



BRICS RESEARCH GROUP

2022 BRICS Beijing Summit Final Compliance Report

23 June 2022 to 4 July 2023

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Preface

The BRICS Research Group has been assessing progress made by the BRICS members in implementing commitments their leaders make at each summit since the 2011 Sanya meeting. These reports monitor each member's efforts to implement a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments produced at each summit. They are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the BRICS's work more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the causes of compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the BRICS Information Centre at <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/compliance> and at the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration available at <http://www.ranepa.ru/eng/ciir-ranepa/research-areas/brics/analytics>.

This current final report analyses compliance performance by BRICS countries with 18 priority commitments selected from the 162 commitments made by the leaders at Beijing Summit on 23 June 2022. The report covers actions taken by the BRICS members to implement those commitments between 23 June 2022 and 4 July 2023, building on the interim report that assessed compliance from 23 June 2022 to 13 January 2023.

The BRICS Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports for its assessments. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments from stakeholders. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for the contents of this report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the BRICS Research Group. Please send any comments to the BRICS Research Group at brics@utoronto.ca.

John Kirton and Marina Larionova
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Introduction and Summary

The 2022 BRICS Beijing Final Compliance Report, prepared by the BRICS Research Group (based at the University of Toronto and the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration [RANEPA]), analyses compliance performance by BRICS countries with 18 priority commitments drawn from the total 162 commitments made by the leaders at the Beijing Summit, which was held virtually on 23 June 2022. This report builds on the interim compliance report, which assessed actions taken between 23 June 2022 and 13 January 2023.

Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7 compliance since 1996 and adapted for monitoring G20 performance since 2008.¹ The use of this time-tested methodology provides for cross-institutional, cross-member and cross-issue consistency and thus allows compatibility and comparability of the compliance performance by different summit institutions and establishes a foundation for evidence-based assessment of the effectiveness of these institutions.²

The methodology uses a scale from -1 (0%) to +1 (100%), where +1 (50%) indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, -1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose final results can therefore not be assessed.³ Each member receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment.

The Breakdown of Commitments

At the Beijing Summit in 2022, the BRICS leaders focused on seven pillars: strengthening and reforming global governance, working in solidarity to combat COVID-19, safeguarding peace and security, promoting economic recovery, expediting implementation of the 20230 agenda for sustainable development, deepening people-to-people exchanges and institutional development. The theme was “Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development.” The topics discussed included a brighter shared future for the international community based on mutually beneficial cooperation; the COVID-19 pandemic and disease prevention; peace, security and counter-terrorism cooperation; sustainable development and innovative means to achieve it. BRICS leaders also acknowledged the need to strengthen and reform the multilateral system.

Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (that is, the period between summits), the research team selects commitments that reflect the breadth of the BRICS agenda and the priorities of the summit’s host, while balancing the selection to allow for comparison with past and future summits.⁴ The selection also takes into account the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one

¹The Compliance Coding Manual is available at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#method>.

²Informal summitry institutions are defined as international institutions with limited membership, relatively low bureaucracy and reliance on open, flexible and voluntary approaches. Regular meetings of the heads of states and governments who engage on a wide range of international, regional and domestic politics stand at the pinnacle of such international arrangements, which involve many actors operating according to established procedures on two levels: domestic and international. Commitments contained in the collectively agreed documents are not legally binding but their implementation is stimulated by peer pressure. Among such bodies engaged in global and regional governance are G7, G20, BRICS, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and others.

³The formula to convert a score into a percentage is $P=50 \times (S+1)$, where P is the percentage and S is the score.

⁴Guidelines for choosing priority commitments, as well as other applicable considerations, are available in the Compliance Coding Manual.

(see Table 1). The primary criteria for selecting a priority commitment for assessment are the comprehensiveness and relevance to the summit, the BRICS and the world. Selected commitments must meet secondary criteria such as measurability and ability to comply within a year. Tertiary criteria include significance, as identified by relevant stakeholders in the host country and scientific teams. Of the 162 commitments made at the 2022 Beijing Summit, the BRICS Research Group selected 18 priority commitments for its compliance assessment (see Table 2).

Compliance Scores

Compliance for the 2022 Beijing Summit final report is +0.39 (69%) (see Table 3).

By country, India and China earned the highest compliance score at +0.50 (75%). South Africa followed with a score of +0.44 (72%) and Brazil earned +0.28 (64%). Russia received the lowest score of +0.22 (61%) (see Table 4).

By issue, seven commitments achieved 100% compliance: on universal health coverage, information and communications technologies and the digital economy, development and recovery in labour and employment, the macroeconomic commitment on standardization, anti-corruption law enforcement, interconnectivity of supply chains in trade, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The commitment on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships earned the next highest score, with +0.80 (90%), followed by the commitment on reforming the International Monetary Fund, with +0.60 (80%). The commitment on combating terrorism received the next highest score, with +0.40 (70%), closely by reforming the World Trade Organization and international taxation both with +0.20 (60%). The commitments on infectious diseases and on economic recovery and sustainable development in Africa both received a 0 (50%). The remaining commitments achieved less than 50% (see Table 5).

Table 1: Distribution of BRICS Commitments Across Issue Areas, 2009–2022

Issue Area	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Energy	5	9	1	2					6	2	2	3		2
Finance		3	1			6	6	5	9	5	1			2
Climate change		1	6	3	1	1	1	1	3		3	1	3	2
Macroeconomic policy		1	5	1	5	7	6	4	4	3	1	2	2	5
Trade	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	2	3	12
International co-operation	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	8	7	10
Socioeconomic	1	1	3	2		7	5	2		2				
Development	1	5	1	3	10	4	4	2	11	6	2	3	4	21
Natural disasters	1	1	1											1
Food and agriculture	3		1	1		1	17		5	3		2	1	3
ICT and digital economy			2			1	17	3	12	3	2	3	4	15
Science and education	1	1	1		2	5							1	4
Health			1	1		1	6	2	6	1		4	5	14
Human rights			1		1	2	5		2		1		3	5
Accountability			1											
Regional security	1		1	4	8	6	6	4	12	7	4	7	1	8
Terrorism			1	1	2	2	1	4	7	3	1	2	7	4
Culture		1				3	1	2	3			1		3
Sport		1												
IFI reform	1	2	1	2	9	8	3	2	5	2	2	1	1	1
Non-proliferation					1			1	2		1		2	7
Crime and corruption						4	10	3	8	6	10	3	7	7
Environment						1	1	1	3	3	3		2	1
Tourism							1			1				
International taxation										4	5	1		2
Space												1		
Inter-BRICS cooperation												1		
Intergovernmental organization reform													4	19
Peace and security													1	6
Good governance														4
Labour and employment														3
Infrastructure														1
Total	15	31	38	32	47	68	130	45	125	73	49	45	58	162

Notes: ICT = information and communication technologies; IFI = international financial institution.

Table 2: 2022 BRICS Beijing Summit Priority Commitments

	Issue Area	Commitment
1	Development: Infrastructure Investment and PPPs	We [welcome the exchange and sharing of good practices and experiences, and] encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and PPPs [public-private
2	Development: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development in Africa	We support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.
3	Intergovernmental Organization Reform: WTO Reform	We will engage constructively to pursue the necessary WTO [World Trade Organization] reform to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and LDCs [least developed countries].
4	ICT and Digital Economy: E-Commerce Consumer Protection	We also agree to promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the implementation of the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.
5	Health: COVID-19	[We stress the need to continue to strengthen the cooperation on] ... research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of COVID-19 virus.
6	Health: Infectious Disease	We support and emphasize the urgent need for the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the WHO's [World Health Organization's] Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.
7	International Taxation	We commit to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.
8	International Financial Institutions Reform: IMF Reform	We reaffirm our commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center.
9	Crime and Corruption	While respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, we are committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.
10	Terrorism	We are committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.
11	Regional Security: Afghanistan	We emphasize the need for all sides to encourage the Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation
12	ICT and Digital Economy: Open ICT Environment	We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT [information and communications technologies]-environment, [underscored the importance of enhancing common understandings and intensifying cooperation in the use of ICT and Internet.]

13	Health: Universal Health Coverage	[The BRICS countries will strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the fields of] ... Universal Health Coverage
14	Sustainable Development	We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.
15	Macroeconomics	We agree to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization and make full use of standards to advance sustainable development
16	Trade	We encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows
17	Labour and Employment: Development and Recovery	We reiterate the commitments to promote employment for sustainable development, including to develop skills to ensure resilient recovery
18	Climate Change	We express our support to] ... promote COP27 [27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] to prioritize implementation and highlight the reinforcement of adaptation and delivery and enhancement of developed countries' commitments to provide financial support and technology transfer to developing countries

Table 3: 2022 BRICS Beijing Summit Final Compliance Scores

	Issue	Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa	Average	
1	Development: Infrastructure Investment and PPPs	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+0.80	90%
2	Development: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development in Africa	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	0	50%
3	Intergovernmental Organization Reform: WTO Reform	0	-1	+1	0	+1	+0.20	60%
4	Digital Economy: E-Commerce Consumer Protection	-1	-1	0	0	-1	-0.60	20%
5	Health: COVID-19	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1.00	0%
6	Health: Infectious Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	50%
7	International Taxation	0	0	+1	0	0	+0.20	60%
8	International Financial Institutions Reform: IMF Reform	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.60	80%
9	Crime and Corruption: Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
10	Terrorism: Cross-border Movement, Terrorist Financing and Safe Havens	0	0	+1	0	+1	+0.40	70%
11	Regional Security: Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	-1	-0.20	40%
12	ICT and Digital Economy: Open ICT Environment	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
13	Health: Universal Health Coverage	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
14	Sustainable Development: 2030 Agenda Implementation	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
15	Macroeconomics: Standardization in Sustainable Development	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
16	Trade: Interconnectivity of Supply Chains	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
17	Labour and Employment: Development and Recovery	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
18	Climate Change: Supporting Implementation	0	0	-1	0	-1	-0.40	30%
	Average Final Compliance	+0.28	+0.22	+0.50	+0.50	+0.44	+0.39	69%
		64%	61%	75%	75%	72%		

Note: ICT = information and communications technologies; IMF = International Monetary Fund; PPP = public-private partnerships; WTO = World Trade Organization.

Table 4: BRICS Compliance Scores, 2019–2022

	2022 Beijing				2021 Delhi		2020 Moscow		2019 Brasilia	
	Final		Interim		Final		Final		Final	
China	+0.50	75%	+0.28	64%	+0.85	93%	+0.41	71%	+0.50	75%
India	+0.50	75%	+0.22	61%	+0.60	80%	+0.65	82%	+0.60	80%
South Africa	+0.44	72%	+0.28	64%	+0.35	68%	+0.24	62%	+0.20	60%
Brazil	+0.28	64%	+0.06	53%	+0.50	75%	+0.41	71%	+0.40	70%
Russia	+0.22	61%	-0.06	47%	+0.65	83%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%
Average	+0.50	75%	+0.13	56%	+0.53	76%	+0.44	72%	+0.44	72%

Table 5: 2022 BRICS Beijing Summit Final Compliance Scores by Commitment

1	Crime and Corruption: Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement	+1.00	100%
	Health: Universal Health Coverage		
	ICT and Digital Economy: Open ICT Environment		
	Labour and Employment: Development and Recovery		
	Macroeconomics: Standardization in Sustainable Development		
	Sustainable Development: 2030 Agenda Implementation		
	Trade: Interconnectivity of Supply Chains		
8	Development: Infrastructure Investment and PPPs	+0.80	90%
9	International Financial Institutions Reform: IMF Reform	+0.60	80%
10	Terrorism: Cross-border Movement, Terrorist Financing and Safe Havens	+0.40	70%
11	Intergovernmental Organization Reform: WTO Reform	+0.20	60%
	International Taxation		
13	Development: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development in Africa	0	50%
	Health: Infectious Diseases		
15	Regional Security: Afghanistan	-0.20	40%
16	Climate Change: Supporting Implementation	-0.40	30%
17	Digital Economy: E-Commerce Consumer Protection	-0.60	20%
18	Health: COVID-19	-1.00	0%

1. Development: Infrastructure Investment and PPPs

“We [welcome the exchange and sharing of good practices and experiences, and] encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and PPPs [public-private partnerships].”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India		0	
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+0.80 (90%)		

Background

Development is a central subject area of BRICS governance. At their first summit in 2009, the BRIC discussed development in the context of the voice and representation of developing economies in international financial institutions, as well as the Doha Development Agenda. In addition, the BRIC discussed the impact of the financial crisis on the poorest developing countries and urged the international community to provide liquid financial resources for these countries. Furthermore, the BRIC discussed the concept of sustainable development, stating that it should be “a major vector in the change of paradigm of economic development.”

At the 2010 Brasilia Summit, the BRIC emphasized that “developing countries have the potential to play an even larger and active role as engines of economic growth and prosperity.” In addition, BRIC members discussed multilateral development banks, the voice and representation of developing countries in international institutions, the Doha development round, the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), sustainable development, and development assistance.

At the 2011 Sanya Summit, the BRICS again discussed the MDGs, sustainable development, and the Doha Development Round. At this summit, the BRICS also discussed development in the context of infrastructure development in Africa. Specifically, they stated their support for “infrastructure development in Africa and its industrialization within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).”

At the 2012 New Delhi Summit, the BRICS continued to discuss issues like development financing, the Doha round, trade and development, the MDGs, sustainable development, and development in Africa. Leaders also discussed the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank for mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development.

At the 2013 Durban Summit, the development partnership with Africa was the main theme. Specifically, the BRICS discussed NEPAD and industrialization in Africa, in addition to traditional topics such as multilateral development banks (MDBs), the Doha Round, trade and development, and sustainable development. On infrastructure, the BRICS agreed on establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) for mobilizing resources for infrastructure development.

At the 2014 Fortaleza Summit, the BRICS turned their attention to development in South America and the new post-2015 development agenda, in addition to discussing traditional topics such as sustainable development, trade and development, and the Doha Agenda. The BRICS also announced the signing of the Agreement establishing the NDB with the purpose of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development.

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, the BRICS agreed to intensify cooperation with the NDB. The leaders reiterated that “the NDB shall serve as a powerful instrument for financing infrastructure investment and sustainable development projects in the BRICS and other developing countries and emerging market economies.” In addition, the leaders discussed traditional issues such as trade and development, development financing, sustainable development, the post-2015 development agenda, and industrial development. The leaders also welcomed BRICS initiatives in promoting connectivity and infrastructure development.

At the 2016 Goa Summit, the BRICS continued to discuss issues including sustainable development, development assistance, MDBs, the Doha Round, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically on infrastructure, the BRICS highlighted the importance of public and private investments in infrastructure, including connectivity, to ensure sustained long-term growth.

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit, the BRICS focused on the NDB, innovation-driven development, and sustainable development. They also agreed to further promote infrastructure cooperation.

At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, the BRICS again turned their attention to development in Africa. Specifically, they emphasized the importance of infrastructure development in Africa, noted the infrastructure financing deficit, and stated that infrastructure, investment and international development assistance projects are the bedrock for sustainable development.

At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, the BRICS returned to traditional topics such as sustainable development, development assistance, the NDB, and trade and development. On infrastructure, the leaders discussed financing for infrastructure, as well as promoting and facilitating investments in infrastructure.

At the 2020 Moscow Summit, the BRICS focused on infrastructure investment projects and public-private partnerships (PPPs). The BRICS took note of the progress made by the BRICS Taskforce on PPP and Infrastructure and agreed to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development.

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, the BRICS recognized the importance of strengthening infrastructure and information-sharing to identify investment opportunities and leverage private sector resources. BRICS members also welcomed the “Technical Report on Social Infrastructure Financing and the Use of Digital Technologies” prepared by the BRICS Taskforce on PPP and Infrastructure. In addition, they agreed to strengthen engagement with the NDB on infrastructure.

Finally, at the most recent 2022 Beijing Summit, the BRICS leaders again recognized the key role that infrastructure investment plays in facilitating sustainable development. They reaffirmed that PPPs are an effective approach to leveraging the private sector to address infrastructure gaps.

Commitment Features

In the context of discussions on the key role of infrastructure investment in facilitating sustainable development, the BRICS committed to “encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and PPPs.” This commitment has two aspects: to encourage cooperation on infrastructure investment generally and on PPPs.

To “encourage” means to urge, to spur on, or to give help or patronage to something. “Cooperation” refers to acts of joint or common effort. In this context, to encourage further cooperation means to support or spur joint actions of two or more BRICS members or between a BRICS member and another country. Thus, actions that BRICS members take domestically within their own countries do not count towards compliance, as cooperation with another country is a foundational requirement.

“Infrastructure investment” refers to financial investments in any kind of infrastructure project. As the BRICS leaders noted, the lack of adequate financing for infrastructure continues to be a binding constraint on growth in BRICS economies and other developing countries. As noted in the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, there are several ways of encouraging infrastructure investment between BRICS countries:

- improve significantly the investment climate and business environment including by stimulating competition and ensuring predictability and transparency of investment measures on a voluntary basis;
- stimulate interaction and cooperation between BRICS national investment agencies, to promote, attract and facilitate investment;
- support innovative and technological projects in primary areas of collaboration;
- raise awareness about existing intra-BRICS investment opportunities;
- enhance knowledge sharing among the BRICS members on improving business environment, including through the development of instruments aimed at facilitation of investments on a voluntary basis in order to improve their positions in international ease of doing business rankings;
- encourage cooperation of BRICS on technical assistance and capacity building provided to developing countries and especially least-developed countries among them on investment promotion and facilitation;
- attract investment in infrastructure development projects leveraging the various instruments of the New Development Bank;
- modernize industrial, transport, logistical, and other infrastructure in BRICS to facilitate infrastructural development;
- encourage development of infrastructure inter-operability to enhance air, land and sea connectivity among countries;
- create and develop safe, resilient, balanced and dynamic transnational transport and logistics systems, as well as infrastructure for information and communications technologies in urban and rural areas of the BRICS countries;
- ensure efficient city transport systems and freight movement systems, dynamic traffic control systems, and passenger-friendly services;
- foster digitalization and application of advanced technologies in the sphere of transport (including traffic management systems and road and air safety systems);
- exchange information on measures and programs concerning transport and logistics policy, adoption of relevant long-term cooperation programs;
- pursue the sustainable development of urban and rural areas, with the use of innovative technologies and exchange experience in this regard;
- promote development of smart cities among the BRICS countries;

PPPs are collaborative projects between a government agency and a private-sector company, or multiple stakeholders from the private and/or public sectors. PPPs allow large-scale government

projects to be completed with private funding. Therefore, PPPs offer an innovative way to bridge the infrastructure investment gap as they can help improve the efficiency and quality of public goods and services. As the BRICS noted in its publication *Good Practices on Public-Private Partnership Frameworks*, the PPP model is not only a tool for financing but “also a new concept of public governance and a measure of supply-side structural reform.” In addition, a government’s emphasis on promoting PPPs in infrastructure is intended to improve the socialization of public service and help improve market orientation as well as the legal and governance systems of BRICS countries. As noted in this BRICS publication, there are several distinct ways in which a country can encourage PPPs.

1. Providing political support: the government of BRICS countries can provide political support to PPPs by publicly promoting PPPs, enhancing stakeholder confidence to participate in PPPs, and creating a stable and long-term PPP market.
2. Developing a regulatory framework: BRICS members can design a well-defined regulatory framework, including a set of supporting policies, to support PPPs. Examples of areas of regulation include PPP operation, Value for Money evaluation, fiscal affordability assessments, procurement, contract management, and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.
3. Developing institutional arrangements: BRICS member countries can develop institutional arrangements to support PPPs by building up PPP institutions (that fulfil the obligations of policy research, project management, capacity building, etc.), and conducting training programs.
4. Providing incentive measures: BRICS member countries can provide policies that incentivize the private sector to engage in PPPs. For example, the government could set up a PPP preparation or financing fund, issue tax incentives, and provide project demonstration strategies.
5. Project Management: for example, the BRICS member can develop a unified project operation process, manage PPP expenditure, carry out Value for Money evaluation, regulate PPP procurement, promote information disclosure throughout the lifecycle of PPP projects, or establish an overall internet-based PPP information management platform.

The examples above are a non-comprehensive list of specific ways in which a BRICS member can support further cooperation on PPPs. Taking specific actions that fall into any of the aforementioned categories or themes counts towards compliance. To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member needs to take actions under both infrastructure investment generally and PPPs specifically, and has to take at least four distinct actions in total. For partial compliance, the BRICS member has to take at least three separate actions, either under infrastructure investment generally or PPPs specifically, or some of both. Taking any less than three distinct actions in total would result in a score of lack of compliance. Lastly, less than strong actions, such as verbal declarations of support can only count towards partial compliance. Thus strong efforts at encouragement, as outlined above are required for full compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member did not sufficiently encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment or public-private partnerships (PPPs).
0	The BRICS member somewhat encouraged further cooperation on infrastructure investment OR PPPs OR some of both resulting in at least three actions.
+1	The BRICS member strongly encouraged further cooperation on infrastructure investment AND PPPs resulting in four or more actions.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alissa Wang

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

On 21 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened with seventeen counterparts to sign the Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Global Supply Chains.⁵ The declaration aims to promote diversification and security through investments in critical infrastructure.

On 21 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Summit of Heads of State of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Associated States.⁶ The meeting established a Working Group on Physical Infrastructure to facilitate the transnational development of infrastructure across MERCOSUR member states.

On 24 August 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Alberto Franco França hosted the eighth meeting of the Brazil-India Joint Commission with Minister of Foreign Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.⁷ Minister Jaishankar praised Brazil's foreign investment in Indian information technology, machinery and energy. Additionally, Minister França thanked India's investments in Brazilian oil, mining, engineering and tractor manufacturing. Both parties expressed interest in future joint investment projects.

On 24 October 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, emphasizing the mutual importance to strengthen “regional value chains and contribute to regional integration and development.”⁸ Both parties praised cooperative infrastructure investment thus far through the mechanisms of the Inter-American Development Bank.

On 18 November 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil announced its upcoming participation in the second Investment Attraction Workshop.⁹ The initiative aims to train diplomats in charge of Trade and Investment Promotion Sectors to foster international investment in the Brazilian economy.

⁵Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Global Supply Chains, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 21 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/declaracao-conjunta-sobre-cooperacao-em-cadeias-de-suprimentos-globais

⁶MERCOSUR – Documents adopted on the occasion of the LX Summit of Heads of State of MERCOSUR and Associated States and the LX Ordinary Meeting of the Common Market Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 21 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/mercosul-2013-documentos-adotados-por-ocasio-da-lx-cupula-de-chefes-de-estado-do-mercosul-e-estados-associados-e-da-lx-reuniao-ordinaria-do-conselho-mercado-comum

⁷Joint press release on the 8th Meeting of the Brazil-India Joint Commission – Brasília, 24 August 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 24 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 October 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/comunicado-conjunto-a-imprensa-sobre-a-8a-reuniao-da-comissao-mista-brasil-india-2013-brasilia-24-de-agosto-de-2022

⁸Joint Communiqué between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and Brazil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 24 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/comunicado-conjunto-entre-os-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-do-equador-e-do-brasil

⁹II MRE-BNDES-ApexBrasil-B3 Investment Attraction Workshop, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 18 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 January 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/ii-workshop-de-atracao-de-investimentos-mre-bndes-apexbrasil-b3-1

On 6 December 2022, President Jair Bolsonaro participated in the 61st MERCOSUR Summit and contributed to the release of a joint communiqué.¹⁰ The communiqué speaks to the importance of implementing regional infrastructure projects across MERCOSUR members and associated states.

On 5 January 2023, the Government announced the reincorporation of Brazil into the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).¹¹ Participation in CELAC fosters international cooperation on a range of issues, including the digital transformation and integration infrastructure.

On 10 February 2023, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva met with American President Joseph Biden at a state visit.¹² The two representatives expressed strong interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in investment, energy and technological innovation, with a strong focus on the green transition.

On 23 February 2023, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira held a bilateral meeting with Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs João Gomes Cravinho.¹³ The two representatives sought to reinforce the Brazil-Portugal relationship and discussed cooperation in sectors including investment, energy, innovation and infrastructure.

On 14 April 2023, President Lula commissioned the Brazil-China Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change, alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping.¹⁴ The Declaration includes extensive commitments to financing the development of green infrastructure in both countries, mobilizing both public and private entities.

On 12 May 2023, Minister Vieira made an official visit to President of Guyana Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Guyanese counterpart Hugh Todd.¹⁵ Participants discussed strengthening cooperation in investment, infrastructure and the energy sector.

On 26 May 2023, Minister Vieira and UK Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs James Cleverly launched the Brazil-UK Partnership on Green and Inclusive Growth.¹⁶ The Partnership strengthens

¹⁰Joint Communiqué of the Presidents of the Member States of MERCOSUR and Associated States, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 6 December 2022. Access Date: 3 January 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/comunicado-conjunto-dos-presidentes-dos-estados-partes-do-mercosul-e-estados-associados-2

¹¹Return of Brazil to CELAC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 7 January 2023.

https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/retorno-do-brasil-a-celac

¹²Joint Communiqué on the occasion of the meeting between Presidents Lula and Biden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Washington) 10 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023.

https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/comunicado-conjunto-por-ocasio-do-encontro-entre-os-presidentes-lula-e-biden

¹³Visit to Brazil by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, João Gomes Cravinho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia)

23 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/visita-ao-brasil-do-ministro-dos-negocios-estrangeiros-de-portugal-doutor-joao-gomes-cravinho

¹⁴Brazil-China Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 14 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-conjunta-brasil-china-sobre-o-combate-as-mudancas-climaticas

¹⁵Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Guyana – Georgetown, May 12 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Georgetown) 11 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023.

https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/visita-do-ministro-das-relacoes-exteriores-a-guiana-2023-georgetown-12-de-maio-de-2023

bilateral cooperation on five pillars, including public-private investment in energy and infrastructure to facilitate the green transition.

On 5 June 2023, Minister Vieira met with Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed.¹⁷ The two delegates discussed the reinauguration of bilateral cooperation in transport, trade and investment projects.

On 26 June 2023, President Lula invited the President of Argentina to approve the Action Plan for the Relaunch of the Brazil-Argentina Strategic Alliance.¹⁸ The plan intends to further cooperation in several sectors including infrastructure, transport, energy and mining.

Brazil has taken steps to encourage cooperation in infrastructure investment and PPPs through meetings with established partners.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Timothy Tennant

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

On 4 July 2022, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin held joint talks with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov at the Innoprom International Industrial Trade Fair.¹⁹ Prime Minister Mishustin celebrated Kazakhstan's first participation in the fair and encouraged the immediate development of "production chains in industry, engineering, energy, peaceful nuclear power, transport infrastructure, and the digital economy."

On 6 July 2022, Deputy Government Chair Yuri Borisov met with Foreign Minister of Venezuela Carlos Faria to review current industrial investment partnerships and arrange future joint projects in additional sectors, including transportation.²⁰

On 7 July 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak hosted a meeting with Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Ali Salehabadi to discuss cooperative financial and industrial projects between the two countries, including investment in transport infrastructure.²¹

¹⁶ Joint Declaration for the launch of the Brazil-UK Partnership on Green and Inclusive Growth on the occasion of the official visit to Brazil of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Commonwealth and Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr. James Cleverly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 26 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-conjunta-para-o-lancamento-da-parceria-brasil-reino-unido-sobre-crescimento-verde-e-inclusivo-por-ocasio-da-visita-oficial-ao-brasil-do-secretario-de-estado-para-relacoes-exteroes-commonwealth-e-desenvolvimento-do-reino-unido-da-gra-bretanha

¹⁷ Visit to Ethiopia by the Minister of Foreign Affairs – Addis Ababa, 5 June, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Addis Ababa) 5 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 June 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/visita-a-etioopia-do-ministro-das-relacoes-exteroes-2013-adis-abeba-5-de-junho

¹⁸ Action Plan for the relaunch of the Brazil-Argentina Strategic Alliance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 26 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 July 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/plano-de-acao-para-o-relancamento-da-alianca-estrategica-brasil-argentina

¹⁹ Russian-Kazakhstani talks, The Russian Government (Moscow) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/45911/>

²⁰ Yuri Borisov meets with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Carlos Faria, The Russian Government (Moscow) 6 July 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/45938/>

On 22 August 2022, Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov met with Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Fatemi Amin to discuss new partnerships for infrastructure cooperation in sectors including auto manufacturing, shipbuilding, and railway.²² Minister Manturov expressed that "the current situation in the world is not only creating new challenges but also opening new windows of opportunity for deepening partnerships."

On 24 August 2022, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology convened for the seventh Sub-Committee on Industry Cooperation. Minister Manturov declared that agreements were made "to promote mutually beneficial projects in priority areas."²³

On 25 August 2022, Prime Minister Mishustin met with Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan Akylbek Japarov at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting.²⁴ Prime Minister Mishustin reiterated the two countries' cooperation through the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund and expressed his intention to initiate new joint cooperation projects in Kyrgyzstan, including development of transport infrastructure.

On 26 August 2022, Deputy Prime Minister for Eurasian Integration Alexei Overchuk concluded the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting.²⁵ Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk praised a selection of achieved intergovernmental commitments, including the development of transport and logistics infrastructure within the Eurasian Economic Union.

On 1 September 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk hosted the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjaev.²⁶ The two parties made progress in developing international transport connections in Central Asia and "emphasized that their bilateral partnership is of a strategic character."

On 16 September 2022, Co-Chair of the Russian-Cuban Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation Dmitry Chernyshenko convened with Cuban Ambassador to Russia Julio Antonio Garmendia Pena.²⁷ Mr. Chernyshenko affirmed Russia's support for increasing "the effectiveness of joint projects in transport and energy."

On 19 September 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk attended the Russian-Armenian Interregional Forum.²⁸ He praised Russia's involvement in the Center for the Strategic Development

²¹Alexander Novak meets with Ali Salehabadi, Governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 July 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/45957/>

²²Denis Manturov and Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Fatemi Amin discuss the prospects for industrial cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 August 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46304/>

²³Meeting of Russian-Chinese sub-commission on industry cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 24 August 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46337/>

²⁴Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with Akylbek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Head of the Presidential Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46345/>

²⁵Alexei Overchuk's comment following Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 26 August 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46356/>

²⁶Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 September 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46416/>

²⁷Dmitry Chernyshenko holds working meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba, The Russian Government (Moscow) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46536/>

²⁸Alexei Overchuk spoke at the 9th Russian-Armenian Interregional Forum, The Russian Government (Moscow) 19 September 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46553/>

of the Republic of Armenia and promoted Russian-Armenian cooperation in energy, transport and logistics. He further expressed his interest in strengthening partnerships between Russian and Armenian small and medium-sized enterprises to encourage Armenia's economic growth.

On 22 September 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan Serik Zhumangarin to expand "cooperation in developing transport and logistic links, industry, the fuel and energy sector and environmental conservation."²⁹

On 6 October 2022, the Government hosted the second Caspian Economic Forum alongside regional partners to stimulate large transnational investment projects, including transport infrastructure.³⁰ Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized that collaborative projects would "boost the development of regional markets, build up trade and industrial collaboration."

On 21 October 2022, Prime Minister Mishustin spoke at the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, stressing the importance of expanding the integration of the internal market.³¹ He affirmed that "modern infrastructure is also necessary on our common continent for the development of the Greater Eurasian Partnership."

On 28 October 2022, the Government convened with its neighboring counterparts at the meeting of the Council of Independent States.³² Head of the Federal Service for the Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare Anna Popova addressed the meeting's success in ensuring infrastructure investment cooperation among the member states, particularly concerning pandemic preparedness.

On 16 November 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with President Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan.³³ They discussed further cooperation and partnerships in transport logistics, industry, infrastructure development, as well as the fuel and energy sectors.

On 24 November 2022, First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov convened the ninth meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Investment Cooperation.³⁴ The Commission discussed bilateral cooperation on infrastructure investment, with specific focus on transport, infrastructure and green and high technologies.

On 28 November 2022, Minister Manturov met with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev to discuss the development of a Comprehensive Programme of Joint Actions.³⁵ The Programme would expand industrial cooperation between the two countries over the long term in sectors such as transport, railways and energy.

²⁹Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan Serik Zhumangarin, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46584/>

³⁰The 2nd Caspian Economic Forum, The Russian Government (Moscow) 6 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46720/>

³¹Expanded meeting of Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Moscow) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46850/>

³²Expanded meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government, The Russian Government (Moscow) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46913/>

³³Meeting of co-chairs of the Russian-Turkmen Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 2 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47052/>

³⁴Press release on the results of the ninth meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Investment Cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 2 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47130/>

³⁵Denis Manturov's meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev, The Russian Government (Moscow) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 3 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47166/>

On 10 January 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk convened with First Deputy Minister of Kazakhstan Roman Sklyar to expand industrial cooperation between the two countries.³⁶ The meeting resulted in a bilateral protocol to deepen cooperation in the railway freight industry, as well as launch Russian investment in Kazakhstan's infrastructure and energy projects.

On 19 January 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Novak met with Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Shahym Abdrakhmanov to discuss Russian investment in upgrading Turkmenistan's electric power system.³⁷ The two parties additionally discussed avenues for cooperation in the development of gas infrastructure.

On 3 February 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin participated in the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Almaty, Kazakhstan.³⁸ Participants expanded accords to co-finance industrial cooperation and improvements to national information technology systems.

On 15 February 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk chaired the meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission Council.³⁹ Meeting participants approved a measure to expand cooperation in the implementation of electric vehicle manufacturing projects, particularly through the production of vital components.

On 24 February 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Novak met with President of Abkhazia Aslan Bzhania to discuss further cooperation in the electric power industry through infrastructure loans provided by the Russian Government.⁴⁰ Further discussions concerned broader Russian investment in Abkhazia's economy.

On 3 March 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin held talks with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda on interregional cooperation as well as increased business and investment partnerships.⁴¹ The two countries signed several bilateral investment plans, including a plan of industrial cooperation.

On 20 March 2023, Minister Manturov met with Minister of Industry and Trade of Egypt Samir Saleh at the 14th meeting of the Russian-Egyptian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.⁴² The two representatives concluded the commission with a joint protocol promoting cooperation in transport, energy, industry and science, among other sectors.

On 28 March 2023, the Ministry of Transport met with the Indian Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Bilateral Cooperation for the India-Russia Working Group on Roads and Intelligent

³⁶Alexei Overchuk and First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Roman Sklyar discuss bilateral trade and economic cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47515/>

³⁷Alexander Novak meets with Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Shakhym Abdrakhmanov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 19 January 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47580/>

³⁸Expanded meeting of Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 3 February 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47681/>

³⁹Alexei Overchuk chairs Eurasian Economic Commission Council meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47802/>

⁴⁰Alexander Novak meets with President of Abkhazia Aslan Bzhania, The Russian Government (Moscow) 24 February 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47863/>

⁴¹Russia-Tajikistan talks, The Russian Government (Dushanbe) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47911/>

⁴²14th meeting of the Russian-Egyptian Intergovernmental Commission, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 March 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48036/>

Transport Systems.⁴³ Both countries presented the initiatives they created in the sectors of intelligent transport systems, road safety, transportation technology and green mobility.

On 27 April 2023, Minister Manturov met with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to discuss progress in bilateral relations.⁴⁴ The two representatives discussed the expansion of investment projects in light industry, nuclear energy and medical laboratory construction.

On 9 May 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin met with President of Kyrgyzstan SadyrJaparov to reinforce bilateral trade and investment relations.⁴⁵ Prime Minister Mishustin expressed his satisfaction with a multilateral agreement to fund the construction of nine Russian-language schools in Kyygystan.

On 23 May 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin joined his BRICS counterparts in Beijing to welcome BRICS New Development Bank President Dilma Rousseff.⁴⁶ Prime Minister Mishustin praised the bank's resilience to global financial shocks and confirmed Russia's interest to co-implement projects in trade, energy and technology cooperation.

On 8 June 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin convened with Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ali Hidayatoglu Asadov to discuss the reinforcement of cooperation in sectors such as energy, industry, shipbuilding, transport, high technology and innovation on the sidelines of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council.⁴⁷

On 16 June 2023, First Deputy Prime Minister Belousov met with Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran Mehrdad Bazrpash at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.⁴⁸ The two representatives signed a joint implementation contract for the Rasht-Astara railway and discussed increased cooperation in automobile and merchant marine traffic management.

On 23 June 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk participated in the Economic Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).⁴⁹ The CIS member countries updated the list of joint measures in response to emerging challenges to include multilateral cooperation in areas such as transport, commerce, agriculture and information and communication technologies.

Russia has taken action to encourage cooperation on infrastructure investment and PPPs through frequent negotiations with its partners.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Timothy Tennant

⁴³First Meeting of India-Russia Working Group on Roads and Intelligent Transport Systems held in New Delhi, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (New Delhi) 29 March 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1911917>

⁴⁴Denis Manturov holds several international meetings, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 April 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48366/>

⁴⁵Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan SadyrJaparov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 May 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48435/>

⁴⁶Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with BRICS New Development Bank President Dilma Rousseff, The Russian Government (Moscow) 23 May 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48552/>

⁴⁷Conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ali HidayatogluAsadov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 15 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48698/>

⁴⁸Russia and Iran discuss transport cooperation at SPIEF-2023, The Russian Government (Moscow) 16 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48782/>

⁴⁹Alexei Overchuk takes part in the CIS Economic Council meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48842/>

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

On 26 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez to review the progress made in implementing the bilateral Strategic Partnership established in 2019.⁵⁰ Both leaders agreed to enhance their engagement in the trade and investment, pharmaceutical, renewable energy, electric mobility, agriculture and food security and climate action sectors.

On 27 June 2022, Prime Minister Modi met with the South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa to review the progress made in implementing the bilateral Strategic Programme of Cooperation established in 2019.⁵¹ Both leaders agreed to increase engagement in the skill development, digital financial inclusion and trade and investment sectors.

On 16 January 2023, the Government hosted the G20 Infrastructure Working Group with member states and international organizations in attendance.⁵² The forum focused on “financing urban infrastructure, building future-ready urban infrastructure, directing fiscal investments for unlocking private financing for energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and mitigating social imbalances” in order to turn cities into economic centres of growth.

On 25 January 2023, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari met with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan Masafumi Mori and Ambassador of Japan to India Hiroshi Suzuki.⁵³ Both countries called for increased collaboration in finding effective solutions to current challenges in transportation and logistics.

On 1 February 2023, the Government made infrastructure and investment one of the seven priorities of its Union Budget for 2023-2024.⁵⁴ Capital expenditure allocation increased by 25 per cent and 15 per cent for road transport and railways, respectively.⁵⁵ The budget includes the establishment of an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund to create urban infrastructure, building digital public infrastructure for agriculture to support the agri-tech industry and the establishment of an Infrastructure Finance Secretariat to promote opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.⁵⁶

On 3 February 2023, the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare created a partnership with the Development Innovation Lab at the University of Chicago to increase

⁵⁰Meeting of Prime Minister with President of Argentina on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 26 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1837190>

⁵¹Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1837378>

⁵²G-20's First Infrastructure Working Group Meeting in Pune on January 16-17, 2023, Ministry of External Affairs (Mumbai) 14 January 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891189>

⁵³Shri Nitin Gadkari meets Japanese delegation for sustainable infrastructure development strengthening continued partnership between the two countries, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (New Delhi) 25 January 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1893726>

⁵⁴Summary of the Union Budget, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1895320>

⁵⁵PM to address post-budget webinar on 'Infrastructure and Investment – Improving Logistics Efficiency with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan' on 4th March, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (New Delhi) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1904065>

⁵⁶Summary of the Union Budget, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1895320>

innovative opportunities in digital services, weather forecasts and soil health management.⁵⁷ The partnership aims to help Indian farmers adapt to environmental shocks and improve sustainable agriculture.

On 15 February 2023, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez agreed to increase collaboration on several issues, such as digital infrastructure.⁵⁸

On 15 February 2023, the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to encourage innovation in agriculture between the government of Chile and the government of India.⁵⁹ On 28 February 2023, the National Centre for Good Governance held a capacity-building programme for civil servants of Bangladesh.⁶⁰

On 4 March 2023, the Government signed a MoU with the government of Mexico to foster innovation collaboration and promote research in infrastructure.⁶¹ The MoU aims to upscale both countries' Research Infrastructure Development and Sharing.

On 13 March 2023, the Science and Engineering Research Board signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education.⁶² The goal of the MoC is to strengthen cooperation and promote research in smart cities, transportation and future technologies.

On 15 March 2023, the Government signed an agreement with the World Bank to construct the Green National Highway Corridors, a project which will span several states in India.⁶³ The World Bank agreed to loan USD500 million for the USD1,288.24 million project which will incorporate green technologies.

On 28 March 2023, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways met with the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation on Bilateral Cooperation for the India-Russia Working Group

⁵⁷Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and The Development of Innovation Lab (DIL) at the University of Chicago sign MoU, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 3 February 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896096>

⁵⁸Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds telephone conversation with H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1899668>

⁵⁹Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Chile for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1899450>

⁶⁰2-week capacity building programmes started by NCGG for the civil servants of Bangladesh and Arunachal Pradesh, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (New Delhi) 28 February 2023. Access Date: 27 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1903055>

⁶¹India and Mexico today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on research, technology and innovation collaborations with focus on several key technology areas like Aerospace, Electronics, Earth & Ocean Sciences and Water, Mining, Minerals, Clean Energy, Biotech and Healthcare, Ministry of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1904221>

⁶²MoC to strengthen research cooperation between India and Sweden, Ministry of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 13 March 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1906550>

⁶³The Green National Highway Corridor Project to be implemented in four states with financial assistance of World Bank, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (New Delhi) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907134>

on Roads and Intelligent Transport Systems.⁶⁴ Both countries presented the initiatives they created in the sectors of intelligent transport systems, road safety, transportation technology and green mobility.

On 4 April 2023, President Smt Droupadi Murmu expressed his support for infrastructure projects in Bhutan while on a call with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.⁶⁵

On 5-6 April 2023, the Ministry of Railways held a conference in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to discuss the trans-Asian railway network.⁶⁶

On 12 April 2023, the Government discussed new technologies in infrastructure with its French counterparts during the India-France Business Summit.⁶⁷ More specifically, the two countries discussed how business could create opportunities in the green transition within the infrastructure sector.

On 14 April 2023, the Government attended the 12th session of the India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation in New Delhi.⁶⁸ Both countries acknowledged the need for increased cooperation in infrastructure, technology and innovation.

On 25 April 2023, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution signed a new Work Plan on Quality Infrastructure with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany during the ninth Annual Meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure.⁶⁹ The Work Plan 2023 aims to enhance quality infrastructure and topics such as digitalisation and smart farming.

On 28 April 2023, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Gadkari chaired the tenth meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).⁷⁰ Minister Gadkari emphasized the need for more collaboration in research and development among the SCO Member States in innovating road transport.

⁶⁴First Meeting of India-Russia Working Group on Roads and Intelligent Transport Systems held in New Delhi, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (New Delhi) 29 March 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1911917>

⁶⁵King of Bhutan Calls on the President, President's Secretariat (New Delhi) 4 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1913620>

⁶⁶Trans-Asian Railway members to finalize a regional strategy on accelerating rail digital transformation, Ministry of Railway (New Delhi) 7 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1914709>

⁶⁷Shri Piyush Goyal addresses India-France Business Summit and CEOs Roundtable, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1915761>

⁶⁸12th Session of India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation in New Delhi, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 14 April 2023. Access Date 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1916628>

⁶⁹India signs new Work Plan on Quality Infrastructure with Germany during Indo-German Working Group meeting in Berlin, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (New Delhi) 26 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1919900>

⁷⁰Shri Nitin Gadkari chairs the tenth meeting for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Transport Ministers, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (New Delhi) 28 April 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1920480>

On 10 May 2023, the Government met with its Canadian counterparts for the sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment.⁷¹ Both countries discussed enhancing cooperation in infrastructure development among other sectors.

On 17 May 2023, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and United States Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl organized the seventeenth meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group in Washington DC.⁷² Both countries discussed ways to promote defence industrial cooperation, such as technology partnership and research and development.

On 20 May 2023, Prime Minister Modi met with Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida in Hiroshima for the G7 summit.⁷³ Both leaders discussed strengthening bilateral relations in the sectors of skill development, high technology and digital public infrastructure.

On 1 June 2023, NHPC Limited, an Indian government-owned company, signed a MoU with Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited of Nepal.⁷⁴ The MoU aims to build hydropower projects in Nepal while following a public-private partnership model.

India has held several bilateral talks supporting increased engagement in developmental projects with the President of Argentina, the President of South Africa. However, it has not taken action to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and PPPs.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

On 28 June 2022, Vice-Premier Hu Chunhau called on China and France to further strengthen trade and investment cooperation on major projects.⁷⁵

On 28 June 2022, Director General of Algeria's National Highway Agency Mohamed Khaldi praised the highway project undertaken by China State Construction Engineering Corporation.⁷⁶ He noted that the project has facilitated further development in the country.

⁷¹Sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment concludes, Ministers Sh. Piyush Goyal and Ms. Mary Ng agree to enhance cooperation for coordinated investment promotion and information exchange, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 10 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1922979>

⁷²Defence Secretary and US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy co-chair seventeenth India-US Defence Policy Group meeting in Washington DC, Ministry of Defence (New Delhi) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1925015>

⁷³Prime Minister's meeting with Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1925683>

⁷⁴NHPC and VUCL, Nepal sign MoU for development of PhukotKarnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal, Ministry of Power (New Delhi) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1929103>

⁷⁵Vice-premier eyes China-France trade, investment cooperation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 28 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/huchunhua/202206/28/content_WS62baa2f7c6d02e533532cdc4.html

⁷⁶Chinese-built highway in Algeria praised for high quality, local contribution, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 29 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202206/29/content_WS62bba322c6d02e533532ce61.html

On 11 July 2022, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo to discuss new growth points and deepen further cooperation.⁷⁷ Minister Wang stated that the two countries would cooperate further to ensure the completion and opening of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway.

On 12 July 2022, Minister Wang met with Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah to speak about Chinese investment in Malaysia.⁷⁸ Both sides agreed to expedite practical cooperation and encourage the advancement of key Belt and Road projects.

On 4 August 2022, Minister Wang presented four proposals at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three foreign ministers meeting with the intention of promoting East Asian cooperation.⁷⁹ This included a proposal to set up a special donation under the framework of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund which would help ASEAN countries develop and grow.

On 7 August 2022, Minister Wang met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to discuss further bilateral cooperation.⁸⁰ Minister Wang noted that China is willing to enhance the Belt and Road Initiative with Bangladesh's Vision 2041, deepening cooperation in infrastructure, digital economy and more areas.

On 8-11 September 2022, the China International Fair for Investment and Trade was held in Xiamen.⁸¹ The fair aimed to focus on establishing further investment cooperation between various countries and companies.

On 16 September, President Xi Jinping held a trilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh where they agreed to move forward major projects in infrastructure and energy supply.⁸² This will include the construction of the Power of Siberia-2 Pipeline in 2024 which will provide transit from Russia to China through Mongolia.

On 26 September 2022, a road project constructed by a Chinese company was commissioned in Cape Coast, Ghana.⁸³ The project was part of an agreement between Sinohydro Corporation Limited and the Ghanaian government, while being strongly supported by the Chinese government.

On 21 October 2022, a Chinese government official announced that Hunan province would build a number of trade and logistics support platforms to enhance China-Africa business cooperation over

⁷⁷Indonesia, China agree to foster new growth points, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 12 July 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202207/12/content_WS62ccc4f7c6d02e533532d984.html

⁷⁸China, Malaysia agree to expand, strengthen key BRI projects, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 13 July 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202207/13/content_WS62cdfc36c6d02e533532da43.html

⁷⁹FM puts forward 4 proposals on promoting East Asia cooperation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 5 August 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202208/05/content_WS62ec6de0c6d02e533532ee47.html

⁸⁰China, Bangladesh pledge to strengthen partnership, deepen cooperation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 8 August 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202208/08/content_WS62f05ccdc6d02e533532ef37.html

⁸¹China to hold international fair to promote investment cooperation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 30 August 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202208/30/content_WS630e0d99c6d0a757729df6f7.html

⁸²China-Russia-Mongolia summit secures infrastructure and energy connectivity, enhances regional trust, The Global Times (Beijing), 16 September 2022. Access Date: 27 October 2022. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202209/1275413.shtml>

⁸³Chinese-built road project commissioned in Ghana, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), 27 September 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202209/27/content_WS6332ae99c6d0a757729e0934.html

the next five years.⁸⁴ This plan includes transactions with public sectors from South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and Zambia. This will include a trade center for non-resource products, a China-Africa cross-border renminbi settlement center, and a logistics hub to broaden channels for African products to enter China.

On 24 November 2022, China participated in the ninth meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Investment Cooperation.⁸⁵ The Commission discussed bilateral cooperation on infrastructure investment, with specific focus on transport, infrastructure and green and high technologies.

On 30 January 2023, Foreign Minister Qin Gang spoke with Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero on the phone to discuss the need to maintain cooperation and to jointly promote greater development in both countries and their respective regions.⁸⁶

On 22 February 2023, after a meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between China and Indonesia, Minister Qin Gang said that the two countries have agreed to deepen their cooperation, promoting more trade and investment.⁸⁷ This will include speeding up the construction of the Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Railway and the construction of new projects, like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Corridor. Minister Gang also stated that the government will encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Indonesia.

On 14 April 2023, President Xi Jinping met with Brazilian President Lula da Silva in Beijing and reaffirmed China's commitment to promote development in the two countries and the need to deepen cooperation in a variety of industries, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure and space.⁸⁸ Afterwards, the two leaders signed bilateral cooperation documents on several topics, including trade and investment. President Xi Jinping also pledged China's support for Latin American and Caribbean Countries, emphasizing that China will cooperate with Brazil to help achieve common development in the region.

China took actions towards encouraging further cooperation in infrastructure investment as well as PPPs, having taken four or more actions.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kunal Dadlani

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to encourage further cooperation on infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

⁸⁴Hunan-Africa trade eyes solid boost with major plans for logistics backing, China Daily (Beijing), 21 October 2022.

Access Date: 27 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202210/21/content_WS6351da0bc6d0a757729e17a6.html

⁸⁵Press release on the results of the ninth meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Investment Cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 2 January 2023.

<http://government.ru/en/news/47130/>

⁸⁶Chinese FM holds phone talks with Argentine counterpart, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 31 January 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/31/content_WS63d85752c6d0a757729e62db.html

⁸⁷China, Indonesia agree to further deepen cooperation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 22 February 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202302/22/content_WS63f617afc6d0a757729e718b.html

⁸⁸Xi, Lula map out future China-Brazil ties, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 15 April 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202304/15/content_WS6439dda0c6d03ffcca6ec4e9.html

On 27 June 2022, at the South Africa Trade and Investment Seminar in Porto, Portugal, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, praised Portuguese investment in the country and encouraged further investment.⁸⁹

On 28 June 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed issues related to trade, investment, defence and food security.⁹⁰

On 8 July 2022, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Fikile Majola encouraged Swiss investors to increase levels of investment in South Africa.⁹¹ Deputy Minister Majola highlighted the growing potential of the country and noted the growing increase in European investment in the country.

On 22 July 2022, President Ramaphosa held talks with Côte d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara that included discussions on further trade and investment cooperation.⁹² President Ramaphosa noted that the portfolio of investments in Côte d'Ivoire by South African companies has increased, specifically in the telecommunications, broadcasting, banking, and insurance sectors. The President stated that there was further opportunity for investment by both state-owned and privately owned companies in Côte d'Ivoire, especially in the agricultural, mining, oil and gas, and transport sectors, but also as the country prepares to host the 34th African Cup of Nations in 2023.

On 4 August 2022, President Ramaphosa spoke with Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana, to discuss trade and investment between the two countries.⁹³ President Ramaphosa was encouraged by the stronger investment ties between the two countries and emphasized the benefits of further investments between both countries.

On 8 August 2022, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor addressed Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken, to discuss the importance of American investment in South Africa, but also the growth of South African investments in the US.⁹⁴

On 15 October 2022, President Ramaphosa spoke after the closing session of the Saudi Arabi-South Africa Investment Conference and a state visit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss economic opportunities.⁹⁵ President Ramaphosa stated that the flow of investment between both

⁸⁹Deputy Minister Alvin Botes: South Africa Trade and Investment Seminar, South African Government (Pretoria), 27 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/keynote-address-deputy-minister-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-alvin-botes>

⁹⁰PM Narendra Modi meets South African, Indonesian Leaders, Economic Times (Mumbai), 28 June 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-narendra-modi-meets-s-african-indonesian-leaders/articleshow/92499607.cms>

⁹¹Deputy Minister Majola urges Swiss investors to increase levels of investment in SA, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria), 8 July 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/deputy-minister-majola-urges-swiss-investors-to-increase-levels-of-investment-in-sa/>

⁹²President Cyril Ramaphosa: Official Talks during State Visit by Côte d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara, South African Government (Pretoria), 22 July 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-official-talks-during-state-visit-c%3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-president>

⁹³President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa-Botswana Business Roundtable, South African Government (Pretoria), 4 August 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africa-botswana-business-roundtable-4-aug-2022-0000>

⁹⁴Minister Naledi Pandor: South Africa-United States Strategic Dialogue, South African Government (Pretoria), 8 August 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/opening-remarks-minister-international-relations-and-cooperation-dr-naledi-pandor-0>

⁹⁵President Cyril Ramaphosa: Saudi Arabia-South Africa Investment Conference, South African Government (Pretoria), 15 October 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-saudi-arabia-south-africa-investment-conference-15-oct-2022-0000>

countries is promising, and particularly focused on how South African firms can assist in the development of mining infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

On 27 October 2022, President Ramaphosa met with Pedro Sánchez, President of Spain, and held in-depth discussions on deepening trade and investment between the two countries.⁹⁶ This also included meeting and engaging with various business leaders from both countries.

On 12 May 2023, President Ramaphosa met with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and discussed the need to strengthen their longstanding economic partnership.⁹⁷ This included discussions on trade, investment, tourism promotion and skills transfer. Additionally, several business leaders from both countries were present to discuss future collaboration.

South Africa took actions towards encouraging further cooperation in infrastructure investment as well as PPPs, having taken four or more actions.

Thus, South Africa receives a +1.

Analyst: Kunal Dadlani

⁹⁶President Cyril Ramaphosa: Media briefing on official visit by President Pedro Sánchez of Spain, South African Government (Pretoria), 27 October 2022. Access Date: 29 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-media-briefing-remarks-official-visit-spain-27-oct-2022-0000>

⁹⁷President Cyril Ramaphosa hosts Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-12-may-2023-0000>

2. Development: Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development in Africa

“We support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia	-1		
India		0	
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	0 (50%)		

Background

Since South Africa became a member of BRICS, issues relating to Africa have gained increased importance in BRICS summitry. BRICS leaders’ commitments and references to the African continent have addressed important development challenges and armed conflicts. BRICS leaders have also expressed support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the New Development Bank’s activities concerning Africa. BRICS communiqués have also expressed support for the African Union (AU), its Agenda 2063, and various areas of socioeconomic development, notably infrastructure.

On 14 April 2011, at the Sanya Summit, BRICS leaders pledged to continue their cooperation in the United Nations Security Council on Libya, support infrastructure development in Africa, and foster industrialization under NEPAD. BRICS leaders reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals, highlighting that the “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is a moral, social, political and economic imperative of humankind and one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Least Developed Countries in Africa and elsewhere.”

At the 4th BRICS summit in New Delhi in 2012, BRICS leaders discussed issues in the Middle East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. The leaders stated: “we will take our cooperation forward to support their efforts to accelerate the diversification and modernisation of their economies. This will be through infrastructure development, knowledge exchange and support for increased access to technology, enhanced capacity building, and investment in human capital, including within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) ... We express our commitment to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis that still affects millions of people in the Horn of Africa and support international efforts to this end.”

On 27 March 2013, the Durban Summit was hosted by South Africa under the theme of “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization.” BRICS leaders pledged to hold a retreat with African leaders under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s potential: BRICS and Africa Cooperation on Infrastructure” to “discuss how to strengthen cooperation between the BRICS countries and the African Continent.” BRICS leaders reaffirmed their support for sustainable infrastructure development in Africa and committed to assisting African countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The 2014 Fortaleza Summit concluded with several statements on the geopolitical situations in West and Central Africa, as well as a reiteration of the commitment “made during the BRICS Leaders-Africa Retreat at the 5th BRICS Summit to foster and develop BRICS-Africa cooperation in support

of the socioeconomic development of Africa, particularly with regard to infrastructure development and industrialization.”

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders highlighted several devastating conflicts across the African continent and the Ebola crisis. The first mention of Africa by BRICS foreign ministers also took place in the context of the Ebola outbreak in 2014. On 25 September 2014, BRICS foreign ministers met in New York, where they discussed conflict hotspots in Africa, expressed support for the interim African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis and the African Stand-by Force, and called on the UN and World Health Organization to assist affected countries in addressing the Ebola outbreak.

On 22 May 2015, BRICS deputy foreign ministers met to discuss the situation in the Middle East, West Africa, and North Africa. The ministers discussed internal crises in Africa, expressed readiness to provide relevant humanitarian aid and other support to Yemen, and reiterated their support for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. In September 2015 and 2016, the ministers of foreign affairs met and discussed African efforts to resolve conflicts on the continent.

At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders welcomed the AU Agenda 2063 and pledged to “continue to engage in joint endeavors to advance Africa’s solidarity, unity and strength through support measures for regional integration and sustainable development.”

The 2017 Xiamen Declaration further underscored the BRICS members’ commitment to the African continent. The leaders “reaffirm[ed] [their] commitment to strengthen cooperation with Africa.” This declaration follows the expressed intention to “help the continent to address illegal wildlife trade, promote employment, food security, infrastructure development and industrialization including through connectivity and developmental initiatives and projects.”

