned individuals and groups by the UN Security Council;

- utilize BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group to strengthen intelligence and information sharing and cooperation on or in support of terrorist acts is brought to justice, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that
- such terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offence in their domestic laws;
- enhance cooperation in the sphere of mutual legal assistance and extradition, in conformity with their domestic laws and regulations, to afford the widest measure of assistance in connection with investigation or criminal proceedings against terrorists;
- counter extremist narratives conducive to terrorism and the misuse of the Internet and social media for the purposes of terrorist recruitment, radicalization and incitement and providing financial and material support for terrorists;
- counter public calls for and incitement of terrorism and extremism conducive to terrorism;
- strengthen cooperation against the misuse of information and telecommunication technology for terrorist and other criminal purposes; create counter-narratives disrupting the propaganda of terrorist and extremist ideas conducive to terrorism;
- broaden their counter-terrorism cooperation with the United Nations, as well as the G-20 and the FATF;
- strengthen de-radicalization cooperation to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism by education, skills development and employment facilitation while recognizing that none of the conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

- cooperate to address the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; - promote capacity building, including training, experience sharing, and technical cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts;
- promote public awareness and participation in counter-terrorism efforts, as well as enhancement of inter-faith and intra-faith dialogue.

The CTWG aims at promoting stronger partnerships amongst the Member States leveraging our strengths to combat the menace of international terrorism comprehensively. CTWG in particular allows to:

- undertake the exchange of views regarding recent terrorist threats in the global and regional dimensions, especially on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), curbing misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes, de-radicalization, countering terrorist financing, as well as to step up efforts in capacity building;
- present national experiences and promote expert dialogue on counter-terrorism;
- and exchange views and coordinate positions within the framework of the UN and other multilateral counter-terrorism fora.

The CTWG also contributes to better exchange of information, best practices, knowledge and expertise amongst the BRICS competent authorities, including by accelerating procedures related to legal and technical assistance in terrorism-related cases.

Main statutory/operational document

BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy, 2020.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2016. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

- Ensuring further dialogue and coordinated efforts to understand, identify and collaboratively respond, when appropriate, to the persistent and emerging terrorist threats;
- Continue the full and effective implementation of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan in the following areas: combating terrorism; preventing and countering radicalization; preventing and countering online terrorist threats; countering terrorism financing; preventing/curbing travel of terrorists; capacity building; protecting soft targets; information/intelligence sharing; fostering international and regional cooperation;
- Consider the idea of making new BRICS Members co-chairs in the Sub-Working Groups in order to ensure that its thematic and regional focuses continue to enable the effective functioning of the CTWG;
- Discuss, if needed, the expansion of interaction amongst CTWG Sub-Working Groups;
- Enrich the CTWG expertise and complement its work by engaging within the mandate of the CTWG and based on consensus decisions with various partners such as UN counter-terrorism agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations. Explore best ways to partner with relevant bodies of the UN counter-terrorism architecture to share more effectively their knowledge and experience within the CTWG, including research on matters of mutual interest such as current and emerging trends. Give due consideration to each other's listing proposals in the UN SC 1267 Sanctions Committee, when appropriate;
- Confirm that the CTWG will further develop cooperation amongst counterterrorism practitioners of the BRICS countries, including from law enforcement, security agencies and intelligence services of the BRICS countries, to prevent and combat terrorism with a special focus on countering new and evolving 5 terrorist threats;

- Consider the development of compendiums of best practices in counterterrorism, taking into account legislative and law enforcement differences in BRICS countries;
- Continue to support the broad implementation of the universal counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, which the BRICS Members are their parties to, relevant UN SC resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
- Commit to working towards to early finalization and adoption of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;
- Commit to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

Outcome documents

(not available)

SECURITY MEETINGS – BRICS WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTs

Prepared by Marco Aurélio Alves de Mendonça, Renato Ungaretti, and Tainari Taioka, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Security

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“34. In that context, the Working Group of Experts of the BRICS States on security in the use of ICTs will initiate cooperation in the following areas: sharing of information and best practices relating to security in the use of ICTs; effective coordination against cyber-crime; the establishment of nodal points in member states; intra-BRICS cooperation using the existing Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT); joint research and development projects; capacity building; and the development of international norms, principles and standards.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

National representatives

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Department of Defense and Security Affairs, Brazil
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Department of International Information Security, Russia
- Ministry of External Affairs – Cyber Diplomacy Division, India
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Department of Cyber Affairs, China
- State Security Agency (SSA) – Cybersecurity and Communications Division, South Africa
- National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA), Saudi Arabia
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt
- Cyber Security Council – Supreme Council for National Security, United Arab Emirates
- Information Network Security Administration (INSA), Ethiopia
- National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN), Indonesia
- Supreme Council of Cyberspace or Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MICT), Iran

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of ICTs aims to promote cooperation on international information security by facilitating the exchange of best practices, enhancing mutual trust, and coordinating positions in

multilateral forums. Its focus is on preventing ICTs misuse, boosting national capacities, and fostering a secure, stable, and open digital environment.

Main statutory/operational document

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015 - the BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of ICTs was created in 2015, following the Ufa Declaration, with the aim of promoting cooperation between the countries of the bloc, in view of the common challenges related to the security of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Among its responsibilities, the sharing of information, case studies and public policies in the digital area stand out, favoring a growing convergence in the cybersecurity agendas of the member countries.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The topic of ICT security first appeared in BRICS discussions in 2013, when the BRICS National Security Advisors highlighted the importance of securing the use of information and communication technologies. They proposed increased cooperation in this area. In 2014, the Advisors decided to establish a dedicated group of experts to develop practical proposals for cooperation and align BRICS positions in multilaterals forums. The Ufa Declaration (2015) outlined key focus areas, such as sharing of information and best practices relating to security in the use of ICTs, effective coordination against cyber-crime, intra-BRICS cooperation using the existing Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT), capacity building, and the development of international norms, principles and standards.

