



PEOPLE'S BRICS CIVIL FORUM 2025

**Final Documents of Working Groups
Brazilian Chairship**



Introductory note

In 2025, with the Brazilian presidency of BRICS, the BRICS People's Council in Brazil—national chapter of the the Civil BRICS Council — organized the **People's BRICS Civil Forum** debates online, bringing together 120 civil society organizations from the BRICS countries. The process was divided into two stages: the first, limited to Brazil, had the participation of 57 civil society organizations, including popular movements from the countryside and the city, youth, women, black people, indigenous people, research groups, think-tanks and non-governmental organizations, bringing together around 200 people responsible for producing the initial documents or "Zero Drafts", in seven Working Groups (WGs):

- ◇ Health: BRICS and the Construction of a Global Public Health Regime
- ◇ Education: Non-Western strategies for education in BRICS countries
- ◇ Ecology: Environmental Crisis, Climate Justice and Alternatives for People-centred Sustainable Development in the Global South
- ◇ Culture and Art for BRICS Integration
- ◇ Finance: Financial and Monetary System in Multipolarity;
- ◇ Cyber Information Security, Advanced and Emerging Technologies, Artificial Intelligence
- ◇ Digital Economy, Digital Sovereignty, Artificial Intelligence and Governance.

These "Zero Drafts" were the starting point for the second stage of the Forum, in which people from 63 organizations, representing Social Movements and Organizations from all BRICS countries met online to produce the final version of the documents of each WG.

Each WG was co-chaired by 2 to 4 BRICS countries, and the coordination was always carried out by a Brazilian, the WG Coordinator



for the Brazilian stage. The criteria for nomination by the countries were the recognized expertise of the participants in the areas of debate and their involvement in civil society organizations. The second stage of the Forum took place online from May to June 2025.

The following documents reflect the maturation of the themes in the civil societies of the BRICS countries and were constructed observing the consensus criterion for the maintenance, withdrawal or addition of each formulation.

The Civil BRICS Council offers this work as a set of suggestions and recommendations to the heads of state of the BRICS nations. We hope that the practice of dialogue between governments and society can increasingly enrich the bloc's cooperation initiatives.

The Civil BRICS Council,
Brasília, June 20, 2025.



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List of Brazilian organizations engaged in the first stage

ABIA—Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS	Grupo de Estudos de Potências Médias / PUC-Minas
Alquimidia	Grupo de Estudos sobre os BRICS + USP
Articulação ALBA Movimentos	Grupo Temático FAPESP Poiesis Crítica
Associação Brasileira de Juristas pela Democracia – ABJD	InBRICS
Associação de Médicos Populares	Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (INESC)
Associação dos Escritores dos BRICS	Instituto de Referência Negra Peregrum
Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação e Pesquisa em Educação - ANPED	Instituto de Pesquisa & Estudos do Feminino - Ipefem
Associação Nacional de Política e Administração da Educação – ANPAE	Instituto Puraquê
BRICS Arts Association—BAA	Instituto Tricontinental
BRICS Policy Center - BPC	Internacional de Serviços Públicos- ISP
Campanha permanente contra os agrotóxicos e pela vida	Laboratório de Estudos sobre Hegemonia e Contra-Hegemonia LEHC/UFRJ
Central dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Brasil (CTB)	Marcha Mundial de Mulheres - MMM
Centro Brasileiro de Solidariedade aos Povos e Luta pela Paz – CEBRAPAZ	MITECHIS/UFT
Centro de estudos de mídia alternativa Barão de Itararé	Movimento das Mulheres Camponesas
CICRAL	Movimento pela soberania popular na Mineração – MAM
Confederação Nacional das Associações Comunitárias (CONAM)	Movimento Sem Terra - MST
Comissão Nacional de Educação Escolar Indígena - CNEEI	Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto—MTST
CNTE - Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Educação	NEBRICS - UFRGS
COSMOTECNICAS Amazônicas	NEPBRICS – UFBA
Diracom	Observatório Rússia-América Latina (Ruslat) / PUC-Minas
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas – FFLCH/ USP	Organização Continental Latino-Americana e Caribenha de Estudantes (OCLAE)
Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional – FASE	Plataforma Socioambiental do Brics Policy Center
Federação dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura do Estado de Santa Catarina – FETAESC	Rede Brasileira Pela Integração dos Povos – Rebrip
Federação de Sindicatos de Professores e Professoras de Instituições Federais de Ensino Superior e de Ensino Básico Técnico e Tecnológico—PROIFES	Rede Nami
FUNDEAJ—Fundação Joaquim Nabuco	SFTware Livre
Fórum Nacional de Educação—FNE	SINPRO—Sindicato dos Professores do Rio de Janeiro
Fórum Nacional de Educação Escolar Indígena – FNEEI	União Nacional dos Estudantes - UNE
GEBRICS - USP	Universidade Federal do ABC - UFABC
	Universidade Federal do ABC - UFABC



List of BRICS countries organizations engaged in the second stage

African Bank	International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW) - China
African Forum on Debt and Development	International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW), China
African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University	IPEI RANEPa Presidential Academy (Russia)
ASPBAE (Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education)	Kasigreenkid
Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation (CAPIAC)	Live Your Dream Africa Foundation
Autism Challenge Center (Russia)	Maridhiano CBO
Beijing Changier Education Foundation	Mokgathane Music (South Africa)
Beijing Changier Education Foundation	Moscow State University of Psychology and Education
Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation	Mzansi Institute of Technology
Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation	Network for Education Watch Indonesia (NEW Indonesia)
BRICS Expert Council Russia	Nature and People Foundation (Russia)
Center for Territorial Changes and Urban Development of the IPEI RANEPa	PRAKARSA of Indonesia
Center of Cyber Security in New York University Abu Dhabi	Public Chamber Coordination Council on International Cooperation (Russia)
Center for Information, Legal and Social Support for Small and Medium Business, non-profit organizations (Russia)	Public Council of the Ministry of Health (Russia)
Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation, USI (India)	Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS)
China Association for NGO Cooperation	Ontoset" Consortium (Russia)
China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation (CAPIAC)	Public Initiative "Creative Diplomacy" (PICREADI) - Russia
Chongqing Renewable Energy Society (CRES)	Russian Red Cross
Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	Smart Solutions Integration Agency (Russia)
Eastern Cape Environmental Network	South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA)
EPPETECH	The Belt and Road" Development Center in the China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation
Federal Research Center "Informatics and Computer Science" of Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)	The BRICS Institute (India)
Foundation "Nature and People" (Russia)	The Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre
GCE (Global Campaign for Education)	The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation
Geena Davis Institute on Gender in media (India)	The Union of Women of Russia
General Council of All-Russian People Organization	The "Vostok" Discussion Club (Russia)
Greenovation Hub (South Africa)	Tshwane University of Technology
Helwan University International Office (Egypt)	United Services of India (USI)
Human Rights Institute of South Africa	World Green Design Organization Beijing
Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ)	Wowen 20 Indonesia
inEquality Movement (South Africa)	
Infrasvyaz (Infoshare) Foundation (Russia)	
Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), associated with UNISA	



WORKING GROUP 1—HEALTH: BRICS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH REGIME

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Maridhiano CBO

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Managing Director of The Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre.

Sibulele Nomahlubi Poswayo (South Africa)
inEquality Movement

WU Wenjing (China)
World Green Design Organization Beijing Representative Office

ZHANG Yinjun (China)
Founder and Chairperson of the Beijing Changier Education Foundation



Executive Summary

The People's BRICS Civil Forum Working Group on Health outlines a comprehensive strategy to promote health equity, strengthen public health systems, and foster cooperation among BRICS countries. The document emphasizes that health is a fundamental human right and highlights the need for systemic responses that address social determinants of diseases, protect vulnerable populations, and prioritize prevention and dignity in care.

Key proposals are organized into eight thematic areas:

Universal Access to Health

Advocate for public, universal, state-run health systems that guarantee equitable access.

Emphasize health as a human right and ensure culturally sensitive training for healthcare workers.

Promote multilateral agreements ensuring access for marginalized populations.

Healthy and Rational Nutrition

Develop integrated food security strategies that respect cultural and geographic diversity.

Implement cross-sectoral policies promoting healthy diets, especially in schools and workplaces.

Address malnutrition-related diseases and promote breastfeeding and traditional knowledge.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

Prioritize prevention and awareness campaigns, especially for youth.

Promote rehabilitation and reintegration of users, and support family- and community-based care.

Oppose the liberalization of recreational psychoactive substances.

Global Disease Burden

Tackle infectious and chronic diseases with joint vaccine production and traditional medicine practices.

Address climate-related health risks and condemn unethical biomedical research.

Support long-term training and humanized care to meet individual patient needs.

Work and Health

Promote decent work, occupational health, and flexible work models.

Provide preventive health services and psychosocial support at the workplace.

Encourage employer participation in health initiatives and anti-harassment policies.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**

Develop inclusive public mental health policies with spiritual and cultural respect.

Expand mental health services in education, health care, and rural areas.

Combat stigma and violence; promote early detection and long-term care.

Intellectual Property and Health Governance

Promote IP flexibility for equitable medicine access and support open innovation.

Harmonize health standards among BRICS and foster health management cooperation.

Create a BRICS Competence Center to share knowledge and enhance quality of care.

Emergency Support and Vulnerable Populations

Establish a BRICS Fund for rehabilitation and long-term care for disaster-affected people.

Develop emergency response coordination centers and expert networks.

Promote ethical training for responders and strengthen psychosocial assistance systems.

The document proposes a multilateral pact rooted in **sovereignty, solidarity, and shared responsibility** to improve health outcomes in BRICS countries. It calls for the creation of an Intergovernmental Monitoring Committee with civil society representation to oversee implementation, ensure transparency, and maintain long-term cooperation. The overarching goal is to achieve a **fairer, healthier, and more sustainable future for all BRICS nations**, centered on equity, human dignity, and resilience.



Preamble

We believe it is essential that Governments focus on health promotion and disease prevention by addressing the systemic causes that are already widely recognized as contributing to disease and mortality. Social determinants of health are key to success in this regard.

Social determinants of health have a decisive influence on the health status of the population: housing conditions, education, nutrition, work, income, access to public services and social participation. These components form unequal opportunities and risks between social groups, significantly affecting life expectancy, the frequency of diseases and the quality of health care received. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2008) notes that inequalities in health are not natural, but are created by unfair and avoidable social conditions, and require policies respecting equality and human rights.

Within the framework of BRICS cooperation in the field of healthcare, it is important to promote the development of international and national mechanisms that guarantee every person the right to disease prevention, health protection and timely access to medical care, regardless of gender, age, nationality, social origin, religious or political beliefs. This should be done taking into account the principle of fairness, i.e., priority for the most vulnerable groups of the population.

These proposals aim to develop and conclude a multilateral pact that includes specific and coordinated recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations will be carried out within the timeframes agreed upon by the participating states and on the basis of sustainable annual interaction between representatives of civil society and professional medical communities of the BRICS countries.

The document is a set of guidelines aimed at promoting cooperation, sharing experiences and improving the global health management system. This will contribute to sustainable development, strengthening public health, protecting the environment and food security.



1. Access to Health

WHO, founded in 1948, defined health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO, 1948). WHO later affirmed that health is a fundamental human right, ensured by policies that guarantee decent living conditions and universal access to skilled care (UN, 2000).

Like other human rights, the right to health is an obligation of the state: to create, strengthen and ensure public policies for sustainable, public, universal and effective health systems.

We recommend:

1. Ensure universal health care based on humanitarian values and the principles of humanity, impartiality and universality, covering the entire population and taking into account territorial and cultural equality.
2. Conclude a multilateral agreement that guarantees all categories of the population free, state-run and priority access to essential health services, especially for socially and geographically vulnerable groups: indigenous peoples, suburban populations, remote rural areas, and marginalized groups.
3. Adopt strategies that focus on care based on human dignity, territoriality and active engagement with the population.
4. Include in the training of health workers components of respect for cultural diversity and sensitivity to local conditions.
5. If social organizations participate in health care, they must operate under state control, within the legal framework, while strengthening the role of the state system and preventing the weakening of its public character.

The BRICS countries must continue their collective efforts to develop mechanisms to protect human rights to health and life, in accordance with respective national conditions and domestic laws.



2. Healthy and rational nutrition

Healthy and rational nutrition is a universal basis for human health and survival. Access to adequate quantities and quality of food products, taking into account geographical and cultural characteristics, is the key to improving the health of the entire population. An integrated approach to food issues will allow the development of effective strategies for improving nutrition, combining international standards and local traditions.

We recommend:

1. Develop special projects to combat hunger and poverty as social determinants of health.
2. Develop cross-sectoral approaches to food and nutrition security: promote healthy eating in schools and workplaces, promote healthy snacks and provide food education.
3. In accordance with WHO recommendations (2018), ensure access to healthy and nutritious nutrition, taking into account cultural and geographical characteristics of each country.
4. Integrate measures to combat diseases associated with poor nutrition into the health system: nutrition monitoring, promotion of breastfeeding, recommendations based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge.



3. Alcohol, tobacco and drugs

One of the key public health problems remains the consumption of and dependence on alcohol, tobacco, drugs and psychoactive substances. This is a global phenomenon affecting all segments of the population. The production and consumption of these products, both legal and illegal, has a socio-economic impact, including a significant increase in the burden on health systems: alcohol and drug consumption causes deaths, is the cause of road accidents, violence, including femicide, domestic conflicts and destructive behavior towards children and the elderly. The consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs leads to the development of both non-communicable diseases and mental illnesses.