The 2018 Johannesburg Summit was held under the theme “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.” BRICS leaders welcomed outreach to African countries and reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable infrastructure development in Africa.

In 2019, the BRICS Summit was held on 14 November in Brasilia. BRICS leaders recognized the efforts of the AU and the progress in Sudan, highlighting that “increased trade can help with global growth, but the demand deficit in the global economy requires additional sources of growth, which could include infrastructure investment, including in digital infrastructure, skills development, particularly for young people, sustainable investment, investment in local basic services, and outward investment to areas of high potential growth, including on the African continent.”

On 17 November 2020, BRICS leaders adopted the Moscow Declaration, in which they articulated “support for AU Agenda 2063 and the efforts towards intensified integration and development in the continent, including through implementing the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).” They noted progress on infrastructure development within the framework of NEPAD and the “importance of promoting investments with a view to supporting industrial development, creating jobs, ensuring food security, fighting poverty and providing for Africa’s sustainable development.” Most importantly (in the context of the present commitment tracked in this compliance report), the BRICS leaders reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate with Africa “with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19,” acknowledging the impact of the pandemic.

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, BRICS leaders made a brief reference to Africa in the context of making “global governance more inclusive, representative and participatory to facilitate greater and more meaningful participation of developing and least developed countries.” They also touch on continuing conflicts and violence on the continent and in the Middle East and North Africa.

At the most recent Beijing Summit, BRICS leaders reiterated the commitments made at the 2021 New Delhi Summit and previous commitments relating to AU's Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA. In addition, they called on "international agencies and philanthropists to procure vaccines and boosters from manufacturers in developing countries, including in Africa, to ensure that the manufacturing capabilities being developed are retained." BRICS leaders also commended the "efforts of African countries, the AU and sub-regional organizations to address regional challenges, including maintaining peace and security, post conflict reconstruction as well as development efforts, and call for continued support by the international community to them." Lastly, they emphasized "issues including industrialization, infrastructure development, food security, health-care, and tackling climate change for the sustainable development of Africa."

Commitment Features

The present commitment reads: "we support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era." This commitment has two components to its pledge to support Africa in the post-pandemic era: 1) economic recovery and 2) sustainable development.

To define the key words in this commitment, "support" is a high binding commitment verb understood as "the action or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity." This infers that BRICS leaders intended for new, concrete efforts to be made. For example, concrete actions can take the form of actively participating in or hosting multilateral meetings on the subject, providing financial or technical assistance to stakeholders in Africa, or contributing to the work of African governments, regional institutions, or international organizations. In other words, verbal affirmations or political statements that reaffirm the objectives of this commitment are insufficient to constitute full compliance.

In the first part of this commitment, the term "economic recovery" should be understood in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. An effective economic recovery includes getting economies and livelihoods back to pre-pandemic levels, as well as "building back better." According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, "building back better" demands triggering "investment and behavioural changes that will reduce the likelihood of future shocks and increase society's resilience," including "a focus on well-being and inclusiveness, ... alignment with long-term emission reduction goals, factoring in resilience to climate impacts, slowing biodiversity loss and increasing circularity of supply chains." In the context of this commitment, BRICS members should demonstrate support for Africa's response to the long-term and intersectional health, socioeconomic, and environmental effects of the pandemic.

In the second part of this commitment, "sustainable development" is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In articulating a global sustainable development agenda, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, otherwise known as Agenda 2030. In this context, the BRICS member should support Africa in achieving progress with regards to the Sustainable Development Goals within the compliance cycle, keeping in mind the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development in Africa.

To score full compliance, the BRICS member must demonstrate support for Africa in attaining both economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era. Both dimensions of the commitment must be addressed by strong policy actions, and actions contributing to compliance must make explicit reference to the context of the pandemic i.e. not all development efforts are included in the parameters of the commitment.

With respect to the threshold for partial compliance, a BRICS member receives a score of 0 if it only satisfies one of the two pillars of the commitment. Similarly, partial compliance is also attributed to a

BRICS member that demonstrates less than strong compliance across both components of the commitment, or strong action in one of the components and less than strong action in the other.

A BRICS member will receive a score of -1 for non-compliance in the case of inaction (i.e. lack of support therein), less than strong action in one of the two areas or actions contrary to the goal of Africa attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member DOES NOT support Africa in attaining economic recovery OR sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.
0	The BRICS member strongly supports Africa in attaining economic recovery OR sustainable development in the post-pandemic era OR some of both.
+1	The BRICS member strongly supports Africa in attaining economic recovery AND sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Angela Minyi Hou

Brazil: -1

Brazil has failed to fully comply with its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

On 16 August 2022, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the 13th Brazilian Cotton Congress.⁹⁸The Agency presented the main results of technical cooperation between Brazil and other countries in the cotton sector over the past ten years. In Africa, technical experiments were carried out in areas with a total surface of about 300 hectares, supporting the sustainable development of Africa's agriculture sector.

On 11 October 2022, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations João Genésio de Almeida Filho reiterated Brazil's commitment to inclusive growth, sustainable development, and peace and security in Africa at an open debate of the United Nations Security Council on cooperation between the UN and the African Union.⁹⁹

On 31 October 2022, Minister of Health Luiz Henrique Mandetta participated in the opening of the first milk bank in Angola, which will contribute to reduced neonatal mortality.¹⁰⁰Brazil also announced a new project for the prevention and control of cancer and a second project on comprehensive care for sickle cell anemia patients by providing training for Angolan professionals.

⁹⁸ABC participa da 13ª edição do Congresso Brasileiro do Algodão [ABC participates in the 13th edition of the Brazilian Cotton Congress]. Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasília) 30 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2021. <https://www.gov.br/abc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias-abc/13a-edicao-do-congresso-brasileiro-do-algodao-xiii-cba-presenca-da-abc-m>

⁹⁹Declaração do Representante Permanente Alternado, Embaixador João Genésio de Almeida Filho, durante reunião do Conselho de Segurança sobre a Cooperação entre as Nações Unidas e organizações regionais e subregionais: a União Africana (texto em inglês) - 11 de outubro de 2022 [Statement by the Alternate Permanent Representative, Ambassador João Genésio de Almeida Filho, during a Security Council meeting on Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations: the African Union (text in English) - October 11, 2022]. Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasília) 21 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/Brasil-CSNU/discursos-artigos-e-entrevistas/discursos/janeiro-2022/outubro-2022/declaracao-do-representante-permanente-alternado-embaixador-joao-genesio-de-almeida-filho-durante-reuniao-do-conselho-de-seguranca-sobre-a-cooperacao-entre-as-nacoes-unidas-e-organizacoes-regionais-e-subregionais-a-uniao-africana-texto-em-ingles-11-de>

¹⁰⁰Brasil exporta experiência com bancos de leite para Angola [Brazil exports experience with milk banks to Angola]. Brazil Services and Information (Brasília) 31 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 October 2022. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/saude-e-vigilancia-sanitaria/2019/11/brasil-exporta-experiencia-com-bancos-de-leite-para-angola>

On 22 May 2023, Brazil hosted a seminar entitled “Brazil-Africa: Relaunching Partnerships” to strengthen its relationship with African countries.¹⁰¹ The event discussed cooperation for development, educational exchange, and entrepreneurship.

Brazil has adopted several measures to support sustainable development in Africa, especially in the agriculture and health sectors. However, Brazil has not demonstrated support for Africa’s post-pandemic economic recovery, and its actions relating to sustainable development are also not specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of –1.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

Russia: –1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

On 15 September 2022, Russia committed to exporting 30 million tonnes of grain and 20 million tonnes of fertilizer to Asian and African countries to address the global food crisis.¹⁰²

On 24 October 2022, at the second international youth forum “Russia-Africa: What’s Next,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered a video address reaffirming Russia’s commitment to developing stronger ties and cooperating with Africa.¹⁰³

On 4 November 2022, Russia committed to send supplies of grain to poor African countries free of charge.¹⁰⁴ The decision was announced after the telephone conversation of President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of Turkey Tayyip Erdogan. Both countries participate in the Black Sea export deal that provides security guarantees for cargo ships going through the Black Sea amid the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict.

On 11 November 2022, President Vladimir Putin had a telephone call with President of the Central African Republic Faustin-Archange Touadera.¹⁰⁵ The parties addressed issues relating to bilateral cooperation in the fuel and energy sector. Also, the leaders agreed to continue interaction in strengthening the Central Africa’s sovereignty, stability and security. President Touadera expressed his intention to take part in the Russia-Africa summit to be held in the summer of 2023.

On 9 March 2023, President Putin held a telephone call with Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.¹⁰⁶ The leaders discussed issues relating to bilateral cooperation, including the delivery of

¹⁰¹Seminar "Brazil-Africa: re-launching partnerships", Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 19 May 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/seminar-brazil-africa-re-launching-partnerships>

¹⁰²Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 14 November 2022. https://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/1829920/

¹⁰³Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s video address at the second international youth forum, “Russia-Africa: What’s next?”, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 24 October 2022. Access Date: 14 November 2022. https://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/minister_speeches/1834826/

¹⁰⁴Erdogan, Putin agreed to send Russian grains to poor African countries for free, Reuters (Istanbul) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 17 February 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/erdogan-says-agreed-with-putin-grains-should-go-poor-african-countries-free-2022-11-04/>

¹⁰⁵Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with President of the Central African Republic Faustin-Archange Touadera, Kremlin (Moscow) 11 November 2022. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69823>

¹⁰⁶Telephone conversation with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Kremlin (Moscow) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/70659>

agricultural products from Russia to Egypt and the implementation of joint energy and industrial projects. Also, the two leaders agreed to continue coordinating actions to settle current crises in the Middle East and North Africa.

On 20 March 2023, President Putin spoke at the international parliamentary conference “Russia – Africa in a Multipolar World.”¹⁰⁷ President Putin touched upon issues relating to the country’s cooperation with African states. When speaking about the situation in public health sphere, President Putin expressed commitment to “step up cooperation on such important topics for Africa as medicine and healthcare, as well as ensuring biological and epidemiological safety” and to “transfer fully equipped mobile labs and modern medicines to Africans, and to train specialists.”¹⁰⁸

Russia has not made any verbal commitments or taken any concrete actions to support Africa’s post-pandemic recovery.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1 .¹⁰⁹

Analyst: Glen Hung

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

On 27 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa on the margins of the G7 summit in Elmau, Germany. They welcomed the World Trade Organization agreement that supports the production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries.¹¹⁰

On 19 July 2022, Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal stated that India plans on utilizing its knowledge in healthcare and education to deepen ties with Africa in the post-COVID world. India also plans on strengthening its partnership with Africa in areas including solar power, defense trade, healthcare, and digital infrastructure.¹¹¹

On 15 June 2023, Minister Goyal delivered the keynote address at the 18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership.¹¹² He reiterated India’s commitment to helping Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing medicines, vaccines, and other equipment. He proposed further cooperation in renewable energy, railways, supply chains, ports, and digital public infrastructure.

¹⁰⁷International Parliamentary Conference Russia – Africa in a Multipolar World, Kremlin (Moscow) 20 March 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/70745>

¹⁰⁸ International Parliamentary Conference Russia – Africa in a Multipolar World, Kremlin (Moscow) 20 March 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/70745>

¹⁰⁹This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: https://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/announcements/, <http://government.ru/en/news/>, <https://africacdc.org> and <https://www.oecd.org>

¹¹⁰Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G7 Summit, Prime Ministers Office (Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1837378>

¹¹¹India plans to strengthen its partnership with Africa in the areas of Solar Power, defence trade & military exchanges, physical and digital infra and healthcare & pharma: Shri Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 19 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1842662>

¹¹²India and Africa are natural partners with historical and cultural ties: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Delhi) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1932726>

India has verbally expressed its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic area. However, it has failed to take concrete actions to support Africa.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarah Nasir

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

On 18 August 2022, Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of Follow-up Actions of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).¹¹³ Minister Wang expressed the need for China and Africa to work together to navigate the complex situation that the COVID-19 pandemic had created.¹¹⁴

On 27 October 2022, the Mission of China to the African Union (AU) held a webinar reflecting on 20 years of cooperation. China expressed that it would align its development strategies with countries in Africa, and particularly with the AU Agenda 2063. China and Africa exchanged experiences on governance, specifically pertaining to poverty reduction, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and development. China reiterated its commitment to stand in solidarity with Africa while it fights against Ebola and COVID-19.¹¹⁵

China has established forums to exchange views on Africa's post-pandemic development and economic recovery. It has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development in Africa. However, it has only engaged in verbal commitments as opposed to concrete policy actions to realize its pledges.

On 9 January 2023, Foreign Minister Qin Gang embarked on an official visit to five African countries.¹¹⁶ Throughout his visit, he repeatedly reaffirmed the value of China-Africa cooperation in responding to and recovering from the pandemic.¹¹⁷

On 11 January 2023, Minister Gang attended the completion ceremony of the Chinese-funded Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, where he reaffirmed the positive results of cooperation

¹¹³Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's Regular Press Conference on August 19, 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 August 2022. Access Date: 14 November 2022.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/202208/t20220819_10746251.html

¹¹⁴Wang Yi Talks about the Three-point Consensus Reached at the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 August 2022. Access Date: 14 November 2022.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/wshd_665389/202208/t20220821_10747251.html

¹¹⁵Mission of China to the African Union Held a Webinar on China and AU at 20th Years: A New Starting Point through Shared Future, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 14 November 2022.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/zwbj_665378/202210/t20221028_10793690.html

¹¹⁶New Chinese foreign minister heads to Africa for first trip, Al Jazeera English (Doha) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/9/chinas-new-foreign-minister-heads-to-africa-for-first-trip>

¹¹⁷Remarks by Foreign Minister Qin Gang at the Completion Ceremony for the China-aided Project of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention Headquarters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. 11 January 2023. Access Date: 18 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202301/t20230111_11005847.html

against COVID-19.¹¹⁸ The project will accelerate Africa's pandemic emergency response and improve disease prevention and monitoring.¹¹⁹

On 7 February 2023, China unveiled the base for the China-Africa economic and trade digitalization service in Changsha.¹²⁰ The Chinese State Council Information Office later wrote an article about the impact of Chinese technology on African development, noting that Africa must tap into the potential of the digital economy, which prospered during the pandemic while traditional trade activities floundered.¹²¹

On 21 February 2023, China released a concept paper for its Global Security Initiative, a project aimed at resolving global security challenges.¹²² The paper references the persistence of COVID-19 as one of the world's major security threats and places emphasis on the China-Africa relationship. Specifically, China will support the efforts of African countries and regional organizations in fighting terrorism and resolving regional conflicts, actively implement the outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa, and work to launch pilot projects of cooperation.¹²³

On 26 May 2023, Premier Li Qiang met with Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi.¹²⁴ Premier Li stated that the countries should strengthen bilateral cooperation in infrastructure construction and mining, in addition to taking joint actions to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. Li also expressed support for the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Africa's efforts to achieve post-pandemic economic recovery and sustainable development.

On 29 June 2023, China hosted the third China-Africa Economic Trade Expo in Changsha, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and the Hunan Provincial Government.¹²⁵ One of the main events, the China-Africa Agri-Food Supply Chain Cooperation Forum, initiated a dialogue on helping African countries recover from the pandemic and helping farmers export to China to increase their income.

¹¹⁸Remarks by Foreign Minister Qin Gang at the Completion Ceremony for the China-aided Project of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention Headquarters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 January 2023. Access Date: 18 January 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202301/t20230111_11005847.html

¹¹⁹China-aided Africa CDC headquarters project completed, China International Development Cooperation Agency (Beijing) 21 January 2023. Access Date: 9 July 2023. http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2023-01/21/c_856953.htm

¹²⁰China-Africa economic, trade digitalization service base established in Hunan, China Economic Information Service (Beijing) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 8 July 2023. <https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/p/305896.html>

¹²¹Chinese technology helps Africa pursue quality development, Chinese State Council Information Office (Beijing) 16 May 2023. Access Date: 8 July 2023. http://english.scio.gov.cn/international/exchanges/2023-05/16/content_85339573.htm

¹²²The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 February 2023. Access Date: 8 July 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221_11028348.html

¹²³Global Security Initiative: China's Proposal for Solving Security Challenges, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 April 2023. Access Date: 8 July 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/zwbw_665378/202304/t20230410_11056912.html

¹²⁴Li Qiang Meets with DRC President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt_665385/wshd_665389/202305/t20230530_11086133.html

¹²⁵Welcome to Participate in the China—Africa Economic And Trade Expo, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Gambia (Banjul) 8 March 2023. Access Date: 8 July 2023. http://gm.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgxw/202303/t20230308_11037851.htm

China has established forums to exchange views on Africa's post-pandemic development and economic recovery. It has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development in Africa. It has engaged in both verbal commitments and concrete policy and funding actions to realize its pledges.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Glen Hung

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to support Africa in attaining economic recovery and sustainable development in the post-pandemic era.

On 10 October 2022, South Africa issued an addition ZAR240 to the existing ZAR480 of Child Support Grant to improve the life for children living in poverty.¹²⁶

On 11 October 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced its plan to advanced well-being and development of all citizens as well as the development priorities of developing countries including the South African Development Community and the African continent at a multilateral level.¹²⁷

On 14 October 2022, on the 52nd Airlines Association of Southern Africa Annual General Assembly, Minister of Tourism Lindiwe Sisulu announced a Tourism Recovery Plan to navigate the sector's way out of the pandemic.¹²⁸ This Recovery Plan includes support for the protection of core tourism infrastructure and stimulating demand through various campaign and marketing programs.

On 27 October 2022, in the meeting with President Pedro Sánchez of Spain, President Ramaphosa shared South Africa's implementation of an Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, intending to drive economic growth and job creation.¹²⁹ He also claimed that continue to engage on Spain's Focus Africa 2023 plan and the specific cooperation programs to foster peace, stability and sustainable development across the continent of Africa.

On 28 April 2023, South Africa chaired the 39th steering committee meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy.¹³⁰ The meeting addressed the Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) programme, which enabled hydrogen fuel cells as the primary power for field hospitals that were set up for COVID-19 patients.

¹²⁶Minister Lindiwe Zulu: Social Development Month, update on the Child Support Grant Top-Up and COVID-19 SRD. South Africa Government (Cape Town) 10 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/speech-minister-social-development-ms-lindiwe-zulu-mp-10-oct-2022-0000>

¹²⁷President Cyril Ramaphosa prepares to advance South Africa's growth and development, and international cooperation. South Africa Government (Cape Town) 11 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-prepares-advance-south-africa%E2%80%99s-growth-and-development-and>

¹²⁸Minister Lindiwe Sisulu: 52nd Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) Annual General Assembly. South Africa Government (Cape Town) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-52nd-airlines-association-southern-africa-aasa-annual-general>

¹²⁹President Cyril Ramaphosa: Official talks with President Pedro Sánchez. South Africa Government (Cape Town) 27 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-official-talks-president-pedro-s%C3%A1nchez%C2%A0official-visit-27-oct-2022>

¹³⁰Science and Innovation on 39th steering committee meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy. South African Government (Cape Town) 28 April 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/science-and-innovation-39th-steering-committee-meeting-international-partnership-hydrogen>

On 6 June 2023, the government met with organized business and established partnerships to remove obstacles to inclusive economic growth and job creation.¹³¹

On 30 June 2023, the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition announced an upcoming workshop on the implementation and operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 7 July 2023.¹³² The primary objective of this workshop is to apprise South African companies and export-ready small and medium-sized enterprises on the benefits of trading under the AfCFTA, which seeks to create a large continental market.

South Africa has adopted recovery policies that help to restore a range of public sectors like tourism and child support. It has further adopted policies to foster sustainable development in its country and continent, including through economic integration, job creation, and energy collaboration.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

¹³¹Joint Statement by South African Government and Organised Business on establishing Partnership Initiative. South African Government (Cape Town) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-statement-south-african-government-and-organised-business-establish-0>

¹³²Trade, Industry, and Competition hosts workshop on the implementation and operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, 7 Jul. South African Government (Cape Town) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-hosts-workshop-implementation-and-operationalisation-african>

3. Intergovernmental Organization Reform: WTO Reform

“We will engage constructively to pursue the necessary WTO [World Trade Organization] reform to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and LDCs [least developed countries].”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia	-1		
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa			+1
Average	+0.20 (60%)		

Background

At the 2022 BRICS summit hosted by China, the BRICS leaders reiterated their commitment to reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO). The renewal of this commitment reflects a continuation of the pledge to support the multilateral trading system and the central role of the WTO therein.

The WTO was first referenced by BRICS summitry in the context of Russia’s accession to the Organization in 2012. Adopted at the 4th BRICS summit on 29 March 2012, the Delhi Declaration acknowledged Russia’s accession as a step towards a more representative WTO system. Concurrently, BRICS leaders also emphasized the importance of upholding a rule-based multilateral trading system and rolling back protectionism.

Since 2012, BRICS members have repeatedly reaffirmed their support for an “open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system,” including at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit, the 2015 Ufa Summit, the 2016 Goa Summit, and the 2017 Xiamen Summit. At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders called on all WTO Members to avoid unilateral and protectionist measures, and recognized the importance of WTO reform “to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the organization and its capacity to better address current and future challenges.”

In the context of WTO reform, BRICS summitry has taken a specific interest in the role and representation of developing economies and least developed countries (LDCs) in the multilateral trading system. BRICS leaders advocated for the representation of developing economies at the WTO in the 2018 Johannesburg Declaration, the 2019 Brasilia Declaration, and the 2020 Moscow Declaration.

In the 2020 BRICS Moscow Declaration, and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the leaders acknowledged the crucial role of international trade in the global economic recovery. They committed to “support the necessary reform of the WTO with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO Members.” They further recognized that “the reform must, inter alia, preserve the centrality, core values and fundamental principles of the WTO, and consider the interests of all members, including developing countries and LDCs, recognizing that the majority of WTO members are developing countries.” This commitment was reiterated virtually at the 2021 New Delhi Summit.

Commitment Features

The commitment reads: “we will engage constructively to pursue the necessary WTO reform to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and LDCs.”

The word “will” is a high binding commitment verb. “Engage” is defined as the act of becoming involved or having contact with a certain subject. The scope of this term encapsulates actions such as verbal affirmations and political statements, economic and financial commitments, institutional or administrative support that is conducive to WTO reform, as per the term “engage constructively.”

To define the key concepts in this commitment, “WTO reform” refers to efforts to modernize and improve the WTO and its core functions in order to address challenges that are putting the multilateral trading system and the WTO’s role under stress. The scope of WTO reform covers a broad range of topics, including safeguarding and strengthening the WTO’s dispute settlement mechanism, reinvigorating its negotiating function, strengthening its Secretariat and more. “WTO reform” is qualified by the adjective “necessary,” which is defined as “needed in order to achieve a particular result.”

The commitment consists of four pillars of WTO reform:

1. to build an open world economy that supports trade and development,
2. to preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance,
3. to preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for supporting inclusive development, and
4. to preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and LDCs.

The first part of the commitment espouses the importance of “an open world economy that supports trade and development.” According to the World Bank, “countries that are open to international trade tend to grow faster, innovate, improve productivity and provide higher income and more opportunities to their people.” The commitment sets a specific emphasis on supporting “trade and development,” a nexus realized by provisions for special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing countries across the WTO’s agreements. For example, actions that contribute to this pillar of the commitment include further integration into global value chains, participation in market access negotiations, provision of technical assistance to low-income countries and LDCs for their participation in international trade (e.g. the Aid for Trade Initiative), and advancing the Doha Development Agenda.

The second part of the commitment recognizes that the WTO embodies the multilateral frameworks and global trade rules under which cross-border trade unfolds. The WTO is “the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations” and seeks to “ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.” Actions that contribute to this pillar of the commitment include tabling proposals in the WTO’s ongoing negotiations (including Joint Statement Initiatives), reaffirming the WTO’s role as a negotiating forum, participating actively in the Trade Negotiations Committee, and other actions that contribute to the modernizing and extension of international trade rules under the Organization’s purview.

The third part of the commitment pertains to WTO’s role in supporting “inclusive development.” As an illustrative definition, “inclusive development” can be understood to mean “societal progress that incorporates the participatory empowerment of citizens and promotes human well-being related outcomes in accordance with sustainability of societal foundations (institutions and environment).”

In the context of the WTO, this could refer to initiatives that support historically disadvantaged groups, including the participation of developing economies, fragile and conflict-affected countries, women, marginalized workers, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in trade, among others. To comply with this dimension of the commitment, the BRICS member should demonstrate leadership or support for progress in the WTO on the Organization’s work on inclusive trade.

The fourth part of the commitment articulates a specific focus on the rights and interests of WTO members, including developing countries and LDCs. To comply with this pillar, the BRICS member must make explicit reference to the standing of developing countries and LDCs in their engagements at the WTO. For example, the BRICS member can put forward proposals on S&DT provisions in ongoing WTO negotiations, engage in the work of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development, or contribute financially to technical assistance programs managed by the WTO Secretariat.

LDCs refers to a group of “low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development” that are “highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.” This designation of LDCs is made by the Committee for Development Policy Secretariat of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations.

In contrast, the term “developing countries” in the context of WTO membership is a self-declared status, rather than a designation made by a third-party such as the United Nations based on socio-economic metrics. WTO members announce their own “developed” or “developing” status. Developing countries are privy to S&DT, which can manifest in rights such as longer transition periods to implement WTO agreements, access to technical assistance and capacity-building, and eligibility for unilateral Generalized System of Preferences offered by several developed Members. S&DT provisions can be found across various WTO agreements and frameworks.

To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member must demonstrate compliance with all four pillars of the commitment. Partial compliance, or a score of 0, would be assigned if a member engages with two or three of the four abovementioned pillars. A score of non-compliance, or –1, would be attributed to BRICS members that do not take any action relating to WTO reform, or only engage with one of the four pillars of the commitment within the compliance cycle. One policy action can contribute to more than one pillars of compliance. Lastly, this report takes into account depth of compliance, i.e. such actions as verbal reiterations of support would count towards partial rather than full compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	The BRICS member engages constructively in none or one of the four pillars of the commitment.
0	The BRICS member engages constructively in two or three of the four pillars of the commitment.
+1	The BRICS member engages constructively to pursue the necessary WTO reform to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development AND promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Angela Minyi Hou

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to engage constructively to pursue the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to build an open world economy that supports

trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries.

On 24 June 2022, Brazil submitted its application to accede to the WTO's plurilateral Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft.¹³³ As part of the application, Brazil proposed tariff commitments that would adhere to the WTO's standards laid out in the agreement.

On 21 September 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Alberto Franco França attended the 10th Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting of the IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa) Dialogue Forum. During the meeting, Ministers "agreed to make all efforts to reform and strengthen the multilateral trading system and make the WTO more effective and responsive to the needs of its developing country members."¹³⁴

On 22 September 2022, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.¹³⁵ Among other items, the ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the waiver of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property and underscored the importance of technology transfer in line with the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. Additionally, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and emphasized the urgency of restoring a WTO dispute settlement system by 2024.

On 23 November 2022, the 8th review of Brazil's trade policy at the WTO was held in Geneva, Switzerland.¹³⁶ The meeting reviewed Brazil's economic performance from 2017 to 2021. On this occasion, Brazil reiterated the priority it attributes to the WTO as a pillar of the multilateral trading system and highlighted the importance of the organization and rules-based trade for sustainable development.

On 8 March 2023, United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai committed to strengthen the bilateral trade and economic partnership through the Agreement on Trade and Economic Partnership (ATEC) during a meeting with Brazil's Vice President Dr. Geraldo Alckmin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira.¹³⁷ The emphasis was on creating more resilient supply chains, investing in clean technologies and promoting workers' rights for shared prosperity. Representative Tai also expressed her commitment to reforming the World Trade Organization's negotiating

¹³³Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft - Communication from Brazil - Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 June 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/PLURI/TCA/19A1-01.pdf&Open=True>

¹³⁴INDIA-BRAZIL-SOUTH AFRICA DIALOGUE FORUM 10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting 21 September 2022, Brazil's governmental internet portal (Brasília) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022.

<https://www.gov.br/funag/en/content-centers/news/india-brazil-south-africa-dialogue-forum-10th-ibsa-trilateral-ministerial-commission-meeting-21-september2022>

¹³⁵Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/brics0922.htm>

¹³⁶Reunião da OMC discute política comercial adotada pelo Brasil de 2017 a 2021 [WTO meeting discusses trade policy adopted by Brazil from 2017 to 2021], Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 28 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2022/novembro/reuniao-da-omc-discute-politica-comercial-adotada-pelo-brasil-de-2017-a-2021>

¹³⁷Readout of Ambassador Tai's Meetings with Brazilian Government Officials, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 8 March 2023. Access Date: 9 April 2023. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2023/march/readout-ambassador-tais-meetings-brazilian-government-officials>

function, committee work and dispute resolution, underscoring the importance of working with Brazil and other members to ensure the WTO is more responsive to today's global economy's challenges and opportunities.

On 10 March 2023, the Brazilian government honored Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala with the Order of Rio Branco.¹³⁸ This award serves as a recognition of her accomplishments in the field of international trade and her contribution towards addressing global challenges like food security and climate change. The Director-General expressed gratitude and viewed the honor as recognition for the entire WTO team and their efforts to uphold the multilateral trading system.

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to WTO reform. Brazil has joined other like-minded countries in reaffirming the importance of WTO reform, with a view to promoting the rights of developing members. Brazil has also contributed to the WTO's role in setting global trade rules and governance and contributing to an open world economy by initiating its accession to the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft. However, Brazil has not demonstrated support for inclusive development.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Xiaolong (James) Wang

Russia: -1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to engage constructively to pursue the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries.

On 25 July 2022, during the WTO General Council meeting, Russia expressed the need to launch discussions on reforming the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism by 2024, emphasizing that the system should be effective, predictable and two-tiered.¹³⁹ Russia further stated that WTO members should make all possible efforts to ratify the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies as soon as feasible. Russia also reiterated that WTO negotiations should be transparent, open and inclusive.

On 17 September 2022, as agreed upon in the Joint Statement of the Economic Ministers' Meeting at the Tenth East Asia Summit, Russia and other participants recognized the importance of WTO reform.¹⁴⁰ They committed to having discussions on restoring the dispute settlement system by 2024, and resolved to strengthen an inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system.

On 22 September 2022, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.¹⁴¹ Among other items, the Ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the waiver of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and underscored the importance of technology transfer in line with the

¹³⁸DG Okonjo-Iweala receives honour from government of Brazil, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 March 2023. Access Date: 12 May 2023. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/dgno_10mar23_e.htm

¹³⁹General Council Minutes of the Meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/M200.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁴⁰THE TENTH EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING – ASEAN Media Statement, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Siem Reap) 17 September 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.indmissionasean.gov.in/pdf/press/ASEAN_Media_Statement_10th_EAS_Economic_Ministers_Meeting_17.09.2022_Cambodia.pdf

¹⁴¹Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/brics0922.htm>

Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. Furthermore, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and emphasized the urgency of restoring a WTO dispute settlement system by 2024.

On 18-19 November 2022, the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) issued a concluding declaration presenting the main outcomes of high-level talks.¹⁴² The participants welcomed the successful conclusion of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) and agreed to facilitate “the early and effective implementation of the MC12 outcomes.” The parties committed to work together to achieve progress by the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Through statements made at the General Council and in BRICS joint statements, Russia has made verbal affirmations with respect to two pillars of the commitment: the role of the WTO in setting global trade rules and promoting the rights of its members in referencing the possible extension of the TRIPS waiver and the need for technology transfer. However, these affirmations were not substantiated by concrete policy action.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to engage constructively to pursue the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries (LDCs).

On 27 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G7 summit.¹⁴³ They “welcomed the WTO agreement reached in June 2022 that supports the production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries,” recalling that they “had submitted the first proposal suggesting a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation of certain provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.”

On 6 July 2022, India and five other WTO members circulated an informal proposal and timeline on paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement during a TRIPS Council meeting at the WTO.¹⁴⁴ The proposal asked WTO members to make a decision on whether to expand the TRIPS waiver by December 2022.

On 7 July 2022, during an informal Heads of Delegation meeting, India delivered a statement commenting on the outcomes of 12th WTO ministerial conference.¹⁴⁵ Among other comments,

¹⁴²2022 Leaders' Declaration, Kremlin (Moscow) 19 November 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023.

<http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/en/KsvZ0YBXEXclg4TavY1pyQ4SZAcPMGAt.pdf>

¹⁴³Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Indian Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/35448/Meeting_of_Prime_Minister_with_President_of_South_Africa_on_the_sidelines_of_G7_Summit

¹⁴⁴Statements Delivered by India – General Council Meeting 25-26 July 2022, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (Geneva) 26 July 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/India's%20Statements%20Delivered%20at%20GC%20meeting%2025%2026%20July%202022.pdf

¹⁴⁵India's Statement at HoDs Meeting on 7th July 2022, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (Geneva) 7 July 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/India%E2%80%99s%20Statement%20during%20HoDs%20Meeting%20held%20on%207th%20July%202022.pdf

India called on members to work quickly to arrive at a common understanding on the scope of the e-commerce moratorium. Furthermore, India emphasized the need for appropriate and effective special and differentiated treatment (S&DT) in a future comprehensive agreement on fishery subsidies. It also emphasized the need for LDCs to be an integral part of the aforementioned negotiations. In addition, the government urged members to expedite the pending decision over whether to expand the scope of the TRIPS waiver. Among other things, India welcomed WTO reform debates in the General Council, and hoped to expedite work on the proposal on S&DT and the Permanent Solution to Public Stock Holding (PSH) proposal. India concluded by providing suggestions on how to improve the logistics of facilitating negotiations for 13th ministerial conference.

On 22 July 2022, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel released a written statement outlining India's position on the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.¹⁴⁶ The statement specifically proposed that WTO members who have historically provided huge subsidies or engaged in large-scale industrial fishing should take on deeper obligations with respect to prohibiting fisheries subsidies, based on the principles of polluter-pay and common but differentiated responsibilities.

On 26-27 July 2022, the Indian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO delivered several statements at the General Council. Among other comments, India stated that the inability of the WTO to find consensus on PSH was unfortunate and urged the Secretariat to reconvene the TRIPS Council in the summer. It also expressed its commitment to work towards the meaningful integration of LDCs in the multilateral trading system.¹⁴⁷ With regards to a proposed General Council decision on transparency notifications, India indicated its preference for a proposal that covered notifications from all WTO agreements, including TRIPS and the General Agreement on Trade and Services. Finally, India co-sponsored two agenda items, including one on WTO reform where India discussed at length transparency provisions in its previously tabled WTO reform paper, highlighted areas where developed countries are failing to meet their transparency obligations and asked the Secretariat to provide LDCs with capacity-building support to meet transparency obligations.

On 5 August 2022, Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam emphasized the important role India is expected to play, and should play, in trade-related discussions on labour, gender and the environment.¹⁴⁸

On 17 September 2022, as agreed upon in the Joint Statement of the Economic Ministers' Meeting at the Tenth East Asia Summit, India and other participants recognized the importance of WTO reform.¹⁴⁹ They committed to having discussions on restoring the dispute settlement system by 2024, and resolved to strengthen an inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system.

¹⁴⁶The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (Agreement) at the WTO Ministerial meeting to prohibit subsidies from being provided for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 22 July 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1843952>

¹⁴⁷Statements Delivered by India – General Council Meeting 25-26 July 2022, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (Geneva) 26 July 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/India's%20Statements%20Delivered%20at%20GC%20meeting%2025%2026%20July%202022.pdf

¹⁴⁸ The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) celebrated its 5th Anniversary and released the Fifth Anniversary issue of CTIL's Magazine, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 5 August 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848832>

¹⁴⁹ THE TENTH EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING – ASEAN Media Statement, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Siem Reap) 17 September 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.indmissionasean.gov.in/pdf/press/ASEAN_Media_Statement_10th_EAS_Economic_Ministers_Meeting_17.09.2022_Cambodia.pdf

On 21 September 2022, the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission meeting took place in New York.¹⁵⁰ Among other items, the Ministers reaffirmed the centrality of the open and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO. The Ministers also committed to restoring the dispute settlement mechanism by 2024 and emphasized that the reform should entail making the WTO more effective and responsive to the needs of LDCs.¹⁵¹ Additionally, the ministers agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Traditional Medicine among India, Brazil and South Africa in order to facilitate trade in this field, and to consult the TRIPS Council on the extension of the TRIPS waiver to COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics.

On 22 September 2022, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.¹⁵² Among other items, the ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the TRIPS waiver and underscored the importance of technology transfer in line with the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. Additionally, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and emphasized the urgency of restoring a WTO dispute settlement system by 2024.

On 22 September 2022, during the G20 Trade, Investment, and Industry Ministerial Meeting, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal urged the G20 to commit to timely discussions on issues mandated by MC12, including WTO reform and expanding the scope of the TRIPS waiver.¹⁵³ He also noted that several issues required urgent attention, including permanent solutions to the e-commerce duties moratorium, public stockholding and fisheries subsidies negotiations.

On 7 October 2022, at a meeting of the General Council, India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO Brajendra Navnit expressed opposition to an effort to discuss India's PSH programme and invocation of the "peace clause" in a group setting, as opposed to a bilateral format.¹⁵⁴

On 6-7 October 2022, at a meeting of the General Council, India and South Africa co-sponsored an agenda item to create a plan to advance progress on debating the scope of the e-commerce moratorium.¹⁵⁵ India was also one of several co-sponsors of the agenda item on expanding the scope of the TRIPS Agreement, as was similarly the case in the previous WTO General Council meeting on 26 July 2022.

¹⁵⁰10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, Indian Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/35752/10th_IBSA_Trilateral_Ministerial_Commission_Meeting

¹⁵¹Joint Communiqué of the 10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/ibsa0921.htm>

¹⁵²Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/brics0922.htm>

¹⁵³Goyal urges G20 to commit to positive and timely discussions on TRIPS waiver extension to COVID 19 diagnostics and therapeutics, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1861589>

¹⁵⁴India opposes group consultation on food subsidies programme at WTO, The Business Standard (Geneva) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-opposes-group-consultation-efforts-on-food-subsidy-programme-at-wto-122101401096_1.html

¹⁵⁵Proposed Agenda – General Council – 6-7 October 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 October 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=288425,286513,285152,284410,283435,282390,279493,278885,277469,275714&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

On 11 October 2022, during a session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development discussing the future of the Aid for Trade initiative, India presented its experience in implementing Aid for Trade activities, specifically pointing to the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, which has developed trade-related infrastructure in 66 countries.¹⁵⁶

On 20 October 2022, India hosted two side events during the WTO's Trade and Environment week.¹⁵⁷ The events showcased India's work to foster trade in solar panels and a circular economy as co-founder of the International Solar Alliance.

On 21 October 2022, during a session of the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, India reported on its key environmental policies, answered questions on their compliance with WTO rules and opined on the trade-environment nexus by expressing concern over the increasing use of unilateral trade-restrictive measures justified under the guise of environmentalism.¹⁵⁸

On 1 December 2022, India assumed its G20 Presidency.¹⁵⁹ Ahead of the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023, India outlined the six main pillars of its tenure. As part of its fifth priority, Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century, the WTO was listed as an area for reform.

On 4 December 2022, during the first Sherpa meeting of India's G20 presidency, the G20 members discussed WTO reform under a broader session pertaining to multilateral institutional reform.¹⁶⁰

On 6 December 2022, India co-sponsored a communication to other members of the TRIPS Council, calling for the General Council to immediately extend the WTO Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement from 17 June 2022 to include COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics.¹⁶¹

On 19 December 2022, similar to the prior meeting of the General Council on 6 October 2022, India and South Africa again co-sponsored an agenda item on rejuvenating the work programme on the scope of the e-commerce moratorium.¹⁶² India further circulated a communication on the status quo regarding consumer protection in e-commerce, existing international standards and guiding questions for other WTO members to consider regarding the WTO's role in regulating e-commerce.

On 11 January 2023, following the 13th Ministerial-level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum, Minister Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai noted that WTO reform

¹⁵⁶Members and partner organizations look into future priorities for Aid for Trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 11 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/aid_14oct22_e.htm

¹⁵⁷WTO Trade and Environment Week 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.wto.org/french/tratop_f/envir_f/tedweek2022_f.htm

¹⁵⁸Members affirm environment committee's importance at end of Trade and Environment Week, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/envir_21oct22_e.htm

¹⁵⁹India to pitch for WTO reforms during G20 talks, Live Mint (Bangalore) 24 March 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023 <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-to-pitch-for-wto-reforms-during-g20-talks-11679667907308.html>

¹⁶⁰Substantive discussions on India's G20 Priorities conclude on Day 3 of the 1st Sherpa Meeting at Udaipur, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 6 January 2023. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfframePage.aspx?PRID=1881220>

¹⁶¹DECISION TEXT ON EXTENSION OF THE 17 JUNE 2022 MINISTERIAL DECISION TO COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS AND DIAGNOSTICS, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/IP/C/W694.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁶²Proposed Agenda – General Council – 19-20 December 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W861.pdf&Open=True>

should build trust in the multilateral trading system and enable the WTO to better advance its foundational objectives while responding to the needs of all people.¹⁶³

On 13 January 2023, India hosted the virtual “Voice of Global South Summit,” where Minister Goyal stated that India would redouble its efforts to extend the TRIPS waiver to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics.¹⁶⁴

On 6 February 2023, India and EU established a new Trade and Technology Council (TTC), aiming to strengthen bilateral engagements on trade and technology, with an emphasis on green and sustainable development.¹⁶⁵ The two parties first mentioned the TTC on 25 April 2022, stating it was complementary to the inclusive trade work conducted at the WTO with its focus on supply chain resilience, connectivity and green technology.

On 21 February 2023, ahead of the WTO General council meeting in Geneva, India submitted a paper regarding digital public infrastructure and e-commerce.^{166,167} India's paper on the Work Programme on E-Commerce outlined issues that limited access to, and adoption of, digital technologies across public and private sectors. India presented digital infrastructure as a tool to increase inclusivity for access to services and technologies and to close the gap between developed and developing countries by mainstreaming e-commerce.

On 14 March 2023, at the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), WTO members discussed how to enhance the work of the WTO amid the rising use of trade measures for environmental objectives.^{168,169} India presented a proposal advocating against the use of unilateral measures to address climate change, including the EU's controversial carbon-border-adjustment measures. The proposal addressed environmental measures as protectionist non-tariff measures, and placed unprecedented burden on export-reliant developing and least-developed countries. India reaffirmed the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) as the founding principles of the Paris Agreements and the WTO, and criticized unilateral measures from the US and EU as prioritizing import country policies over export country capacities. This proposal drew support from countries across Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

On 24 May 2023, during the second G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal stated that India's goal is to seek a better dispute settlement

¹⁶³Joint Statement on India – United States Trade Policy Forum, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 12 January 2023. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1890606>

¹⁶⁴Shri Goyal calls for redoubling efforts for extension of TRIPS waiver to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 13 January 2023. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891087>

¹⁶⁵EU-India: new Trade and Technology Council to lead on digital transformation, green technologies and trade, European Commission (Brussels) 6 February 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_596

¹⁶⁶India knocks WTO on e-com consumers, Mint News (Bangalore) 10 February 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2023. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-knocks-wto-on-e-com-consumers-11676048828627.html>

¹⁶⁷India submits paper on digital public infrastructure on e-commerce at WTO in Geneva, CNBC TV18 (Mumbai) 10 February 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2023. <https://www.cnbcTV18.com/economy/india-submits-paper-on-digital-public-infrastructure-on-e-commerce-at-wto-in-geneva-15912861.htm>

¹⁶⁸Environment committee draws members' broad engagement, considers proposals to enhance work, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 15 March 2023. Access Date: April 16 2023. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/envir_15mar23_e.htm

¹⁶⁹WTO: India galvanizes South over North's unilateral environment measures, Third World Network (Geneva) 17 March 2023. Access Date: 16 April 2023. <https://www.twn.my/title2/wto.info/2023/ti230303.htm>

mechanism.¹⁷⁰ In preparation for the Summit, the “purpose of [TIWG] is to collaboratively work towards transparent, inclusive and development-oriented reforms that safeguard the interests of all members, particularly those of developing and least developed countries.”

India has co-sponsored a concrete work plan on the expansion of the TRIPS waiver and advocated for discussions on the e-commerce moratorium and transparency provisions. Furthermore, it has reaffirmed the role of the WTO as a negotiation forum and asked members to consider the G90 proposal on S&DT and the proposal on PSH. Moreover, India has advocated for the inclusion of S&DT provisions and the participation of LDCs in a prospective comprehensive fisheries subsidies agreement. As such, India has engaged constructively and substantively with the four pillars of this commitment.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Ashton Mathias and Grace Ho Lan Chong

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to engage constructively to pursue the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries (LDCs).

On 22 September 2022, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.¹⁷¹ Among other items, the ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the waiver of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and underscored the importance of technology transfer in line with the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. Additionally, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and emphasized the urgency of restoring a WTO dispute settlement system by 2024.

On 17 September 2022, as agreed upon in the Joint Statement of the Economic Ministers' Meeting at the Tenth East Asia Summit, China and other participants recognized the importance of WTO reform.¹⁷² They committed to having discussions on restoring the dispute settlement system by 2024, and resolved to strengthen an inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system.

On 24 September 2022, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Wang Shouwen attended the G20 Trade, Investment and Industry Ministerial Meeting virtually.¹⁷³ The Vice Minister confirmed China's goal of leading the G20 countries in implementing the outcomes of the WTO's 12th

¹⁷⁰Second G20 TIWG Meeting Concludes In Bengaluru, Presidency of the G20 (Bangalore) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/tiwig-concludes/>

¹⁷¹Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/brics0922.htm>

¹⁷²THE TENTH EAS ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING – ASEAN Media Statement, Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Siem Reap) 17 September 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.indmissionasean.gov.in/pdf/press/ASEAN_Media_Statement_10th_EAS_Economic_Ministers_Meeting_17.09.2022_Cambodia.pdf

¹⁷³商务部：中方愿同G20其他成员一道积极推动世贸组织改革 [Ministry of Commerce: China is willing to work with other G20 members to actively promote the reform of the WTO], Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 24 September 2022.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 October 2022. http://www.news.cn/2022-09/24/c_1129029704.htm

ministerial conference, promoting substantial progress on WTO reform and improving the multilateral trading system for the realization of Sustainable Development Goals.

On 8 December 2022, Premier Li Keqiang met with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WTO Director, in Huangshan City, Anhui Province.¹⁷⁴ Premier Li said that China firmly supports the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and has earnestly fulfilled its commitments since joining the WTO more than 20 years ago. He stated that China will adhere to the principle of balancing rights and obligations in the WTO, and assume responsibilities commensurate with its development and capabilities.

On 2 February 2023, as part of the 11th China Round Table on Accessions, Assistant Minister of Commerce Li Fei of China called on WTO members to expedite the accession process to support ongoing LDC accessions.¹⁷⁵ Minister Fei also stressed the importance of capacity building support for LDCs to allow them to better integrate into the multilateral trading system and enhance their participation in discussions on WTO reform.

On 26 June 2023, Premier Li met with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in Tianjin. Premier Li stated that China, as the largest developing member of the WTO, has always upheld the multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, and has met its WTO commitments for over 20 years.¹⁷⁶ He confirmed China's willingness to work with all parties to support multilateralism and free trade, oppose unilateralism and protectionism and enhance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. He also asserted that China supports necessary reforms of the WTO and will fully participate in negotiations across various fields to maintain the status of the main channel for the formulation of international rules in the multilateral trading system. This commitment underscores China's pledge to protect the rights and interests of developing countries.

On 27 June 2023, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.¹⁷⁷ Minister Wang pledged China's full involvement in the WTO reform negotiations and emphasized China's role in generating global economic growth opportunities. During the meeting, China also officially accepted the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. The meeting's aim was to foster constructive dialogue on the multilateral trading system, LDC transition and advancing negotiations on various issues like e-commerce and investment facilitation for development.

On 5 July 2023, Minister Wang jointly announced with Honduras' Minister of Economic Development the initiation of discussions on a bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁷⁸

Although China has verbally reaffirmed the importance of WTO reform and expressed a willingness to lead such efforts, it has yet to demonstrate compliance with the present commitment through concrete policy action in all four pillars. Concretely, China has engaged in market access negotiations,

¹⁷⁴李克强会见世界贸易组织总干事伊维拉 [Li Keqiang Meets with WTO Director-General Iweala], Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2023. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2022-12/09/content_5730878.htm

¹⁷⁵Eleventh China Round Table marks Lao's 10th WTO accession anniversary, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 2 February 2023. Access Date: 12 May 2023. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news23_e/acc_03feb23_e.htm

¹⁷⁶李强会见世界贸易组织总干事伊维拉 [Li Keqiang Meets with WTO Director-General Iweala], Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 26 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 July 2023. https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202306/content_6888529.htm

¹⁷⁷Minister Wang Wentao Meets with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202307/20230703419624.shtml>

¹⁷⁸China, Honduras to begin discussions on FTA, China International Import Expo (Shanghai) 5 July 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.ciie.org/zh/en/news/exhibition/focus/20230705/38070.html>

accepted and demonstrated some support for inclusive trade by accepting the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Xiaolong (James) Wang

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to engage constructively to pursue the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to build an open world economy that supports trade and development, preserve the pre-eminent role of the WTO for setting global trade rules and governance, supporting inclusive development and promoting the rights and interests of its members, including developing members and least developed countries (LDCs).

On 27 June 2022, on the sidelines of the G7 summit, President Cyril Ramaphosa met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.¹⁷⁹ They “welcomed the WTO agreement reached in June 2022 that supports the production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries,” recalling that they “had submitted the first proposal suggesting a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation of certain provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.”

On 30 June 2022, President Ramaphosa and Minister of Trade and Industry Ebrahim Patel, among others, attended the 7th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).¹⁸⁰ The SACU applauded the role of the African Ministers in reaching a deal on the TRIPS waiver during the WTO’s 12th ministerial conference.

On 6 July 2022, during a TRIPS Council meeting at the WTO, South Africa and five other WTO members circulated an informal proposal and timeline on paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement, which asked WTO members to make a decision on whether to expand the TRIPS waiver by December 2022.¹⁸¹

On 25 July 2022, during the WTO General Council meeting, South Africa co-sponsored an agenda item on expanding the scope of the 17 June 2022 Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement.¹⁸² South Africa delivered a number of statements, including pointing to the Africa Group and proposals on public stockholding as a way forward for agricultural negotiations, emphasizing the importance of targeting distant water fishing in fisheries subsidies talks, reiterating that WTO reform must result in inclusive trade and reaffirming that the current e-commerce moratorium should be extended.¹⁸³ On the possible expansion of the TRIPS waiver, South Africa expressed regret that the TRIPS Council

¹⁷⁹Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Indian Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/35448/Meeting_of_Prime_Minister_with_President_of_South_Africa_on_the_sidelines_of_G7_Summit

¹⁸⁰SACU calls for dialogue negotiation in Ukraine conflict, South African Government News Agency (Windhoek) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacu-calls-dialogue-negotiation-ukraine-conflict>

¹⁸¹Statements Delivered by India – General Council Meeting 25-26 July 2022, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (Geneva) 26 July 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/India's%20Statements%20Delivered%20at%20GC%20meeting%2025%2026%20July%202022.pdf

¹⁸²Proposed Agenda – General Council – 25-26 July 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 July 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W853.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁸³Minutes of the Meeting – General Council – 25-26 July 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/M200.pdf&Open=True>

of 8 July 2022 did not issue a factual report to the General Council, and reiterated the urgency of making a decision before December 2022. On the trade-related issues of LDCs, South Africa expressed support for appropriate support measures. On transparency measures, South Africa sought clarification on the U.S.-led revised Proposed Decision on Procedures to Enhance Transparency and Improve Compliance with Notification Requirements Under WTO Agreements.

On 17 September 2022, President Ramaphosa concluded his working visit to Washington DC.¹⁸⁴ During his meeting with U.S. President Joseph Biden, he “applauded the leadership role played by President Biden in assisting developing economies to strengthen their health systems and for support on the WTO TRIPS waiver on vaccine manufacturing.”

On 20 September 2022, South Africa published a government notice that introduced a system of market access permits for importers of various agricultural and alcohol-related products, in order to fulfill South Africa’s commitments on market access under the Marrakesh Agreement.¹⁸⁵

On 21 September 2022, the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission meeting took place in New York.¹⁸⁶ Among other items, the Ministers reaffirmed the centrality of the open and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO. The ministers also committed to restoring the dispute settlement mechanism by 2024 and emphasized that the reform should entail making the WTO more effective and responsive to the needs of LDCs.¹⁸⁷ Additionally, the ministers agreed to an IBSA Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Traditional Medicine in order to facilitate trade in this field, and to consult the TRIPS Council on the extension of the TRIPS waiver to COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics.

On 22 September 2022, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.¹⁸⁸ Among other items, the ministers stressed the need to expand the scope of the TRIPS waiver and underscored the importance of technology transfer in line with the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. Additionally, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and emphasized the urgency of restoring a WTO dispute settlement system by 2024.

On 6-7 October 2022, at a meeting of the General Council, India and South Africa co-sponsored an agenda item to create a plan to advance progress on debating the scope of the e-commerce

¹⁸⁴President Ramaphosa concludes positive Washington DC visit, Office of the President of South Africa (Pretoria) 17 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/president-ramaphosa-concludes-positive-washington-dc-visit>

¹⁸⁵APPLICATION FOR MARKET ACCESS PERMITS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN TERMS OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) AGREEMENT FOR 2023, South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (Pretoria) 20 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202209/46922gon2512.pdf

¹⁸⁶10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, Indian Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/35752/10th_IBSA_Trilateral_Ministerial_Commission_Meeting

¹⁸⁷Joint Communiqué of the 10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/ibsa0921.htm>

¹⁸⁸Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations on the margins of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa (New York) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/brics0922.htm>

moratorium.¹⁸⁹ Similar to the previous General Council meeting, South Africa again co-sponsored an agenda item on expanding the scope of the 17 June 2022 Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement.

On 6 December 2022, South Africa co-sponsored a communication to other members of the TRIPS Council, calling for the General Council to immediately extend the WTO Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement from 17 June 2022 to include COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics.¹⁹⁰

On 29 November 2022, the Department of Trade, Industry, and Commerce presented a report on South Africa's trade portfolio to the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour.¹⁹¹ On the issue of the e-commerce moratorium, the Department stated that its position was to continue working multilaterally through the Working Programme on Electronic Commerce. On WTO reform, the Department stated that South Africa wishes for reform to preserve the core principles of the WTO and its multilateral character, and that it should rebalance trade rules from the Uruguay Round to facilitate Africa's industrialization.

On 19 December 2022, similar to the prior meeting of the General Council on 6 October 2022, India and South Africa again co-sponsored an agenda item on rejuvenating the work programme on the scope of the e-commerce moratorium.¹⁹²

On 6-7 March 2023, South Africa and India co-sponsored an agenda item on reinvigorating the work programme on the scope of the e-commerce moratorium.¹⁹³ Additionally, South Africa requested an agenda item entitled "Policy Space for Industrial Development – A Case for Rebalancing Trade Rules to Promote Industrialization and to Address Emerging Challenges such as Climate Change, Concentration of Production and Digital Industrialization."

On 14 March 2023, the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition released a presentation outlining the latest iteration of South Africa's trade policy orientation.¹⁹⁴ South Africa's listed priorities for WTO reform included addressing unilateralism on climate change, preserving the core principles of the WTO and its multilateral character and rebalancing trade rules from the Uruguay Round to facilitate Africa's industrialization.

On 8-9 May 2023, South Africa and India co-sponsored an agenda item on reinvigorating the work programme on the scope of the e-commerce moratorium.¹⁹⁵ Under the same agenda item, South

¹⁸⁹Proposed Agenda – General Council – 6-7 October 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 October 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=288425,286513,285152,284410,283435,282390,279493,278885,277469,275714&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁹⁰DECISION TEXT ON EXTENSION OF THE 17 JUNE 2022 MINISTERIAL DECISION TO COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS AND DIAGNOSTICS, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/IP/C/W694.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹¹Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour – Report on South Africa's Trade Portfolio, South African Department of Trade, Industry, and Commerce (Pretoria) 29 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/SC-Trade-Policy.pdf>

¹⁹²Proposed Agenda – General Council – 19-20 December 2022, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W861.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹³Proposed Agenda – General Council – 6-7 March 2023, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W869.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹⁴Update on South Africa's trade negotiations and trade relations, South African Department of Trade, Industry, and Commerce (Pretoria) 14 March 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Trade-Relations.pdf>

¹⁹⁵Agenda – General Council – 8-9 May 2023, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W876.pdf&Open=True>

Africa additionally requested to present regarding a developmental approach to the Work Programme on E-Commerce.

On 9 May 2023, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thokoziwe Didiza declared that South Africa will push for reforms that will create a fairer agricultural trading system at MC13.¹⁹⁶

On 29 June 2023, President Ramaphosa attended the eighth SACU Heads of State and Government Summit, where Members reviewed the SACU Strategic Plan 2022-2027 for the first time.¹⁹⁷ The pillars of the Plan include trade facilitation, export promotion and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). As a regional customs union, central objectives of SACU include promoting the integration of members into the global economy through enhanced trade and investment.