Since then, the Working Group has been the primary platform for BRICS collaboration on international information security. In 2017, it adopted the Roadmap for Practical Cooperation on Ensuring Security in the Use of ICTs, which prioritized policy exchange, technical cooperation, institutional strengthening, joint research, and coordination of positions in multilateral settings. Key initiatives include creating of the BRICS Points of Contact Directory for incident response, proposing a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on ICT security cooperation, and alignment of positions in UN cyber dialogues like the UN Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) and Government Experts (GGE). The group plays a crucial role in building mutual trust, fostering legal cooperation, and developing shared principles in the digital domain.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Roadmap for Practical Cooperation on ICT Security (2017)
- Revised Terms of Reference (2019)
- Progress Report on BRICS Roadmap of Practical Cooperation on Ensuring Security in the Use of ICTs (2022)
- BRICS Points of Contact Directory (2024)

STATISTICAL OFFICES MEETINGS – HEADS OF BRICS NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES MEETING and NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES OF BRICS COUNTRIES TECHNICAL MEETING

Prepared by Luiz Marcelo Michelin Zardo, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Science, technology and innovation

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2010

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

II BRIC SUMMIT – BRASILIA JOINT STATEMENT 2010:

“27. We welcome the following sectoral initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation among our Countries: a) the first Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development; b) the Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks; c) the Meetings of High Representatives for Security Issues; d) the I Exchange Program for Magistrates and Judges, of BRIC countries, held in March 2010 in Brazil following the signature in 2009 of the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC countries' Supreme Courts; e) the first Meeting of Development Banks; f) the first Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutions; g) the Conference of Competition Authorities; h) the first Meeting of Cooperatives; i) the first Business Forum; j) the Conference of think

tanks. We also endorse other important manifestations of our desire to deepen our relationship, such as: a) the joint publication by our respective national statistical institutions which is going to be released today; b) a feasibility study for developing a joint BRIC encyclopedia”.

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

- Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Brazil;
- National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), China
- Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics of the Arab Republic of Egypt (CAPMAS), Egypt
- Ethiopian Statistical Service (ESS), Ethiopia
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of India, India
- Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), Indonesia
- Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI), Iran
- Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT), Russia
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), South Africa
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center of United Arab Emirates (FCSC), United Arab Emirates

MANDATE

Goal

The main objective of the BRICS National Statistical Offices Technical Meeting and the BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) Meeting is the annual release of the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication (JSP). Every year, a BRICS country (the one occupying the Pro Tempore Presidency) is held responsible for bringing out the publication, which usually covers socio-economic indicators, demographic data, and also information on national accounts, price indices, living standards, industry, energy, agriculture, transport, ICT, finance, among others.

The technical group usually meets some months before the finalization of the JSP in order to discuss its first drafts and clarify further inputs/information needed from each party. The heads of NSOs, on the other hand, usually meet once the report is already finished, and their encounter is the occasion when the JSP is released; in addition, the heads also discuss initiatives to enhance cooperation and knowledge exchange in the realm of official statistics among BRICS members, equally aiming to strengthen statistical capacities and promote methodological harmonization.

Main statutory/operational document

(not available)

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2010. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The heads of BRICS NSOs met for the first time in February 2010, on the sidelines of a UN Statistical Committee meeting. Since then, both the heads' meetings and the technical group sessions have happened at least once yearly

(except in 2019). The technical group usually meets some months before the release of the JSP, while the heads meet on the occasion of its official release.

Regarding the heads' meetings, besides the Annual JSP, there is generally also a main topic of discussion set by the host country related to cooperation in the realm of official statistics – in recent years, some examples were the use of big data, efforts on monitoring of SDGs, and the challenges and opportunities posed by digital economy.

In 2025, a first heads' meeting was held in March, in New York (where the 56th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission was happening), and, in addition to the JSP of this year, countries also discussed, for instance, the creation of a secretariat under a Troika format in order to preserve institutional memory. The technical group had already met in mid-February, addressing technical aspects of the JSP and anticipating the heads' encounter.

Outcome documents

- Annual BRICS Joint Statistical Publication and Snapshot BRICS Joint Statistical Publication (2010-2024)

BRICS VACCINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Prepared by Rodrigo Costa de Andrade, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Health

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2022

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

X BRICS SUMMIT – JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION 2018:

“90. We commit to strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries, and welcome the proposal to establish a BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

- Immunobiological Technology Institute FIOCRUZ (Biomanguinhos), Brazil
- Smorodintsev Research Institute of Influenza, Russia,
- Indian Council of Medical Research, India
- China's Sinovac Life Sciences, China
- South African Medical Research Council, South Africa
- Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt
- Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Bio Farma, Indonesia
- Iran Pasteur Institute and Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran
- Emirates Health Services, UAE

MANDATE

Goal

The center aims to leverage BRICS countries' complementary advantages in vaccine research and development, enhance their capacity to prevent and control infectious diseases, and provide timely assistance to other developing countries in need. It is expected to prioritize joint vaccine research and development, facilitate information and knowledge sharing, support collaborative projects among BRICS countries, and promote inclusive distribution and use of vaccines to ensure accessibility and affordability.

Main statutory/operational document

(not available)

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2022. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Since 2018, BRICS leaders have committed to enhancing cooperation in vaccine research and development, starting with the endorsement of the establishment of the BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre during the South African Summit. This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2020 Moscow Declaration, which emphasized the importance of timely and effective operationalization. By 2021, each BRICS country had designated national centers to contribute to this initiative under India's leadership. In 2022, China hosted an online launch ceremony and workshop on vaccine cooperation, marking a significant milestone in the center's operationalization. In 2024, Russia hosted a meeting focused on the functioning of the BRICS Vaccine Centre, further solidifying its role as a platform for collaborative vaccine research and development. Increased cooperation in vaccine research and development can improve the prevention and control of infectious diseases, which would have long-term positive effects on the social and economic sustainability of the BRICS countries.

