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Editorial

BRICS Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance



Siphamandla Zondi 

Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation, University of Johannesburg 
Editor-in-Chief

This edition emerges in the context of major development in the evolution of BRICS in 2025. It is dedicated to ideas about consolidation of BRICS agency in various ways. The BRICS Summit in July 2025 held in Brazil focused on ways that the BRICS forum could be a catalyst for strengthening coordination among countries of the global south in the search for a more inclusive and sustainable governance. The focus was on seven forms of governance: political, security, economic, financial, cultural and people-to-people cooperation. These are crucial for the global south to emerge fully from the margins of a western-dominated world in order to contribute fully to the making of a better work for all and better lives for the people.

The summit which formally welcomed Indonesia as the 10th member and Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Uganda, and Uzbekistan as partner countries, adopted special shared positions on Climate Finance, the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence, and the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases in BRICS countries. On AI, the Summit agreed to push for global governance that upholds shared values, “addresses risks, builds trust, and ensures broad and inclusive international collaboration and access, in accordance with sovereign laws, including capacity building for developing countries, with the United Nations at its core.”

The BRICS Rio de Janeiro Vision for IMF Quota and Governance Reform outlines the forum’s position on the realignment of IMF quotas towards a more inclusive international finance system. The Summit supported Brazil’s efforts as co-chair of the World Bank Shareholding Review in advocating for the increased voice and representation of developing countries, based on a shareholding realignment. In the face of growing use of tariffs and other unilateral measures, the Summit agreed to push for reforms in the WTO to enhance its relevance and restore the credibility of the multilateral trading system.

It welcomed advanced discussions towards the New Investment Platform (NIP) and the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) focused on facilitating and expanding innovative financial practices. The BRICS Startup Forum was launched. The efforts to expand the work of the BRICS Bank were endorsed. Noted the advanced negotiations towards a BRICS Multilateral Guarantees (BMG) initiative, on the BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

A number of decisions were taken on peace and prevention of conflict including by encouraging the UN Security Council to act more pro-actively and coherently, strengthen regional mechanisms, working closely to ensure peace settlements across the world including in Gaza and Ukraine, and pursuing the respect of international humanitarian law. Yet, the reform of the Security Council and other peace architectures remain elusive.

BRICS agreed to the formulate the BRICS Common Vision and Joint Action on Enhanced Anti-Corruption Cooperation and Recovery and Return of Assets and Proceeds of Corruption in furtherance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Summit also expressed progress with the BRICS expansion both through acceptance of new members and designation of partner countries, a process that firms up the emergence of BRICS+ in earnest.

In this edition of the journal, there is discussion of investment and development issues, digitalisation and cyber-security, urban development, cultural cooperation as well as matters of power and domination (the geopolitics of BRICS). All these contribute to our better understanding of the current juncture in BRICS evolution and in projecting the future of this process of becoming. We invite more engagement with themes such as health, education, social development as well as issues of local / municipal governance and economy.

Editor-in-Chief