South Africa contributed to an open world economy by taking steps to fulfill its market access commitments at the WTO. It contributed to the WTO's rule-making function, support for inclusive development, while also promoting the rights and interests of developing members and LDCs through ongoing work relating to the TRIPS waiver, e-commerce moratorium, and other outcomes of the WTO's 12th ministerial conference.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

¹⁹⁶Minister Thokoziwe Didiza: Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development Dept Budget Vote 2023/24, South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (Pretoria) 9 May 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/budget-and-policy-9-may-2023-0000>

¹⁹⁷President Cyril Ramaphosa participates at 8th Southern Africa Customs Union Summit in Eswatini, 29 Jun, Office of the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-participates-8th-southern-africa-customs-union-summit-eswatini-29>

4. Digital Economy: E-Commerce Consumer Protection

“We also agree to promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the implementation of the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia	-1		
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average		-0.60 (20%)	

Background

E-commerce has been an important area of discussion among BRICS leaders since 2012. At the second meeting of the BRICS trade and economic ministers in New Delhi, BRICS trade ministers began exploring the possibility of e-commerce cooperation. At the fourth meeting of the BRICS trade ministers in Fortaleza in 2014, BRICS trade ministers emphasized the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and welcomed a proposal to establish a BRICS Expert Dialogue on E-Commerce. At the fifth meeting of the BRICS trade ministers in 2015, they once again highlighted the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and welcomed the Framework for E-Commerce Cooperation as an instrument to promote BRICS partnerships in this area.

At the Ufa Summit in 2015, promoting e-commerce development and cooperation was listed as one of the goals and priority areas for BRICS trade cooperation. The leaders also endorsed the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation as an instrument to promote current and future initiatives and build close partnerships in the sphere of e-commerce. At the sixth meeting of BRICS trade ministers in 2016, the BRICS ministers reiterated the importance of BRICS e-commerce cooperation and emphasized that the development potential in this area has not been fully realized. Thus, they took note of a proposal to conduct a joint study to promote cooperation in areas of common interest in e-commerce.

The BRICS E-Commerce Working Group was officially established in 2017 at the 7th Meeting of the BRICS trade ministers in Shanghai under China’s chairmanship. At this meeting, BRICS trade ministers pointed out that “e-commerce has become one of the world’s most dynamic and constantly evolving business activities, which is playing an increasingly important role in promoting trade growth, industry transformation and job creation, and has the potential to enable developing countries and SMEs to better participate in and benefit from global value chains and international trade.” The ministers also recognized the challenges brought about by the digital divide, and the need to bridge the digital divide to address its socio-economic implications and ensure that e-commerce better contributes to inclusive growth. As such, they agreed to establish the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group, as per Annex IV of the statement adopted at the seventh meeting of the BRICS trade ministers entitled the BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation Initiative. The document stated that the working group aims to promote BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and serve as a body to coordinate intergovernmental cooperation. The working group was designed to meet periodically and conduct activities such as “exchanging information including on policy and best practices, providing guidance to the members on enhancing cooperation, and exploring a roadmap for cooperation.”

The importance of e-commerce cooperation was reaffirmed in subsequent summits by BRICS leaders and trade ministers. In the 2020 Moscow Declaration, the BRICS leaders recognized “the role of the digital economy as an important tool for modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of inclusive economic growth, support of seamless global trade and business conduct, and thus helping BRICS national economies to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.” The leaders also acknowledged the challenges arising from “the unprecedented growth of digital technologies and e-commerce” and emphasized the need to overcome the digital divide and support developing countries. In this context, the BRICS leaders committed to enhancing cooperation through the E-Commerce Working Group. They also noted “the potential for establishing a workstream to examine the experience of BRICS and other countries, as well as international associations in the field of consumer protection in e-commerce and create a basis for exploring the development of a practical framework for ensuring consumer protection in the BRICS countries.”

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, the BRICS acknowledged the significant role of digital platforms and recognized that the pandemic has played an instrumental role in accelerating the use of digital processes across the world. The BRICS also discussed the importance of bridging the digital divide and strengthening the role of digital technologies in infrastructure projects. In addition, the BRICS endorsed the Framework for Ensuring Consumer Protection in E-Commerce, which was adopted at the trade ministers’ meeting.

At the most recent 2022 Beijing Summit, the BRICS again agreed to use innovative digital tools to promote sustainable development and discussed the importance of the digital economy in mitigating the impact of the pandemic. The BRICS endorsed the BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework and welcomed the establishment of the Digital Economy Working Group by upgrading the E-Commerce Working Group. Furthermore, they paid specific attention to promoting consumer protection in e-commerce.

Commitment Features

In this commitment, BRICS members agreed to “promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the implementation of the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-commerce.”

To “promote” means to support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area. It should not have to be a new initiative, but merely to contribute to growth or prosperity of, or to help bring something into being.

“Consumer protection in e-commerce” refers to the protection of the users of e-commerce platforms. Major areas of consumer protection in e-commerce include e-transactions, privacy and data protection, cyber information security, advertising and marketing practices, and online disclosures relating to information about businesses, goods or services, and transactions.

To “advance” means to accelerate the progress of something or to bring something forward.

“Implementation” refers to the process of making something active or effective.

The BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-commerce is a document adopted by trade ministers at the 2021 New Delhi Summit. This document lists the rationale and guidelines for consumer protection, as well as specific actions that BRICS members can take to implement the goals of the Framework. Specifically, the document lists six areas of action for BRICS members. These actions count toward compliance with the commitment to implement the Framework:

1. “BRICS Members resolve to enhance cooperation through the BRICS E-commerce Working Group to examine the experience of BRICS and other countries and international associations in the field of consumer protection in e-commerce, and further explore practical options for

ensuring consumer protection and in this endeavor, actively involving representatives of the academia, civil organizations, private sector, etc.

2. With a view to promoting better understanding and to enable coordination on various aspects of e-commerce, BRICS Members may consider exchanging best practices on how regulatory frameworks are adapting to new challenges which are emerging as a result of the dynamic nature of e-commerce.
3. BRICS Members may also consider elaborating on the steps undertaken by them to address issues of consumer protection and at the same time, seek measures to control the sale of counterfeit products, catalogue rogue/fake portals, and adopt appropriate measures to support offline retailers and neighbourhood stores.
4. BRICS Members may consider developing a plan of action on the priority areas of consumer protection in the era of e-commerce.
5. To promote consumer protection in e-commerce and exchange best practices. BRICS Members may consider holding events (conference/round table) on specific aspects of consumer protection.
6. BRICS Members may consider organizing information campaigns on key issues of consumer protection in e-commerce.”

Overall, this commitment requires BRICS members to advance consumer protection in e-commerce by taking actions that fall under the six areas of action listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce, summarized above. For full compliance, BRICS members must take action in at least five of the six areas of action above. Partial compliance requires BRICS members to take action in three to four of the six areas of action above. Failing to take action in at least three of the six areas above will result in non-compliance. Further, this report applies a depth analysis, where weaker actions, such as verbal reiterations of support may count towards partial but not full compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member took action in 0 to 2 of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.
0	The BRICS member took action in 3 to 4 of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.
+1	The BRICS member took strong action in 5 to 6 of the areas of action listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alissa Wang

Brazil: -1

Brazil has failed to comply with its commitment to promote consumer protection and advance the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-commerce.

On 22 December 2022, President Jair Bolsonaro approved and signed bill 14.478, a bill that regulates cryptocurrency transactions, into law.¹⁹⁸ The bill states that violators would be penalized and criminalized for fraud regarding crypto frauds, which aims at decreasing the risks of cryptocurrency transactions among both consumers and businesses. Brazil took actions in fewer than two of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

¹⁹⁸Brazilian president signs crypto bill into law (Washington) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 13 December 2022. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/brazilian-president-signs-crypto-bill-into-law>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of –1.

Analyst: Kelly Chan

Russia: –1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to promote consumer protection and advance the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-commerce.

On 25 September 2022, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Financial Market Anthony Aksavok addressed the urgency for regulating cryptocurrencies to protect user’s digital assets and security.¹⁹⁹ Chairman Aksavok emphasized that Russia is working on using digital roubles to facilitate economic settlements with China, which can be expanded to include other states in the future.

On 13 October 2022, the Bank of Russia announced that the Forum of Innovative Financial Technologies (FINOPOLIS 2021/22) will be held 10-11 November 2022 in Moscow.²⁰⁰ The forum will focus on the prospects of Russian technological development and security, in which cybersecurity, digital mortgages and commercial biometric systems are areas that will be emphasized in the discussion:

On 23 January 2023, the Bank of Russia amended the basic standards for microfinance transactions operations.²⁰¹ The bank recommended to verify the validity of an applicant’s personal documents and credit history accuracy. In sum, the amended standards include ten new measures to increase financial services consumers’ protection against fraud.

On 15 – 17 February 2023, the Bank of Russia co-hosted the forum “Cybersecurity in Finance” in Yekaterinburg.²⁰² Public officials including Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina and business representatives attended the event. The participants discussed various topics including combatting fraud, information security staff training, cyber risk insurance, etc.

Russia took actions in two of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

Thus, Russia receives a score of –1.

Analyst: Kelly Chan

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to promote consumer protection in e-commerce by advancing the implementation of the BRICS Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

¹⁹⁹Russia plans to use digital rouble in settlements with China, says lawmaker (London) 26 September 2022. Access Date: 13 October 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/russia-plans-use-digital-rouble-settlements-with-china-says-lawmaker-2022-09-26/>

²⁰⁰FINOPOLIS 2021/22: business programme (Moscow) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=14235>

²⁰¹Issue of microloans online to become more secure, Central Bank of Russia (Moscow) 23 January 2023. Access Date: <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=14494>

²⁰²The Main Day of the Cybersecurity Forum to Star with the Panel Discussion on “Combating social engineering techniques and fraud” to be Attended by Governor of Bank of Russia Elvira Nabiullina, Central Bank of Russia (Moscow) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=14556>

On 1 July 2022, Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, launched a Grand Hackathon to promote the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).²⁰³ The ONDC helps bring buyers and sellers to a platform, democratizing the agriculture value chain and digitizing the agriculture sector. The ONDC will help small sellers and traders to participate alongside large players in the market. The ONDC will eliminate algorithmic malpractices including those that force consumers to go for some suppliers over others.

On 28 August 2022, Minister Goyal reviewed the progress of the Government e Marketplace (GeM).²⁰⁴ The minister suggested revising thresholds and adding features to improve delivery timelines. He also suggested an end-to-end online fulfilment and payment mechanism for all transactions by buyers on GeM.

On 29 August 2022, Minister Goyal called for the integration of the One District One Product (ODOP) with the ONDC. The ONDC would help the ODOP by providing a platform for both sellers and buyers.²⁰⁵ The initiative will help develop remote areas. The minister expressed the need to increase the availability of ODOP products to counter fakes in the market and called for action against those who sell counterfeit products.

On 30 August 2022, Minister Goyal chaired a meeting to review the ONDC.²⁰⁶ During the meeting, the ONDC discussed ways to help small traders get digitized and avail the opportunities of the e-commerce system. The ONDC plans to begin beta-testing its network with public users. Minister Goyal stressed the importance of the ONDC to enforce transparent return policies, address consumer grievances and to assist entrepreneurs develop e-commerce apps.

On 16 December 2022, the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Anurag Jain inaugurated an ONDC office in New Delhi.²⁰⁷ He reiterated ONDC's commitment to democratize e-commerce and empower consumers.

On 25 April 2023, Minister Goyal invited e-commerce companies to join the ONDC.²⁰⁸ He emphasized that the ONDC will benefit consumers by fostering healthy competition between sellers and allowing buyers to compare prices of products and services. The platform will foster economies of scale and better pricing and quality for consumers.

²⁰³Union Minister Shri Goyal launches a three-day "Grand Hackathon" on Agriculture domain to promote open eCommerce network, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 1 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1838674>

²⁰⁴Shri Piyush Goyal reviews the progress of Government e Marketplace, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 28 August 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854929>

²⁰⁵Integration of One District One Product (ODOP) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) will help in further expanding the frontiers of ODOP – Shri Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 29 August 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1855279>

²⁰⁶Shri Piyush Goyal Chairs progress review of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 30 August 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1855563>

²⁰⁷ONDC to democratize e-Commerce and enable millions of small traders to avail opportunities offered by e-Commerce: Secretary Shri Anurag Jain, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 16 December 2022. Access Date: 12 January 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1884249>

²⁰⁸Shri Goyal says ONDC poised for rapid growth in months ahead, invites all e-commerce companies to join, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 25 April 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1919488>

On 22 May 2023, Minister Goyal addressed the ONDC Elevate program, which provided a platform for open discussions on the trajectory of the ONDC.²⁰⁹ He noted participant feedback on democratizing digital commerce in India.

On 11 June 2023, the GeM announced the organization of buyer and seller workshops in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.²¹⁰ The workshops are to address the queries and concerns of buyers and sellers while providing them with the knowledge and resources to use the platform effectively.

India took actions in three of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarab Nasir

China: 0

China has partially complied with the digital economy commitment within the Framework of Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

On 19 September 2022, the People's Bank of China announced that the digital yuan trial program will be expanding to the whole of Guangdong, Sichuan, Hebei and Jiangsu.²¹¹ The program aims to promote the innovation of digital yuan application scenarios, the improvement of digital yuan system, and the development of legal digital currency.

On 21 September 2022, the 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee of the 15th Beijing Municipal People's Congress held a second review of the Beijing Digital Economy Promotion Regulations. The second draft proposed that people who have real difficulties in using digital public services should be provided with alternative services and products.²¹²

On 30 December 2022, the Chinese Banking and Insurance Commission has issued its Banking and Insurance Institution Consumer Rights and Interests Protection Administrative Measures.²¹³ These measures are set to come into effect starting with 1 March 2023. The purpose of these measures is to maintain a fair and just financial market environment, protect the lawful rights and interests of banking sector consumers, and expedite a healthy development of the sector.

On 8 March 2023, the China Consumer Association published a report stating that the government established a legal system for the protection of personal information with the Civil Code as its basis, and the Cybersecurity, E-Commerce and Data Security Laws as critical components.²¹⁴

²⁰⁹Open Network for Digital Commerce created to democratise the existing ecommerce ecosystem of the country: Shri Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 22 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1926375>

²¹⁰GeM to organize District level Buyer-Seller workshops in Uttar Pradesh, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Delhi) 11 June 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1931455>

²¹¹China Launches Digital Yuan App – All you need to Know. China Briefing. 22 September 2022. Access date: 31 October 2022. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-launches-digital-yuan-app-what-you-need-to-know/>

²¹²China: China Monthly Data Protection Update – October 2022. 19 October 2022. Access Date: 31 October

2022. <https://www.mondaq.com/china/data-protection/1241554/china-monthly-data-protection-update--october-2022>

²¹³China introduces new rules for protecting consumer rights. 4 January 2023. Access Date: 15 January 2023.

<https://thepayers.com/online-mobile-banking/china-introduces-new-rules-for-protecting-consumer-rights--1259688>

²¹⁴China Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Monthly Update – April 2023 Issue, Bird & Bird (London) 24 May 2023.

Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.twobirds.com/en/insights/2023/china/china-cybersecurity-and-data-protection-april-2023>

On 31 March 2023, the government committed to establishing a new regulatory body for consolidating oversight of the financial services body.²¹⁵

China took actions in three of the areas listed in the Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Thomas Yue

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with its digital economy commitment within the Framework of Consumer Protection in E-Commerce.

On 28 March 2023, the Government Gazette announced the government's amendments to End User and Subscriber Service Charter Regulations.²¹⁶ The regulatory amendments include an additional sub-regulation authorizing the government to issue consumer advisories to protect the end-users, including on fraudulent SIM swaps, number porting, and billing.

South Africa has taken preliminary measures to support and protect consumers. However, the country has not taken actions in other areas under the *Framework for Consumer Protection in E-Commerce*.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of -1.

Analyst: Thomas Yue

²¹⁵China to boost regulatory oversight of digital economy – c.bank official, Reuters (London) 31 March 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-boost-regulatory-oversight-digital-economy-cbank-deputy-governor-2023-03-31/>

²¹⁶End-User and subscriber service charter fourth amendment regulations 2023, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Centurion) 28 March 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <https://www.icasa.org.za/legislation-and-regulations/end-user-and-subscriber-service-charter-fourth-amendment-regulations-2023>

5. Health: COVID-19

“[We stress the need to continue to strengthen the cooperation on] ... research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of COVID-19 virus.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia	-1		
India	-1		
China	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Average	-1.00 (0%)		

Background²¹⁷

Vaccine cooperation has been an important area of BRICS health governance since 2017. On 4 September 2017, at the Xiamen Summit, BRICS leaders agreed to “enhance BRICS role in global health governance, especially in the context of the World Health Organization and UN agencies, and foster the development and improve the availability of innovative medical products through the promotion of research and development and access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing.”²¹⁸

On 26 July 2018, BRICS leaders adopted the Johannesburg Declaration, in which they committed to “strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries.”²¹⁹ BRICS leaders also welcomed a proposal to establish the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern under the International Health Regulations.²²⁰ In this context, on 17 November 2020, the BRICS adopted its first leader-level commitment on COVID-19. Specifically, they committed to “acknowledge initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organizations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development, and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics, and support cooperative approaches in this regard.” They further committed to “work to ensure that, when available, [the COVID-19 vaccine] is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.”²²¹

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, BRICS members again stressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and in this context recognized that “the production of COVID-19 vaccines has provided

²¹⁷This background section is an updated version of the 2020 compliance report on health (Covid-19) produced by the BRICS Research Group.

²¹⁸BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html

²¹⁹BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Johannesburg) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 2 January 2021.

²²⁰Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021.

²²¹XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

the greatest hope to conquer the pandemic and that COVID-19 extensive immunization is a global public good.”²²² In addition, the BRICS recognized the importance of safe, efficacious, accessible, and affordable vaccines and committed to supporting countries around the world in combatting the pandemic through financing, donation, local production, and facilitating the export of vaccines. Furthermore, the leaders also stressed the importance of science-based and objective assessment of the safety and efficacy of vaccines by regulators throughout the world.

Commitment Features

At the 2022 Beijing Summit, BRICS members reiterated the importance of ensuring the availability of safe, efficacious, accessible, and affordable vaccines. In this context, they committed to strengthening cooperation in the research on vaccine efficacy and safety in light of new variants of COVID-19. “Cooperation” refers to joint actions between different BRICS members or between a BRICS member and any other country. Thus, actions taken within a BRICS member country domestically do not count towards compliance.

The content of the actions that count towards compliance must be geared towards “research on the efficacy and safety” of COVID-19 vaccines. Thus, BRICS members must engage in joint cooperative efforts with other countries in support of research on COVID-19 vaccines with particular attention to their efficacy and safety. Vaccine “efficacy” is a measure of how much the vaccine lowered the risk of getting sick.²²³ Vaccine “safety” is a measure of whether the vaccines can be safely administered to different groups of people without causing disproportionate adverse effects.²²⁴ Finally, BRICS members must also conduct their actions “in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.” New variants refer to genetic variations of the original virus. Examples include previously circulating variants such as Delta, Gamma, Beta, and Alpha, and the currently, as of this writing, circulating variant, omicron.²²⁵

Overall, there are three essential aspects to achieving full compliance with this commitment. First, the BRICS member must engage in cooperative action with at least one other BRICS or non-BRICS country; second, the cooperative action must be geared towards supporting research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy; third, the supported research must take into account new variants of the COVID-19 virus. Members that merely engage in cooperative activity to support research on COVID vaccine safety and efficacy without taking into account new variants of the virus will receive only partial compliance. Finally, not engaging in any cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy results in a score of non-compliance. Further, applying a depth analysis, verbal reiterations of support do not count towards compliance, due to the language “to strengthen” suggesting “to do more than before.”

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member did not engage in cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy.
0	The BRICS member engaged in cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, NOT specifically in light of new variants of the virus.
+1	The BRICS member engaged in cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19

²²²XIII BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (New Delhi) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2022. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210909-New-Delhi-Declaration.html>

²²³Vaccine efficacy and effectiveness, WHO 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/vaccine-efficacy-effectiveness-and-protection>

²²⁴Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines, WHO 31 March 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/safety-of-covid-19-vaccines>

²²⁵Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants, WHO. Access Date: 18 September 2022. <https://www.who.int/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants>

vaccine safety and efficacy AND in light of new variants of the virus.
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Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alissa Wang

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to continue to strengthen the cooperation on research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

On 15 April 2023, President Luiz Inácio da Lula Silva committed to increase cooperation with China in the field of health to mitigate the risks of epidemics by welcoming initiatives such as the Early Warning System for Epidemics and the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.²²⁶ President Lula also pledged to promote bilateral scientific exchange in vaccine and drug production and the early fight against diseases with epidemic potential.

Brazil has verbalized its commitment to increase cooperation with China in mitigating the risks of epidemics, but it has not taken action to engage in cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, including with respect to new variants of COVID-19.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.

Analysts: Tanmaya Ramprasad and Erica Chan

Russia: -1

Russia has not complied with its commitment to continue to strengthen the cooperation on research on its efficacy and safety in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

On 30 November 2022, Russia and Vietnam held a meeting on cooperation in education, science, and technologies. The parties expressed their willingness to promote cooperation in biotechnologies and the production of COVID-19 vaccines.²²⁷

On 15 December 2022, the Ministry of Health presented a renewed version of methodological recommendations on the prevention, diagnostics and treatment of the COVID-19 virus. The 17th iteration of the document was actualized as to provide effective data for healthcare practitioners on treatment of the newest COVID-19 strain named “Cerberus.”²²⁸

Russia did not engage in cooperative activity that supports research on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy.²²⁹

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

²²⁶Joint Communiqué between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the People’s Republic of China on the Deepening of their Global Strategic Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/joint-communicue-between-the-federative-republic-of-brazil-and-the-people2019s-republic-of-china-on-the-deepening-of-their-global-strategic-partnership-beijing-14-april-2023>

²²⁷ Russia and Viet Nam to Discuss Cooperation in Education, Science and Education, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia (Moscow) 30 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.minobrnauki.gov.ru/press-center/news/mezhdunarodnoe-sotrudnichestvo/61600/>

²²⁸ The Ministry of Health of Russia has developed a new version of temporary methodological studies on the detection, diagnosis and threat of a new coronavirus infection (COVID-19), Ministry of Health (Moscow) 156 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 February 2023.

<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/15/19661-minzdrav-rossii-razrabotal-novuyu-versiyu-vremennyh-metodicheskikh-rekomendatsiy-po-profilaktike-diagnostike-i-lecheniyu-novoy-koronavirusnoy-infektsii-covid-19#downloadable>

²²⁹ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: government.ru/en, www.bbc.com, <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

Analyst: Tyler Fu

India: -1

India has not complied with its commitment to continue to strengthen the cooperation on research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

On 2 September 2022, the Serum Institute of India signed a deal with South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare to manufacture four vaccines used in Africa, which will be made in South Africa using products from bulk drug substances supplied by India's Serum Institute.²³⁰ The deal has been praised for saving local vaccine production in Africa, as it was at risk of shutting down after receiving no orders for a COVID vaccine.

India has acted cooperatively in manufacturing vaccines with South Africa, but it has not taken action to support research into COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, including vaccines for variants of COVID-19.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.

Analysts: Tanmaya Ramprasad and Erica Chan

China: -1

China has not complied with its commitment to with its commitment to continue to strengthen the cooperation on research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

The Chinese government has not actively cooperated with international partners to facilitate research into the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccines as a protection against future variants of the virus in the time since the last BRICS Summit.²³¹

Thus, China receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Tyler Fu

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with its commitment to continue to strengthen the cooperation on research on their efficacy and safety in light of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

South Africa has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments to engage in cooperative action with other BRICS members on addressing efficacy and safety regarding new variants of the COVID-19 virus.²³²

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Kelley Prendergast

²³⁰South Africa Reaches Deal With India to Boost Domestic Vaccine Production, Voice of America (Cape Town) 2 September 2022. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.voanews.com/a/south-africa-reaches-deal-with-india-to-boost-domestic-vaccine-production/6728592.html>

²³¹This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: www.gov.cn/en, www.bbc.com, <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

²³²This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gov.za/>, <https://www.who.int/>, <https://www.bbc.com/>

6. Health: Infectious Diseases

“We support and emphasize the urgent need for the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the WHO’s [World Health Organization’s] Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average		0 (50%)	

Background

The discussion surrounding the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System did not begin until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the general subject area of BRICS cooperation on health has been a long-standing discussion. The BRICS first discussed health at the 2011 Sanya Summit, where the leaders committed to “strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of social protection, decent work, gender equality, youth, and public health, including the fight against HIV/AIDS.”²³³ At the subsequent 2012 New Delhi Summit, the BRICS leaders made a general commitment to address common public health challenges, including the growing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.²³⁴

The next discussion on health came at the 2015 Ufa Summit, where the BRICS affirmed “the right of every person” to “the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”²³⁵ The leaders similarly expressed their concern with growing global threats posed by communicable and non-communicable diseases. In addition, the BRICS agreed to work together in risk management related to emerging infections with pandemic potential, compliance with commitments to stop the spread of communicable diseases, and research, develop, produce and supply medicines for communicable diseases.

At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders emphasized the “importance of cooperation among BRICS countries in promoting research and development of medicines and diagnostic tools to end epidemics and to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines.”²³⁶

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit, BRICS leaders agreed to enhance the BRICS role in global health governance, “especially in the context of the World Health Organization and United Nations agencies, and foster the development and improve the availability of innovative medical products through promotion of research and development and access to affordable, quality, effective and safe

²³³Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Sanya) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

²³⁴Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (New Delhi) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

²³⁵VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Ufa) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 11 November 2021. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

²³⁶8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Goa) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html>

drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing.”²³⁷ They also agreed to improve surveillance capacity and medical services to combat infectious diseases, including Ebola, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as non-communicable diseases, and encouraged the greater application of information and communications technologies to improve the level of health service provision.

At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders emphasized “the importance of [BRICS] collective action in promoting research and development of medicines and diagnostic tools to end epidemics, to combat communicable diseases and to facilitate access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, as well as activities to strengthen non-communicable diseases prevention.”²³⁸

At the 2020 Moscow Summit, the BRICS reiterated their commitment to strengthening BRICS cooperation in addressing health challenges. Specifically, in the context of discussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BRICS noted Russia’s proposal to set up the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks.”²³⁹

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, BRICS members built on their previous discussions and agreed to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation on preparedness and response to the pandemic. Specifically, they supported the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks in accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Global Outbreak Alert (GOARN) and Response Network of the World Health Organization (WHO).²⁴⁰ This commitment was reiterated at the 2022 Beijing Summit.²⁴¹

Commitment Features

In this commitment, “support” means to give assistance to, promote the interests of, assist, provide financial assistance for,²⁴² or back up an initiative or entity.²⁴³ “Progress” refers to a forward movement or the gradual betterment of something,²⁴⁴ in this case, the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System.

The “BRICS Integrated Early Warning System” is the name of a system proposed by Russia at the 2020 Moscow Summit. The aim of this system is to prevent mass infectious disease risks and provide a platform for institutional collaboration on identifying upcoming pandemics and forecasting future outbreaks.²⁴⁵ “Mass infectious diseases” are diseases with the potential for mass infection, such as

²³⁷BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

²³⁸Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Brasilia) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>

²³⁹XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 11 November 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

²⁴⁰XIII BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (New Delhi) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2022. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210909-New-Delhi-Declaration.html>

²⁴¹XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Beijing) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 18 September 2022. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/220623-declaration.html>

²⁴²Definition of Support, Merriam Webster. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support>

²⁴³Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 2 November 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁴⁴Definition of Progress, Merriam Webster. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/progress>

²⁴⁵XI BRICS Health Ministers’ Meeting Declaration, BRICS India Summit Official Website, July 2021. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-29.pdf>

diseases that result from infection from the entrance of a large number of pathogens into the circulation or tissues.²⁴⁶

The “International Health Regulations 2005” is the third edition of the IHR originally adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1969. This document discusses issues related to the management of the global regime for the control of the international spread of disease. The purpose of the 2005 edition is “to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.”²⁴⁷

GOARN is a network of institutions established in 2000 with the aim of improving the coordination of international outbreak responses. It consists of a network of over 250 technical institutions that respond to public health events. Specifically, its primary aims are to “assist countries with disease control efforts by ensuring rapid and appropriate technical support to affected populations; investigate and characterize events and assess risks of rapidly emerging epidemic disease threats; and support national outbreak preparedness by ensuring that responses contribute to sustained containment of epidemic threats.”²⁴⁸

“Identifying” means to know and pinpoint what something is.²⁴⁹ In this context, “identify” refers to the identification of particular diseases. “Forecasting” means to predict in advance a future happening or condition.²⁵⁰ In this context, forecasting refers to foreseeing instances of outbreaks of future pandemics. “Institutional collaboration” refers to the collaboration between institutions that respond to public health events, such as those in the GOARN.²⁵¹

This commitment requires states to engage in actions that support progress towards establishing the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System. As noted in the commitment text, the aim of this system is to prevent mass infectious disease risks by identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration. The commitment text also notes that the system needs to be established in accordance with the IHR 2005 and the GOARN. The BRICS Integrated Early Warning System is currently only a proposed initiative that has yet to come to fruition, and support at this initial stage of development can take several forms. For example:

1. A BRICS member can provide verbal or political assistance by affirming their commitment to the establishment of the system, or by affirming the value of this system. This corresponds with the definition of “support” as backing up an initiative or entity. Providing verbal reiterations count towards partial compliance.
2. A BRICS member can also act in a way that promotes the interests or aims of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning system. This corresponds with the definition of “support” as promoting the interests of an initiative or entity. A wide range of actions can count towards compliance under this category. For example:

²⁴⁶Mass Infection, Medical Dictionary. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/mass+infection>

²⁴⁷International Health Regulations (2005) Third Edition, World Health Organization. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496>

²⁴⁸Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, World Health Organization. Access Date: 12 November 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/outbreaknetwork/goarnenglish.pdf>

²⁴⁹Definition of Identify, Merriam Webster. Access Date: 12 November, 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/identify>

²⁵⁰Definition of Forecast, Merriam Webster. Access Date: 12 November, 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/forecast>

²⁵¹About Us, GOARN. Access Date: 12 November, 2021. <https://extranet.who.int/goarn/about-us>

- a. Engaging in collaborative efforts towards the goal of preventing mass infectious diseases,
 - b. Collaborating on identifying and forecasting future pandemics,
 - c. Engaging in discussions or activities related to the IHR 2005 (since the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System needs to be established in accordance with these regulations),
 - d. Engaging in discussions or activities related to the GOARN (since the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System needs to be established in accordance with the GOARN).
3. Taking actions that promote the interests or aims of the system (without explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the system) count towards partial compliance. Taking these actions while explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System count towards full compliance.
 4. A BRICS member can also provide financial assistance to the establishment of the system. This corresponds with the definition of “support” as the provision of financial assistance towards an initiative or entity. Providing financial assistance to establish the system count towards full compliance.

To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member needs to engage in activities that explicitly supports the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System, either through providing financial assistance to the establishment of the system, or through taking actions that promote the interests and aims of the system while explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the system. Partial compliance requires the BRICS member to engage in activities that promote the interests and aims of the system without explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the system, and/or providing merely verbal or political support by reaffirming their commitment to establishing the system. Failure to undertake any relevant activities in any of the three above categories indicates a lack of compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member did not take any relevant actions that demonstrate support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System.
0	The BRICS member demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing verbal or political support AND/OR engaging in actions that promote the aims of the system (WITHOUT explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System).
+1	The BRICS member demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing financial assistance towards the establishment of the system OR by engaging in actions that promotes the aims of the system (while explicitly recognizing their relevance to the establishment of the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System).

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alissa Xinhe Wang

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to support the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005), and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization, for identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration.

On 12 September 2022, National Committee for Technology Incorporation (CONITEC) established three public consultations for Brazil including “Public Consultation No. 30 – Proposal for the incorporation of xylometazolin 0.1% for the treatment of acute laryngitis,” “Public Consultation No. 31 – Proposal to exclude artemeter 80mg/ml in the treatment of severe malaria,” and “Public

Consultation No. 32 – Proposal to update the Clinical Protocol and Therapeutic Guidelines of Infantile Nephrotic Syndrome.”²⁵² Technical recommendations are provided for these consultations.

On 24 September 2022, Brazil along with Russia, India, China and South Africa gave support through a pledge to increase cooperation on disaster management regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change.²⁵³ This agreement includes strategic planning, law and disaster mitigation and prevention. The agreement may also include risk monitoring, early warning assessment, accident prevention in production and other tasks.

On 30 March 2023, the World Mosquito Program (WMP) stated that it will release modified mosquitoes to Brazil over 10 years to protect 70 million people from diseases such as dengue fever.²⁵⁴ The mosquitoes will carry Wolbachia bacterium to stop the insect from transmitting the virus which has been tested in cities in Brazil, Australia, Colombia, Indonesia and Vietnam. The facility will begin operations in 2023 and develop five billion mosquitoes a year.

Brazil demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System engaging in actions that promote the aims of the system, but did not explicitly recognize their relevance to the establishment of the System. Brazil also did not provide financial assistance towards the establishment of the system.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kelley Prendergast

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to support the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization, for identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration.

On 24 September 2022, Russia along with Brazil, India, China and South Africa gave support through a pledge to increase cooperation on disaster management regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change.²⁵⁶ This agreement includes strategic planning, law and disaster mitigation and prevention. The agreement may also include risk monitoring, early warning assessment, accident prevention in production and other tasks.

Russia demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing verbal support. However, Russia did not provide financial assistance towards the establishment of the system.

²⁵²Infantile nephrotic syndrome, severe malaria and acute rosinositis are the themes of new public consultations, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 12 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. <https://www.gov.br/conitec/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2017/julho/sindrome-nefrotica-infantil-malaria-grave-e-rinossinusite-aguda-sao-os-temas-das-novas-consultas-publicas>

²⁵³BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management. China Daily 24 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management - World - Chinadaily.com.cn

²⁵⁴Massive mosquito factory in Brazil aims to halt dengue, Nature Journal (London) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-01266-9>

²⁵⁵Brazil: Fiocruz and the World Mosquito Program launch new partnership to provide Brazilian cities with access to safe, effective and affordable protection against Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika, World Mosquito Program (Colombo) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023. <https://www.worldmosquitoprogram.org/en/news-stories/media-releases/brazil-fiocruz-and-world-mosquito-program-launch-new-partnership>

²⁵⁶BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management. China Daily 24 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management - World - Chinadaily.com.cn

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Reem Baghdady

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to support the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization, for identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration.

On 24 September 2022, India along with Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa gave support through a pledge to increase cooperation on disaster management regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change.²⁵⁷ This agreement includes strategic planning, law and disaster mitigation and prevention. The agreement may also include risk monitoring, early warning assessment, accident prevention in production and other tasks.

In April 2023, India experienced a wave of COVID-19 cases which prompted the government to issue national emergency directives to help control the spread of COVID-19's XBB.1.16 variant.²⁵⁸

India demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing verbal support through a pledge. However, India did not provide financial assistance towards the establishment of the system.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vismay Buch

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to support the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization, for identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration.

On 24 September 2022, China along with Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa gave support through a pledge to increase cooperation on disaster management regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change.²⁵⁹ This agreement includes strategic planning, law and disaster mitigation and prevention. The agreement may also include risk monitoring, early warning assessment, accident prevention in production and other tasks.

China demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing verbal support through a pledge. However, China did not provide financial assistance towards the establishment of the system.

²⁵⁷BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management, China Daily (Beijing) 24 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202209/24/WS632e5bd6a310fd2b29e7987a.html>

²⁵⁸Covid Live News Updates: India records 12,193 new cases and 42 deaths, Indian Express (Noida) 22 April 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/covid-live-news-updates-india-new-coronavirus-infections-active-cases-8568177/>

²⁵⁹BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management, China Daily (Beijing) 24 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202209/24/WS632e5bd6a310fd2b29e7987a.html>

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vismay Buch

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to support the progress towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for preventing mass infectious diseases risks, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization, for identifying future pandemics and forecasting outbreaks through institutional collaboration.

On 24 September 2022, South Africa along with Brazil, Russia, India and China gave support through a pledge to increase cooperation on disaster management regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change.²⁶⁰ This will include strategic planning, law and disaster mitigation and prevention. This may also include risk monitoring, early warning assessment, accident prevention in production and other tasks.

On 7 January 2023, the Genomic Surveillance Unit at Stellenbosch University detected “anXBB.1.5 subvariant of Omicron variant from a specimen which was obtained from a patient on 27 December 2022.”²⁶¹ South Africa did not impose travel restrictions but outlined certain recommendations. These include the promotion of testing, an increase in wastewater surveillance, especially from high-risk countries including China and US, and further promotion of the vaccination campaign.

South Africa demonstrated support towards establishing a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System by providing verbal support through a pledge. However, South Africa did not provide financial assistance towards the establishment of the system.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Reem Baghdady

²⁶⁰BRICS pledge to boost cooperation on disaster management, China Daily (Beijing) 24 September 2022. Access Date: 15 October 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202209/24/WS632e5bd6a310fd2b29e7987a.html>

²⁶¹Minister Joe Phaahla on recent COVID-19 developments. Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 17 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-health-dr-joe-phaahla-10-jan-2023-0000>

7. International Taxation

“We commit to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average		+0.20 (60%)	

Background

BRICS leaders first addressed the issue area of international taxation at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit in July 2014, where they committed to “continue a cooperative approach on issues related to tax administrations and enhance cooperation in the international forums targeting tax base erosion and information exchange for tax purposes.” They also “express[ed] concern over the harmful impact of tax evasion, transnational fraud and aggressive tax planning on the world economy.”

Subsequently, on 15 November 2014, on the margins of the G20 summit in Brisbane, BRICS leaders released a media note on their informal meeting stating that they exchanged views on “strengthening the financial system and cooperation on tax matters.”

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders made commitments to address tax issues in light of economic digitalization, tackle tax evasion and base erosion caused by aggressive tax planning, strengthen the tax administration capacity of developing countries, and ensure tax transparency and exchange of information for taxation purposes. The leaders noted an intention to adapt “to new rules introduced by the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and the Common Reporting Standard for Automatic Exchange of Tax Information (AEOI)” and “participate in the development of international standards of international taxation and cooperation for countering BEPS.” At this summit, BRICS leaders additionally adopted the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, which includes “strengthening of the financial system and cooperation on tax matters” as a dimension of financial cooperation.

Commitments on similar priorities in the international tax agenda were made at successive summits. At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders emphasized “the need to use tax policy and public expenditure in a more growth-friendly way” and “enhanced international cooperation to address ... tax evasion,” and reiterated a “commitment towards a globally fair and modern tax system and welcome[d] the progress made on effective and widespread implementation of the internationally agreed standards.” In addition, BRICS leaders expressed “support [for] the implementation of the BEPS Project with due regard to the national realities of the countries” and “encourage[d] countries and International Organisations to assist developing economies in building their tax capacity.” They reaffirmed support for the AEOI and “recall[ed] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development including its emphasis on inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities on international tax matters with increased participation of developing countries and reflecting adequate, equitable, geographical distribution, representing different tax systems.”

On 4 September 2017, BRICS leaders agreed to the Xiamen Declaration, which reaffirmed a “commitment to achieving a fair and modern global tax system and promoting a more equitable, pro-

growth and efficient international tax environment, including to deepening cooperation on addressing BEPS, promoting exchange of tax information and improving capacity-building in developing countries.” They expressed resolve to “strengthen BRICS tax cooperation to increase BRICS contribution to setting international tax rules and provide, according to each country’s priorities, effective and sustainable technical assistance to other developing countries.”

At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, BRICS leaders echoed previous commitments to address “the implications of the digital economy and, within that context, to ensure the fairness of the international tax system particularly towards the prevention of base erosion and shifting of profits, exchange of tax information, both on request and automatically, and needs-based capacity building for developing countries.” They also welcomed the “establishment of the Capacity Building Mechanism between BRICS Revenue Authorities.”

In 2019, at the leaders’ summit in Brasilia, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the prevention of BEPS, the exchange of tax information, and the provision of needs-based capacity building for developing countries. They also pledged to address the tax challenges of economic digitalization. They called on “all jurisdictions to sign and ratify the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.” They further echoed a commitment made at the previous Johannesburg summit to “deeper exchanges and sharing of experiences and best practices, as well as to mutual learning in taxation matters.”

On November 17, 2020, BRICS leaders adopted the Moscow Declaration, in which they committed to enhancing “international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.” They further “committed to promoting efforts on improving compliance with internationally agreed standards on tax transparency and exchange of information and look forward to further progress in information sharing for improvement of our tax authorities’ abilities and technical capacity to deter, detect and disrupt illicit financial flows, tax evasion and tax avoidance.” The leaders also adopted the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, which includes a clause on expanding “cooperation between the BRICS tax administrations.”

The 2021 New Delhi Summit did not adopt any leader-level language on international taxation.

At the 2022 Beijing Summit, BRICS leaders adopted the present commitment and created “a signature knowledge product called “the Best Tax Practices from BRICS” to serve as reference for other developing countries.”

Commitment Features

The commitment requires BRICS members to “commit to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.”

The word “commit” is defined as the action “to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.” Given that “commit” is a high binding commitment verb, this indicates an intention by the BRICS leaders to take concrete policy actions to this end. Thus, verbal affirmations or political statements supporting the objectives of the commitment are insufficient to demonstrate full compliance. Rather, policy or funding decisions must be made for the BRICS member to merit compliance.

To define the other key terms of the commitment, “strengthen cooperation” is understood to mean “the process of working together to address issues.” “Coordination” refers to “the act of making all the people involved in a plan or activity work together in an organized way.”

The commitment outlines three dimensions of strengthening cooperation and coordination in international taxation: 1) tax information exchange, 2) capacity-building, and 3) innovation in tax administration.

First, BRICS members should demonstrate action in the area of tax information exchange. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), effective exchange of tax information is key to addressing harmful tax practices, implementing international tax standards and other instruments, and ending bank secrecy and tax evasion and avoidance. Tax information exchange can take the form of bilateral or multilateral collaboration between competent revenue authorities, and information may be shared on request, spontaneously, or automatically. To demonstrate compliance in this work area, for example, BRICS members can enter, enhance, or initiate negotiations for new tax information exchange agreements with each other. BRICS members can also carry out peer reviews to assess compliance with international standards on tax transparency, or engage constructively in international fora on issues of tax information exchange (such as the OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs).

Second, BRICS members committed to strengthening cooperation and coordination on tax capacity-building. As noted in the Background section above, BRICS leaders have repeatedly committed to strengthening the tax administration capacity of developing countries. The OECD reports that “developing countries are frequently reporting the need to implement measures designed to balance protecting their tax base whilst creating a transparent and predictable investment climate through the introduction of rules that are effective in addressing BEPS and create certainty and consistency for business.” Thus, technical assistance and capacity-building programs are essential for developing countries to achieve tax policy-related objectives. To comply with this aspect of the commitment, BRICS members may consider providing technical and financial resources to capacity-building programs and training activities, collaborating and/or funding international agencies in their implementation of related programs, or engaging in multi-stakeholder dialogues to share best practices and tools.

Third, BRICS members must engage constructively on innovation in tax administration. “Tax administration” refers to the implementation of tax law and the collection of tax revenues. It involves a complex set of processes and institutions, giving rise to the need to improve administrative effectiveness and efficiency. To comply with this dimension of the commitment, BRICS governments can explore novel approaches to tax compliance (such as trust-building measures) and reforms, digitization of tax systems and payments, and other sandbox or experimental measures.

To demonstrate full compliance, BRICS members must take strong action to advance cooperation and coordination in all three pillars of the commitment text. A score of 0 for partial compliance will be attributed to BRICS members that only demonstrate substantive action in one or two of the pillars of this commitment or some of all three. A score of –1 for non-compliance will be assigned to BRICS members that do not take any action to comply with this commitment, take weak action in one pillar, or act contrary to the spirit of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	The BRICS Member DOES NOT commit to strengthening cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building OR innovation in tax administration.
0	The BRICS Member strongly commits to strengthening cooperation and coordination in one or two areas of tax information exchange, capacity building or innovation in tax administration OR some of all three.
+1	The BRICS Member strongly commits to strengthening cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building AND innovation in tax administration.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Angela Minyi Hou

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.

On 29 June 2022, the Brazilian Federal Revenue Service proposed a new transfer pricing plan to use economic assessments to ensure the accuracy of taxation calculations. This plan was proposed to comply with the guidelines published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and intends to provide tax accuracy, eliminate double taxation and increase foreign investment.²⁶²

On 4 November 2022, Brazil and Norway signed a convention to stop double taxation and tax evasion with a focus on income and capital gain tax.²⁶³ This treaty will allow for improved tax transparency and increased international commerce.

On 18 November 2022, Brazil and other G20 members adopted a leaders' declaration at the G20 Bali summit, committing to the implementation of the OECD/G20 two-pillar international tax package.²⁶⁴

On 29 November 2022, Brazil and the United Kingdom signed a double taxation agreement to improve cross-border commerce and tax information exchange.²⁶⁵

On 29 December 2022, Brazil released new transfer pricing legislation in accordance with OECD guidelines.²⁶⁶

On 11 April 2023, the government announced an end to tax exemptions on international orders, subjecting international orders to 60 per cent taxation on revenue.²⁶⁷ This measure will allow Brazil to tax foreign retailers.

On 30 April 2023, the government announced a new provisional measure to take effect on 1 May 2023, introducing new federal income tax brackets, changing taxation on foreign income incurred by individuals residing in the country, and making inflation adjustments on foreign asset value and rights.²⁶⁸

On 10 May 2023, the Federal Senate approved a bill to change the current transfer pricing rules to a standard arms-length method, aligning with OECD guidelines and aiming to make Brazil more attractive for foreign investment.²⁶⁹

²⁶²Brazil's tax authority unveils game-changing TP plan, International Tax Review (London) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/2aapqly7cwum6f0j3fpxc/brazils-tax-authority-unveils-game-changing-tp-plan>

²⁶³Brazil – Double Taxation Treaties Signed with Norway, United Kingdom, KPMG (São Paulo) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/xx/pdf/2022/12/fa22-219.pdf>

²⁶⁴G20 Leaders Committed to Swift Implementation of OECD/G20 Two-Pillar International Tax Package, Orbitax News (San Francisco) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/G20-Leaders-Committed-to-Swift-51352>

²⁶⁵United Kingdom– Double Taxation Convention with Brazil Signed, Not Yet in Force, KPMG (São Paulo) 2 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2022/12/flash-alert-2022-212.html>

²⁶⁶Brazilian Government publishes Provisional Measure adopting arm's-length principle, EY (São Paulo) 30 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://globaltaxnews.ey.com/news/2022-6266-brazilian-government-publishes-provisional-measure-adopting-arms-length-principle>

²⁶⁷Brazil to end tax exemption on international orders, targeting Asian e-commerce giants, Reuters (Brasilia) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/brazil-end-tax-exemption-international-orders-targeting-asian-e-commerce-giants-2023-04-12/>

²⁶⁸Brazil- changes to individual taxation, reporting of foreign income and assets, KPMG (Sao Paulo) 10 May 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/xx/pdf/2023/05/fa23-096.pdf>

²⁶⁹Brazil's new transfer pricing rules, Forvis (Missouri) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/brazil-end-tax-exemption-international-orders-targeting-asian-e-commerce-giants-2023-04-12/>

Brazil has introduced preliminary domestic measures to advance innovation in tax administration through its new transfer pricing policy. Brazil has also strengthened cooperation and coordination in tax information exchange through the implementation of double taxation agreements with the United Kingdom and Norway. However, Brazil has yet to build tax administration capacity in developing contexts.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Hania El Sayed

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.

On 3 November 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk attended the Intergovernmental Russian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan. The leaders discussed bilateral cooperation in industry, finance, and energy. They also reviewed progress on Russia's technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan's tax administration.²⁷⁰

On 18 November 2022, Russia and other G20 members adopted a leaders' declaration at the G20 Bali summit, committing to the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/G20 two-pillar international tax package.²⁷¹

On 28 June 2022, the State Duma announced new laws on the taxation of digital financial assets.²⁷² Through these laws, the government aims to impose rules regarding value-added tax, income tax and personal income tax on transactions made with digital financial assets.

On 25 January 2023, the State Duma passed a bill to waive the requirement for lawmakers to make information about their annual income and assets public.²⁷³ Since 1 March 2023, lawmakers do not have to publicize reports on their income, though they still must declare financial information to tax authorities.

On 18 May 2023, the Ministry of Finance announced proposals to tax employees working remotely and abroad for Russian companies.²⁷⁴ The Ministry claims that this measure will fill fiscal holes in Russia's taxation system and simplify tax administration. The proposals also include measures to include punitive tax rates and ban certain types of remote work.

²⁷⁰ Alexei Overchuk holds a meeting of the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Russian-Kyrgyz Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Cooperation, Government of Russia (Moscow) 3 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/46976/>

²⁷¹ G20 Leaders Committed to Swift Implementation of OECD/G20 Two-Pillar International Tax Package, Orbitax News (San Francisco) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/G20-Leaders-Committed-to-Swift-51352>

²⁷² The State Duma has established features of the taxation of digital financial assets, RIA Novosti (Moscow). 28 June 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://ria.ru/20220628/aktivy-1798704057.html>

²⁷³ Russian MPs vote to hide tax returns from public view, The Guardian (London). 25 January 2023. Access Date: 20 June 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/25/russian-mps-vote-to-hide-details-of-their-tax-returns-from-public-view>

²⁷⁴ Russia goes after remote workers with tighter income tax draft law, Reuters (London). 18 May 2023. Access Date: 22 June 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-goes-after-remote-workers-with-tighter-income-tax-draft-law-2023-05-18/>

Russia has taken domestic action to strengthen innovation in tax administration. It has also engaged in tax capacity building by providing technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan. However, Russia has not engaged in robust cooperation and coordination in the areas of tax information exchange or innovation in tax administration.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Firaz Khan

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.

On 1 October 2022, the Ministry of Finance announced that the goods and services tax revenue of September 2022 increased by 26 per cent compared to September 2021. This growth is partly due to new monitoring technologies such as e-way bills and e-invoices, which have improved tax reporting, compliance and tax collection.²⁷⁵

On 9 September 2022, India participated in the release of the ministerial statement of Pillar IV of the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). Under this arrangement, participating countries will coordinate the exchange of information between competent authorities, promote international transparency and provide technical assistance through domestic resource mobilization. The statement also encouraged innovation for more effective tax administrative practices and sought to address tax challenges arising from economic digitalization.²⁷⁶

On 14 October 2022, at the G20 finance ministers meeting, India called for the simplification of international taxation laws to facilitate implementation. India also called for a universal tax information system that focuses on assessing foreign crypto-currency assets.²⁷⁷

On 18 November 2022, India and other G20 members adopted a leaders' declaration at the G20 Bali summit, committing to the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 two-pillar international tax package.²⁷⁸

On 13 December 2022, India hosted the first G20 finance and central bank deputies meeting under its G20 Presidency. The meeting included discussions on priority areas in international taxation, "including monitoring the progress of the Two-Pillar Tax Package being developed under the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework, enhancing tax transparency and multilateral capacity building on taxation."²⁷⁹

²⁷⁵September GST revenues rise 26% amid imports surge, The Hindu (New Delhi) 01 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/gst-collections-hit-147-lakh-crore-in-september-26-higher-than-2021/article65958327.ece>

²⁷⁶Ministerial Statement for Pillar IV of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (Tokyo) 9 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100391691.pdf>

²⁷⁷India calls for investments in infrastructure and simplification of international taxation rules, NewsOnAir (Sharjah) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://newsonair.com/2022/10/14/india-calls-for-investments-in-infrastructure-and-simplification-of-international-taxation-rules/>

²⁷⁸G20 Leaders Committed to Swift Implementation of OECD/G20 Two-Pillar International Tax Package, Orbitax News (San Francisco) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/G20-Leaders-Committed-to-Swift-51352>

²⁷⁹India hosts the 1st G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting under the G20 India presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883538>

On 2 June 2023, India concluded its G20 Capacity-Building Event on International Taxation, hosted in collaboration with the South Centre at the National Academy of Direct Taxes.²⁸⁰ The event discussed tax challenges resulting from the digitalization of the economy and the global tax minimum, as well as its ramifications for developing countries. The event also hosted capacity-building workshops on tax treaties and brought together international tax experts from multilateral organizations.

India has introduced domestic measures and joined international partnerships such as the G20 and IPEF to strengthen cooperation and coordination in tax information exchange, capacity building and innovative tax administration.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hania El Sayed

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.

On 16 October 2022, the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party produced a report outlining China's policy agenda for the next five-year term. The report includes tax policy changes to facilitate China's low-carbon economic transition, specifically by "improving the fiscal, tax, financial, investment, price policies and standard systems that support green development."²⁸¹

On 18 November 2022, China and other G20 members adopted a leaders' declaration at the G20 Bali summit, committing to the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/G20 two-pillar international tax package.²⁸²

China has taken domestic action to strengthen innovation in tax administration. However, it has not engaged in robust cooperation and coordination in the areas of tax information exchange, capacity building, or innovation in tax administration.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Firaq Khan

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of tax information exchange, capacity building and innovation in tax administration.

On 30 September 2022, South Africa ratified the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Sharing.²⁸³ The convention officially came into effect on 1 January 2023 in South Africa.

²⁸⁰India G20 South Centre Event on International Taxation concludes successfully at Nagpur, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1929386>

²⁸¹20th Party Congress Report: What it Means for Business, the Economy, and Social Development, China Debriefing. 31 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/20th-party-congress-report-what-it-means-for-business/>

²⁸²G20 Leaders Committed to Swift Implementation of OECD/G20 Two-Pillar International Tax Package, Orbitax News (San Francisco) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/G20-Leaders-Committed-to-Swift-51352>

On 26 October 2022, Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana presented the 2022 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) to Parliament.²⁸⁴ The South African Revenue Service (SARS) Commissioner Edward Kieswetter stated that the MTBPS focuses on increasing tax compliance through automated risk engines that evaluate non-compliance, expand data profiling and modernize digital tax systems.²⁸⁵

On 18 November 2022, SARS revealed its Vision 2024 plan at the Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes held by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).²⁸⁶ SARS aims to modernize tax institutions and utilize technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to increase tax transparency, including automatically sharing tax information with 78 global partners.

On 18 November 2022, South Africa and other G20 members adopted a leaders' declaration at the G20 Bali Summit, committing to the implementation of the OECD/G20 two-pillar international tax package.²⁸⁷

On 24 April 2023, the SARS published changes in Tax Clearance Status (TCS) reporting for transferring funds abroad, updating it with additional requests for information to ensure that all required taxes are paid and acts of non-compliance are detected.²⁸⁸ The enhanced system will integrate TCS verifications in government, private sector, and individual taxpayer spaces.

South Africa has introduced domestic reforms and ratified key international conventions to increase tax administration capabilities and commit to cross-border cooperation. It has also improved tax information exchange through SARS Vision 2024. However, South Africa has not demonstrated robust action to make tax processes more innovative or support tax capacity-building in other developing economies.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Katherine Zhang

²⁸³Mongolia Signs Landmark Agreement to Strengthen its Tax Treaties and South Africa Deposits an Instrument for the Ratification of the Multilateral BEPS Convention, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 6 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/mongolia-signs-landmark-agreement-to-strengthen-its-tax-treaties-and-south-africa-deposits-an-instrument-for-the-ratification-of-the-multilateral-beps-convention.htm>

²⁸⁴2022 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, South African Revenue Service (Cape Town) 26 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.sars.gov.za/latest-news/2022-medium-term-budget-policy-statement>

²⁸⁵SARS is Making a Permanent Change in How it Does Business – What You Need to Know, BusinessTech (Lyttelton) 1 November 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/639627/sars-is-making-a-permanent-change-in-how-it-does-business-what-you-need-to-know/>

²⁸⁶Greater Focus on Taking Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information to the Next Level, South African Revenue Service (Tshwane) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.sars.gov.za/media-release/greater-focus-on-taking-tax-transparency-and-exchange-of-information-to-the-next-level/>

²⁸⁷G20 Leaders Committed to Swift Implementation of OECD/G20 Two-Pillar International Tax Package, Orbitax News (San Francisco) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/G20-Leaders-Committed-to-Swift-51352>

²⁸⁸SARS changes tax compliance status reporting for transferring funds abroad, South African Government News Agency (Cape Town) 3 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sars-changes-tax-compliance-status-reporting-transferring-funds-abroad>

8. International Financial Institutions Reform: IMF Reform

“We reaffirm our commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average		+0.60 (80%)	

Background

BRICS members have consistently addressed the topic of reforming international financial institutions (IFIs) since the inception of the leaders' summit, especially with regards to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition to the present commitment found in the 2022 Beijing Declaration, a similar commitment to “a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the center of the global financial safety net” was adopted at the 2021 New Delhi Summit, 2020 Moscow Summit, the 2019 Brasilia Summit, the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, the 2016 Goa Summit, and the 2015 Ufa Summit.

On 9 September 2022, BRICS leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration, in which they reaffirmed their “commitment to a strong Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center, and express deep disappointment at the failure in addressing the quota and governance reforms under the 15th General Review of Quotas (GRQ).”

On 17 November 2021, BRICS leaders adopted the Moscow Declaration. The leaders welcomed the IMF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledged the need to resource IMF financing, and noted the ongoing 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ).

Adopted on 14 November 2019, the Brasilia Declaration expressed its disappointment with the 15th GRQ, which failed to increase the quota size of the IMF and realign quota shares to increase the representation of emerging markets and developing countries. Similarly, at the 2021 New Delhi Summit, 2018 Johannesburg Summit, the 2016 Goa Summit, and the 2013 Durban Summit, the BRICS leaders emphasized the importance of increasing the representation of the poorest IMF members in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally.

BRICS summit documents have also called on the IMF to efficiently conclude GRQs. At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, the leaders observed a commitment to complete the 15th GRQ by 2019. This commitment mirrors that of the Xiamen Declaration adopted on 4 September 2017, which committed to the same deadline of 2019.

On 15 July 2014, the Fortaleza Declaration adopted by BRICS leaders called for the implementation of the 2010 IMF reforms and outcomes of the 14th GRQ. The Declaration also stipulated the leaders' hope that IMF reforms would proceed “with a few to ensuring increased voice and representation of emerging markets and developing countries.”