Currently, the BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre sees the following priorities for the joint effort of its members:

- Foster the creation of the Electronic R&D Stock proposed by Russia during its 2024 chairship.
- Provide consulting services for vaccine market stakeholders in BRICS countries through the Stock platform.
- Promote bilateral partnerships in vaccine development among BRICS countries as an initial step.
- Encourage partnerships among members of the Vaccine R&D Centres and between other Centres and Networks formally established by BRICS.
- Facilitate the participation of the New Development Bank in discussions related to the Vaccine R&D Centre to establish financing mechanisms for its projects.

- Promote research and development, including development of biotechnological products, laboratory and instrumental testing, preclinical trials, exchange of technology, procurement of equipment, reagents, and other necessary materials, and miscellaneous biotechnology services.

Outcome documents

(not available)

BRICS WOMEN'S AFFAIRS MINISTERIAL MEETING

Prepared by Ya Tan and Qihan Zhou, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2023

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XVI BRICS SUMMIT – KAZAN DECLARATION 2024:

“102. We acknowledge the critical role of women in social and economic development. We recognise that inclusive entrepreneurship and access to finance for women would facilitate their participation in business ventures, innovation, and the digital economy. In this regard, we note the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Women’s Affairs and BRICS Women’s Forum held in September in Saint Petersburg.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

National representatives

Key participating organizations include the All-China Women's Federation (China), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation (Russia), the Ministry of Women (Brazil), the Ministry of Women and Child Development (India), and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (South Africa). Representatives from Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia also participated. International organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), UNESCO, and UNFPA were involved as well. Parties from other developing countries and emerging economies may also participate in the meeting.

MANDATE

Goal

Based on the provided documents, the BRICS Meeting of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Women's Affairs is to promote dialogue and cooperation among BRICS countries on advancing women's empowerment, gender equality, and inclusive development. The meeting provides a platform for member states and international organizations to exchange best practices and discuss joint strategies on key issues such as women's leadership, governance, digital inclusion, climate action, and sustainable development, with a view to strengthening the role of women in social and economic progress.

Main statutory/operational document

XVI BRICS SUMMIT – KAZAN DECLARATION 2024.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2023. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Even before the formal establishment of a recurring ministerial-level forum on women's affairs within the BRICS framework, gender equality and women's empowerment had been highlighted in several BRICS declarations and summit-level communiqués. These early recognitions laid the groundwork for more structured and focused engagements.

In 2023, during South Africa's BRICS Chairship, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosted the first BRICS Meeting of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Women's Affairs, held online from December 11 to 12. This marked the official institutionalization of the mechanism within the BRICS cooperation framework. Representatives from all BRICS countries participated, and China was represented by He Shuwen, Deputy Director-General of the Liaison Department of the All-China Women's Federation.

In 2024, under the Russian Chairship, the first in-person BRICS Women's Ministerial Meeting was held on September 20 in St. Petersburg at the Tauride Palace. The meeting focused on the theme "Women, Governance and Leadership" and brought together ministers and senior officials from the ministries and departments responsible for women's affairs in the BRICS countries and newly invited members such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. It also featured participation from international organizations like the ILO, ISSA, UNESCO, and UNFPA, signaling growing multilateral support for gender-focused policy dialogue. At the same venue, during the Eurasian Women's Forum the first ever BRICS Women Forum was held, chaired and

promoted by Federation Council of the Russian Federation and its head Valentina Matvienko.

In 2025, Brazil will assume the BRICS Chairship and host the next ministerial meeting on April 24 in Brasília. The planned discussion themes include “Women, Development and Entrepreneurship, “Digital Governance, Misogyny and Disinformation”, and “Women’s Empowerment, Climate Action and Sustainable Development”. This indicates a broadening of the mechanism’s agenda to encompass emerging digital and environmental challenges affecting women’s development.

Outcome documents

(not available)

BRICS WOMEN'S BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Prepared by Ya Tan and Qihan Zhou, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2020

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XII BRICS SUMMIT – MOSCOW DECLARATION 2020:

“86. We further welcome the adoption of the Declaration on the establishing of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) which provides a solid platform for promotion of women's economic empowerment in the BRICS countries aiming at expanding the role of women as drivers of economic growth.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt and Ethiopia

National representatives

- BRICS WBA Brazilian Chapter; National Industry Confederation, Brazil
- BRICS WBA Russian Chapter
- BRICS WBA Indian Chapter; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), India
- BRICS WBA Chinese Chapter; Department of Multilateral Cooperation of CCOIC, China
- BRICS WBA South African Chapter; HumanInsights (Pty) Ltd, South Africa
- BRICS WBA Egyptian Chapter
- BRICS WBA Ethiopian Chapter

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance ("The BRICS WBA") is expected to provide a platform to promote women's economic participation and empowerment by unlocking business opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the five BRICS participating countries. The Alliance's objective is to increase the role and participation of women as drivers of economic growth.

Main statutory/operational document

Declaration on the Establishment of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance, 2020 – the WBA is a business mechanism for women within the BRICS framework. Its primary objective is to enhance women's economic participation and foster cooperation among women-led businesses, thereby contributing to inclusive economic growth.

BRICS WBA Terms of Reference, 2024 – The BRICS WBA comprises 5 nominees per each BRICS country. Nominees should include founders of their own businesses or CEOs of large enterprises who have overcome significant barriers and aim to enter international markets. They should represent businesswomen

associations of the BRICS countries and possess expertise and experience relevant to the BRICS WBA agenda. Members of the National Chapters are appointed by the authorized agencies of their countries in accordance with the relevant national procedures. Each national chapter includes a council, secretariat, and joint working groups focusing on areas such as inclusive economy, innovative development, healthcare, food security and environmental safety, creative industries, and tourism.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2020. An average of more than 6 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Even before the official establishment of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA), discussions regarding its formation took place at significant international forums. In 2017, the concept of the Alliance was first introduced at the First International SCO and BRICS Women's Forum in Novosibirsk, followed by its endorsement at the BRICS Business Council Meeting in Shanghai.

