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**RANEPA's 2024 BRICS Kazan Final Compliance Report**

From 25 October 2024 to 21 May 2025

Prepared by

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## Preface

The BRICS monitoring and compliance assessment project has been conducted for more than ten years starting with the 2011 Summit in Sanya, China. For these years, the Center for International Institutions Research worked jointly with the BRICS Research Group, University of Toronto. Due to legal uncertainties, since the 2023 BRICS compliance monitoring cycle the two teams conduct research on their own, and present the results of their work in the form of two independent reports based on the same methodological basis.

The successive reports present carefully selected actions implemented by each BRICS member in order to fulfil publicly announced intentions. These reports are openly distributed to the general public and to policymakers, academics, civil society and the media providing better representation and transparency of the BRICS policy and decision-making process.

The presented report highlights the final results in implementation of the decisions made in Kazan on 22 – 24 October 2024. At the XVI BRICS Summit the leaders made the total of 250 commitments. The report covers the actions taken by the BRICS member states from 25 October 2024 to 21 May 2025.

The CIIR research group relies on publicly available and verifiable sources of information, documents, and media coverages in the assessment process. Feedback from the stakeholders is always openly welcomed. The compliance scores might be re-considered if any new relevant information becomes available. Responsibility for the content of the report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the CIIR.

Marina Larionova

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## Introduction and Summary

The 2024 BRICS Kazan Final Compliance Report is prepared by the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPa). The report analyzes compliance performance by BRICS countries with seven priority commitments drawn from the total 250 commitments made by the leaders at the Kazan Summit, which was held on 22-24 October 2024. This report builds on the compilation of facts taken from open sources between 25 October 2024 and 21 May 2025.

## Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology for monitoring and assessment of informal institutions' compliance performance. It was developed by the G7 Research Group to monitor G7 compliance in 1996. The methodology was adapted for monitoring G20 performance since 2008 and for monitoring how the BRICS members implement their collective decisions since 2011.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> Each member receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment

## The Breakdown of Commitments

In 2024 Russia as a host country chose the theme “Strengthening Multilateralism For Just Global Development And Security”. Chairmanship activities were organized around three overarching pillars:

1. **Politics and security** – deepening strategic dialogue on global and regional stability, UN reform and multilateral governance;
2. **Economy and finance** – boosting trade-and-investment cooperation, expanding the use of national currencies and modern payment infrastructure, and fostering innovative, inclusive growth;
3. **Cultural and people-to-people / humanitarian cooperation** – widening exchanges in science, education, health, youth, sport, culture and the media to cement societal links across the enlarged BRICS community.

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<sup>1</sup> The Compliance Coding Manual is available at [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/analytics/compliance-coding-manual-2016%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/analytics/compliance-coding-manual-2016%20(1).pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Informal 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.

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

### Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (i.e., 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.<sup>4</sup> The selection also takes into account the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one. 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 250 commitments made at the 2024 Kazan Summit, the CIIR research group selected eight commitments (see Table 1).

### Compliance Scores

The average compliance score for seven commitments selected by the CIIR team for monitoring has reached 83% on average. The score indicates strong commitment of the BRICS member countries to the implementation of the decisions taken in 2024 (see Table 2).

Among the BRICS members, Russia and China have reached the highest scores of +0.88 (94%), with Brazil and South Africa reaching +0.75 (88%) followed by India and the UAE (+0.63; 81%) along with Egypt and Iran (+0.38; 69%) of the final compliance.

In most spheres, the BRICS demonstrated compliance higher than the average for 2011 – 2023 (Table 4).

By issue, two out of eight commitments achieved 100% compliance: in ICT and Digital Economy area – the decision to promote cooperation with the BRICS on AI regulation; and Environment – facilitation of Greenhouse Gases emissions' reduction and Carbon Dioxide capture technologies' development. The commitment to strengthen pandemic prevention systems was fulfilled almost totally – the final given score is 94%. The decision to promote usage of national currencies in mutual settlements (Macroeconomics) was fulfilled by most of the BRICS members (83%). The BRICS' pledge to build trust in e-commerce and ensure better protection of consumers was fulfilled by 78%. The BRICS commitment to promote trade in agricultural goods along with combatting trade restrictions violating the WTO rules was fulfilled by 72%. Finally, the last to commitments – to facilitate Africa-led peace efforts (Regional security); and promote just re-distribution of the IMF quotas to protect developing countries' interests were fulfilled by 67%.

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

**Table 1: 2024 BRICS Kazan Summit Priority Commitments**

No.	Issue Area	Commitment
1	IFI Reform	We acknowledge the urgency and importance of realignment in quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members
2	Macroeconomics	We welcome the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners
3	Environment	We will strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases
4	ICT and Digital Economy	We note the need to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI), [with a view to establishing an effective global governance framework, based on broad consensus, to boost national economies as well as to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries]
5	Health	We ... commit to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system
6	Food and Agriculture	We commit to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers [with the view to ensure a continuous flow of food and essential inputs for agricultural production which should be exempted from undue restrictive economic measures, inconsistent with WTO rules, including those affecting producers and exporters of agricultural products as well as business services with regard to international shipments]
7	Regional Security	We reaffirm our support for African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union ... in line with the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity
8	Trade and Investment	We are resolved to further increase trust in e-commerce and ensure full-fledged protection of the rights of e-commerce parties [ by intensifying cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection, exploring online dispute resolution tools and creating enabling environment for businesses to enter global markets, exchanging views on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce]

**Table 2: 2024 BRICS Kazan Summit Final Compliance Scores**

	IFI Reform	Macroeconomics	Environment	ICT and Digital Economy	Health	Food	Regional security	Trade	Average	
Brazil	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.75	88%
Russia	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+0.88	94%
India	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	-1	+1	+0.63	81%
China	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+0.88	94%
South Africa	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+0.75	88%
UAE	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+0.63	81%
Egypt	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+0.38	69%
Iran	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	+0.38	69%
Ethiopia	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+0.63	81%
Average	+0.33	+0.67	+1.00	+1.00	+0.89	+0.44	+0.33	+0.56	+0.65	
	67%	83%	100%	100%	94%	72%	67%	78%	83%	



**Table 3: Distribution of BRICS Commitments across Issue Areas, 2009 - 2024**

Issue Area	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Energy	5	9	1	2					6	2	2	3		2	3	4
Finance		3	1			6	6	5	9	5	1			2	3	2
Climate change		1	6	3	1	1	1	1	3		3	1	3	2	4	3
Macroeconomic policy		1	5	1	5	7	6	4	4	3	1	2	2	5	14	15
Trade	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	2	3	12	5	18
International co-operation	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	8	7	10	3	26
Socioeconomic	1	1	3	2		7	5	2		2					3	5
Development	1	5	1	3	10	4	4	2	11	6	2	3	4	21	7	12
Natural disasters	1	1	1											1	2	4
Food and agriculture	3		1	1		1	17		5	3		2	1	3	4	5
ICT and digital economy			2			1	17	3	12	3	2	3	4	15	4	18
Science and education	1	1	1		2	5							1	4	6	13
Health			1	1		1	6	2	6	1		4	5	14	4	6
Human rights			1		1	2	5		2		1		3	5	4	6
Accountability			1													
Regional security	1		1	4	8	6	6	4	12	7	4	7	1	8	6	22
Terrorism			1	1	2	2	1	4	7	3	1	2	7	4	2	8
Culture		1				3	1	2	3			1		3		7
Sport		1													2	1
IFI reform	1	2	1	2	9	8	3	2	5	2	2	1	1	1		7
Non-proliferation					1			1	2		1		2	7	1	4
Crime and corruption						4	10	3	8	6	10	3	7	7	6	9
Environment						1	1	1	3	3	3		2	1		11
Tourism							1			1					9	1
International taxation										4	5	1		2		2
Space												1				
Inter-BRICS cooperation												1			19	16
Intergovernmental organization reform													4	19	3	3
Peace and security											1		1	5	2	10
Good governance														4		
Labour and employment														3	5	3
Infrastructure														1	1	2
Gender						3		1								3
Sustainable development											2		2			3
International information security			2			4	7	2	2	1				1		1
Total	15	31	38	32	47	68	130	45	125	73	49	45	58	162	129	250

**Table 4: Average BRICS Compliance by selected spheres**

Issue Area	Average, 2011 – 2023	2024
IFI Reform	+0.28 (64%)	+0.33 (67%)
Macroeconomics	+0.93 (96%)	+0.67 (83%)
Environment	+0.67 (83%)	+1.00 (100%)
ICT and Digital Economy	+0.53 (76%)	+1.00 (100%)
Health	+0.48 (74%)	+0.89 (94%)
Food and Agriculture	+0.80 (90%)	+0.44 (72%)
Regional Security	-0.13 (44%)	+0.33 (67%)
Trade and Investment	+0.51 (75%)	+0.56 (78%)

## 1. IFI Reform

We acknowledge the urgency and importance of realignment in quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
UAE		0	
Iran	-1		
Egypt	-1		
Ethiopia			+1
Average	+0.33 (67%)		

### Background

BRICS members have consistently addressed the topic of reforming international financial institutions (IFIs), especially the International Monetary Fund (IMF), since the inception of the forum.

In 2011, the BRICS leaders called for IFIs to “reflect changes in the world economy, increasing the voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries”.<sup>5</sup> At the 2012 BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the leaders expressed concern about the pace of the IMF’s quota and governance reforms, as well as the Fund’s access to sufficient resources.<sup>6</sup> The Fortaleza Declaration adopted in 2014 called for the implementation of the 2010 IMF reforms and outcomes of the 14th General Review of Quotas (GRQ). The leaders also expressed hope that IMF reforms would proceed “with a view to ensuring increased voice and representation of emerging markets and developing countries”.<sup>7</sup>

Later on, commitments to “a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the center of the global financial safety net” were adopted at all BRICS summits. Besides, at the 2013 Durban Summit, 2016 Goa Summit, 2018 Johannesburg Summit and 2021 New Delhi Summit the BRICS leaders emphasized the importance of increasing the representation of the poorest IMF members, either in Sub-Saharan Africa or globally.

The BRICS leaders have regularly expressed disappointment with failures to increase the quota size of the IMF and realign quota shares to increase the representation of emerging markets and developing countries. For instance, in 2019 they mentioned “that the 15th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) failed in increasing

<sup>5</sup> Sanya Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>.

<sup>7</sup> The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>.

the quota size of the Fund and realigning quota shares of member countries, including in favor of emerging markets and dynamic economies (EMDEs), which remain under-represented in the Fund”.<sup>8</sup> In 2020, the leaders called for “expeditious actions on completing the 16th GRQ within the agreed time frame and implementing the long overdue governance reforms in the IMF”.<sup>9</sup> At the 2021 New Delhi Summit they once again called “for the timely and successful completion of the 16th GRQ by December 15, 2023, to reduce the IMF's reliance on temporary resources and to address under- representation of EMDCs for their meaningful engagement in the governance of IMF and to protect the voice and quota shares of its poorest and smallest members and have a new quota formula that better reflects the economic weight of members”.<sup>10</sup> The same commitment was made in 2022.<sup>11</sup> In 2023, the leaders highlighted that “any adjustment in quota shares should result in increases in the quota shares of emerging markets and developing economies (EMDCs), while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members”.<sup>12</sup>

In 2024, the BRICS leaders acknowledged “the urgency and importance of realignment in quota shares to better reflect members’ relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members”, and welcomed the IMF’s “ongoing work to develop by June 2025 possible approaches as a guide for further quota realignment, including through a new quota formula, under the 17th GRQ”.<sup>13</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

This commitment focuses on realigning the IMF quota shares and protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

In 2019, the IMF membership endorsed a package to guarantee adequate resources for the IMF and its continued quota and governance reforms, highlighting that “any adjustment in quota shares would be expected to result in increases in the quota shares of dynamic economies in line with their relative positions in the world economy and hence likely in the share of emerging market and developing countries as a whole, while protecting the voice and representation of the poorest members”.<sup>14</sup> Revising the IMF’s quotas and continuing its governance reform, including a new quota formula, was extended from 2020 to no later than 15 December 2023.