On 29 March 2012, at the 4th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the leaders expressed concern for the pace of the IMF's quota and governance reforms, as well as the Fund's access to sufficient resources. The Declaration also included a call for the IMF to improve its surveillance framework.

On 14 April 2011, the BRICS leaders adopted the Sanya Declaration, which called for IFIs to “reflect changes in the world economy, increasing the voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries.” The leaders further called for improvements to the Special Drawing Rights’ (SDRs) basket of currencies and reforms to international financial regulatory oversight.

Building on a decade of engagement on IFI reform, the BRICS summit hosted by China in June 2022 reaffirmed a collective commitment “to a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.” The BRICS leaders also called for “the timely and successful completion of the 16th General Review of Quotas by 15 December 2023, to reduce the IMF’s reliance on temporary resources, to address under-representation of emerging markets and developing countries for their meaningful engagement in the governance of IMF and protect the voice and quota shares of the poorest and smallest members.” The leaders further welcomed “progress on voluntary channeling of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from countries with strong external positions to support countries most in need, as well as the IMF’s decision to establish the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)” and looked forward to the “early operationalization of the RST.”

Commitment Features

To define the key concepts in this commitment, “reaffirm” is understood to mean “affirm again, whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.” This term qualifies the communiqué excerpt as a politically binding commitment, and acknowledges that the commitment requires new efforts in an area that has been established in the past. As a low-binding commitment verb, “reaffirm” also encapsulates within the parameters of compliance any verbal statements by BRICS governments in support of the commitment.

According to the IMF, the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) consists of “international reserves, central bank bilateral swap arrangements (BSAs), regional financing arrangements (RFAs), Fund resources, and market-based instruments.” The GFSN’s purpose is to “(i) provide insurance for countries against a crisis; (ii) supply financing when crises hit; and (iii) incentivize sound macroeconomic policies.”

The IMF is an international organization that works to “foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.” The IMF is governed and financed by quotas, which are denominated in SDRs and determined by an IMF Member’s relative economic standing. In other words, quotas are the determinant of an IMF member’s financial obligations to the organization, voting power, and access to financing.

The IMF Board of Governors conducts GRQs every five years. Over the past decade, under the New Arrangements to Borrow, a group of Members has provided additional lending resources to the IMF, maintaining their relative shares as aggregate IMF quotas doubled. This change was introduced to ensure that the IMF was “adequately resourced,” or to provide the IMF with resources to operate at its optimal capacity.

The present commitment is understood in two parts. To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member must reaffirm its commitment to both 1) a strong and effective GFSN and 2) a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.

To comply with the first part of the commitment, the BRICS member should take action to support a robust GFSN (see definition and objectives above). The GFSN refers to a wider breadth of international, regional, and domestic financial institutions. Examples of compliant actions include aligning domestic policies with regional financing arrangements or providing support to financial and market instruments that safeguard against financial crises in developing economies.

With regards to the latter half of the commitment, examples of compliance include policy actions taken with a view to increasing the BRICS members' financial contributions to the Fund or expressing support for a future quota increase during GRQs to ensure the adequate availability of IMF financing.

Falling short of fulfilling both parts of the commitment, a BRICS member would receive a score of 0 for partial compliance if it reaffirmed its commitment to the GFSN without reference to a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF. Partial compliance would also be assigned to a BRICS member that somewhat complies with both aspects of the commitment or lacks strong compliance and concrete actions in one or the other.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, would be assigned to a BRICS member that does not take any actions within the compliance cycle to reaffirm its pledge to a strong GFSN or reforms to the IMF's quota system and adequate resourcing.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member DOES NOT reaffirm its commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net OR a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.
0	The BRICS Member reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net OR a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center OR some of both.
+1	The BRICS Member reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net WITH a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Angela Minyi Hou

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its commitment to maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.

On 16 July 2022, Minister of Economy Pablo Guedes attended the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.²⁸⁹ During the meeting, G20 members reiterated their commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center. Additionally, members welcomed the voluntary channeling of Special Drawing Rights and called upon the IMF to ensure the full operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) by the 2022 Annual Meetings. Furthermore, members welcomed pledges for voluntary contributions to the RST and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PGRT).

On 12 October 2022, during the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, Brazil and other G20 participants stated, *inter alia*, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.²⁹⁰

²⁸⁹Finance Minister Sri Mulyani and Brazil's Minister of Economy Agree to Support the Global Health and Sustainable Finance Agenda in Indonesia's G20 Presidency, G20 (Bali) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. <https://www.g20.org/finance-minister-sri-mulyani-and-brazils-minister-of-economy-agree-to-support-the-global-health-and-sustainable-finance-agenda-in-indonesias-g20-presidency/>

²⁹⁰G20 Chair's Summary - Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221013-finance-chair-summary.html>

On 14 October 2022, Minister of Economy Pablo Guedes participated in the 46th meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.²⁹¹ During the meeting, attendees drafted a communiqué that, inter alia, reaffirmed their commitment to a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the center of the GFSN. The communiqué also expressed members' interest in the operationalization of the first RST-supported programs in 2022. It further stated that members will undertake all necessary efforts to close the remaining funding gap for the PGRT through subsidies and loans.

On 16 November 2022, the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.²⁹²

On 16 November 2022, during the G20 Bali Summit, Brazil reaffirmed along with other G20 leaders, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.²⁹³

On 13 December 2022, Brazil participated in the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under India's presidency, where G20 participants exchanged views on the global financial safety net.²⁹⁴

On 7 February 2023, Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China on setting up Yuan clearing arrangements in Brazil, with the intention to minimize risks associated with exchange rate volatility in using the USD for international transactions.²⁹⁵

On 14 April 2023, during the 47th Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), Brazil, alongside other IMFC members, agreed to support at least the current envelope of resources of the IMF and to accelerate discussions to achieve considerable progress by the time of the next IMFC meeting.²⁹⁶

On 1 June 2023, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations released a joint statement.²⁹⁷ The statement reaffirmed the ministers' support for a robust GFSN and called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ to be completed by 15 December 2023.

²⁹¹Chair's Statement Forty-Sixth Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/10/14/pr22357-imfc-chair-statement-forty-sixth-meeting-of-the-imfc>

²⁹²G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

²⁹³G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴India hosts the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Group of 20 – Indian Presidency (Bengaluru) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/fin-14/>

²⁹⁵China says it will set up yuan clearing arrangements in Brazil, Reuters (Beijing) 7 February 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/china-says-it-will-set-up-yuan-clearing-arrangements-brazil-2023-02-07/>

²⁹⁶Chair's Statement of Forty-Seventh Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/04/14/pr23120-chairs-statement-forty-seventh-meeting-of-the-imfc>

²⁹⁷International Relations on BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting, South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-relations-brics-ministers-foreign-affairs-and-international-relations-meeting>

On 6-7 June 2023, India hosted the third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting, where, inter alia, members discussed strengthening the GFSN and following up on the IMF's SDR allocation.²⁹⁸

Brazil has verbally reaffirmed its support for a strong and effective GFSN with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center. More concretely, Brazil has set up a clearing arrangement in order to reduce exchange rate volatility. However, Brazil has not demonstrated strong compliance and concrete action as it pertains to the second portion of the commitment, and thus does not achieve full compliance.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.

On 16 July 2022, Russia participated in the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and signed onto a communiqué that reaffirmed its commitment to a strong GFSN “with a strong quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.”²⁹⁹

On 12 October 2022, during the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, Russia and other G20 participants stated, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³⁰⁰

On 13 October 2022, Russia attended the fourth meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and signed a joint communiqué, expressing intent to revise its quota system to ensure adequacy and “continue IMF governance reform.”³⁰¹

On 28 October 2022, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin reaffirmed the importance of regional financial stability and building a strong, new global financial infrastructure at a meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States.³⁰²

On 16 November 2022, the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³⁰³

²⁹⁸Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes, Indian Ministry of Finance (Goa) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930533>

²⁹⁹G20 Chair's Summary: Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G20 (Bali) 16 July 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.g20.org/g20-chairs-summary-third-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-meeting/>

³⁰⁰G20 Chair's Summary - Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221013-finance-chair-summary.html>

³⁰¹G20 Chair's Summary: Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G20 (Bali) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/G20-Chairs-Summary-4th-FMFCBG-12-13-Oct-2022.pdf>

³⁰²Restricted meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government, The Russian Government (Moscow) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <http://government.ru/en/news/46912/>

On 16 November 2022, during the G20 Bali Summit, Russia reaffirmed along with other G20 leaders, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³⁰⁴

On 13 December 2022, Russia participated in the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under India's presidency, where G20 participants exchanged views on the global financial safety net.³⁰⁵

On 17 January 2023, the Central Bank launched a Yuan bilateral swap instrument, with a daily maximum limit of RMB10 billion.³⁰⁶

On 14 April 2023, during the 47th Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), Russia, alongside other IMFC members, agreed to support at least the current envelope of resources of the IMF and to accelerate discussions to achieve considerable progress by the time of the next IMFC meeting.³⁰⁷

On 1 June 2023, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations released a joint statement reaffirming the Ministers' support for a robust GFSN and called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ to be completed by 15 December 2023.³⁰⁸

On 6-7 June 2023, India hosted the third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting, where, inter alia, members discussed strengthening the GFSN and following up on the IMF's SDR allocation.³⁰⁹

Through its participation in international meetings, Russia has demonstrated reaffirmation of a strong GFSN with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center. More concretely, Russia launched a bilateral swap arrangement with China. However, Russia has failed to adopt concrete policy actions toward the second part of this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shib-Chieh Lee

³⁰³G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>.

³⁰⁴G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁰⁵India hosts the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Group of 20 – Indian Presidency (Bengaluru) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

<https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/fin-14/>

³⁰⁶Bank of Russia launches yuan currency swap, Central Bank of Russia (Moscow) 17 January 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/pr/?file=638096336868597450ENG_BOR.htm

³⁰⁷Chair's Statement of Forty-Seventh Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/04/14/pr23120-chairs-statement-forty-seventh-meeting-of-the-imfc>

³⁰⁸International Relations on BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting, South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-relations-brics-ministers-foreign-affairs-and-international-relations-meeting>

³⁰⁹Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes, Indian Ministry of Finance (Goa) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930533>

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.

On 16 July 2022, India attended the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and signed on to a communiqué that reaffirmed its commitment to a strong GFSN, with a strong quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³¹⁰

On 5 October 2022, Minister of Finance Chancel Sarkar welcomed the achievement accomplished by the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) and reaffirmed India's commitment to the GFSN.³¹¹ India emphasized its proposed G20 Finance Track agenda for 2023, in which GFSN receives a special focus.

On 12 October 2022, during the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, India and other G20 participants stated, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³¹²

On 13 October 2022, the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs addressed the importance of a strong GFSN, specifically in light of the situation in Sri Lanka, reaffirming India's commitment to a strong GFSN with a strong quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³¹³ Additionally, the government signed the communiqué at the fourth meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, affirming its commitment to IMF governance reform and a strong quota-based system.³¹⁴

On 16 November 2022, the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³¹⁵

On 16 November 2022, during the G20 Bali Summit, India reaffirmed along with other G20 leaders, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³¹⁶

³¹⁰G20 Chair's Summary: G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 (Bali) 16 July 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.g20.org/g20-chairs-summary-third-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-meeting/>

³¹¹Third Plenary Meeting of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, G20 GPII (Bali) 5 October 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022. <https://www.gpi.org/news/gpii-holds-its-third-plenary-under-indonesian-presidency>

³¹²G20 Chair's Summary - Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221013-finance-chair-summary.html>

³¹³IMFC Statement by Zainab Ahmed Minister of Finance, Budget, and Planning Nigeria, International Monetary and Financial Committee (Washington D.C.) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://meetings.imf.org/-/media/AMSM/Files/AM2022/IMFC/Nigeria.ashx>

³¹⁴G20 Chair's Summary: Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20(Bali) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/G20-Chairs-Summary-4th-FMDBG-12-13-Oct-2022.pdf>

³¹⁵G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³¹⁶G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

On 17 November 2022, the Central Banks of India and Bhutan signed an agreement to extend the validity of the Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement originally signed in January 2020.³¹⁷ India also outlined it had also been providing two Standby Credit Facilities to Bhutan which also serve to facilitate payments within India and meet Rupee requirements in Bhutan.

On 13-14 December 2022, the first meeting of G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies was held under India's presidency, where India reaffirmed its commitment to the global financial safety net. India further proposed its G20 Finance Track agenda for 2023, which prioritizes the establishment of a robust GFSN and the issue of international debt sustainability.³¹⁸

On 9-11 January 2023, the first GPFI meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Kolkata. Under India's leadership, G20 participants discussed the monitoring of global economic risks and the establishment of the GFSN according to India's proposed agenda.³¹⁹

On 25 March 2023, former Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Indrajith Coomaraswamy stated that the Sri Lankan government had begun negotiations with India for a fresh currency swap worth approximately INR1 billion.³²⁰

On 1 April 2023, India and Malaysia agreed to use the Indian Rupee, in addition to other currencies, to settle bilateral trade transactions.³²¹

On 14 April 2023, during the 47th Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), India, alongside other IMFC members, agreed to support at least the current envelope of resources of the IMF and to accelerate discussions to achieve considerable progress by the time of the next IMFC meeting.³²²

On 1 June 2023, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations released a joint statement reaffirming the ministers' support for a robust GFSN and called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ to be completed by 15 December 2023.³²³

On 6-7 June 2023, India hosted the third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting, where, inter alia, members discussed strengthening the GFSN and following up on the IMF's SDR allocation.³²⁴

³¹⁷RBI provides an additional currency swap facility of USD 200M to RMA, Kuensel Online (Thimphu) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://kuenselonline.com/rbi-provides-an-additional-currency-swap-facility-of-usd-200m-to-rma/>

³¹⁸India hosts the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, G20 Press Release (Bengaluru) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/fin-14/>

³¹⁹First Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, Kolkata, G20 Press Release (Kolkata) 7 January 2023. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/cabinet-approves/>

³²⁰Sri Lanka in talks for billion dollar equivalent Indian rupee swap, EconomyNext (Colombo) 25 March 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-in-talks-for-billion-dollar-equivalent-indian-rupee-swap-116486/>

³²¹India, Malaysia can now trade in Indian rupee, Times of India (New Delhi) 1 April 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-malaysia-can-now-trade-in-indian-rupee/articleshow/99164404.cms?from=mdr>

³²²Chair's Statement of Forty-Seventh Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/04/14/pr23120-chairs-statement-forty-seventh-meeting-of-the-imfc>

³²³International Relations on BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting, South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-relations-brics-ministers-foreign-affairs-and-international-relations-meeting>

India has demonstrated concrete policy action to support a robust GFSN, including in its capacity as the G20 presidency. The government of India has further expressed support for strengthening the GFSN with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shib-Chieh Lee

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.

On 25 June 2022, the People's Bank of China (PBC) announced that it signed an agreement with the Bank of International Settlements to create the Renminbi Liquidity Arrangement. This agreement will provide liquidity support for central banks during periods of volatility and support the regional financial safety net.³²⁵ The central banks of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Chile were among the first participants.

On 4 July 2022, the PBC and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority upgraded their 2009 currency swap arrangement to a standing swap arrangement that does not need to be renewed.³²⁶ The authorities also expanded the swap scale from RMB500 billion to RMB800 billion.

On 16 July 2022, Governor of the PBC Yi Gang attended the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.³²⁷ During the meeting, members reiterated their commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center, and welcomed the voluntary channeling of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). Furthermore, members called upon the IMF to ensure the full operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) by the 2022 Annual Meetings and welcomed pledges for voluntary contributions to the RST and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PGRT).

On 18 August 2022, Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of Follow-up Actions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. During the meeting, Minister Wang reiterated China's preparedness to re-channel USD10 billion of its SDRs to Africa through the PGRT. China will also encourage the IMF to direct China's contributions to Africa.³²⁸

On 10 October 2022, the PBC renewed a bilateral currency swap arrangement with the European Central Bank for three years, with an unchanged size of RMB350 billion.³²⁹

³²⁴Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes, Indian Ministry of Finance (Goa) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930533>

³²⁵The PBOC joined the BIS' Renminbi Liquidity Arrangement, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 25 June 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4437084/4586998/index.html>

³²⁶PBC and HKMA Signed Standing Currency Swap Agreement and Expanded Swap Size, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 4 July 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4437084/4593234/index.html>

³²⁷Governor YI Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Virtually, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 16 July 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4437084/4608332/index.html>

³²⁸Wang Yi: China Honors Its Commitments to Actively Advance Cooperation with Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 August 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202208/t20220821_10747204.html

³²⁹PBC and ECB Extend Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement, the People's Bank of China (Beijing) 10 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688241/3688636/3688657/4678261/index.html>

On 12 October 2022, during the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, China and other G20 participants stated, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³³⁰

On 14 October 2022, Deputy Governor of the PBC Xuan Changneng participated in the forty-sixth meeting of the International Finance and Monetary Committee.³³¹ At the meeting, attendees drafted a communiqué that, inter alia, reaffirmed their commitment to a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF at the center of the GFSN. The communiqué also expressed members' interest in the operationalization of the first RST-supported programs later in 2022. It further stated that all members will undertake all necessary efforts to close the remaining funding gap for the PGRT through subsidies and loans.

On 12 November 2022, China committed to being a donor country to the newly established Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (Pandemic Fund) during a meeting of G20 Health and Finance Ministers.³³²

On 12 November 2022, Premier Li Keqiang participated in the 25th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus Three Summit. During the summit, Premier Li Keqiang underscored the need to build a stronger capacity for crisis response, including by supporting efforts to make the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization more readily available and effective, in addition to improving the regional financial safety net.³³³

On 16 November 2022, the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³³⁴ During the summit, President Xi Jinping also stated that the IMF should speed up the on-lending of SDRs to low-income countries.³³⁵

On 16 November 2022, during the G20 Bali Summit, China reaffirmed along with other G20 leaders, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³³⁶

³³⁰G20 Chair's Summary - Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221013-finance-chair-summary.html>

³³¹Chair's Statement Forty-Sixth Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/10/14/pr22357-imfc-chair-statement-forty-sixth-meeting-of-the-imfc>

³³²G20 Health and Finance Ministers Agree to Launch Pandemic Fund, G20 (Bali) 12 November 2022. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.g20.org/g20-health-and-finance-ministers-agree-to-launch-pandemic-fund/>

³³³Speech by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China At the 25th ASEAN Plus China, Japan, ROK Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 June 2022. Access Date: 17 November 2022. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202211/t20221114_10974032.html

³³⁴G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³³⁵Working Together to Meet the Challenges of Our Times and Build a Better Future, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 15 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/zjyh_665391/202211/t20221115_10975360.html

³³⁶G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

On 13 December 2022, China participated in the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under India's presidency, where G20 participants exchanged views on the global financial safety net.³³⁷

On 12 January 2023, Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that with respect to China's commitment to channel USD10 billion of its SDRs to Africa, "this work has seen initial progress."³³⁸

On 7 February 2023, China and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding on setting up Yuan clearing arrangements in Brazil, with the intention to minimize risks associated with exchange rate volatility in using the US dollar for international transactions.³³⁹

On 14 April 2023, during the 47th Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), China, alongside other IMFC members, agreed to support at least the current envelope of resources of the IMF and to accelerate discussions to achieve considerable progress by the time of the next IMFC meeting, alongside other IMFC members.³⁴⁰

On 1 June 2023, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations released a joint statement reaffirming the ministers' support for a robust GFSN and called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ to be completed by 15 December 2023.³⁴¹

On 7 June 2023, India hosted the third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting, where, inter alia, members discussed strengthening the GFSN and following up on the IMF's SDR allocation.³⁴²

On 10 June 2023, China renewed its bilateral currency swap deal with the Central Bank of Argentina for a period of three years.³⁴³

On 20 June 2023, Ambassador to the United Kingdom Zheng Zeguang stated that China has established bilateral currency swap arrangements with twenty countries and RMB clearing arrangements with 10 countries.³⁴⁴ Ambassador Zeguang also stated that China is working on fulfilling its pledge to channel USD10 billion of its SDRs to Africa and has fully implemented the G20 Debt Suspension Initiative.

³³⁷India hosts the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Group of 20 – Indian Presidency (Bengaluru) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/fin-14/>

³³⁸Qin Gang: So-called China's "Debt Trap" in Africa Is a Narrative Trap Imposed on China and Africa, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Abuja) 12 January 2023. Access Date: 13 January 2023. http://ng.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zgxw/202301/t20230112_11006510.htm

³³⁹China says it will set up yuan clearing arrangements in Brazil, Reuters (Beijing) 7 February 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/china-says-it-will-set-up-yuan-clearing-arrangements-brazil-2023-02-07/>

³⁴⁰Chair's Statement of Forty-Seventh Meeting of the IMFC, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/04/14/pr23120-chairs-statement-forty-seventh-meeting-of-the-imfc>

³⁴¹International Relations on BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting, South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-relations-brics-ministers-foreign-affairs-and-international-relations-meeting>

³⁴²Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes, Indian Ministry of Finance (Goa) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930533>

³⁴³China, Argentina renew currency swap deal, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 10 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202306/10/content_WS6483b2d7c6d0868f4e8dcbc6.html

³⁴⁴Ambassador Zheng Zeguang Delivers Keynote Address at the "New Silk Road: Expanding Horizons" Seminar, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom (London) 21 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjhh/202306/t20230622_11102294.htm

China has verbally reaffirmed its commitment to voluntarily channel a portion of its SDRs to Africa and contributed to a regional financial safety net. Furthermore, the government has verbally reaffirmed its commitment to a strong and effective GFSN with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center. In addition, it has financially supported a new global fund that will mitigate pandemic-related financial instability in developing countries, and has renewed at least two currency swap arrangements.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN) with a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its center.

On 30 June 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the 7th Summit of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Heads of State or Government.³⁴⁵ Summit participants endorsed the SACU Work Programme, which referenced a regional financing mechanism as one of its three main priorities.

On 8 July 2022, at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor stated that G20 agreements on post-COVID-19 recovery interventions, including access to Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), have not been fully acted upon.³⁴⁶

On 16 July 2022, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana attended the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.³⁴⁷ He participated in discussions where G20 members had discussed their commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF at its center and welcomed the voluntary channeling of SDRs. Members had also called upon the IMF to ensure the full operationalization of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) by the 2022 Annual Meetings, and welcomed pledges for voluntary contributions to the RST and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PGRT).

On 12 October 2022, during the fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, South Africa and other G20 participants stated, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³⁴⁸

³⁴⁵Communiqué on 7th Summit of the SACU Heads of State of Government, Presidency of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/communiqu%C3%A9-7th-summit-sacu-heads-state-or-government-30-jun-2022-0000>

³⁴⁶Speech by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor at the G20 Foreign Minister Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 8 July 2022. Access Date: 30 November 2022. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2022/pand0708.htm>

³⁴⁷Minister Enoch Godongwana leads SA delegation to the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, National Treasury of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 July 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-enoch-godongwana-leads-sa-delegation-3rd-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank>

³⁴⁸G20 Chair's Summary - Fourth G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221013-finance-chair-summary.html>

On 12 November 2022, during a meeting of G20 Health and Finance Ministers, South Africa committed to being a donor country to the newly established Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (Pandemic Fund).³⁴⁹

On 16 November 2022, the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining a strong and effective GFSN with a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.³⁵⁰

On 16 November 2022, during the G20 Bali Summit, South Africa reaffirmed along with other G20 leaders, inter alia, that they remain committed to revisiting the adequacy of quotas and would continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.³⁵¹

On 13 December 2022, South Africa participated in the first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under India's presidency, where G20 participants exchanged views on the global financial safety net.³⁵²

On 1 June 2023, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations released a joint statement reaffirming the ministers' support for a robust GFSN and called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th GRQ to be completed by 15 December 2023.³⁵³

On 7 June 2023, India hosted the third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting, where, inter alia, members discussed strengthening the GFSN and following up on the IMF's SDR allocation.³⁵⁴

South Africa made several verbal commitments to maintain a strong and effective GFSN with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF. In addition, the government endorsed a work programme that prioritized a regional financing mechanism and provided direct financial support to a new fund, mitigating financial instability in developing countries.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

³⁴⁹G20 Health and Finance Ministers Agree to Launch Pandemic Fund, G20 (Bali) 12 November 2022. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.g20.org/g20-health-and-finance-ministers-agree-to-launch-pandemic-fund/>

³⁵⁰G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: December 30 2022. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>.

³⁵¹G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁵²India hosts the First G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting under the G20 India Presidency in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Group of 20 – Indian Presidency (Bengaluru) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/december-2022/fin-14/>

³⁵³International Relations on BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting, South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-relations-brics-ministers-foreign-affairs-and-international-relations-meeting>

³⁵⁴Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting Concludes, Indian Ministry of Finance (Goa) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930533>

9. Crime and Corruption: Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement

“While respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, we are committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

The five BRICS members are parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention focuses on five main areas of work: preventive measure, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. As UNCAC parties, the BRICS countries have consistently placed anti-corruption on the agenda of their leaders' summits.

At the Durban Summit hosted in South Africa, the BRICS leaders adopted the eThekweni Declaration on 27 March 2013, in which the leaders acknowledged anti-corruption as an emerging area of cooperation.

On 15 July 2014, BRICS leaders met in Fortaleza, Brazil, where they committed “to combat domestic and foreign bribery, and strengthen international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, in accordance with multilaterally established principles and norms, especially the UNCAC.” This was the first explicit reference and commitment to anti-corruption made by BRICS leaders.

On 9 July 2015, at the Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders declared corruption a legal challenge that requires international cooperation to tackle and reaffirmed a commitment to the UNCAC. Furthermore, BRICS leaders announced the creation of a BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation.

On 1 November 2015, the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption met for the first time. The Group expressed its intention to work with the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and other relevant multilateral organizations.

On 16 October 2016, at the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders stated their support for strengthening international cooperation against corruption, including on issues relating to asset recovery and persons sought for corruption, and in the context of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.

Before the 2017 Xiamen Summit, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on 22 January 2017 in Berlin and on 9 April 2017 in Brasilia. On 4 September 2017, at the Xiamen Summit, BRICS leaders declared their support for improving BRICS anti-corruption cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to experience-sharing and compiling a compendium on fighting corruption. BRICS leaders once again reiterated their support for strengthening anti-corruption collaboration through

the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group and based on the UNCAC and other international legal instruments.

On 26 February 2018, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A subsequent meeting was convened on 26 June 2018 in Paris, France.

On 28 July 2018, BRICS leaders met in Johannesburg, where they discussed the negative impacts of corruption and its effect on economic growth. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to international cooperation under Chapter IV of UNCAC and committed to strengthening international cooperation under the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation, stating that “subject to our domestic legal systems, we will cooperate in an anti-corruption law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders and repatriation in matters relating to assets recovery and other related criminal and non-criminal matters involving corruption and call on the international community to deny safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.”

On 28 June 2019, on the sidelines of the G20 Osaka Summit, BRICS leaders held an informal meeting and released a joint statement. The statement reaffirmed their commitment to fighting corruption, promoting international anti-corruption cooperation, strengthening legal frameworks, improving mutual efforts in prosecuting corrupt persons, and “recogniz[ing] the need to strengthen cooperation, subject to domestic legal systems, in anti-corruption law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders, and in recovering stolen assets.”

On 26 July 2019, BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they reiterated their commitment “to strengthen[ing] the legal framework related to the resolution of cases of corruption, in accordance with the UNCAC and other multilateral principles and norms.”

On 14 November 2019, at the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders stated their “commitment to fight corruption, inter alia, through the strengthening of domestic legal frameworks, as appropriate, to more effectively address cases of corruption. We remain committed to adopting integrity measures in the public sector and promoting integrity standards in private enterprises and to build a stronger global commitment to a culture of intolerance towards corruption. We will maintain our ongoing efforts on anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation and returning of assets, including on civil and administrative proceedings. We will make full use of the BRICS Meeting on Asset Recovery and strengthen experience-sharing and case-cooperation on asset recovery among BRICS countries. We will enhance our exchange of views within multilateral frameworks such as UNCAC and the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, with the aim of joining efforts in denying safe haven to economic and corruption offenders and to facilitate the repatriation of proceeds of crime.”

On 3 February 2020, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on the sidelines of the G20 Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Working Group.

On 4 September 2020, BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met virtually due to the pandemic. They reaffirmed “their commitment to promote international anti-corruption cooperation and strengthen BRICS collaboration, subject to domestic legal systems, on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on extradition of fugitives, economics and corruption offenders and in recovering stolen assets.”

On 7 September 2020, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on the sidelines of the G20 Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Working Group. They met again on 19 October 2020.

On 17 November 2020, the BRICS leaders reiterated a commitment to promoting the UNCAC as an integral mechanism for international anti-corruption cooperation, especially “in light of the 2021 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly against corruption, strengthen BRICS

collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.”

On 9 September 2021, BRICS leaders adopted the New Delhi Declaration at a virtual leaders’ summit hosted by India. The Declaration states: “we reaffirm stronger cooperation and commitment to action on international anti-corruption issues, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, especially on matters related to asset recovery, denying safe havens to corrupt persons and identification of proceeds of corruption. We will continue to enhance anti-corruption capacity building through various education and training programs. We welcome the 2021 special session of the UN General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, and reiterate our commitment to implement its political declaration.”

On 23 June 2022, BRICS leaders pledged the present commitment in the Beijing Declaration. They also welcomed the BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption and the first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, further committing to “strengthen anti-corruption capacity building through education and training programs and enhance anti-corruption exchanges and cooperation within multilateral frameworks.”

Commitment Features

The BRICS commitment reads: “while respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, we are committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.”

Through both “experience sharing” and engagement in “practical cooperation,” the commitment stipulates three main areas of work in anti-corruption for BRICS countries: 1) the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, 2) mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and 3) asset recovery.

The word “committed” is a highly binding commitment word that indicates the BRICS leaders’ commitment to undertaking substantial and concrete actions in line with the commitment. “Strengthen” is understood as the act of “making or becoming stronger.” “Cooperation” refers to “the action or process of working together to the same end.” “Law enforcement” refers to “the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety, whose primary duties include the investigation, apprehension, and detention of individuals suspected of criminal offenses.”

Both components – experience sharing and practical cooperation – must be satisfied in each of the three pillars of the commitment, in order for the BRICS member to score full compliance. In addition, given the strong action verb leading the commitment, verbal reaffirmations of the commitment text or passive participation in international meetings on anti-corruption do not constitute sufficient evidence for full compliance. Policy actions that contribute to compliance must demonstrate a certain level of significance and concrete decision. For example, BRICS members can contribute to existing bilateral or multilateral initiatives or agreements, or launch new coordination programs to fulfill the “practical cooperation” criterion. On the other hand, BRICS members can participate in technical assistance programs in partnership with other BRICS members to fulfill the “experience-sharing” criterion.

First, the BRICS member must demonstrate actions in both experience sharing and practical cooperation in the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders. “Pursuit” is defined as “the act of following or searching for someone or something, in order to catch or attack the person or thing.”

“Offender” refers to an individual who is guilty of a crime, and in this context economic crime or a corruption offense. To comply with the first dimension of this commitment, for example, BRICS members can take actions to deny safe havens to corrupt persons and their proceeds of corruption by denial of visa or entry. BRICS members can also collaborate with other governments on extradition arrangements and prevent situations where corrupt public officials are immune or sheltered from legal prosecution due to a lack of cross-border coordination.

Second, the commitment stipulates that the BRICS leaders commit to experience sharing and practical cooperation on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters. “Mutual legal assistance” refers to “a process by which states seek for and provide assistance to other states in servicing of judicial document and gathering evidence.” For example, one country can obtain a court order on behalf of another country, usually under the auspices of authority provided by mutual legal assistance agreements. In the context of anti-corruption, “civil and administrative proceedings” refer to two types of legal liability to punish “acts perpetrated against the public administration.”

Third, “asset recovery” refers to “the process by which the proceeds of corruption transferred abroad are recovered and repatriated to the country from which they were taken or to their rightful owners.” On this third pillar of the commitment, for example, BRICS members can engage in actions that support the return of confiscated property obtained through corrupt means, collaborate across policy jurisdictions to prove ownership and determine the damage caused and victim compensations, or cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of offenses more broadly.

For full compliance, a BRICS member must take strong action to fulfil all three components of the commitment, and through both experience sharing and practical cooperation. If a BRICS member only takes strong action in one or two of the three components, or partial action therein (for example, only experience sharing and no practical cooperation across the three components), the BRICS member would score a 0 for partial compliance.

If a BRICS member takes no action to advance any component of the commitment, it would be assigned a score of -1 for non-compliance. Similarly, if the BRICS member takes action against the objective of this commitment, it is considered non-compliant.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	While respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, the BRICS Member is NOT committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, NOR on asset recovery.
0	While respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, the BRICS Member is committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, OR on asset recovery.
+1	While respecting the legal systems of our respective countries, the BRICS Member is committed to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, AND on asset recovery.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Angela Minyi Hou

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on the pursuit of

economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters and on asset recovery.

On 13 July 2022, Brazil attended the first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, where BRICS members agreed to promote experience-sharing, anti-corruption education and cooperation.³⁵⁵ The meeting was held to support the work of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁵⁶

On 20 July 2022, Brazil presented three projects on anti-corruption and countering money laundering at a G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting: the National Network of Technology Laboratories Against Money Laundering (Rede-Lab), the Financial System Customer Registry (CCS) and Banking Transactions Investigation System (Simba).³⁵⁷ Both Rede-Lab and CCS employ technology to combat money laundering, with the former analyzing data for criminal investigations and the latter tracking accounts at financial institutions to support official investigations. Simba is designed to allow more efficient data transmission between banks and governments to increase transparency. All three initiatives were developed under the National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (Enccla).

On 15 September 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that GOL Linhas Aéreas Inteligentes S.A., a Brazilian airline company, will pay over USD41 million in settlements for bribing Brazilian officials, of which approximately USD3.4 million will be paid to the Brazilian Comptroller General and Attorney General.³⁵⁸ The joint investigation between Brazil and the US demonstrated cooperation between their criminal and civil authorities to resolve parallel bribery investigations.

On 15-16 November 2022, Brazil renewed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption as part of the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration.³⁵⁹ The communiqué reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to combating cross-border corruption, bribery and the removal of safe havens for economic criminals.

On 22 December 2022, the Attorney General's Office and the Comptroller General of the Union reached a joint resolution with Keppel Offshore and Marine (KOM), a Singaporean company, with respect to payments made by a corrupt former agent in Brazil.³⁶⁰ The settlement entails BRL343.57 million (USD65 million) in fines and damages, which KOM will pay within 30 days of signing the leniency agreement with the treasury of Brazil.

³⁵⁵BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communique, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022.

<http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/P020220715583024224584.pdf>

³⁵⁶Meeting of BRICS Foreign Affairs and International Affairs Ministers on the Sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/reuniao-de-ministros-de-relacoes-exteriores-e-relacoes-internacionais-do-brics-nas-margens-da-77a-sessao-da-assembleia-geral-das-nacoes-unidas-22-de-setembro-de-2022

³⁵⁷Brazil Presents Anti-Corruption Initiatives at G20 Event, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 20 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-apresenta-iniciativas-de-combate-a-corrupcao-em-evento-do-g20>

³⁵⁸GOL Linhas Aéreas Inteligentes S.A. Will Pay Over \$41 Million in Resolution of Foreign Bribery Investigations in the United States and Brazil, United States Department of Justice (Washington, D.C.) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/gol-linhas-reas-inteligentes-sa-will-pay-over-41-million-resolution-foreign-bribery>

³⁵⁹G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date 12 January 2023.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁶⁰Keppel O&M to Pay \$65 Million to Settle Brazil Corruption Scandal, Upstream (Singapore) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.upstreamonline.com/finance/keppel-o-m-to-pay-65-million-to-settle-brazil-corruption-scandal/2-1-1378513>

On 28 February 2023, Brazil participated in a meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁶¹ BRICS members pledged their commitment to anti-corruption objectives and planned to conduct joint training for anti-corruption practitioners and ethics officers on the intersection of gender and corruption in July 2023.

On 1-3 March 2023, Brazil participated in the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in Gurugram, Haryana, India.³⁶² The meeting highlighted issues of asset recovery, foundations to battle corruption, and networks for information-sharing.

On 18 May 2023, Brazil attended the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting hosted by South Africa's Advocate Xolisile Khanyile.³⁶³ Brazil, among other BRICS members, agreed to assist and cooperate with South Africa's anti-corruption agenda, including collaboration with BRICS representatives, expansion of the asset recovery network, and participation in anti-corruption training with respect to gender and corruption. Members also committed to the establishment of the BRICS Roundtable on Gender and Corruption.

On 25-27 May 2023, Brazil participated in the second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting.³⁶⁴ This meeting reaffirmed the members' commitment to asset recovery, cooperation against fugitive economic offenders, and formal and informal channels of cooperation and institutional frameworks for combating corruption. The members also participated in a gender and corruption event.

Brazil has taken actions to strengthen experience sharing and practical cooperation on anti-corruption law enforcement, mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, and asset recovery.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Katherine Zhang and Jennifer Lee

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.

On 13 July 2022, Russia attended the first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, where BRICS members agreed to promote experience-sharing, anti-corruption education and cooperation.³⁶⁵ The

³⁶¹South Africa successfully concluded the first meeting of the BRICS anti-corruption working group in Gurugram, India, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/03/04/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-first-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group-in-gurugram-india/>

³⁶²The First Meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group concludes in Gurugram, Haryana, G20 India 2023 (Gurugram) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/mar-23/acwg-concludes/>

³⁶³South Africa successfully concluded the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 May 2023. Access Date: July 1, 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/05/26/south-africa-succesfully-concluded-the-second-meeting-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group/#respond>

³⁶⁴Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh (Tehri), Uttarakhand, G20 India 2023 (Rishikesh) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/acwgm-conclusion/>

³⁶⁵BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communique, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/P020220715583024224584.pdf>

meeting was held to support the work of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁶⁶ The final communiqué emphasized the importance of cooperation in addressing trans-border corruption and strengthening information sharing among specialised domestic agencies. In addition, it discussed strategies in incorporating the private sector with the help of compliance and internal control mechanisms, strengthening anti-corruption education and training and cooperating to address asset recovery.³⁶⁷

On 16 September 2022, the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) released a list of initiatives that were agreed upon at the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 15-16 September 2022. The final declaration reaffirmed cooperation between Prosecutor Generals' Offices and coordination on issues such as forensic investigations, information sharing and joint events. The declaration further affirmed international anti-corruption cooperation and an enhanced role for the United Nations therein.³⁶⁸

On 14 October 2023, Russia signed a package of documents aimed at combating corruption, along with 13 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.³⁶⁹ This package includes cooperation in the form of aiding with corruption-related criminal proceedings, the conduct of coordinated and concerted investigation-and-search operations, preventative operations, special operations on corruption-related crimes, and cooperation in tracing, detainment and extraditing persons who have committed corruption-related crimes.

On 15-16 November 2022, Russia renewed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption as part of the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration.³⁷⁰ The communiqué reaffirmed Russia's commitment to combating cross-border corruption, bribery and the removal of safe havens for economic criminals.

On 1 January 2023, President Vladimir Putin submitted a draft law that would withdraw Russia from the European Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (CICC) in response to Russia's expulsion from the Council of Europe in March 2023.³⁷¹ The law, if passed, would no longer hold Russia to the same standards of the CICC with respect to bribery, money laundering, insider trading or other forms of corruption.

On 15 February 2023, Russian legislators passed a law denouncing the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, in response to the Council of Europe's decision to cease Russia's membership in the Group of States against Corruption.^{372,373} Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs

³⁶⁶Meeting of BRICS Foreign Affairs and International Affairs Ministers on the Sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/reuniao-de-ministros-de-relacoes-exteriores-e-relacoes-internacionais-do-brics-nas-margens-da-77a-sessao-da-assembleia-geral-das-nacoes-unidas-22-de-setembro-de-2022

³⁶⁷BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communique, BRICS (Beijing) 15 July 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/t20220718_10722916.html

³⁶⁸The Samarkand Declaration of the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Beijing) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <http://eng.sectsc.org/load/914622/>

³⁶⁹CIS member nations agree to extradite fugitive corrupt officials to each other, Asia-Plus (Dushanbe) 27 October 2022. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://asiaplustj.info/en/news/tajikistan/politics/20221027/cis-member-nations-agree-to-extradite-fugitive-corrupt-officials-to-each-other>

³⁷⁰G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date 12 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁷¹Putin Set to Withdraw Russia from Europe's Anti-Corruption Convention, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (Moscow) 12 January 2023. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17231-putin-set-to-withdraw-russia-from-europe-s-anti-corruption-convention>

³⁷²The State Duma denounced the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, The State Duma (Moscow) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. <http://duma.gov.ru/en/news/56390/>

Leonid Slutsky stated that this denunciation would not affect anti-corruption measures in Russia. The law officially came into effect on 11 March 2023.

On 28 February 2023, Russia participated in a meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁷⁴ BRICS members pledged their commitment to anti-corruption objectives and planned to conduct joint training for anti-corruption practitioners and ethics officers on the intersection of gender and corruption in July 2023.

On 1-3 March 2023, Russia participated in the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in Gurugram, Haryana, India.³⁷⁵ The meeting highlighted issues of asset recovery, foundations to battle corruption, and networks for information-sharing.

On 18 May 2023, Russia attended the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting hosted by South Africa's Advocate Xolisile Khanyile.³⁷⁶ Russia, among other BRICS members, agreed to assist and cooperate with South Africa's anti-corruption agenda, including collaboration with BRICS representatives, expansion of the asset recovery network, and participation in anti-corruption training with respect to gender and corruption. Members also committed to the establishment of the BRICS Roundtable on Gender and Corruption.

On 25-27 May 2023, Russia participated in the second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting.³⁷⁷ This meeting reaffirmed the members' commitment to asset recovery, cooperation against fugitive economic offenders, and formal and informal channels of cooperation and institutional frameworks for combating corruption. The members also participated in a gender and corruption event.

Especially in the context of intra-BRICS collaboration, Russia has taken steps to strengthen experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, asset recovery, and the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Michael Shirley

³⁷³Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov's interview with TASS News Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. (Moscow) 21 March 2023. Access Date: 3 July 2023. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1858895/

³⁷⁴South Africa successfully concluded the first meeting of the BRICS anti-corruption working group in Gurugram, India, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/03/04/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-first-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group-in-gurugram-india/>

³⁷⁵The First Meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group concludes in Gurugram, Haryana, G20 India 2023 (Gurugram) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/mar-23/acwg-concludes/>

³⁷⁶South Africa successfully concluded the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 May 2023. Access Date: July 1, 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/05/26/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-second-meeting-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group/#respond>

³⁷⁷Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh (Tehri), Uttarakhand, G20 India 2023 (Rishikesh) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/acwgm-conclusion/>

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.

On 13 July 2022, Union Minister Jitendra Singh attended the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, reaffirming India's commitment to anti-corruption. He noted recent federal reforms to make India's anti-corruption services more user-friendly and recognized the Central Vigilance Commission's role in overseeing preventative measures. Minister Singh also reiterated the importance of international cooperation in extraditing known offenders, preventing the transferring of illegal profits overseas and implementing global anti-money laundering standards.³⁷⁸

On 15-16 November 2022, India renewed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption as part of the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration.³⁷⁹ The communiqué reaffirmed India's commitment to combating cross-border corruption, bribery and the removal of safe havens for economic criminals.

On 7 December 2022, India concluded the first Sherpa meeting in preparation for its upcoming G20 presidency.³⁸⁰ In this context, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant emphasized the importance of combatting corruption and economic crime, stressing cooperation among G20 members.

On 28 February 2023, India participated in a meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁸¹ BRICS members pledged their commitment to anti-corruption objectives and planned to conduct joint training for anti-corruption practitioners and ethics officers on the intersection of gender and corruption in July 2023.

On 1-3 March 2023, India hosted the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in Gurugram, Haryana.³⁸² The meeting highlighted issues of asset recovery, foundations to battle corruption, and networks for information-sharing.

On 18 May 2023, India attended the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting hosted by South Africa's Advocate Xolisile Khanyile.³⁸³ India, among other BRICS members, agreed to assist and cooperate with South Africa's anti-corruption agenda, including collaboration with BRICS representatives, expansion of the asset recovery network, and participation in anti-corruption training

³⁷⁸Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Addresses the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet; Reiterates India's Commitment Against Corruption, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (New Delhi) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=235162>

³⁷⁹G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date 12 January 2023.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁸⁰Agriculture, Trade, Anti-Corruption: Discussions on India's G20 Priorities Conclude on Day 3 of 1st Sherpa Meeting, India Today (New Delhi) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/discussions-on-indias-g20-priorities-conclude-on-day-3-of-1st-sherpa-meeting-2306177-2022-12-07>

³⁸¹South Africa successfully concluded the first meeting of the BRICS anti-corruption working group in Gurugram, India, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/03/04/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-first-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group-in-gurugram-india/>

³⁸²The First Meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group concludes in Gurugram, Haryana, G20 India 2023 (Gurugram) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/mar-23/acwg-concludes/>

³⁸³South Africa successfully concluded the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 May 2023. Access Date: July 1, 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/05/26/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-second-meeting-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group/#respond>

with respect to gender and corruption. Members also committed to the establishment of the BRICS Roundtable on Gender and Corruption.

On 25-27 May 2023, India participated in the second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting.³⁸⁴ This meeting reaffirmed the members' commitment to asset recovery, cooperation against fugitive economic offenders, and formal and informal channels of cooperation and institutional frameworks for combating corruption. The members also participated in a gender and corruption event.

Through both BRICS and the G20 channels, India has demonstrated full compliance with the commitment to enhance international anti-corruption efforts, covering law enforcement, the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, asset recovery, and mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Zhang

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.

On 13-15 July 2022, China hosted the first BRICS Anti-corruption Ministerial Meeting, where BRICS members agreed to promote experience-sharing, anti-corruption education and cooperation.³⁸⁵ The meeting was held to support the work of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁸⁶ The meeting produced the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communiqué, which emphasized cooperating in addressing trans-border corruption and strengthening information sharing among specialised domestic agencies. In addition, it discussed strategies in incorporating the private sector with the help of compliance and internal control mechanisms, strengthening anti-corruption education and training and cooperating to address asset recovery.³⁸⁷

On 16 September 2022, the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) released a list of initiatives that were agreed upon at the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The final declaration reaffirmed cooperation between Prosecutor Generals' Offices and coordination on issues such as forensic investigations, information sharing, and joint events. The

³⁸⁴Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh (Tehri), Uttarakhand, G20 India 2023 (Rishikesh) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/acwgm-conclusion/>

³⁸⁵BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communiqué, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022.

<http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/P020220715583024224584.pdf>

³⁸⁶Meeting of BRICS Foreign Affairs and International Affairs Ministers on the Sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/reuniao-de-ministros-de-relacoes-exteriores-e-relacoes-internacionais-do-brics-nas-margens-da-77a-sessao-da-assembleia-geral-das-nacoes-unidas-22-de-setembro-de-2022

³⁸⁷BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communiqué, BRICS (Beijing) 15 July 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/t20220718_10722916.html

declaration further affirmed international anti-corruption cooperation and an enhanced role for the United Nations therein.³⁸⁸

On 15-16 November 2022, China renewed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption as part of the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration.³⁸⁹ The communiqué reaffirmed China's commitment to combating cross-border corruption, bribery and the removal of safe havens for economic criminals.

On 28 February 2023, China participated in a meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁹⁰ BRICS members pledged their commitment to anti-corruption objectives and planned to conduct joint training for anti-corruption practitioners and ethics officers on the intersection of gender and corruption in July 2023.

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On 18 May 2023, China attended the BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting hosted by South Africa's Advocate Xolisile Khanyile.³⁹² China, among other BRICS members, agreed to assist and cooperate with South Africa's anti-corruption agenda, including collaboration with BRICS representatives, expansion of the asset recovery network, and participation in anti-corruption training with respect to gender and corruption. Members also committed to the establishment of the BRICS Roundtable on Gender and Corruption.

On 25-27 May 2023, China participated in the second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting.³⁹³ This meeting reaffirmed the members' commitment to asset recovery, cooperation against fugitive economic offenders, and formal and informal channels of cooperation and institutional frameworks for combating corruption. The members also participated in a gender and corruption event.

On 27 June 2023, President Xi Jinping met with Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene.³⁹⁴ The two leaders committed to closer cooperation between officials on anti-corruption matters.

³⁸⁸The Samarkand Declaration of the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Beijing) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <http://eng.sectso.org/load/914622/>

³⁸⁹G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date 12 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁹⁰South Africa successfully concluded the first meeting of the BRICS anti-corruption working group in Gurugram, India, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/03/04/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-first-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group-in-gurugram-india/>

³⁹¹The First Meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group concludes in Gurugram, Haryana, G20 India 2023 (Gurugram) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/mar-23/acwg-concludes/>

³⁹²South Africa successfully concluded the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 May 2023. Access Date: July 1, 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/05/26/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-second-meeting-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group/#respond>

³⁹³Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh (Tehri), Uttarakhand, G20 India 2023 (Rishikesh) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/acwgm-conclusion/>

³⁹⁴Xi Jinping Meets with Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 2 July 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202307/t20230704_11107521.html

Through bilateral and multilateral fora, China has demonstrated strengthened cooperation with international partners to combat corruption, covering law enforcement, the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, asset recovery, and mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Michael Shirley

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening experience sharing and practical cooperation on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on the pursuit of economic and corruption offenders, on mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative matters, and on asset recovery.

On 13 July 2022, South Africa attended the first BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, where BRICS members agreed to promote experience-sharing, anti-corruption education and cooperation.³⁹⁵ The meeting was held to support the work of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.³⁹⁶

On 26 October 2022, the National Treasury released the 2022 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, introducing two bills to amend weaknesses in the legislative framework to increase transparency and report suspicious financial activities. The bills were introduced in reaction to South Africa's low score by the Financial Action Task Force and to align with international standards dedicated to anti-money laundering.³⁹⁷

On 15-16 November 2022, South Africa renewed its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption as part of the G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration.³⁹⁸ The communiqué reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to combating cross-border corruption, bribery and the removal of safe havens for economic criminals.

On 13 December 2022, the National Treasury passed two bills relating to financial crimes and corruption.³⁹⁹ Amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing Act and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities were passed to address loopholes in South Africa's legal system that pertain to money laundering and financial crime. The amendments demonstrate South Africa's commitment to anti-corruption in accordance with international standards.

³⁹⁵BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communique, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022.

<http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODMM/202207/P020220715583024224584.pdf>

³⁹⁶Meeting of BRICS Foreign Affairs and International Affairs Ministers on the Sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/reuniao-de-ministros-de-relacoes-exteriores-e-relacoes-internacionais-do-brics-nas-margens-da-77a-sessao-da-assembleia-geral-das-nacoes-unidas-22-de-setembro-de-2022

³⁹⁷SA Doing All Possible to Avoid Greylisting, South African Government News Agency (Cape Town) 26 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-doing-all-possible-avoid-greylisting>

³⁹⁸G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 (Bali) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date 12 January 2023.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

³⁹⁹National Assembly, NCOP Pass Two Money Bills, South African Government News Agency (Cape Town) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/national-assembly-ncop-pass-two-money-bills>

On 28 February 2023, South Africa hosted the first meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.⁴⁰⁰ BRICS members pledged their commitment to anti-corruption objectives and planned to conduct joint training for anti-corruption practitioners and ethics officers on the intersection of gender and corruption in July 2023.

On 1-3 March 2023, South Africa participated in the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in Gurugram, Haryana, India.⁴⁰¹ The meeting highlighted issues of asset recovery, foundations to battle corruption, and networks for information-sharing.

On 3 May 2023, South Africa attended the 13th Regional Conference of Anti-Corruption Agencies in the Commonwealth of Africa in Seychelles.⁴⁰² Members committed to increasing education and awareness on corruption, increasing the quality of mutual legal assistance, and strengthening collaboration on information-sharing at local, regional and international levels.⁴⁰³

On 18 May 2023, South Africa hosted the second BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting.⁴⁰⁴ South Africa pledged to collaborate with other members on public-private partnerships on asset recovery, explore the intersection of gender and corruption, and attend the BRICS Anti-Corruption training for practitioners in June.

On 25-27 May 2023, South Africa participated in the second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting.⁴⁰⁵ This meeting reaffirmed the members' commitment to asset recovery, cooperation against fugitive economic offenders, and formal and informal channels of cooperation and institutional frameworks for combating corruption. The members also participated in a gender and corruption event.

South Africa has taken strong actions to strengthen domestic responses to combat corruption and engage in experience-sharing and practical cooperation in all dimensions of the commitment, demonstrating full compliance.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Zhang

⁴⁰⁰South Africa successfully concluded the first meeting of the BRICS anti-corruption working group in Gurugram, India, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/03/04/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-first-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group-in-gurugram-india/>

⁴⁰¹The First Meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group concludes in Gurugram, Haryana, G20 India 2023 (Gurugram) 4 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/mar-23/acwg-concludes/>

⁴⁰²12th Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa, Commonwealth Secretariat (London) 11 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <https://www.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/index.php/comsec/catalog/book/1107>

⁴⁰³Anti-corruption agencies: African Commonwealth countries agree to information-sharing and support, Seychelles News Agency (Victoria) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 4 July 2023. <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/18704/>

⁴⁰⁴South Africa successfully concluded the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, Department of Public Service and Administration, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 May 2023. Access Date: July 1, 2023. <https://www.dpsa.gov.za/thepublicservant/2023/05/26/south-africa-successfully-concluded-the-second-meeting-meeting-of-the-brics-anti-corruption-working-group/#respond>

⁴⁰⁵Conclusion of Second G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting, May 25-27, Rishikesh (Tehri), Uttarakhand, G20 India 2023 (Rishikesh) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 5 July 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/may-2023/acwgm-conclusion/>

10. Terrorism: Cross-border Movement, Terrorist Financing and Safe Havens

“We are committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.”

XIV BRICS Summit: Beijing Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa			+1
Average	+0.40 (70%)		

Background

Counter-terrorism has been an important subject of discussion since the first meeting of the BRICS leaders. At the 2009 Yekaterinburg Summit, BRICS leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and called for the urgent adoption of the Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism. At the 2010 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders again condemned all acts of terrorism. In their declaration, the leaders noted that “the fight against international terrorism must be undertaken with due respect to the UN Charter, existing international conventions and protocols, the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.” In addition, they urged the early conclusion of negotiations in the United Nations General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

At the 2011 Sanya Summit, in addition to voicing their condemnation of terrorism, BRICS leaders also reiterated that “the United Nations has a central role in coordinating the international against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of the international law.” Again, BRICS leaders urged the early conclusion of the negotiations of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

At the 2012 New Delhi Summit, BRICS leaders discussed terrorism in the context of regional stability in Afghanistan, affirming their commitment to support “Afghanistan’s emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism, and underscore the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilization of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.” In addition, the BRICS leaders again reiterated that “the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of international law” and urged an early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

At the 2013 Durban Summit, BRICS leaders, following the footsteps of the preceding New Delhi Summit, discussed terrorism in the context of regional security in Afghanistan and reiterated their commitment “to support Afghanistan’s emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism, and underscore the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilization of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.” Similarly, following previous summits, they reaffirmed the UN’s central role in coordinating international counter-terrorism actions. In their declaration, BRICS leaders affirmed support for the implementation of the UN General Assembly Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

At the 2014 Fortaleza Summit, BRICS leaders mentioned terrorism in a wide range of security-related discussions, including the activities of Boko Haram, the instability of Iraq, security issues in Afghanistan, as well as the activities of Al-Qaeda in Syria. Again, following previous summits, BRICS leaders emphasized the central role of the UN in coordinating international actions against terrorism. The leaders also affirmed their commitment to implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, for the first time, the BRICS voiced their concern with the increasing use by terrorists of information and communications technologies (ICTs).

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders discussed terrorism in a wide range of contexts including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Kenya. Following previous summits, BRICS leaders emphasized the central role of the UN in coordinating international action against terrorism and called upon the international community to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, for the first time, the BRICS reaffirmed “their commitment to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation.”

At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders discussed terrorism in the context of Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The leaders also condemned recent terrorist attacks in India. They committed to strengthening cooperation in combating international terrorism at the bilateral level and in international fora. The BRICS reiterated a commitment to combat terrorist financing by intensifying cooperation in the FATF. In addition, the leaders built on previous discussions of terrorism and ICT and agreed to strengthen joint efforts to enhance security in the use of ICT. For the first time, the leaders addressed the issue of chemical and biological terrorism, and emphasized the need for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention to suppress chemical and biological terrorism, particularly one that addresses the issue of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and terrorism. Furthermore, the BRICS leaders welcomed the establishment and first meeting of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi.

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit, BRICS leaders again addressed terrorism in their discussions of Afghanistan and Iraq, among other regional security hotspots. They addressed issues related to terrorist financing and ICTs. Specifically, the leaders welcomed the Meeting of BRICS High Representatives for Security Issues in Beijing, as well as the second BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group Meeting. The leaders called for the establishment of a broad international counter-terrorism coalition and committed to increasing the effectiveness of the UN counter-terrorism framework.

At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, BRICS leaders acknowledged the devastating effects of terrorism. The leaders continued their call for an international counter-terrorism coalition, encouraged the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by the UN General Assembly, and supported the launch of multilateral negotiations on an international convention suppressing acts of chemical and biological terrorism. Furthermore, the BRICS leaders again noted the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan and Syria and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation in the FATF.

At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fight terrorism under UN frameworks, tackle the misuse of ICTs for terrorist activities, address the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, address terrorism financing, and support efforts against terrorism in Syria and Afghanistan. In addition, the leaders noted the process made in the Fourth Meeting of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group, particularly the establishment of thematic sub-working groups.