We recommend:

1. The main task of state policy and civil society efforts is primary prevention of alcohol, tobacco and drug use: motivating citizens, especially young people, not to start using these substances. Positive communication, family support and creating opportunities for new life interests and guidelines are important. Civil society awareness of the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and smoking tobacco products on the physical and mental spheres of a person need to be improved.

2. Creating sustainable motivation to quit drugs and ensuring appropriate medical and social rehabilitation and reintegration of dependent individuals seeking to quit using psychoactive substances.

3. Integration of the state anti-drug policy with issues of supporting mental health, education, social and medical care, and public safety: intersectoral measures are required with the participation of qualified specialists in the field of health care and social services in schools, medical institutions, public unions, work collectives, in settlements, etc., using the method of active listening and effective approaches to the prevention of addictive behavior.

4. Conducting large-scale educational campaigns, accessible and visual, emphasizing the risks of substance abuse, the importance of supporting addicts who have given up psychoactive substance use, and the availability of treatment. Educational campaigns accessible to adults and their families. Such campaigns can include stories of people who have overcome addiction, conveying the idea of the negative consequences of drug use, while simultaneously creating a basis for combating stigma and motivating people to give up psychoactive substance use. The basic requirement for the organizers of such campaigns, including work with minors, should be completion of specialized courses and trainings. We see great opportunities for civil society to exchange experiences in this area.

5. To promote the fight against the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, distribution and abuse of drugs; to fully support the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and to prevent further liberalization of the use of psychoactive substances for recreational purposes.



4. The global burden of disease

The BRICS countries face a double burden of disease: old infectious diseases (tuberculosis, malaria, yellow fever) persist, while chronic diseases – cancer, cardiovascular diseases, injuries, violence – shorten life expectancy, cause disability and deplete health resources. Climate change aggravates the epidemiological situation and influences the occurrence of emergencies.

Combating this complex of problems is only possible through prevention, increasing the medical literacy of the population and doctors, and adapting strategies to the cultural and economic characteristics of countries.

We recommend:

1. Eradicate tuberculosis and other neglected infectious diseases by strengthening the BRICS Tuberculosis Research Network and launching social projects for vulnerable groups - the homeless, prisoners, residents of the periphery, indigenous peoples.
2. Support the creation of the BRICS Public Health and Well-being platform and through it strengthen the fight against chronic diseases: promoting health throughout the life cycle, protecting pregnant women and children, vaccination, programs to control the effects of climate change and other public health issues.
3. Joint production of vaccines and medicines, stimulation of biotechnology and pharmacological research with the aim of prolonging healthy life and active aging.
4. To make BRICS a benchmark in the use of medicinal plants and herbal medicine through the exchange of practices.
5. Invest in professional training and humanization of health services so that health workers respect the individuality of each patient, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious, social or physical situation.



5. Work and health

Work directly affects a person's physical, mental and social well-being, determining their working conditions, access to services and quality of life. Inequality, informality and precarious employment worsen workers' health, increasing socio-economic vulnerability (WHO, 2008; ILO, 2023), while decent employment policies improve health outcomes (PAHO, 2022).

We recommend:

1. Strengthening labour standards and work-life balance: concluding multilateral agreements providing for flexible working hours, restrictions on overtime, regular breaks; encouraging hybrid models. Coordinated monitoring and sharing of experiences.
2. Investment in a safe and healthy working environment: strengthening ergonomics, ventilation, lighting, drinking water and healthy nutrition. Educational campaigns in cooperation with trade unions and companies; regional certificates of quality of working conditions.
3. Expanding access to preventive health services and psychosocial support in the workplace: BRICS countries should jointly develop a technical cooperation pact to ensure universal access to workplace prevention programmes, including vaccination, healthy environments, periodic check-ups and psychological support. The establishment of multi-sectoral centres supported by digital platforms can make such access possible in rural areas or areas with less developed infrastructure. At the same time, policies to combat moral and sexual harassment, as well as promoting diversity and inclusion, are fundamental to creating a more equitable, humane and healthy work environment.
4. Encouraging voluntary employer programs for employee health care, sharing good practices - work-life balance, stress reduction, strengthening the mental and physical health of employees.



6. Mental health, psychosocial support for vulnerable groups

Social status is a key factor in mental health, as it affects access to services, the likelihood of violence and facing discrimination. In BRICS, vulnerable groups experience increased psychological stress and limited access to quality care.

We recommend:

1. Introduce into state policy mechanisms for promoting mental health of all categories of the population, especially vulnerable groups, including a moral and spiritual approach to interpersonal relationships, regardless of ethnic, religious, cultural or social differences.
2. Develop a comprehensive public policy with free psychosocial support, listening centers, training and public literacy on mental health. Coordination between education, health, social protection and NGOs.
3. Strengthen psychosocial care in the health system: invest in networks of urban and rural services with trained professionals, supporting technology exchange and telemedicine.
4. Integrate mental health into education and the workplace: emotional education in schools, suicide prevention, mental safety protocols in the workplace, anti-stigma campaigns.
5. The BRICS countries should preserve and strengthen positive traditional spiritual and moral values that contribute to a more complete and harmonious development of the individual. It is important to promote long-term work aimed at the prevention and early detection of diseases, taking into account the individual development of the individual, including the spiritual state of the individual, the impact of which on the human body requires special study, respecting religious diversity and human rights.
6. Strengthening protection and recovery systems for victims of violence: shared goals to improve access to justice and rehabilitation.
7. We express concern about the rapid spread among young people of harmful ideologies and subcultures that promote violence and intolerance.



7. Intellectual property and patents. Standardization in Healthcare Management

Health systems around the world face various challenges and threats that require a comprehensive approach to address them. Particular attention should be paid to the flexibility of intellectual property and the patent system, as they play an important role in ensuring access to medicines, especially during global crises. In the BRICS, this can reduce inequalities in the fight against diseases (WHO, 2021; UNCTAD, 2022).

We also believe that the introduction of standardization tools can significantly contribute to the implementation of priority tasks in the field of public health. Direct (regardless of the adoption of standards in national regulatory documents) application by BRICS countries of agreed, harmonized standards of each other will help to overcome health threats, make the transition to value-oriented medical care, and put patients at the center of the strategy for comprehensive improvement of the quality and safety of medical activities.

Global collaboration in the development and application of health management standards will be critical to sharing the knowledge, resources and expertise needed to address complex transnational health challenges.

We recommend:

1. Create a BRICS consortium By transfer technologies And open innovations: unite universities, research institutes And state companies With orientation on social needs. Special attention - availability primary medical and sanitary care, epidemiology and sanitation, public interest licenses and open sources.

2. Jointly support reforms in the international IP system: develop a common diplomatic line in the WTO, WHO, UN, achieve fair prices, transparency of research costs and recognition of the state's role in science. Introduce a "BRICS public interest license".

3. Implementation of advanced international management standards in medical organizations of BRICS countries to increase the efficiency of resource use, improve the availability of medical services for the population, and increase the efficiency of healthcare systems.

4. Creation and exchange of management methods and concepts based on principles adopted in national health care areas, such as: patient focus, infection control and epidemic prevention, etc.

5. Create a competence center within the framework of the BRICS Public Health and Human Well-being platform to ensure the exchange of professional knowledge between different healthcare models. The goal is to develop harmonized standards that can be used to improve healthcare systems, enhance the quality of medical care, and train qualified specialists at the international level.



8. Medical and social support for the population of BRICS countries affected by emergency situations, as well as other vulnerable categories of the population.

We propose paying special attention to issues of providing assistance and rehabilitation to citizens of BRICS countries in emergency situations, which will allow us to create a more effective system of response to global challenges in the field of health. Assistance to victims of emergencies and other vulnerable groups requires a comprehensive approach. Solidarity among BRICS countries is necessary to improve access to health care, promote health, prevent diseases and provide comprehensive support to those in need.

We recommend:

1. Establishment of a Fund for long-term rehabilitation and assistance to people with the support of the New Development Bank, including assistance provided through the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The tasks of such a Fund should include support for projects on long-term support and assistance to various vulnerable categories of citizens.

2. Support for the framework initiative to establish a BRICS Platform on Public Health and Human Well-being, including a dedicated module focused on rehabilitation. to provide opportunities for vocational training and education, reintegration of patients and victims into the open labor market, increasing work capacity, physical rehabilitation and social services for people from BRICS countries. We propose possible forms of interaction:

- a) creation of a BRICS resource coordination center for emergency response to: speed up the process of import/export of medicines, organize the movement of patients for rehabilitation and treatment within BRICS countries, referral of victims to specialized rehabilitation centers.
- b) creation of a network of experts (Working Group or Commission on Humanitarian Issues) to closely monitor crisis situations and emergency relief operations, to analyse existing rehabilitation processes in BRICS countries and to develop measures to strengthen rehabilitation assistance.

3. Improving the level of psychosocial assistance, including with the participation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- a) training and education of rescuers - members of the response team - in providing first psychological aid;
- b) ensuring their training on ethical safety issues to reduce further harm to people affected by emergency situations (ES);
- c) training of affected populations in the basics of providing psychological first aid for support within communities;
- d) training of emergency response professionals in humanitarian principles;
- e) creation of volunteer response teams with first aid psychological skills;

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- f) creation of an effective system of assistance and support for different categories of people and communities through barrier-free interaction of “helping organizations”;
- g) creation of a base of specialists and volunteers for rapid response in emergency situations and provision of urgent assistance to vulnerable groups of the population in the BRICS countries.

Final note:

These proposals for multilateral recommendations for the BRICS countries provide a strategic framework for developing common agendas on health, sustainable development, social justice and technological innovation, based on the principles of equality, sovereignty and solidarity of the peoples of the Global South. The comprehensive nature of the measures proposed here aims to guarantee a systemic response with measurable and coordinated impact, while respecting the social, cultural and institutional diversity of the participating countries.

It is proposed to establish an Intergovernmental Monitoring Committee with technical, academic and civil society representation to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, ensure transparency of the processes and promote continuous cooperation among the signatory countries. The success of this pact depends on the shared political will and ethical commitment to a fairer, healthier and more sustainable future for all countries in the bloc.

We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening cooperation between civil society and the BRICS medical community to advance international and national mechanisms to protect the right to health and life.



WORKING GROUP 2: Education: Non-Western strategies for education in BRICS countries

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Hadriani Uli Silalahi (Indonesia)

Chairwoman of Woven20 Indonesia

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WORKING GROUP 2: Education: Non-Western strategies for education in BRICS

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Executive Summary

The Working Group 2 on Education of the BRICS People's Civil Forum presents a vision for building **non-Western, inclusive, people-centered educational strategies** that affirm the **sovereignty, diversity, and cooperation** of BRICS nations. Recognizing education as a **universal right and a strategic field for international cooperation**, the document outlines structural reforms to resist commodification, strengthen public systems, and enhance democratic governance in education across the Global South.

Key recommendations include:

Public and Democratic Education

Reinforce free, universal, and publicly funded education as a pillar of democracy.

Reject the commodification and privatization of education; ensure democratic, state-led governance.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Promote multilingualism and knowledge dissemination in national languages.

Counter Western hegemonic metrics with education policies grounded in local traditions and realities.

Technological Sovereignty and Digital Inclusion

Democratize access to technology and ensure ethical, people-centered digital education.

Oppose surveillance-based educational platforms and promote open educational resources (OER).

Teacher Dignity and Professionalization

Propose a **BRICS Teachers Workforce Initiative** to support teacher training, fair wages, and healthy working conditions.

WORKING GROUP 2: Education: Non-Western strategies for education in BRICS

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Equity and Inclusion

Ensure the inclusion of students with disabilities, promote gender equity in STEM, and protect indigenous knowledge.

Address educational inequalities rooted in socio-economic and geographic disparities.

South-South Cooperation and Academic Mobility

Expand BRICS academic networks, mutual recognition of diplomas, and programs to promote student and teacher mobility.

Advocate for the creation of a dedicated **BRICS Education Fund** to support these initiatives.

Science, Environment, and Emerging Technologies

Foster cooperation in environmental education, climate justice, and digital literacy.

Establish BRICS Institutes for professional training in sectors relevant to sustainable development.

Assessment and Policy Alternatives

Develop education assessment models that reflect Global South contexts and reject Global North standardization.

Strengthen horizontal cooperation, civil society engagement, and democratic educational governance.

The document envisions a **transformative educational agenda** that positions BRICS as a global leader in building inclusive, democratic, and socially just education systems. Grounded in solidarity, human rights, and local knowledge, these proposals aim to ensure that education serves the **collective well-being, autonomy, and future resilience** of all peoples in the Global South.

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1. We firmly believe that education is a strategic area for cooperation in the context of BRICS countries, based on the recognition of education as a right for all people. Ensuring the right to free and universal public education can contribute to addressing contemporary challenges and strengthening democracies in a multipolar world.
2. The partnership between the BRICS countries, once consolidated, could be a decisive factor in the midst of crises caused by a series of adversities, whether in health, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the quality of education and the psychological well-being of children, young people, workers and the elderly; climate crises, which increasingly affect populations and disrupt activities in the education system; threats to democracy that interfere with the development of educational policies; recurring economic crises; the process of financialisation of education and its impacts. We are convinced that the joint efforts of the BRICS countries will be able to collectively assume responsibility for the future of the generations impacted by these and other adversities.
3. We understand that educational institutions, especially universities and research institutions, as well as trade unions, student movements and other social movements in the BRICS countries have the potential to develop and propose effective solutions that will contribute not only to the advancement of the BRICS countries, but also to other countries in achieving, among other things, the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The educational agenda is being predominantly shaped by metrics and values that refer to the Western/Global North experience. These perspectives often neglect or downplay the socio-demographic, economic and cultural characteristics of countries in different geopolitical contexts, as well as the values and traditions of their societies. Incorporating the value of authenticity, based on the experiences of the Global South, educational practices should promote respect and appreciation for diversity – ranging from linguistic variations to national traditions and different geographical contexts. At the same time, educational policies enable the contextualisation of promising solutions, converting them into resources for development and encouraging cultural initiatives and the action of various socially active groups.
5. Free and universal public education is a factor in the democratisation of culture and the strengthening of citizenship and conscious and critical positioning in an increasingly complex and challenging world. Education fulfils this role when it is understood as a social practice and as a right for all. Financialisation, commodification and the transformation of education into a commodity subvert this concept and place education at the mercy of privatisation speculation.
6. It is crucial to collaborate in the defence of humanitarian sovereignty by promoting multilingualism within BRICS countries, expanding access to educational programmes, scientific products and publications in national languages, alongside English.