In 2018, the idea gained further momentum when the 10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration incorporated the proposal to form the Alliance. Later that year, at the Second Eurasian Women's Forum in St. Petersburg, the concept was formally presented, reinforcing its potential impact.

The official recognition of the BRICS WBA came in 2019, when the BRICS leaders, during the Brasília Summit, welcomed the establishment of the Alliance. This was followed by the first series of structured bilateral meetings in 2020, laying the foundation for collaboration between national chapters. On July 20, 2020, the Inaugural Meeting of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Bilateral Online Consultation Series was held online with the participation of the leaders of the National Chapters of the Alliance. On October 26, 2020, BRICS Business Forum

Panel discuss on women's entrepreneurship with the online participation of members of the Women's Business Alliance. On November 2, 2020, Establishment Meeting of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Agreement on the text of the Establishment Declaration and future areas of cooperation was held online.

A major milestone was reached in 2023, when BRICS leaders, at the XV BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, decided on the historic expansion of the bloc. This development set the stage for further institutional growth.

In 2024, the BRICS WBA continued to expand its influence and reach. The Common Digital Platform was launched to enhance coordination, providing a central hub for information on projects, education, and networking. Additionally, partnerships were established through the BRICS Mobility Center, focusing on skills development and workforce deployment across member states.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Women's Business Alliance Annual Report
- BRICS Women's Development Report 2024
- BRICS WBA Annual Report 2023
- BRICS Women's Development Report 2023
- BRICS WBA Annual Report 2022
- Care Economy. The BRICS White Paper
- Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025
- TOOLKIT Women Economic Empowerment in BRICS Policies, Achievements, Challenges and Solutions
- Compendium of Positive Stories on Women 2021

BRICS WOMEN INNOVATION CONTEST

Prepared by Ya Tan and Qihan Zhou, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Open debates, cultural diffusion and awards

CREATION

Year

2021

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

XIII BRICS SUMMIT – NEW DELHI DECLARATION 2021 (under Annex II):

“Workshops/Seminars/Forums/People-to-People/Other Meetings: BRICS Women Innovation Contest.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt and Ethiopia

National representatives

The members of BRICS Women's Business Alliance sponsor and organize the award. Here we list some of them:

- Brazil: Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas, Confederação Nacional da Indústria, BRICS Women's Business Alliance Brazil Chapter
- Russia: BRICS Women's Business Alliance Russia Chapter
- India: BRICS Women's Business Alliance India Chapter
- China: China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, China Chamber of International Commerce, All-China Women's Federation, BRICS Women's Business Alliance China Chapter
- South Africa: BRICS Women's Business Alliance South Africa Chapter
- BRICS WBA Egyptian Chapter
- BRICS WBA Ethiopian Chapter

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Women Innovation Contest aims to recognize and celebrate outstanding female entrepreneurs from BRICS countries who have made significant contributions to solving social and economic problems across various fields. As a women-oriented event, the contest aimed to share best business practices or initiatives led by women in BRICS countries and recognize outstanding female entrepreneurs among BRICS countries with their achievements in different fields and promotion of social welfare and economic development. The contest was open to all women entrepreneurs across the BRICS countries to unleash women's potentials and innovation in the market.

Main statutory/operational document

BRICS Women Innovation Contest announcement – at the BRICS Summit on November 17, 2020, Chinese President proposed “the holding of the BRICS women's innovation contest”, which received support from BRICS leaders. In

2021, the BRICS Women Innovation Contest (hereafter referred to as the Contest), jointly organized by the Chinese Chapter, WBA, and co-sponsored by the Indian, Russian, Brazilian, and South African Chapters, WBA, hits the ground. The registration starts on March 25th, and an awards ceremony will be held in the end of July.

Work dynamics

First meeting occurred in 2020. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The BRICS Women Innovation Contest was proposed during the BRICS Summit on November 17, 2020, by the Chinese State Leader and received wide support from all BRICS Leaders.

The contest aims to recognize outstanding business women devoted to promoting social welfare and economic development in different fields across BRICS nations and promote the exchange of best practices and innovative initiatives led by women, thus advancing cooperation among business women across BRICS nations.

In 2021, the first edition of the contest was jointly organized by the Chinese Chapter, WBA, and co-sponsored by the Indian, Russian, Brazilian, and South African Chapters, WBA. The registration started on March 25, and an awards ceremony was held at the end of July.

In 2022, the second edition of the contest was launched, with the theme of activating and unleashing the innovation and creativity of women in various fields such as green development, technological innovation, cultural creativity, healthcare, education and training, finance, and cross-border e-commerce.

In June 2023, the Chinese Council of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) invited a delegation comprising winners from the 2021 and 2022 BRICS Women's Innovation Contests to visit China. During their stay, the delegates participated in a series of business visits and cultural exchange activities in Beijing, Zhuhai, and Hangzhou. These engagements fostered consensus on cooperation, enhanced people-to-people exchanges, and led to the signing of several cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding.

In 2024, the third edition of the contest, known as the BRICS Women's Startups Contest, was launched during the BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum held from June 2nd to 4th in Moscow. The contest received over 1,000 applications from 30 countries and aimed to identify and support the best women-led startup business models within the BRICS countries. The award ceremony was held on October 18, 2024, in Moscow, where 26 projects were selected as winners in various categories. The award in the nomination "Food Security and Agriculture" went to Shahira Yahia Youssef (Egypt) and her startup Chitosan Egypt, a biotech company, develops 100% organic crop solutions by combining chitosan R&D with industrial production techniques.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Women Innovation White Paper

BRICS WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN AND POLAR SCIENCE

Prepared by the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Science, technology and innovation

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

BRICS STI Ministerial Declaration – Moscow Declaration 2015

“To address common societal challenges and to advance BRICS leadership and cooperation on a global level we welcome the new initiatives:

- Creation of BRICS Young Scientists Forum (India as coordinating country);
- Cooperation on Biotechnology and Biomedicine including Human Health and Neuroscience (Russia and Brazil as coordinating countries);
- Cooperation on Information Technologies and High Performance Computing (China and South Africa as coordinating countries);
- cooperation on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (Brazil and Russia as coordinating countries);

- Cooperation on Material science including Nanotechnology (India and Russia coordinating countries);
- Cooperation on Photonics (India and Russia as coordinating countries)."