At the 2020 Moscow Summit, BRICS leaders reiterated their long-standing commitments to fight terrorism in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, address the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, respect the central role of the UN, and combat terrorist financing. In addition, the leaders welcomed the outcomes of the Fifth BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group and endorsed the BRICS

Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Specifically, the leaders asked the BRICS High Representatives for Security to lead the review of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group's development of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan. On 20 November 2020, shortly after the Moscow Summit, the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published. The document outlined the main principles and goals of BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation.

At the 2021 New Delhi Summit, terrorism was discussed in a stand-alone section of the summit declaration entitled "Peace, Security and Counter-Terrorism Cooperation," whereby BRICS leaders discussed terrorism and its relationship to a wide range of regional conflicts, the misuse of ICT, and illicit financing. In addition to a statement condemning terrorism, the BRICS also made a clear commitment to "combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens." This commitment was reiterated at the 2022 Beijing Summit.

Commitment Features

This commitment requires BRICS members to take action towards "combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." The specification of all "forms and manifestations" indicates that many different kinds of actions against terrorism can contribute to compliance. Specifically, the BRICS specified three domains of action under which member countries should take action. Thus, there are three prongs to this commitment:

1. "Cross-border movement of terrorists": The crossing of borders is an activity that provides opportunities for exploitation by terrorist actors. However, borders also provide opportunities to disrupt and intercept terrorist activities, requiring inter-state collaboration.

The BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan lists the following actions with respect to combatting the cross-border movement of terrorists:

- Preventing the movement of terrorists in the territories of BRICS countries.
 - Exchanging best practices on immigration control to monitor and disrupt the movement of terrorists through all possible entry points like airports, maritime ports, and land routes.
 - Exchanging national experiences in the implementation and operation of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR).
 - Sharing experience on the challenges faced in the prosecution of terrorist-fighters returnees and their family members, where applicable, and evolving a handbook of best practices on this issue.
 - Implementing effective border security and management to prevent and counter the flow of known and suspected terrorists.
 - Strengthening border and customs control at regular custom ports/entry points to prevent and detect cross-border movement of terrorists, illicit trafficking of cultural property, trafficking in persons, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources including gold and other precious metals and stones, minerals, charcoal and oil, and illicit trafficking in wildlife, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials, for terrorist purposes.
 - Enhancing the skill and capacity of Screeners in detecting document fraud and profiling at regular custom ports/entry points and sharing good practices and national experiences.
2. "Terrorism financing networks": The evolution of terrorist organizations has led to a range of different methods employed to raise and manage funds. Understanding how a terrorist

organization raises and manages funds is critical for combatting terrorist activities in the long-term.

The BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan lists the following actions towards combatting terrorism financing networks:

- Strengthening BRICS countries' capabilities to address the terrorism-organized crime nexus, where applicable, to disrupt illicit funding of terrorists.
 - Cooperating in preventing the movement of illegal funds across borders, freezing terrorist assets, and suppressing illicit trade and trafficking in drugs, arms, cultural property, and other resources.
 - Exchanging information on the sources and channels of terrorist financing, including suspicious hawala operators, travel agencies, money changers, etc.
 - Developing a Handbook on the Integration of Financial Intelligence and Risk Assessment and strengthening capabilities of financial and banking sectors to safeguard their activities from terrorist abuse.
 - Exchanging best practices for suppressing the financing of terrorism including through emerging and new methods such as online crowdfunding, digital payments, dark web, cryptocurrencies, etc.
 - Promoting, as appropriate, effective public-private partnerships for exchange of information on countering terrorism financing between competent national authorities and the private sector.
3. "Safe havens": A terrorist safe haven is "an area of relative security exploited by terrorists to indoctrinate, recruit, coalesce, train, and regroup, as well as prepare and support their operations." Safe havens allow terrorist actors to plan and inspire acts of terrorism. Thus, denying safe havens is important to undermining terrorist organizations' capacity to operate.

The BRICS Counter-Terrorism Action Plan does not contain specific actions against terrorist safe havens. However, the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides useful measures that countries can take to address the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. These actions – including measures that address prolonged unresolved conflicts, the lack of the rule of law, discrimination and political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization, and lack of good governance – target the conditions that are most likely to be present in terrorist safe havens:

- Promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures by establishing and encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programs involving all sectors.
- Continue to work to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts and prevent such conduct.
- Eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, and global prosperity for all.
- Pursue and reinforce development and social inclusion agendas at every level as goals in themselves, recognizing that success in this area, especially on youth unemployment, could reduce marginalization and the subsequent sense of victimization that propels extremism and the recruitment of terrorists.

- Consider putting in place, on a voluntary basis, national systems of assistance that would promote the needs of victims of terrorism and their families and facilitate the normalization of their lives. In this regard, we encourage States to request the relevant United Nations entities to help them to develop such national systems.

Full compliance with this commitment requires BRICS members to strong take action in all three domains above. Taking strong actions that fall under only one or two of the domains would count as partial compliance OR less than strong action in three areas. Lack of action in any of the three domains specified above indicates a lack of compliance OR less than strong action in less than two areas. Less than strong action refers to weaker efforts such as verbal reiterations of support or attending but not participating in meetings.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member did NOT take any actions towards combating the cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing, OR safe havens, OR less than strong action in two or fewer areas.
0	The BRICS member took strong action in combatting ONE or TWO of the three listed aspects of terrorism: cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing networks, or safe havens OR the BRICS member took less than strong action in all three areas.
+1	The BRICS member took strong action in combatting ALL of the three listed aspects of terrorism: cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorist financing networks, or safe havens.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alissa Wang

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to take action towards combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

On 24 October 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Alberto Franco França met with the Chancellor of Ecuador Juan Carlos Holguín to express the government’s support for the recent signing of the Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security of Brazil.⁴⁰⁶ This bilateral agreement serves to promote cooperation in public security, fighting transnational organized crime, trafficking illicit drugs, penitentiary management and cybercrimes.

On 30 November 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that Brazil adhered to the Convention on Cybercrime by depositing a letter to the Council of Europe.⁴⁰⁷ Brazil’s accession to the Convention will facilitate the combat and prosecution of cybercrimes through international cooperation.

⁴⁰⁶Comunicado Conjunto entre os Ministros das Relações Exteriores do Equador e do Brasil, Ministério das Relações Exteriores (Brasília) 24 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2022. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-imprensa/comunicado-conjunto-entre-os-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-do-equador-e-do-brasil

⁴⁰⁷Nota Conjunta do Ministério das Relações Exteriores e do Ministério da Justiça e Segurança Pública – Adesão do Brasil à Convenção sobre o Crime Cibernético, celebrada em Budapeste, em 23 de novembro de 2001, Ministério das Relações Exteriores (Brasília) 30 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2023. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-da-justica-e-seguranca-publica-2013-adesao-do-brasil-a-convencao-sobre-o-crime-cibernetico-celebrada-em-budapeste-em-23-de-novembro-de-2001

On 12 January 2023, the Attorney General of the Union blocked assets worth BRL6.5 million belonging to 52 people and seven companies that helped finance transportation for perpetrators of coup acts against the Brazilian National Congress.⁴⁰⁸

Brazil reiterated its support for combating transnational organized crime and trafficking of illicit drugs. However, the government did not take any strong action towards the commitment. Brazil did block terrorist assets, which fulfills the “terrorism financing networks” domain of the commitment.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to take action towards combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

Between 8-13 October 2022, Russia participated in joint counterterrorism exercises with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and India at the National Security Garrison in Manesar.⁴⁰⁹ This joint exercise provided a platform for Russia and other participating countries to enhance their operational capabilities and to exchange counter-terrorism experience.

On 17 November 2022, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed an agreement with the Republic of Azerbaijan to cooperate in fighting the legalization of profits from crime and financing of terrorism in cross-border movements of money.⁴¹⁰ The agreement between Russia and the Republic of Azerbaijan combats terrorism financing networks by targeting cross-border movement of individuals financing terrorist activities.

On 28 December 2022, Russian defence and intelligence officials met with their Turkish and Syrian counterparts to discuss counterterrorism in the Middle East and ways of resolving the conflict in Syria.⁴¹¹

On 4 May 2023, the governments of India and Russia held the 12th Joint Working Group meeting on counterterrorism, in which both countries’ representatives discussed and reviewed their experiences in counterterrorism and combatting extremism.⁴¹² At this meeting, Russia’s representatives praised India’s New Delhi Declaration.

Russia has met its commitment to combatting the cross-border movements of terrorists by engaging in discussions with India in May 2023, and with Turkey and Syria in December 2022, as well as by

⁴⁰⁸AGU obtém bloqueio de R\$ 6,5 milhões em bens de 52 pessoas e 7 empresas que financiara atos golpistas, Advocacia-Geral da União (Brasília) 12 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 July 2023. <https://www.gov.br/agu/pt-br/comunicacao/noticias/agu-obtem-bloqueio-de-r-6-5-milhoes-em-bens-de-52-pessoas-e-7-empresas-que-financiaram-atos-golpistas>

⁴⁰⁹India, Russia and Central Asian Nations to take part in anti-terror exercise at NSG Garrison, The Economic Times (n.d.) 10 October 2022. Access Date: 20 June 2023. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-russia-and-central-asian-nations-to-take-part-in-anti-terror-exercise-at-nsg-garrison/articleshow/94746939.cms>

⁴¹⁰Russian-Azerbaijani talks, Russian Government (Moscow) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47066/>

⁴¹¹Turkish, Russian, Syrian defense chiefs talked counterterrorism efforts in Moscow, Anadolu Ajansi (Ankara) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 20 June 2023. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkish-russian-syrian-defense-chiefs-talked-counterterrorism-efforts-in-moscow-akar/2775054#>

⁴¹²Counterterrorism in focus at 12th India-Russia Joint Working Group meeting in Moscow, ANI (Moscow) 5 May 2023. Access Date: 20 June 2023. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/counterterrorism-in-focus-at-12th-india-russia-joint-working-group-meeting-in-moscow20230505114801/>

conducting counterterrorism exercises with neighbouring states and India in October 2022. Russia has therefore taken strong action in combatting only one of the listed aspects of terrorism.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamsbidi Nouri

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to take action towards combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

On 27 June 2022, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to discuss bilateral relations. Both leaders stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in security and counterterrorism.⁴¹³

On 16 August 2022, Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met with Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs Santiago Cafiero during the Joint Commission Meeting between India and Argentina.⁴¹⁴ Both ministers reiterated the importance of eradicating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, while disrupting terrorist networks and financing channels of cross-border terrorism.

On 6 September 2022, India and Bangladesh pledge to cooperate in counterterrorism. As part of this agreement, both countries signed several different agreements relating to development in railways, space technology, water sharing and greater connectivity in order to eradicate the poverties which fuel criminal and terrorist activities.⁴¹⁵

On 28-29 October 2022, India hosted the United Nation Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee and adopted the "Delhi Convention" which aims to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist activities.⁴¹⁶

On 29 October 2022, India donated USD500,000 to the UN for counterterrorism efforts.⁴¹⁷ The goal of this donation is to help the international community prevent terrorist groups from acquiring greater resources and technology.

On 12 November 2022, India pledged to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership and to enhance cooperation against terrorism with the ASEAN bloc.⁴¹⁸ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar made these promises at the 19th Indian-ASEAN Summit.

⁴¹³Meeting of Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Canada on the sidelines of G7 Summit, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1837409>

⁴¹⁴Joint Press Statement following the Joint Commission Meeting between India and Argentina, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 August 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/35654/joint+press+statement+following+the+joint+commission+meeting+between+india+and+argentina+aug+ust+26+2022>

⁴¹⁵India, Bangladesh, to jointly counter terrorism, fundamentalism; to start talks on CEPA soon, The Telegraph (New Delhi) 9 September 2022. Access Date: 5 March 2023. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/india-bangladesh-to-jointly-counter-terrorism-fundamentalism-to-start-talks-on-cepa-soon/cid/1884983>

⁴¹⁶India and the multilateral challenge to countering terrorism, Modern Diplomacy (n.d.) 10 November 2022. Access Date: 1 March 2023. <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/11/10/india-and-the-multilateral-challenge-to-countering-terrorism/>

⁴¹⁷India to contribute \$500,000 to UN to counter terrorism, Associated Press (New Delhi) 29 October 2022. Access Date: 5 March 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/technology-india-new-delhi-united-nations-terrorism-d944f20a83e556e086873070ee3b301f>

On 18-19 November 2022, India hosted the ‘No Money for Terror’ conference which forwarded discussion for how banks and financial institutions could stop financing for terror groups.⁴¹⁹ Additionally, one of the main subjects discussed was how to prevent the weaponization of technologies such as autonomous systems and 3D printing from being exploited by terrorist groups.

Between 16-19 January 2023, the governments of India and Oman held the eighth India-Oman Strategic Dialogue. Indian Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri and Omani security official Maj Gen Idris Abdulrahman Al-Kindi discussed new areas for counter-terrorism cooperation, such as increased propaganda, misuse of new technologies, arms trafficking and use of cyberspace for spreading misinformation and terrorist recruitment. strategic and security cooperation, defence and counterterrorism.⁴²⁰ Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to their partnership and acknowledged the need to enhance bilateral relations.

On 25 January 2023, the governments of India and Egypt revealed the India-Egypt strategic partnership to increase exchange of intelligence and information sharing in the name of combatting terrorism.⁴²¹

On 28 April 2023, the government of India called for increased cooperation to eliminate terrorism during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.⁴²² Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called for more accountability for those who fund or assist in terrorist activities.

India has met its commitment to combatting the cross-border movement of terrorists by cooperating with Oman, Egypt and the ASEAN Bloc through various engagements to ensure greater action towards combatting the cross-border movement of terrorism. Furthermore, India has contributed to combatting terrorism financing networks by hosting the UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee and adopting the “Delhi Convention,” as well as by hosting the ‘No Money for Terror’ Conference and funding the UN for counterterrorism efforts. Finally, India has attempted to restrict terrorist safe havens through its development and investment agreements with Bangladesh to eradicate poverties fueling criminal and terrorist activities. India has therefore taken strong action in all three domains listed above: combatting the cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing networks and terrorist safe havens.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri

⁴¹⁸India, ASEAN countries promise to boost cooperation against terrorism, Business Standard (Phnom Penh) 12 November 2022. Access Date: 1 March 2023. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-asean-countries-promise-to-boost-cooperation-against-terrorism-122111200721_1.html

⁴¹⁹Understanding India’s expanding international counterterrorism engagements, Observer Research Foundation (Mumbai) 19 November 2022. Access Date: 5 March 2023. <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/indias-expanding-international-counterterrorism-engagements/>

⁴²⁰India, Oman discuss ways to focus on counter-terrorism initiatives, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 18 January 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2023. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-oman-discuss-ways-to-focus-on-counter-terrorism-initiatives-101674055152578.html>

⁴²¹India and Egypt Join Hands to Fight Terror; ‘Will Exchange Counter-terrorism Information’, Republic World (New Delhi) 25 January 2023. Access Date: 5 March 2023. <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/india-and-egypt-join-hands-to-fight-terror-will-exchange-counter-terrorism-information-articleshow.html>

⁴²²India urges Shanghai Cooperation group to fight terrorism, Associate Press (New Delhi) 28 April 2023. Access Date: 5 March 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/india-russia-shanghai-cooperation-organization-terrorism-3d55f675384d285e04fbd258dc1b6845>

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

On 9 June 2022, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the China and Central Asia Foreign Ministers' meeting to reaffirm China's commitment to maintaining political security and social stability. This meeting introduced a five-point proposal to achieve this, which included calling for joint work to combat the three forces of terrorism, separatism, and extremism. To achieve this, all nations pledged to strengthen "bilateral and multilateral coordination" and uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.⁴²³

On 28 June 2022, Minister Wang held a phone call with Acting Foreign Minister of the Afghan Interim Government Amir Khan Muttaqi related to combatting security threats. The parties expressed the necessity to make joint efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan, such as through strengthening cooperation in the international arena through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).⁴²⁴

On 12 September 2022, External Security Commissioner of the Foreign Ministry Cheng Guoping held the first meeting on the "consultation mechanism on counterterrorism and deradicalization cooperation" with Chair of the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism of the United Arab Emirates Ali Al Nuaimi. The meeting covered discussions on the current international and regional situations counterterrorism in their respective nations, as well as counterterrorism security concerns. Additionally, representatives of victims of terrorism from the People's Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region spoke on their personal experiences of terrorist attacks in China.⁴²⁵

On 16 September 2022, President Xi Jinping attended the 22nd SCO to reaffirm his support for Central Asian countries in the safeguarding of their national sovereignty and security against any external forces' inferences.⁴²⁶ This reaffirmation resulted in proposed initiatives such as the Global Security Initiative with aims to reinforce "international cooperation and solidarity to address global challenges."⁴²⁷ Additionally, President Jinping announced the establishment of a China-SCO base for training counter-terrorism personnel, and a commitment to providing emergency humanitarian assistance of grain and other supplies worth RMB1.5 billion.

On 20 September 2022, Minister Wang met with Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop to discuss China providing support and assistance for Mali's stable development. The meeting discussed how

⁴²³FM attends third C+C5 foreign ministers' meeting in Kazakhstan, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 June 2022. Access Date 20 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202206/09/content_WS62a13e04c6d02e533532be21.html

⁴²⁴FM talks with Afghan acting FM on phone, The State Council, (Beijing) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202206/28/content_WS62ba5481c6d02e533532cd67.html

⁴²⁵China and the UAE Hold the First Meeting of the Consultation Mechanism on Counterterrorism and Deradicalization Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 September 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202209/t20220919_10767793.html

⁴²⁶A Trip that Pointed the Way Forward in Turbulent Times and Reinvigorated the Ancient Silk Road, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on President Xi Jinping's Attendance at the Samarkand Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and State Visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 September 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202209/t20220917_10767432.html

⁴²⁷SCO injects more positivity into regional stability, development as Xi's proposals win hearts of int'l community, Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 September 2022. Access Date: 21 October 2022. http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2022-09/18/content_4921361.html

their continued mutually beneficial cooperation will help towards overcoming concerns on national sovereignty and contribute towards “fighting terrorism and safeguarding national unity” in Mali.⁴²⁸

On 29 October 2022, Minister Wang held a video conference with foreign ministers of countries neighbouring Afghanistan to help “achieve lasting peace and stability in the country.”⁴²⁹ He proposed ideas included strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation through supporting the Afghan government in effectively combatting all extremist and terrorist organizations, as well as forging a “united front against terrorism” through multilateral platforms such as the UN and the SCO. Additionally, Minister Wang called for encouraging Afghanistan to take an inclusive political stance through protecting the basic rights of all citizens and pursue policies of cooperation.

On 10 December 2022, President Xi hosted the first China-Arab States Summit to discuss their mutual support for safeguarding sovereignty and national dignity.⁴³⁰ Further agreements included the need to reject all associations of terrorism, support deradicalization and advocate for peace and justice.

On 29 December 2022, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense Senior Colonel Tan Kefei held a press conference.⁴³¹ He stated that the Chinese military had participated in meetings of the Experts’ Working Group on Counter-terrorism and on Peacekeeping Operations under Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defence Ministers Meeting Plus.

On 6 January 2023, President Xi held talks with Turkmenistan’s President Serdar Berdimuhamedov on strengthening their strategic partnership.⁴³² Both sides expressed the need to deepen their cooperation on security through working together to crack down on terrorism, separatism and extremism in their respected nations.

On 5 May 2023, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang attended the SCO to discuss upholding strategic independence and furthering security cooperation.⁴³³ Minister Gang revealed a five-point proposal to challenge the “multiple crises and challenges,” which included tackling the “three forces” of terrorism, separatism and extremism. Additionally, Minister Gang agreed to strengthen security cooperation through accelerating the building of regional anti-terrorism institutions to combat external conflicts, such as trafficking and cybercrimes.

On 7 May 2023, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang attended the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Minister’s Dialogue to discuss the implementation of the Global Development

⁴²⁸Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop of Mali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202209/t20220923_10770366.html

⁴²⁹FM calls for stronger cooperation among neighbouring countries of Afghanistan for lasting peace, stability, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202110/29/content_WS617b376ec6d0df57f98e431f.html

⁴³⁰Xi calls for fostering closer China-Arab community with shared future, Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 10 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2022-12/10/content_4928127.htm

⁴³¹Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of National Defense on December 29, Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 31 December 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

http://eng.mod.gov.cn/focus/2022-12/31/content_4930355.htm

⁴³²Chinese, Turkmen presidents hold talks, elevating ties to comprehensive strategic partnership, Ministry of National Defense of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing), 7 January 2023. Access Date: 10 January 2023.

http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2023-01/07/content_4930175.htm

⁴³³Chinese FM urges strategic independence, security cooperation at SCO meeting, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 5 May 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/05/content_WS6454ebd3c6d03ffcca6ecd63.html

Initiative, along with the Global Security and the Global Civilisation Initiatives.⁴³⁴ Minister Gang stated China's intentions to strengthen trilateral cooperation on security and terrorism with Afghanistan and Pakistan, and reaffirmed China's opposition to "any form of terrorism and double standards on fighting terrorism."

On 19 May 2023, President Xi Jinping held a keynote address at the China-Central Asia Summit. President Xi stressed the importance of mutual support.⁴³⁵ President Xi discussed opposing external interferences in the internal affairs of regional countries, calling for the Summit to maintain a zero-tolerance stance against the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

On 26 May 2023, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang attended the reception to celebrate African Day, further deepening China-Africa cooperation.⁴³⁶ Minister Gang called on China and Africa to jointly implement the Global Security Initiative to "de-escalate hotspot issues in Africa" and discussed the need to enhance Africa's capacity to fight terrorism and maintain stability.

China has taken strong actions to address terrorist safe havens. However, it has not taken strong actions to address the cross-border movement of terrorists or terrorism financing.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vanessa Mabelle

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross border-movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

On 15 July 2022, Home Affairs Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi affirmed the importance of the Border Management Authority in protecting the security of South Africa. The speech reaffirmed that any entry into South Africa had to be through the Ports of Entry, which included new procedures of giving biometrics and staying at a Refugee Reception centre.⁴³⁷ The new method aims to ensure the nation can keep track of every individual's action in the country.

On 10 August 2022, Minister in the Presidency Mondli Gungubele visited the Sedibeng District Municipality to express the need to mobilize the public in supporting Government effort to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.⁴³⁸ The visit saw Minister Gungubele interact with citizens regarding the need to improve access to government services to achieve such commitment.

⁴³⁴China, Afghanistan, Pakistan pledge to enhance cooperation on security, counter-terrorism, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 May 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/07/content_WS64572f6ac6d03ffcca6ece00.html

⁴³⁵Xi expounds on how to build China-Central Asia community with shared future, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 May 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/19/content_WS64671449c6d03ffcca6ed310.html

⁴³⁶Chinese FM calls for stronger China-Africa mutual support, strategic synergy, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/26/content_WS646feb7c6d03ffcca6ed659.html

⁴³⁷Minister Aaron Motsoaledi: Deployment of first group of Border Management Authority Border Guards, South African Government (Pretoria) 15 July 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-deployment-first-group-border-management-authority-border-guards>

⁴³⁸Minister Mondli Gungubele conducts a frontline monitoring programme in Sedibeng as part of Gauteng Presidential Imbizo, South African Government (Pretoria) 10 August 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mondli-gungubele-conducts-frontline-monitoring-programme-sedibeng-part-gauteng>

On 18 August 2022, Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana introduced the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill to the National Assembly. The Amendment Bill aims to make significant changes to relevant laws related to fighting against financial crimes.⁴³⁹ The proposed amendment is composed of five pieces of legislation, including amending the “powers of access by authorized representatives to records of accountable institutions” and amending offences provisions.

On 21 September 2022, Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla attended the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission to underscore the importance of the values and principles that underpin the IBSA. The meeting included reaffirming solidarity to fighting against terrorism and eliminating safe havens, such as through supporting the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations General Assembly.⁴⁴⁰ Additionally, the meeting welcomed the establishment of the IBSA National Security Advisors Meetings to enhance their cooperation on counter-terrorism and transnational crime.

On 13 October 2022, Deputy President David Mabuza held a meeting with traditional and khoi-san leaders to discuss the need to sustain their leaderships against possible interferences.⁴⁴¹ The meeting included calling for traditional leaders to sustain their significant roles in standing against all forms of violence and attacks that can interfere their lands. Additionally, the meeting called for cooperation to targeting investments in infrastructure and accessibility to services to provide people with basic needs.

On 9 November 2022, Minister Gungubele reiterated the country’s commitment to combatting acts of terrorism and illicit financing activities in the nation. He agreed to work with its US counterparts to combat all manifestations of terrorism, including any form of terrorist funding.⁴⁴²

On 6 January 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa enacted the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Act No 22 and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Amendment Act No 23 into law.⁴⁴³ These new laws refine the offences of terrorist financing to target supporters of terrorist organizations and target forms of cyber-terrorism.

On 27 February 2023, President Ramaphosa responded to South Africa’s placing in the ‘grey list’ by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for ‘falling short of certain international standards’ for combatting financial crimes.⁴⁴⁴ President Ramaphosa stated that South Africa has made progress in addressing shortcomings in combatting financial terrorism, such as introducing amendments to laws

⁴³⁹General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 August 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022.

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202208/46744gon2993.pdf

⁴⁴⁰Joint Communiqué of the 10th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2022/ibsa0921.htm>

⁴⁴¹Deputy President David Mabuza: Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders engagement, South African Government (Pretoria) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/opening-remarks-deputy-president-david-mabuza-delivered-engagement-traditional-and-khoi-san>

⁴⁴²Minister Mondli Gungubele reiterates South Africa’s resolve to combat acts of terrorism and illicit funding, South African Government (Pretoria) 9 November 2022. Access Date: 8 January 2023.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/terrorism-and-illicit-financing%20A0-9-nov-2022-0000>

⁴⁴³Treasury on enactment of key anti-money laundering and combating of terror financing laws, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 January 2023. Access Date: 8 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-enactment-key-anti-money-laundering-and-combating-terror-financing-laws-6-jan-2023>

⁴⁴⁴South Africa’s grey listing is an opportunity to strengthen the fight against financial crimes, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/blog/south-africa%E2%80%99s-grey-listing-opportunity-strengthen-fight-against-financial-crimes>

on “anti-money laundering and combating terrorism financing.”⁴⁴⁵ Additionally, the President highlighted his partnership with the financial sector, as seen with the South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force to preserve criminal assets in South Africa.

On 26 April 2023, Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini attended the BRICS Middle East North Africa (MENA) meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. Minister Mashego-Dlamini joined in the condemnation of terrorism and “violence extremism conducive to terrorism,” stated to have caused “great damage to the region and beyond.”⁴⁴⁶

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to combatting terrorism in all forms of its manifestations. It has taken strong actions to prevent the movement of terrorists through implementing effective border security and introduced policies to suppress the financing of terrorism. Additionally, it has introduced policies that have aimed to deny safe havens to terrorists through aiming to promote a culture of peace and economic growth, demonstrating full compliance with this commitment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Vanessa Mabelle

⁴⁴⁵South Africa’s grey listing is an opportunity to strengthen the fight against financial crimes, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/blog/south-africa%E2%80%99s-grey-listing-opportunity-strengthen-fight-against-financial-crimes>

⁴⁴⁶Deputy Minister Candith Mahesgo-Dlamini: Ninth BRICS Middle East North Africa (MENA) Meeting, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 April 2023. Access Date: 30 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-candith-mashego-dlamini-ninth-brics-middle-east-north-africa-mena-meeting>

11. Regional Security: Afghanistan

“We emphasize the need for all sides to encourage the Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average		-0.20 (40%)	

Background

Afghanistan and its people face severe political, security and socioeconomic challenges due to ongoing regional instability and recent political events. The fall of central government in August 2021 after a long armed stand-off against Taliban and other militant and terrorist groups caused massive civil unrest and credible apprehension concerning further internal deterioration and regional instability. In September 2021, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 2596 (2021) concerning the recent developments in political situation in the country that extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until 17 March 2022. The Council stressed “the critical importance of a continued presence of UNAMA and other United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes across Afghanistan, and calls upon all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country.”⁴⁴⁷ As of the moment this guideline was commended, the UNAMA headquarters remained temporary relocated to Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, due to personnel security considerations.⁴⁴⁸

The BRICS leaders first addressed the situation in Afghanistan in 2012 in Delhi Summit Declaration committing to “support Afghanistan’s emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism” and underscoring “the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.”⁴⁴⁹ This commitment was reaffirmed in Durban in 2013.⁴⁵⁰ Also in 2013 the BRICS Leaders for the first time expressed their full support for the decisions made in Bonn in 2011 concerning the interior situation in Afghanistan and capacity-building measures of the country’s central government. In 2014 in Fortaleza the BRICS leaders committed again “to remain engaged in Afghanistan during the

⁴⁴⁷Resolution 2596 (2021), United Nations (New York) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 17 October 2022.

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2596\(2021\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2596(2021))

⁴⁴⁸UN statement on temporary relocation of the UNAMA staff to Almaty, United Nations Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://kazakhstan.un.org/en/140984-un-statement-temporary-relocation-unama-staff-almaty>

⁴⁴⁹Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 17 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/inpresidency1/Fourth%20BRICS%20Summit.pdf>

⁴⁵⁰Fifth BRICS Summit, RANEPa (Moscow) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 17 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency1/130327-statement.pdf>

transformation decade (2015-2024), as enunciated at the Bonn International Conference in December 2011.”⁴⁵¹

In 2015 during Russia’s presidency the BRICS leaders called upon the international community “to remain engaged in Afghanistan and fulfill its long-term commitments on civilian and security assistance, including strengthening its security forces’ capability.”⁴⁵²

In 2016 in Goa declaration the BRICS leaders expressed “deep concern at the persisting security challenges in Afghanistan and significant increase in terrorist activities in Afghanistan” and reaffirmed “support to the efforts of the Afghan Government to achieve Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation and combat terrorism, and readiness for constructive cooperation in order to facilitate security in Afghanistan, promote its independent political and economic course, becoming free from terrorism and drug trafficking.”⁴⁵³ The BRICS commitment to “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” peace and national reconciliation has been affirmed again in 2017 in Xiamen,⁴⁵⁴ in 2018 in Johannesburg,⁴⁵⁵ in 2019 in Brasilia,⁴⁵⁶ and in 2020 in Moscow.⁴⁵⁷

In 2021 during India’s presidency the BRICS members stressed “the need to contribute to fostering an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order in the country” along with “the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities.”⁴⁵⁸

In 2022 in Beijing the BRICS leaders expressed strong support for a “a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan” and emphasized “the respect for its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in its internal affairs.” While highlighting “the need for all sides to encourage the Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation,” the BRICS countries put stress on “the significance of relevant UNSC resolutions.”⁴⁵⁹

Commitment Features

Following the commitment’s reading, the BRICS countries pledged to “encourage the Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.”

⁴⁵¹Fortaleza Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 17 October 2022. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/6th_BRICS_Summit_Fortaleza_Declaration_and_Action_Plan.pdf

⁴⁵²VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 14 December 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁴⁵³Goa Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 16 October 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁵⁴BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsQRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁴⁵⁵10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 14 December 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency2/JOHANNESBURG_DECLARATION.pdf

⁴⁵⁶11th BRICS Summit – Brasilia Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

⁴⁵⁷XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁵⁸XIII BRICS Summit – New Delhi Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 09 September 2021. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-indijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁵⁹XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2022/XIV-BRICS-Summit-Beijing-Declaration-ENG.pdf>

“Dialogue” refers to “a discussion between representatives of parties to a conflict that is aimed at resolution.”⁴⁶⁰

“Negotiation” means “the action of process of negotiating or being negotiated.”⁴⁶¹ Thus, “negotiate” refers to “to arrange for or bring about through conference, discussion, and compromise.”⁴⁶²

Finally, “reconciliation” implies “to restore to friendship or harmony.”⁴⁶³

In practice it means that the BRICS countries could participate in or organize bilateral and multilateral talks, meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. in other countries or within their own territory in order to bring conflicting parties in Afghanistan to a peaceful settlement of internal disputes.

To achieve full compliance, the BRICS members have to take strong actions that match the commitment’s features. Strong action in this regard implies taking steps as to facilitate internal Afghan reconciliation process that goes beyond a mere demonstration of support for the local authorities, namely organizing multilateral talks involving representatives of Afghani authorities or other local political parties.

Organizing multilateral talks that touches upon the situation in Afghanistan without direct participation of the country government representatives or other political powers or movements stands for partial compliance and is awarded a score of 0. As to achieve partial compliance, the BRICS member may also participate in multilateral events related to internal situation in Afghanistan organized by third parties. Demonstration of public support for peaceful reconciliation in Afghanistan also contributes to partial compliance.

Lack of any action that matches abovementioned requirements (e.g. participating in talks or demonstrating public support for a peaceful reconciliation of Afghanistan’s internal issues) is treated as non-compliance and is awarded with a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not take any action as to achieve national reconciliation in Afghanistan through dialogue and negotiation.
0	The BRICS member participates in multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan organized by third parties OR demonstrates public support for the process.
+1	The BRICS member organizes multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan involving representatives of local political powers.

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on Afghanistan’s national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.

⁴⁶⁰Dialogue Definition & Meaning, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dialogue>

⁴⁶¹Negotiation Definition & Meaning, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/negotiation>

⁴⁶²Negotiate Definition & Meaning, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/negotiate>

⁴⁶³Reconcile Definition & Meaning, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 17 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reconciling>

On 23 June 2022, Brazil's Permanent Representative in the United Nations Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho made a statement on the Security Council meeting. In his speech he said that lifesaving aid of the international community must continue to flow to alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable in Afghanistan, and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people does not and should not constitute a violation of the sanctions regime. He also emphasized that Brazil reiterates its full support to the work of both the Special Representative of the Secretary General to Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in their mandate to support and promote gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment and the full protection of their human rights, including education, and the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation, engagement and leadership of women at all levels and stages of decision-making, in line with resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions.⁴⁶⁴

Brazil supported UNAMA but did not initiate any dialogue itself.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on Afghanistan's national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.

On 27 July, 2022, Russia participated in the meeting of Special Envoys (Special Representatives) of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries on the Afghan Issue at the Tashkent International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan. Special Envoys and officials in charge of Afghan affairs of China, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan attended the meeting. The participants agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation related to Afghan affairs, speed up efforts to follow up and implement the outcomes of the previous meetings, and push the establishment of three working groups on politics and diplomacy, economy and humanity, and security and stability as soon as possible.⁴⁶⁵

On 24 August 2022, Russia participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Russia declared full support to a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, and emphasized the need to respect the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs.⁴⁶⁶ The meeting participants urged all parties to encourage Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation and establish a broad-based, inclusive and representative political structure in the country. The participants also underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council resolutions in this regard.

⁴⁶⁴Statement by the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho, at the Security Council meeting on Afghanistan - June 23, 2022, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 June 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/Brasil-CSNU/discursos-artigos-e-entrevistas/discursos/janeiro-2022/junho-2022/declaracao-do-representante-permanente-embaxador-ronaldo-costa-filho-em-reuniao-do-conselho-de-seguranca-sobre-afeganistao-23-de-junho-de-2022-texto-em-ingles>.

⁴⁶⁵Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong Chairs the Meeting of Special Envoys (Special Representatives) of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries on the Afghan Issue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 27 July 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbxw/202207/t20220727_10728861.html.

⁴⁶⁶SCO member states must fight together & eliminate terrorism in all its forms: Raksha Mantri during Defence Ministers' meet in Uzbekistan, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (Beijing) 24 August 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854128>.

On 16 November 2022, the 4th meeting of multilateral format of consultations on Afghanistan mostly referred as Moscow format of a so-called “took place in Moscow.”⁴⁶⁷ Representatives of Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting as main negotiating parties along with spokespersons from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey as guest parties. The participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan’s international position, namely the issue of the country’s gold and currency reserves frozen by the United States. The meeting concluded with a joint statement presenting the participants’ position on the interior reconciliation process and a call to the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to pay contributions to restore the harm caused during the 20-year-long military intervention.

On 9 February 2023, President of Russia Vladimir Putin held a meeting with Secretaries for Security Matters of India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan on issues related to peaceful reconciliation in Afghanistan.⁴⁶⁸ The meeting took place in Moscow. President Putin stressed the need for provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghan people with 4 million of them requiring immediate aid. Russia and the meeting participants highlighted that the Talib government established in Afghanistan in 2021 should be recognized at least on regional level paving the way for stabilization and economic development of the country.

On 7 March 2023, Russia took part in Special Envoy Yue Xiaoyong attended the first Meeting of Special Representatives of Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan in Tashkent.⁴⁶⁹ The participants exchanged views with representatives of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Iran, Russia China and other countries on the current situation in Afghanistan and the operation of the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighboring countries.

On 13 April 2023, Russia, China, Iran, and Pakistan held a multilateral meeting in Samarkand and discussed situation in Afghanistan.⁴⁷⁰ The participants blamed the United States and its allies for the internal conflict taking place in Afghanistan and urged them to lift the sanctions imposed on Afghan economy and unblock assets of the Government of Afghanistan suspended in foreign banks. Also, the meeting participants denounced possibility of restoration of the US military bases in the country that is viewed as a threat to regional stability.

Russia has participated in multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan organized by third parties and demonstrated public support for the process.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁴⁶⁷The Moscow Format on Afghanistan Participants Called On the USA to Unblock Afghanistan’s Assets, Interfax (Moscow) 16 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 09 January 2023. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/872746>

⁴⁶⁸ Putin Discussed Situation in Afghanistan with Asian Countries Secretary for Security Affairs, Vedomosti (Moscow) 9 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 6 July 2023. <https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/02/09/962273-putin-obsudil-situatsiyu-v-afganistane-s-sovetnikami>

⁴⁶⁹ Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong Attends the First Meeting of Special Representatives of Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 10 March 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202303/t20230314_11040730.html

⁴⁷⁰ Iran, Russia and China to Call the US Take Responsibility for Afghanistan Turbulence, RIA Novosti (Moscow) 13 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 6 July 2023. <https://ria.ru/20230413/afghanistan-1865001950.html>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on Afghanistan's national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.

On 24 August 2022, Indian Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted India's full support of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while emphasizing the need to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs. He urged all parties to encourage Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation and establish a broad-based, inclusive and representative political structure in the country. He also underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council resolutions in this regard.⁴⁷¹

On 16 November 2022, the 4th meeting of multilateral format of consultations on Afghanistan mostly referred as "Moscow format" took place in Moscow. Representatives of India, China, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting as main negotiating parties along with spokespersons from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey as guest parties. The participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan's international position, namely the issue of the country's gold and currency reserves frozen by the United States. The meeting concluded with a joint statement presenting the participants' position on the interior reconciliation process and a call to the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to pay contributions to restore the harm caused during the 20-year-long military intervention.⁴⁷²

On 9 February 2023, representatives of India participated in meeting organized by Russia on situation in Afghanistan.⁴⁷³ Besides India and Russia, Secretaries for Security Matters of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan also took part in the discussion. The meeting took place in Moscow. President of Russia Vladimir Putin stressed the need for provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghan people with 4 million of them requiring immediate aid. Russia and the meeting participants highlighted that the Talib government established in Afghanistan in 2021 should be recognized at least on regional level paving the way for stabilization and economic development of the county.

On 7 March 2023, the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi.⁴⁷⁴ The meeting was attended by the Special Envoys/Senior Officials of India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Country representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes and United Nations World Food Programme also participated in the meeting. The participants exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan, including the political, security and the humanitarian situation. While emphasizing the

⁴⁷¹SCO member states must fight together & eliminate terrorism in all its forms: Raksha Mantri during Defence Ministers' meet in Uzbekistan, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India 24 August 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854128>.

⁴⁷²The Moscow Format on Afghanistan Participants Called On the USA to Unblock Afghanistan's Assets, Interfax (Moscow) 16 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 09 January 2023. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/872746>

⁴⁷³ Putin Discussed Situation in Afghanistan with Asian Countries Secretary for Security Affairs, Vedomosti (Moscow) 9 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 6 July 2023. <https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/02/09/962273-putin-obsudil-situatsiyu-v-afganistane-s-sovetnikami>

⁴⁷⁴ Joint Statement of the First Meeting of the India-Central Asia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan, Ministry of External Affairs of India (New Delhi) 7 March 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023. https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/36333/Joint_Statement_of_the_First_Meeting_of_the_IndiaCentral_Asia_Joint_Working_Group_JWG_on_Afghanistan

respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs, they reiterated support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan.

India has participated in multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan organized by third parties and demonstrated public support for the process.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on Afghanistan's national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.

On July 27, 2022, Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Yue Xiaoyong chaired the meeting of Special Envoys (Special Representatives) of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries on the Afghan Issue at the Tashkent International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan. Special Envoys and officials in charge of Afghan affairs of Russia, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan attended the meeting. The participants agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation related to Afghan affairs, speed up efforts to follow up and implement the outcomes of the previous meetings, and push the establishment of three working groups on politics and diplomacy, economy and humanity, and security and stability as soon as possible.⁴⁷⁵

On 28 July 2022, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Acting Foreign Minister of the Afghan Interim Government Amir Khan Muttaqi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting. Minister Wang emphasized that China would continue to urge the United States and other Western countries to remove unreasonable sanctions on Afghanistan.⁴⁷⁶

On 1 August 2022, Special Envoy Yue held talks with Director-General of the Department of South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and agreed to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on Afghanistan-related issues both bilaterally and multilaterally and jointly push for an early realization of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan.⁴⁷⁷

On 24 August 2022, China participated in the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. China declared full support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while emphasizing the need to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs. The meeting's participants urged all parties to encourage Afghanistan authorities to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation and establish a broad-based, inclusive and representative political structure in the country. The

⁴⁷⁵Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong Chairs the Meeting of Special Envoys (Special Representatives) of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries on the Afghan Issue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 27 July 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbxw/202207/t20220727_10728861.html.

⁴⁷⁶Wang Yi Meets with Acting Foreign Minister of the Afghan Interim Government Amir Khan Muttaqi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/wshd_665389/202207/t20220729_10730548.html.

⁴⁷⁷Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong Visits Türkiye, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 2 August 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbxw/202208/t20220803_10733210.html.

participants also underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council resolutions in this regard.⁴⁷⁸

On 16 November 2022, the 4th meeting of multilateral format of consultations on Afghanistan mostly referred as “Moscow format” took place in Moscow. Representatives of China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting as main negotiating parties along with spokespersons from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Turkey as guest parties. The participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan’s international position, namely the issue of the country’s gold and currency reserves frozen by the United States. The meeting concluded with a joint statement presenting the participants’ position on the interior reconciliation process and a call to the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to pay contributions to restore the harm caused during the 20-year-long military intervention.⁴⁷⁹

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⁴⁷⁸SCO member states must fight together & eliminate terrorism in all its forms: Raksha Mantri during Defence Ministers’ meet in Uzbekistan, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India 24 August 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854128>.

⁴⁷⁹The Moscow Format on Afghanistan Participants Called On the USA to Unblock Afghanistan’s Assets, Interfax (Moscow) 16 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 09 January 2023. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/872746>

⁴⁸⁰ Putin Discussed Situation in Afghanistan with Asian Countries Secretary for Security Affairs, Vedomosti (Moscow) 9 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 6 July 2023.

<https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/articles/2023/02/09/962273-putin-obsudil-situatsiyu-v-afganistane-s-sovetnikami>

⁴⁸¹ Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong Attends the First Meeting of Special Representatives of Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 10 March 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202303/t20230314_11040730.html

⁴⁸² Iran, Russia and China to Call the US Take Responsibility for Afghanistan Turbulence, RIA Novosti (Moscow) 13 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 6 July 2023. <https://ria.ru/20230413/afghanistan-1865001950.html>

On 6 May 2023, Minister Qin Gang attended the fifth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Islamabad, Pakistan.⁴⁸³ Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Acting Foreign Minister of the Afghan Interim Government Amir Khan Muttaqi attended the dialogue. The ministers had in-depth exchanges on such issues as good-neighborliness and mutual trust, security cooperation and counter-terrorism, connectivity and trade and investment.

China has participated in multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan organized by third parties and demonstrated public support for the process.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment on Afghanistan's national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation.

On 1 March 2023, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) issued a statement confirming its abidance with the Pretoria High Court decision to give 22 Afghan nationals an asylum.⁴⁸⁴ In February 2023 when the Court issued an interim decision to grant asylum amid absence of the decision from the DHA, the DHA opposed presenting an argument that it might cause an influx of refugees.

No action on supporting multilateral talks aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan organized by third parties or demonstration of public support for the process has been found.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.⁴⁸⁵

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁴⁸³ Qin Gang Attends the Fifth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 7 May 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202305/t20230508_11073154.html

⁴⁸⁴ Press statement on the outcome of the court proceedings involving Afghanistan nationals who were refused entry into the Republic of South Africa at Beitbridge port of entry, Department of Home Affairs (Pretoria) 1 March 2023. Access Date: 6 July 2023. <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1654-press-statement-on-the-outcome-of-the-court-proceedings-involving-afghanistan-nationals-who-were-refused-entry-into-the-republic-of-south-africa-at-beitbridge-port-of-entry>

⁴⁸⁵ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Government of South Africa <https://www.gov.za/>; Department of International Relations & Cooperation <http://www.dirco.gov.za/>; the Presidency <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>; Parliament of the Republic of South Africa <https://www.parliament.gov.za/>; South African News Agency <https://www.sanews.gov.za/>

12. ICT and Digital Economy: Open ICT Environment

“We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT [information and communications technologies]-environment, [underscoring the importance of enhancing common understandings and intensifying cooperation in the use of ICTs and Internet.]”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

The BRICS first addressed issues related to information and communication technologies (ICT) during Russia’s BRICS presidency in 2015. In the Ufa Declaration the BRICS leaders highlighted the importance of an “open, non-fragmented and secure Internet.”⁴⁸⁶ In 2016, the BRICS noted the need for “enhanced cooperation in ecommerce” and declared support for “efforts aimed at capacity building for effective participation in e-commerce trade.”⁴⁸⁷

The digital economy itself was discussed during China’s BRICS presidency in 2017. In the Xiamen Declaration, the BRICS leaders committed to “act on the basis of principles of innovation, partnership, synergy, flexibility, open and favorable business environment, trust and security, protection of consumer rights in order to ensure the conditions for a thriving and dynamic digital economy, that will foster global economic development and benefit everyone.”⁴⁸⁸

In 2019 under the Brazilian BRICS presidency, the BRICS communication ministers held a meeting in Brasilia. The parties committed to work together on connectivity, innovation, security, human development, fostering digital transformation and promoting digital governance.⁴⁸⁹ The BRICS leaders underscored “the importance of an open, secure, peaceful, stable, accessible and nondiscriminatory environment for information and communications technologies” and committed to “explore in appropriate fora ways to promote and facilitate investments in productive sectors, ecommerce, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, infrastructure and connectivity, which will help to promote economic growth, trade and job creation.”⁴⁹⁰

In 2020, the BRICS leaders recognized “the role of the digital economy as an important tool for modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of inclusive economic growth, support

⁴⁸⁶VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁴⁸⁷Goa Declaration October 16, 2016, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁸⁸BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁴⁸⁹Declaration of the 5th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting, RANEPА (Moscow) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 18 October 2022. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/

⁴⁹⁰11th BRICS Summit – Brasilia Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

of seamless global trade and business conduct” and highlighted the need to focus on “overcoming the digital divide.”⁴⁹¹

The BRICS launched cooperation “in order to address common security challenges in the use of ICT in 2015.”⁴⁹² In Goa the BRICS agreed to strengthen joint efforts to enhance security in the use of ICTs and “to continue to work together for the adoption of the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States including through the process of UNGGE [United Nations Group of Governmental Experts].”⁴⁹³ In 2017 the BRICS decided to promote cooperation according to the BRICS Roadmap of Practical Cooperation on Ensuring Security in the Use of ICTs and acknowledged the initiative of the Russian Federation on a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in ensuring security in the use of ICT.⁴⁹⁴ The leaders underscored “the UN a central role in developing universally accepted norms of responsible state behavior in the use of ICTs to ensure a peaceful, secure, open, cooperative, stable, orderly, accessible and equitable ICT environment” and reiterated its importance at each subsequent summit. In 2018 the BRICS acknowledged the importance of establishing a framework of cooperation among BRICS member States on ensuring security in the Use of ICTs and, in agreed to work towards consideration and elaboration of a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation on this matter.⁴⁹⁵ In 2019 and 2020 the BRICS welcomed the establishment and progress of a UN open-ended working group and the UNGGE and reaffirmed the importance of establishing legal frameworks of cooperation among BRICS member States on ensuring security in the use of ICT as a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation on ensuring security in the use of ICTs or bilateral agreements among BRICS countries on the matter.⁴⁹⁶

In 2021, the BRICS nations reaffirmed commitment to the “promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment” and highlighted “the importance of establishing legal frameworks of cooperation among BRICS States on this matter.”⁴⁹⁷

In 2022 in Beijing the BRICS member states reaffirmed their commitment to “the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment” and underscored “the importance of enhancing common understandings and intensifying cooperation in the use of ICTs and Internet.”⁴⁹⁸

Commitment Features

In New Delhi the BRICS leaders committed to the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. Also, the BRICS members again highlighted “the role of the United Nations in promoting dialogue, to forge common understandings in the security of and in the use of

⁴⁹¹XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁹²VII BRICS Summit, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/briks/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁴⁹³Goa Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/briks/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁹⁴BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/briks/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁴⁹⁵10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/briks/sapresidency2/JOHANNESBURG_DECLARATION.pdf

⁴⁹⁶11th BRICS Summit – Brasilia Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 14 November 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

⁴⁹⁷XIII BRICS Summit – New Delhi Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-indijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

⁴⁹⁸XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/briks/2022/XIV-BRICS-Summit-Beijing-Declaration-ENG.pdf>

ICT and development of universally agreed norms, rules and principles for responsible behaviour of States in the realm of ICT, without prejudice to other relevant international fora.”

Finding common ground for understanding the issues relating to ‘open, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment’ remains on the top of the international agenda. The UNGGE has contributed much to bringing the multilateral consensus on the topic into life and its widely acknowledged⁴⁹⁹ list of 11 voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behavior in the cyberspace⁵⁰⁰ could serve as a basis for further assessment of the BRICS member states actions on fulfilling the commitment under consideration.

Following the recommendations given by the UNGGE, we thus have three dimensions for assessing the states behavior in the cyberspace regarding ‘promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment’. These dimensions include: 1) adherence to the voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible behavior in cyberspace; 2) actions referring to capacity building in use of ICT; and 3) confidence-building measures. To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member shall take actions aimed at capacity building and confidence building and shall not take steps that could be regarded as breaking the recommended rules of responsible state behavior in the cyberspace.

Rules/Principles of responsible behavior of states

The UNGGE proposes the following norms as a benchmark of responsible state behavior:

1. Consistent with the purposes of the United Nations, including to maintain international peace and security, States should cooperate in developing and applying measures to increase stability and security in the use of ICT and to prevent ICT practices that are acknowledged to be harmful or that may pose threats to international peace and security;
2. In case of ICT incidents, States should consider all relevant information, including the larger context of the event, the challenges of attribution in the ICT environment and the nature and extent of the consequences;
3. States should not knowingly allow their territory to be used for internationally wrongful acts using ICT;
4. States should consider how best to cooperate to exchange information, assist each other, prosecute terrorist and criminal use of ICT and implement other cooperative measures to address such threats. States may need to consider whether new measures need to be developed in this respect;
5. States, in ensuring the secure use of ICT, should respect Human Rights Council resolutions 20/8 and 26/13 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, as well as General Assembly resolutions 68/167 and 69/166 on the right to privacy in the digital age, to guarantee full respect for human rights, including the right to freedom of expression;
6. A State should not conduct or knowingly support ICT activity contrary to its obligations under international law that intentionally damages critical infrastructure or otherwise impairs the use and operation of critical infrastructure to provide services to the public;

⁴⁹⁹Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, United Nations (New York) 30 December 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/457/57/PDF/N1545757.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵⁰⁰Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, United Nations (New York) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://undocs.org/en/A/70/174>

7. States should take appropriate measures to protect their critical infrastructure from ICT threats, taking into account General Assembly resolution 58/199 on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures, and other relevant resolutions;
8. States should respond to appropriate requests for assistance by another State whose critical infrastructure is subject to malicious ICT acts. States should also respond to appropriate requests to mitigate malicious ICT activity aimed at the critical infrastructure of another State emanating from their territory, taking into account due regard for sovereignty;
9. States should take reasonable steps to ensure the integrity of the supply chain so that end users can have confidence in the security of ICT products. States should seek to prevent the proliferation of malicious ICT tools and techniques and the use of harmful hidden functions;
10. States should encourage responsible reporting of ICT vulnerabilities and share associated information on available remedies to such vulnerabilities to limit and possibly eliminate potential threats to ICT and ICT-dependent infrastructure;
11. States should not conduct or knowingly support activity to harm the information systems of the authorized emergency response teams (sometimes known as computer emergency response teams or cybersecurity incident response teams) of another State. A State should not use authorized emergency response teams to engage in malicious international activity.

To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member shall not take steps that violate any of the abovementioned recommendations.

Capacity-building measures

The UNGGE noted that the implementation of the recommended measures ‘may not immediately be possible, in particular for developing countries, until they acquire adequate capacity.’⁵⁰¹ Regarding capacity building, the UNGGE suggests the following:

1. Assist in strengthening cooperative mechanisms with national computer emergency response teams and other authorized bodies;
2. Provide assistance and training to developing countries to improve security in the use of ICT, including critical infrastructure, and exchange legal and administrative best practices;
3. Assist in providing access to technologies deemed essential for ICT security;
4. Create procedures for mutual assistance in responding to incidents and addressing short-term problems in securing networks, including procedures for expedited assistance;
5. Facilitate cross-border cooperation to address critical infrastructure vulnerabilities that transcend national borders;
6. Develop strategies for sustainability in ICT security capacity-building efforts;
7. Prioritize ICT security awareness and capacity-building in national plans and budgets, and assign it appropriate weight in development and assistance planning. This could include ICT security

⁵⁰¹Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, United Nations (New York) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://undocs.org/en/A/70/174>

awareness programmes designed to educate and inform institutions and individual citizens. Such programmes could be carried out in conjunction with efforts by international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations;

8. Encourage further work in capacity-building, such as on forensics or on cooperative measures to address the criminal or terrorist use of ICT.

States may also consider additional measures taken on a bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral basis such as:

1. Strengthen cooperative mechanisms between relevant agencies to address ICT security incidents and develop additional technical, legal and diplomatic mechanisms to address ICT infrastructure-related requests, including the consideration of exchanges of personnel in areas such as incident response and law enforcement, as appropriate, and encouraging exchanges between research and academic institutions;
2. Enhance cooperation, including the development of focal points for the exchange of information on malicious ICT use and the provision of assistance in investigations;
3. Establish a national computer emergency response team and/or cybersecurity incident response team or officially designate an organization to fulfil this role. States may wish to consider such bodies within their definition of critical infrastructure. States should support and facilitate the functioning of and cooperation among such national response teams and other authorized bodies;
4. Expand and support practices in computer emergency response team and cybersecurity incident response team cooperation, as appropriate, such as information exchange about vulnerabilities, attack patterns and best practices for mitigating attacks, including coordinating responses, organizing exercises, supporting the handling of ICT-related incidents and enhancing regional and sector-based cooperation;
5. Cooperate, in a manner consistent with national and international law, with requests from other States in investigating ICT-related crime or the use of ICT for terrorist purposes or to mitigate malicious ICT activity emanating from their territory.

To meet the capacity-building criterion of the commitment, the BRICS member shall take steps that somewhat match any of the abovementioned areas of action.

Confidence-building measures

As regarding building trust and confidence to ensure peaceful and safe use of ICT, the UNGGE urges states to do the following:

1. Assist in strengthening cooperative mechanisms with national computer emergency response teams and other authorized bodies;
2. Provide assistance and training to developing countries to improve security in the use of ICT, including critical infrastructure, and exchange legal and administrative best practices;
3. Assist in providing access to technologies deemed essential for ICT security;
4. Create procedures for mutual assistance in responding to incidents and addressing short-term problems in securing networks, including procedures for expedited assistance;

5. Facilitate cross-border cooperation to address critical infrastructure vulnerabilities that transcend national borders;
6. Develop strategies for sustainability in ICT security capacity-building efforts;
7. Prioritize ICT security awareness and capacity-building in national plans and budgets, and assign it appropriate weight in development and assistance planning. This could include ICT security awareness programmes designed to educate and inform institutions and individual citizens. Such programmes could be carried out in conjunction with efforts by international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations;
8. Encourage further work in capacity-building, such as on forensics or on cooperative measures to address the criminal or terrorist use of ICT.

Also, the UNGGE notes, that in the interest of ICT security capacity-building ‘States may consider forming bilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives that would build on established partnership relations. Such initiatives would help to improve the environment for effective mutual assistance between States in their response to ICT incidents and could be further developed by competent international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations.’

To ensure compliance with the confidence-building criterion of the commitment, the BRICS member shall take steps in line with any of the areas of action listed in this section.

A +1 score indicating the full compliance with the commitment on the promotion of an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful ICT environment requires the BRICS member to take actions that match both of the key subject areas and thus contributing to capacity-building and confidence building. Also, no action within the monitoring period shall be regarded as inconsistent with the voluntary, non-binding rules of responsible state behavior in the cyberspace. Failing to meet the criterion of adhering to the set of rules will serve as a precondition to grant the BRICS member a 0 score even if the two other criteria are met.

To achieve a partial compliance (a 0 score) the BRICS member shall take action in any of the two key spheres. Also, its steps shall not violate the rules of responsible state behavior.