By the agreed timeline, the IMF Board of Governors has concluded the 16th GRQ.<sup>15</sup> However, the GRQ centered around an increase in quotas of 50 percent, allocated to members in proportion to their current

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<sup>8</sup> 11th BRICS Summit – Brasília Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>.

<sup>9</sup> XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, Official website of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020 (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/images/114/81/1148126.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> XIII BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210909-New-Delhi-Declaration.html>.

<sup>11</sup> XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/220623-declaration.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Johannesburg II Declaration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 17 January 2025. [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1901504/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1901504/).

<sup>13</sup> XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration, Russian 2024 BRICS Chairmanship 23 October 2024. Access Date: 17 January 2025. [https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan\\_Declaration\\_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783](https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan_Declaration_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783).

<sup>14</sup> Press Release No. 19/379 IMF Membership Endorses Package on IMF Resources and Governance Reform, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2019/10/18/pr19379-imf-membership-endorses-package-on-imf-resources-and-governance-reform>.

<sup>15</sup> IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota Increase Under 16th General Review Quotas, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2023. Access Date: 17 January 2025.

quotas. The quota increase was expected to enhance the IMF's permanent resources and strengthen the quota-based nature of the Fund by reducing the reliance on borrowing and thus ensuring the primary role of quotas in Fund resources. Once quota increases are in effect, borrowed resources comprising the Bilateral Borrowing Agreements and New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) would be reduced to maintain the Fund's current lending capacity.

Thus, the 16<sup>th</sup> GRQ has failed to produce any IMF quota realignments. The membership of the Fund acknowledged "the urgency and importance of quota share realignment to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy while protecting the quota shares of the poorest members", mentioning that "many members would have supported a quota realignment now, together with the proposed quota increase". Hence, they called on the Executive Board "to work to develop, by June 2025, possible approaches as a guide for further quota realignment, including through a new quota formula, under the 17<sup>th</sup> General Review of Quotas. Work to implement this guidance will begin as soon as feasible after the conclusion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Review".<sup>16</sup>

Compliance with this commitment requires BRICS members to work with the IMF in support of its actions on quota shares realignment to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy under the 17<sup>th</sup> GRQ. Actions considered as compliance may include, but are not limited to, expressing verbal affirmation, attending meetings, making public statements, or signing agreements addressing the issues of quota shares realignment. Furthermore, actions accounting for full compliance must also include working with the IMF with a special focus on protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members, during the realignment process.

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<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/12/18/pr23459-imf-board-governors-approves-quota-increase-under-16th-general-review-quotas>.

<sup>16</sup> IMF Board of Governors Approves Quota Increase Under 16th General Review Quotas, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2023. Access Date: 17 January 2025.  
<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/12/18/pr23459-imf-board-governors-approves-quota-increase-under-16th-general-review-quotas>.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The BRICS country does not take measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy
0	The BRICS country takes measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, but does not make focus on protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members
+1	The BRICS country takes measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members

*Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepin**Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov***Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment

On 28-29 April 2025, BRICS foreign policy ministers called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform and quota shares realignment including by creating a new quota formula reflecting the economic size of its membership by June 2025 under the 17th General Review of Quotas with the purpose of increasing the voice and representation of EMDEs members.<sup>17</sup>

Brazil supported realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, but does not make focus on protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova***Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

On 24-25 April 2025, Minister of Finance A. Siluanov delivered a statement emphasizing the urgency of initiating the 17th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) to address the underrepresentation of emerging market and developing countries (EMDCs) within the IMF.<sup>18</sup> Minister Siluanov highlighted that the lack of progress in quota realignment undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of the IMF, and called for tangible reforms to enhance the voice and representation of EMDCs, particularly the poorest members. This stance aligns with Russia's broader advocacy for a more equitable and representative international financial system

Russia supported realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy and focused on protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

<sup>17</sup> Statement by the Chair of the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of BRICS Member Countries, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-da-presidencia-da-reuniao-de-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-relacoes-internacionais-dos-paises-membros-do-brics](https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-da-presidencia-da-reuniao-de-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-relacoes-internacionais-dos-paises-membros-do-brics)

<sup>18</sup> Statement by Mr. Siluanov, Russian Federation, on behalf of Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic, IMF (Washington, D.C.) 25 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.imf.org/-/media/AMSM/Files/SM2025/IMFC/russian-federation.ashx>

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

On 9 April 2025, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman took part in the bilateral meeting her British counterpart, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves.<sup>19</sup> The two sides issued a statement, expressing, inter alia, the approval of the IMF Executive Board's work to develop by June 2025 possible approaches as a guide for further quota realignment, including through a new quota formula, under the 17th General Review of Quotas. India and the UK also acknowledged "the urgency and importance of realignment in quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy while protecting the quota shares of the poorest members".

On 22 April 2025, India took part in the G24 meeting, which resulted in the communique on international monetary affairs and development.<sup>20</sup> The G24 urged the IMF members "to accelerate their domestic processes to give effect to the quota increases under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), to ensure that the IMF can cope with escalating challenges around the world", as well as "rapid progress in the ongoing work to develop possible approaches for further quota realignment, including through a new quota formula under the 17th GRQ". The realignment, according to the G24, should reflect members' relative economic weights and should not come at the expense of EMDEs and LICs.

India took action to promote the IMF quota realignment.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

On 24-25 April 2025, the Governor of the People's Bank of China Pan Gongsheng attended the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.<sup>21</sup> In his remarks at the meeting, Pan Gongsheng stressed that it is of imperative importance to continue advancing the quota reform in order to enhance the IMF's legitimacy, effectiveness, and representativeness. He also highlighted that the realignment of quota shares should be achieved as early as possible to reflect the relative weights of the members in the global economy, in particular to amplify the voice and representation of emerging markets and developing countries. Chinese representative called on all parties to complete their domestic procedures without delay so as to ensure the quota increase promised in the 16<sup>th</sup> General Review of Quotas (GRQ) and accelerate the

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<sup>19</sup> Joint Statement by Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, United Kingdom and Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, India at the 13th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue in London on April 9, 2025, Government of the UK (London) 9 April 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-india-13th-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement/joint-statement-13th-india-uk-economic-and-financial-dialogue>

<sup>20</sup> Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development Communiqué, G24 (Washington) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://g24.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ENG-G-24-2025-Spring-Meetings-Final-Communique.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Governor Pan Gongsheng Attended the 51st Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/5552468/5685977/index.html>.

preparation for the 17<sup>th</sup> GRQ, including the discussions of a new quota formula, so as to achieve a meaningful realignment of quota shares as soon as possible.

China has taken measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to support realignment in IMF quota shares.

In April 2025, during the Spring Meetings of IMF and World Bank, South Africa, represented by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, participated in the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four (G24) discussions.<sup>22</sup> The G24 communiqué emphasized the urgency of realigning IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the global economy, while safeguarding the interests of the poorest members. South Africa's engagement in these discussions underscores its commitment to enhancing the representation and voice of emerging market and developing countries within the IMF's governance structure, aligning with the broader objectives of the 17th General Review of Quotas.

South Africa has taken measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: 0**

United Arab Emirates has partially complied with the commitment to support realignment in IMF quota shares.

On 28-29 April 2025, BRICS foreign policy ministers called on continuing the process of IMF governance reform and quota shares realignment including by creating a new quota formula reflecting the economic size of its membership by June 2025 under the 17th General Review of Quotas with the purpose of increasing the voice and representation of EMDEs members.<sup>23</sup>

UAE supported realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, but does not make focus on protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members.

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<sup>22</sup> Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development, IMF (Washington, D.C.) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025.

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2025/04/22/cm042225-intergovernmental-group-of-twenty-four-on-international-monetary-affairs-and-development>

<sup>23</sup> Declaração da Presidência da Reunião de Ministros das Relações Exteriores dos Países Membros do BRICS, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-da-presidencia-da-reuniao-de-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-relacoes-internacionais-dos-paises-membros-do-brics](https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/declaracao-da-presidencia-da-reuniao-de-ministros-das-relacoes-exteriores-relacoes-internacionais-dos-paises-membros-do-brics)



Thus, the UAE receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Iran: -1**

Iran has failed to comply with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

No facts of Iran taking measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members, have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, Iran receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: -1**

Egypt has failed to comply with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

No facts of Egypt taking measures to support realignment in IMF quota shares to better reflect members' relative positions in the world economy, while protecting the quota shares of the EMDCs, in particular, the poorest members, have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Ethiopia: +1**

Ethiopia has fully complied with the commitment to promote the IMF quota realignment.

On 23 October 2024, Minister of Finance of Ethiopia, Ahmed Shide, took part in the G24 Meeting of Ministers and Governors in Washington (USA). The Minister highlighted the importance of “quota, representation and governance reforms and adjustments in the IMF to ensure that emerging markets and developing countries can have access to adequate financing and decision-making power proportional to their economic weight.”<sup>24</sup>

On 22 April 2025, Ethiopia took part in the G24 meeting, which resulted in the communicate on international monetary affairs and development. The G24 urged the IMF members “to accelerate their domestic processes to give effect to the quota increases under the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ), to ensure that the IMF can cope with escalating challenges around the world”, as well as “rapid progress in the ongoing work to develop possible approaches for further quota realignment, including through a new quota formula under the 17th GRQ”. The realignment, according to the G24, should reflect members' relative economic weights and should not come at the expense of EMDEs and LICs.<sup>25</sup>

Ethiopia took action to promote the IMF quota realignment.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of +1.

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<sup>24</sup> Ethiopia Participates in the G24 Meeting of Ministers and Governors during the World Bank & IMF 2024 Annual Meetings, Ministry of Finance of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) 23 October 2024. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.mofed.gov.et/blog/ethiopia-participates-in-the-g24-meeting-of-ministers-and-governors-during-the-world-bank-imf-2024-annual-meetings/>

<sup>25</sup> Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development Communiqué, G24 (Washington) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://g24.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ENG-G-24-2025-Spring-Meetings-Final-Communique.pdf>

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

## 2. Macroeconomics

We welcome the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
UAE			+1
Egypt	-1		
Iran			+1
Ethiopia		0	
Average	+0.67 (83%)		

### Background

Currency cooperation and payments in national currencies, including in mutual trade, is one of the top priorities for the BRICS in the economic sphere.

At the Brasilia Summit in 2010, the leaders emphasized the importance of currency cooperation for enhancing mutual trade and investment: “In order to facilitate trade and investment, we will study feasibilities of monetary cooperation, including local currency trade settlement arrangement between our countries.”<sup>26</sup>

However, no practical steps had been taken in this area for several years. At the Ufa Summit in 2015, the commitment was reiterated in almost the same form: “We acknowledge the potential for expanding the use of our national currencies in transactions between the BRICS countries. We ask the relevant authorities of the BRICS countries to continue discussion on the feasibility of a wider use of national currencies in mutual trade.”<sup>27</sup>

Following this mandate to the ministers, at the 2017 Xiamen Summit the BRICS leaders agreed “to communicate closely to enhance currency cooperation, consistent with each central bank’s legal mandate, including through currency swap, local currency settlement, and local currency direct investment, where appropriate, and to explore more modalities of currency cooperation.”<sup>28</sup> Besides, they agreed to “to promote the development of BRICS Local Currency Bond Markets and jointly establish a BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund, as a means of contribution to the capital sustainability of financing in BRICS countries, boosting

<sup>26</sup> Second Summit: Joint Statement, University of Toronto (Toronto) 15 April 2010. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/100415-leaders.html>.

<sup>27</sup> VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 17 January 2025. [http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration\\_en.html](http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html).