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

Peter O. Zavialov (Russia), Website Administrator and Working Group Representative –

Russia: Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences (Physics Department)

MANDATE

Goal

According to III The mission OF THE BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (Moscow Declaration, 2015) and BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Work (Plan 2015-2018) to address common societal challenges and to advance BRICS leadership and cooperation on a global level the new initiatives are welcomed, including cooperation on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (Brazil and Russia as coordinating countries).

Terms of reference determine the core functions of the working group, including to steer efforts in designating and implementing effective cooperation among all Working Group is to promote cooperation between BRICS member countries in the field of ocean and polar science and technology. To achieve this, it continually monitors current scientific and technological developments within the member states in these areas. Based on this review,

the group identifies and proposes priority research topics for inclusion in the BRICS Call for R&D collaboration under the STI Framework Programme. Furthermore, it identifies essential training requirements and actively promotes exchanges of students and research staff to build capacity. The group also develops technical guidance to improve, standardize, and verify research methods, tools, and operational practices. Finally, it promotes and coordinates enabling technologies through joint expeditionary activities, such as "BRICS cruises," in the of government, universities, research institutions, and industry, as relevant, in order to generate new knowledge, train human capital, develop new technologies and applications, and improve public understanding of ocean and polar regions science. The BRICS Deep-Sea Resources International Research Center was established in 2025 following the proposal according to the joint statement of the 6th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology in 2024)

Main statutory/operational document

III BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting (Moscow Declaration, 2015)

Terms of Reference (October 2015, Moscow – Unsigned), of the BRICS Ocean And Polar Science And Technology Working Group Introduced in Moscow, Russia (Unsigned document)

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2018. An average of 1-3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Lifted from the 1st Meeting of the working group.

- Define priority cooperation areas between the BRICS Countries,

- To formulate recommendations on the method of work as well as on the next steps to be worked on,
- To identify priority areas on ocean and polar science and technology for subsequent BRICS STI framework programme calls for proposals, and;
- To make relevant recommendations for other BRICS groups.

Outcome documents

Research priorities and flagship project: The following themes were identified: Deep sea research; Climate variability and predictability, including air-sea-ice exchanges; and Coastal processes and Ocean-land interactions, including marine pollutants and plastics.

The following cross-cutting topics were identified as enabling priorities for the partnership: technology development; observing systems; data management and sharing; modelling and data assimilation.

The WG will prioritise a theme for the purpose of a flagship project; and Brazil will invite each country to submit a motivation in support of the overarching theme, and will table a report to the next WG meeting.

- Joint statement of the 6th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (2024)

YOUTH MEETINGS – BRICS YOUNG SCIENTISTS FORUM

Prepared by Ya Tan and Qihan Zhou, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT - UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“62. We welcome the holding of the Second BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Brasilia in March 2015, and celebrate the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation, which provides a strategic framework for cooperation in this field. We note with interest the potential of BRICS Young Scientist Forum that has been agreed by the BRICS Ministers for Science, Technology and Innovation with India as coordinating country.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia and the UAE

National representatives

Representatives of the science and technology innovation authorities, young scientists and young innovators of BRICS countries.

MANDATE

Goal

The BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF) aims to provide a platform for young scientists under 40 years of age to share experiences, exchange best practices, and foster international cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (STI). Its main objectives include enhancing interactions among BRICS youth to address common socio-economic challenges through research and innovation, promoting skill development and research competencies, encouraging transnational research networks, and strengthening BRICS role in the global STI arena. Additionally, the forum hosts the BRICS Young Innovator Prize to recognize and reward outstanding innovations that can significantly impact the development of BRICS countries.

Main statutory/operational document

BRICS Young Scientists Forum Concept Note (formulated annually by the rotating presidency) – every year, the rotating presidency of the BRICS countries will formulate a Concept Note for the BRICS Young Scientists Forum (BRICS YSF) and organize relevant activities. BRICS YSF aims to enhance interaction among young scientists from BRICS nations. It focuses on promoting skills and research development, fostering international cooperation, and encouraging the creation of transnational research networks. The document also details the selection

process for participants, thematic areas of discussion, and the organization of events such as the BRICS Young Innovator Prize.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2016. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Brasília Declaration, adopted at the 2nd STI Ministerial Meeting (Brasília, March 2015), the proposal for the creation of a BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF) was adopted. During the VII BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia, BRICS countries decided to hold the Forum annually starting from 2016. The BRICS Young Scientist Forum is to be hosted by the country currently presiding over BRICS.

The Young Scientist Forum is one of the most effective platforms for expanding the network of international contacts among young scientists, including through the exchange of experience and best practices in supporting scientific research with the participation of young scientists and postgraduate students from the BRICS countries. It helps to promote initiatives and to establish an integral system of international cooperation among the future representatives of the science and innovation systems of the BRICS countries. These activities ensure the sustainable development of BRICS cooperation and promote the development of the leadership position of the BRICS countries in the area of science, technology, and innovation.