A -1 score indicating a non-compliance with the commitment shall be given if the BRICS member takes no steps that could be treated as contributing to capacity-building or confidence-building regarding use of ICTs. Also, if the BRICS member takes actions matching at least one of two subject areas but some of its actions violate the rules of responsible states behavior this will be a -1 score case as well.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not contribute to either of the commitment’s subject areas, namely capacity building and confidence building OR some of its actions that match ONE out of TWO subject areas could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states
0	The BRICS member takes actions that match at least ONE out of TWO subject areas and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states
+1	The BRICS member takes actions that match TWO subject areas and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states

Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful environment for information and communications technologies (ICT).

On 1 September 2022, the G20 Digital Ministers held a meeting in Bali. The main outcomes were presented in the Chair's summary, including priorities of joint work as to ensure the free flow of data with trust. The participating parties, including representatives of Brazil, exchanged insights and experiences to foster common understanding and convergence between existing regulatory and policy approaches and instruments. The parties expressed commitment to “enabling an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable digital transformation to achieve a resilient recovery and prosperous digital economy” and agreed to “discuss policies to create an enabling, inclusive, open, and fair digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.”⁵⁰²

On 21 September 2022, the Digital Governance and Information Security Committee was created in Brazil. The committee will aim to plan, coordinate and integrate strategic initiatives related to ICT and information management. The Committee will be advisory and deliberative, will be of a permanent nature, and will aim to determine the priorities of investment and funding programs in ICT, as well as initiatives related to Information Technology to ensure the quality of, efficiency and effectiveness of activities and actions that support compliance with the institutional mission of the Ministry.⁵⁰³

On 22 September 2022, the Cabinet for Institutional Security signed a memorandum of understanding with the Latin America and the Caribbean Cyber Competence Center (supported and resourced by the EU Cyber Capacity Building Network (EU CyberNet) to facilitate cooperation in training in the area of cybersecurity. The EU CyberNet project aims to strengthen the delivery, coordination and overall coherence of the EU's external cyber capacity building projects and reinforce its capacity to provide technical assistance to partner countries in the field of security and cybercrime.⁵⁰⁴

On 11 November 2022, the Secretariat for Digital Government of the Ministry of Economy released a complete guide with guidelines for public bodies regarding privacy, protection of personal data and information security within the scope of the System of Administration of Information Technology Resource, which is responsible for planning and coordinating the IT resources of the Federal Public Administration. The initiative proposes guidelines to public institutions to help identify, monitor and fill gaps in privacy and information security. These guidelines were developed based on the provisions set out in the General Law for the Protection of Personal Data and the National Security Policy of the Information.⁵⁰⁵

⁵⁰²Minister's Letter and Chair's Summary: G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>

⁵⁰³Digital Governance and Information Security Committee created, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/turismo/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/criado-comite-de-governanca-digital-e-seguranca-da-informacao>.

⁵⁰⁴Memorandum of Understanding between the GSI/PR and the Latin America and the Caribbean Cyber Competence Center (LAC4), Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/gsi/pt-br/composicao/SSIC/dsic/noticias-antiores/testando-noticia-numero-2>.

⁵⁰⁵Ministry of Economy launches guide that is a benchmark for privacy and information security, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 11 November 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/governodigital/pt-br/noticias/ministerio-da-economia-lanca-guia-que-e-referencial-de-privacidade-e-seguranca-da-informacao>.

On 14 December 2022, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and the National Education and Research Network, the Digital Government Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy the Center Digital Government Integrated Cybersecurity System. Its mission is to carry out the operational coordination of prevention, treatment and response actions to cyber incidents of the 238 federal agencies belonging to the Information Technology Resources Administration System.⁵⁰⁶

On 23 January 2023, the Joint Declaration on the occasion of the official visit to the Argentine Republic of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was issued. The declaration stated that leaders decided to consolidate the bilateral digital dialogue mechanism in order to be able to address in particular issues related to connectivity, Internet governance, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cybercrime, recognizing the growing importance of digital development as a fundamental foundation for strengthen connectivity and integration between the two countries and the region.⁵⁰⁷

On 27-28 February 2023, the National Data Protection Authority (ANPD) participated in the Ibero-American Data Protection Meeting.⁵⁰⁸ The objective of the Brazilian participation was to expand ANPD's work with the Ibero-American Republic, providing international dialogues that favor the dissemination of the data protection culture worldwide, and also, to promote global regulatory harmonization.

On 16 March 2023, the ANPD hosted the World Bank Digital Development specialist Julian Najles for a technical meeting.⁵⁰⁹ The meeting served to present the current structure of the ANPD and to discuss future action plans by the Authority to promote the protection of privacy and personal data in the country. Julian Najles reported on World Bank projects to foster initiatives related to the protection of personal data.

On 28-29 March 2023, Director-President of the ANPD Wal de mar Gonçalves Ortunho Júnior participated in the 38th Public Hearing of the Federal Supreme Court, convened within the scope of Extraordinary Appeals 1.037.396-SP and 1,057,258-RJ.⁵¹⁰ The public hearing, brought together specialists from the private and government sectors, and aims to promote discussions on the following topics: (1) the liability regime for providers of applications or tools internet for user-generated content; and (2) the possibility of removing content that may offend personality rights , incite hatred or spread fraudulent news based on extrajudicial notification.

On 4-5 April 2023, ANPD, represented by Director Miriam Wimmer, participated Global Privacy Summit, held annually by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, in Washington,

⁵⁰⁶Federal government launches Digital Government Integrated Cybersecurity Center, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/governodigital/pt-br/noticias/governo-federal-lanca-centro-integrado-de-seguranca-cibernetica-do-governo-digital>.

⁵⁰⁷Acts signed on the occasion of the visit of the President of the Republic to the Argentine Republic - Buenos Aires, January 23, 2023, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/atos-assinados-por-ocasio-da-viagem-do-senhor-presidente-da-republica-a-republica-argentina-buenos-aires-23-de-janeiro-de-2023.

⁵⁰⁸ ANPD participates in the Ibero- American Data Protection Meeting, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 28 February 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-do-encontro-ibero-americano-de-protecao-de-dados>

⁵⁰⁹ ANPD and the World Bank meet at the Authority for, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 March 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-e-banco-mundial-reunem-se-na-sede-autoridade>

⁵¹⁰ ANPD participates in a public hearing on the Civil Rights Framework for the Internet, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 March 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-de-audiencia-publica-sobre-o-marco-civil-da-internet>

United States.⁵¹¹ M. Wimmer discussed advances in the field of data protection in Brazil, highlighting the creation and institutional strengthening of ANPD/, with its transformation into an autarchy and on the incorporation into the Brazilian Federal Constitution of the fundamental right to the protection of personal data.

On 5 April 2023, a meeting between the secretary for Policies and Strategic Programs of the MCTI Marcia Barbosa and the director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean of the WIPO Office Beatriz Amorim-Borher took place.⁵¹² Among the aspects of the subject addressed during the meeting was the need to encourage female participation in STEM and, consequently, increase the number of women inventors. Borher also highlighted that WIPO intends to develop a specific edition with Brazil for women in STEM careers, including entrepreneurship. The MCTI is part of the Interministerial Group on Intellectual Property and has initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship, especially the participation of women and girls in science, carried out by linked units, such as Women Entrepreneurs, Future Scientists and the Centelha Program.

On 6 April 2023, to align the information security guidelines in the federal government, the Digital Government Secretariat of the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Services held a webinar with representatives of the bodies and entities of the federal public administration that make up the Information Technology Resources Management System.⁵¹³ The objective of the webinar was to disseminate the Guide to the Privacy and Information Security Framework. The guide is part of the Information Privacy and Security Program formalized by Ordinance No. 852/23, published at the end of March. The guide was developed in partnership with the UK government.

On 6 April 2023, the ANPD released a new page on its website aimed at clarifying the Impact Report on Personal Data Protection with 15 questions and answers on the topic.⁵¹⁴ The authority's initiative, in addition to promoting understanding on the subject and solving possible doubts, is to better guide personal data controllers so that they can act in favor of the data security of the holders who are under their responsibility. The elaboration of Impact Report on Personal Data Protection, which is the responsibility of the controller of personal data, serves to describe the processes of processing personal data that can generate high risk to the guarantee of the general principles of protection of personal data foreseen in the LGPD, to freedom of civil rights and the fundamental rights of the data subject. The document should also contain measures of protection and mechanisms that can reduce risks to the protection of the holders' rights.

On 28 April 2023, the ANPD met with representatives of Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the protection of human rights, to discuss measures to

⁵¹¹ ANPD participates for the second time in the IAPP Global Privacy Summit, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 April 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-pela-segunda-vez-do-iapp-global-privacy-summit>

⁵¹² MCTI and the World Organization for Intellectual Property study cooperation to disseminate knowledge in the area, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 April 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2023/04/mcti-e-organizacao-mundial-para-propriedade-intelectual-estudam-cooperacao-para-difundir-conhecimentos-da-area>

⁵¹³ Ministry of Management of hoist information security guide to managers and technology teams of federal government agencies, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 6 April 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/governodigital/pt-br/noticias/ministerio-da-gestao-detalha-guia-de-seguranca-da-informacao-a-gestores-e-equipes-de-tecnologia-de-orgaos-do-governo-federal>

⁵¹⁴ ANPD publishes page with questions and answers about the Personal Data Protection Impact Report (RIPD), Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 6 April 2023. Access date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-divulga-pagina-com-perguntas-e-respostas-sobre-o-relatorio-de-impacto-a-protecao-de-dados-pessoais-ripd>

protect children and adolescents in the digital environment.⁵¹⁵ The organization recently published a report that investigated the collection and monitoring of data on children and adolescents by Brazilian educational platforms.

On 16 May 2023, the ANPD was visited by the president of the Access to Public Information Agency of Argentina.⁵¹⁶ Meeting between the entities aims to establish a partnership for the exchange of experiences in the regulation of international transfers of personal data.

On 18 May 2023, the ANPD participated in a Public Hearing at the Infrastructure Commission of the Federal Senate to address the implementation of cybernetic readiness strategies and preventive protection of government databases against eventual hacker attacks.⁵¹⁷

On 24 May 2023, the ANPD published a Statement that intends to standardize the interpretation of the General Law for the Protection of Personal Data (LGPD) regarding the legal hypotheses that authorize the processing of data of children and adolescents.⁵¹⁸ The measure represents the first initiative of the ANPD related to the protection of personal data of children and adolescents and establishes the Authority's understanding of the interpretation possibilities of article 14 of the LGPD. According to the Statement, the processing of personal data of children and adolescents can be carried out based on the legal hypotheses provided for in the LGPD, such as in cases of consent provided by the holder, compliance with a legal obligation, protection of life or service to legitimate interest of the controller. In any situation, the best interest of the child and adolescent must prevail, requiring careful evaluation by the controller.

On 24-26 May 2023, the ANPD participated in the “Computer, Privacy and Data Protection – CPDP 2023” conference. International conference is one of the world's leading data protection and privacy events.⁵¹⁹ General Coordinator of Institutional and International Relations of ANPD Juliana Müller participated in the panel “What will change in 2024.” She spoke about the reasons that led the ANPD to apply as an observer country of the convention and about the advantages of Brazil's possible accession to Convention 108+. Created by the Council of Europe, on January 28, 1981, Convention 108 deals with the Protection of Natural Persons with regard to Automated Processing of Personal Data. It was the first legally binding international instrument adopted in the field of data protection.

Brazil has taken both confidence and capacity-building actions to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

⁵¹⁵ ANPD meets with Human Rights Watch to address the protection of personal data of children and adolescents, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 28 April 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-reune-se-com-a-human-rights-watch-para-tratar-da-protecao-de-dados-pessoais-de-criancas-e-adolescentes>

⁵¹⁶ ANPD welcomes president of the Access to Public Information Agency of Argentina, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-recebe-presidente-da-agencia-de-acesso-a-informacao-publica-da-argentina>

⁵¹⁷ ANPD participates in debate in the Federal Senate on hacker attacks on government networks, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 18 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-de-debate-no-senado-federal-sobre-ataques-de-hackers-em-redes-do-governo>

⁵¹⁸ ANPD publishes statement on the processing of personal data of children and adolescents, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-divulga-enunciado-sobre-o-tratamento-de-dados-pessoais-de-criancas-e-adolescentes>

⁵¹⁹ ANPD participates in CPDP 2023, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 26 May 2023. Access date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-da-cpdp-2023>

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful environment for information and communications technologies (ICT).

On 20 July 2022, Russia and Iran held the third meeting of bilateral information technology cooperation working group. The parties discussed issues related to cybersecurity, urban area digitalization and business-to-business contact facilitation.⁵²⁰

On 1 September 2022, the G20 Digital Ministers held a meeting in Bali. The meeting concluded with no joint statement. The main outcomes were presented in the Chair's summary, including priorities of joint work as to ensure the free flow of data with trust. The participating parties, including representatives of Russia, exchanged insights and experiences to foster common understanding and convergence between existing regulatory and policy approaches and instruments. The parties expressed their commitment to “enabling an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable digital transformation to achieve a resilient recovery and prosperous digital economy” and agreed to “discuss policies to create an enabling, inclusive, open, and fair digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.”⁵²¹

On 27 September 2022, Russia and Congo held the 6th meeting of Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Trade Cooperation. The meeting resulted in a bilateral agreement on cooperation in information and communication technologies. The parties agreed on strengthening contacts between governmental bodies and entrepreneurs, facilitating exchange in expertise, and organizing joint research projects.⁵²²

On 25 October 2022, the government-led website Gosuslugi (State Services) launched a special page titled “Cybersecurity is Easy!.” The page is designed as to provide easy-to-comprehend information on how to avoid typical cyberthreats including fraud. Website users are allowed to download prospects on personal data security and maintenance of personal accounts' privacy.⁵²³

On 28 – 30 November 2022, Vice Minister Maxim Parshin visited countries of Northern and Eastern Africa. During his visit, he held several working meetings with colleagues from Egypt and Ethiopia. The parties agreed to exchange expertise on cybersecurity and creating opportunities for IT-businesses. In addition, Vice Minister Parshin held a talk with Amandeep Gill, the UN Secretary-General special envoy on technology and discussed the Global Digital Compact Initiative on creating open and secure digital future.⁵²⁴

⁵²⁰Russia and Iran Discussed Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 January 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41740/>

⁵²¹Minister's Letter and Chair's Summary: G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>

⁵²²Russia and Congo to Sign an Agreement on Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 27 September 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 January 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/42008/>

⁵²³A New “Gosuslugi” Page “Cybersecurity is Easy!” is Launched, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 25 October 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 January 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/42137/>

⁵²⁴Digital Ministry Vice Minister Held Talks with Egypt, Ethiopia and UN Secretary-General Envoy, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 January 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/42264/>

On 2 April 2023, representatives of Russia and South Africa had a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa.⁵²⁵ The parties discussed key direction for bilateral cooperation in future including digitalization of state-provided services and postal services.

On 5 May 2023, the Government presented the Children Digital Protection Concept.⁵²⁶ The Concept aims to protect children against cyberthreats and digital security risks. Digital fraud is among the top risks to be tackled by the Concept. The document proposes implementation of special school curriculum as to facilitate spread of necessary digital skills, and also develop secured internet resources for both children and their parents.

On 22 May 2023, Russia announced the First International Collegiate Programming Competition.⁵²⁷ The event is said to take place from 24 to 28 May 2023 in Grozny. Previously Russia became the first country to acknowledge collegiate programming as an official sport with a goal to promote spread of digital skills among the general population targeting the younger generations.⁵²⁸

On 27 – 28 June 2023, Russia and Iran held the 4th working meeting of the bilateral taskforce on cooperation in the information and communication technologies sphere.⁵²⁹ The meeting took place in Tehran. The parties discussed issues related to cybersecurity, postal services, etc.

On 13 July 2023, the Government presented the concept of a new national project “Economy of Data” that is said to be finalized by the end of 2023.⁵³⁰ The project would last till 2030 with the goal of achieving wider datafication. Among the project’s key principles is that brand-new technological solutions including quantum calculations should provided better protection of gathered, stored, and processed data.

Russia has taken both confidence and capacity-building actions to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful environment for information and communications technologies (ICT).

⁵²⁵ Russia and South Africa to Cooperate in Information Technologies and Mass Communication, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 2 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/43522/>

⁵²⁶ Mintsyfyry to Develop the Children Digital Protection Concept, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 May 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/44157/>

⁵²⁷ Russia to Hold the First International Collegiate Programming Competition, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 22 May 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/44378/>

⁵²⁸ Russia to Create the Federation of Collegiate Programming, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 June 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41650/>

⁵²⁹ Implementation of Bilateral Projects in IT to be Discussed in Tehran, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/45356/>

⁵³⁰ “Economy of Data” National Project to be Launched in Russia, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/45686/>

On 5 August 2022, the government introduced a mandatory social media account verification requirement. Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar claimed that this measure is aimed as to contain spread of misinformation, bots, criminality and digital threats to users in general.⁵³¹

On 1 September 2022, the G20 Digital Ministers held a meeting in Bali. The main outcomes were presented in the Chair's summary, including priorities of joint work as to ensure data free flow with trust. The participating parties, including representatives of India, exchanged insights and experiences to foster common understanding and convergence between existing regulatory and policy approaches and instruments. The parties expressed their commitment to “enabling an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable digital transformation to achieve a resilient recovery and prosperous digital economy” and agreed to “discuss policies to create an enabling, inclusive, open, and fair digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.”⁵³²

On 18 November 2022, the government presented the Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill. The bill is designed as to provide better fulfilment of citizen rights when personal data is processed. The bill is said to establish the comprehensive legal framework governing digital personal data protection in the country recognizing “the right of individuals to protect their personal data, societal rights and the need to process personal data for lawful purposes.” The government also invited all interested parties to comment on the bill and provided a feedback period of a month till 17 December 2022.⁵³³

On 10 – 14 April 2023, the National e-Governance Division organized another round of training meetings with representatives from 22 Central Ministries.⁵³⁴ The session was designed as to provide necessary knowledge about cyber attacks and latest developments in cybersecurity sphere. Also, the session focused on “holistic view of legal provisions” that would enable the participants to “formulate policies in the domain of cybersecurity.”

On 30 June 2023, the Government presented “Guidelines on Information Security Practices.”⁵³⁵ The Guidelines were prepared by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and target all government institutions, public sector enterprises, and other government agencies under administrative purview.

India has taken both confidence and capacity-building actions to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁵³¹Mandatory Verification of Social Media Accounts, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 5 August 2022. Access Date: 18 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1848736>

⁵³²Minister's Letter and Chair's Summary: G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>

⁵³³MeitY invites feedback on the draft 'Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022', Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 18 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1877030>

⁵³⁴ NeGD Organises 35th CISO Deep Dive Training Programme Under MeitY's initiative Cyber Surakshit Bharat, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 10 April 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1915435>

⁵³⁵ CERT-In issues “Guidelines on Information Security Practices” for Government Entities for Safe & Trusted Internet, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1936470>

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful environment for information and communications technologies (ICT).

On 29 August 2022, the Sub Forum on Rule of Law Building in Cyberspace was opened in Tianjin under the China Internet Civilization Forum. The Sub Forum was attended by several of China's high rank officials including a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (PBCPC) Huang Kunming and Li Hongzhong, a member of PBCPC and the Party secretary of Tianjin. Officials addressed the conference participants and highlighted the importance of developing a civilized internet and enabling an advanced culture.⁵³⁶

On 1 September 2022, the G20 Digital Ministers held a meeting in Bali. The main outcomes were presented in the chair's summary, including priorities of joint work as to ensure data free flow with trust. The participating parties, including representatives of China, exchanged insights and experiences to foster common understanding and convergence between existing regulatory and policy approaches and instruments. The parties expressed commitment to "enabling an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable digital transformation to achieve a resilient recovery and prosperous digital economy" and agreed to "discuss policies to create an enabling, inclusive, open, and fair digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive."⁵³⁷

On 19 December 2022, the Chinese Government released a policy document on the development of a data ownership system, a circulation and trading system and an income distribution system. An official at the National Development and Reform Commission said that the latest measures are intended to promote the lawful and efficient use of data to empower the real economy and enable people to share the dividends from the growth of the digital economy. The proposed set of measures is designed to bolster the protection of personal information and ensure the fulfilment of personal data rights.⁵³⁸

On 14 April 2023, the Ministry of Public Security initiated a campaign against the spread of fake information across the cyberspace.⁵³⁹ The Ministry planned to "crack down on those who organize, plan, or participate in the fabrication or distribution of false information on the internet, and groups that utilize incidents to create misinformation and attract attention for the purpose of acquiring profits illegally." The campaign also targets internet companies violating established information security regulations that would face "serious issues" and forced to remove illegal accounts from relevant online platforms.

On 17 May 2023, the Government announced its intention to promote implementation of fifth generation communication technologies, industrial internet technologies, and artificial intelligence-

⁵³⁶Official calls for advancing cyber civilization progress, Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 29 August 2022. Access Date: 18 January 2023. https://english.court.gov.cn/2022-08/29/c_806386.htm

⁵³⁷Minister's Letter and Chair's Summary: G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>

⁵³⁸Policy looks to regulate data usage, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 January 2023. Access Date: 27 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202301/04/content_WS63b4dbeec6d0a757729e5100.html

⁵³⁹ China launches crackdown on fake information in cyberspace, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 15 April 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202304/15/content_WS6439e59fc6d03ffcca6ec51c.html

based solutions.⁵⁴⁰ The Government also plans to promote development of the next generation technologies, including 6G.

On 13 July 2023, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Science and Technology jointly presented a draft regulation on so-called generative artificial intelligence applications and services.⁵⁴¹ It is said that the presented regulation would enter into force on 15 August 2023. The regulation establishes basic norms for above mentioned applications and services, including responsibility of respective providers.

China has taken both confidence and capacity-building actions to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful environment for information and communications technologies (ICT).

On 1 September 2022, the G20 Digital Ministers held a meeting in Bali. The main outcomes were presented in the Chair's summary, including priorities of joint work as to ensure data free flow with trust. The participating parties, including representatives of South Africa, exchanged insights and experiences to foster common understanding and convergence between existing regulatory and policy approaches and instruments. The parties expressed their commitment to “enabling an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable digital transformation to achieve a resilient recovery and prosperous digital economy” and agreed to “discuss policies to create an enabling, inclusive, open, and fair digital economy that fosters the application of new technologies and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.”⁵⁴²

On 21-22 November 2022, the Information Regulator in cooperation with the Africa Digital Rights Hub held the 2022 Edition of the Data Protection Act Africa Summit in Johannesburg. The summit brought together data collectors, processors, innovators, regulators, and other stakeholders to discuss and present solutions to emerging data protection issues.⁵⁴³

On 29 November 2022, the Public Service Commission held a roundtable on government support for bettering the ICT services delivery. The roundtable is said to focus on understanding the nature and extent of the challenges experienced within ICT by different stakeholders, the impact of these

⁵⁴⁰ China to promote large-scale application of 5G, industrial internet, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/17/content_WS6464d104c6d03ffcca6ed212.html

⁵⁴¹ China moves to support generative AI, regulate applications, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202307/13/content_WS64aff5b3c6d0868f4e8ddc01.html

⁵⁴² Minister's Letter and Chair's Summary: G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting 2022, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/220921-digital-chair-summary-and-letter.html>.

⁵⁴³ Information Regulator and Africa Digital Rights Hub host Data Protection Africa Summit in Johannesburg, 21 to 22 Nov, Government of South Africa (Johannesburg) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/information-regulator-and-africa-digital-rights-hub-host-data-protection-africa-summit>

challenges on service delivery, and areas where interventions have been implemented to address these challenges.⁵⁴⁴

On 16 May 2023, the Government announced its intention to develop a new White Paper policy framework to support the “dissemination of information to citizens” regarding the Government Communication and Information System.⁵⁴⁵ The proposed White Paper is designed to promote “compliance with legislative frameworks governing the implementation of the government communication system across all three spheres of government to enable meaningful coordination and coherence of messages.”

On 11 July 2023, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research jointly with the local leading IT-solutions provider Take Note IT (private entity) launched the Cyber Excellence Academy.⁵⁴⁶ The Academy is designed as to attract people with necessary digital skills to combat with evolving cyber threats. The Academy itself is characterized as “an intensive training programme designed to equip participants with industry-leading expertise in cybersecurity.”

South Africa has taken both confidence and capacity-building actions to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT-environment and none of its actions could be regarded as inconsistent with the rules/principles of responsible behavior of states.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁵⁴⁴Public Service Commission hosts roundtable on government support focusing on ICT for service delivery, 30 Nov, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 29 November 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/roundtable-29-nov-2022-0000>

⁵⁴⁵ Government communication workforce to be upskilled, SA News (Pretoria) 16 May 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-communication-workforce-be-upskilled>

⁵⁴⁶ Cyber Excellence Academy launched in collaboration with CSIR, SA News (Pretoria) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cyber-excellence-academy-launched-collaboration-csir>

13. Health: Universal Health Coverage

“[The BRICS countries will strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the fields of] ... Universal Health Coverage.”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

BRICS countries addressed health and medicine issues for the first time in 2011 in the Sanya declaration, where the BRICS leaders stated “firm commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of social protection, decent work, gender equality, youth, and public health, including the fight against HIV/AIDS.”⁵⁴⁷

In 2012 BRICS health ministers committed to “focus on cooperation in combating HIV/AIDS through approaches such as innovative ways to reach out with prevention services, efficacious drugs and diagnostics, exchange of information on newer treatment regimens, determination of recent infections and HIV-TB [HIV/AIDS-tuberculosis] co-infections.”⁵⁴⁸ At their third meeting in 2013 they reiterated their joint commitment to “collaborate on key thematic areas focusing on strengthening health surveillance systems; reducing Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors through prevention and health promotion; Universal Health Coverage (UHC); strategic health technologies, with a focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases; medical technologies; and drug discovery and development.”⁵⁴⁹

In 2014 at their fourth meeting, health ministers during Brazil’s presidency expressed deep concern about recent outbreak of Ebola in West African countries and called for “urgent and comprehensive international support to the efforts coordinated by the UN, and particularly to the actions undertaken by the WHO [World Health Organization], to accelerate the response to the Ebola outbreak.”⁵⁵⁰

In 2015, under Russia’s presidency, BRICS leaders expressed deep concern with “continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and others), and with the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential, such as highly pathogenic influenza, novel coronavirus or Ebola” and agreed to work together in such areas as:

- Management of risks related to emerging infections with pandemic potential;

⁵⁴⁷Sanya Declaration, 2011, RANEP. Access Date: 9 February

2018.<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/chpresidency1/Sanya%20Declaration.pdf>

⁵⁴⁸Communiqué of the II Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP. Access Date: 9 February

2018.<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/inpresidency1/health%202013%201.pdf>

⁵⁴⁹Communiqué of the III Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP. Access Date: 9 February

2018.<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency1/health2013.pdf>

⁵⁵⁰Communiqué of the IV Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP. Access Date: 9 February

2018.<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/Communiq%C3%A9%20of%20the%20IV%20Meeti ng%20of%20BRICS%20Health%20Ministers.pdf>

- Compliance with commitments to stop the spread of and eradicate communicable diseases that hamper development (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, “neglected” tropical diseases, poliomyelitis, measles);
- Research, development, production and supply of medicines aimed at providing increased access to prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.⁵⁵¹

Between 2011 and 2015 BRICS countries discussed such issues as HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and sexual and reproductive health. At the 2016 Goa Summit, the BRICS made its first commitment on antimicrobial resistance.⁵⁵²

In 2017 in Xiamen leaders agreed to foster the development and improve the availability of innovative medical products through promotion of research and development, foster access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing and to improve surveillance capacity to combat infectious diseases, including Ebola, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as non-communicable diseases.⁵⁵³

In 2018 in Johannesburg BRICS leaders committed to strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries.⁵⁵⁴

In 2020 Moscow declaration leaders acknowledged initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organisations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics, and support cooperative approaches in this regard and promised to ensure that, when available, it is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis. They supported the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative. BRICS countries also reiterated their commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being including through developing effective joint responses to the continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and others) and the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential.⁵⁵⁵

In 2021 Delhi declaration BRICS leaders pledged to continue “ongoing efforts in supporting countries around the world to combat the pandemic through financing, donation, local production and facilitating export of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other life saving equipment.”⁵⁵⁶

In 2022 in Beijing leaders agreed to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the fields of Universal Health Coverage.

⁵⁵¹Ufa Declaration, 2015, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁵⁵²Goa Declaration, 2016, RANEPА (Moscow) 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁵⁵³BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁵⁵⁴BRICS: A 15-Year Review, RANEPА (Moscow) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency2/brics_15_year_review.pdf

⁵⁵⁵XII BRICS summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

⁵⁵⁶New Delhi Declaration. RANEPА (Moscow) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-indijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

Commitment Features

The commitment requires BRICS members to take actions to strengthen multilateral technical cooperation in UHC. The commitment has two parts.

“Universal health coverage” means that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It includes the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.⁵⁵⁷

Technical cooperation refers to the provision of resources aimed at the transfer of technical and managerial skills or of technology for the purpose of building up general national capacity.⁵⁵⁸

Part one: Strengthen UHC at home

To comply with the first part of the commitment BRICS member should take actions to improve access to UHC domestically.

World Bank identifies four priority areas of action to strengthen UHC:

- ramp up investments in affordable, quality primary healthcare, allocating more resources to diagnostics and early detection of diseases;
- engage the private sector and unlock new models for health financing and delivery;
- improving education, broadening social services, and creating jobs;
- change the models of UHC’s financing so countries get better outcomes for the money they are spending.⁵⁵⁹

Part two: Promote multilateral technical cooperation in UHC

The second part of the commitment requires BRICS members to engage in multilateral cooperation on the issue of UHC.

According to the definition of technical cooperation, BRICS members should provide financial, managerial or other resources and technologies to build up the capacity of other countries in the field of UHC. To comply with this part of the commitment BRICS member can engage in bilateral or multilateral (for example, led by WHO, World Bank or other international entities) projects in UHC.

To achieve full compliance BRICS member should both take actions to strengthen UHC domestically and promote multilateral cooperation. Partial compliance will be awarded to BRICS member which will only take actions domestically.

The score –1 will be awarded if a BRICS member fails to deliver on both parts of the commitment.

⁵⁵⁷Universal Health Coverage, WHO (Geneva). 1 April 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022.
https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab_1

⁵⁵⁸Technical Co-Operation Grants, OECD (Paris) 28 August 2003. Access Date: 18 October 2022.
<https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=6022>

⁵⁵⁹Universal Health Coverage, The World Bank (Washington) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/universalhealthcoverage#2>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member has taken no actions to strengthen Universal Health Coverage.
0	The BRICS member has taken actions to strengthen Universal Health Coverage domestically BUT failed to promote multilateral technical cooperation in this field.
+1	The BRICS member has taken actions to strengthen Universal Health Coverage domestically AND promoted multilateral technical cooperation in this field.

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Irina Popova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the field of Universal Health Coverage.

On 5 December 2022, the Ministry of Health launched the first edition of the Technical Guidance Manual for the Preparation, Analysis and Accountability of Projects of the National Program to Support Institutional Development of the Unified Health System. The manual is an instrument for guiding and standardizing the performance of its technicians and managers, its foundations and linked public associations, health councils, health entities of recognized excellence, and other actors who work in the program.⁵⁶⁰

On 28 December 2022, the Ministry of Health signed four new contracts through the Department of Informatics of the SUS with the aim of offering significant improvements to the technological platforms used by the Unified Health System.⁵⁶¹

On 5 January 2023, the Ministry of Health invited managers and health professionals to participate in the ASPAS Study –Situational Assessment of Assistance Protocols of the Unified Health System. The initiative is aimed at those who work in Specialized Care and Pharmaceutical Assistance. The objective is to identify how the Clinical Protocols and Therapeutic Guidelines are being implemented in practice. Interested parties can register using the form.⁵⁶²

On 19 January 2023, Brazil and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) signed a Cooperation Strategy. According to the document, cooperation between Brazil and PAHO is aimed at improving people's health and well-being and expanding access to and coverage of health in an integral and equitable manner, with an emphasis on primary care. The Cooperation Strategy involves actions such as protecting and promoting the health of the population, centered on people, families and communities, especially those in vulnerable situations, in addition to recovering, improving and strengthening health services and priority programs impacted by the pandemic from COVID-19. The

⁵⁶⁰Health launches Proadi-SUS Manual, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/dezembro/saude-lanca-manual-do-proadi-sus>.

⁵⁶¹Ministry of Health signs four new contracts for the evolution of digital health in 2023, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/dezembro/ministerio-da-saude-assina-quatro-novos-contratos-para-evolucao-da-saude-digital-em-2023>.

⁵⁶²Health registers managers and professionals to evaluate SUS care protocols, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/saude-cadastra-gestores-e-profissionais-para-avaliacao-de-protocolos-assistenciais-do-sus>.

document is also a strategic reference for the process of planning and allocating technical cooperation resources to Brazil.⁵⁶³

On 22 January 2023, the Ministry of Health announced its plan to accelerate a recruitment process for the Mais Médicos Program (More Doctors Program) to employ professionals, both trained in Brazil and abroad, to work in the Indigenous Health Districts on a permanent basis. The More Doctors Program is part of a broad effort by the federal government, with support from states and municipalities, to improve service to users of the Unified Health System. In addition to taking more doctors to regions where there is a shortage or absence of these professionals, the program also provides for more investments in the construction, renovation and expansion of Basic Health Units.⁵⁶⁴

On 23 January 2023, Ministry of Health of Brazil and the Ministry of Health of Argentina signed a declaration of intentions to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries in priority areas of health. The exchange of experiences is foreseen in the bilateral agreement, especially for epidemiological surveillance strategies and public health emergencies. It is also planned to train health professionals and promote technical-scientific exchange for researchers and professionals from research centers, in addition to strengthening the capacity and infrastructure of clinical trials in Latin America.⁵⁶⁵

On 30 January 2023, with the aim of strengthening information platforms and digital transformation in the Brazilian health system, the Ministry of Health promoted the Digital Transformation Symposium in SUS.⁵⁶⁶ One of the opening table guidelines was the importance of new technologies to ensure inclusion and reduce inequalities in health, in addition to promoting equity.

On 20 March 2023, the Government announced that Mais Médicos programme will be resumed in Brazil, with the opening of 15,000 new vacancies.⁵⁶⁷ By the end of 2023, 28,000 professionals will be established throughout the country, mainly in areas of extreme poverty. With this, more than 96 million Brazilians will have the guarantee of medical care in primary care, the gateway to the SUS.

On 6 April 2023, the creation of the Executive Group of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex was announced.⁵⁶⁸ With the expectation of producing, in up to ten years, 70 percent of the needs of

⁵⁶³Brazil-PAHO cooperation strategy foresees goals to strengthen the SUS, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 19 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/estrategia-de-cooperacao-brasil-opas-preve-metas-para-fortalecer-o-sus>.

⁵⁶⁴Ministry of Health will accelerate recruitment of professionals for indigenous districts, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/ministerio-da-saude-vai-acelerar-recrutamento-de-profissionais-para-distritos-indigenas>.

⁵⁶⁵Note: visit by Minister of Health to Argentina, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/nota-visita-da-ministra-da-saude-a-argentina>.

⁵⁶⁶Seminar discussed digital transformation in SUS and how new technologies can reach the population, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/seminario-discutiu-transformacao-digital-no-sus-e-como-novas-tecnologias-podem-alcancar-a-populacao>

⁵⁶⁷Federal Government announces the resumption of the Mais Médicos Program, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 20 March 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/governo-federal-anuncia-a-retomada-do-programa-mais-medicos>

⁵⁶⁸Industrial strengthening of health, UNA-SUS and strategic planning were themes of the Executive Secretariat in recent days, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 10 April 2023. Translated by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/fortalecimento-industrial-da-saude-una-sus-e-planejamento-estrategico-foram-temas-da-secretaria-executiva-nos-ultimos-dias>

the SUS in medicines, equipment, vaccines and other medical materials, the federal government resumes the agenda aimed at strengthening the complex.

On 8 May 2023, President Lula da Silva sanctioned the Bill nº 8131/2017 that includes the National Oral Health Policy, also known as Smiling Brazil, in the Organic Law of Health.⁵⁶⁹ From now on, oral health becomes a right of all Brazilians guaranteed by law. The act recognizes the importance of access to dental care in the SUS and reinforces the Federal Government's commitment to comprehensive care for the Brazilian population.

On 12 May 2023, President Lula da Silva sanctioned Bill No. 14,581, which opens a special credit of BRL7.3 billion in the National Health Fund budget to guarantee states and municipalities the payment of the national minimum wage for nursing workers.⁵⁷⁰

On 12 May 2023, the Government announced that mental health care would be expanded in the SUS. BRL21.3 million will be allocated per year to care for people with suffering or mental disorders or with care needs resulting from the use of alcohol and other drugs.⁵⁷¹

On 19 May 2023, Ministry of Health invested BRL303.8 million to strengthen and expand services provided by the SUS in Bahia.⁵⁷² Resources are intended to complement the cost of procedures in units such as maternity wards, hospitals and polyclinics, increasing the financial ceiling for medium and high complexity in the state. In addition to this transfer, another BRL26 million will be invested in oncology services.

On 5 June 2023, Ministry of Health participated in the 1st Meeting on Universalization of Primary Health Care - Sanitary Reform, in Viña del Mar, Chile.⁵⁷³ The event, promoted by the Chilean Ministry of Health, sought to exchange experiences to develop fundamental theoretical and practical tools for the process of installing universal primary health care.

On 7 June 2023, Federal Government resumed “Farmácia Popular do Brasil” programme with the expansion of the offer of free medicines and the accreditation of new units in more vulnerable municipalities.⁵⁷⁴ Bolsa Família beneficiaries will be able to receive the 40 medications available in the program for free. The initiative expands access to pharmaceutical assistance to 55 million Brazilians.

⁵⁶⁹ President Lula signs a law that guarantees oral health to all Brazilians through the SUS, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 8 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/presidente-lula-sanciona-lei-que-garante-saude-bucal-a-todos-os-brasileiros-pelo-sus>

⁵⁷⁰ President Lula signs a law that opens credit of R\$7.3 billion for the Nursing Floor, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/presidente-lula-sanciona-lei-que-abre-credito-de-r-7-3-bi-para-o-piso-da-enfermagem>

⁵⁷¹ Ministry of Health invests more than R\$ 21 million to expand mental health network in SUS, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/ministerio-da-saude-investe-mais-de-r-21-milhoes-para-ampliar-rede-de-saude-mental-no-sus>

⁵⁷² Ministry of Health announces investments to strengthen SUS in Bahia, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 19 May 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/maio/ministerio-da-saude-anuncia-investimentos-para-fortalecimento-do-sus-na-bahia>

⁵⁷³ At an event in Chile, Brazil shares experiences of SUS primary care as an international reference, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/em-evento-no-chile-brasil-compartilha-experiencias-da-atencao-primaria-do-sus-como-referencia-internacional>

⁵⁷⁴ Beneficiaries of Bolsa Família will have free access to all medicines from Farmácia Popular, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/beneficiarios-do-bolsa-familia-terao-acesso-gratuito-a-todos-os-medicamentos-do-farmacia-popular>

On 7 June 2023, Ministry of Health and UNDP launched public notice to invest BRL 4.5 million in projects of Civil Society Organizations.⁵⁷⁵ Entries were opened for the selection of proposals from Civil Society Organizations for the execution of health communication projects aimed at key and priority populations for HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. BRL 4.5 million will be invested. The intention is to select up to 38 projects from all regions of Brazil.

On 13 June 2023, the Ministry of Health released resources to reduce the queue for surgeries in the SUS in the three states that were awaiting technical analysis: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Mato Grosso do Sul.⁵⁷⁶ The forecast is that five states will reduce the queue by one hundred percent: Tocantins, Sergipe, Piauí, Paraíba and Mato Grosso do Sul. In 2023, the program plans to attract BRL600 million in investment in total. Of this total, BRL 200 million has already been allocated to support states in actions to reduce queues.

Brazil has taken actions to strengthen Universal Health Coverage inside the country and also engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this field.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the field of Universal Health Coverage.

On 26 October 2022, the government assigned RUB58.6 billion to facilitate the development of regional healthcare systems. The Ministry of Healthcare is responsible for the proper allocation of designated funds. Most of the funding is said to be spent on payments for health practitioners in accordance with the ministry's planning.⁵⁷⁷

On 18 November 2022, Russia and the United Arab Emirates held a bilateral meeting. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation in healthcare. The countries demonstrated mutual interest in promoting cooperation in scientific development and pharmaceutical production.⁵⁷⁸

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry of Healthcare presented the new platform designed to promote implementation of artificial intelligence into healthcare. The platform would facilitate the discussion

⁵⁷⁵ Beneficiaries of Bolsa Família will have free access to all medicines from Farmácia Popular, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/beneficiarios-do-bolsa-familia-terao-acesso-gratuito-a-todos-os-medicamentos-do-farmacia-popular>

⁵⁷⁶ All Brazilian states received resources from the Ministry of Health to reduce the waiting list for surgeries in the SUS. check the list, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 29 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/todos-os-estados-brasileiros-receberam-recursos-do-ministerio-da-saude-para-reduzir-fila-de-espera-por-cirurgias-no-sus-confira-a-lista>

⁵⁷⁷Government to Allocate 58.6 billion to Minzdrav for Regional Healthcare Systems Development, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 26 October 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/10/26/19472-pravitelstvo-vydelilo-minzdravu-58-6-mlrd-rublej-na-podderzhku-regionalnyh-sistem-zdravoohraneniya>

⁵⁷⁸Minzdrav and UAE to Discuss Bilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 18 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/11/18/19556-minzdravy-rossii-i-oae-obsudili-perspektivy-dvustoronnego-sotrudnichestva>

on current issues, gathering of medical data for further processing. All the gathered non-personal datasets would be available for everyone to use.⁵⁷⁹

On 9 December 2022, the government-run website “Gosuslugi” (State Services) presented an online application form for companies importing non-registered pharmaceutical products and biomaterials. The new form is designed to facilitate the process and to satisfy the local demand.⁵⁸⁰

On 15 December 2022, Russia and Turkmenistan held a bilateral meeting on healthcare cooperation. The parties demonstrated mutual interest in deepening ties in such spheres as medical tourism, professional education and digital transformation in healthcare.⁵⁸¹

On 29 December 2022, the government initiated a nation-wide project providing distant diagnostic health monitoring services based on cutting-edge medical devices and technologies. Most remote services are designed to help people with diabetes and hypertonic disease. Data gathered would be transferred to medical practitioners to facilitate diagnosis.⁵⁸²

On 30 December 2022, Russia and Burkina Faso held a meeting on cooperation in healthcare. The parties agreed on deepening professional exchanges including short-term internships and joint pharmaceutical production.⁵⁸³

On 23 January 2023, the government extended the scope of medical services covered by obligatory health insurance. Patients would receive more substantial financial support, and more services including neonatal screening and chronic diseases treatment would be provided.⁵⁸⁴

On 26 April 2023, the Ministry of Health launched the federal health-check campaign.⁵⁸⁵ The campaign is supported by a series of video material aimed at popularization of regular health-checks.

Russia has taken actions to strengthen Universal Health Coverage inside the country and also engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this field.

⁵⁷⁹Minzdrav to Launch a Platform for AI in Healthcare, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 25 November 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/11/25/19580-minzdrav-rossii-zapustil-platfomu-iskusstvennogo-intellekta-v-zdravoohranenii>

⁵⁸⁰Gosuslugi Allows to Apply for Import of Non-Registered Drugs and Biomaterials, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 9 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/09/19637-podat-zayavlenie-na-vvoz-nezaregistrovannyh-lekarstvennyh-preparatov-i-biomaterialov-teper-mozhno-cherез-portal-gosuslug>

⁵⁸¹Minzdrav Held a Meeting with Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Production of Turkmenistan, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 15 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/15/19662-v-minzdrave-rossii-sostoyalas-vstrecha-s-ministerstvom-zdravoohraneniya-i-medsinskoy-promyshlennosti-turkmenistana>

⁵⁸²Pilot Project on Distant Health Condition Monitoring with High-Tech Devices Started in Russia, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 29 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 14 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/29/19716-v-rossii-startoval-pilotnyy-proekt-po-distantsionnomu-monitoringu-sostoyaniya-zdorovya-patsientov-s-ispolzovaniem-vysokotekhnologichnyh-ustroystv-i-servisov>

⁵⁸³Minzdrav to Discuss Healthcare Cooperation with Burkina Faso, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 30 December 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2022/12/20/19683-v-minzdrave-rossii-obsudili-voprosy-sotrudnichestva-v-sfere-zdravoohraneniya-s-burkina-faso>

⁵⁸⁴State Health Insurance Program to be Substantially Extended in 2023, Ministry of Healthcare (Moscow) 23 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/01/23/19792-programma-gosudarstvennyh-garantiy-besplatnoy-medsinskoy-pomoschi-na-2023-god-znachitelno-rasshirena>

⁵⁸⁵ “Health is Important Here and Now”: Federal Health-Check Program, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 4 May 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2023/04/26/20133-zdorovie-vazhno-zdes-i-seychas-startovala-federalnaya-kampaniya-o-dispanserizatsii>

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the field of Universal Health Coverage.

On 28 September 2022, the Emergency and Trauma Unit at B. Dharavandhoo Health Centre in Male, Maldives was inaugurated. The project was implemented by Ministry of Health of Maldives under the cash grant projects scheme of the Government of India in Maldives. The total Indian contribution for the project was around MVR7.5 million.⁵⁸⁶

On 28 November 2022, the Indian Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri R.K. Singh inaugurated the initiative for procurement, operation and maintenance of ten Mobile Health Clinics at Sadar Hospital, Aarah, Bhojpur District Bihar. The total cost of the project is INR120 million which will facilitate operational expenditure for three years for smooth functioning of the project.⁵⁸⁷

On 9 January 2023, the National Health Authority announced a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). The new initiative will introduce the concept of ‘value- based care’, where payment will be outcome based and providers will be rewarded according to the quality of the treatment delivered. Under the new model, the providers will be rewarded for helping the patients improve their health, which consequently will reduce the effects of disease in the population in the long term.⁵⁸⁸

On 13 January 2023, Indian Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the Health Ministers’ virtual session of “Voice of Global South Summit – 2023.” He commended India’s efforts in providing training to support countries in terms of capacity building of their healthcare professionals. The training included COVID-19 testing, clinical practices, case management, vaccine development and delivery. India also shared its medical expertise by dispatching Rapid Response Teams to Kuwait and Maldives. Minister Mandaviya also stated that under the soon to be launched Heal in India initiative, India aims to provide its health infrastructure for patients abroad and make it a global hub for healthcare. He mentioned that India affirms to work with partners in the Global South to harness the potential of traditional medicine to promote health, wellness and people-centric care.⁵⁸⁹

India has taken actions to strengthen universal health coverage domestically and promoted multilateral technical cooperation in this field.

⁵⁸⁶Press Release: Inauguration of Emergency & Trauma Unit at B. Dharavandhoo Health Centre on 28 September, 2022, High Commission of India (Male) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://hci.gov.in/male/?17350?000>.

⁵⁸⁷Shri R.K Singh inaugurates 10 Mobile Health Clinics ‘Doctor ApkeDwar’ under REC’s CSR project in Bihar, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1879602>.

⁵⁸⁸National Health Authority (NHA) introduces new system to measure and grade performance of hospitals empaneled under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1889730>.

⁵⁸⁹Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya chairs Health Ministers’ virtual Session of “Voice of Global South Summit – 2023” titled: Cooperation to build resilient healthcare systems, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 13 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1891014>.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the field of Universal Health Coverage.

On 6 October 2022, China handed over a pharmaceutical warehouse to the Zimbabwean government. The warehouse is set to boost Zimbabwe's drug storage capacity and improve its health delivery system. Constructed and funded by the Chinese government, it is worth USD22 million and is situated at the country's second largest referral hospital, Sally Mugabe Central Hospital, in Harare.⁵⁹⁰

On 11 November 2022, Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang participated the 25th China-ASEAN Summit. He mentioned that the Chinese Government will accelerate the establishment of the China-ASEAN Public Health Research and Development Collaborating Center to build a stronger shield for regional public health security.⁵⁹¹

On 16 November 2022, President of Indonesia Joko Widodo and President Xi Jinping held talks on bilateral cooperation. The two countries agreed to promote the whole industry-chain vaccine cooperation as well as drug research and development, strengthen cooperation in vaccine and genomic research, development and production. China pledged to support Indonesia in its effort to build a regional vaccine hub and continue to play an exemplary role in health cooperation and the fight against COVID-19 to improve global public health governance.⁵⁹²

On 6 December 2022, the Chinese Government announced detailed measures to promote the role of IT in the development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). According to the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, by 2025, a TCM information system that works in coordination with China's medical and healthcare mechanism will be established. The plan also provides for the establishment of smart TCM hospitals around the country and the promotion of online TCM pharmacies and medical services. Moreover, flexible inter-hospital patient transfer, mutual recognition and sharing of lab and examination reports and other services will be enhanced among TCM hospitals.⁵⁹³

On 22 December 2022, several medical and health platforms were launched under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to provide members of the group with better health services. During a forum held by the SCO hospital alliance in Wuhan, three SCO telemedicine cooperation platform centers were launched in Hubei, Gansu and Xinjiang. Besides, four online platforms under

⁵⁹⁰China hands over modern pharmaceutical warehouse to Zimbabwe, China International Development Cooperation Agency 12 October 2022. http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2022-10/12/c_819448.htm.

⁵⁹¹Speech by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China At the 25th China-ASEAN Summit, Embassy of the PRC in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (London) 12 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zgyw/202211/t20221112_10973135.htm.

⁵⁹²Joint Statement between The People's Republic of China and The Republic of Indonesia, Embassy of the PRC in the Sultanate of Oman (Muscat) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://om.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zgyw/202211/t20221117_10976784.htm.

⁵⁹³China releases plan to promote online TCM services, State Council of China 6 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202212/06/content_WS638ee0b1c6d0a757729e402f.html.

the SCO hospital alliance were launched, focusing on the hepatobiliary and pancreatic specialties, gynecology, internet hospitals, and hospital management.⁵⁹⁴

On 17 January 2023, Ministry of Finance announced an increased government spending for medical treatment subsidies, temporary allowances of medical personnel, vaccines and vaccination, and medical capacity improvement. In addition, more resources will be channeled to the treatment of severe Covid-19 cases in county-level hospitals, and emergency treatment and critical care in rural areas.⁵⁹⁵

On 6 July 2023, the National Health Commission announced the establishment of national-level expert medical emergency response teams.⁵⁹⁶ The expert teams cover 22 medical disciplines, including emergency medicine, critical care medicine, orthopedic medicine, and epidemiology. They are expected to provide policy suggestions and technical support for the construction of medical emergency response system and formulate regulations for medical emergency management and methods.

China has taken actions to strengthen universal health coverage domestically and promoted multilateral technical cooperation in this field.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the field of Universal Health Coverage.

On 1 August 2022, the South African government and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) held a bilateral meeting. The parties agreed to maintain established relations to fight the spread of the disease in South Africa. PEPFAR has committed to support the country while putting special attention to the younger generation as to curb spread of new infections.⁵⁹⁷

On 10 October 2022, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) held a meeting with representatives of the Paul Ehrlich Institute, Germany. SAHPRA is interested in strengthening blood and blood products regulations in the country. The Institute's BloodTrain Program demonstrated interest in entering the collaboration in this regard. The Program conducts external assessment in line with the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool and provides assistance as to overcome identified gaps and deficiencies.⁵⁹⁸

⁵⁹⁴New platforms launched to enhance SCO health cooperation, State Council Information Office of China 23 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://english.scio.gov.cn/international/exchanges/2022-12/23/content_85023641.htm.

⁵⁹⁵China to ensure funding for new-phase COVID response, State Council of China 17 January 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/17/content_WS63c65487c6d0a757729e5a42.html.

⁵⁹⁶China to establish national-level expert medical emergency response teams, State Council of China 7 July 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202307/07/content_WS64a75241c6d0868f4e8dd914.html

⁵⁹⁷Health on United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief support for South Africa to fight HIV/AIDS, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 August 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-united-states-president%E2%80%99s-emergency-plan-aids-relief-support-south-africa-fight>

⁵⁹⁸SAHPRA Collaborates With Germany's BloodTrain Programme, SAHPRA (Pretoria) 10 October 2022. Access Date: <https://www.sahpra.org.za/news-and-updates/sahpra-collaborates-with-germanys-bloodtrain-programme/>

On 20 October 2022, the Department of Health reported on progress achieved in negotiations with Eskom – the main power provider in the country. The Department aims to set an agreement with the provider as to exclude primary hospitals in various regions in South Africa from loadshedding, allowing these facilities to operate uninterruptedly.⁵⁹⁹

On 24 November 2022, the SAHRPA approved seven COVID-19 self-testing kits for public usage. With the authority's approval, local vendors are allowed to sell self-kits openly at any pharmacy.⁶⁰⁰

From 23 January to 4 February 2023, the Department of Health announced commencement with the special medical treatment program for miners diseased with tuberculosis between March 1965 and December 2019.⁶⁰¹ The program is opened for miners from all across the country and also covers death cases if they occurred before December 2019. Eligible candidates would participate in a series of screening, verification, and medical examination procedures accompanied with payment of benefits.

On 30 January 2023, the Department of Health announced that it would provide another round of additional COVID-19 vaccine booster on active vaccination sites starting from the notification date.⁶⁰²

South Africa has taken actions to strengthen universal health coverage domestically and promoted multilateral technical cooperation in this field.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁵⁹⁹Health and Eskom report progress on hospitals exemptions from loadshedding, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-and-eskom-report-progress-hospitals-exemptions%C2%A0-20-oct-2022-0000>

⁶⁰⁰SAHPRA Approves Antigen Self-Test Kits For Public Use, SAHPRA (Pretoria) 24 November 2022. Access Date: <https://www.sahpra.org.za/press-releases/sahpra-approves-antigen-self-test-kits-for-public-use/>

⁶⁰¹ Health Department to commence with compensation for ex-miners who suffered health injuries, Health Department (Pretoria) 22 January 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Media-Advisory-Health-Department-to-commence-with-compensation-for-ex-miners-who-suffered-health-injuries.pdf>

⁶⁰² Government opens for additional COVID-19 booster doses, Department of Health (Pretoria) 30 January 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Government-opens-for-additional-COVID-19-booster-doses-30-January-2023.pdf>

14. Sustainable Development: 2030 Agenda Implementation

“We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner..”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its constituent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015.⁶⁰³ At the 2016 Summit in Goa the BRICS leaders welcomed the document’s adoption and committed to “to lead by example in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with national circumstances and development context respecting the national policy space.”⁶⁰⁴ The commitment has been reiterated every year, with a particular focus on the Goal 12 at the 2021 New Delhi Summit.⁶⁰⁵

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit, the BRICS leaders stated: “We stress the importance of education to promoting sustainable economic and social development, and to strengthening BRICS partnership, and commend the positive progress in our education cooperation. We reiterate our support for BRICS University League and BRICS Network University in conducting education and research cooperation, welcome efforts to promote cooperation among educational think tanks, and exchanges among youth including by organizing youth summer camps and offering more scholarship opportunities to BRICS students. We agree to share experience and practices in realizing education-related sustainable development goals.”⁶⁰⁶

At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, the BRICS leaders met under the theme: “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.” They discussed inclusive and sustainable growth, economic and social recovery, job creation, education and SMEs.⁶⁰⁷

At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, the BRICS leaders discussed sustainable development in terms of economic and social, as well as environment. SMEs and job creation were also discussed, but the

⁶⁰³Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (New York) 25 September 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

⁶⁰⁴Goa Declaration, 16 October 2016. RANEPА (Moscow). Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>.

⁶⁰⁵XIII BRICS Summit- New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021. RANEPА (Moscow). Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-indiyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁰⁶BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDWxo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁶⁰⁷10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

main focus was about strengthening and reforming the multilateral system, economic and financial cooperation, and intra-BRICS cooperation.⁶⁰⁸

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the BRICS countries to take action to implement the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in its entirety –in economic, social and environmental dimensions. The 17 SDGs contained in the Agenda are:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The list of concrete targets is also defined in the Agenda.⁶⁰⁹

⁶⁰⁸11th BRICS Summit, Brasília Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 October 2022. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

Full compliance with the commitment requires the BRICS members to implement policy actions on at least 11 of the 17 Goals. Partial compliance requires the BRICS members to implement actions on at least four of the Goals. Non-compliance implies that less than four Goals were covered by the BRICS country's actions during the monitoring period.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS country takes action on fewer than four SDGs.
0	The BRICS country takes action on at least four SDGs.
+1	The BRICS country takes action on at least 11 SDGs.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to advance the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

On 30 June 2022, a new Brazilian Mineral Policy document was published. The Policy provides for the creation of instruments for planning in the mineral sector and a collegiate body for coordinating and implementing the respective public policy - National Council of Mineral Policy. The general aim is to promote economic, social and environmentally responsible use of the country's mineral resources, aiming at the competitiveness and development of the mineral sector.⁶¹⁰

On 26 September 2022, the Ministry of Environment announced a second call for the applications to the Floresta+ Conservation initiative. Small producers, owners and holders of rural properties in the nine states of the Legal Amazon are eligible to enroll in the program until 28 February 2023. The project provides financial incentives to individuals and enterprises, which contributes to the protection and recovery of forest areas, and contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions.⁶¹¹

On 4 October 2022, the Ministry of Health announced that the Unified Health System Institutional Development Support Program was to invest additional BR7.4 million in research and development on healthcare and nutrition. As of October 2022, the Unified Health System had 154 projects in the execution phase in the areas of research, management, incorporation of technologies, and training in health.⁶¹²

⁶⁰⁹Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (New York) 25 September 2015. Access Date: 24 January 2023.

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

⁶¹⁰Brazilian Mineral Policy is instituted, Ministry of Mines and Energy (Brasilia) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/politica-mineral-brasileira-e-instituida>.