<sup>28</sup> BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>.

the development of BRICS domestic and regional bond markets, including by increasing foreign private sector participation, and enhancing financial resilience of BRICS countries.”<sup>29</sup>

Similar commitments were included in the 2018 BRICS Johannesburg Declaration.<sup>30</sup> In the 2019 BRICS Brasilia Declaration, the commitments on the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund and other areas of currency cooperation were for the first time linked together and included in the same paragraph.<sup>31</sup> In 2020, the commitment on currency cooperation was included in the leaders’ declaration<sup>32</sup> and the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.<sup>33</sup>

In 2021, the leaders took note “of the progress achieved in the 'BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund' initiative” and looked forward to its operation.<sup>34</sup> The 2022 Summit in Beijing was the first in a row without any leaders’ references to currency cooperation. However, in 2023, the BRICS leaders once again stressed “the importance of encouraging the use of local currencies in international trade and financial transactions between BRICS as well as their trading partners”<sup>35</sup> and in 2024 welcomed the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.<sup>36</sup>

### Commitment Features

This commitment focuses on using “local currencies in financial transactions”. Thus, it requires measures to stimulate the use of local currencies in transactions between economic agents of the BRICS countries and their trading partners. Research indicates that there is “considerable inertia in global trade invoicing currency patterns. Yet the data also indicate that invoicing currency choices can change both radically and rapidly...as the result of the establishment of a currency union or episodes of deep institutional integration.”<sup>37</sup> BRICS progress in enabling settlements using local currencies in financial transactions requires action in two domains: internationalization of these currencies and creating incentives for economic agents’ choice of these currencies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) elaborated six key action areas required for promoting internationalization of the national currency.<sup>38</sup> Possible actions include but are not limited to:

1. *Macroeconomic stability*. Requires governments to stabilize its currency by keeping inflation rates low;

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> 10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>.

<sup>31</sup> 11th BRICS Summit – Brasília Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasil.html>.

<sup>32</sup> XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, Official website of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020 (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/images/114/81/1148126.pdf>.

<sup>33</sup> Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, Official website of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020 (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/images/114/81/1148155.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> XIII BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration, University of Toronto (Toronto) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210909-New-Delhi-Declaration.html>.

<sup>35</sup> Johannesburg II Declaration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 17 January 2025. [https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1901504/](https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1901504/).

<sup>36</sup> XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration, Russian 2024 BRICS Chairmanship 23 October 2024. Access Date: 17 January 2025. [https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan\\_Declaration\\_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783](https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan_Declaration_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783).

<sup>37</sup> Patterns in Invoicing Currency in Global Trade by Emine Boz, Camila Casas, Georgios Georgiadis, Gita Gopinath, Helena Le Mezo, Arnaud Mehl, Tra Nguyen, IMF (Washington, D.C.) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/001/2020/126/article-A001-en.xml>.

<sup>38</sup> Internationalization of Emerging Market Currencies: A Balance between Risks and Rewards, IMF (Washington D.C.) 19 October 2011. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2011/sdn1117.pdf>.

2. *Market-based monetary framework.* Implies reorientation of national monetary policy towards a more market-based framework including market-determined interest and exchange rates;

3. *Capital account liberalization.* Key steps to enhance foreign access to domestic financial markets, which also require sufficient market and institutional development and adequate oversight, include: i) reducing or eliminating the required approval process for transactions as they add considerable costs and risks to the end users; ii) allowing forward delivery of the domestic currency; iii) reducing various direct and indirect taxes on income and capital flows (e.g., reserves requirements, withholding taxes, transaction taxes); iv) allowing/increasing the ability of foreigners to borrow in domestic currency, permitting domestic entities to borrow in foreign currency, and allowing for cross-border swap settlements between banks and between banks and end users; and v) allowing foreign institutions to establish banking and capital markets businesses on the same basis as domestic entities to spur competition and innovation in cross-border flows and products;

4. *Liquidity provision.* Central banks in countries aspiring to achieve broad internationalization may also consider establishing swap lines with other central banks and be willing to stand ready to enhance the liquidity of their assets by providing access to a discount window at normal times;

5. *Sequencing.* Broad sequencing could begin by encouraging use in invoicing and settling of trade, followed by use in private financial transactions and as foreign reserves;

6. *Capacity building.* Financial sector policies need to focus on building institutional capacity and strengthening financial system oversight, corporate governance, and resolution schemes. They should aim at encouraging the development and growth of various sub-components of the financial markets (e.g., market infrastructure for trading and market-making, as well as the payments, securities clearing, and settlement systems to facilitate the use of non-dollar currencies for securities trading, cash payments, and derivatives transactions).

To comply with the commitment, the BRICS countries need to facilitate the necessary environment (Actions 1-5), as well as create necessary infrastructure and commercial incentives for their economic agents (Action 6). Actions in the former area, for instance capital account liberalization, may be challenging because of unilateral sanctions, affecting both countries they are directed at and their partners. Actions in the latter area include, but are not limited to, developing the market payment infrastructure, increasing the number of clearing centers, expanding correspondent banking relationships, and providing stimuli to invoice in a specific currency by hedging risks or providing discounts from suppliers.

The commitments does not limit relevant cooperation to actions enabling settlements in BRICS national currencies as it mentions BRICS' trading partners. Thus, to achieve full compliance, the BRICS states have to take actions to stimulate transactions involving both their national currencies and local currencies of other partner countries. These actions can be taken within the BRICS, in the framework of regional economic institutions and beyond.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS country does not take measures to enable settlements in local currencies
0	The BRICS country takes measures to enable settlements either in BRICS national currencies or other countries' local currencies
+1	The BRICS country takes measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies

*Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to promote usage of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>39</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 10 April 2025, President Lula da Silva called for the expansion of the local currency payment system in commercial transactions between member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States<sup>40</sup>. He said that the Government is determined to reactivate the Reciprocal Payments and Credits Agreement and to expand the Local Currency Payments System. The Reciprocal Payments and Credits Agreement of Aladi is a credit system that facilitates regional trade and reduces international transfers. The agreement enables access to credit with the guarantee of the central banks of the member countries.

On 23 April 2025, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund Fahad M. Alturki signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Latin American Reserve Fund on the sidelines of the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, held in Washington, D.C.<sup>41</sup> The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions in several key areas, including the exchange of expertise on economic policies, support for the global financial safety net, collaboration on capacity building, statistics, and technical assistance, as well as the preparation of joint economic studies.

Brazil took measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote usage of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 25 November 2024, Russia and Iran ceased using the U.S. dollar in their bilateral trade, transitioning entirely to their national currencies - the Russian ruble and the Iranian rial and.<sup>42</sup> This shift was facilitated by a

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<sup>39</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025.

Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>40</sup> Lula advocates strengthening local currencies in Latin American and Caribbean transactions, Observador (n.d.) 10 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://observador.pt/2025/04/10/lula-defende-reforco-de-moedas-locais-em-transacoes-na-america-latina-e-caraibas/>.

<sup>41</sup> The Arab Monetary Fund Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Reserve Fund, Arab Monetary Fund (Abu Dhabi) 23 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.amf.org.ae/en/news/23-04-2025/arab-monetary-fund-signs-memorandum-understanding-latin-american-reserve-fund>.

<sup>42</sup> Iran and Russia stop using the dollar in mutual settlements, Finversia (n.d.) 25 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.finversia.ru/news/markets/iran-i-rossiya-prekratili-ispolzovat-dollar-pri-vzaimoraschetakh-147310>

currency agreement between the two nations and the integration of their financial infrastructures, including the linkage of Russia's MIR and Iran's Shetab payment systems.

On 5 February 2025, the Central Bank presented new regulations regarding admission of credit consumer cooperatives (CCPs) to the financial market.<sup>43</sup> Strengthening the institutional capacity of the financial sector requires the development and implementation of corporate governance standards, increasing the transparency and reliability of financial institutions. The introduction of new rules for CCPs is in line with these objectives, as it contributes to improving the quality of governance by assessing the qualifications and business reputation of CCP managers and provides more thorough control over the activities of CCPs, which reduces risks for participants and the entire financial system.

10 February 2025, the Central Bank presented criteria for recognition of foreign credit rating agencies (CRA).<sup>44</sup> Recognition of foreign ratings will expand opportunities for the free flow of capital and services in the international financial market. In order to be approved by the Russian regulator, a foreign CRA must have at least 5 years of experience in the market and a capital of at least RUB50 million equivalent. Its methodology contains quantitative and qualitative assessments of creditworthiness, and makes it possible to verify the reliability of credit ratings, including on the basis of historical data. Such an agency also adheres to the principles of corporate governance, complies with the conditions for information disclosure and does not allow conflicts of interest. In total, the Bank of Russia has defined 19 criteria.

On 20 February 2025, the Central Bank extended the list of obligations available for purchase by unqualified investors.<sup>45</sup> Unqualified investors would be allowed to buy obligations with “A+” rating or higher with default risk below 1.3 percent. This will increase the attractiveness of the debt market for retail investors and allow them to form a more balanced investment portfolio.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>46</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 12 March 2025, the Central Bank announced the introduction of experimental regime for settling deals in cryptocurrencies.<sup>47</sup> This step worth attention referring to the issue of the capital account liberalization and strengthening of the financial sector institutional capacity. The new regime would attract new market players and facilitate flow of new assets on the market fostering investments and financial instruments development.

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<sup>43</sup> New rules are introduced for the admission of credit consumer cooperatives to the financial market, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 5 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23341>

<sup>44</sup> Recognition of foreign credit rating agencies in Russia, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 10 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23359>

<sup>45</sup> The Bank of Russia has expanded the pool of bonds available to unqualified investors, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 20 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23389>

<sup>46</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>47</sup> New experimental mode for cryptocurrency transactions, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23448>

On 10 April 2025, the Ministry of Finance announced that it plans to soften capital controls on new foreign investments amid news regarding possible return of Western companies on the local market.<sup>48</sup> Existing rules ban foreign companies from withdrawing assets from Russia, requiring them to keep assets in special accounts.

On 10 April 2025, the Central Bank announced that would replace deposit auctions with weekly repo auctions.<sup>49</sup> The Central Bank expects further reduction of structural surplus and the country's banking sector shift to liquidity deficit. The announced action is designed as to mitigate the expected deficit.

Russia takes measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote usage of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 17 January 2025, the Central Bank (the Reserve Bank of India) announced measures to boost cross-border transactions in Indian rupee.<sup>50</sup> The new regulation allowed Indian exporters to open accounts in any foreign currency overseas to settle trade transactions, including receiving export proceeds, as well as to use the proceeds for payment towards imports.

On 27 January 2025, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in New Delhi.<sup>51</sup> The two leaders discussed the issue of the upcoming use of local currency in their bilateral trade and stressed the importance of "its expeditious implementation."

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>52</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

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<sup>48</sup> Russia plans to soften capital controls on new investments, Reuters (Moscow) 10 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/russia-plans-soften-capital-controls-new-investments-2025-04-10>

<sup>49</sup> The Bank of Russia is moving to weekly repo auctions, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 10 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/pr/?file=638798903582008613DKP.htm>

<sup>50</sup> RBI announces steps to encourage cross-border transactions in Indian rupee, Deccan Herald (Bangalore) 16 January 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.deccanherald.com/business/economy/rbi-announces-steps-to-encourage-cross-border-transactions-in-indian-rupee-3358407>

<sup>51</sup> De-Dollarization: Indonesia, India Look Forward to Local Currency Trade, Jakarta Globe (Jakarta) 27 January 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://jakartaglobe.id/business/dedollarization-indonesia-india-look-forward-to-local-currency-trade>

<sup>52</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>



On 18 March 2025, the Central Bank of India and the Bank of Mauritius signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework for the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions.<sup>53</sup> According to the RBI, the memorandum is designed to facilitate the use of the Indian rupee and the Mauritian rupee in bilateral trade.

India took action to enable settlements in local currencies both with BRICS members and other countries.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment to promote usage of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 7 February 2025, the People's Bank of China and the Bank of Indonesia renewed the bilateral currency swap agreement.<sup>54</sup> The size of the agreement is RMB400 billion (IDR878 trillion). The agreement is valid for five years and can be renewed upon mutual consent. The renewal of the agreement between China and Indonesia will help deepen monetary and financial cooperation between the two countries, facilitate bilateral trade and investment, and safeguard the stability of financial markets.