BRICS Young Innovator Prize is a special recognition of young talented entrepreneurs and researchers whose outstanding innovations (inventions, products, applications, and services) will make a profound impact on the socio-economic, environmental, and living conditions in BRICS societies. The BRICS Young Innovator Prize is a platform for BRICS young scientists and

entrepreneurs to share their best practices in innovation and venturing. This initiative was introduced in 2018 during South Africa's BRICS chairship. Since then, the BRICS Young Innovator Prize has been held seven times successfully and has become a significant event for BRICS youths to display their innovation talents and strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

Outcome documents

- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2024 Concept Note
- BRICS Young Innovator Prize 2024 Report
- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2023 Report
- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2022 Report
- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2021 Report
- BRICS Young Innovator Prize 2023 Report
- BRICS Young Innovator Prize 2022 Report
- BRICS Young Innovator Prize 2021 Report
- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2020 Report
- BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2019 Report

YOUTH MEETINGS – BRICS YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT

Prepared by Ya Tan and Qihan Zhou, China Council for BRICS Think-tank Cooperation (CCBTC)

THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Energy

Social development

Profile

Civil society, private sector and/or scientific community engagement

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VIII BRICS SUMMIT – GOA DECLARATION 2016:

“95. Cognizant of the potential and diversity of youth population in our countries, their needs and aspirations, we welcome the outcomes of the BRICS Youth Summit in Guwahati including, “Guwahati BRICS Youth Summit 2016 Call to Action” that recognize the importance of education, employment, entrepreneurship, and skills training for them to be socially and economically empowered.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE

National representatives

- Brazil: Ministry of Mines and Energy, energy enterprises, and youth organizations focused on sustainable development
- Russia: Ministry of Energy, State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom, and the BRICS Youth Energy Agency
- India: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), and youth-led organizations
- China: National Energy Administration, China Petroleum University (Beijing)
- South Africa: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, South African Youth Energy Association, and academic institutions
- Parties from other developing countries and emerging economies

MANDATE

Goal

The goal of the BRICS Youth Energy Summit is to strengthen the voices of the younger generation from the BRICS countries and the developing world in the global energy transition. It aims to provide a platform for youth to participate in energy-related discussions and decision-making processes, focusing on themes such as Just and Sustainable Energy Transition, Resource Management and Critical Minerals for Energy Transition, Climate Change, Green Jobs and Skills for Energy Transition, and International Partnerships and Policy Advocacy. The summit also seeks to foster international cooperation and policy advocacy in the

energy sector, contributing to the development of sustainable and equitable energy solutions.

Main statutory/operational document

First BRICS Youth Summit in Moscow/Kazan Action Plan 2015 – in 2015, youth delegates of the first-ever BRICS Youth Summit that took place in two Russian cities, Moscow and Kazan, upheld the joint Action Plan with a decision to create a youth energy association of the five countries. In 2017, the association was transformed into the BRICS Youth Energy Agency.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Even before the official establishment of the BRICS Youth Energy Summit, discussions regarding its formation took place during the first-ever BRICS Youth Summit held in Moscow and Kazan, Russia, in 2015. Youth delegates from the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) discussed issues of common interest and signed a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on youth matters and exchange of youth delegations. The BRICS Youth Energy Agency brings together young experts on various aspects of energy. Through young expert groups (YEGs), BRICS YEA sets hypotheses, conducts consultations and delivers policy together with young experts from the agency's network.

In 2017, the concept gained further momentum when the BRICS Youth Energy Agency was formally established, transforming the initial youth energy association into a more formalized structure with a youth-led secretariat based in Moscow. The agency was authorized to expand its regional offices across the

five countries without necessarily following the rotation of the BRICS presidency cycle.

In 2018, the activities of the BRICS Youth Energy Agency were first mentioned at the ministerial level during the 3rd BRICS Working Group on Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency. The projects of the BRICS Youth Energy Agency were approved and supported. The First BRICS Youth Energy Summit was held as a side-event to the Russian Energy Week International Forum, attended by high-level representatives from BRICS countries.

In 2019, the BRICS Ministers of Energy expressed their support for the further development of youth cooperation in the energy sector and welcomed the BRICS Youth Energy Agency Summit. The BRICS Youth presented the first edition of the BRICS Youth Energy Outlook, a flagship international youth energy report. The Secretariat signed an agreement with the National Youth Development Agency of South Africa to establish a representation of the BRICS Youth Energy Agency in South Africa. Following the XII BRICS Summit in 2020, the Heads of Five States supported the cooperation within the BRICS Youth Energy Agency and the holding of an annual BRICS Youth Energy Summit in their Moscow Declaration.

In 2022, the BRICS Youth Energy Summit was held in Beijing under the theme “Youth Together for Innovation, Embracing a Green Energy Future.” The event featured activities such as the award ceremony for the Energy and Climate Change Competition, the Future Green Energy Leaders’ Dialogue, and youth speeches from BRICS countries. The Beijing Declaration of the 14th BRICS Summit expressed appreciation for China’s hosting of the BRICS Youth Energy Summit.

A major milestone was reached in 2023, when the BRICS Youth Energy Agency continued to expand its influence and reach. The agency became one of the global flagships in the development of international energy cooperation at the youth level, focusing on global trends and challenges. It established

partnerships with energy-related youth associations and international organizations such as the United Nations, SEforALL, and CEM.

In 2024, the VI BRICS Youth Energy Summit was held in Moscow, Russia, as part of Russia's BRICS chairmanship activities. The summit focused on themes such as Just Energy Transition, Low and Zero Carbon Energy Innovations and Strategies, Education and skills for Energy, Youth Skills Development for the Energy Transition, Nuclear Technologies for a Sustainable Energy Transition, Mineral Resource Management for Energy Security, and Sustainable Energy for Food Systems. These milestones highlight the BRICS Youth Summit and the BRICS Youth Energy Agency's commitment to fostering youth cooperation and enhancing international collaboration among member nations.