⁶¹¹Floresta+ Amazônia Project receives registrations in the Conservation modality and has an open call for information request for the Recovery modality, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 26 September 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/projeto-floresta-amazonia-recebe-inscricoes-na-modalidade-conservacao-e-tem-chamada-aberta-de-solicitacao-de-informacao-para-a-modalidade-recuperacao>.

⁶¹²Proadi-SUS invests over R\$ 7.4 million in research development, Brazilian Ministry of Healthcare (Brasilia) 4 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/outubro/proadi-sus-investe-mais-r-7-4-milhoes-em-desenvolvimento-de-pesquisas>.

On 20 October 2022, the Management Committee of the Unified Health System Institutional Development Support Program approved three more projects and project development proposals, in the order of BR27.1 million, to strengthen and improve the Unified Health System.⁶¹³

On 22 December 2022, Minister of Mines and Energy Adolfo Sachsida gave an account of his ministry's plans for 2023. It is expected that energy costs for consumers in three Brazilian regions will be reduced by BR9 billion. The Minister announced the structural reduction of electricity tariff by 38.9% for 2023.⁶¹⁴

On 22 December 2022, the National System of Attendance to Women in Situations of Violence (Sistema ELA) was launched as an interactive virtual platform by the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights of Brazil. This virtual tool includes a database capable of generating the necessary statistics to monitor and evaluate public policies to combat violence against women. The system allows the registration of all calls made in the Brazilian Women's Houses, Reference Centers and Assistance to Women and Specialized Center for Assistance to Women throughout the country.⁶¹⁵

On 23 December 2022, the Brazilian Government announced the preliminary results of the 2022/2023 Crop Plan. The Plan, in force from July 2022 to June 2023, was conceived by the Ministry of Economy in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Bank, and the National Treasury. It is projected to benefit hundreds of thousands of rural agricultural producers with credit lines exceeding BR340 billion, of which BR246.3 billion are allocated for funding and commercialization, and BR 94.6 billion for investments.⁶¹⁶

On 26 December 2022, the Brazilian Government announced that the Special Secretariat for Investment Partnerships Program of the Ministry of Economy concluded 48 projects by 2022 and secured BR101 billion in new investments. The primary mission of the Special Secretariat is to support society, the business environment, and state and municipal governments, through attracting investment and improving the “internal mechanisms” of local governments.⁶¹⁷

On 26 December 2022, the National Department of Transportation Infrastructure announced the completion of reconstruction works on 21.94 kilometers of the BR-265/MG highway, between Jacuí and São Sebastião do Paraíso. According to the government, the project “will provide greater comfort and safety for users, lower maintenance costs for the road, reduced travel time, reduced transportation costs for agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and fertilizers, and also reduced

⁶¹³Proadi-SUS enables over R\$ 27.1 million to strengthen the SUS, Brazilian Ministry of Healthcare (Brasilia) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/outubro/proadi-sus-viabiliza-mais-r-27-1-milhoes-para-o-fortalecimento-do-sus>.

⁶¹⁴Minister takes stock of his management and reinforces commitment to the consumer of electricity, Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy (Brasilia) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-faz-balanco-da-sua-gestao-e-reforca-compromisso-com-o-consumidor-de-energia-eletrica>.

⁶¹⁵National system creates database on care for women in situations of violence, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2022/12/sistema-nacional-cria-base-de-dados-sobre-atendimento-a-mulheres-em-situacao-de-violencia>.

⁶¹⁶Plano Safra grants credit of more than BRL 340 billion to rural producers, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/financas-impostos-e-gestao-publica/2022/12/plano-safra-concede-credito-de-mais-de-r-340-bilhoes-aos-produtores-rurais>.

⁶¹⁷PPI Special Secretariat completed 48 projects in 2022 and secured BRL 101 billion in new investments, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 26 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/financas-impostos-e-gestao-publica/2022/12/secretaria-especial-do-ppi-concluiu-48-projetos-em-2022-e-assegurou-r-101-bilhoes-em-novos-investimentos>.

transportation costs corresponding to the disposal of typical products from the region.” The investment amounted to BR9 million.⁶¹⁸

On 27 December 2022, the Decree 11.310/2022 regulating the provisions of Law 12.334/2010, which establishes the National Policy for Dam Safety, was published. The decree provides monitoring of safety precautions and control of dams of various types. The establishment of these measures, according to the Ministry of Mines and Energy, would help organize the actions of federal agencies and improve the processes of planning, execution and monitoring of dam safety.⁶¹⁹

On 4 January 2022, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Marina Silva announced the creation of the National Authority for Climate Security within the Ministry. She said that the creation of the National Authority for Climate Security would be formalized by March 2023. Additionally, the National Council on Climate Change is to be created and headed by the President of the Republic, with the participation of all ministries, states and municipalities. The purpose of the National Climate Security Authority is to produce funding for the execution and implementation of the National Policy on Climate Change, as well as to regulate and monitor the implementation of actions related to sectoral policies and targets for mitigation, adaptation and promotion of resilience to climate change.⁶²⁰

On 24 January 2023, the Ministry of Healthcare announced the plans to distribute 150,000 rapid tests to support leprosy diagnosis in the Unified Health System. According to the Ministry, the units will be aimed at people who have had close and prolonged contact with confirmed cases of the disease and will be of two types: the rapid test, and the molecular biology test.⁶²¹

On 13 February 2023, the integration of data on food security into the AdaptaBrasil platform was announced.⁶²² The AdaptaBrasil MCTI platform consists of an information system on climate change risks in Brazil that offers subsidies for decision-making in the planning of adaptation actions. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and Embrapa Agricultura Digital committed to work together to improve climate risk analysis on the topic of food security, and include it in the AdaptaBrasil MCTI platform.

On 29 March 2023, President Lula signed a Decree №11456, updating and expanding the Program in Support of Technological Development of the Semiconductor Industry, by including the photovoltaic segment, focused on solar energy production.⁶²³ The program offers various benefits,

⁶¹⁸Delivered 21.94 kilometers of revitalized lane on BR-265, in Minas Gerais, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 26 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/transito-e-transportes/2022/12/entregue-21-94-quilometros-de-pista-revitalizada-na-br-265-em-minas-gerais>.

⁶¹⁹Decree published to increase dam safety, Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy (Brasilia) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mme-publica-decreto-para-aumentar-seguranca-de-barragens>.

⁶²⁰Marina Silva announces the creation of the National Climate Security Authority, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente-e-clima/2023/01/marina-silva-anuncia-a-criacao-da-autoridade-nacional-de-seguranca-climatica>.

⁶²¹Ministry of Health will distribute 150,000 rapid tests to fight leprosy, Brazilian Ministry of Healthcare (Brasilia) 24 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/janeiro/ministerio-da-saude-vai-distribuir-150-mil-testes-rapidos-para-enfrentamento-a-hanseniose>.

⁶²² MCTI, INPE and Embrapa will integrate data on food security in the AdaptaBrasil platform Information should enhance climate risk analysis in relation to climate change adaptation, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 13 February 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2023/02/mcti-inpe-e-embrapa-integrarao-dados-sobre-seguranca-alimentar-na-plataforma-adaptabrasil>

⁶²³ Government guarantees tax exemption for semiconductors and includes solar energy in benefit, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2023/03/decreto-do-governo-garante-isencao-fiscal-para-semicondutores-e-inclui-energia-solar-em-beneficio>

such as tax cuts, to the producers of semiconductors and other electronics, with estimated BR600 million in incentives allocated for 2023.

On 29 March 2023, the Resolution №16 of the National Energy Policy Council was published, containing the Federal Government's new guidelines on the expansion of biodiesel mixture in diesel fuel sold in Brazil.⁶²⁴ The measure increased the share of biodiesel in diesel fuel from 10 percent to 12 percent. It is also expected to go up to 15 percent by 2026.

On 24 May 2023, a new Partnership for Green and Inclusive Growth was launched by Brazil and the United Kingdom. Brazil and the United Kingdom declared their commitment and willingness to address the global climate crisis, promote sustainable development and foster a fair and inclusive ecological transition.⁶²⁵ Both also reiterated the importance of fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Partnership is envisaged to have 5 pillars: Climate (Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and adaptation strategies - including for the protection of oceans and coastal zones, as well as Net Zero Goals and Targets), Forests (Furthering biodiversity objectives, combating deforestation and illegal gold supply chains, promoting “socio-bioeconomics” and non-timber products, with a view to promoting the rights and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities), Agriculture, Energy, and Finance.

On 5 June 2023, President Lula and Minister Silva announced a package of measures to expand environmental protection policies.⁶²⁶ The package includes the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon, as well as five decrees on combating climate change and two on the creation of Conservation Units. The president also announced vetoes to provisions that weakened the protection of the Atlantic Forest and the correction of acts of the previous government that resulted in the reduction of ambition in the country's climate goal. The president announced that his government was making the necessary corrections in the Brazilian contribution to the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contribution, as well as resuming the commitment made by Brazil in 2015.

On 12 June 2023, Minister of Mines and Energy Alexandre Silveira announced the transfer of 53 electric vehicles to Minas Gerais police force.⁶²⁷ The vehicles, worth BR16.5 million, are to contribute to decarbonization of the police vehicle fleet.

During the monitoring period Brazil has taken actions to advance the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁶²⁴ Government oficializes expansion of biodiesel mixture in diesel sold in the country, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2023/03/governo-oficializa-ampliacao-da-mistura-de-biodiesel-no-diesel-vendido-no-pais>

⁶²⁵ Brazil-UK Joint Statement on Green and Inclusive Growth, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 11 April 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/declaracao-conjunta-brasil-reino-unido-sobre-crecimento-verde-e-inclusivo>

⁶²⁶ Government launches plan to combat deforestation in the Amazon and announces environmental acts, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment 5 June 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/governo-lanca-plano-de-combate-ao-desmatamento-na-amazonia-e-anuncia-atos-ambientais>

⁶²⁷ Minister Alexandre Silveira participates in the delivery of 100% electric vehicles to the Military Police of Minas Gerais, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/durante-a-solenidade-ministro-conferiu-o-funcionamento-de-dois-prototipos-de-viaturas-100-eletricas>

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to advance the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

On 2 August 2022, the Government of Russia approved a list of environmental protection measures, for financing through environmental payments system. Environmental payments received by the regions' budgets, including fines for environmental violations, will be primarily used to liquidate facilities that have a negative impact on the environment, e.g. landfill sites, abandoned enterprises, ownerless landfills, hazardous waste, etc. In addition, funds are allowed to be allocated for additional environmental measures to protect and defend forests, protected areas, water bodies, flora and fauna, projects to reduce air pollution, land reclamation after mining, and other measures.⁶²⁸

On 24 August 2022, the Russian Government approved a RUB1.5 billion (USD25.2 million) federal subsidy to the regions for the purchase of containers for separate collection of solid municipal waste. This support measure is aimed at increasing recycling of MSW and accelerating the country's transition to circular economy.⁶²⁹

On 24 November 2022, the Russian Government issued a decree, allocating RUB2.6 billion to the development of social, municipal and transport infrastructure in the regions of the Arctic zone. The package includes funds aimed at enhancing medical care facilities, transport infrastructure, schools, cultural centers and residential buildings in the Far North of the country.⁶³⁰

On 8 December 2022, the Russian Government issued a decree on financing the creation of agro-industrial enterprises in the Volgograd, Kaliningrad, and Smolensk regions. RUB1.4 billion were allocated to partially compensate the regional governments for the cost of establishing agro-industrial enterprises. Specifically, the reimbursement was aimed at the completion of a plant for deep processing of corn grain in Volgograd Region, the building of a new fish-processing factory in Kaliningrad region, and the construction of a dry dairy products plant in Smolensk region.⁶³¹

On 19 December 2022, the Russian Government approved a decree on the free retraining of citizens in 2023 and 2024 as part of measures to support the labor market. In 2023 and 2024, unemployed citizens, including employees at risk of dismissal, certain categories of citizens under the age of 35, people over 50 years, women with young children, and refugees, will be able to undergo free retraining or receive additional vocational training. The Government plans to reimburse the costs of educational organizations for the training of citizens with grants. The federal budget for 2023 will provide around RUB8.2 billion for the initiative, and RUB6.2 billion in 2024.⁶³²

On 29 December 2022, the Russian Government issued a decree on a new National Action Strategy for Women until 2030. The key objectives of the Strategy are the observance of the principle of equal rights of men and women in different spheres of life, increasing the economic independence and political activity of Russian women, as well as the prevention of female disadvantages. These issues

⁶²⁸The government approved a list of environmental protection measures, for which environmental payments will be made, Russian Government 2 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/46198/>.

⁶²⁹The government will finance the purchase of containers for separate collection of municipal waste, Russian Government 24 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/46331/>.

⁶³⁰The government will allocate more than 2.6 billion rubles for the development of social, municipal and transport infrastructure in the regions of the Arctic zone, Russian Government 28 November 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47163/>.

⁶³¹The government will finance the creation of agro-industrial enterprises in three regions, Russian Government 12 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023 <http://government.ru/news/47301/>.

⁶³²The government approved a decree on free retraining of citizens in 2023 and 2024 as part of measures to support the labor market, Government of Russia (Moscow) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47377/>.

are planned to be resolved by encouraging women to take interest in technical and technological professions, involving women in the digital economy, creating a system of continuing education and professional development, developing long-distance forms of employment, and increasing women's participation in entrepreneurship.⁶³³

On 29 December 2022, the Russian Government approved the prolongation of the light industry support program until the end of 2023. In 2023, light industry enterprises will continue to receive federal subsidies, with which they will be able to offset the cost of repayment of interest on loans. The government allocated around RUB600 million annually for this support measure.⁶³⁴

On 29 December 2022, the Government of Russia adopted the program of state guarantees of free medical care until 2025. The program provides for further development of medical rehabilitation, including provision of such care at home and provision of necessary medical devices to patients. It also includes provisions to deal with the spread and treatment of hepatitis C and diabetes, through increased financing of appropriate medical institutions and health insurance schemes.⁶³⁵

On 29 December 2022, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed a decree reviewing and expanding the five-year road-building plan. The updated plan includes two major projects - the construction of bypass roads around the cities of Khasavyurt and Derbent. Their length will total 21 km and 32 km respectively. Construction of these bypasses is aimed at developing the North-South international transport corridor, connecting Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran.⁶³⁶

On 9 January 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree on special social payments for certain categories of medical workers. In 2023, Russian medics are to receive monthly social payments ranging from RUB4,500 to RUB18,500 per person. Increases to the basic salary are intended for medical workers of rare specialties: doctors and specialists of primary health care, doctors of regional hospitals, as well as doctors working at the stations and in the emergency departments. It is projected that the total number of recipients of these payments will amount to 1.1 million people. A total of RUB152.4 billion is to be allocated for this purpose.⁶³⁷

On 12 January 2023, the Russian Government issued a directive on the procedure for financing the development and launch of the Northern Sea Route digital ecosystem. The directive provides for the creation of an "ice navigator," which allows to accurately plot a safe route in the constantly changing conditions of the Arctic Ocean. In 2023-2024 a subsidy of RUB3.8 billion will be allocated from the federal budget for this purpose.⁶³⁸

On 17 January 2023, the Russian Government signed an agreement on cooperation in high-tech development with the companies "Rosatom" and "Gazprom." The agreement primarily involves cooperative work on developing hydrogen energy capabilities and energy storage technologies. It is planned that by 2024, at least 25000 electric cars will be produced in Russia and more than 9000

⁶³³Mikhail Mishustin approved the new National Strategy of Action for Women until 2030, Government of Russia (Moscow) 8 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47493/>.

⁶³⁴The government extended the program to support light industry until the end of 2023, Government of Russia (Moscow) 4 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47488/>.

⁶³⁵The program of state guarantees of free medical care for the next three years has been approved, Government of Russia (Moscow) 3 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47486/>.

⁶³⁶The government expanded the five-year plan of road activities, Government of Russia (Moscow) 31 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47484/>.

⁶³⁷The government has established special social payments for certain categories of medical workers, Government of Russia (Moscow) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47504/>.

⁶³⁸The government will finance infrastructure projects necessary for the development of the Northern Sea Route, Government of Russia (Moscow) 12 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47546/>.

charging stations will be opened. Domestic demand for energy storage will reach 17.5 GWh, of which 16 GWh per year will come from electric cars.⁶³⁹

On 23 January 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree “On Approving the Rules for the Development and Approval of Documents for the Prospective Development of the Electric Power Industry and on Amendments to Certain Acts of the Government of the Russian Federation.” The amendments will help optimize the construction and modernization of grid infrastructure and generating facilities. The decree regulates the costs of building power lines and substations, as well as provides for the gradual formation of a rational structure of generating capacity in the country, while taking into account the objectives of low-carbon development.⁶⁴⁰

On 23 January 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree providing for the modernization of public utilities in Russian regions. In 2023, RUB30 billion are to be allocated to the task.⁶⁴¹

On 8 February 2023, the State Duma approved in the first reading the law "On Environmental Protection and Certain Legislative Acts," which created the legislative framework for the functioning of the state monitoring system for permafrost.⁶⁴² The document was developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment at the request of the president. According to Alexander Kozlov, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, monitoring data should assist in assessing greenhouse gas emissions from melting permafrost, predict climate change trends and prepare scenario-based forecasts of the country's socio-economic development.

On 11 March 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree №373, expanding the nomenclature of green initiatives, subject to preferential financing through special bonds or loans.⁶⁴³ The list includes projects related to the construction of energy-efficient housing, clearing and restoration of water bodies, creation and modernization of infrastructure for direct capture of greenhouse gases from the environment, as well as capture and utilization of landfill gas with subsequent energy generation.

On 24 March 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree on stimulation of further development of renewable energy.⁶⁴⁴ The decree approves the financial parameters (marginal values of capital and operating costs) for the period after 2024 for competitive selections of investment projects for construction of renewable energy generation facilities in retail electricity markets. In addition, the decree instructs the Ministry of Energy to annually monitor the dynamics of renewable energy sector development both in the wholesale electricity and capacity market and in the retail electricity markets, including microgeneration.

⁶³⁹Alexander Novak took part in the signing of the final package of agreements on cooperation in the development of high-tech areas, Government of Russia (Moscow) 17 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47555/>.

⁶⁴⁰The government has adopted new rules for the prospective development of the electric power industry, Government of Russia (Moscow) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47604/>

⁶⁴¹The government will finance the development of municipal infrastructure in the regions, Government of Russia (Moscow) 23 January 2023. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47593/>.

⁶⁴² The State Duma approved in the first reading a bill on monitoring permafrost, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 February 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/gosduma_v_pervom_chtenii_odobrila_zakonoproekt_o_monitoringe_mnogoletn_ey_merzloty_/?sphrase_id=565866

⁶⁴³ The government expanded the green financing program, Government of Russia (Moscow) 11 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <http://government.ru/news/47972/>

⁶⁴⁴ The government creates additional incentives for the development of renewable energy generation in Russia, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <http://government.ru/news/44924/>

On 6 May 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a decree on the rules for subsidizing the preferential credit program for participants of federal project “Clean Air.”⁶⁴⁵ Preferential loans with 3 percent annual rate, will be available for enterprises located in Bratsk, Krasnoyarsk, Lipetsk, Magnitogorsk, Mednogorsk, Nizhny Tagil, Novokuznetsk, Norilsk, Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Cherepovets and Chita. In these cities, an experiment on quotas for harmful atmospheric emissions has been underway since 2019. Its goal is to reduce these emissions and improve the environment. It is expected that in 2023-2024 the total amount of subsidized soft loans can reach RUB3.4 billion.

During the monitoring period Russia has taken actions to advance the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to advance the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

On 2 August 2022, the Ministry of Women and Child Development issued Operational Guidelines regarding implementation of the “Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0” scheme “Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0” is an Integrated Nutrition Support Program, which seeks to tackle malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by the creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness, and immunity. The new guidelines seek to address various gaps and shortcomings in the on-going nutrition program and to improve implementation as well as to accelerate improvement in nutrition and child development outcomes.⁶⁴⁶

On 3 August 2022, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade was conducting several initiatives under Ease of Doing Business and Reducing Compliance Burden. The initiatives are aimed at creating a conducive business environment, and include simplification of procedures related to applications, renewals, inspections, filing records, etc.; rationalization by repealing, amending or subsuming redundant laws; digitization by creating online interfaces eliminating manual forms and records; and decriminalization of minor technical or procedural defaults. The initiatives are undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.⁶⁴⁷

On 10 August 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India. The goal of the project is to re-establish breeding cheetah population in its historical habitat in India, thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts. Another goal of the plan is to “restore ecosystems with a lost element that has played a significant role in their evolutionary history, allow ecosystems to provide services to their full potential, and use

⁶⁴⁵ Government launches preferential credit program for participants of federal project "Clean Air", Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 June 2023. <http://government.ru/news/48442/>.

⁶⁴⁶Ministry of Women and Child Development issues Guidelines of ‘Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0’ - an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme, Indian Government 3 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1847548>.

⁶⁴⁷Initiatives taken to create a conducive business environment, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1847864>.

the cheetah as an umbrella species for conserving the biodiversity of grasslands, savanna and open forest systems.”⁶⁴⁸

On 12 August 2022, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched Basmati crop survey. The survey aims to estimate acreage and assess crop health and expected yield of aromatic and long grain rice during 2022-2023 crop season, with the application of climate-based modelling. This exercise is intended to assist state governments in the promotion of Basmati rice cultivation and provide relevant information to farmers.⁶⁴⁹

On 17 September 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) as part of the National Logistics Policy. The initiative aims to ensure a “technologically-enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient and sustainable logistics ecosystem for accelerated and inclusive growth.” Among the policy goals of the ULIP are cost reduction of logistics in India to global benchmark levels by 2030; improvement of the Logistics Performance Index ranking, to be among top 25 countries by 2030; and creation of data driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem.⁶⁵⁰

On 18 October 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced the launch of a INR5 billion accelerator program to enhance the successful initiatives of Agri Startups. The goal of the program is to facilitate inter-institutional linkages between agri-producers and various certification agencies, financial institutions, and agricultural universities.⁶⁵¹

On 15 November 2022, the National Commission for Women launched the fourth phase of Digital Shakti Campaign – a country-wide project to digitally empower and provide digital skills to women and girls. The Digital Shakti 4.0 campaign is focused on “making women digitally skilled and aware to stand up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.”⁶⁵²

On 22 November 2022, NITI Aayog, NETRA NTPC and the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation, IIT Bombay launched the assessment of CO₂ Geological Storage Potential in India. As a part of this initiative, an assessment of potential storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in select Coalbed Methane rich coalfields will be carried out, and the CO₂ Storage Atlas will be produced. The project is envisaged as a part of India’s CO₂ mitigation strategy to facilitate the transition towards a low-carbon energy economy and subsequently to a ‘Net-Zero’ emission level.⁶⁵³

On 13 December 2022, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Space signed a memorandum of Understanding on the development of the Krishi-Decision Support

⁶⁴⁸Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India, Government of India (New Delhi) 3 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1850587>.

⁶⁴⁹Government commences Basmati crop survey to estimate acreage, assess crop health, expected yield of Basmati rice during 2022-2023 crop year, Government of India (New Delhi) 12 August 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1851287>.

⁶⁵⁰Policy introduces Unified Logistics Interface Platform, Standardization, Monitoring framework and skill development for greater efficiency in logistics services, Prime Minister of India (New Delhi) 21 September 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/policy-introduces-unified-logistics-interface-platform-standardization-monitoring-framework-and-skill-development-for-greater-efficiency-in-logistics-services/.

⁶⁵¹Central government’s policy initiative for Agricultural Startups, Union Agriculture Minister makes many announcements in the conference, Government of India (New Delhi) 18 October 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1868937>.

⁶⁵²NCW launches Digital Shakti 4.0 focussing on making women digitally skilled and aware, Government of India (New Delhi) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1876462>.

⁶⁵³NETRA NTPC, NITI Aayog, and the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture & Utilisation (NCoE-CCU), IIT Bombay launches the assessment of ‘CO₂ Geological Storage Potential’, Government of India (New Delhi) 22 November 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1878184>.

System (Krishi-DSS) using geospatial technologies and related databases for enhancing evidence based decision making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector. On the same day, the data products and services of RISAT-1A satellite were formally released for the user community.⁶⁵⁴

On 13 December 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced the commencement of the work to create Agristack – a collection of technologies and digital databases proposed by the Central Government focusing on India’s farmers and the agricultural sector. The core concept of “India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA)” was finalized, which, according to the Ministry, lays down a framework for Agristack. The system is aimed at tackling the issue of inadequate access to credit and information, pest infestation, crop wastage, poor price discovery, and yield forecasting, through the application of digital technology in agriculture.⁶⁵⁵

On 4 January 2023, the Government approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with a goal of producing 5 million metric tonnes of hydrogen fuel annually by 2030.⁶⁵⁶ The Mission included the following objectives: facilitating demand through exports and domestic utilization; providing incentives for manufacturing of electrolysers and production of green hydrogen; Pilot Projects for steel, mobility, shipping, decentralized energy applications, hydrogen production from biomass, hydrogen storage, etc.; development of Green Hydrogen Hubs; support for infrastructure development; establishing a robust framework of regulations and standards; research and development programme; skill development programme; and public awareness and outreach programme.

On 23 February 2023, Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Shri Pradip Kumar Das announced that Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency was planning to establish an office in Gujarat's GIFT City to finance renewable energy projects in foreign currency, while avoiding foreign exchange hedging costs.⁶⁵⁷

On 28 March 2023, the Government approved the construction of seven Solar Parks, with a total capacity of 3730 megawatts.⁶⁵⁸

On 5 April 2023, the Government announced its intention to add 50 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity annually for a 5-year period, in order to achieve the target of 500 gigawatts of renewable power capacity by 2030.⁶⁵⁹

On 15 May 2023, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy announced “major reforms” in the Approved List of Models and Manufactures for Solar Photovoltaic Modules.⁶⁶⁰ The reform includes:

⁶⁵⁴Memorandum of Understanding signed on developing Krishi-Decision Support System using RISAT and VEDAS, Government of India (New Delhi) 13 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883182>.

⁶⁵⁵Agristack Project, Government of India (New Delhi) 13 December 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1883173>.

⁶⁵⁶ National Green Hydrogen Mission targets a production capacity of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per annum by 2030, Government of India (New Delhi) 7 February 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1897043>

⁶⁵⁷ IREDA plans to finance Renewable Energy projects in foreign currency, Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1902184>

⁶⁵⁸ Government have approved 7 Solar Parks with a cumulative capacity of 3730 MW: Union Power & NRE Minister Shri R. K. Singh, Government of India (New Delhi) 28 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1911476>

⁶⁵⁹ Government declares plan to add 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for next 5 years to achieve the target of 500 GW by 2030, Government of India (New Delhi) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1913789>

an 80 percent reduction in application fees; up to 70 percent reduction in inspection fees; certain exemptions from factory inspection; permission for the manufacturers to withdraw their applications prior to factory inspection, with 90 percent refund of application fee; increase in enlistment validity from 2 years to 4 years; introduction of the following minimum module efficiency thresholds for enlistment: 20 percent for Utility/ grid scale power plants, 19.5 percent for rooftop and solar pumping, 19 percent for solar lighting. These changes should, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Secretary Shri B. S. Bhalla, “enhance the ease of doing business and help in ramping up the domestic production of solar photovoltaic modules.”⁶⁶¹

On 9 June 2023, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited signed a Power Sale Agreement with GRIDCO Odisha, Government of Odisha under which the latter was to purchase 600 megawatts of wind power from.⁶⁶² The agreement is signed in accordance with the provisions of Inter State Transmission System Connected Wind Power Projects Scheme. The scheme provides for the opportunity to transmit energy from states rich in renewable energy to energy poor states.

During the monitoring period India has taken actions to advance the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to advance the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

On 28 July 2022, National Development and Reform Commission of China announced an allocation of CNY2.4 billion (USD355 million) to save energy and reduce carbon emissions as part of the country’s effort to transition to a greener economy. The allocation is aimed at supporting the low-carbon and energy-saving transformation for key areas and industries, technology innovation in areas like low carbon, zero carbon, carbon removal and energy saving, as well as the promotion of a circular economy.⁶⁶³

On 19 August 2022, China’s National Health Commission released a plan for the development of medical talent for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). The Plan aims to increase the number of medical workers in specialized public health institutions to more than 1.2 million, with around 250,000 engaged in disease prevention and control. It also provides for the optimization of the distribution of medical workers across specialties, between urban and rural areas, and among

⁶⁶⁰ MNRE announces major reforms in the Approved List of Models and Manufactures for Solar Photovoltaic Modules, Government of India (New Delhi) 15 May 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1924175>

⁶⁶¹ MNRE announces major reforms in the Approved List of Models and Manufactures for Solar Photovoltaic Modules, Government of India (New Delhi) 15 May 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1924175>

⁶⁶² Solar Energy Corporation of India to supply 600 MW Wind Power to GRIDCO Odisha under Power Sale Agreement, Government of India (New Delhi) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1931095>

⁶⁶³ NDRC allocates \$355m for greener economy, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 28 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202207/28/content_WS62e1de6ec6d02e533532e93d.html.

different regions. Finally, by 2025 the number of assistant physicians is set to reach 4.5 million, up from 4.28 million in 2021, and the number of registered nurses should amount to 5.5 million.⁶⁶⁴

On 19 September 2022, the Chinese government released a policy document on “conserving the mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and sands of the Yangtze River Basin area.” Targets of the document include ensuring that all water in the river basin area meets standards for second-tier classification by the end of 2025, ensuring the harmless disposal of at least 97 percent of the garbage produced in Yangtze River Economic Belt counties, eliminating polluted water bodies in urban areas, recycling at least 80 percent of animal waste from livestock and poultry farms and continuously improving biodiversity.⁶⁶⁵

On 30 September 2022, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China announced the delivery of the first 2,000-metric-ton offshore wind-power installation platform for use in the Nansha district of Guangzhou, in Guangdong province. According to the message, it is the first offshore wind-power installation platform that meets the fourth-generation standards of offshore wind equipment in China.⁶⁶⁶

On 2 December 2022, the China Meteorological Administration reported that two new meteorological satellites started their operation. According to the message of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, the trial operation of the satellites demonstrated the reduced forecast deviation, strengthened interaction between observation and forecast, and enhanced accuracy of path prediction.⁶⁶⁷

On 26 December 2022, The State Forestry and Grassland Administration of China announced the adoption of the National Desertification Prevention and Control Plan.⁶⁶⁸ According to the plan, 6.7 million hectares of land affected by desertification will be reclaimed by 2025, and 12.4 million hectares will be reclaimed by 2030. The document also identified seven areas where spreading deserts need to be pushed back, including the mountains of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the areas around the Kubuqi Desert in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region and the Mu Us Desert in Shaanxi province.⁶⁶⁹

On 30 December 2022, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China announced that the Baihetan-Zhejiang 800-kilovolt ultra-high-voltage direct current power transmission project was completed. According to the message, the new power line transmits the clean electricity generated at

⁶⁶⁴Plan devised to bolster development of medical workers, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 19 August 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202208/19/content_WS62ff9393c6d02e533532f79e.html.

⁶⁶⁵New move aims to protect Yangtze, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202209/28/content_WS63339e76c6d0a757729e09ab.html.

⁶⁶⁶Platform installs wind power offshore, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202209/30/content_WS63363f3ac6d0a757729e0b9a.html

⁶⁶⁷China’s two meteorological satellites put into operation, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 2 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202212/02/content_WS6389b7b2c6d0a757729e3f56.html.

⁶⁶⁸The “National Desertification Prevention and Control Plan (2021-2030)” was officially issued and implemented, Teller Report 26 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

[https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2022-12-26-the-national-desertification-prevention-and-control-plan-\(2021-2030\)-was-officially-issued-and-implemented.SkQSIM3UYs.html](https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2022-12-26-the-national-desertification-prevention-and-control-plan-(2021-2030)-was-officially-issued-and-implemented.SkQSIM3UYs.html).

⁶⁶⁹National plan aims to push back desertification, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202301/20/content_WS63c9fd57c6d0a757729e5ec2.html.

the Baihetan hydropower station to eastern Zhejiang Province through a transmission line stretching 2,121 km.⁶⁷⁰

On 1 January 2023, the State Council of the People's Republic of China announced the launch of the Beijing-Xiong'an expressway, which linked these two locations, helping reduce travel time by approximately 50 minutes. The newly built expressway is a major component of Xiong'an New Area's traffic network, with its main section running from Beijing's sixth ring road and covering a total of 81 km.⁶⁷¹

On 3 January 2023, the State Council of the People's Republic of China reported the adoption of a new guideline for water and soil conservation. The guideline, jointly released by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, details China's targets to strengthen water and soil conservation by 2025 and 2035. By 2025, China aims to improve its institutional mechanism and system for soil and water conservation, enhance management efficiency, and effectively control soil erosion caused by human activities in key regions. By 2035, a new soil conservation system is to be formed, with human-induced soil erosion under control, and soil erosion in key areas comprehensively negated. Areas without soil erosion should account for 75 percent of the nation's territory by that date, according to the document.⁶⁷²

On 19 January 2023, the State Council of the People's Republic of China announced its plans to increase the use of manufacturing robots, doubling their utilization by 2025. The "robotics+" action plan was released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and 16 other government departments. The document also provided for the expansion of efforts "to build a collaborative innovation system for robot production and application and speed up the development and promotion of robot application standards."⁶⁷³

On 19 January 2023, China's State Council Information Office released the "China's Green Development in the New Era" white paper. The document lists seven key areas of China's green transformation – "commitment to green growth, green territorial configuration, adjustment and improvement of the industrial structure, application of green production methods, eco-friendly living, institutions and mechanisms for green development, and efforts to build the earth into a beautiful home."⁶⁷⁴

On 27 February 2023, Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group and Yunnan Provincial Investment Holdings Group signed photovoltaic project deals with parties from seven prefectures

⁶⁷⁰Major Chinese power transmission project now fully operational, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202212/30/content_WS63ae7fa4c6d0a757729e4f04.html.

⁶⁷¹New expressway opens between Beijing and Xiong'an New Area, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January

2023.http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202301/02/content_WS63b21522c6d0a757729e5022.html.

⁶⁷²China issues guideline to strengthen conservation of water, soil, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202301/03/content_WS63b43533c6d0a757729e50d1.html.

⁶⁷³China to boost density of manufacturing robots, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/20/content_WS63c9d296c6d0a757729e5e28.html.

⁶⁷⁴China issues white paper on green development, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202301/20/content_WS63c9eef2c6d0a757729e5e80.html.

and cities in Yunnan, with a total generation capacity of 10 gigawatts.⁶⁷⁵ The total investment amounts to CNY50 billion.

On 21 March 2023, the State Council announced the expansion of China's renewable energy capacity in the first two months of 2023 by 8.5 percent year on year.⁶⁷⁶ According to the Council's data, in January-February 2023, the total investment of China's major power companies in solar energy nearly tripled from a year before, reaching to CNY28.3 billion.

On 25 May 2023, the National Energy Administration of China reported that from January to April 2023 62.51 million kW kilowatt worth of new wind and photovoltaic power capacity were installed in the country.⁶⁷⁷ China's wind and photovoltaic power generation reached 482.8 billion kWh kilowatt / hour during the period, up by 26.8 percent year on year.

On 9 June 2023, the Ministry of Water Resources of China announced that the government investment in water conservancy projects totaled CNY410.6 billion in the first five months of 2023, which is a 32.1 percent year on year increase.⁶⁷⁸ 14,680 new water conservancy projects were launched in January-May 2023, according to the Ministry statement.

During the monitoring period China has taken actions to advance the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to advance the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

On 21 August 2022, Minister of Public Works and infrastructure Patricia de Lille signed off the release of four plots of land on a gratis basis to be released to the Housing Development Agency for human settlement development purposes. This measure is aimed primarily at communities, displaced by the flooding in KwaZulu Natal region earlier in 2022.⁶⁷⁹

On 26 August 2022, the updated National Biodiversity Framework 2019 to 2024 was published by Minister Creecy. The Revised Framework addresses the biodiversity threats identified during the

⁶⁷⁵ China's Yunnan to build solar energy projects with total generation capacity of 10 GW, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 February 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202302/27/content_WS63fcb38ac6d0a757729e7520.html

⁶⁷⁶ China's renewable energy capacity expands in Jan-Feb, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 December 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/statistics/202303/21/content_WS6419a1acc6d0f528699db768.html

⁶⁷⁷ China's newly installed capacity of wind, photovoltaic power rises, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202305/25/content_WS646f1a21c6d03ffcca6ed610.html

⁶⁷⁸ China sees increase in water conservancy project investment in Jan-May, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 10 June 2023. Access Date: 28 June 2023.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202306/10/content_WS6483b283c6d0868f4e8dcbc4.html

⁶⁷⁹ Minister Patricia de Lille on release of land for human settlements developments and accommodation for KZN flood victims, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 August 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-patricia-de-lille-%C2%A0dpwi-approves-gratis-release-four-parcels-land-human>.

scientific assessment of the state of biodiversity and ecosystems in the country by the South African National Biodiversity Institute.⁶⁸⁰

On 14 September 2022, South Africa Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment announced the extension of the period for public comment on the draft white paper on the Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity and the draft Game Meat Strategy until 26 September 2022. The Draft White Paper was published in the Government Gazette 46687 (Notice No 2252) on 8 July 2022. The document emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to sustainable use, responsible and humane use of South Africa's biodiversity, and the ending of poor and harmful practices. The White Paper also aims to ensure transformation, with the participation of communities adjacent to protected areas, as well as of previously disadvantaged individuals.⁶⁸¹

On 18 November 2022, Minister Creecy published the Revised National list of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection. The List incorporates the information on terrestrial ecosystems' extent and condition, pressures and drivers of change. A total of 120 of the 456 terrestrial ecosystem types assessed in the list are categorized as threatened. Together these threatened ecosystems make up approximately 10 percent of the country's habitats. According to the report, 55 of the 120 terrestrial ecosystems are critically endangered, 51 -endangered and 14 -vulnerable.⁶⁸²

On 21 January 2023, the Water and Sanitation Minister of South Africa, Senzo Mchunu, announced the launch of a steering committee to oversee and ensure that water and sanitation services management is sustainable in the North West Province. According to the Minister's statement, a technical task team will be established under the steering committee, comprised of professional engineers from the Department and Water and Sanitation, the Magalies Water Board, as well as all district and local municipalities, to carry out technical work of assessing, planning, and implementation of water and sanitation needs of the whole province.⁶⁸³

On 21 January 2023, the National Energy Crisis Committee released a six-month progress report on the implementation of the Energy Action Plan. In July 2022, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa announced a range of measures to improve the performance of existing power stations and add new generation capacity. The updated report highlighted major steps that had been taken during the six-month implementation of the Plan, including a new Ministerial determination for 14771 MW of new generation capacity from wind, solar and battery storage, and an additional 300 MW imported through the Southern African Power Pool, with the negotiations underway to secure a further 1,000 MW from neighboring countries in 2023.⁶⁸⁴

⁶⁸⁰Minister Barbara Creecy publishes revised National Biodiversity Framework 2019 to 2024 for implementation, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 29 August 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/revised-national-biodiversity-framework-published-implementation-29-aug-2022-0000>.

⁶⁸¹Forestry, Fisheries and Environment extends public comment on white paper and draft strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/extension-period-public-comment-14-sep-2022-0000>.

⁶⁸²Minister Barbara Creecy publishes the revised national list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 November 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-publishes-revised-national-list-ecosystems-are-threatened-and-need>.

⁶⁸³Minister Senzo Mchunu on permanent water solutions for North West residents, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-senzo-mchunu-resolute-finding-permanent-water-supply-solutions-north-west>.

⁶⁸⁴National Energy Crisis Committee releases six month progress update on implementation of Energy Action Plan, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-energy-crisis-committee-releases-six-month-progress-update-implementation-energy>.

On 6 April 2023, the Government adopted the White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity.⁶⁸⁵ The White Paper contains recommendations of the High Level Panel advisory to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, on matters related to the management, hunting, breeding, trade and handling of several animal species, such as elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros. According to the statement by the Government, the White Paper provides for "the conservation of the rich, diverse biodiversity and ecological infrastructure, which supports ecosystem functioning for livelihoods and the well-being of people and nature. This can set the country on a strong path of sustainable development, considering the historical, socio-economic, and environmental context of South Africa, and the aspirations and needs of the people."

During the monitoring period South Africa has taken actions to advance the implementation of SDGs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁶⁸⁵ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on Cabinet approving White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/forestry-fisheries-and-environment-cabinet-approving-white-paper-conservation-and>

15. Macroeconomics: Standardization in Sustainable Development

“We agree to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization and make full use of standards to advance sustainable development”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

The issue of standardization was for the first time addressed by BRICS in the BRICS Trade and Investment Facilitation Plan adopted in 2014. Enhancing cooperation and coordination in standardization and encouraging the use of international standards as a basis for national standards were indicated as suggested actions to enhance mutual trade.⁶⁸⁶

In 2015, BRICS trade ministers noted that strengthening cooperation on standards “would create favourable conditions for enhancing intra-BRICS trade.”⁶⁸⁷ In 2016, the ministers endorsed the Framework for Cooperation on Standardisation agreed to by the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI). They also urged the CGETI to work on the elements of the Framework “with a view to ensuring that the cooperation leads to a better understanding of each other standards.”⁶⁸⁸

At the Goa Summit, the BRICS leaders for the first time recognized standardization as a possible area of future cooperation.⁶⁸⁹

In 2017, the BRICS trade ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in the area of standardization based on operationalization of the Framework for Cooperation on standardization.⁶⁹⁰ The BRICS Trade In Services Cooperation Roadmap⁶⁹¹ and the Framework on Strengthening the Economic and

⁶⁸⁶BRICS Trade and Investment Facilitation Plan, RANEP (Moscow) July 2014. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/plan.pdf>

⁶⁸⁷The Fifth Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers Joint Communique, RANEP (Moscow) 7 July 2015. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/BRICS+Trade+Ministers+Communique+2015+FINAL+version.pdf>

⁶⁸⁸Trade Ministers Communique, RANEP (Moscow) 13 October 2016. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/>

[images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/58006d2c04b26BRICSTradeMinistersCommuniquefinal%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/58006d2c04b26BRICSTradeMinistersCommuniquefinal%20(1).pdf)

⁶⁸⁹Goa Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁹⁰7th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers Statement, RANEP (Moscow) 2 August 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/china2016/trade_statement_2017.pdf

⁶⁹¹BRICS Trade In Services Cooperation Roadmap, RANEP (Moscow) 31 July 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/china2016/BRICS%20Trade%20in%20Services%20Cooperation%20Roadmap%20-%20final.pdf>

Technical Cooperation for BRICS Countries⁶⁹² adopted by the ministers contained the commitments to explore, where possible, possibilities for mutual recognition of regulatory standards in line with international standards. The BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation mentioned standards as an area for future cooperation.⁶⁹³

In 2018, the BRICS trade ministers endorsed the Working Mechanism on technical regulations, standards, metrology and conformity assessment procedures “in order to facilitate and increase trade in goods.”⁶⁹⁴ However, the relevant text is not publicly available. In 2019, the BRICS trade ministers reaffirmed the importance of cooperation under the Working Mechanism on technical regulations, standards, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation.⁶⁹⁵ Similar statements were made in 2020 at the ministerial⁶⁹⁶ and leaders⁶⁹⁷ level.

In 2021, the cooperation mechanism established in 2018 was referred to as the Mechanism on Technical Regulations, Standards, Metrology and Conformity Assessment.⁶⁹⁸ At the Beijing Summit the BRICS leaders for the first time made a commitment in this area and agreed to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization and make full use of standards to advance sustainable development.⁶⁹⁹

Commitment Features

The commitment requires BRICS members to facilitate exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization in order to stimulate mutual trade and promote sustainable development.

Full compliance is registered for BRICS countries that manage to deepen cooperation in standardization bilaterally or multilaterally in partnership with other BRICS members, for instance through the exchange of national standards in order to ensure their further application in mutual trade and investment projects, direct application of each other’s standards in different sectors, joint expert studies, etc. Verbal support to cooperation on standardization without concrete actions is considered as partial compliance.

⁶⁹²Framework on Strengthening the Economic and Technical Cooperation for BRICS Countries, RANEPА (Moscow) 31 July 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/china2016/Framework%20on%20Strengthening%20the%20ECOTEC%20Final.pdf>

⁶⁹³BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/BRICS%20Action%20Agenda%20on%20Economic%20and%20Trade%20Cooperation.pdf>

⁶⁹⁴8th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers: Joint Communiqué, RANEPА (Moscow) 5 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2022. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency2/brics_trade_2018.pdf

⁶⁹⁵The Ninth Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers Joint Communiqué, RANEPА (Moscow) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191111-trade.pdf>

⁶⁹⁶The Tenth Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers JOINT COMMUNIQUE, RANEPА (Moscow) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/BRICS%20Trade%20and%20Economy%20ministers%20joint%20communiqué%2023%2007%202020.pdf>

⁶⁹⁷XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁹⁸XIII BRICS Summit- New Delhi Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-indijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁹⁹XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2022/XIV-BRICS-Summit-Beijing-Declaration-ENG.pdf>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	BRICS member has not taken any steps to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization
0	BRICS member has provided verbal support to enhancing exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization
+1	BRICS member has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

On 28 June 2022, the workshop on emission peak and carbon neutrality standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The workshop was attended by more than 20 participants, including experts and representatives from the national standardization bodies. During the meeting, experts shared their work experience concerning emission peak and carbon neutrality related standards. They also held discussions on further cooperation within the framework of the International Organization for Standardization and reached a consensus on promoting communication on standards related to carbon peak and neutrality in BRICS countries.⁷⁰⁰

On 5 July 2022, the workshop on e-commerce standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants, including representatives from the national standardization bodies and experts and scholars in the area of e-commerce. During the meeting, experts shared the progress of e-commerce standardization in each country and discussed standards research and cooperation. A consensus was reached on further promoting communication and cooperation on standards related to e-commerce among the BRICS countries.⁷⁰¹

On 7 July 2022, the workshop on traditional medicine standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The workshop was attended by more than 30 participants, including experts from the national standardization bodies and experts and scholars in the area of traditional medicine. Experts and representatives from the BRICS countries made exchanges on the status quo and development experience of traditional medicine standardization in each country and discussed how to better bridge the tradition of medicine and modern quality requirements.⁷⁰²

On 14 July 2022, the workshop on the semiconductor lighting standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The meeting was attended by more than 40 participants, including representatives from national standardization bodies, BRICS Solid-State Lighting Working Group as well as experts and scholars in the area of semiconductor lighting. During the meeting, experts shared the ideas on the integration of semiconductor lighting and standardization. Consensus was reached on the

⁷⁰⁰Workshop on Emission Peak and Carbon Neutrality Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350152.htm.

⁷⁰¹E-commerce Standardization Enhanced in BRICS Countries, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350150.htm.

⁷⁰²Workshop on Traditional Medicine Standardization Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

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suggestions for four international standards on semiconductor lighting and the establishment of the semiconductor lighting standardization working group of the BRICS countries.⁷⁰³

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On 24 November 2022, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies was held. BRICS countries agreed that, against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges, as important representatives of emerging market and developing countries, the BRICS should continue to cooperate on standardization, maintain the smooth flow of global supply chains, and boost green and low-carbon development, delivering global recovery.⁷⁰⁵

Brazil has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

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⁷⁰³Semiconductor Lighting Standardization Highlighted, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://www.sac.gov.cn/sac/en/International_Activities/202209/t20220913_350214.htm.

⁷⁰⁴Brazil and China should develop common standards to finance sustainable agriculture, Brazil-China Business Council (Rio de Janeiro) 29 July 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.cebc.org.br/2022/07/29/proximo-evento-03-08-2022-as-8h-2o-dialogo-brasil-china-sobre-agricultura-sustentavel/>.

⁷⁰⁵2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷⁰⁶Workshop on Emission Peak and Carbon Neutrality Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sac/en/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350152.htm.

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On 24 November 2022, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies was held. BRICS countries agreed that, against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges, as important representatives of emerging market and developing countries, the BRICS should continue to cooperate on standardization, maintain the smooth flow of global supply chains, and boost green and low-carbon development, delivering global recovery.⁷¹¹

On 21 March 2023, China and Russia held bilateral talks touching upon issues related to cooperation in trade and industry.⁷¹² President Xi and President Putin signed several bilateral agreements including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia and the Ministry of Trade of China on industrial fairs and exhibitions. The parties also underlined openness for wider cooperation in key spheres including civil aviation, automobile industry, metalworks, etc.

⁷⁰⁷E-commerce Standardization Enhanced in BRICS Countries, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350150.htm.

⁷⁰⁸Workshop on Traditional Medicine Standardization Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350151.htm.

⁷⁰⁹Semiconductor Lighting Standardization Highlighted, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202209/t20220913_350214.htm.

⁷¹⁰China and Russia Jointly Release a National Standard on Aircraft, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 28 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/events/202212/t20221228_350355.htm.

⁷¹¹2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricpic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷¹²Vladimir Putin to Meet With President Xi Jinping, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/vladimir_putin_proviol_peregovory_s_predsedatelem_knr_si_tszinpinom

On 27 April 2023, a delegation headed by Director of Metrology, State Control and Supervision Zahar Osoka paid a working visit to Wuhan, China.⁷¹³ The Russian delegation took part in calibration procedures – an essential step in ongoing process of formalizing the natural gas volumetric flow rate consumption unit standard. Later on, the parties delivered reports and speeches on recent development in Russia-China cooperation in the respective sphere.

On 2 June 2023, Director of Federal Agency on technical regulation and metrology Anton Shalayev took part in the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) General Assembly concluding conference.⁷¹⁴ With an exception of Brazil, all the BRICS countries are the PASC members. The meeting's attendants took part in the roundtable discussion on the role of standards in promoting sustainable development and specifically in tackling the climate change.

Russia has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

On 28 June 2022, the workshop on emission peak and carbon neutrality standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The workshop was attended by more than 20 participants, including experts and representatives from the national standardization bodies. During the meeting, experts shared their work experience concerning emission peak and carbon neutrality related standards. They also held discussions on further cooperation within the framework of the International Organization for Standardization and reached a consensus on promoting communication on standards related to carbon peak and neutrality in BRICS countries.⁷¹⁵

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⁷¹³ Russia-China Cooperation in Gas Ethanol Production, Rosstandard (Wuhan) 27 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNS_r00ABXczAAZhY3Rpb24AAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwACaWQAAAABAAQ40TcwAAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

⁷¹⁴ PASC General Assembly on Standardization, Rosstandard (Noumea) 2 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNS_r00ABXczAAZhY3Rpb24AAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwACaWQAAAABAAQ5MDA5AAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

⁷¹⁵ Workshop on Emission Peak and Carbon Neutrality Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

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⁷¹⁶ E-commerce Standardization Enhanced in BRICS Countries, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

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On 22-24 March 2023, the first plenary meeting of IEC/SyC SET on sustainable electrified transportation was held in Berlin.⁷²⁰ The meeting attended by more than 20 representatives from countries such as China, Germany, Italy, Sweden and India, as well as of IEC secretariat and liaison organizations. IEC/SyC SET was established by IEC/SMB in June 2022 on the basis of the Standardization Evaluation Group (SEG) 11: Future sustainable transportation. It aims to address standardization issues related to sustainable electrified transportation, and study standardization cooperation. At the meeting, IEC/SyC SET determined its targets, set up the Chair's Advisory Group and two Ad-Hoc Groups on sustainability criteria in electrified transportation and systems approach in Smart Charging for sustainable electrified transportation respectively.

On 2 June 2023, Indian delegation took part in the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) General Assembly concluding conference.⁷²¹ With the exception of Brazil, all the BRICS countries are the PASC members. The meeting's attendants took part in the roundtable discussion on the role of standards in promoting sustainable development and specifically in tackling the climate change.

India has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁷¹⁷Workshop on Traditional Medicine Standardization Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sac/en/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350151.htm.

⁷¹⁸Semiconductor Lighting Standardization Highlighted, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sac/en/International_Activities/202209/t20220913_350214.htm.

⁷¹⁹2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷²⁰ Chinese Delegation Attends the First Plenary Meeting of IEC/SyC SET, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 16 May 2023. Access Date: 10 July 2023. https://www.sac.gov.cn/InternationalActivities/art/2023/art_8603c9410fac4114a4ba123047752af2.html

⁷²¹ PASC General Assembly on Standardization, Rosstandard (Noumea) 2 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNS_r00ABXczAAZhy3Rpb24AAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwACaWQAAAABAAQ5MDA5AAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

China: +1

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⁷²²Workshop on Emission Peak and Carbon Neutrality Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350152.htm.

⁷²³E-commerce Standardization Enhanced in BRICS Countries, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350150.htm.

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⁷²⁵Semiconductor Lighting Standardization Highlighted, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202209/t20220913_350214.htm.

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⁷²⁷China and Russia Jointly Release a National Standard on Aircraft, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 28 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/events/202212/t20221228_350355.htm.

⁷²⁸2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷²⁹Vladimir Putin to Meet With President Xi Jinping, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/vladimir_putin_proviol_peregovory_s_predsedalelem_knr_si_tszinpinom

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⁷³¹Russia-China Cooperation in Gas Ethanol Production, Rosstandard (Wuhan) 27 April 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNS_r00ABXczAAZhY3Rpb24AAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwAcA WQAAAABAAQ4OTcwAAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

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China has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

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On 5 July 2022, the workshop on e-commerce standardization of the BRICS countries was held. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants, including representatives from the national standardization bodies and experts and scholars in the area of e-commerce. During the meeting, experts shared the progress of e-commerce standardization in each country and discussed standards research and cooperation. A consensus was reached on further promoting communication and cooperation on standards related to e-commerce among the BRICS countries.⁷³⁴

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⁷³² PASC General Assembly on Standardization, Rosstandard (Noumea) 2 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNs_r00ABXczAAZhY3Rpb24AAAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwACaWQAAAABAAQ5MDA5AAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

⁷³³ Workshop on Emission Peak and Carbon Neutrality Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350152.htm.

⁷³⁴ E-commerce Standardization Enhanced in BRICS Countries, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350150.htm.

⁷³⁵ Workshop on Traditional Medicine Standardization Held, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202208/t20220801_350151.htm.

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On 2 June 2023, South African delegation took part in the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) General Assembly concluding conference.⁷³⁸ With the exception of Brazil, all the BRICS countries are the PASC members. The meeting's attendants took part in the roundtable discussion on the role of standards in promoting sustainable development and specifically in tackling the climate change.

South Africa has taken practical steps to enhance intra-BRICS exchanges and cooperation in the field of standardization.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁷³⁶Semiconductor Lighting Standardization Highlighted, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/International_Activities/202209/t20220913_350214.htm.

⁷³⁷2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>

⁷³⁸ PASC General Assembly on Standardization, Rosstandard (Noumea) 2 June 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://www.rst.gov.ru/portal/gost//home/presscenter/news?portal:isSecure=true&navigationalstate=JBPNS_r00ABXczAAZHy3Rpb24AAAABAA5zaW5nbGVOZXdzVmllldwACaWQAAAABAAQ5MDA5AAdfX0VPRI9f&portal:componentId=88beae40-0e16-414c-b176-d0ab5de82e16

16. Trade: Interconnectivity of Supply Chains

“We encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Trade, including the promotion of intra-BRICS cooperation, was on the agenda since the first 2009 summit in Russia and has been discussed frequently since then. BRICS members endorsed the fight against trade protectionism, recognized “the important role played by international trade and foreign direct investments in the world economic recovery,” urged all parties to “work together to improve the international trade and investment environment,” and encouraged the international community “to keep the multilateral trading system stable, curb trade protectionism, and push for comprehensive and balanced results of the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Doha Development Agenda.”⁷³⁹

In 2011, the BRICS trade ministers agreed that the BRICS should enhance their intra-group trade, including trade of higher value-added manufactured products, in order to support industrialization and employment in their respective countries. With the joint efforts of all BRICS members, intra-group economic and trade cooperation mechanisms have improved, and pragmatic cooperation has deepened.⁷⁴⁰

At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS members emphasized that they operate on the basis of an inclusive multilateral trading system. The members aimed to expand trade and they suggested that economic expansion can be achieved by enhancing trade and investment relations. They acknowledged the importance of the first BRICS Trade Fair in New Delhi, as an important step in strengthening trade among BRICS countries. Members also acknowledged the success of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, which was important in facilitating the regulation of international trade in endangered species. The BRICS members emphasized their support for the multilateral trading system and the WTO, as being an inclusive trading system. They encourage members to abide by the multilateral trading system under the WTO and in compatibility with the rules of the WTO. Also, members stressed the importance of bilateral and regional trade agreements as enhancing the multilateral trading system. In addition, they pledged to work with G20 members to strengthen trade and improve global governance.⁷⁴¹

⁷³⁹Joint Communique of the BRIC Countries Leaders, RANEP (Moscow) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency1/First%20Summit.pdf>

⁷⁴⁰Ministerial Declaration of the BRICS Trade Ministers, RANEP (Moscow) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/chpresidency1/trade%202011%201.pdf>

⁷⁴¹BRICS Goa declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 16 October 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit, BRICS members emphasized the importance of committing to trade and pledged to enhance trade by expanding trade and investment. Members also pledged to cooperate, to assist the integration of financial markets in order to create financial integration. They acknowledged the success of the Customs Administration in helping to facilitate trade and encouraged the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism to continue supporting trade cooperation. In addition, members agreed to enhance cooperation of agricultural trade and pledged to strengthen cooperation with Africa to address the issue of illegal wildlife trade. BRICS members emphasized the importance of the World Trade Organization. They want members to continue to follow the framework of the WTO and the obligations that it outlines to foster more cooperation and to strengthen the WTO. Overall, BRICS members emphasized an “inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO.”⁷⁴²

In 2022, the BRICS leaders once again stressed the importance of developing the trade and investment ties between the five nations and committed to “enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.”