On 16 February 2025, Governor of the People's Bank of China Pan Gongsheng hosted the Third China-Gulf Cooperation Council Central Bank Governors' Meeting.<sup>55</sup> He mentioned that China and GCC central banks would further strengthen local currency cooperation, expand two-way financial market investment, promote connectivity of payment systems, and jointly advance international financial governance reform. At the same time, both sides will enhance cooperation on central bank digital currency and anti-money laundering.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>56</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 18 April 2025, China and Cambodia expressed readiness to fully implement the China-proposed Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative.<sup>57</sup> In particular, they agreed to jointly build a secure and stable industrial and supply chain, and expand the use of local currencies in bilateral trade and investment.

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<sup>53</sup> RBI, BOM sign MoU to promote use of local currencies for cross-border transactions, Government of India (New Delhi) 18 March 2025. Access date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/rbi-bom-sign-mou-to-promote-use-of-local-currencies-for-cross-border-transactions/>

<sup>54</sup> PBOC and BI Renew Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 7 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/5552468/5582838/index.html>.

<sup>55</sup> Governor Pan Gongsheng Hosts the Third China-Gulf Cooperation Council Central Bank Governors' Meeting and Holds Bilateral Meetings in Saudi Arabia, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 18 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/5552468/5595760/index.html>.

<sup>56</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>57</sup> China, Cambodia pledge to implement China-proposed global initiatives, State Council of China (Beijing) 18 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/18/content\\_WS680240dac6d0868f4e8f1ddc.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/18/content_WS680240dac6d0868f4e8f1ddc.html).

On 4-5 May 2025, Governor Gongsheng attended the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting and chaired the discussion.<sup>58</sup> Pan Gongsheng discussed the enhancement of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) with participants, and promoted broad consensus on deepening regional policy coordination and strengthening regional financial safety net. The ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors endorsed the establishment of Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) with the incorporation of eligible freely usable currencies (FUCs) including RMB as a new facility under the CMIM, and discussed future CMIM institutionalization.

China has taken measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to promote usage of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>59</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 24 March 2025, the South African Reserve Bank's Market Practitioners Group finalized the methodology for determining fallback rates for the Johannesburg Interbank Average Rate (JIBAR), recommending a compounded ZARONIA rate plus a credit adjustment spread based on a five-year historical median.<sup>60</sup> This initiative aligns with international best practices and aims to ensure a smooth transition from JIBAR to ZARONIA, enhancing the resilience and transparency of South Africa's financial markets.

On 24 April 2025, the Government decided to scrap a planned increase of value added tax (VAT) amid growing resilience from the opposition.<sup>61</sup> The decision leaves the state budget in USD4 billion deficit for the next three years, but helps to maintain a political coalition. Keeping the VAT rate at 15 percent prevents the growth of prices for goods and services, which is especially important in conditions of high inflation and economic instability, and helps to preserve the purchasing power of the population, especially among the poor, which can support domestic demand and economic activity.

South Africa has taken measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies.

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<sup>58</sup> Governor Pan Gongsheng Attends and Chairs the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 5 May 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/5552468/5697835/index.html>.

<sup>59</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>60</sup> Recommended methodology for determining Jibar fallback rates, SARb (Pretoria) 24 March 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2025/recommended-methodology-for-determining-jibar-fallback-rates>

<sup>61</sup> South Africa scraps VAT increase in dramatic U-turn after collation rift, Financial Times (Johannesburg) 24 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.ft.com/content/158d18f5-78b8-46ea-b4f5-947f6fef5208>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

### **UAE: +1**

The United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment to use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>62</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 23 April 2025, Director General Chairman of the Board of the Arab Monetary Fund Fahad M. Alturki signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the sidelines of the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, held in Washington, D.C.<sup>63</sup> The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation on strategic issues related to financial development in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Arab region by focusing on three key areas, among which payment systems cooperation. The goal is to deepen the cooperation between AMF's Buna platform and IDB's payments work, including the FUSSE initiative, which currently works at the local level only. This includes joint technical assistance and knowledge exchange to promote more efficient, interoperable cross-border payment systems.

On 9 May 2025, the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia signed a currency swap agreement worth up to USD817 million.<sup>64</sup> The agreement enables the direct exchange of UAE dirhams and Ethiopian birrs, eliminating dependency on major global currencies for trade between the two nations.

The United Arab Emirates took measures to enable settlements both in BRICS national currencies and other countries' local currencies.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Iran: +1**

Iran has fully complied with the commitment to use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 25 November 2024, Iran and Russia ceased using the U.S. dollar in their bilateral trade, transitioning entirely to their national currencies—the Iranian rial and the Russian ruble.<sup>65</sup> This shift was facilitated by a

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<sup>62</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025.

Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>63</sup> Memorandum of Understanding between the Arab Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, Arab Monetary Fund (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.amf.org.ae/en/news/22-04-2025/memorandum-understanding-between-arab-monetary-fund-and-inter-american-development>.

<sup>64</sup> Currency Alliance: UAE and Ethiopia Seal \$817 Million Swap Deal to Boost Trade and Investment, UAE Stories (Dubai) 9 May 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://uaestories.com/about-us/>

<sup>65</sup> Iran and Russia stop using the dollar in mutual settlements, Finversia (n.d.) 25 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.finversia.ru/news/markets/iran-i-rossiya-prekratili-ispolzovat-dollar-pri-vzaimoraschetakh-147310>

currency agreement between the two nations and the integration of their financial infrastructures, including the linkage of Russia's MIR and Iran's Shetab payment systems.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>66</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 12 May 2025, the Central Bank announced plans to redenominate the national currency by removing four zeros from the rial and introducing the toman, where one toman equals 10,000 rials.<sup>67</sup> This move aims to simplify financial transactions and align official currency usage with the informal practices already common among Iranians. While the reform is part of broader banking system changes, economists caution that without addressing underlying issues such as high inflation, fiscal imbalances, and monetary instability, the redenomination may have limited impact on achieving macroeconomic stability.

Iran took action to enable settlements in local currencies both with BRICS members and other countries.

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: -1**

Egypt has failed to comply with the commitment to use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 11 February 2025, Minister of Finance Ahmed Kijok participated in the preparatory committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development.<sup>68</sup> He stated that it is necessary to expand and explore financing options in local currencies to reduce the burden of external debt, noting that widening financing gaps under global economic pressures hinders the progress of sustainable development.

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>69</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

Egyptian authorities have verbally supported expanding settlements in local currencies. However, no concrete facts to enable these settlements have been registered during the compliance period.

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<sup>66</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>67</sup> Iran to slash four zeros from currency in 2025, chief banker says, Iran International (n.d.) 12 May 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202505129547>

<sup>68</sup> Finance Minister participates in preparatory committee for 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 11 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/204843/Finance-Minister-participates-in-preparatory-committee-for-4th-International-Conference-on-Financing-for-Development?lang=en-us>.

<sup>69</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

Thus, Egypt receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Ethiopia: 0**

Ethiopia has partially complied with the commitment to use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners.

On 6 February 2025, Ethiopian Ambassador to Russia Genet Teshome Jirru announced that Ethiopia and Russia agreed to begin using local currencies in bilateral trade.<sup>70</sup>

On 27 February 2025, vice governors of Central Banks and vice ministers of finance of the BRICS member states participated in the first meeting of the BRICS Finance track under the chairmanship of Brazil in 2025.<sup>71</sup> The meeting took place in Cape Town, South Africa. Transitional finance and financial technology development are said to take the focus of the central banks of the BRICS countries in 2025 along with possibilities of using national currencies in settlements, prospects for interoperability of the BRICS financial markets, and cooperation in the field of information security.

On 9 May 2025, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates signed a currency swap agreement worth up to USD817 million.<sup>72</sup> The agreement enables the direct exchange of UAE dirhams and Ethiopian birrs, eliminating dependency on major global currencies for trade between the two nations.

Ethiopia took action to enable settlements in local currencies with BRICS members, but no such actions with non-BRICS states were registered during the monitoring period.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>70</sup> Ethiopian ambassador: Moscow and Addis Ababa start trading in national currencies, TASS (Moscow) 6 February 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/23065585>

<sup>71</sup> BRICS Financial Track: the first meeting in 2025 took place, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 27 February 2025.

Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=23415>

<sup>72</sup> Currency Alliance: UAE and Ethiopia Seal \$817 Million Swap Deal to Boost Trade and Investment, UAE Stories (Dubai) 9 May 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://uaestories.com/about-us/>

### 3. Environment

We will strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

#### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
UAE			+1
Iran			+1
Egypt			+1
Ethiopia			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

#### Background

In 2016 Goa Declaration BRICS leaders welcomed the adoption of the Paris Agreement anchored in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They emphasized that the comprehensive, balanced and ambitious nature of the Paris Agreement reaffirms the principles of UNFCCC including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances (CBDR & RC).<sup>73</sup> Since then BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of Paris Agreement and its goals every summit.

In 2024 in Kazan BRICS leaders reiterated that the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement, including its principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) in the light of different national circumstances, must be honored. They promised to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).<sup>74</sup> They also emphasized the need to take into account national circumstances, including climate and natural conditions, the structure of national economy and energy mix as well as the specific circumstances of those developing countries whose economies heavily depend on income or consumption of fossil fuels and related energy-intensive products to achieve just energy transitions.

<sup>73</sup> Goa Declaration, 2016, President of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/supplement/5139>.

<sup>74</sup> XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration. 2024 BRICS Russian Federation Presidency (n.d.) 23 October 2024. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan\\_Declaration\\_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783](https://cdn.brics-russia2024.ru/upload/docs/Kazan_Declaration_FINAL.pdf?1729693488349783)

## Commitment features

This commitment requires BRICS members to strengthen cooperation on GHGs reduction and removal. This commitment has two parts.

### *Part One: domestic actions*

To comply with this part of the commitment BRICS members should take domestic actions aimed at emissions reduction and removal. This can include different types of carbon pricing, both explicit and implicit, implementation of climate projects, for example in the forestry sector, implementation of clean technologies in the industry, emissions reduction in waste, use of cleaner fuels and sources of energy in general (including natural gas and nuclear energy), electric mobility, development of carbon capture, storage and use technologies, implementation of standards.

### *Part Two: international cooperation*

To comply with the second component of the commitment BRICS members should engage in international cooperation and efforts to lower the total emissions on bilateral and multilateral levels. This includes implementing joint projects, investment in emissions reduction in partner countries, cooperation on green taxonomies, climate projects standards, technology transfer, cooperation on cleaner fuel supply and other actions.

## Scoring guidelines

-1	BRICS member does not take actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically or through international cooperation
0	BRICS member takes actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically OR through international cooperation
+1	BRICS member take actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically AND through international cooperation

*Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

On 13 November 2024, Brazil announced its new commitment to reduce emissions by 59 percent to 67 percent by 2035, as compared to 2005.<sup>75</sup> In absolute terms, this target translates to a reduction of 850 million to 1.05 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2035.

On 19 November 2024, the National Congress passed a law setting the framework of the Sistema Brasileiro de Comércio de Emissões de Gases de Efeito Estufa, a national cap-and-trade system expected to be operational in five to six years.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>75</sup> STATEMENT: Brazil Releases New 2035 Emissions Reduction Target, World Resources Institute 13 November 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-brazil-releases-new-2035-emissions-reduction-target>.

<sup>76</sup> Brazil adopts cap-and-trade system, International Carbon Action Partnership 19 November 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://icapcarbonaction.com/en/news/brazil-adopts-cap-and-trade-system>.

On 25 March 2025, the Government of Brazil and the Government of Japan signed a memorandum that seeks to strengthen technical and financial cooperation to promote sustainable development in the countries.<sup>77</sup> The memorandum of cooperation covers several strategic areas, such as actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and adapt to climate change, including early warning systems for extreme weather events; biodiversity conservation; combating pollution; sustainable waste management; promotion of the circular economy; access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits resulting from their use; marine environment and management of forest, coastal and offshore ecosystems.

On 7 April 2025, the Government held a meeting to discuss financial cooperation mechanisms between countries for the conservation and preservation of tropical forests.<sup>78</sup> The event aimed to gather and consolidate studies on bilateral financing mechanisms for tropical forests, identify the main actors and data sources for the topic and collect information for an updated report on the subject, scheduled for presentation by COP30, to support the formulation of climate policies in countries.