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7. It is vital to expand and democratise forms of communication in BRICS countries by creating common communication platforms, events, periodicals and other instruments for scientific dissemination, ensuring that these efforts shall be carried out consistently and promptly. Forms of communication should be available in the languages of the countries belonging to the group.

8. Private institutions are increasingly interfering in public education. The actions of these institutions, some of which have strategic functions within governments, are to promote market-based, meritocratic and results-oriented educational policies that use external assessments such as PISA as a measure of educational quality, thereby reinforcing the hegemony of the global North. Privatisation interests are evident, given that public budgets have been fulfilling a dual function: guaranteeing social rights and maintaining capital accumulation. If budgets make educational policies viable, BRICS countries need to ensure the public and democratic management of their education systems.

In this way, the involvement of social organizations and philanthropic foundations in supporting education should be encouraged, but properly guided, under government regulation and social supervision, to prevent the erosion of public welfare by profit-driven motives.

9. Asymmetrical access to technology and the internet in the bloc's countries deepens educational inequalities. Platformisation, under the pretext of assisting and optimising management and learning, has produced authoritarian systems expressed in the instrumentalisation and rigidity of school administration (school management) and in the control of the work of education professionals and students' behavior, in large-scale assessment, ranking, standardisation, surveillance and punishment. It also provides risks for confidentiality of personal data and transformation it to commodities. The problem is not with the technology or the platforms themselves, but with how they are used and their intended objectives, which have harmful consequences for democratic school management and the guarantee of the right to education. Technology itself is neutral; the key lies in governance and regulation.

In this way, the democratisation of access and the promotion of open educational resources (OER), with the support of the government, universities, education professionals, students and social movements, contributes to digital inclusion and guarantees pluralistic, high-quality content that is aligned with local realities.

Therefore, BRICS should advocate a people-centered, digitally empowered, and inclusive approach to education, opposes the abuse of technology and data, and emphasizes that technology should serve educational equity and quality improvement.

Also, BRICS countries should cooperate in creation of quality OER with equal access and in the development of educational programs for educators and students to study digital hygiene and fact-checking.

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10. We understand education as a vital social practice for protecting future generations from misinformation and manipulation of information, promoting critical thinking, awareness, solidarity and cooperation. In this regard, we advocate overcoming illiteracy, including functional and digital illiteracy, among the populations of all BRICS countries, as well as public policies aimed at promoting the conscious and pedagogical use of digital platforms.

11. We also have confidence in the potential for scientific and educational cooperation among BRICS countries to take advantage of emerging opportunities in digital information and communication technologies, including artificial intelligence, in the education sector, including artificial intelligence, in the education sector. Our goal is to maximise the benefits of new technologies while minimising the associated risks. BRICS countries could propose effective regulation framework to guarantee the safe, ethical and competent exploration of AI in education.

12. Meritocracy, flexibility, and operationalisation, centred on the control and monitoring of results-oriented educational processes, have been disseminated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other multilateral organisations, which take the global north as a reference and attack autonomy and democratic management, making it difficult to guarantee the right to education. BRICS countries can provide multiple alternative frameworks of educational outcomes and assessments.

13. The establishment of collaborative and democratic state policies aimed at guaranteeing the right to education for all people restores the sense of humanization and contributes to overcoming self-centered individualism, to the quality of education and to human development with social justice.

14. In this scenario, it is necessary to reaffirm commitments to democratic management, historically produced knowledge, the social context of school subjects, human rights, personal interests and choices diversity and freedom of thought, personal interests and choices, as well as respect for education professionals with decent and healthy working conditions.

15. Professional devaluation, reflecting the precarious nature of teaching work, inadequate training, inadequate physical and pedagogical infrastructure in schools, loss of democratic management, loss of labor rights, the platformisation of public education, violence in schools, and loss of teacher autonomy in the classroom are issues that contribute significantly to the teacher shortage. This scenario of uncertainty has been reflected in the decline in training courses and the lack of attractiveness of the profession. This same professional devaluation also affects professionals working in school meals, school infrastructure, multimedia teaching resources and public school administration, through the denial of professional recognition, insufficient training, exhausting working hours and precarious working conditions. We must guarantee policies for professional recognition in the areas of initial training, continuing education, career development, working conditions and salaries in the countries of the bloc, coordinated with

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each region, territory and people of the global South, overcoming the process of commodification and privatization of public education.

In this way, we suggest to establish BRICS Teachers Workforce Initiative to develop and promote innovative practices of teacher recruitment, preservice education, training, support and professional cooperation.

16. We recognize the fundamental role of education in addressing environmental challenges and express our commitment to implementing environmentally appropriate development policies and means to contribute to the consequences of the energy transition from a social justice perspective. We consider the development of environmental literacy and environmentally responsible behavior through the education system to be a strategic area of cooperation between scholars, professionals, social movements, students and trade unions in the BRICS countries.

17. We propose the creation of specialized centers for the training of professionals in Integral Community Medicine in different regions of the global South, in response to the demand for doctors by vulnerable populations affected by climate emergencies. We also propose the creation of BRICS Institutes, popular and international centers, financed by the New Development Bank (NDB), to train agronomists, engineers, architects and other professionals in other fields, in order to meet the needs of the peoples of the global South.

18. We advocate the strengthening and expansion of existing academic policies within the BRICS framework, such as the important BRICS network and the BRICSNU Rectors' Forum, with a view to promoting multilingualism and stimulating cooperation in all areas of knowledge and levels of education, in conjunction with research and extension activities carried out in public education networks. To this end, the New Development Bank (NDB) can play a leading role in financing this initiative and pilot projects for testing educational innovations, within and between countries.

19. We support the establishment of Study Groups, with experts in the field of Higher, Vocational and General Education and members of the university and professional community, to develop alternative education assessment systems and evidence based approach at different levels of education system to those currently in place, which favour Western and Global North metrics and models, in order to seek other types of criteria and indicators that contribute to international solidarity in the production of scientific knowledge in BRICS countries, based on criteria specific to the Global South.

20. We see potential in the development of a mentoring system to facilitate mutual learning of languages, with regional studies in each BRICS country and cross-regional (cross-cultural) studies, which could involve joint research projects. We also propose to encourage the establishment of preparatory programmes at leading universities that focus on the study of national languages. This initiative aims to attract BRICS students to pursue university education in the

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countries of the group.

21. We are concerned about the growing number of artificial restrictions and sanctions that impede educational and academic mobility between countries. We believe that a key priority of the BRICS partnership should be to establish mechanisms that promote openness in education, facilitate the transfer of human capital and enhance mutual understanding between nations. Cooperation in this regard should focus on activating and expanding domestic and international programmes to support educational and academic mobility on different levels of education system. This includes promoting the exchange of student delegations, but also and especially teacher delegations, broadening the scope of international events such as scientific conferences, forums and research schools, and organising joint student and teacher expeditions to BRICS countries. In addition, initiatives such as exhibitions of research work and projects can promote collaboration. Concrete solutions to promote educational mobility in BRICS states could involve establishing a fund to support academic mobility, facilitating short-term internships on a reciprocal basis, offering BRICS scholarships for joint research groups and individual students, and inviting visiting professors to collaborate on agreed topics of mutual importance. This includes encouraging the growth of partnerships and promoting mutual recognition of diplomas and graduation certificates obtained in different countries.

We also see perspectives in the creation of a financial BRICS' organization, similar to the New Development Bank, to support the exchanges and the dissemination of effective methods, programs, technologies and other possibilities that could draft a better and non-western education in BRICS countries, what includes support to issues such as teachers' better salaries and educational infrastructure.

22. We recognise the achievements made and emphasise the critical importance of further enhancing civil society participation in addressing educational challenges. We see the formation of horizontal cooperation as a key component of the BRICS partnership, emphasising the establishment of participatory and democratic practices that involve the educational community in each country.

23. BRICS countries should strengthen educational exchanges with developing countries under the South-South Cooperation frameworks, promoting resource sharing, teacher exchanges, student mobility, and joint philanthropic projects.

24. We consider inclusion and equity in education as a strong priority for the BRICS countries, what includes: supporting students with special educational needs in education through the development of inclusive infrastructure, teacher training and the use of adaptive technologies; overcoming gender inequality in education, in particular, supporting access to STEM education; ensuring the right to learn native languages and the integration of local knowledge into curricula; targeted programs to support all kinds of vulnerable groups in education, especially the

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vulnerable groups of each country, considering their social and cultural specificities.

25. We see potential in BRICS countries jointly develop youth health education, mental health, HIV/AIDS prevention, and other public welfare curricula and resources to promote the holistic well-being of young people.

26. Finally, we propose that the BRICS Civil Forum support the idea of making the teacher-learner/student relationship an intangible heritage of humanity. To this end, a statement by Education International on this topic is attached to this document.

ANNEX:

UNESCO RECOGNITION OF THE TEACHER-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP AS INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

Through a Declaration to be adopted by the General Conference

Preamble

Education is a basic human right, a gateway to all other rights and a privileged place for the promotion of human rights.

The history of humanity is marked by the permanence of the teacher-student relationship, in all times and in all latitudes. The strength of this relationship is reflected in various Eastern and Western philosophies, in the cultures of African and indigenous peoples, and in Asian, American and European traditions.

The act of teaching and educating is one of the most significant and relevant forms of human activity, based on a transformative relational dynamic led by suitably qualified professionals – teachers.

Teachers play a crucial role in realising the universal right to education as professionals with a responsibility to guide and accompany each student's educational journey.

The teacher-student relationship is one of humanity's most important common assets.

Principles

The teacher-student relationship has unique and specific characteristics that have a significant influence on educational pathways, student learning and life stories.

The teacher-student relationship has universal characteristics and acts as a fundamental pillar of educational processes, regardless of the cultural, political or geographical context.

The teacher-student relationship has characteristics that cut across all levels of education, from early childhood education to higher education, and is a structuring element of teaching professionalism.

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In a context of increasing digitalisation of human and social life, the physical presence of those who teach and educate takes on greater importance, as was clearly demonstrated during the disruptive experience caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As stated in the UNESCO report on the future of education, *Reimagining our futures together: A new social contract for education*:

‘Teaching demands compassion, competence, knowledge, and ethical resolve. Wise and learned figures have been recognised in cultures around the world, and from this tradition the “teacher” stands as a specialised actor in the context of a school. Teachers are key figures on whom possibilities for transformation rest’.

The educational heritage developed throughout history in the teacher-student relationship, in a variety of historical and cultural contexts, is a precious treasure of humanity which, as such, needs to be appreciated, known and recognised.

In order to fully realise their status as professionals in the field of human development within a framework of universal right to education, teachers need to find working conditions that are conducive to the development of truly meaningful and transformative pedagogical and educational relationships.

The existence of motivated and qualified teachers, valued for their professional authority and esteemed by their communities, is an integral and substantive part of a new social contract for education.

The slogans chosen for World Education Day over the last three years, a joint initiative of UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation, UNICEF and Education International, reflect these concerns and draw attention to fundamental ideas:

- The transformation of education begins with teachers (2022);
- The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage (2023);
- Valuing teacher voices: towards a new social contract for education (2024).

The recognition of the teacher-student relationship as part of humanity's heritage responds to a fundamental need to dignify the act of teaching and educating, and is an imperative for humanity and universal citizenship.

A decision of this kind has incalculable symbolic value for the prestige and dignity of teachers and will constitute a decisive milestone in the history of the teaching profession, representing a factor in enhancing its value and attracting young people to the teaching profession.

Thus, in line with international recommendations on education and the teaching profession, UNESCO recognises the teacher-student relationship as a World Heritage Site, drawing attention to its unique, universal and cross-cutting nature, its specificity and relevance to ‘ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’ (SDG 4).

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Decision

Considering that UNESCO is the United Nations agency for education, science and culture, and that throughout its history it has always paid special attention to teachers;

Considering that the UNESCO General Conference may adopt Declarations covering subjects of universal significance and raising international awareness of crucial issues that are not yet covered by international regulations (Resolution 33 C/20, adopted at the 33rd Session of the General Conference, 2005);

Recognising the importance of various documents and initiatives taken within the United Nations and UNESCO, such as:

- the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966);
- the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (1997);
- the Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (2015);
- the UNESCO report *Reimagining our futures together: A new social contract for education* (2021);
- the Recommendations and deliberations of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession (2024);
- the UNESCO Global report on teachers: addressing teacher shortages and transforming the profession (2024);
- the conclusions of the UNESCO International Forum on the Futures of Education (2024).

UNESCO decides to initiate the process leading to the adoption by the General Conference of a Declaration recognising the teacher-student relationship as a World Heritage.



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Environmental Crisis, Climate Justice and Alternatives for People-centred Sustainable Development in the Global South

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Executive Summary

In the face of escalating environmental crises, geopolitical tensions, and weakening global climate commitments, Working Group 3 of the People's BRICS Civil Forum outlines strategic recommendations aimed at fostering climate justice and sustainable development driven by and for the Global South. This document articulates a people-centered ecological agenda rooted in social equity, environmental integrity, and international cooperation among BRICS countries.