Outcome documents

- First BRICS Youth Summit in Moscow/Kazan Action Plan 2015
- BRICS Youth Summit in Guwahati Declaration 2016
- First BRICS Youth Energy Summit Action Plan 2018
- 5th BRICS Youth Summit in Brasilia Declaration 2019
- BRICS YEA 2020 Development Strategy
- BRICS Youth Energy Outlooks and Reports (Young Experts' Opinions on Energy Sector)
- Road Map for BRICS Energy Cooperation up to 2025

YOUTH MEETINGS – BRICS YOUTH MINISTERIAL MEETING

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THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

Area

Social development

Profile

Intergovernmental engagement

CREATION

Year

2015

Endorsement by BRICS leaders

VII BRICS SUMMIT – UFA DECLARATION 2015:

“74. We welcome the initiative of the Russian Chairship in hosting Civil BRICS Forum, which contributes to a dialogue between civil society organizations, academia, business and governments of the BRICS countries on a wide range of important socio-economic issues. We also welcome holding of the Trade Unions Forums as well as the launch of “youth dimension” of our cooperation under the Russian Chairship.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

- Brazil: National Youth Secretariat, Presidency of Brazil
- Russia: Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh)
- India: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India
- China: All-China Youth Federation
- South Africa: Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities of South Africa

MANDATE

Goal

The goal of the BRICS Youth Summit is to enhance the role of youth in BRICS cooperation, focusing on priority areas such as education, training, and skills; entrepreneurship; science, technology, and innovation; youth community service and volunteer work; and health and sports. It aims to promote youth development, strengthen multilateralism, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Main statutory/operational document

Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation on Youth Matters between the Secretariat-General of the Presidency of Brasil, the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of Russia, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India, the All-China Youth Federation of the People's Republic of China, and the National Youth Development Agency of South Africa (2015).

First BRICS Youth Summit in Moscow/Kazan Action Plan (2015). The Action Plan proposed actions in five spheres of cooperation, including economic cooperation, energy sector cooperation, humanitarian cooperation, youth interaction, and the establishment of institutions and platforms. Specifically, it proposed the creation of the BRICS Youth Energy Association to promote

cooperation between youth interested in the energy sector and the holding of the first official meeting of the association in November 2015 in Moscow.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

In 2013, during the Fifth BRICS Summit hosted by South Africa, the initiative to hold the "BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue" was first proposed and included in the V BRICS Summit EtheKwini Declaration (Durban Declaration) as a potential new area for cooperation.

On July 1 to 7, 2015, the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) of Russia hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting in Moscow and Kazan, Russia. The theme focused on "innovative and inclusive youth cooperation", bringing together youth ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Participants engaged in working groups on economic, political, humanitarian, information, and science & technology cooperation, explored joint initiatives in areas such as education, entrepreneurship, digital skills, energy, culture, and volunteerism, and emphasized the importance of strengthening youth network
◦ During this meeting, the BRICS Youth Ministers signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Youth Affairs Among BRICS Countries in Kazan.

On July 17 to 22, 2018, the South African Presidency and the National Youth Development Agency hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting in Bela Bela, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Representatives from BRICS convened under the theme "Radical Economic Transformation – Making the New Development Bank Work for Youth". The ministers and delegates explored how youth can drive inclusive economic transformation, focusing on key issues including unemployment, poverty, inequality, digital skills development,

entrepreneurship, and gender-based empowerment. A major objective was strengthening the role of the New Development Bank as a youth-oriented institution and establishing frameworks for a BRICS Youth Secretariat and Youth Workstream within the BRICS Business Council. During this meeting, the 2018 BRICS Youth Ministers' Resolution was adopted.

On November 30 to December 1, 2020, Russia's Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting online. During this meeting, the BRICS Youth Ministers signed the Concept for the Development of Cooperation in Supporting Youth Volunteerism Among BRICS Countries.

On August 29 to 31, 2021, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting online. During this meeting, the Joint Statement of the 7th BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting was officially adopted, that highlighted five thematic areas for enhancing cooperation on the 'youth agenda' in the BRICS countries i.e. Youth Engagement for sustainable development; Education and Capacity Building for youth; Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment; Youth for Health, Fitness, Culture and well-being; and Social Justice and Inclusion for youth.

On July 17 to 22, 2023, the South African Ministry for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting in Durban, South Africa. The discussions were held under the theme: "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism", Agreed to continue efforts to ensure advancement of the BRICS partnerships for youth development, through people-to-people and cultural exchanges, noting the five priority areas, which were discussed during the BRICS Youth Summit: Developing a partnership towards an equitable Just Energy Transition; Transforming education and skills development for the future; Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement; Strengthening post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; and

Strengthening multilateralism, including working toward real reform of global governance institutions, and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, The meeting resulted in the Declaration BRICS Ministers and heads of executive authorities responsible for youth affairs (21 July 2023).

On July 22 to 26, 2024, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) of Russia hosted the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting in Ulyanovsk, Russia. The meeting participants discussed educational and professional exchanges, creation of favorable business conditions, better digital literacy among the younger generation and development of the BRICS media platform. They placed special emphasis on the legacy of the World Youth Festival. The participants adopted the BRICS Youth Summit Declaration, including proposals on education, innovation, entrepreneurship, volunteering and sports.

Outcome documents

- Memorandum of Cooperation on Youth Affairs Among BRICS Countries (2015)
- First BRICS Youth Energy Summit Action Plan (2018)
- 2018 BRICS Youth Ministers' Resolution (2018)
- Concept for the Development of Cooperation in Supporting Youth Volunteerism Among BRICS Countries in 2020 (2020)
- Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth (2021)
- Declaration BRICS Ministers and heads of executive authorities responsible for youth affairs (2023)

YOUTH MEETINGS – BRICS YOUTH SUMMIT

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THEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SCOPE

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“74. We welcome the initiative of the Russian Chairship in hosting Civil BRICS Forum, which contributes to a dialogue between civil society organizations, academia, business and governments of the BRICS countries on a wide range of important socio-economic issues. We also welcome holding of the Trade Unions Forums as well as the launch of “youth dimension” of our cooperation under the Russian Chairship.”