On 15 April 2025, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed a new decree that establishes the technical and environmental parameters of energy efficiency, recyclability and safety that vehicle manufacturers and importers must follow for commercialization in Brazil from June 2025.<sup>79</sup> Regulating the Green Mobility and Innovation Program, launched in June 2024, the text also encourages adherence to vehicle labeling programs that inform consumers, in a transparent manner, about the environmental and energy performance of models available on the market.

On 16 April 2025, the Government welcomed the approval, within the scope of the International Maritime Organization, of a new regulatory framework for the decarbonization of international maritime transport. The agreement reached, which will be legally binding, constitutes the first multilateral initiative to impose mandatory climate limits and burdens on a global sector of the economy. The new framework establishes targets for reducing carbon intensity for ships with more than 5,000 gross registered tons, responsible for 85 percent of the sector's emissions, and is expected to come into force from 2027. It also provides for the application of progressive tariffs on excess emissions, as well as the creation, by 2030, of a multilateral fund with an estimated potential value of up to USD40 billion, intended to support the energy transition of shipping. Brazil contributed to the construction of the new regulatory framework, in coordination with developing and developed countries, large emerging economies and small island states.<sup>80</sup>

Brazil took actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

## **Russia: +1**

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<sup>77</sup> Brazil and Japan sign agreement to strengthen cooperation on sustainable development, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 March 2025. Translated by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/brasil-e-japao-firmam-acordo-para-fortalecer-cooperacao-sobre-desenvolvimento-sustentavel>.

<sup>78</sup> Federal government holds meeting on international funding for tropical forest conservation, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 April 2025. Translated by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/governo-federal-promove-reuniao-sobre-financiamento-internacional-para-conservacao-de-florestas-tropicais>.

<sup>79</sup> Decree sets milestones for energy efficiency, recyclability and safety in the automotive industry, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 16 April 2025. Translated by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/abril/decreto-estabelece-marcos-para-eficiencia-energetica-reciclabilidade-e-seguranca-na-industria-automotiva>.

<sup>80</sup> New regulatory framework for decarbonizing international maritime transport, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 16 April 2025. Translated by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/novo-marco-regulatorio-sobre-descarbonizacao-do-transporte-maritimo-internacional](https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/novo-marco-regulatorio-sobre-descarbonizacao-do-transporte-maritimo-internacional).



On 17 January 2025, Russia and Iran signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement.<sup>81</sup> The Agreement explicitly covers energy technology transfer and joint projects in the oil, gas and nuclear sectors.

On 7 February 2025, President Vladimir Putin signed Decree No 69 “On establishing the Presidential Fund for Environmental and Nature-Conservation Projects.”<sup>82</sup> The decree creates a new federal fund with an initial RUB1 billion capitalization in 2025 to finance large-scale ecosystem-restoration, reforestation and other climate-mitigation projects across Russia. By directing federal money to expand forest carbon sinks and pilot low-carbon technologies, the measure introduces a fresh domestic instrument for greenhouse-gas reduction and removal that did not exist before the decree.

Russia took action to contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

## **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

On 19 November 2024, the Solar Energy Corporation of India, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India, signed a memorandum of understanding with H2Global Stiftung to establish a collaborative framework to promote Green Hydrogen initiatives.<sup>83</sup> This initiative aims to enhance knowledge exchange on market-based mechanisms and foster cooperation between India and importing countries, contributing to the global advancement of the green hydrogen economy.

On 2 January 2025, India submitted its 4th Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>84</sup> The report highlighted, that despite India's very low contribution to historical emissions and the current levels of global emissions, India has taken proactive actions to combat climate change in the context of sustainable development and its developmental aspirations.

On 16 January 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized a stakeholder consultation workshop on “Financing India’s Green Transition Plan and Adaptation Needs”.<sup>85</sup> The workshop was a part of the Government’s effort to understand India’s climate financing needs and create awareness across stakeholders and the mobilization needed to accelerate investment in climate resilient

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<sup>81</sup> Iran signs strategic partnership agreement with Russia, Nuclear Engineering International (n.d.) 21 January 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/iran-signs-strategic-partnership-agreement-with-russia>

<sup>82</sup> Decree of the President of the Russian Federation “On Establishment of the Presidential Fund for Environmental and Nature Protection Projects”, Official Publication of Legal Acts Portal (n.d.) 7 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202502070023>

<sup>83</sup> SECI signs MoU to promote Green Hydrogen initiatives, the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 November 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2075049>

<sup>84</sup> India submits its 4th Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Government of India (New Delhi) 2 January 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2089589>

<sup>85</sup> Two-day Workshop on ‘Financing India’s Green Transition Plan and Adaptation Needs’ Begins in City, the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 January 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2093416>

development in the country. The workshop also focused on the imminent need to increase investment in climate adaptation.

On 17 January 2025, the Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd., SJVN Ltd., GMR Energy Ltd., and Nepal Electricity Authority signed a Joint Venture Agreement for the development of the 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydro-electric Project in Nepal.<sup>86</sup> This initiative aims to strengthen regional energy security and accelerate renewable energy growth.

On 24 February 2025, Solar Energy Corporation of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the installation of 200 MW Solar Project in Dhar and a 1000 MWh Battery Storage Project in the state.<sup>87</sup>

On 29 March 2025, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi launched a 5.4 GW solar cell Warree Energy manufacturing facility at Chikhali in Gujarat.<sup>88</sup>

On 9 May 2025, India took part in the 20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York.<sup>89</sup> India highlighted its progress in forest conservation and sustainable forest management, reaffirming its commitment to achieving the Voluntary National Contributions under the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. India reported a consistent increase in forest and tree cover, encompassing 25.17 percent of its geographical area as per the latest India State of Forest Report as a result of the implementation of national initiatives like the restoration of land under the Aravalli Green Wall, a 7.86 percent increase in mangrove cover over the past decade.

India took action to contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

## **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

On 26 November 2024, President Xi Jinping met with Samoan prime minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa.<sup>90</sup> President Xi pledged to work with Pacific Island countries, including Samos, to promote the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, honor the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and uphold fairness, justice and the common interests of the Global South.

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<sup>86</sup> IREDA, SJVN, GMR and NEA Seal Partnership for 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project in Nepal, the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 January 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2093649>

<sup>87</sup> SECI signs MoU with Government of MP for 200 MW Solar Project at Dhar, the Government of India (New Delhi) 24 February 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2105881>

<sup>88</sup> Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurates a 5.4 GW high-tech plant at Chikhli in Gujarat, the Government of India (New Delhi) 29 March 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2116602>

<sup>89</sup> India highlights Forest Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management achievements at the 20th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Government of India (New Delhi) 9 May 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127828>

<sup>90</sup> Xi meets Samoan PM, says China prioritizes empowering Pacific Island countries to tackle climate change, National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Beijing) 27 November 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2024-11/27/c\\_1048445.htm](http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2024-11/27/c_1048445.htm).

On 12 December 2024, China revised its emission standard for coalbed gas, mandating utilization of such gas with a methane concentration higher than 8 percent.<sup>91</sup> According to the country's previous 2008 standard, it was only compulsory for coal miners to utilize coalbed gas with a methane concentration higher than 30 percent.

On 26 March 2025, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced the expansion of Chinese national carbon trading market to include three additional major carbon-emitting industries.<sup>92</sup> Launched in July 2021, China's carbon trading market is the world's largest. It covers 2,200 coal-fired power generation companies that emit about 5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. The expansion will add about 1,500 companies in the steel, cement and electrolytic aluminum sectors.

China has taken actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of greenhouse gases domestically and through international cooperation

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

In January 2025, South Africa introduced 150 percent tax deduction as an incentive for hydrogen and electric vehicles manufacturers.<sup>93</sup> Companies investing in electric vehicles production would enjoy tax incentives from March 2026.

On 20 January 2025, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) co-hosted a regional workshop on environmental actions co-hosted with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).<sup>94</sup> During the workshop, the participants visited the project Building a resilient and resource-efficient Johannesburg: increased access to urban services and improved quality of life, being implemented by the DFFE, the Development Bank of South Africa and the United Nations Environment Programme with funding by the GEF to promote sustainable urban development.

On 12 March 2025, Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana presented updates to the carbon tax.<sup>95</sup> Two major amendments were presented in this regard, namely:

- The carbon tax rate increased from R190 to R236 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e from 1 January 2025; and

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<sup>91</sup> China updates coalbed gas emission standard, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 December 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202412/12/content\\_WS675aa807c6d0868f4e8ede3d.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202412/12/content_WS675aa807c6d0868f4e8ede3d.html).

<sup>92</sup> Three additional industries added to carbon trading market, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 March 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/27/content\\_WS67e508a1c6d0868f4e8f13a1.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/27/content_WS67e508a1c6d0868f4e8f13a1.html).

<sup>93</sup> 150% tax incentive for electric and hydrogen vehicle production passed into law in South Africa, Green Building Africa (n.d.) 11 February 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.greenbuildingafrica.co.za/150-tax-incentive-for-electric-and-hydrogen-vehicle-production-passed-into-law-in-south-africa>

<sup>94</sup> South Africa and the GEF Host International Seminar to Support Higher Impact on Environmental Action, Government of South Africa (Johannesburg) 17 January 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. [http://dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/singh\\_gefinternationalseminar](http://dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/singh_gefinternationalseminar)

<sup>95</sup> 2025 Budget Speech Highlights, Catalyst Solutions (n.d.) 12 March 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://catalystsolutions.co.za/2025-budget-speech-highlights>

- The carbon fuel levy will also increase from 2 April 2025, with petrol rising by 3c/litre to 14c/litre and diesel by 3c/litre to 17c/litre.

Increased mandatory payments are said to drive stronger price signals for emissions reduction.

On 14 March 2025, South Africa reached an agreement with the EU regarding the latter providing investments in green projects in South Africa.<sup>96</sup> The allocated sum is estimated at EUR4.7 billion that would support the country's transition to low-carbon economy.

South Africa took actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: +1**

The United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

On 6 November 2024, the UAE submitted a 2035 NDC target to the UNFCCC, setting an absolute target of reducing emissions to 103.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, which represents a 47 percent reduction below 2019 levels.<sup>97</sup> This target covers all sectors and all gases. The CAT excludes emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) from its assessment, resulting in a target of 111 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2035.

On 5 February 2025, the Ministry of Economy launched a new roadmap for 'Green Intellectual Property (IP)', designed to foster innovation, accelerate technology localisation, and develop new projects in new economy, environmental sustainability, and circular economy.<sup>98</sup> The three-month roadmap will strengthen the competitiveness of the UAE's IP landscape and contribute to its progress and prosperity, supporting the country's directives to transition to a circular economy.

On 6-7 March 2025, Abdulla Ahmed Balalaa, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, concluded a two-day trip to the European Union in Brussels, where he met with senior officials and stakeholders in the energy and water sectors.<sup>99</sup> During the meetings, His Excellency reaffirmed the UAE's close partnership with the EU, focusing on aligning efforts, cooperation and achieving progress in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency and water resilience. The Ministry further affirmed the UAE's commitment to deepening its cooperation with the EU in advancing climate action, energy transition, water resilience, and global sustainability. His Excellency also highlighted that discussions in Brussels were

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<sup>96</sup> EU pledges 4.7 billion euros to South Africa as Trump brings them closer, Reuters (Cape Town) 14 March 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/european-union-announces-47-billion-euro-investment-package-south-africa-2025-03-13>

<sup>97</sup> The United Arab Emirates' Third Nationally Determined Contribution, UNFCCC (Paris) 6 November 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2023-07/Third%20Update%20of%20Second%20NDC%20for%20the%20UAE\\_v15.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2023-07/Third%20Update%20of%20Second%20NDC%20for%20the%20UAE_v15.pdf)

<sup>98</sup> UAE launches new roadmap for 'Green Intellectual Property' to drive innovation and accelerate localisation of technology in environmental sustainability and new economy, Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) 5 February 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-launches-new-roadmap-for-green-intellectual-property-to-drive-innovation-and-accelerate-localisation-of-technology-in-environmental-sustainability-and-new-economy>.