The core proposals are structured into six key action areas:

Climate, Biodiversity, and Plastic Pollution Action

Establish a BRICS Climate and Environmental Policy Observatory.

Promote decarbonization strategies, just transition policies, and climate education.

Launch initiatives for sustainable cities and regenerative policies prioritizing vulnerable communities.

Ensure social protection and capacity-building during the green transition.

Low-Carbon Technologies and Intellectual Property Cooperation

Create a BRICS Green Technology Bank and a Clean Energy R&D Consortium.

Foster innovation through climate tech hubs and relax IP barriers on critical technologies.

Support green industrial cooperation and local technology development.

Sustainable Trade and Socio-environmental Governance

Facilitate Green Trade Agreements with reduced tariffs and environmental criteria.

Develop low-carbon logistics, sustainable value chains, and trade justice policies.

Prevent neo-extractive practices and ensure community-centered environmental governance.

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Carbon Accounting and Climate Integrity

Implement robust carbon credit governance with social safeguards and environmental integrity.

Standardize carbon market regulations and promote transparency.

Oppose exploitative reforestation practices and prioritize nature-based, community-led solutions.

Climate Finance and Development Equity

Establish a BRICS Climate Fund for mitigation, adaptation, and nature protection.

Promote innovative financial instruments (e.g., green bonds, subsidies, sovereign guarantees).

Strengthen development banks and ensure fair allocation of resources to vulnerable populations.

Support fair global taxation and localization of green supply chains to prevent neocolonial exploitation.

Role of the New Development Bank (NDB)

Position the NDB as a key climate finance manager for the BRICS.

Align NDB portfolios with environmental and social safeguards.

Increase transparency, community engagement, and long-term monitoring of financed projects.

These proposals position the BRICS as a powerful collective force capable of advancing in **ecological transitions**, combating global inequalities, and building sustainable futures based on cooperation, inclusion, and sovereignty of the Global South.

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Preamble

The year 2025 begins in a challenging geopolitical context which undermines global environmental governance and the just transition. It is a scenario marked by new conflicts, both geopolitical and commercial, in multiple regions. Moreover, scientists have warned that 2024 was the warmest year on record and, without accelerated climate action, will likely continue to rise(1). One million species are threatened with extinction, 75 per cent of land surface and 66 per cent of marine environments have been significantly altered or impacted by human activity(2). The rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, around estimated 400 million tonnes in 2024 alone, pose negative impacts on the environmental, social, economic and health aspects of sustainable development(3). Uncertainty increases regarding international agreements and commitments, such as the Paris Agreement after the US announced its withdrawal in January. With disbelief in climate finance negotiations, which led to only 21 countries submitting updates to their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

2025 also marks the middle of the critical decade for achieving SDGs, climate action, biodiversity conservation goals and combat against plastic pollution. This scenario makes it urgent to strengthen the BRICS as a bloc capable of leading solutions for the construction of sustainable global alternatives within a multipolar world. Thus, the BRICS positions itself both as a space for cooperation between the Global South, and a space for the construction and promotion of necessary changes in different thematic areas.

*In view of this context, this document makes a series of recommendations developed by representatives of organized civil society on the '**Environmental Crisis, Climate Justice and Alternatives for People-centred Sustainable Development in the Global South**' to be addressed to the BRICS.*

Notes:

1. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), WMO Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2025-2029, <https://wmo.int/publication-series/wmo-global-annual-decadal-climate-update-2025-2029>
2. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>
3. United Nations Environment Programme, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution>

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Fundamental principles

Recognizing the principles of international environmental law as guidelines for the development of proposals on environmental and climate issues in line with current needs, namely: the principles of prevention, common but differentiated responsibility, intergenerational solidarity and sustainable development.

Considering just transition as a process that seeks to reconcile the urgency of climate action, biodiversity conservation, combating plastic pollution with the protection of social, labor, and economic rights, and recognizing it as an approach aimed at ensuring that no one, no community or territory is left behind in the shift toward a low-carbon economy.

Affirming that nature is a common good of humanity, and everything that derives from it is also a common good, its use must be guided by the needs and interests of the majority of the population, seeking integral sustainable human development, and not predatory exploitation for private accumulation;

Considering that international production and consumption must be adequate to the physical, biological and spiritual needs of peoples and communities, based on a paradigm of good living and solidarity, capable of reconfiguring the human relationship with nature;

Affirming that access to drinking water and basic sanitation is an essential, fundamental and universal human right, all governments have a duty to guarantee access to it. This right implies the non-admission of the commodification or privatization of water and the prioritization of its use for the reproduction of life, to the detriment of industrial and neo-extractive activities;

Affirming that the right to adequate and safe housing is a fundamental human right essential for individual and social development;

Considering that the right to land is a fundamental right for the preservation of culture and the production and reproduction of human life;

Recognizing that the right to adequate food is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, approved in 2010, governments must guarantee in their nations the necessary production of food for local supply. This guarantee requires food sovereignty for peoples, with policies that value local production and sustainable agri-food cultures;

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Attesting to the right to transportation as a social right, guaranteeing the right of individuals to come and go, governments should promote quality, accessible, and free public transportation;

Understanding also that the right to culture is recognized as a fundamental human right by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is the duty of governments to guarantee access to, support, encourage, and value cultural expressions;

Recognizing that the right to education is also one of the rights recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, governments should guarantee free access to quality education at all levels of education;

Recognizing the crucial role that traditional peoples and communities and agroecological practices play in the sustainable management of natural assets, which involves their conservation integrated with the reproduction of common life, in line with the renewal of ecosystem cycles;

Attesting that people are disproportionately affected by climate risks and impacts, according to their income, gender, age, disabilities and race, their needs should be prioritized when addressing and responding to climate disasters. In addition, these groups must be prioritized and included in the development of climate actions and transition policies at the local, national and international levels.

Agenda

In accordance with the SDGs, global climate and biodiversity goals, and combating plastic pollution, as well as priorities set by the Brazilian presidency's agenda – to establish a BRICS Climate Leadership Agenda centered around 5 key action areas – we present the following recommendations:

1. Facilitation of climate and biodiversity action, and plastic pollution prevention and control
 - Create a BRICS Climate and Environmental Policy Observatory through a digital platform for sharing legislation, national plans and implementation results, enabling mutual learning between countries, with multistakeholder participation in the process.
 - Support the creation of training and technical assistance programs, promoting courses and training in climate and environmental management for local governments, the private sector and civil society, focusing on renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and resilient cities.

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- Implement a coordinated plan for the decarbonization of productive sectors, ensuring social protection and functional reintegration for affected workers and communities. Also provide skill training and tool box for workers and communities affected by the transition.
- Ensure progressive commitment to reallocate fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Conduct knowledge sharing, capacity building and data exchange on policies and progress on decarbonization, biodiversity conservation and plastic pollution prevention and control in the BRICS countries.
- Launch a BRICS Initiative for Sustainable Cities, supporting urban projects for electric mobility, climate resilience, energy efficiency in buildings and waste management, with shared and blended financing.
- Establish the BRICS Principles for a Just Transition, laying the foundation for a collaborative path towards a low-carbon economy. A just transition must be based on the promotion of equity and social participation, minimizing negative impacts on communities, workers and other sectors vulnerable to changes in the energy and economic system, together with efforts to promote and strengthen opportunities for economic development combined with the commitment to eliminate inequalities and poverty at the international, regional, national and local levels.

Ensure, at all stages of basic education, the provision of Climate and Environmental Education as a form of education focused on climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the risks and vulnerabilities to socio-environmental disasters, as a cross-cutting theme to be developed within the curricula of public and private educational institutions. To this end, schools must be guaranteed minimum infrastructure conditions against extreme weather events and adopt strategies and actions aimed at the prevention, adaptation and mitigation of socio-environmental disasters.

- Support immediate humanitarian aid in cases of climate emergencies, such as support for community kitchens; the purchase of food directly from family farms, the creation of strategic stocks and a solidarity brigade; support the organization of post-emergency shelters by coordinating partnerships with local housing programs.
- Establish BRICS cooperation mechanisms focused on supporting climate and nature-positive solutions for peoples, based on agroecology and the guarantee of public, food, technological, water and energy sovereignty. Promote initiatives and public policies based on other inclusive economic rationalities, such as Care Economy and Solidarity Economy.

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Develop sectoral guidelines for decarbonization, with specific plans for heavy industry, transport and energy, with intermediate targets (2030, 2040) and progress indicators.

- Contribute, as a group, to establish or participate in national or regional just transition initiatives with focus on less developed communities and vulnerable groups.

□ Create a BRICS ecological pact based on climate justice and just transition: decarbonization targets with social justice, ensuring financing and clean technologies accessible to communities most affected by environmental degradation. The promotion of regenerative public policies in strategic sectors — such as agroecology, reforestation, clean transport and basic sanitation — should prioritize vulnerable territories and populations traditionally invisible in decision-making processes.

□ At the national levels, BRICS countries should take the lead in strategic areas of the transition, supported by international technical and financial cooperation, in order to align climate and biodiversity objectives with the fight against inequality.

□ At national levels, take a holistic approach to NDCs, NBSAPs, aligning national zero-carbon and nature positive transitions with the objective of combating inequalities.

2. Cooperation on climate resilient, nature positive and low carbon technology, with a focus on intellectual property:

□ Create a BRICS Green Technology Bank, an open repository for sharing patents, know-how and licenses for critical low-carbon, climate resilient, and nature positive technologies on accessible terms.

□ Establish a Clean Energy R&D Consortium, with collective funding for research on energy storage, advanced biofuels and smart grids, with shared results, and prioritizing open and freely accessible projects.

Establish technical and financial cooperation for the development of green missions in National Innovation and Industrial Systems, adapted to each country and social human development objectives.

□ Relax intellectual property rules for essential technologies through voluntary agreements between countries and companies for non-exclusive licensing or reduced royalties on climate technologies.

□ Foster climate innovation hubs through the establishment of networks of specialized technology centres in each country, connected to universities, industries, local communities and social movements, to accelerate the development and dissemination of solutions.

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Promote partnerships in green supply chains, fostering industrial cooperation for the production of components such as batteries and solar panels, reducing costs and dependence on external markets.

3. Cooperation on sustainable trade, in the light of international goals, considering national contexts

□ Sign Green Trade Agreements among the BRICS countries, with reduced or eliminated tariffs on sustainable products and technologies and the adoption of environmental criteria in bilateral contracts, encouraging green production chains.

□ Develop low-carbon logistics corridors, prioritizing electrified railways, sustainable alternative fuels in maritime transport and efficient air routes to reduce trade emissions.

□ Develop sustainable trade policies/measures based on mutually agreed terms, taking into consideration the developing countries' circumstances.

Develop strategies to prevent international trade from being used by countries in the Global North to gain continuous access to the production of critical minerals in countries in the Global South, especially BRICS countries. Encourage the construction of processing chains for critical/rare/strategic minerals in countries in the Global South, to ensure reasonable distribution of benefits.

- Introduce tax incentives and credit lines for companies that export sustainable products within the bloc.
- Standardize/coordinate certifications for commodities, based on the establishment of common criteria for soy, beef and transition minerals, in line with sectoral decarbonization targets.
- Strengthen resilience in strategic supply chains by mapping climate vulnerabilities in sectors such as mining and food, with joint adaptation plans.
- Strengthen socio-environmental governance with community participation: establish permanent mechanisms for people-centered and scientific participation in the formulation of environmental policies, with an emphasis on the role of women, youth, indigenous peoples and traditional communities. Encourage bilateral ecological councils and interregional environmental conferences as spaces for listening, consultation and agreement on local solutions for global goals. Construct a socially just BRICS environmental certification system — which values sustainable practices based on local knowledge. This can strengthen responsible production chains and expand the ecological sovereignty of countries.

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Environmental Crisis, Climate Justice and Alternatives for People-centred Sustainable Development in the Global South

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4. High-level principles within the BRICS framework for common approaches to carbon accounting

- Ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) with communities in the territories involved, as well as guarantee that these communities are responsible for managing the resources derived from carbon credits generated by projects
- Define coordinating actions to prevent speculation and ensure that BRICS carbon credits have a real impact on reducing emissions.
- Linking part of carbon market revenues to adaptation and compensation projects for vulnerable communities.
- Introduce a veto on the accounting of carbon credits from reforestation with monocultures of species transplanted from the local ecosystem, such as eucalyptus and pine monocultures in savannah regions. Incorporate synergistic and cumulative criteria in carbon accounting and oversight, integrating emissions criteria with other criteria for the conservation of water bodies.
- Exchange information of regulations for carbon markets such as criteria for emissions trading systems (ETS), including measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) methodologies.

5. Climate Financing: mobilizing finance for climate action, nature conservation and plastic pollution prevention and control

- Create a BRICS Fund to finance mitigation and adaptation projects, biodiversity conservation and restoration, preventing land degradation, ensuring plastic pollution control, in countries of the Global South, with shared governance, transparent criteria and easy access.
- Acknowledge that Local Communities and Indigenous People should have their essential rights safe-guarded, in all policies and projects of financial institutions related to transport, energy generation and waste management.
- Promote innovative financial instruments, such as green bonds, multi-sovereign guarantees, subsidized credit lines for sustainable projects and public guarantees to reduce the risks of investment in green, low-carbon, climate resilient and nature positive clean infrastructure, which are debt-free and combat inequalities.
- Promote and strengthen climate justice financing among BRICS countries, establishing the promotion of a fair global tax system that can support the creation of funds to ensure that the benefits of climate finance are distributed equitably to marginalized communities most affected by the global climate crisis.