MEMBERSHIP

Countries

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE

National representatives

- Brazil: National Youth Secretariat, Presidency of Brazil
- Russia: Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh)
- India: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India
- China: All-China Youth Federation
- South Africa: Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities of South Africa
- Ethiopia: Ministry of Women and Social Affairs

MANDATE

Goal

The goal of the BRICS Youth Summit is to enhance the role of youth in BRICS cooperation, focusing on priority areas such as education, training, and skills; entrepreneurship; science, technology, and innovation; youth community service and volunteer work; and health and sports. It aims to promote youth development, strengthen multilateralism, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Main statutory/operational document

First BRICS Youth Summit in Moscow/Kazan Action Plan 2015 – in 2015, youth representatives from the BRICS countries gathered in Russia for the inaugural BRICS Youth Summit, which took place in Moscow and Kazan. During this summit, the participants discussed issues crucial to the development of the BRICS nations and signed a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on youth matters and exchange of youth delegations. The Action Plan proposed actions in five spheres of cooperation, including economic cooperation, energy sector cooperation, humanitarian cooperation, youth interaction, and the establishment of institutions and platforms. Specifically, it proposed the creation of the BRICS Youth Energy Association to promote

cooperation between youth interested in the energy sector and the holding of the first official meeting of the association in November 2015 in Moscow.

Work dynamics

The first meeting occurred in 2015. An average of 1–3 meetings have been held annually.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

On July 1 to July 7, 2015, the BRICS Youth Summit was held in Moscow and Kazan, with young delegates from all five BRICS countries participating. The summit aimed to promote dialogue and exchange among youth from BRICS nations and to develop concrete action plans for strengthening cooperation in politics, economics, culture, media, science, and technology.

On June 29 to July 5, 2016, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India hosted the BRICS Youth Forum in Guwahati, Assam, India. The forum, themed “Youth as a Bridge for Inter-BRICS Exchanges,” discussed four key areas: “Skills Development and Entrepreneurship,” “Social Inclusion,” “Volunteerism,” and “Youth Participation in National Governance.” The forum adopted the Guwahati 2016 BRICS Youth Action Initiative.

On July 24 to 28, 2017, the All-China Youth Federation of China organized the BRICS Youth Forum in Beijing, China. Under the theme “Building Partnerships for Youth Development,” discussions covered “Priorities and Characteristics of Youth Policies in the New Era,” “Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship in BRICS Countries,” and “The Role of BRICS Youth in Global Governance.” The forum endorsed the 2017 BRICS Youth Forum Action Plan.

On July 16 to 18, 2018, the National Youth Development Agency of South Africa held the BRICS Youth Summit in Bela Bela, Limpopo, South Africa. Under the theme “Radical Economic Transformation: Making the BRICS Bank Work for the Youth,” the summit addressed five sub-topics: “BRICS Youth Policy Framework,”

“The Fourth Industrial Revolution,” “Youth Engagement in the New Development Bank,” “Protecting Women and Children: Dialogue on Mental Health and Gender-Based Violence,” and “Education Access, Curriculum Reform, and the Future of Work.” The summit proposed standard procedures for BRICS Youth Summit participation and the establishment of a BRICS Youth Secretariat to coordinate youth initiatives at the national level.

On October 17 to 20, 2019, the Ministry of Women, Family, and Human Rights of Brazil convened the BRICS Youth Summit in Brasília, Brazil. Under the theme “Entrepreneurship and New Technologies: Transforming BRICS Youth Potential into Development,” discussions included “Education Participation,” “Future of Work: Actions to Reduce Impact,” “Social-Emotional Skills: The Importance of Soft Skills,” “Youth as a Bridge for Strengthening Intra-BRICS Relations,” and “Promoting Social Progress through Entrepreneurship and Job Creation.”

On November 30 to December 1, 2020, the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) hosted the BRICS Youth Summit online. The summit, themed “Youth in the Face of Contemporary Challenges,” explored “Volunteerism,” “Creative Industries,” “Government and Public Diplomacy,” “Energy Cooperation,” and “Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

On August 29 to 31, 2021, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India organized the BRICS Youth Summit virtually. Under the theme “Youth as a Bridge for Peace and Friendship,” discussions covered “Youth Participation,” “Youth Education and Capacity Building,” “Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment,” “Social Equity and Inclusion,” and “Youth Health, Well-being, and Culture.” The summit adopted the Joint Statement of the 7th BRICS Youth Ministers’ Meeting.

On September 14, 2022, the All-China Youth Federation of China held the BRICS Youth Summit in a hybrid (online & offline) format. The summit focused on the theme “Building Youth Development-Oriented Cities for Shared Growth.”

On July 17 to 22, 2023, the South African Ministry for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities hosted the BRICS Youth Summit in Durban, South

Africa. The summit, themed “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism,” addressed “Transforming Education and Skills for the Future,” “Strengthening Post-Pandemic Socioeconomic Recovery and the UN 2030 Agenda,” “Developing Just Energy Transition Partnerships,” “Leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Agreement,” and “Enhancing Multilateralism and Reforming Global Governance with Greater Female Participation in Peace Processes.” The summit issued the 9th BRICS Youth Summit Declaration, which included proposals for establishing a BRICS Youth Council.

On July 22 to 26, 2024, the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) organized the BRICS Youth Summit in Ulyanovsk, Russia. Discussions revolved around “Education, Training, and Skills,” “Entrepreneurship,” “Science and Technology Innovation,” “Community Service and Volunteerism,” and “Health and Sports.” The summit adopted the 2024 BRICS Youth Summit Declaration, reinforcing commitments to youth development and multilateral cooperation.

Outcome documents

- First BRICS Youth Summit in Moscow/Kazan Action Plan (2015)
- BRICS Youth Action Initiative (2016, India)
- BRICS Youth Summit Action Plan (2017, China)
- BRICS Youth Summit Declaration (2019, Brasilia)
- BRICS Youth Summit Declaration (2022, China, online)
- BRICS Youth Summit Declaration (2023, South Africa)
- BRICS Youth Summit Declaration (2024, Russia)



BRICS
Brasil 2025

COOPERATING FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