<sup>99</sup> UAE and EU Strengthen Cooperation on Energy, Climate, and Water in Lead-Up to COP30 and 2026 UN Water Conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) 7 March 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/MediaHub/News/2025/3/7/7-3-2025-UAE-EU>.

instrumental in driving forward the climate adaptation and energy related commitments made at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which was held in Dubai in 2023, to ensure strong alignment with the EU ahead of the UN Ocean Conference 2025, COP30, and the 2026 UN Water Conference. The visit included meetings with a number of the EU officials and the European Investment Bank (EIB) reinforcing bilateral relations to explore the potential to expand investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and water sustainability.

On 29–30 April 2025, the United Arab Emirates, hosted the World Bank’s Global Flaring and Methane Reduction (GFMR) Steering Committee Meeting at the Abu Dhabi Energy Center.<sup>100</sup> The UAE, as a founding member to the Global Flaring and Methane Reduction (GFMR) Partnership and the largest contributor with a USD100 million pledge, reaffirmed its global leadership in tackling one of the most potent and short-lived climate pollutants: methane.

The United Arab Emirates took actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Iran: +1**

Iran has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen cooperation on a whole range of solutions and technologies that contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases.

On 26 December 2024, Iran became an observer in the Eurasian Economic Union<sup>101</sup>. This status opens prospects for harmonizing technical regulations (including green standards) and facilitates cross-border investment in clean-energy and low-carbon projects.

On 17 January 2025, Iran and Russia signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Russia.<sup>102</sup> The Agreement explicitly covers energy technology transfer and joint projects in the oil, gas and nuclear sectors.

On 19 April 2025, the Government announced that all new fuel stations in the country would be equipped with at least one electric vehicle (EV) charging unit.<sup>103</sup> In addition, the Government is going to explore the integration of EV charging points into existing stations, subject to feasibility assessments and in collaboration with current station operators.

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<sup>100</sup> UAE Hosts World Bank’s Global Flaring and Methane Reduction Steering Committee Meeting in Abu Dhabi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) 30 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2025/5/2/2-5-2025-UAE-abu-dhabi>.

<sup>101</sup> Iran gains observer status in Eurasian Economic Union, Tehran Times (n.d.) 27 December 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/507955/Iran-gains-observer-status-in-Eurasian-Economic-Union>

<sup>102</sup> Iran signs strategic partnership agreement with Russia, Nuclear Engineering International (n.d.) 21 January 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/iran-signs-strategic-partnership-agreement-with-russia>

<sup>103</sup> Oil Ministry launches electric vehicle infrastructure initiative, Tehran Times (n.d.) 19 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/512004/Oil-Ministry-launches-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-initiative>

On 13 May 2025, Iran proposed partnership to the UAE and Saudi Arabia to enhance uranium enrichment.<sup>104</sup> Iran sees future cooperation in a form of concession agreement allowing neighboring countries using available technologies and “making them stakeholders in the process”.

Iran has taken actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of greenhouse gases domestically and through international cooperation

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: +1**

Egypt has fully complied with the commitment on environment.

On 18 February 2025, minister of petroleum and mineral resources Karim Badawy signed a memorandum of understanding with Greek minister of environment and energy Theodoros Skilakakis on cooperation in carbon capture, storage, and utilization.<sup>105</sup> The document seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange between Egypt and Greece on the application of carbon capture and storage technologies. Additionally, the Memorandum provides for the development of feasible economic models, technical feasibility studies, and research into potential uses of carbon dioxide in other applications that support the transition to a sustainable economy.

On 8 April 2025, deputy prime minister for industrial development and industry and transport minister Kamel el Wazir, minister of electricity and renewable energy Mahmoud Esmat and French minister of the economy, finance and industrial and digital sovereignty Éric Lombard attended the signing of a EUR7 billion agreement to build a plant to produce green hydrogen and green ammonia near Ras Shoukair area.<sup>106</sup> Minister Wazir said the agreement falls within the presidential directives to speed up efforts to localize the green hydrogen industry and its derivatives and create a conducive investment climate.

On 1 May 2025, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Karim Badawi and Minister of Environment Yasmine Fouad held a joint meeting to review and discuss Egypt’s comprehensive study on carbon capture and storage (CCS).<sup>107</sup> The meeting came as part of the national effort to integrate environmental sustainability with industrial development. The ministers emphasized the importance of CCS technology in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the competitiveness of Egyptian exports—especially with the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism - and supporting Egypt’s 2050 National Climate Strategy.

Egypt has taken actions that contribute to the reduction and removal of greenhouse gases domestically and through international cooperation

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<sup>104</sup> Iran proposes partnership with UAE and Saudi Arabia to enrich uranium, The Guardian (n.d.) 13 May 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/13/iran-proposes-partnership-with-uae-and-saudi-arabia-to-enrich-uranium>

<sup>105</sup> Egypt signs MoU on carbon capture & storage with Greece, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 18 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/205007/Egypt-signs-MoU-on-carbon-capture-%26-storage-with-Greece?lang=en-us>.

<sup>106</sup> Egypt, France sign 7-billion-euro agreement to build green hydrogen plant in Ras Shoukair, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 8 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/206977/Egypt%2c-France-sign-7-billion-euro-agreement-to-build-green-hydrogen-plant-in-Ras-Shoukair?lang=en-us>.

<sup>107</sup> Petroleum, Environment Ministers Discuss Carbon Emissions Reduction in Egypt, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 1 May 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/208444/Petroleum%2c-Environment-Ministers-Discuss-Carbon-Emissions-Reduction-in-Egypt?lang=en-us>.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

**Ethiopia: +1**

Ethiopia has fully complied with the commitment to contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically or through international cooperation.

On 9 February 2025, the Office of the Public-Private Partnership Directorate General issued a Request for Qualification for the development of two significant solar PV projects: the GAD II (125 MW) and Weranso (100 MW).<sup>108</sup> This call invited both international and domestic investors to engage in a competitive tender process.

On 26 February 2025, Ethiopia and Russia signed a three-year roadmap to strengthen cooperation in nuclear technology.<sup>109</sup> The agreement provides for the development of Ethiopia's nuclear infrastructure, organizing technical visits and training, and strengthening local expertise in atomic science.

Ethiopia took action to contribute to the reduction and removal of Greenhouse Gases domestically and through international cooperation.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>108</sup> Ethiopia Invites Bidders for Two Major Solar PV Projects: Strategic Opportunities for Investors, LexAfrica (n.a.) 9 February 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://lexafrica.com/2025/04/ethiopia-invites-bidders/>

<sup>109</sup> Ethiopia and Russia sign three-year nuclear cooperation roadmap, Nuclear Engineering International (n.a.) 26 February 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/ethiopia-and-russia-sign-three-year-nuclear-cooperation-roadmap/>

## 4. ICT and Digital Economy

We note the need to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI), [with a view to establishing an effective global governance framework, based on broad consensus, to boost national economies as well as to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries]

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
UAE			+1
Iran			+1
Egypt			+1
Ethiopia			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

In 2017 in Xiamen, the BRICS members addressed the issue of artificial intelligence (AI) development for the first time. They committed to “enhance joint BRICS research, development and innovation in ICT including the Internet of Things, Cloud computing, Big Data, Data Analytics, Nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence and 5G and their innovative applications to elevate the level of ICT infrastructure and connectivity”.<sup>110</sup>

In 2020 in Moscow, the BRICS members committed to “ensure greater integration of innovative technologies throughout all sectors of economy, including the traditional industries, building intelligence into processes that enables manufacturers to become more efficient and data-driven”.<sup>111</sup>

In 2022 in Beijing, the BRICS members committed to conduct comparative study on the subject toward developing a common governance approach which would guide BRICS members on Ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence while facilitating the development of AI.<sup>112</sup>

<sup>110</sup> VIII BRICS Summit Xiamen Declaration, BRICS 2022 China (Beijing) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 16 January 2025. [https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/gjzgj/ljldrhwcgwj/202202/t20220222\\_10644353.html](https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/gjzgj/ljldrhwcgwj/202202/t20220222_10644353.html)

<sup>111</sup> XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, Kremlin (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <http://en.kremlin.ru/supplement/5581>

<sup>112</sup> XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, Kremlin (Moscow) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <http://en.kremlin.ru/supplement/5819>



In 2024 in Kazan, the BRICS leaders made a commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI).<sup>113</sup>

### Commitment Features

For the sake of the presented guideline, we use the following definition of artificial intelligence: ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.<sup>114</sup>

In Kazan the BRICS leaders committed to develop intra-BRICS dialog on AI with a view to establish an effective global governance framework, based on broad consensus, to boost national economies as well as to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries.

The commitment hereby is divided into three components.

The first one implies promotion of intra-BRICS dialog on AI development. Practical examples of activities that fall under the commitment's framework include, but are not limited to all those that might be treated as contributing to multilateral discussion on AI development: organization of thematic international events (congresses, symposiums, workshops, expos, etc.) with participation of other BRICS states' official representatives; formulation and entrance into bilateral and multilateral agreements touching upon issues of AI development; establishing bilateral and multilateral BRICS bodies (taskforces, intra-ministerial commissions, etc.). Actions thematically matching the commitment but limited in scope to national level or taken without participation of official representatives from other BRICS nations contribute only to partial compliance.

The second thematic component of the commitment implies all the risks associated with ICT development and AI-technologies development specifically, namely: malicious use; misinformation; privacy leakage; prejudice and discrimination. To reach full compliance, a BRICS member shall focus its actions on tackling at least one of the mentioned issues. Actions that are associated with AI-development, but not related to any of the mentioned issues, contribute only to partial compliance.

"Malicious use" implies "all practices that are intended to compromise the security of individuals, groups, or a society"<sup>115</sup>.

"Misinformation" as an umbrella term refers to "false or partially false information which can be spread both unintentionally and intentionally".<sup>116</sup> Recent studies shows that machine-learning models are not "immune

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<sup>113</sup> Kazan Declaration, Kremlin (Moscow) 23 October 2024. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/en/RosOySvLzGaJtmx2wYFv0IN4NSPZploG.pdf>

<sup>114</sup> Artificial Intelligence, Britannica (n.d.) 14 January 2025. Access Date: 16 January 2025. URL: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence>

<sup>115</sup> The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation, University of Cambridge (n.d.) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/items/d654418d-1c12-4024-85d5-ccd614c32ef3>

<sup>116</sup> Synthetic Lies: Understanding AI-Generated Misinformation and Evaluating Algorithmic and Human Solutions, ACM Digital Library (n.d.) April 2023. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/fullHtml/10.1145/3544548.3581318#BibPLXBIB0081>

from producing misinformation” illustrated by “inaccurate or nonsensical output, and AI-generated images with unrealistic or inaccurate depictions (such as “real people” with too many arms)”.<sup>117</sup>

“Privacy leakage” incidents imply situations when “models inadvertently reveal sensitive information about individuals, even if that data was not explicitly provided to the system”.<sup>118</sup> According to the European Commission “sensitive information” implies personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs; trade-union membership; genetic data, biometric data processed solely to identify a human being; health-related data; data concerning a person’s sex life or sexual orientation.<sup>119</sup>

“Prejudice and discrimination” also known as “AI bias” is “systematic discrimination embedded within AI systems that can reinforce existing biases, and amplify discrimination, prejudice, and stereotyping.”<sup>120</sup> AI bias may occur due to embedded data bias (data predominantly representing biases leading to imbalances in AI predictions and decisions), algorithmic bias (design and parameters of algorithms inadvertently introduce bias), human decision bias or cognitive bias (prejudices and cognitive biases of the individuals and teams involved in developing the AI technologies), and generative AI bias (generative AI produce biased or inappropriate content based on the biases present in their training data).<sup>121</sup>