WORKING GROUP 3 – ECOLOGY

Environmental Crisis, Climate Justice and Alternatives for People-centred Sustainable Development in the Global South

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Strengthen national development banks in the BRICS countries, establishing common guidelines for integrating climate and biodiversity criteria into concessional loans and investments, prioritizing sectors such as clean transport and solar power and wind power, as well as storage and smart grid, climate-smart agriculture, early warning system, etc.

□ Establish/Enhance a carbon pricing mechanism on national carbon-intensive sectors in BRICS countries, and use the revenue to support climate-resilient projects.

□ Harmonize environmental regulations and ensure the interoperability of sustainable taxonomies among BRICS to facilitate investments and technology transfers in sustainable and nature-positive infrastructure, climate-smart and nature-friendly agriculture and climate adaptation.

□ Provide enabling environment and incentives for the localization of supply chains of just transition sectors/green technologies, to ensure that Global South move up along the global supply chain, and avoid reproducing colonial patterns that reduce the Global South to a supplier of raw materials by combating the exploitation of neocolonial rents and green extractivism in the conversion of global production networks to renewable energy matrices. Establish international financial mechanisms to correct exchange rate distortions and prevent the reinforcement of neo-extractivist and reprivatizing dynamics that undermine the sovereignty and sustainable development of Global South countries.

- Collectively, as BRICS, support the balance between mitigation and adaptation of climate finance and send a clear sign to COP 30 about the need Enable the scaling up of financing to developing country parties for climate action from all public and private sectors to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035, with developed country parties taking the lead.

6. Proposals related to the NDB

- Make the New Development Bank (NDB) the manager of the TFFF, since this is a financing mechanism proposed by the Global South, its management should also be entrusted to a bank representing this group of countries.

- Ensure continuous allocation of the New Development Bank (NDB) portfolio to climate finance, with reduced interest rates and incentives for just transition projects at least at the level of 2022 - 2026 NDB Strategy target of 40% and consider continuous raise.

- Restructure the NDB's internal guidelines to integrate climate and nature-related risks into the NDB's risk management and control system, conduct climate and nature-related information disclosure, intensify the conduct of in-depth prior Environmental Impact Assessments and long-term monitoring of projects after their implementation, with the aim of preventing/remediating/compensating for any environmental or social damage, respecting the principle of transparency.

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Mandate that, during the negotiation and implementation phases of NDB projects that may affect traditional communities/peoples, the Bank directly contact at least one representative of the communities involved, prohibiting individual approaches to residents without providing opportunities for periodic collective meetings.

□ Create an official and direct communication channel with the NDB so that people impacted by the Bank's projects can communicate complaints, reports or suggestions about its activities.



WORKING GROUP 4 – CULTURE AND ART FOR BRICS INTEGRATION

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Executive Summary

The Working Group 4 on Culture and Arts affirms that cultural cooperation is vital for strengthening the BRICS bloc, promoting multipolarity, and fostering mutual understanding among its diverse societies. Rooted in anti-colonial values, cultural diversity, and social justice, this document presents a comprehensive set of proposals to advance cultural integration, artistic collaboration, heritage preservation, and inclusive development across the BRICS countries.

Key Recommendations:

Institutional Strengthening of BRICS Culture Cooperation

Establish permanent forums and institutions dedicated to cultural integration.

Create a **Permanent Fund for BRICS Culture** to finance initiatives in arts, education, heritage, and exchange.

Propose funding through the New Development Bank (NDB) and partnerships with public enterprises.

Cultural Exchange and Artistic Collaboration

Launch **BRICS Cultural Centers, Arts Biennials, and Film Festivals** in member countries.

Support exchange programs for artists, cultural professionals, students, and writers.

Promote translation and publication of BRICS literature through a centralized platform and biennial literary meetings.

Heritage and Memory

Advocate for the repatriation of looted cultural assets and the conservation of heritage sites.

Promote critical historical education focused on anti-colonial struggles and resistance to fascism.

Develop policies to strengthen heritage conservation training and scientific research in the humanities.

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Gender, Inclusion, and Rural Culture

Expand women's participation in cultural and political decision-making.

Promote rural and indigenous cultural knowledge, especially related to sustainable food and medicine.

Defend cultural expressions from historically marginalized communities and safeguard them from commodification.

Ethical Innovation and Artificial Intelligence

Establish **ethical AI guidelines** in the cultural sector to protect creative labor and human agency.

Promote collaborative platforms for AI developers and artists, encouraging inclusive, culturally sensitive technological development.

Media and Cultural Sovereignty

Enforce joint **quota policies** for local content in media and streaming platforms.

Develop joint audiovisual infrastructure, co-production frameworks, and tax incentives for artistic collaboration.

Inclusive Sports and Cultural Diplomacy

Create BRICS multi-sport events and launch a **Paralympic initiative**.

Promote sports as a tool for inclusion, peace, and cultural exchange while opposing politicization of international sports bodies.

Tourism and Sister Cities

Expand people-to-people exchange through Sister Cities programs and collaborative tourism projects.

Develop a strategic framework for tourism that promotes cultural, rural, and ecotourism while supporting local communities.

This agenda envisions culture not as a commodity but as a public good essential for development, identity, and cooperation. The recommendations aim to build lasting cultural bridges among BRICS nations, reinforcing values of solidarity, equity, diversity, and global justice through coordinated policies, ethical practices, and inclusive innovation



Preamble

1. We understand that, 15 years after the first BRICS Summit, which brings culture to its main tripod, and in order to strengthen the bloc, it is now necessary to provide mechanisms for greater institutionality of BRICS, which is still developing in isolation and separately by each of the member countries. In this sense, we believe that the creation of permanent spaces/forums for debate and the development of common policies is essential to leverage the bloc.
2. The central objective of the bloc's creation is not limited to strengthening multilateralism and supporting the development of member countries, although these have been its main areas of action (through infrastructure partnerships, trade agreements, financing mechanisms, etc.). To the extent that cooperation between member countries also promotes social development and greater global equity, we emphasise the importance of measures that effectively promote relations between peoples and respect for their ways of life.
3. The concept of culture adopted by UNESCO states that it 'should be considered as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features, which characterise a society or a social group and which, as a complex, include arts and literature, ways of life, communities, values, traditions and beliefs'.
4. Given that cultural erasure —encompassing the destruction of monuments, looting of archaeological sites, bans on traditional practices and the suppression of languages, including prohibitions on the use of national and native languages has been, and regrettably remains, a widespread tool for oppressing and subjugating peoples and erasing their identities.
5. By combining tools and elaborating common values of the BRICS countries, including neocolonialism struggle and quest for autonomy and self-determination, we propose to work on the common values and traditions of the BRICS Cultural exchanges. Artistic cooperation can be a vector for promoting anti-colonialism, multilateralism, respect for the diversity of peoples and the appreciation of a multipolar and democratic order. Cultural interactions should be a facilitator of this intra-bloc rapprochement (which is formed by significant heterogeneity among countries), functioning as an amalgam to strengthen the rapport even in other areas of interest to the bloc.
6. We reiterate our commitment to social justice, social development and the cultural heterogeneity of each people, and we respect the cultural values of each of the BRICS nations.



7. In this regard, we advocate joint efforts to enhance cultural, academic and humanitarian interactions in order to promote broad interest among the citizens of our countries, thereby expanding collaboration in politics, economics and business.

8. Recognising the importance of promoting a culture of peace and mutual respect, we affirm our dedication to cultivating the cultural foundations essential for the social advancement of our nations, and to uniting around the principles and values shared by the BRICS nations, with a commitment to transparency, openness, inclusion, equality and respect for cultural diversity.

9. In view of the values upheld in this letter, we consider the unique cultural characteristics and traditions of each of the peoples that make up the BRICS Member States, as well as the relevance of popular culture in the national and international integration of each of these nations. Consequently, we advocate for the appreciation of popular culture, especially through the recognition of the cultural activities of peasants and traditional populations. Also, considering the fact that the knowledge produced by these rural populations can influence the solution to the climate crisis in which we find ourselves, we advocate measures to value rural culture, especially the relevance of traditions and customs related to sustainable food production and local medicines.

10. In the year marking the 80th anniversary of the victory over Nazism, we underscore the imperative to prevent the revival of this dangerous ideology. Furthermore, we pledge to uphold critical historical thinking, examine and appreciate the diverse historical contexts of member states, including their colonial histories, the legacies of their anti-colonial struggles, and their pivotal roles in combating oppression, racism, fascism, and apartheid. A comprehensive approach to preserving historical memory must include: advancing historical education with a focus on critical thinking, promoting rigorous scholarly research and the declassification of archives, a nuanced, context-driven analysis of history, tailored to each nation's cultural, social, and political realities, protecting historical monuments, organizing commemorative events, and actively engaging the public, particularly youth. We are confident that these measures will not only preserve historical integrity but also bolster national unity, safeguard cultural heritage, and enhance international trust.

11. We note that culture and the arts are intangible values that cannot be subjected to consumerist logic, and we reaffirm our concern about the commodification of human relations.

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12. We call for the strengthening of civil society collaboration in various cultural and artistic fields. This can be achieved through the creation of mechanisms to promote exhibitions, film screenings, tours by artistic groups, cultural festivals representing Member States, and exchange programmes for experts in culture and the arts.

13. We advocate the development of an exchange programme involving professionals in the field and cultural productions from BRICS countries to celebrate the rich cultures and traditions of member countries. This includes expanding the reach of cultural activities (theatre groups, film industry, art exhibitions and artistic collectives in general) with concrete actions to promote democratization and access to art and cultural manifestations in BRICS countries. In this regard, it is important to create government incentives to enable the exchange of artistic and cultural productions.

14. Recognising the significant but often undervalued role of women in history, we advocate the expansion of gender public policies in BRICS for greater female participation in cultural, political and social areas, ensuring that more women are present and integrated into decision-making and power spaces in BRICS nations. By occupying these spaces, women will be able to participate in the political, economic and cultural systems of which they are a part, influencing decisions that affect their lives and their futures.

15. With a view to consolidating and continuing to build important institutions for integration among the BRICS nations since the first summit held in 2009 in the city of Ekaterinburg, we understand the need to create a permanent set of institutions to promote integration and exchange among BRICS member states in the area of culture.



To achieve the objectives outlined, we propose:

16. Given the sophistication of the set of institutions that enhance integration and partnership among BRICS Member States, we advocate the creation of a Permanent Fund for the Promotion of BRICS Culture and the Preservation and Development of Cultural and Natural Heritage, whose purpose is to provide economic support for artistic, audiovisual, educational, integration and exchange, media and academic initiatives to increase the visibility of BRICS and disseminate globally the cultural knowledge of the various nations that comprise it, including among its priorities investment in counter-hegemonic artists. In the same vein, we propose that there be lines of financing by the NDB to support infrastructure projects in the area of culture in BRICS countries. In addition, we advocate incentives for state-owned companies in BRICS member states to sponsor cultural production, with a special focus on promoting projects by experimental artists.

17. The creation of an international network of BRICS Cultural Centers, establishing multi-purpose cultural spaces in various cities of the member states, equipped with reading rooms, exhibition spaces and small auditoriums, with the aim of expanding access, circulation and cultural exchange between these nations. In partnership with the cultural departments of diplomatic missions and other state bodies, these houses will provide the local public with a continuous programme, highlighting artistic expressions from the countries of the bloc and promoting sustainable exchange that goes beyond the logic of sporadic events and consolidates cultural processes on a permanent basis.

18. With the aim of promoting cultural knowledge exchange among BRICS member states, we propose that BRICS Arts Biennials be held in each of the nations. The biennials would cover various artistic expressions, including music and sound art, theatre, performance, plastic and visual arts, cinema and audiovisual arts, dance, among others.

19. The adoption of proactive joint measures to raise the status of cultural and natural heritage in the public sphere of BRICS nations, both nationally and globally. This implies integrating issues related to the preservation and use of cultural heritage into the socioeconomic development programmes and policies of BRICS States.

20. The BRICS countries should formulate and implement policies that ensure the promotion and expansion of technical and scientific knowledge and training in the fields of conservation and restoration of public and private historical and cultural heritage, and the humanities and social sciences.



21. We value the creation of tools for collecting and analysing data and information on the cultural and artistic areas of the BRICS member states, in order to develop coordinated policies and actions based on common parameters among member countries. In addition, we advocate the creation of platforms to collect and provide information on the working conditions of artists and professionals in culture and the arts, taking into account training, types of employment relationships, mobility, ethnic and racial diversity, gender, among other factors, in order to outline a panorama of similarities and differences, with a view to agreeing on common minimum standards among all BRICS member states.

22. We understand the importance of developing programmes that encourage the migration of national content on artistic and cultural expressions and heritage to the virtual/digital space, with translation into the languages of the Member States and assisted technologies, in order to ensure accessibility among citizens of the BRICS Member States.

23. With the aim of facilitating the dissemination of literary works among BRICS members, we propose the production of programmes for the translation, publication and circulation of BRICS writers, using a centralised platform managed by the BRICS Writers Association, allowing cultural managers, literary festival organisers and publishers to access authors and works in circulation among Member States. We also propose the creation of biennial literary meetings of works by authors from BRICS countries in each of the member states and increased exchanges between writers and publishing managers.

24. Create exchange programmes for university students within the BRICS framework. This initiative aims to integrate and expand the education of participants in the cultural and scientific universe of the BRICS nations, contributing to the creation, in the long term, of a solid culture of co-operation among the members of the bloc.

25. Considering audiovisual production to be an important vehicle for the dissemination of knowledge among countries, we value the need to create BRICS Film Festivals – as a way, also, to disseminate the film production of member states – as well as meetings promoted by BRICS between distributors and producers from the countries to present projects, as well as partnerships between countries to develop industrial infrastructure and manufacturing of audiovisual equipment and other areas of the arts. We also advocate the development of channels to establish co-productions between producers and artists from different countries of the bloc.