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the BRICS countries to promote mutual trade and investment within the group. The Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, adopted in November 2020, stipulates 18 actions, pertaining specifically to enhancing the interconnectivity of supply chains, promoting trade and investment flows between the BRICS countries:

1. enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services;
2. continue to explore opportunities for intra-BRICS trade and economic cooperation in the areas where BRICS members have already reached joint arrangements and results;
3. work towards reduction of barriers in mutual trade in goods and services;
4. diversify trade cooperation of the BRICS members to develop new models of production, re-orient markets and increase trade turnover within BRICS;
5. promote cooperation on technical regulation, standards, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation;
6. exchange experience and good practices on various approaches to regulation of e-commerce;
7. develop and strengthen customs cooperation including on the authorized economic operators, unveil the potential and explore functional compatibility of national “single window” mechanisms and strive to combat underinvoicing;
8. encourage direct contacts between enterprises, associations and other business entities of BRICS with the use of the BRICS Business Council instruments;
9. enhance cooperation in competition law enforcement and policies to foster a fair market environment for efficient and sustainable trade development;
10. strengthen investment cooperation with the aim to increase the share of value added goods and services in intra-BRICS trade;

⁷⁴²BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwxo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

11. improve transparency for the development of mutual trade and foreign direct investment cooperation between the BRICS members in order to diversify production and exports;
12. enhance investment links between the BRICS countries to support and strengthen industrial development complementarities, sustainable development and inclusive growth;
13. stimulate interaction and cooperation between BRICS national investment agencies, to promote, attract and facilitate investment;
14. promote favorable financial instruments as well as instruments for public-private partnership in order to attract investment in development projects of the BRICS countries;
15. raise awareness about existing intra-BRICS investment opportunities;
16. enhance knowledge sharing among the BRICS members on improving business environment, including through the development of instruments aimed at facilitation of investments on a voluntary basis in order to improve their positions in international ease of doing business rankings;
17. encourage cooperation of BRICS on technical assistance and capacity building provided to developing countries and especially least-developed countries among them on investment promotion and facilitation;
18. attract investment in infrastructure development projects leveraging the various instruments of the New Development Bank.⁷⁴³

Full compliance with the commitment requires the BRICS countries to take actions on at least 12 of the 18 points stated above. Partial compliance is awarded for at least one point covered by the country's actions during the monitoring period. No actions taken implies a failure to comply with the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS country does not take actions on any of the 18 Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities, relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.
0	The BRICS country takes actions on up to 11 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities, relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.
+1	The BRICS country takes actions on 12 or more of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities, relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.

On 13 July 2022, the 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel was officially launched. The 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel contains a series of training lessons jointly hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government, Secretariat of Science, Technology And Innovation of Mato

⁷⁴³Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, RANEP (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsedatelstva/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/STRATEGY%20FOR%20BRICS%20ECONOMIC%20PARTNERSHIP%202025.pdf>

Grosso State/Brazil, Foreign Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal People's Government and BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in response to the request of the Brazilian party.⁷⁴⁴ This action corresponds to priorities 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 3 August 2022, the 2nd Brazil-China Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture was held. Brazil-China Business Council and the Chinese think tank Institute of Finance and Sustainability organized the event. The event brought together representatives of governments, financial institutions and environmental entities from both countries and Europe, as well as an executive from the New Development Bank. During the discussion it was mentioned that Brazil and China should adopt common criteria for classifying low-carbon agricultural projects that can receive financing linked to combating the effects of climate change.⁷⁴⁵ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 24 October 2022, the 8th Brazil-India Joint Commission Meeting was held in Brasilia. The discussions covered trade and investments, petroleum, biofuels, edible oils and minerals, health, pharma, traditional medicine, science and technology, agriculture and livestock, space, defense, counter-terrorism, and consular domains. After the meeting, agreements were signed in the fields of broadcasting and taxation.⁷⁴⁶ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, and 3 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 15 November 2022, a Meeting of the BRICS Coordination Committee on Antimonopoly Policy was held in video format under the Chinese chairmanship. The meeting was attended by Victor Fernandes, Commissioner of the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil. Mr. Fernandes highlighted the amendments to Brazil's Competition Act approved this year concerning private lawsuits for anticompetitive actions: they are expected to increase the intensity of private competition lawsuits. It was also announced that Brazil is working on a new BRICS Report on Digital Competition, which will be published soon.⁷⁴⁷ This action corresponds to priorities 5, 6, and 9 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 24 November 2022, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies was held. BRICS countries agreed that, against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges, as important representatives of emerging market and developing countries, the BRICS should continue to cooperate on standardization, maintain the smooth flow of global supply chains, and boost green and low-carbon development, delivering global recovery.⁷⁴⁸ This action corresponds to priorities 5, and 17 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

⁷⁴⁴2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel Successfully Started, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <http://www.bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=381>.

⁷⁴⁵Brazil and China should develop common standards to finance sustainable agriculture, Brazil-China Business Council (Rio de Janeiro) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.cebc.org.br/2022/07/29/proximo-evento-03-08-2022-as-8h-2o-dialogo-brasil-china-sobre-agricultura-sustentavel/>.

⁷⁴⁶Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting with his Brazilian counterpart, All India Radio (New Delhi) 25 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Dr.-S.-Jaishankar-co-chaired-8th-India-Brazil-Joint-Commission-Meeting-with-his-Brazilian-counterpart&id=446568>.

⁷⁴⁷Meeting Of The BRICS Coordination Committee On Antimonopoly Policy, BRICS Competition (Moscow) 14 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <https://bricscompetition.org/news/meeting-of-the-brics-coordination-committee-on-antimonopoly-policy>.

⁷⁴⁸2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

On 24 March 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Carlos Fávaro participated in a seminar with the main representatives of the animal protein sector in Brazil and China in Beijing.⁷⁴⁹ Fávaro highlighted the strengthening of the commercial partnership with China, with the guarantee of the quality and safety of agricultural products in Brazil. This action corresponds to priorities 5 and 15 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 29 March 2023, the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency, linked to the Ministry of Development, Industry, Commerce and Services (MDIC), formalized a partnership with the accelerator Venture Cup China and with Beijing Hycore Innovation.⁷⁵⁰ In addition to these, Brazilian companies such as BMV global, Vale, Suzano, among others, also signed agreements to foster innovation, sustainability and more partnership in different sectors of the Brazilian and Chinese economy. This action corresponds to priority 13 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 14 April 2023, the executive secretary of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Márcio Elias Rosa, and the Foreign Trade secretary of the MDIC, Tatiana Prazeres, met up with China's Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen.⁷⁵¹ At the meeting, the representatives of both countries reaffirmed the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation, as they have common interests and needs in the most diverse areas, such as access to markets, opportunities for higher value-added products from Brazil in China, industrial investments and in infrastructure, and also in the area of technology — including semiconductors, as well as sustainability and clean energy. This action corresponds to the priority 2 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 14 April 2023, President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and President of China Xi Jinping signed 15 agreements that foster cooperation between the two countries in various areas, such as trade and industry, communication, innovation, research and technology.⁷⁵² It was announced that to further deepen bilateral trade cooperation, the countries will form a Working Group between the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services with the Ministry of Commerce of China. The group will work on finding solutions to avoid unnecessary barriers, promote the exchange of information and trade facilitation measures with a view to speeding up the movement, clearance and customs clearance of goods. This action corresponds to the priority 11 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

Brazil has taken actions in 12 areas of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities, relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

⁷⁴⁹ Brazil presents investment opportunities to Chinese entrepreneurs, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 March 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-apresenta-oportunidades-de-investimentos-a-empresarios-chineses>

⁷⁵⁰ 625 Brazil signs more than 20 cooperation agreements in a business mission in Beijing, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 March 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/brasil-assina-mais-de-20-acordos-de-cooperacao-em-missao-empresarial-em-pequim>

⁷⁵¹ MDIC and Chinese Ministry of Commerce expand bilateral cooperation, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/abril/mdic-e-ministerio-do-comercio-da-china-ampliam-cooperacao-bilateral>

⁷⁵² Brazil and China close 15 agreements and reinforce partnership, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/brasil-e-china-fecham-15-acordos-e-reforcam-parceria>

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.

On 13 July 2022, the 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel was officially launched with participation of representatives of all five BRICS countries. The 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel contains a series of training lessons jointly hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government, Secretariat of Science, Foreign Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal People's Government and BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center.⁷⁵³ This action corresponds to priorities 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 15 September 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting with President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand to exchange views on China-Russia relations and international and regional issues of shared interest. President Xi noted that since the beginning of 2022, China and Russia had maintained effective strategic communication, and emphasized that China would work with Russia to extend strong mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests, and deepen practical cooperation in trade, agriculture, connectivity and other areas.⁷⁵⁴ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, and 3 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 19 October 2022, the Russia-China Task Force on Civil Aircraft held its 12th meeting. The Federal Agency on Technical Regulating and Metrology of Russia and the Standardization Administration for Market Regulation of China and released a new national standard of the two countries, the Requirements for cabin acoustic design of transport aircraft. The standard will be included in the list of mutually recognized standards on civil aircraft in Russia and China and available for use in the projects on civil aircraft in the two countries.⁷⁵⁵ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 24 November 2022, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies was held. BRICS countries agreed that, against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges, as important representatives of emerging market and developing countries, the BRICS should continue to cooperate on standardization, maintain the smooth flow of global supply chains, and boost green and low-carbon development, delivering global recovery.⁷⁵⁶ This action corresponds to priorities 5, and 17 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 5 December 2022, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin held talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang via video link. Prime Minister Li called on the two sides to optimize the customs clearance process, jointly maintain a stable and smooth industrial and supply chain, and deepen cultural, people-to-people and local exchanges.⁷⁵⁷ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 3, 5, and 15 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

⁷⁵³2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel Successfully Started, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 13 July 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023.

<http://www.bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=381>.

⁷⁵⁴President Xi Jinping Meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202209/t20220915_10766678.html.

⁷⁵⁵China and Russia Jointly Release a National Standard on Aircraft, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 28 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/events/202212/t20221228_350355.htm.

⁷⁵⁶2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷⁵⁷Chinese premier meets Russian counterpart on cooperation, State Council of China (Beijing) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202212/07/content_WS63903fa7c6d0a757729e4078.html.

On 16 December 2022, President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders discussed in detail the prospects for practical interaction in areas such as mutual investment, energy, agriculture, transport and logistic, trade and investment.⁷⁵⁸ This action corresponds to priorities 13 and 14 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 21 March 2023, Russia and China held bilateral talks touching upon issues related to cooperation in trade and industry.⁷⁵⁹ President Putin and President Xi signed several bilateral agreements including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia and the Ministry of Trade of China on industrial fairs and exhibitions. The parties also underlined openness for wider cooperation in key spheres including civil aviation, automobile industry, metalworks, etc. This action corresponds to priority 11 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

Russia has taken action on at least 12 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.

On 27 June 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany. The leaders reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly following the signing of the Strategic Programme of Cooperation in 2019. They reiterated the need for further deepening bilateral cooperation in areas like trade and investment, food security, defense, pharmaceuticals, digital financial inclusion, skill development, and insurance. Discussions were also held on continued coordination in multilateral bodies, including the BRICS.⁷⁶⁰ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, and 3 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 13 July 2022, the 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel was officially launched with participation of representatives of all five BRICS countries. The 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel contains a series of training lessons jointly hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government, Secretariat of Science, Foreign Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal People's Government and BRICS

⁷⁵⁸PM Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discuss cooperation in several areas including, energy and trade, All India Radio (New Delhi) 16 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=PM-Modi-holds-telephonic-conversation-with-Russian-President-Putin&id=452463>.

⁷⁵⁹ Vladimir Putin to Meet With President Xi Jinping, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/vladimir_putin_proviol_peregovory_s_predsedatelem_knr_si_tszinpinom

⁷⁶⁰Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1837378>.

Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center.⁷⁶¹ This action corresponds to priorities 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 24 October 2022, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Carlos França in Brasilia. The discussions covered trade and investments, petroleum, biofuels, edible oils and minerals, health, pharma, traditional medicine, science and technology, agriculture and livestock, space, defense, counter-terrorism, and consular domains. After the meeting, agreements were signed in the fields of broadcasting and taxation.⁷⁶² This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

During the compliance period, India has received the NDB's Board approval of several projects to be implemented in the country.⁷⁶³ The approved projects include: the Assam Bridge-II (Palasbari) Project and the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project on 18 July 2022, the Corridor 4 of Phase II of Chennai Metro Rail Project on 13 December 2022, and the Bihar Rural Road (Phase II) on 31 March 2023. This action corresponds to priority 18 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

India has taken action on at least 12 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.

On 13 July 2022, the 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel was officially launched with participation of representatives of all five BRICS countries. The 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel contains a series of training lessons jointly hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government, Secretariat of Science, Foreign Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal People's Government and BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center.⁷⁶⁴ This action corresponds to priorities 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

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⁷⁶¹2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel Successfully Started, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <http://www.bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=381>.

⁷⁶²Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting with his Brazilian counterpart, All India Radio (New Delhi) 25 October 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Dr.-S.-Jaishankar-co-chaired-8th-India-Brazil-Joint-Commission-Meeting-with-his-Brazilian-counterpart&id=446568>.

⁷⁶³ All Projects, New Development Bank (Shanghai). Access Date: 10 July 2023. <https://www.ndb.int/projects/all-projects/#paginated-list>

⁷⁶⁴2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel Successfully Started, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 13 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <http://www.bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=381>.

common criteria for classifying low-carbon agricultural projects that can receive financing linked to combating the effects of climate change.⁷⁶⁵ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

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On 15 November 2022, President Xi met with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in Bali. President Xi noted that China is ready to strengthen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, cooperate more closely on trade, investment and energy, advance the implementation of outcomes of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation in South Africa, support Chinese companies in investing and doing business there, and expand China's import of quality products from South Africa.⁷⁶⁸ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13, 14 and 17 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

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⁷⁶⁵Brazil and China should develop common standards to finance sustainable agriculture, Brazil-China Business Council (Rio de Janeiro) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst.

<https://www.cebc.org.br/2022/07/29/proximo-evento-03-08-2022-as-8h-20-dialogo-brasil-china-sobre-agricultura-sustentavel/>.

⁷⁶⁶President Xi Jinping Meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202209/t20220915_10766678.html.

⁷⁶⁷China and Russia Jointly Release a National Standard on Aircraft, Standardization Administration of China (Beijing) 28 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. http://www.sac.gov.cn/sacen/events/202212/t20221228_350355.htm.

⁷⁶⁸President Xi Jinping Meets with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 15 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202211/t20221115_10975688.html.

⁷⁶⁹2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

people-to-people and local exchanges.⁷⁷⁰ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 3, 5, and 15 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 21 March 2023, China and Russia held bilateral talks touching upon issues related to cooperation in trade and industry.⁷⁷¹ President Xi and President Putin signed several bilateral agreements including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Trade of China and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia on industrial fairs and exhibitions. The parties also underlined openness for wider cooperation in key spheres including civil aviation, automobile industry, metalworks, etc. This action corresponds to the priority 11 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 14 April 2023, the executive secretary of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Márcio Elias Rosa, and the Foreign Trade secretary of the MDIC, Tatiana Prazeres, met up with China's Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen.⁷⁷² At the meeting, the representatives of both countries reaffirmed the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation, as they have common interests and needs in the most diverse areas, such as access to markets, opportunities for higher value-added products from Brazil in China, industrial investments and in infrastructure, and also in the area of technology — including semiconductors, as well as sustainability and clean energy. This action corresponds to the priority 2 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 14 April 2023, President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and President of China Xi Jinping signed 15 agreements that foster cooperation between the two countries in various areas, such as trade and industry, communication, innovation, research and technology.⁷⁷³ It was announced that to further deepen bilateral trade cooperation, the countries will form a Working Group between the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services with the Ministry of Commerce of China. The group will work on finding solutions to avoid unnecessary barriers, promote the exchange of information and trade facilitation measures with a view to speeding up the movement, clearance and customs clearance of goods. This action corresponds to the priority 11 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

During the compliance period, China has received the NDB's Board approval of several projects to be implemented in the country. The approved projects include: the Guiyang Urban Integration Project on 28 June 2022, the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport Phase III Expansion Project and the Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport Phase III Expansion Project on 18 July 2022, the Liaoning Environmentally Sustainable Urban Development Project on 17 October 2022, the Anhui Tongling G3 Road-Rail Bridge Project and the Guangxi Trunk Road Network Improvement Program on 13 December 2022, the Guizhou Qianxinan Rural Roads Improvement Program on 1

⁷⁷⁰Chinese premier meets Russian counterpart on cooperation, State Council of China (Beijing) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023.

https://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202212/07/content_WS63903fa7c6d0a757729e4078.html.

⁷⁷¹ Vladimir Putin to Meet With President Xi Jinping, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 18 July 2023. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/vladimir_putin_proviol_peregovory_s_predsedatelem_knr_si_tszinpinom

⁷⁷² MDIC and Chinese Ministry of Commerce expand bilateral cooperation, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/abril/mdic-e-ministerio-do-comercio-da-china-ampliam-cooperacao-bilateral>

⁷⁷³ Brazil and China close 15 agreements and reinforce partnership, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/brasil-e-china-fecham-15-acordos-e-reformam-parceria>

March 2023, and the Ganzhou Urban Transport Improvement Project on 3 April 2023.⁷⁷⁴ This action corresponds to priority 18 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

China has taken action on at least 13 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to encourage cooperation among BRICS countries to enhance the interconnectivity of supply chains and promote trade and investment flows.

On 27 June 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa met with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany. The leaders reviewed the progress made in bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly following the signing of the Strategic Programme of Cooperation in 2019. They reiterated the need for further deepening bilateral cooperation in areas like trade and investment, food security, defense, pharmaceuticals, digital financial inclusion, skill development, and insurance. Discussions were also held on continued coordination in multilateral bodies, including the BRICS.⁷⁷⁵ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, and 3 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 13 July 2022, the 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel was officially launched with participation of representatives of all five BRICS countries. The 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel contains a series of training lessons jointly hosted by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government, Secretariat of Science, Foreign Affairs Office of Xiamen Municipal People's Government and BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center.⁷⁷⁶ This action corresponds to priorities 2, 4, 5, 6, and 10 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 15 November 2022, President Ramaphosa met with China's President Xi Jinping in Bali. President Xi noted that China is ready to strengthen the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, cooperate more closely on trade, investment and energy, advance the implementation of FOCAC outcomes in South Africa, support Chinese companies in investing and doing business there, and expand China's import of quality products from South Africa.⁷⁷⁷ This action corresponds to priorities 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13, 14 and 17 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 24 November 2022, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies was held. BRICS countries agreed that, against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges, as important representatives of emerging market and developing countries, the BRICS should continue to

⁷⁷⁴ All Projects, New Development Bank (Shanghai). Access Date: 10 July 2023. <https://www.ndb.int/projects/all-projects/#paginated-list>

⁷⁷⁵ Meeting of Prime Minister with President of South Africa on the sidelines of G-7 Summit, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 June 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1837378>.

⁷⁷⁶ 2022 BRICS Online Training for Global Cross-border E-commerce Personnel Successfully Started, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 13 July 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023. <http://www.bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=381>.

⁷⁷⁷ President Xi Jinping Meets with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 15 November 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2023. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202211/t20221115_10975688.html.

cooperate on standardization, maintain the smooth flow of global supply chains, and boost green and low-carbon development, delivering global recovery.⁷⁷⁸ This action corresponds to priorities 5, and 17 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

On 20 May 2023, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Candith Mashego-Dlamini paid a working visit to China.⁷⁷⁹ The parties engaged in the 12th South Africa-China Strategic Dialog. The participants underlined commitment to deepening bilateral ties in trade, investment, infrastructure development, science and technology, etc. This action corresponds to priorities 11 and 12 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.

South Africa has taken action on at least 12 of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 priorities relating to intra-BRICS trade and investment promotion.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁷⁷⁸2022 Meeting of Heads of BRICS National Standardization Bodies kicked off, BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center (Xiamen) 24 November 2022. Access date: 25 January 2023.

<http://bricspic.org/En/Pages/Home/NewsDetail.aspx?rowId=469>.

⁷⁷⁹ Deputy Minister Mashego-Dlamini visits China on official trip, Diplomatic Watch (Beijing) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://diplomaticwatch.com/15787/diplomacy/deputy-minister-mashego-dlamini-visits-china-on-official-trip/>

17. Labour and Employment: Development and Recovery

“We reiterate the commitments to promote employment for sustainable development, including to develop skills to ensure resilient recovery.”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Labour and employment issues have always attracted attention of BRICS leaders. At the 2016 Goa Summit, the declaration stressed that “quality employment, including a Decent Work Agenda, sustaining social protection and enhancing rights at work, are core to inclusive and sustainable development”⁷⁸⁰ and took note “of the possibility of bilateral Social Security Agreements between BRICS countries, and of the commitment to take steps to establish a network of lead labour research and training institutes, so as to encourage capacity building, information exchange and sharing of best practices amongst BRICS countries.”

In 2017 in Xiamen leaders recognized the importance of transformation that is taking place in the labor market and the opportunities and challenges it brings, welcomed the achievement of a BRICS common position on governance in the future of work and agreed to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation in ensuring full employment, promoting decent work, advancing poverty alleviation and reduction through skills development and achieving universal and sustainable social security systems.⁷⁸¹

In 2018 in Johannesburg BRICS leaders again committed to the continued implementation of the Agenda for BRICS cooperation on population matters 2015-2020, which includes employment and the future of work.

In 2021 New Delhi Declaration they welcomed the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' commitment to a human-centered recovery with inclusive labour markets and social protection system. We look forward to the outcome of the research of E-formality practices in BRICS countries by the BRICS Network of Labour Research Institutes.⁷⁸²

⁷⁸⁰Goa Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁷⁸¹Xiamen Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDWxo6AbZnCKmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁷⁸²New Delhi Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 18 October 2022.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/briks/predsdatelstva/briks-indiyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2021-g/XIII%20BRICS%20Summit-%20New%20Delhi%20Declaration.pdf>

In 2022 Beijing Declaration the leaders reiterated the commitments to promote employment for sustainable development, including to develop skills to ensure resilient recovery, gender-responsive employment and social protection policies including workers' rights.⁷⁸³

Commitment Features

The commitment requires taking actions to promote employment for sustainable development, including to develop skills to ensure resilient recovery. It has two major components: promoting employment in general and specifically target skills.

Part One: Employment Promotion

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SGD 8) is dedicated to providing decent work and economic growth. It has 12 targets, which describe areas for action in the field of labour and employment for sustainable development.

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4 Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- 8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9 Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- 8.b Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

⁷⁸³Beijing Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 18 October 2022.
<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2022/XIV-BRICS-Summit-Beijing-Declaration-ENG.pdf>

Taking actions in these areas will count toward compliance with the commitment. Actions can include but are not limited to: allocating financial resources, adopting legislative acts, developing programmes, cooperation with private sector.

Part Two: Taking Actions to Promote Skills Development

The second part of the commitment requires taking actions specifically aimed at skills development to bridge the gap between the demand in supply on the labour market.

BRICS member can take actions in the following areas (the list is not exhaustive):

- Strengthen access to quality education, including schools
- Actively promote quality work-based learning
- Encourage investment in skills through shared public-private financing, especially for low-skilled workers
- Improve training opportunities for informal workers
- Activate skills by improving work incentives and job-search help, and by removing employment barriers
- Systematically anticipate, assess and respond to changing skill needs.

To achieve full compliance BRICS member should take actions to promote employment in general and specifically target skills development.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member has failed to take actions to promote employment for sustainable development.
0	The BRICS member has taken actions to promote employment for sustainable development but failed to address the issue of skills development for a resilient recovery.
+1	The BRICS member has taken actions to promote employment for sustainable development AND addressed the issue of skills development for a resilient recovery.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to promote employment for sustainable development, including skills development.

On 7 July 2022, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation launched the Digital Literacy project started in the city of Londrina. The project provides training for students and teachers to work with the technologies required by industry 4.0.⁷⁸⁴

On 14 October 2022, the government announced the launch of digital skills open for enrollment at Escola do Trabalhador 4.0 (Schools for Workers 4.0). “Escola do Trabalhador 4.0” platform offers enrollment for 5.5 million people and is organized into 134 free online courses in the areas of information technology, productivity and finance. The initiative was developed by the Ministry of

⁷⁸⁴MCTI starts Digital Literacy project in Londrina (PR), Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 July 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2022/07/mcti-inicia-projeto-letramento-digital-em-londrina-pr>.

Labor and Social Security (MTP) in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights.⁷⁸⁵

On 17 November 2022, MTP and the French Development Agency (AFD) signed an agreement to strengthen public employment services in Brazil. AFD is responsible for financing the project in the amount of EUR1.2 million, which will be allocated according to the needs of the MTP, over a period of 30 months. In addition to the allowance, AFD will share with the ministry the experience of the French intermediation agency, PôleEmploi, which is an international reference in public employment services.⁷⁸⁶

On 16 December 2022, Minister of Labor and Social Security José Carlos Oliveira signed Regulatory Norm 38, which provides for health and safety in Urban Cleaning Activities and Solid Waste Management. The regulation benefits more than 5 million sector workers across the country, exposed to various factors and difficulties in carrying out urban cleaning activities and solid waste management.⁷⁸⁷

On 18 January 2023, Minister of Labor and Employment Luiz Marinho and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva met with the representatives of local trade unions to announce the creation of a working group to define, within 90 days, the new minimum wage valuation policy. It was also announced that within a period of up to 30 days, working groups will be created to discuss the regulation of work through applications and to create new rules for collective bargaining between workers and companies.⁷⁸⁸

On 5 April 2023, the Federal Government established the Tripartite Working Group to discuss the democratization of labor relations and the strengthening of dialogue between the Federal Government, workers and employers on the subject.⁷⁸⁹ The Group will have a tripartite and equal formation, with representatives of workers, employers and government, and each bench will have an equal number of representatives.

On 18 May 2023, Minister Marinho participated in the launching of the Youth Productive program, of the government of Bahia, with the objective of creating insertion, qualification and work

⁷⁸⁵Courses focusing on digital skills are open for enrollment at Escola do Trabalhador 4.0, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst.

<https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2022/eleicoes-2022-periodo-eleitoral/cursos-com-foco-em-habilidades-digitais-estao-com-inscricoes-abertas-na-escola-do-trabalhador-4.0>.

⁷⁸⁶Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the French Development Agency sign an agreement to strengthen public employment services in Brazil, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-previdencia/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/trabalho/2022/novembro/ministerio-do-trabalho-e-previdencia-e-agencia-francesa-de-desenvolvimento-assinam-acordo-para-fortalecer-os-servicos-publicos-de-emprego-no-brasil>.

⁷⁸⁷Ministry of Labor and Social Security signs NR on safety and health in Urban Cleaning and Solid Waste Management Activities, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 16 December 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-previdencia/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/trabalho/2022/dezembro/ministerio-do-trabalho-e-previdencia-assina-nr-sobre-seguranca-e-saude-nas-atividades-de-limpeza-urbana-e-manejo-de-residuos-solidos>.

⁷⁸⁸Ministry of Labor and Employment announces group to define new minimum wage appreciation policy, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 18 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-previdencia/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/trabalho/ministerio-do-trabalho-e-emprego-anuncia-grupo-para-definir-nova-politica-de-valorizacao-do-salario-minimo>.

⁷⁸⁹ Creation of a Working Group to deal with the democratization of labor relations, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 5 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/obrasilvotou/respeito-e-dialogo/criacao-de-gt-para-tratar-da-democratizacao-das-relacoes-de-trabalho>

opportunities for young people between 16 and 29 years.⁷⁹⁰ During the ceremony, Minister Luiz Marinho and the Governor of Bahia Jerônimo Rodrigues signed the Protocol of Intentions for the implementation of Novo SineBahia as a national pilot project and also announced the Worker's School 4.0. With an investment of BRL8.1 million, the action will benefit 17,040 young people from Bahia, through two fronts: insertion in the labor market and entrepreneurship.

On 24 May 2023, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Brazilian Company for Research and Industrial Innovation announced the investment of BRL180 million to form Centers for Competence in the development of research in 5G and 6G, immersive technologies applied to virtual worlds and Open Radio Access Networks.⁷⁹¹ The Competence Centers will build knowledge and create reference points for research in areas of frontier technologies.

On 16 June 2023, Minister Marinho, the Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Ambassador Ruy Pereira and the Deputy General Director for Foreign and Corporate Relations of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Laura Thompson launched the new Trilateral South-South Cooperation program between Brazil and the ILO 2023-2027 “Social Justice for the Global South,” in Geneva, Switzerland, within the scope of the 111th Session of the International Conference of the Work.⁷⁹² The Brazil-ILO Trilateral South-South Cooperation program aims to advance in the promotion of decent work, labor rights and social justice in developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific. The action reinforces Brazil's commitment to cooperation for development and its partnership with the ILO in the fight against child labor, in the elimination of forced labor, in the promotion of social protection, green jobs, sectoral issues, principles and fundamental rights at work, gender equality and migration.

On 21 June 2023, Deliberative Council of the Worker's Support Fund approved a budget proposal of BRL111.9 billion for next year.⁷⁹³ Of this amount, BRL78.9 billion will be allocated to the payment of Unemployment Insurance and Salary Bonus.

On 3 July 2023, President Lula da Silva sanctioned the Equal Salary and Remuneration Criteria Law between women and men.⁷⁹⁴ The law defines new wage transparency and inspection mechanisms on the subject, in addition to increasing penalties for companies that fail to comply with the rules. Companies with 100 or more employees must now provide transparent semi-annual reports on salaries and compensation criteria.

Brazil has taken actions to promote employment for sustainable development and specifically targeted skills development.

⁷⁹⁰ Creation of a Working Group to deal with the democratization of labor relations, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/obrasilvoltou/respeito-e-dialogo/criacao-de-gt-para-tratar-da-democratizacao-das-relacoes-de-trabalho>

⁷⁹¹ Creation of a Working Group to deal with the democratization of labor relations, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 April 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/assuntos/obrasilvoltou/respeito-e-dialogo/criacao-de-gt-para-tratar-da-democratizacao-das-relacoes-de-trabalho>

⁷⁹² Federal Government launches new Brazil-ILO Trilateral South-South Cooperation program 2023-2027, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 June 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst.

<https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-emprego/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/2023/junho/governo-federal-lanca-novo-programa-de-cooperacao-sul-sul-trilateral-brasil-oit-2023-2027>

⁷⁹³ Council proposes budget of BRL 111.9 billion for FAT in 2024, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 21 June 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-emprego/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/2023/junho/conselho-propoe-orcamento-de-r-111-9-bilhoes-para-o-fat-em-2024>

⁷⁹⁴ Federal Government institutes equal pay and remuneration between women and men, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 3 July 2023. Access date: 6 July 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-emprego/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudo/2023/julho/governo-federal-institui-igualdade-salarial-e-remuneratoria-entre-mulheres-e-homens>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote employment for sustainable development, including skills development.

On 18 July 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection presented a program aimed at the promotion of labour mobility among the country's younger generation. Every citizen under 35 would be allowed to apply for a subsidy of RUB116,800 to cover relocation associated expenses including housing renting in some of the country's selected regions.⁷⁹⁵

On 1 January 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection prolonged a set of employment-supporting measures, adopted in 2022, until the end of 2023. These measures include the subsidization of recruitment and promotion of in-demand skills among the unemployed population. The government plans to finance temporary jobs for 123,300 job seekers, 13,000 re-education programs and attract 40,000 unemployed to paid public works.⁷⁹⁶

On 23 June 2023, the Government launched the federal stage of "Jobs in Russia. Time of Opportunities" employment fair.⁷⁹⁷ The Government plans to reach at least 320,000 job seekers through 1,300 fairgrounds all across the country. By this mean, the Government facilitates employment and re-skilling for the general population.

Russia has taken actions to promote employment for sustainable development and specifically targeted skills development.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote employment for sustainable development, including skills development.

On 18 July 2022, the Ministry of Labour and Employment presented its National Career Service (NCS) project implemented to provide a variety of employment-related services like job search and matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skills development courses, etc. through a digital platform. The NCS project aims to provide seamless access to jobseekers and employers, decent employment opportunities to the aspiring youth of the country, and to facilitate career development assistance.⁷⁹⁸

On 25-26 August 2022, a two-day National Labour Conference of Labour Ministers and Labour Secretaries of States was held by the Government in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. One of the major

⁷⁹⁵Ministry Developed a Program Supporting Labour Mobility among Youngsters, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Moscow) 18 July 2022. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/employment/115>

⁷⁹⁶Employment Promotion Programs to be Prolonged in 2023, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (Moscow) 1 January 2023. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 January 2023. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/employment/135>

⁷⁹⁷Federal Stage of Russia-wide Job Fair Has Started, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Moscow) 23 June 2023. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/employment/160>

⁷⁹⁸Assistance to Job Seekers, India's Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 18 July 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. <https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/PIB1842609.pdf>

goals of the conference was to discuss possible ways to universalize social protection to workers and to improve employment opportunities for all.⁷⁹⁹

On 22 December 2022, the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat financial package (Self-Reliant India, financial stimulus package aimed to counter the pandemic consequences) was provided specifically to create employment opportunities for migrant workers and workers of unorganized sectors, strengthen the MSME sector, and promote the rural economy (estimated at INR27 trillion).⁸⁰⁰

On 5 January 2023, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education chaired the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of National Skill Development Mission, which was focused on the issues of skills development schemes, skills gap analysis and skills mapping. The meeting reiterated India's commitment to train one million youth per annum through various apprenticeship training programs.⁸⁰¹

On 13 January 2023, speaking at the Global South Summit, Minister Pradhan noted that in 2023 the G20 Education Working Group under India's G20 Presidency would be discussing the issues related to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, life-long learning in context of future of work, as well as ways to strengthen research and innovation in higher education institutions.⁸⁰²

On 16 January 2023, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics and IT, announced that India will launch a revised version of the Skill India initiative with an aim to train young Indian people with "future ready skills." Under the new scheme, the government will be focusing on strengthening the digital skills ecosystem and technical skills, such as augmented and virtual reality, machine learning, and the ability to work with data, including automated systems.⁸⁰³

On 18 January 2023, the government announced that it will allocate additional budgetary resources for the Production-Linked Initiative (PLI) of the Invest India program. The PLI provides, among others, aims to promote job generation and employment in the domestic manufacturing sector.⁸⁰⁴

On 20 January 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the country would distribute around 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various government departments and organizations. Appointments were made as a result of the Rozgar Mela program to generate employment initiatives in the country implemented by India's National Skill Development

⁷⁹⁹Year End Review 2022: Ministry of Labour and Employment, India's Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/PIB1887384.pdf>

⁸⁰⁰ Twenty-seven lakh crore Aatmanirbhar financial package allotted to create employment opportunities for unorganised sector and migrant workers, India's Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/PIB1885767.pdf>

⁸⁰¹ Skill India: Connecting Indian youth to global opportunities, News on Air (New Delhi) 5 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://newsonair.com/2023/01/05/skill-india-connecting-indian-youth-to-global-opportunities/>

⁸⁰² Text of opening remarks of Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship during Education Ministers' Session of Voice of Global South Summit, India's Ministry of Education (New Delhi) 13 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1891121>

⁸⁰³ Govt to soon launch revamped Skill India initiative: Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 16 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/govt-to-soon-launch-revamped-skill-india-initiative-minister-rajeev-chandrasekhar-8380710/>

⁸⁰⁴ Budget 2023: PLI Schemes May Get BIG Boost! Increased Allocation & More Sectors Likely, India.com (New Delhi) 18 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023.<https://www.india.com/business/budget-2023-pli-schemes-may-get-big-boost-increased-allocation-more-sectors-likely-5858915/>

Corporation.⁸⁰⁵ It was also mentioned that in order to enhance the self-employment opportunities the government had also established a dedicated Ministry for Skills Development.⁸⁰⁶

On 7 February 2023, it was reported that India planned to promote green tourism, open up to 50 new tourism destinations, and launch a publicity campaign in overseas markets during its presidency of the G20 this year.⁸⁰⁷ The government is pushing green initiatives to promote responsible tourism in the country and authorities plan to ensure small businesses have the resources for green investments and to create local jobs.

On 12 April 2023, Prime Minister Modi said the Government had implemented the new National Education Policy keeping in view the requirements of modern and developed India.⁸⁰⁸ Addressing a programme for newly-inducted teachers in Madhya Pradesh, the prime minister remarked that the campaign to provide government jobs to the youth in the state is going on at a fast pace where thousands of youths have been recruited on various posts by organizing employment fairs in different districts.

On 1 May 2023, the Government announced that it had introduced new labour codes, which are expected to simplify labour laws, provide greater flexibility for companies to manage their workforce, and offer better protection and benefits for workers.⁸⁰⁹ The new labour codes are also expected to have an impact on HR technology in the country.

On 23 May 2023, the Ministry of Education and the US Department of State launched the India-US working group on education and skill development in virtual mode, with the aim to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the field of education and skill development.⁸¹⁰

India has taken a number of significant steps both on employment and on skills development.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

⁸⁰⁵ Rozgar Mela 2023: PM Modi to distribute about 71,000 appointment letters today - details of the employment programme, Times Now (New Delhi) 20 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/rozgar-mela-2023-pm-modi-to-distribute-about-71000-appointment-letters-today-details-of-the-employment-programme-article-97156331>

⁸⁰⁶ Govt has launched number of programmes and initiatives to fulfill PM Modi's comment to give 10 lakh jobs: MoS Ajay Kumar, News on Air (New Delhi) 20 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023. <https://newsonair.com/2023/01/20/govt-has-launched-number-of-programmes-and-initiatives-to-fulfill-pm-modis-comment-to-give-10-lakh-jobs-mos-ajay-kumar/>

⁸⁰⁷ India Ramps Up On Sustainable Tourism With G20 Presidency, Skift (New York) 7 February 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://skift.com/2023/02/07/india-ramps-up-on-sustainable-tourism-with-g20-presidency/>

⁸⁰⁸ New education policy meets requirements of modern, developed India, Live Mint (Gurgaon) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-modi-emphasizes-on-holistic-development-of-children-in-newly-implemented-national-education-policy-and-praises-recruitment-of-over-22-400-teachers-in-madhya-pradesh-11681292022389.html>

⁸⁰⁹ New labour codes in India: What it means for workers, employers, and HR tech, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 1 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/new-labour-codes-in-india-what-it-means-for-workers-employers-and-hr-tech/articleshow/99900177.cms?from=mdr>

⁸¹⁰ India and US launch working group on education and skill development to foster collaboration, Live Mint (Gurgaon) 23 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-and-us-launch-working-group-on-education-and-skill-development-to-foster-collaboration-11684830668119.html>

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to promote employment for sustainable development, including skills development.

On 7 July 2022, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued the Notice on Carrying out Human Resource Service Organizations to Stabilize Employment and Promote Employment Actions, which instructed local authorities to give full play to the advantages of human resource service organizations in matching labour supply and demand, enhancing professional efficiency, and contributing to overall employment stability and economic and social development. The Notice highlighted seven focus areas, including deployment of large-scale job search and recruitment services, promotion of employment of college graduates, stabilization of employment of migrant workers, ensuring employments in key sectors, innovation to promote flexible employment services, development of human resource services agencies, and strengthening the monitoring of labour supply and demand information.⁸¹¹

On 12 August 2022, the government ratified two instruments of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), which reinforced China's commitment to respect, promote and realize the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.⁸¹²

On 25 August 2022, Li Zhong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, noted at a news conference that China will focus on creating jobs and promote fiscal, monetary and industrial policies to stabilize its labour market, which was yet to fully recover from the pandemic consequences.⁸¹³

On 5 September 2022, Liu Guoqiang, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, said at a news conference that China's Central Bank was capable of keeping the renminbi generally stable and vowed to make good use of policy tools to stabilize growth and employment while keeping a lid on inflation.⁸¹⁴

On 16 September 2022, the government reported that it had spent CNY2.53 trillion (USD365.05 billion) on social security and employment in the first eight months of 2022, up 6.6 percent compared to 2021.⁸¹⁵

On 16 October 2022, speaking at 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping emphasized the significance of a people-centered development strategy, focusing on practical issues of public concern, such as employment, education, and social security,

⁸¹¹The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued a notice to deploy human resources service agencies to stabilize employment and promote employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 January 2023. https://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202207/t20220707_456699.html

⁸¹² China ratifies the two ILO Fundamental Conventions on forced labour, ILO (Geneva) 12 August 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_853575/lang--en/index.htm

⁸¹³ China to promote fiscal, monetary policies to support job stabilisation, Reuters (Beijing) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/china-promote-fiscal-monetary-policies-support-job-stabilisation-2022-08-25/>

⁸¹⁴ Govt unveils measures to bolster economic recovery, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 September 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202209/06/content_WS631689cdc6d0a757729dfa4c.html

⁸¹⁵ China spends more on social security, employment in first 8 months, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202209/16/content_WS63246ecbc6d0a757729e01af.html

among others.⁸¹⁶ Furthermore, President Xi stressed that the “employment-first strategy” should be one of the major drivers of China’s modernization.⁸¹⁷

On 1 November 2022, the government announced that it will provide more support for the self-employed businesses, including improvement of business environment, lowering burdens on them, assistance with financing, and stimulation of consumer demand.⁸¹⁸

On 18 November 2022, the government released a guideline (issued by five state organs including the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the National Development and Reform Commission) to bolster employment and entrepreneurship prospects of rural migrant workers, as well as rural residents. The guideline provides for supportive measures in this regard, such as deferring social insurance premium payments, social insurance subsidies for migrant workers, work-relief programs for rural areas, and employment monitoring of rural residents.⁸¹⁹

On 29 November 2022, the government launched a campaign to offer employment services to college graduates seeking jobs, including online and offline recruitment and assessment activities.⁸²⁰

On 20 December 2022, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued the circular aimed to support the growth of market entities in the human resources services sector during the 2023-2025 period, including the growth of about 50 leading enterprises and approximately 100 smaller firms that are innovative and distinctive in providing specialized human resources services by 2025.⁸²¹

On 1 January 2023, the amended Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women came into force. The government promulgated amendments on 30 October 2022. The revised law stipulates that the State shall take necessary measures to promote gender equality, eliminate discrimination of all forms against women and prohibit exclusion or restriction of women's legitimate rights and interests. It further emphasizes that governments at all levels should optimize employment security measures for women, prevent and remedy gender discrimination, and create an impartial employment and entrepreneurial environment.⁸²²

⁸¹⁶ Milestone CPC congress spells out China's unwavering development goals, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202210/17/content_WS634d3ec6c6d0a757729e159a.html

⁸¹⁷ CPC charts course for Chinese modernization as key congress opens, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202210/17/content_WS634c9cebc6d0a757729e151c.html

⁸¹⁸ China pledges further efforts to support self-employed businesses, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 1 November 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202211/01/content_WS6361bc09c6d0a757729e229b.html

⁸¹⁹ China steps up rural employment support policy, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202211/18/content_WS637775b3c6d0a757729e35d3.html

⁸²⁰ China launches campaign to boost employment for college graduates, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 November 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202211/29/content_WS6385fad9c6d0a757729e3cf8.html

⁸²¹ China to ramp up development of human resources services providers, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202212/20/content_WS63a1ab07c6d0a757729e49e7.html

⁸²² China's revised law on women protection to take effect on Jan 1, China Daily (Beijing) 31 December 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/31/WS63b01c85a31057c47eba721d.html>

On 11 January 2023, the government announced that it will maintain a stable employment landscape in 2023 by continuing to implement the employment-first policy and energizing people's passion for entrepreneurship in order to develop new growth points in the job market.⁸²³

On 27 March 2023, the Government announced that it would take measures to improve digital literacy and skills for general public.⁸²⁴ A platform called Chinadata.cn, which helps the general public improve digital literacy and skills was created to encourage key universities, research institutes and social organizations to share digital resources such as online courses, teaching tools and application cases, with the general public. Improving digital literacy and skills for the general public is a key measure to meet the requirements of the digital era. In recent years, Chinese governments at various levels have rolled out effective measures to improve digital literacy and skills of the general public and solidify the social basis for the development of the digital economy.

On 26 April 2023, the Cabinet unveiled plans to boost employment, including supporting financial institutions to offer loans to small firms and issuing subsidies to firms that hire college graduates or unemployed young people.⁸²⁵

On 11 May 2023, Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang announced that China would fully implement the youth employment priority policy and vigorously explore market-based employment channels.⁸²⁶ The Government should implement various preferential policies and guide college graduates to find jobs in communities.

On 1 July 2023, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security launched a six-month campaign to promote employment for fresh college graduates and registered jobless youths.⁸²⁷ The human resources ministry said that it will offer job-seeking guidance and supportive policies on entrepreneurship and skill training to unemployed fresh graduates and jobless youths in the next six months. During the new campaign, the Ministry will publish lists of employment services and recruitment channels until the end of this month to let the fresh graduates know where they can get these services.

China has taken a number of significant steps both on employment and on skills development.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to promote employment for sustainable development, including skills development.

⁸²³ New areas for growth to keep employment stable, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 January 2023. Access Date: 22 January 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202301/11/content_WS63be0931c6d0a757729e5522.html

⁸²⁴ China takes measures to improve digital literacy and skills for general public, People's Daily (Beijing) 27 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0327/c90000-10227513.html>

⁸²⁵ China unveils plan to boost employment with a focus on youth, Channel News Asia (Singapore) 26 April 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/china-unveils-plan-boost-employment-focus-youth-3446111>

⁸²⁶ China to fully implement youth employment priority policy, Channel News Asia (Singapore) 11 May 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/china-fully-implement-youth-employment-priority-policy-3481621>

⁸²⁷ Ministry helps promote youth employment, China Daily (Beijing) 1 July 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202307/01/WS649f5b6aa310bf8a75d6ca10.html>

On 20 June 2022, the Road and Freight Inter-Ministerial Committee presented the 11-point plan to deal with problems in logistics including the recruitment of foreign nationals. The Plan consists of the following actions: 1) Facilitate the appointment of the task team; 2) Enforcement of the visa requirements; 3) Need for consideration of all foreign driving licenses; 4) Registration and compliance with labour laws; 5) Registration of operators in term of Section 45 of the National Road Traffic Act; 6) Review of the Traffic Register Number; 7) Review of the Cross-Border Road Transport Legislation; 8) Amendment of the National Road Traffic Regulation; 9) Integrated joint multi-disciplinary law enforcement operations; 10) Implement Driver Training Programme; 11) Consideration of the introduction of Operating Licenses for the industry.⁸²⁸

On 18 July 2022, the government introduced new regulations to provide clear distinctions between recreational and commercial diving activities. New regulations are intended to advance occupational health and safety and include important industry-related definitions such as “commercial divers,” “plant and machinery,” “designated medical practitioners,” etc.⁸²⁹

On 23 September 2022, the Public Employment Service held a career exhibition in Bapo Ba Mogale to support the unemployed among youths and work-seekers. The responsible department takes steps to create favorable platforms for unemployed allowing them to meet with potential employers.⁸³⁰

On 3 November 2022, the Government announced its intention to give more incentives to local businesses.⁸³¹ The state wants to assist businesses in improving productivity and competitiveness along with jobs creation. It is said that “[the] Business Turnaround and Recovery Programme will host the webinar this Friday to support initiatives aimed at preventing job losses and enabling companies and employees to be more vigilant about issues relating to job retention and to mitigate against poor performance or productivity decline that increases the likelihood of job losses.”⁸³²

On 22 - 23 November 2022, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies held the National Digital and Future Skills Conference in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.⁸³³ The conference’s objectives were presented as follows: establish, galvanize as well as strengthen partnerships in the area of digital and future skills in South Africa; create and stimulate interest in Digital and Future Skills; highlight the concerns and challenges brought by the digital skills gap; provide insights on available digital skills training opportunities for youth; highlight the “fourth industrial revolution” as an enabler to critical skills sets required for the

⁸²⁸ Road and Freight Inter-Ministerial Committee signs and unveil 11-point action plan to deal with blockages and recruitment, Department of Employment and Labour (Pretoria) 20 June 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/road-and-freight-inter-ministerial-committee-signs-and-unveil-11-point-action-plan-to-deal-with-blockages-and-recruitment>

⁸²⁹ New commercial diving regulations intended to advance occupational health and safety, Department of Employment and Labour (Pretoria) 18 July 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/new-commercial-diving-regulations-intended-to-advance-occupational-health-and-safety>

⁸³⁰ A career exhibition hosted by Brits Labour Centre in partnership with Bapo Ba Mogale Administration in the North West attract scores of youth and work-seekers, Department of Employment and Labour (Pretoria) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/a-career-exhibition-hosted-by-brits-labour-centre-in-partnership-with-bapo-ba-mogale-administration-in-the-north-west-attra>

⁸³¹ Government offers support to business - Productivity SA Webinar, Employment and Labour Department (Pretoria) 3 November 2022. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/productivity-sa-webinar-government-offers-support-to-business>

⁸³² Government offers support to business - Productivity SA Webinar, Employment and Labour Department (Pretoria) 3 November 2022. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/productivity-sa-webinar-government-offers-support-to-business>

⁸³³ Communications and Digital Technologies hosts National Digital and Future Skills Conference, 22 to 23 Nov, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/communications-and-digital-technologies-hosts-national-digital-and-future-skills-conference>

future; and share and discuss approaches to deliver digital and future skills to vulnerable groups, especially young women, and girls.⁸³⁴

On 30 November 2022, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour Boitumelo Moloi presented a set of workshops aimed at promoting employment opportunities in innovative and creative sectors among persons with disabilities. Nine workshops are scheduled for 2022–2025. Under the scheme, participating workers would also receive a subsidy ZAR1800 per month.⁸³⁵

On 12 December 2022, the government hosted the Youth Tech Expo in Gauteng. The Expo was organized to contribute towards youth employment and entrepreneurship in information and communications technologies. Several private companies and non-governmental organizations took part in the event, providing the attendants with information on employment opportunities and career planning.⁸³⁶

On 26 June 2023, the Government held a career expo in the West Cape.⁸³⁷ The expo is said to provide better access to necessary information for those who looks for employment at the moment.

South Africa has taken a number of significant steps both on employment and on skills development.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁸³⁴ Communications and Digital Technologies hosts National Digital and Future Skills Conference, 22 to 23 Nov, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/communications-and-digital-technologies-hosts-national-digital-and-future-skills-conference>

⁸³⁵ Department of Employment and Labour Subsidy Scheme set to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, Department of Employment and Labour (Pretoria) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 24 January 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/department-of-employment-and-labour-subsidy-scheme-set-to-create-employment-opportunities-for-persons-with-disabilities>

⁸³⁶ Gauteng e-Government hosts Youth Tech Expo to bring ICT opportunities to youth in Ekurhuleni, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gauteng-e-government-hosts-youth-tech-expo-bring-ict-opportunities-youth-ekurhuleni%C2%A0-14-dec>

⁸³⁷ Employment and Labour to host a Career and Opportunities Expo in Oudtshoorn, Employment and Labour Department (Pretoria) 26 June 2023. Access Date: 18 July 2023. <https://www.labour.gov.za/employment-and-labour-to-host-a-career-and-opportunities-expo-in-oudtshoorn>

18. Climate Change: Supporting Implementation

“[We express our support to] ... promote COP27 [27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] to prioritize implementation and highlight the reinforcement of adaptation and delivery and enhancement of developed countries’ commitments to provide financial support and technology transfer to developing countries.”

BRICS Beijing Leaders Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India	-1		
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average		-0.40 (30%)	

Background

The BRICS first committed to fight climate change at the 2009 Yekaterinburg Summit, where the leaders pledged to “support international cooperation in the field of energy efficiency” and expressed readiness to engage in “a constructive dialogue on how to deal with climate change based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, given the need to combine measures to protect the climate with steps to fulfill our socio-economic development tasks.” Since then, the BRICS members have maintained climate change as an integral agenda item, committing to support international efforts to combat its effects and immediate causes.⁸³⁸

Within the context of supporting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the BRICS expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, signed in 2015. The Agreement stipulated three major goals:

19. holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
20. increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
21. making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

Commitment Features

The commitment is aimed at providing support to developing countries in implementing the three goals of the Paris Agreement. Full compliance implies that the BRICS members provide concrete support to other developing nation in moving towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement on all three priority areas - holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C; increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change; and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

⁸³⁸First Summit: Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries Leaders, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 18 October 2022. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency1/First%20Summit.pdf>

Partial compliance is awarded if the BRICS members provide such support on at least one of the specified areas. Failure to take any action to support developing countries' implementation of the Paris Agreement entails non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not take action to provide support to other developing countries in implementing any of the Paris Agreement goals.
0	The BRICS member takes action to provide support to other developing countries in implementing at least one of the Paris Agreement goals.
+1	The BRICS member takes action to provide support to other developing countries in implementing all three of the Paris Agreement goals.

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in other developing countries.

Between 19 and 23 September, the representatives of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador took part in a technical mission to Guatemala, to discuss the new trilateral technical cooperation project to contribute to the mitigation of the harmful effects of drought in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The Brazilian experts had the opportunity to learn how climate events affect small rural producers in Guatemala, and gathered relevant information for the preparation of the project document of the future cooperation initiative. Still under construction, the project will be integrated to the “Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025” of the International Cooperation Program Brazil-FAO, and will seek to address the common challenges of these three nations of the Central American dry corridor.⁸³⁹

On 28 September 2022, the first session of the “II Cycle of exchanges of experiences: technological solutions for land administration,” organized in the scope of the International Cooperation Program Brazil-FAO, through the project “Support for the strengthening of responsible governance of land tenure in Latin America and the Caribbean,” was held. The project, which involves the modernization of regularization processes and rural and agricultural land allocation in the region, is jointly executed by the ABC, the National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform, and the FAO. The objective of the trilateral technical cooperation project is to improve land governance in the countries of the region through the adoption of innovative mechanisms in land administration systems.⁸⁴⁰

Brazil took actions to assist other developing countries in adapting to the the adverse impacts of climate change. However, no actions on contributing to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C, or providing open and transparent information on the financial flows and making them consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development were registered.

⁸³⁹Mitigating the effects of drought in the Central American dry corridor is the subject of a new cooperation project, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/abc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mitigar-os-efeitos-da-seca-no-corredor-seco-da-america-central-e-tema-de-novo-projeto-de-cooperacao>.

⁸⁴⁰Technology to modernize land regularization and administration processes, Agência Brasileira de Cooperação (Brasilia) 15 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. <https://www.gov.br/abc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/tecnologia-para-modernizar-processos-de-regularizacao-e-administracao-de-terras>

Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in other developing countries.

On 19 November 2022, the launching ceremony for the construction of the new nuclear power plant unit №2 at the El Dabaa NPP in Egypt took place.⁸⁴¹ The Unit is being constructed by the “Rosatom” state corporation. According to the Head of “Rosatom” Aleksey Likhachev, the launch of the nuclear power plant should play a crucial part in Egypt's socio-economic and technological development, providing means for the gradual transition of the country's industry and economy to low-carbon sources, and creating a solid foundation for Egypt's confident and sustainable development for decades to come.

Russia took action to assist other developing nations in promoting green development, contributing to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C. However, no actions on providing open and transparent information on the financial flows and making them consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development, or aid in adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change were registered.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

India: -1

India has failed to comply with the commitment to promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in other developing countries.

No actions on providing support to countries in the implementation any of the Paris Agreement goals were registered during the monitoring period.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.⁸⁴²

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment to promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in other developing countries.

On 4 October 2022, the Science Museum, a part of the China-aided Addis Ababa Riverside Green Development Project, was unveiled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. According to the statement by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), “the attending Ethiopian

⁸⁴¹ The main stage of the construction of Unit 2 of El-Dabaa NPP started in Egypt, Rosatom (Moscow) 19 November 2022. Access Date: 11 April 2023. https://www.rosatom.ru/journalist/news/v-egipte-nachalsya-osnovnoy-etap-sooruzheniya-vtorogo-energobloka-aes-el-dabaa/?sphrase_id=3930627

⁸⁴² This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Government of India <https://www.india.gov.in> ; Ministry of External Affairs <https://www.mea.gov.in/> ; Public Information Bureau <https://www.pib.gov.in/allRel.aspx> ; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change <https://moef.gov.in/en/> ; NITI Aayog <https://niti.gov.in>

representative agreed that the project is a pilot of Ethiopia's green development and construction, as well as a token of cooperation and friendship between China and Ethiopia."⁸⁴³

On 9 January 2023, at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, CIDCA chairman Luo Zhaohui, announced that China will grant USD100 million for reconstruction programs through bilateral channels to support the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework, train 1,000 Pakistani technical staff and officials focusing on disaster prevention and management, and is willing to join the International Partners' Support Group.⁸⁴⁴

China took actions to assist other developing countries in promoting green development, contributing to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and provided aid in adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change. However, no actions on providing open and transparent information on financial flows and making them consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development were registered.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment to promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement in other developing countries.

No actions on providing support to countries in the implementation any of the Paris Agreement goals were registered during the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.⁸⁴⁵

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁸⁴³Ethiopian PM: China-aided project boosts sci-tech development in Ethiopia, CIDCA (Beijing) 9 October 2022. Access Date: 25 January 2023. http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2022-10/09/c_818942.htm.

⁸⁴⁴CIDCA chairman attends International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, CIDCA (Beijing) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 25 January 2023. http://subsites.chinadaily.com.cn/cidca/2023-01/11/c_847174.htm.

⁸⁴⁵This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: South African Government <https://www.gov.za>; Department of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation <http://www.dirco.gov.za> ; Parliament of South Africa ; Department of Forestry, Fishery and the Environment <https://www.dffe.gov.za> ; Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development <https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/>