Finally, the third component is dedicated to developmental aspect of ICT and AI development. The BRICS leaders committed to “uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people’s lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries”. “Human-centered” in this context refers to development of AI-based solutions that “amplify and augment rather than displace human abilities”.<sup>122</sup> “Development-oriented” in the context of AI development refers to the usage of AI technologies to advance sustainable development goals by addressing challenges such as poverty reduction, inequality, and environmental protection by means of enhancing decision-making, resource optimization, and knowledge extraction across various sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, energy, etc.<sup>123</sup> Under the commitment’s framework, “inclusive” implies the principle that “AI systems should be designed and used in a way that they are accessible, usable, and beneficial to a diverse range of people, regardless of their age, gender, abilities, or ethnic backgrounds.”.<sup>124</sup> “Sustainable” in the context of AI development refers to focusing on energy efficiency, data sustainability, and transparency in the responsible development and operation of artificial intelligence technologies with a goal to minimize the impact of AI systems on the environment.<sup>125</sup> While following the abovementioned principles, BRICS nations’ actions shall pursue the aim of “improving people’s lives and bridging digital divides” with a special focus given to developing countries. According to the OECD, the term “digital

<sup>117</sup> AI misinformation: Here's how to reduce your company's exposure and risk, IBM (n.d.) 8 January 2025. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://www.ibm.com/think/insights/ai-misinformation>

<sup>118</sup> Privacy Observability & Data Context: Solving Data Privacy Risks in AI Models, Zendata (n.d.) 4 April 2024. <https://www.zendata.dev/post/privacy-observability-data-context-ai-models>

<sup>119</sup> What personal data is considered sensitive?, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 16 January 2025. [https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/rules-business-and-organisations/legal-grounds-processing-data/sensitive-data/what-personal-data-considered-sensitive\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection/rules-business-and-organisations/legal-grounds-processing-data/sensitive-data/what-personal-data-considered-sensitive_en)

<sup>120</sup> What is AI bias? SAP (n.d.) 30 October 2024. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://www.sap.com/resources/what-is-ai-bias>.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> What is human-centered AI? IBM (n.d.) 31 March 2022. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://research.ibm.com/blog/what-is-human-centered-ai>

<sup>123</sup> Developing AI for development, World Bank Accountability Mechanism (n.d.) 9 April 2024. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://accountability.worldbank.org/en/news/2024/Developing-AI-for-development>

<sup>124</sup> Responsible AI – Inclusiveness, Infused Innovations (n.d.) 15 July 2024. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://infusedinnovations.com/blog/responsible-ai-inclusiveness>

<sup>125</sup> What is Sustainable AI? Definition, Significance, and Examples, Caltech (n.d.) 18 April 2024. Access Date: 16 January 2025. <https://pg-p.ctme.caltech.edu/blog/ai-ml/what-is-sustainable-ai-significance-examples>

divide” refers to “the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs).”<sup>126</sup> To achieve full compliance, BRICS member states shall promote development of developing countries by utilizing AI-powered capabilities while respecting the abovementioned principles of AI being human-centered, development-oriented, inclusive and sustainable. As most of the BRICS nations are officially treated as developing countries, domestic actions matching the commitment by essence also contribute to the commitment’s fulfilment.

As to ensure full compliance with the commitment (“+1” score), a BRICS member shall promote intra-BRICS dialog on AI development; tackle the risks associated with ICT development and AI-technologies development specifically, namely: malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination; and contribute to international development with a focus given to developing countries by utilizing AI-powered capabilities. If at least one component of the commitment is not met with an action, that would serve as a precondition for “0” score and a “partial compliance” verdict. “-1” score or a verdict of non-compliance is given if a BRICS member state does not take any action to promote AI development in any of three key aspects of the issue (intra-BRICS multilateral dialog; tackling issues; and facilitating development), or there is an evidence that its action violates the embedded principles of AI development (being human-centered, inclusive, development-oriented, and sustainable) or create obstacles towards eradication of AI development associated threats (malicious use, spread of misinformation, etc.).

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	BRICS member does not take ANY action to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI); to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people’s lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries OR some of recorded actions violate the principles embedded in the commitment.
0	BRICS member takes actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI); to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people’s lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and NONE of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.
+1	BRICS member takes actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI); to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people’s lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and ALL THREE key spheres of the commitment are met with an action, and NONE of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.

*Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

<sup>126</sup> Understanding the Digital Divide, OECD (n.d.) 1 January 2001. Access Date: 16 January 2025.  
[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/understanding-the-digital-divide\\_236405667766.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/understanding-the-digital-divide_236405667766.html)

## Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence.

On 18 November 2024, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates have issued a joint statement on the occasion of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro.<sup>127</sup> According to the statement, countries will continue to further deepen the strategic partnership through exploring new opportunities for cooperation, particularly in areas of considerable potential such as innovation, renewable energy and climate change, artificial intelligence, cutting-edge technologies, agriculture, infrastructure, trade, defense and security, and people-to-people connections.

On 10 December 2024, the Senate approved Bill No. 2338/2023, which sets out rules for developing and using artificial intelligence in Brazil.<sup>128</sup> The AI Bill aims to establish operational guidelines and requirements, protect human rights and provide penalties for non-compliance. The Bill takes a risk-based approach to regulating AI systems. It places stricter rules on high-risk systems, especially those that could affect public safety or fundamental human rights. It also requires AI developers and users to make their systems fair, transparent, and easy to understand. The Bill aligns with Brazil's General Data Protection Law to protect privacy. Additionally, it plans to create a new authority to oversee AI regulations and enforce the rules.

On 12 February 2025, National Data Protection Authority (ANPD) participated in the 13th Edition of the Brazil-European Union Digital Dialogue, held in Brussels, Belgium. The event reaffirmed the commitments of both parties to digital development, innovation and the protection of fundamental rights. At the meeting, the bilateral Work Plan for the 2025-2026 biennium was approved, which covers topics such as connectivity, digital platforms, artificial intelligence, governance and data economy, among others.<sup>129</sup>

On 21 February 2025, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation announced plans to invest BRL500 million in the Sustainability and Renewable Energy Program for AI, as part of the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan.<sup>130</sup> The Pró-Infra AI Sustentável will finance projects that promote the implementation of green data centers in Brazil. The program aims to support initiatives that prioritize the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the initiative will encourage the adoption of innovative cooling technologies and the use of equipment with lower energy consumption, such as state-of-the-art servers and software optimized for AI.

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<sup>127</sup> UAE-Brazil Joint Statement On The Occasion Of The G20 Leaders' Summit In Rio De Janeiro, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Abu Dhabi) 18 November 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2024/11/27/27-11-2024-UAE-brazil>.

<sup>128</sup> Brazil AI Act, Artificial Intelligence Act. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://artificialintelligenceact.com/brazil-ai-act/>.

<sup>129</sup> ANPD participates in the 13th Brazil-European Union Digital Dialogue and strengthens cooperation on AI and data protection, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 12 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-participa-da-13a-edicao-do-dialogo-digital-brasil-uniao-europeia-e-reforca-cooperacao-em-ia-e-protecao-de-dados>.

<sup>130</sup> PBIA foresees R\$ 500 million for green data centers, which combine technology and sustainability, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 21 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2025/02/pbia-preve-r-500-milhoes-para-data-centers-verdes-que-aliam-tecnologia-e-sustentabilidade>.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>131</sup> Coordinated by the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Micro and Small Businesses, and the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, these technical meetings aim to prepare discussions that will support the meeting of Industry Ministers scheduled for 21 May 2025. The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

On 22 April 2025, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Luciana Santos and Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of the Republic of Chile Aisen Etcheverry signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Artificial Intelligence.<sup>132</sup>

The Memorandum of Understanding between the MCTI and the Chilean ministry aims to create artificial intelligence systems, including the construction of a language model, that are compatible with their priorities, circumstances and particularities and that offer development models at a regional level, with a focus on the inclusion of the various languages and cultural expressions of Latin America.

Brazil took actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence; to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence.

On 15 January 2025, the Ministry of Digital Development, media and mass communications announced that a well-acclaimed program “Kod Budushhego” (Code of Future) would be extended in 2025 and allow participants to take courses on robotics and AI.<sup>133</sup> The program is dedicated to high school pupils who may enjoy access to more than 250 free courses presented by 28 IT companies including game design, software development, web development, data analytics, etc.

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<sup>131</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>132</sup> Brazil and Chile sign strategic partnership in Artificial Intelligence, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2025/04/brasil-e-chile-firmam-parceria-estrategica-em-inteligencia-artificial>.

<sup>133</sup> AI and Robotics: “Code of Future” Program to be Extended, Ministry of Digital Development, Media and Mass Communications (Moscow) 15 January 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 April 2025. <https://digital.gov.ru/news/ii-i-robototekhnika-programma-koda-budushhego-budet-rasshirena>

On 28 February 2025, the Government announced the launch of third round of selection of AI research development centers to receive state-sponsored financial support to facilitate related studies.<sup>134</sup> Every selected center may be granted with RUB336 million in 2025 (approx. USD4 million) to promote Russia's scientific development and economic transition based on cutting-edge technologies.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>135</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

Russia took actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence; to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim of improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue on Artificial Intelligence.

On 30 November 2024, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced the planned establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Centre on cooperation with the World Bank. The Centre should help provide training in artificial intelligence and modern skills to the youth, as well as boost the technical capabilities and the digital economy of the Indian state of Haryana.<sup>136</sup>

On 25 January 2025, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. The two leaders signed multiple bilateral agreements on health cooperation, traditional medicine, maritime safety and security, cultural exchange and digital development. Inter alia, the two sides decided to further strengthen mutual cooperation in areas such as FinTech, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and Digital Public Infrastructure.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> Dmitry Chernyshenko: The third wave of selection for artificial intelligence research centers is launching, Government of Russia (Moscow) 28 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 April 2025. <http://government.ru/news/54376/>

<sup>135</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>136</sup> World Artificial Intelligence Centre will soon be established in Haryana with the help of World Bank: CM Nayab Singh Saini, the Government of India (New Delhi) 30 November 2024. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/world-artificial-intelligence-centre-will-soon-be-established-in-haryana-with-the-help-of-world-bank-cm-nayab-singh-saini/>

<sup>137</sup> PM Modi holds talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. the Government of India (New Delhi) 25 January 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/pm-modi-holds-talks-with-indonesian-president-prabowo-subianto-several-agreements-signed/>

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>138</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

India took action to advance the intra-BRICS dialogue on Artificial Intelligence.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment on artificial intelligence.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>139</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

On 25 April 2025, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held its 20<sup>th</sup> group study session, which focused on strengthening the development and regulation of artificial intelligence.<sup>140</sup> President Xi Jinping stressed that China must fully leverage the strengths of the new system for mobilizing the resources nationwide, achieve self-reliance and strength in this regard, and prioritize practical application so as to promote the healthy and orderly development of AI in the country in a beneficial, safe and fair manner. President Xi informed on measures to improve the design and strengthen overall planning, achieving systematic and comprehensive advancement of China's AI capabilities. Xi also stressed the need to face up to the gaps and redouble efforts in order to comprehensively advance technological innovation, industrial development, and application empowerment in AI, improve regulatory systems and mechanisms, and firmly maintain the initiative in AI development and governance. He also urged efforts to grasp the trends and regularity of AI development, accelerate formulation and improvement of laws and regulations, policies and systems, application norms and ethical guidelines, and establish systems for technical monitoring, early risk warning and emergency response, in a bid to guarantee its safety, reliability and controllability. Xi highlighted AI as a global public good capable of benefiting the humanity. He called for extensive international cooperation on AI, as well as endeavors to help the Global South enhance its technological capacity building, and contribute China's effort in the drive to bridge the global AI divide. He also encouraged efforts to engage all parties for further alignment and coordination of development strategies, governance rules as well as technical standards, and work toward an early formation of a consensus-based framework and standards for global governance.

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<sup>138</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>139</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>140</sup> Xi urges promoting healthy and orderly development of AI, State Council of China 29 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/29/content\\_WS68100ef1c6d0868f4e8f2275.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/29/content_WS68100ef1c6d0868f4e8f2275.html).