26. Promote tax incentives for audiovisual and artistic co-productions between BRICS countries. This is a type of incentive in which the host country returns part of the investment, through direct or indirect financing, in exchange for the international production employing local cultural workers, thereby also promoting intra-bloc economic circulation. We also propose tax incentive policies and exchanges between member countries for experimental artists and small national producers in BRICS member states.

27. We propose the establishment of joint commitments among BRICS countries for the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the cultural sector, with the dual objective of safeguarding the employment of cultural workers and promoting the value of human creativity. To ensure transparency and accountability, we recommend the creation of standardized identification labels for cultural content generated with the assistance of AI technologies. This measure aims to inform audiences and uphold ethical standards in the production and dissemination of cultural works. Furthermore, we advocate for the promotion of exchange programs and collaborative platforms that bring together AI developers, artists, and cultural professionals from across the BRICS countries. These initiatives should enable cultural agents not only to act as users of AI tools, but also as active participants in their development — contributing their perspectives, needs, and creative visions to ensure that these technologies reflect diverse cultural contexts and uses. This approach seeks to position the BRICS bloc at the forefront of inclusive, ethical, and culturally sensitive innovation in AI.

28. Within the framework of multilateral cooperation between BRICS countries, we propose the adoption of a joint quota policy for local cultural production and cultural exchange between member countries, applied to traditional media—such as radio, television, and cinema—as well as new digital media, including streaming platforms. This measure aims to promote cultural diversity within the bloc, strengthen local creative industries, and ensure greater balance in the circulation of cultural content. The quota policy is an essential tool for addressing the concentration of the global cultural market and the dominance of media flows by economic powers outside the BRICS. We believe that by prioritizing local cultural productions and exchanges between countries in the bloc, this initiative will contribute significantly to the appreciation of national and regional cultural identities, as well as fostering a creative economy that is supportive, sustainable, and multipolar.



29. We value the development of joint measures among BRICS members to demand the repatriation of artistic and historical heritage removed from territories dominated or controlled by colonial powers, as well as to guarantee the structure and financing for the safekeeping, conservation and exhibition of these assets in collaboration with the communities that produced them. We also propose measures for the exchange of knowledge on museum management, techniques for the conservation of artistic and historical heritage, and the promotion of museum education.

30. Considering sport as a cultural expression with great capacity to bring peoples together and to promote knowledge and respect among different nations, we defend the need to create sporting events among the BRICS member states, and propose quadrennial multi-sport events among the BRICS member states.

31. We advocate for the advancement and strengthening of sports cooperation among BRICS nations, based on the principles of partnership, equality, diversity, and mutual respect. We urge the national governments of BRICS countries to actively oppose the political use of sports regulatory institutions and event organization and any unilateral discriminatory actions against athletes.

32. Recognizing the fundamental role of sport in promoting inclusion and healthy lifestyles in all age groups, we strongly condemn all forms of discrimination in sport. We emphasize the importance of ensuring the promotion and funding of women's sport. We advocate the creation of a BRICS Paralympic movement aimed at promoting Paralympic and adaptive sports in the BRICS countries, ensuring the promotion and funding of these disciplines. We highlight as best practice the holding of the First International Friendly Tournament in Blind Football among club teams of the BRICS countries, which confirmed the potential for further development of inclusive sports among the association's members.

33. We reaffirm the strategic importance of the Sister Cities initiative as a permanent mechanism for dialogue, circulation, and cultural exchange among BRICS countries. To this end, we propose the institutional, financial, and political strengthening of Sister Cities programs across the bloc. This initiative aims to deepen people-to-people connections, foster mutual understanding, and stimulate collaborative cultural, educational, and creative projects at the municipal level. By reinforcing these local-level partnerships, we contribute to building a more integrated, diverse, and resilient cultural ecosystem within the BRICS framework. We encourage the creation of dedicated funds, regular exchange agendas, and multilateral governance mechanisms to support and expand the network of Sister Cities, ensuring its sustainability and long-term impact.

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34. We recognize the fundamental role of cultural exchange and tourism in promoting closer ties between nations. We state the need for continuous advancements in the tourism industry to increase mutual tourist flows. We commit to strengthening efforts within the BRICS Alliance to develop the tourism sector, focusing on initiatives to enhance competitiveness, economic and environmental sustainability, ethical practices, inclusion, innovation, digital transformation, and investment. We endorse the formulation of a strategic framework to unlock the tourism potential of BRICS nations. This includes creating a unified tourism offering, aligning tourism standards, implementing joint digital solutions to enhance the tourist experience, expanding tourism infrastructure, investing in comprehensive training and education programs, empowering and economically integrating local communities, and exploring new pathways in tourism such as culinary tourism, sports tourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism, and rural tourism.



WORKING GROUP 5 – GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

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Executive Summary

Working Group 5 on Finance presents a strategic framework to restructure the global financial architecture from the perspective of the Global South. The proposals aim to foster **sovereign, inclusive, and sustainable development** for BRICS countries, transcending traditional market-driven models and responding to urgent human, social, environmental, and financial challenges. The recommendations cover international taxation, trade, monetary policy, financial cooperation, technology, and institutional reforms.

Key Recommendations:

International Tax Cooperation

- Support a UN-based tax convention to ensure fair, inclusive, and transparent global tax governance.

- Tax high-net-worth individuals and curb harmful tax practices.

- Promote sustainability and equity through global tax reforms.

Trade and Investment

- Facilitate intra-BRICS trade through tariff incentives and simplified people-to-people exchanges.

- Ensure foreign investment aligns with labor rights, environmental protection, and public interest.

- Support inclusive value chains with local labor, innovation hubs, and fair pricing systems.

Global Financial Architecture

- Reform the IMF's governance to give the Global South greater voice and fairer access to financing.

- Advocate for a UN-based multilateral debt resolution framework.

- Redefine debt sustainability metrics to incorporate development and climate goals.


Monetary Sovereignty and Payment Systems

Expand the use of national currencies in BRICS trade.

Develop a **BRICS payment system** using blockchain and smart contracts.

Strengthen cooperation on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and financial integration.

New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)

Increase NDB capital and reduce dependence on Western credit ratings.

Create a **BRICS sovereign credit rating agency** based on development and social metrics.

Activate the CRA with more autonomy, allowing withdrawals in local currencies and broader mandates, especially in response to sanctions and crises.

Financial Technology and Inclusion

Develop a **joint fintech platform** to promote financial innovation and access.

Integrate national payment systems to enable fast, inclusive cross-border transactions.

Support responsible fintech regulation to protect consumers and reduce digital inequality.

Strategic Cooperation and Innovation

Establish new instruments like the **BRICS Future Finance Lab, Youth Innovation Challenge Fund, and Economics Award**.

Promote cross-country economic research, regulatory modernization, and open-source fiscal tools using blockchain for transparency.

This comprehensive agenda seeks to position BRICS as a leading force in building an **equitable, multipolar, and people-centered financial system**, capable of overcoming dependency, inequality, and the dominance of Global North institutions. It affirms financial sovereignty, democratic governance, and cooperative innovation as pillars of future development.



This document presents the results of the discussions held by WG5 - Finance, of BRICS Civil. Understanding the strategic nature of the bloc on the issue of finance in the face of the international economic crisis, it is necessary to build alternatives from the Global South to reposition the BRICS+ countries towards a model of sovereign development that addresses the human, social, environmental and financial needs of the region, beyond strictly commercial relations. In this sense, we list the following topics as central.

International tax cooperation among BRICS Countries

The institutions and countries that currently hold global power continue to impose an international tax architecture that unequally restricts the ability of developing countries to mobilise tax revenues. Existing international tax governance mechanisms and rules, especially those led by the G20 and the OECD, have brought about significant changes in the commitments of the United Nations development financing agendas. Common normative frameworks for international tax cooperation have been undermined. The ability of developing countries to have a voice and full participation on an equal footing has been severely undermined. Developing countries continue to lose billions of dollars annually due to tax evasion and avoidance. Essential resources to finance public policies are being captured. In other words, existing international trade rules undermine efforts to promote reforms.

Recommendations:

- (1) Support the negotiation and progress of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNFCITC), promoting a more effective, inclusive, and fair international tax architecture.
- (2) Strengthen, within the UNFCITC, principles and instruments that encourage the taxation of high net worth individuals to effectively curb their tax evasion and avoidance practices.
- (3) Support the establishment of the UN Tax Convention including a multistakeholder tax supervisory board under the UN.



(4) Ensure the inclusive international tax architecture to embrace minorities.

(5) Ensure that the international tax architecture to promote sustainability.

Trade and investment between BRICS Countries

In the face of widespread tariff increases and Donald Trump's protectionist policies in the US, the BRICS have the potential to boost South-South trade and investment, aligning them with national development strategies, especially to improve social welfare. However, their trade relations remain marked by asymmetries. Facing a fast-changing geopolitical landscape, including widespread increases in trade tariffs and protectionist policies, the BRICS stand to benefit from a potential boost in South-South trade and investment. These can be aligned with more pressing global south demands and development strategies to remedy long stand inequities.

The BRICS countries are major players in global investment, with China, Brazil and India among the top ten countries in the world rankings for inward and outward investment. Although South-South investments could potentially be directed towards promoting more equitable and sustainable development, multinational companies in the bloc, especially in the mining, oil, agribusiness and infrastructure sectors, often reproduce models of natural resource and labour exploitation, exacerbating socio-environmental impacts. It is therefore essential to consider socio-environmental rights in the context of foreign investment and the challenges of trade and investment in BRICS.

Recommendations:

(1) The creation of tariff and non-tariff incentives to facilitate trade between BRICS countries should prioritise technology, the industrial sector, green products, and innovation. Special attention should be given to small and medium-sized enterprises to stimulate job and income generation. Finally, trade and investment should also be supported by simplification in the flow of people for business, tourism, educational-vocational, and transfer of knowledge-technology purposes.

(2) Programmes aimed at facilitating investment between BRICS countries should prioritise productive investment, the strengthening of joint research and development initiatives, technology transfer, and the creation of skilled jobs.



(3) In the case of investment protection treaties, BRICS should ensure the sovereign right to expropriate and nationalise foreign property and assets for reasons of public and social interest, excluding government measures aimed at protecting public health and the environment from the definition of expropriation.

(4) It is essential that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) incorporate innovation hubs for local startups and guarantee the inclusion of domestic inputs, the hiring of local labour with guaranteed labour rights, and respect for environmental standards. BRICS countries should not promote foreign investment that results in the relaxation of their labour, environmental, or health legislation requirements.

(5) Encourage more inclusive and equitable value chain systems in BRICS countries, Recommend a **BRICS Inclusive Value Chain Alliance**, with transparent standards for pricing, certification, and access to financing for small farmers, fishers, and artisans.

Global financial architecture and economic governance

The current international financial architecture, created in the aftermath of World War II, has proven inadequate to address development challenges and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Designed by and for developed countries, the system fails to address issues such as climate change, social inequality, systemic crises, and inequalities in income, wealth, gender and race. Less developed countries have suffered chronically from underfinancing by the IMF and need fair financing without increasing debt or imposing conditionalities. This can be achieved through reform of IMF governance, expansion of multilateral institutions' resources, sovereign debt relief and a new tax architecture.

Recommendations:

(1) BRICS countries should act together to promote reform of the IMF quota system to ensure greater representation of Global South countries and ensure that a larger share of Special Drawing Rights is made available to developing countries.

(2) The BRICS countries should demand reform of the IMF's lending policy, encourage a common framework for debt relief treatment, establishing an end to surcharges applied to already



indebted countries, avoiding excessive borrowing costs, especially in periods of financial difficulty.

(3) The BRICS Countries should act jointly in multilateral forums to support an immediate and comprehensive debt resolution for all countries in need. They should request the IMF to reform its Debt Sustainability Analysis, adjusting its methods to include social and economic development objectives and climate finance needs.

(4) The BRICS should act collectively and in partnership with other developing countries to lay the foundations for a UN multilateral debt framework.

International Monetary and Financial System: The Role of Currencies and Trade in BRICS

Recognising the structural imbalances of the International Monetary and Financial System and the disproportionate impacts on developing countries, we highlight the importance of promoting alternatives to the dominance of hegemonic currencies. We encourage BRICS countries to strengthen the use of national currencies in intra-bloc trade as a means of enhancing monetary and financial sovereignty, diversifying international means of payment, and promoting more equitable economic integration. We recommend expanding the use of national currencies in trade, strengthening cooperation between Central Banks — including in the development of digital currencies (CBDCs) — and advancing the construction of a BRICS payment system. In addition, we encourage the intensification of trade flows among members and the consolidation of strategic partnerships with countries in the Global South, promoting a more resilient, inclusive and multipolar environment.

Recommendations:

(1) Expand the use of BRICS national currencies in trade among members, strengthening national and financial sovereignty and ensuring a more balanced representation of the bloc's economies.

(2) Establish a payment system dedicated to BRICS, using national currencies to facilitate transactions and encourage their wider adoption, through a **Multilateral Local Currency Clearing-house (MLCC)**, supported by smart contracts and blockchain, to facilitate real-time settlement in national currencies.



- (3) Strengthen trade relations with new BRICS members, promoting more robust economic integration.
- (4) Explore trade agreements or other cooperation strategies with partner countries to further consolidate the role of BRICS in global trade;
- (5) Work on a geographically distributed Emission and Processing Center (EPC) which can become the basis of the financial system of a common digital Space of Economic interaction.

Development banks, BRICS financial institutions and South-South financial cooperation

BRICS countries have expanded their participation in the functioning of new multilateral institutions. In the area of international financing, the new development banks created by the BRICS countries have the potential to play a significant role in building a new world economic order that is not imposed by unilateral decisions of states. The New Development Bank is understood to be an important instrument for promoting these objectives, as it fulfils its mission of financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the countries of the Global South. However, the NDB's capacity of raising funds is currently dependent almost exclusively on the capital market, which limits its potential of funding development projects, due to relatively lower ratings given by the Western rating agencies.

The expansion of the BRICS structure to include new members also supports the possibility of establishing new financing networks common to the bloc. In a multipolar world, it is essential to preserve and support various forms of diversity. Based on values of social equality, mutual respect and solidarity, the BRICS countries should join forces to encourage new forms of commercial and financial transactions, giving them greater autonomy from the system managed and controlled by the Global North.

Considering that support for diversity also applies to the right to development, BRICS countries should encourage greater cooperation between the New Development Bank and other multilateral financing institutions with significant participation from the Global South.



The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) was created in 2014, together with the NDB. This is a strategic initiative, as it helps to guarantee the monetary sovereignty of member countries in the event of a dollar shortage, preventing the interruption of foreign trade or the payment of foreign debt services. However, the CRA has never been used, and at the same time, last year, Egypt and Ethiopia needed IMF loans on terms unfavourable to their economies. Given this contradiction, and taking into account information that it was under review during the Brazilian presidency, we propose the following measures:

The BRICS should seek greater autonomy to approve withdrawals by CRA members. One of the tools for this purpose would be the establishment of the 'Specific Supervisory Unit,' already provided for in its founding treaty but never implemented. With adequate infrastructure and permanent staff, by creating endogenous macroeconomic monitoring and supervision capacity, this unit could contribute to the institutional development of the mechanism, reducing the portion linked to the IMF, allowing operations in local currencies, the creation of new lines of support, among other possibilities. In addition to contributing to the improvement of the CRA, the knowledge produced by this unit, as a spillover effect, could be equally useful for other projects envisaged by the BRICS.

Recommendations:

- To increase the NDB's capacity of raising capital through member countries' public funds.
- (2) Encourage participation in multilateral development banks with significant BRICS country participation, promoting an increase in the supply of resources for development financing.
- (3) Encourage the development of Emerging Finance or Alternative Finance Debt instruments not limited to climate-contingent debt instruments, such as catastrophe-linked and carbon-indexed bonds, to strengthen financial resilience to global shocks.
- (4) Recommend the creation of a sovereign rating agency alternative under the NDB that includes social justice, climate risk, and development metrics, reducing bias from existing credit rating monopolies.



(5) Ensure that the supervisory units enforce the accountability and risk management practices of the NDB, including liquidity guarantees, sanctions-response financing, humanitarian finance during cross-border disasters, and countercyclical green investment support.

(6) Apart from promoting an increase in the supply of resources for development financing, the NDB should promote further collaboration with other MDBs to increase the NDB's institutional capacity.

(7) Encourage the NDB to support fair and inclusive energy transition projects and community-based renewable energy financing.

(8) Promote the creation of a BRICS Countries the International Union of Trade, Industrial, and Financial Internet as a platform for developing open international standards in trade, finance, and industry, aimed at simplifying cross-border data flows, e-commerce regulations, digital customs, and SME access to global platforms, based on consensus, open for new members and modeled following the example of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

(9) To establish criteria defining BRICS project status for investment projects and socio-humanitarian initiatives, based on minimum participation requirements from BRICS member states and minimum investment thresholds.

On the Contingent Reserve Agreement:

(1) Creation of a 'specific supervisory unit' to monitor loans, shifting the current agreement that demands the approval, by the IMF, of 70% of eventual withdrawals.

(2) Expansion of the right of withdrawal for all member countries, and for partner countries in the future.

(3) Expansion of the CRA's monetary portfolio beyond the dollar to include currencies of BRICS countries.

(4) Consolidate the responsibility of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) and the New Development Bank (NDB) for assisting BRICS countries facing sanctions pressure, while expanding these organizations' mandates to support the financial institutions of affected nations.



(5) Propose the creation of an annual forum on BRICS financial development issues to enhance the efficiency of financial institutions, enabling discussions over the reporting by the NDB and the CRA.

Financial technology and financial inclusion

The BRICS countries should maintain their defence of equal access to financial technology, sources of financing and markets for all nations. Innovation in financial technology is essential to promote inclusion, competitiveness and sustainable development. Responsible innovation is the way to reduce inequalities and integrate markets, aligning with the BRICS objectives of multipolarity and shared growth. A common approach among the BRICS should promote prudent regulation of the sector, encouraging creativity and ensuring security without stifling progress.

Recommendations:

- (1) Support the BRICS initiative to establish a joint platform to develop the financial technology agenda.
- (2) Promote the integration of national payment systems with common BRICS platforms, facilitating fast and secure cross-border transactions, reducing costs and increasing financial inclusion.
- (3) Discuss the expansion of joint investment in support of financial technology start-ups in member countries, driving innovation and reducing technological asymmetries within the bloc.
- (4) Encourage cooperation among stock exchanges in BRICS countries, fostering and sharing knowledge-technology to develop market infrastructure and innovative financing, such as thematic bonds.
- (5) Support the development of investigations on fintech development, which should be sustainable, inclusive, and responsible. There should be a clear regulation for fintech to guarantee consumer and data protection, and to avoid moral hazard such as over indebtedness.

**Additional recommendations**

- (1) Establish a fund to support economic research on cross-country cooperation among member states, BRICS' prospects in the global economy, and the development of a strategic vision to unify positions on key issues of international economic policy.
- (2) Develop new financial regulation tools, including technological, legal, and supervisory solutions, to mitigate risks arising from digitalization and AI advancements.
- (3) Work on the creation of a BRICS Economics Award, a BRICS Countries Trade Expo, and a BRICS Youth Innovation Challenge Fund.
- (4) Launch the BRICS Future Finance Lab, a rotating policy-innovation hub for modeling tokenized sovereign debt, programmable money, and AI-driven trade systems.
- (5) Develop a BRICS Open Source Governance Toolkit for fiscal policy automation, transparent procurement, and budget tracking via blockchain.



Working Group 6: Digital Sovereignty, Digital Economy, Artificial Intelligence, and Governance — Within the Framework of the Civil BRICS Council

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Executive Summary

Working Group 6 of the People's BRICS Civil Forum presents a strategic framework for digital sovereignty, inclusive governance of artificial intelligence (AI), and a people-centered digital economy. Acknowledging the growing concentration of technological power and global inequalities in digital development, the group calls for cooperation among BRICS nations to ensure fair, secure, and autonomous digital transformation aligned with social justice and human rights.

Key Recommendations:

People-Centered Digital Sovereignty

Define digital sovereignty as a right to technological self-determination, respecting cultural, territorial, and historical diversity.

Prioritize public interest, cybersecurity, education, and equitable access to emerging technologies.

Shared Digital Infrastructure

Create a cooperative BRICS network for digital infrastructure integration, focused on underserved regions.

Strengthen community-driven initiatives and solidarity-based digital economies.

Inclusive Governance and Civil Society Participation

Ensure the participation of Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, and marginalized groups in digital policy-making.

Tackle algorithmic discrimination and promote socially just tech transitions.

Sustainable Financing for Digital Public Goods

Prioritize BRICS Development Bank funding for open-source digital infrastructure and AI systems aligned with public values.

Fund public research institutes to develop ethical and transparent digital innovations.

Cooperative Regulation of AI and Emerging Technologies

Establish an AI observatory for best practices, focusing on high-risk use cases and public safety.

Collaborate on public regulation of data, platforms, and AI across jurisdictions.

BRICS-Based AI Development and Linguistic Diversity

Pre-train large language models (LLMs) using diverse data in BRICS languages to reduce Western-centric bias.

Promote open governance frameworks for AI aligned with transparency and safety.

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Ethical AI Value Chains

Ensure sustainability and ethical standards across the full AI supply chain—from mining and semiconductors to software—while promoting circular economy principles.

Protection for Workers in Automation Transitions

Implement income support, retraining, and job guarantees for workers impacted by automation.

Monitor job displacement trends via a BRICS observatory for fair labor transition.

Digital and AI Education

Institutionalize digital literacy and AI education, tailored to local contexts and languages.

Support emotional well-being, address unemployment, and ensure inclusive education policies.

Internet and AI Governance

Collaborate on a BRICS-led Internet governance model promoting sovereignty and decentralization.

Develop global ethical audit frameworks to guide responsible use of emerging technologies.

Ethics and Accountability

Publish a BRICS White Paper for ethical assessment of new technologies throughout their lifecycle, focusing on societal impact, risks, and moral values.

This agenda affirms BRICS' commitment to a **sovereign, inclusive, and ethical digital future**, ensuring that digital and AI technologies serve the public good, reduce inequalities, and strengthen regional autonomy and cooperation. Civil society is central to this vision, and the **Civil BRICS Council** is recognized as a critical space for collective dialogue and governance.



This document summarizes the discussions and proposals of International Working Group 6 on the following topics: Digital Sovereignty, Technological Cooperation and Participatory Governance of Artificial Intelligence in BRICS, based on the understanding that, in the current global context, the bloc plays a strategic role in promoting fair, inclusive, participatory, and sovereign digital and technological governance, ensuring that the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) broadly benefits its populations and reduces global inequalities.

Considering:

1. That the consolidation of information and communication technology (ICT) oligopolies has widened inequalities and dependence in the BRICS countries, leading nations around the world to claim digital sovereignty as a way to counter the extractive model of personal data and nature, as well as interference in domestic policies;
2. The need to strengthen national capacities to develop, maintain, and regulate digital and economic infrastructures, including telecommunications, critical information systems, digital public infrastructure, and data systems;
3. Those unilateral decisions by large digital platforms have jeopardized the jurisdictional sovereignty of countries, undermining their legislation and regulatory frameworks;
4. That the global organization of scientific and technological work concentrates the strategic stages of technology knowledge production in central countries, while peripheral regions occupy the position of mere consumers and users of technologies, and exporters of energy and mineral inputs necessary for this industry;
5. The exclusion of historically vulnerable groups, ensuring no one is left behind in the BRICS nations, including marginalized people's movements, Indigenous peoples, and traditional and inter-faith communities, from stakeholder's forums discussing regulation of the digital environment, including artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies;
6. That data-driven innovations and the development of AI in different sectors are at the forefront of transformations in global production chains, that the dominance and leadership in the development of these innovations is still restricted to a few powers, and that this is one of the central disputes in the global geopolitical landscape;
7. Automation and the massive adoption of AI profoundly transform labour relations, requiring policies that ensure a fair transition and the digital inclusion of affected workers;
8. The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies requires trusted collaboration, shared standards and collective governance between BRICS nations to ensure that innovation respects borders, values and the best interest of BRICS' citizens.



We therefore propose to the BRICS Summit:

1. Digital sovereignty related process must be led by governments, with the participation of multi-stakeholders, integrating public interest and participation, government policy and technical autonomy while respecting socio-cultural specificities, and maintaining equitable access to resources. This includes the promotion of a people-oriented vision of digital sovereignty, based on guaranteeing the autonomy and integration of the people of the BRICS countries. Digital sovereignty is understood here as self-determination, taking into account territorial, cultural, and historical specificities; cybersecurity and information security; education; digital development; and access to emerging technologies and their deployment.
2. The establishment of a cooperation network for the sharing and integration of digital infrastructures, considering their materiality, with a view to state governance, the defence of critical information infrastructures and the strengthening of community initiatives for a solidarity-based digital economy, prioritising regions with low accessibility to digital resources, ensuring equitable access to devices, quality internet and continuous usability;
3. Strengthening instruments for broad participation and consultation with civil society organizations, peoples' movements, Indigenous peoples, quilombolas, and traditional and interfaith communities, in all their diversity, in the design of programs and other systematic measures of technological transition to ensure social and climate justice, tackling inequalities, algorithmic bias, especially ageism, sexism and racism, and new forms of oppression in the digital environment;
4. With regard to the structuring of mechanisms for financing digital infrastructure, we advocate initiatives that strengthen the digital sovereignty of BRICS member states and make the bloc a benchmark in the promotion of digital public goods and digital public infrastructure, such as:
 - 4.1. The adoption, within the scope of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) financing line for projects in the area of Digital Infrastructure, of priority criteria for projects that use free and/or open source software for the construction of public cloud computing systems and other digital platforms, and for the development of sovereign AI, appropriate to the needs of the people;
 - 4.2. The establishment of credit lines by the BRICS Development Bank for public research institutes and non-profit entities for the development of innovative methodologies that use free and/or open-source software to mitigate discrimination and bias in AI systems, increasing social trust and transparency in emerging technologies;
5. Cooperation among BRICS countries, based on mutual respect among jurisdictions, with a view to promoting public and participatory regulation of digital platforms, infrastructure, data, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies;



6. The establishment of an observatory to monitor and share good practices in the development of policies and regulations for the use of AI, with an emphasis on the use of high-risk AI, especially in the field of public security, based on existing sets of principles and frameworks for the development and use of responsible AI (e.g., the principles of UNESCO);
7. The expansion of investment and collaboration mechanisms in Research and Development at the service of the people, strengthening science and ensuring scientific and technological autonomy, and restricting the adoption and use of proprietary technologies in strategic sectors such as education, research and health;
8. The adoption of cooperation initiatives for the pre-training and alignment of Large Language Models (LLMs) and expert agents with significant data originating from BRICS member countries and their national languages. These initiatives should promote linguistic diversity, reduce western-centric bias and be developed with ensured governance frameworks that ensure transparency, safety and equitable access, potentially including open-source models where appropriate.;
9. Cooperation among member countries in consolidating initiatives that ensure fair and sustainable development throughout the AI value chain and the public-private partnerships participating in it, from mining, semiconductor production, hardware manufacturing, and software development, with a view to governance that mitigates impacts on nature and human life, and with a greater emphasis on the ethical sourcing, sustainable resource use in semiconductor manufacturing, and the integration of circular economy principles;
10. BRICS members, including civil society representatives such as workers' unions, will collaborate on implementing global and comprehensive economic protection mechanisms for workers affected by automation. This includes conditional income replacement, wage protection during retraining periods, job guarantee schemes, and professional reintegration programs tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations and high-risk sectors.
These efforts should be embedded within national AI and labor transition strategies, supported by a BRICS-wide observatory to monitor automation risks, displaced jobs, and the impact of reintegration initiatives across member states.
11. Member countries shall collaborate to institutionalize digital and AI education as a pillar of public policy—ensuring widespread access to foundational digital literacy, critical understanding of algorithmic systems, and advanced technical skills, emphasizing innovation hubs for people living in rural areas and in areas that lack infrastructure and development. Public-private-academic partnerships should be fostered to develop contextually appropriate curricula in member countries' languages, narratives and socio-economic conditions. Furthermore, given the psychological and social toll of rapid digitalization, national strategies should incorporate mechanisms to support mental, cultural and historical narratives and well-being, prevent burnout, and



address structural unemployment through reskilling, professional reintegration programs, and inclusive labor protections.

12. We propose that the BRICS leaders should take a stand on Internet governance policies, collaborating on committed political guidelines with respect to the sovereignty and digital security of all nations, within a global framework. BRICS countries should collaborate on a global design document that should work as a guideline to regulate and ensure compliance in AI systems, focusing on audit decisions or qualifications. Furthermore, BRICS countries shall collaborate to decentralize global control of the Internet, ensuring broad, multi-stakeholder participation, and through collaboration in the development of secure and sovereign internet infrastructures.

13. The ethics of new technologies and their role in ensuring future sustainable development is a matter of deep concern for societies in the BRICS countries. We are convinced that the fundamental threat to the future of humanity is not so much posed by new technologies themselves, but by the use made of them. We call on the leaders of the BRICS Nations to prepare an Audit Framework document, «a White Paper», for assessing the possible negative ethical implications of the development and application of new technologies. The Framework could include a mapping of current, potential, and cumulative risks associated with a given technology, taking into account the impact of its negative ethical consequences and then ascertaining ways of addressing related impacts at each stage of its life cycle, on the basis of which it will be possible to take the necessary precautions to comply with the moral and ethical attitudes and norms of a society or community.

Recognizing the importance of the participation of civil society and people's organizations in BRICS member countries, guaranteeing access to the Internet, information, and communication as a right, supporting technology development that respects diversity, we welcome the creation of the Civil BRICS Council and express our commitment to the process of debate and strengthening cooperation among peoples.



Working Group 7: BRICS, its institutional framework and respect for world peace and sovereignty

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WORKING GROUP 7: BRICS, its institutional framework and respect for world peace and sovereignty

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Executive Summary

Working Group 7 presents a strategic vision for reinforcing **world peace, sovereignty, and institutional reform** within the BRICS framework. The document advocates for a multipolar global order grounded in the **self-determination of peoples**, democratic governance, and inclusive participation. As the BRICS bloc expands, it must develop stronger structures to maintain coherence, transparency, and effective coordination while embracing diversity and resisting external coercion.

Key Recommendations and Themes:

Defense of Sovereignty and Peaceful Coexistence

Uphold the sovereignty and self-determination of nations, especially those historically subjected to colonialism or economic sanctions.

Condemn the use of unilateral coercive measures that destabilize global peace.

Promote peace through dialogue and inclusive global institutions.

Reform of Global Institutions

Support a comprehensive reform of the global governance architecture to enhance the voice and representation of Global South countries.

Strengthen BRICS financial institutions as alternatives to IMF and World Bank structures dominated by the Global North.

Disarmament and Arms Control

Defend nations' rights to peaceful nuclear programs within the framework of international treaties.

Support transparency in conventional arms transfers.

Conflict Mediation

Encourage BRICS to act as mediators in international conflicts, reinforcing their identity as peaceful multilateral actors.

Institutional Strengthening of BRICS

Adopt a **January-to-December calendar** to ensure a qualified dialogue among all BRICS countries in each chairship.

Maintain momentum on initiatives launched under previous presidencies.

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Digital Platform and Information Sharing

Create a **permanent digital platform** (e.g., brics.org) to consolidate BRICS documents, activities, and institutional memory across all engagement tracks (Academic, Business, Youth, Women, Civil Society).

Ensure decentralized, transparent, and sovereign digital governance.

Institutionalize Civil Society Participation

Establish **permanent forums** between the Civil BRICS Council, Sherpas, and BRICS leaders.

Ensure **civil society voices**, especially those impacted by BRICS-funded projects, are formally represented.

Provide funding and structure to support regular meetings of the Civil BRICS Council and its national chapters.

Clarity in Expansion and Membership

Demand transparency on the criteria and categories of BRICS membership to guide equitable and coherent expansion.

This framework envisions BRICS as a **force for global balance**, upholding sovereignty, reforming multilateralism, and creating **inclusive governance mechanisms**. By institutionalizing civil participation and modernizing its internal structures, BRICS can lead in shaping a more just, peaceful, and representative world order.

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7.1 Introduction

As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century, a new global order is emerging, marked by the rise of multiple centers of political and economic influence that challenge the post-war governance structure. The multilateral institutions created during that period—such as the UN, the World Bank, and the IMF—largely shaped by the interests of a select group of powers, are increasingly out of step with contemporary demands. Against this backdrop, new global actors are emerging with force, redefining world geopolitics: economies previously considered peripheral are rising to central positions on the international stage, while traditional powers are seeing their relative influence decline. We are experiencing a transition to a more pluralistic order, which must incorporate the aspirations and worldviews of peoples, countries and regions that have hitherto been marginalized on the international stage. The expansion of BRICS embodies this multipolar trend, which requires the development of a new global institutional framework capable of accommodating diverse perspectives in the conduct of global coexistence. The very composition of the group, which brings together nations with different histories, cultures and development models, highlights the heterogeneity of the contemporary world. These countries not only seek greater representation on the global stage but also defend the sovereignty of peoples historically subjugated by the Global North. It is believed that only through a truly inclusive dialogue, which considers all voices present in the international debate, will it be possible to build lasting peace and a more just and equitable system.

7.2 Defense of Sovereignty and Collective Construction of World Peace

Respect for the sovereignty of States is a fundamental foundation for a peaceful and stable international order. Supporting the self-determination of peoples is an indispensable condition for lasting peace. Every nation must be guaranteed the right to define its own models of development and political-institutional systems, free from external interference that perpetuates global asymmetries. Repeated violations of the United Nations Charter through the promotion, by external agents, of measures that violate the sovereignty of States, such as the unilateral adoption of blockades and sanctions, create an international environment of permanent instability. Peace requires representative institutions, mechanisms for economic justice and an end to inherited geopolitical privileges. The current international financial architecture, dominated by institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank, perpetuates asymmetries that directly impact a country's ability to pursue

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their national interests for development.

The reform of international financial institutions is not merely an economic issue, but a fundamental requirement for creating the material foundations for lasting peace.

The BRICS Summit in Latin America is a unique opportunity to recall that in 2014, 33 heads of state and government gathered at the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) proclaimed Latin America and the Caribbean a Zone of Peace, with the signatory countries renouncing the use of force to resolve any disputes. This declaration offers a concrete multilateral model for the non-violent resolution of disputes.

7.2.1 Recommendations:

7.2.1.1 Democratic Reform of Global Institutions

° Support a comprehensive reform of the global governance architecture to enhance the voice and representation of Global South countries. In this sense, we endorse the paragraph 8 of the Kazan Declaration.

o Strengthening alternative cooperation systems, such as BRICS development banks, to reduce dependence on institutions controlled by geopolitical minorities.

7.2.1.2 Arms Control and Demilitarization

o All sovereign countries have the right to develop their peaceful nuclear programmes; any problems/disagreements related to that should be treated within the framework of the NPT, through peaceful resolution of dispute settlement and abiding by the respective UN conventions.

We reiterate support for international efforts to enhance transparency and confidence-building by the legitimate transfers of conventional arms in order to avoid the illicit trafficking of arms and the use of arms for criminal activities that destabilize the legitimacy of National governments, reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

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7.3. Mediation of International Conflicts

The BRICS countries can take an active role in the peaceful resolution of disputes, promoting direct dialogue between the parties involved and strengthening their profile as a multilateral actor committed to global stability.

7.4. Proposals for Institutional Strengthening of BRICS

7.4.1. Context: Planning for BRICS continuity at the governmental level

Following its expansion, BRICS faces coordination challenges due to the absence of a permanent structure to ensure continuity between rotating presidencies. The adoption of a structured calendar of events spanning from January to December, with a specific mention to the transitioning period from one chairship to the other would mitigate discontinuities, harmonising long-term agendas and projects without sacrificing the bloc's flexibility. We call Leaders to maintain the principle of continuity, ensure the possibility of promoting previously put forward initiatives along with the initiatives of the current chairmanship.

7.4.2. Recommendations:

Adopt an annual calendar, spanning from January to December, that allow members to debate institutional strengthening in order to reach a consensus and plan in advance for the future chairships.

7.4.3. Permanent Digital Platform with Shared Governance

7.4.3.1. Context:

The current fragmentation of BRICS communication on temporary websites linked to rotating presidencies weakens its institutional identity. A unified, transparent and accessible platform is essential to consolidate its global image and preserve its institutional memory. This repository would document grassroots efforts, civil society engagement and policy formulation from the Global South, ensuring that the voices of all BRICS tracks (Academic, Business, Youth, Women and the Civil tracks) that shaped the BRICS trajectory are preserved. By consolidating their digital presence and recognizing the role of civil and social movements, Academic, Business, Youth, Women, etc. the BRICS can increase their visibility, strengthen their institutional structure and project a cohesive image to the international community.

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7.4.3.2. Recommendations:

- **Create the permanent domain brics.org**, hosting official documents, summit statements, and records of the participation of all tracks involved in the BRICS process (Academic, Business, Youth, Women and the Civil and social movements' tracks) with an easy access to their own websites that is handed over to the next chairing country. We welcome the website created by the Russian BRICS Expert Council, <https://bricscivilcouncil.org>, and the depositary. With the equal and equivalent participation of each BRICS country, this resource can become a unified platform for all BRICS countries.
- **Adopt free software and collaborative governance**, allowing decentralized moderation by national filters (respecting digital sovereignties).

7.4.4. Institutionalize social participation in decision-making processes

7.4.4.1. Context

We highlight the successful experience of interaction between representatives of civil society and BRICS Sherpas in providing recommendations, implemented during the Russian (2024) and Brazilian (2025) chairmanships. This format of cooperation has demonstrated its effectiveness and potential for further development of public participation mechanisms in BRICS. Our goal is to systematize and expand the practice of involving the public in the decision-making process of BRICS. National and international experiences show that social participation strengthens political legitimacy, improves governance and brings public policies closer to the real demands of the population. Creating structured spaces for participation allows a wider array of social actors to engage in policy development, beyond those traditionally close to decision-making circles. This inclusivity supports transparency, fosters accountability, and ensures more equitable representation in shaping the BRICS agenda. It is important to learn from examples of national initiatives that promote participation in BRICS, such as proposals for inclusive national councils, which form part of the institutional memory of civil BRICS and reaffirm the importance of embedding social diversity into decision-making processes. To broaden this participation and ensure that demands are more effectively considered, it is recommended that formal and ongoing spaces for dialogue be created between the BRICS Civil Council, the Sherpas and the BRICS leaders. These spaces would enable structured and recurring dialogue, allowing for greater strategic alignment and the collective construction of agendas that more accurately reflect the contributions of civil society and social movements.

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7.4.4.2. Recommendations:

Create permanent forums for dialogue between the Civil BRICS Council Sherpas and leaders, with regular meetings and agendas open to contributions.

Ensure an institutionalized space for the participation of representatives of the Civil BRICS Council in the annual BRICS Summits to address the leaders;

Include representatives of peoples impacted by BRICS projects in the debates at the civil society level (e.g., communities affected by infrastructure projects), preventing conflicts and rights violations.

Acknowledge the role of the Civil BRICS Council and their national chapters in each BRICS countries in organising the participation of civil society and social movements to draft/formulate/recommend suggestions for the BRICS leaders.

The structure of the the Civil BRICS Council is based on the principles and structure of six permanent working groups, with one lead chair (country chairing BRICS), and two co-chairs (countries from previous chairing country and one from another BRICS country), with an opportunity to lead the debates in each country and contribute to recommendations.

To channel resources and financial support to the activities of the Civil BRICS Council and their national chapters in order to facilitate the debates and sponsor an annual meeting of the Civil BRICS Council, with the representatives of each country in the Council, to have their meeting on the side-lines of the annual summit.

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7.4.5.1. Context:

We acknowledge the tremendous challenges related to the incorporation of expanded members and partners of BRICS. But the expansion of BRICS should reinforce its inclusive and cooperative character, rejecting hierarchies produced by global power asymmetries that compromise equity in international decisions.

7.4.5.2. Recommendations:

Call for BRICS governments to provide clarity on the criteria used for new members;

Call for BRICS governments to provide clarity on the formal differences between the categories of BRICS membership



FINAL NOTE

The texts were submitted for approval by the Civil Council of the BRICS and will be forwarded for consideration by the Heads of State through the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

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