On 28 April 2025, foreign minister Wang Yi clarified China's position on improving global governance on the sidelines of the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Rio de Janeiro.<sup>141</sup> He stressed that BRICS countries should promote the implementation of the Global Digital Compact within the framework of the United Nations, bridge the digital divide, and formulate common rules for cyberspace. He also highlighted the need to improve the global governance of artificial intelligence (AI), and advocate for fair, universally beneficial, and safe AI for good, as well as collaborative AI governance, and welcomed BRICS countries to participate in the 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference to be held in Shanghai.

China has taken actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on AI; to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and none of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence.

On 4 December 2024, South Africa and Nigeria concluded a bilateral commission meeting with a joint communique highlighting the two countries cooperation priorities.<sup>142</sup> The countries agreed upon cooperation on issues of mutual interest including food and nutrition security, digital connectivity, and leadership in the development of artificial intelligence.

On 12 March 2025, the South African Revenue Service announced allocation of R3.5 billion funds to promote improve the administrative efficiency.<sup>143</sup> The SARS plans to focus on leveraging technological advancements including data science and artificial intelligence to foster efficiency and transparency in tax administration.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>144</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

South Africa has taken actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on AI; to mitigate the risks of malicious use,

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<sup>141</sup> Wang Yi: Uphold BRICS Unity and Cooperation, Reform and Improve Global Governance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China 29 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbzhd/202504/t20250429\\_11609218.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbzhd/202504/t20250429_11609218.html).

<sup>142</sup> SA – Nigeria concluded successful Bi-National Commission, SA News (n.d.) 4 December 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-nigeria-conclude-successful-bi-national-commission>

<sup>143</sup> Government funds SARS to improve tax compliance ,SA News (n.d.) 12 March 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-funds-sars-improve-tax-compliance>

<sup>144</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.



misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and none of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: +1**

The United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence.

On 18 November 2024, the United Arab Emirates and Brazil have issued a joint statement on the occasion of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro.<sup>145</sup> According to the statement, countries will continue to further deepen the strategic partnership through exploring new opportunities for cooperation, particularly in areas of considerable potential such as innovation, renewable energy and climate change, artificial intelligence, cutting-edge technologies, agriculture, infrastructure, trade, defense and security, and people-to-people connections.

On 9 December 2024, the Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office in the UAE government announced a partnership with UiPath, a leading enterprise automation and AI company, to advance Agentic Automation – a transformative approach to automation powered by AI.<sup>146</sup> This collaboration will focus on developing AI-powered automation solutions across government entities while equipping UAE talent with critical AI skills. Moreover, UiPath and the Office will jointly develop a programme vision and a roadmap to enable government-backed companies and startups to leverage AI and automation technologies. The partnership will see both sides explore opportunities to increase operational efficiency and enhance society's experience by embedding AI into public-facing services.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>147</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

On 8 April 2025, the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence launched the sixth cohort of its flagship Artificial Intelligence Programme, in partnership with the UK-based University of Birmingham.<sup>148</sup> Running from May to September 2025, the initiative targets UAE government, semi-government, and private sector professionals, aiming to build AI capabilities and support the country's long-term digital transformation

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<sup>145</sup> UAE-Brazil Joint Statement On The Occasion Of The G20 Leaders' Summit In Rio De Janeiro, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Abu Dhabi) 18 November 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/MediaHub/News/2024/11/27/27-11-2024-UAE-brazil>.

<sup>146</sup> UAE's AI Office partners with UiPath to further key National AI Strategy objectives, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office in the UAE government (Abu Dhabi) 9 December 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://ai.gov.ae/news/>.

<sup>147</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>148</sup> UAE national AI programme launches 6th edition of AI course, Middle East AI News 8 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.middleeastnews.com/p/uae-ai-programme-2025-launch>.

strategy. The programme focuses on advanced AI and generative AI skills, aligning with the country's ambition to lead in global technology and innovation.

On 5 May 2025, the United Arab Emirates and France have signed a landmark agreement to jointly develop a 1-gigawatt AI data center, which is poised to become the largest facility of its kind in Europe.<sup>149</sup>

The United Arab Emirates took actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI); to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Iran: +1**

Iran has fully complied **with the** commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence.

On 20 January 2025, the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Iran has announced investment of USD115 million in loans and grants to facilitate artificial intelligence projects in the country.<sup>150</sup> The funding is said to ensure Iranian universities and research centers can catch up with the global progress in AI.

On 15 March 2025, the Government unveiled the National AI Platform Prototype.<sup>151</sup> The platform is said to operate in national languages and remain functional amid internet connection failure and is scheduled to see the full release by March 2026. According to the statement, the platform features a GPU-based processing infrastructure, large language and multimodal models, intelligence agents, and application layers for various industries.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>152</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that consider national realities and languages, to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

On 22 April 2025, Iran announced the launch of a national AI education program to enroll one million students starting the summer of 2025.<sup>153</sup> The program is said to provide educational courses through a

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<sup>149</sup> UAE, France collaborate on 1-gigawatt AI data center in pioneering tech partnership, Economics Times 5 May 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/artificial-intelligence/uae-france-collaborate-on-1-gigawatt-ai-data-center-in-pioneering-tech-partnership/articleshow/120903729.cms?from=mdr>.

<sup>150</sup> Iran allocates \$115 million to AI research activities, Mehr News Agency (Tehran) 20 January 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227190/Iran-allocates-115-million-to-AI-research-activities>

<sup>151</sup> Iran unveils national AI platform prototype, Iran International (n.d.) 15 March 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202503158253>

<sup>152</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>153</sup> Iran launched national AI education program for one million students, ODISTC (n.d.) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://cistc.ir/en/5755/iran-launches-national-ai-education-program-for-one-million-students/>

dedicated platform accessible to all citizens with a special emphasis put upon schoolchildren aged 7 – 15. Also, the first phase of the project aims to enroll 100 thousand teachers to provide them with necessary AI skills.

On 10 May 2025, Iran and China held a bilateral meeting on cooperation priorities.<sup>154</sup> The parties highlighted enormous potential for AI development that could serve as a basis for future joint projects.

Iran took actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on Artificial Intelligence (AI); to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries.

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: +1**

Egypt has fully complied with the commitment on artificial intelligence.

On 16 January 2025, Egypt published its National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for 2025-2030.<sup>155</sup> The strategy provides for practical measures to ensure ethical and responsible AI use by establishing a comprehensive AI regulatory system, activating the ethical framework and putting a nucleus for a clear regulatory body, actively contributing to global efforts, and playing an active role in AI international fora; enhance the quality of life and sectoral efficiency through AI applications; and address the risks posed by AI development.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>156</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that take into account national realities and languages, in order to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

Egypt has taken actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on AI; to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and none of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of +1.

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<sup>154</sup> Iran and China eye closer cooperation in IT, digital economy, and AI, Nournews (n.d.) 10 May 2025. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://nournews.ir/en/news/223536/Iran-and-China-eye-closer-cooperation-in-IT,-digital-economy,-and-AI>

<sup>155</sup> Egypt National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Second Edition (2025-2030), National Council for Artificial Intelligence (Cairo) 16 January 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://ai.gov.eg/SynchedFiles/en/Resources/AIstrategy%20English%202016-1-2025-1.pdf>.

<sup>156</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon***Ethiopia: 0**

Ethiopia has partially complied with the commitment to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue on Artificial Intelligence.

On 4 November 2024, the four-day training seminar “AI for Resilient Food Systems” took place in Addis Ababa.<sup>157</sup> The seminar was aimed at leveraging the potential of artificial intelligence for accelerating agricultural research and development. Minister of Innovation and Technology Baysa Bedada addressed the participants, stating that “AI technologies offer wide range of applications from gene discovery to post harvest quality management, market channels and retailer business”.

On 21 March 2025, the BRICS members discussed partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the bloc's countries.<sup>158</sup> The BRICS countries discussed the importance of investing in sovereign AI ecosystems that consider national realities and languages to meet the needs of companies and citizens. To this end, they addressed the importance of autonomy in AI techniques, in addition to control over data and digital infrastructure.

On 14 May 2025, the Council of Ministers approved a new regulation allowing the establishment of the first artificial intelligence research centre in the country.<sup>159</sup>

Ethiopia has taken actions to enhance further intra-BRICS dialogue to unlock the enormous potential of ICTs and encourage policy exchanges and dialogues on AI; to mitigate the risks of malicious use, misinformation, privacy leakage, prejudice and discrimination arising from such technologies, and to uphold a human-centred, development-oriented, inclusive, and sustainable approach, with the aim to improving people's lives and bridging digital divides, especially between developed and developing countries, and none of its actions can be characterized as violating the principles embedded in the commitment.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*


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<sup>157</sup> Researchers in Ethiopia Undertaking Training to Harness AI for Agriculture, Food System, ENA (Addis Ababa) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2025. [https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/eng\\_5398524](https://www.ena.et/web/eng/w/eng_5398524)

<sup>158</sup> BRICS discusses partnership for industrial development, innovation and technological cooperation between the countries of the bloc, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 March 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brics-discute-parceria-para-desenvolvimento-industrial-inovacao-e-cooperacao-tecnologica-entre-os-paises-do-bloco>.

<sup>159</sup> Ethiopia to Establish Its First-Ever Artificial Intelligence Research Centre, Ethiopian Business review (Addis Ababa) 14 May 2025. Access Date 14 May 2025. <https://ethiopianbusinessreview.net/ethiopia-to-establish-its-first-ever-artificial-intelligence-research-centre/>

## 5. Health

We ... commit to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa		0	
UAE			+1
Iran			+1
Egypt			+1
Ethiopia			+1
Average	+0.89 (94%)		

### 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.”<sup>160</sup>

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 co-infections.”<sup>161</sup> 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.”<sup>162</sup>

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

<sup>160</sup> Sanya Declaration, 2011, BRICS 2022 China’s Presidency web-site. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308\\_10649517.html](http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308_10649517.html)

<sup>161</sup> Communiqué of the II Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://geneva.mid.ru/web/geneva\\_en/international-cooperation-in-the-fields-of-economy-science-and-technology-health-and-environment-protection/-/asset\\_publisher/Gx3Med4zxBAF/content/communique-of-the-second-brics-health-ministers-meeting](https://geneva.mid.ru/web/geneva_en/international-cooperation-in-the-fields-of-economy-science-and-technology-health-and-environment-protection/-/asset_publisher/Gx3Med4zxBAF/content/communique-of-the-second-brics-health-ministers-meeting).

<sup>162</sup> Communiqué of the III Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, South African Government. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <https://www.gov.za/news/media-advisories/government-activities/brics-health-ministers-cape-town-communicu%C3%A9-07-nov-2013>

support to the efforts coordinated by the UN [United Nations], and particularly to the actions undertaken by the WHO [World Health Organization], to accelerate the response to the Ebola outbreak.”<sup>163</sup>

In 2015, under Russia’s presidency, BRICS leaders expressed deep concern with “continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, [tuberculosis], 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;
- 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.<sup>164</sup>

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.<sup>165</sup>

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.<sup>166</sup>

In 2018 in Johannesburg BRICS leaders committed to strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries.<sup>167</sup>

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.<sup>168</sup>

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<sup>163</sup> Communiqué of the IV Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, National Health Commission of the PRC. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://en.nhc.gov.cn/2014-12/11/c\\_46804.htm](https://en.nhc.gov.cn/2014-12/11/c_46804.htm)

<sup>164</sup> Ufa Declaration, 2015, BRICS 2022 China’s Presidency (n.d.) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308\\_10649509.html](http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308_10649509.html).

<sup>165</sup> Goa Declaration, 2016, Kremlin (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/supplement/5139>.

<sup>166</sup> Full text of BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, Xinhua (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/04/c\\_136583396\\_3.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/04/c_136583396_3.htm).

<sup>167</sup> X BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, BRICS 2022 China’s Presidency (n.d.) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308\\_10649503.html](http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308_10649503.html)

<sup>168</sup> XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS 2022 China’s Presidency (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308\\_10649500.html](http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308_10649500.html).

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<sup>169</sup>”.

In 2022 BRICS leaders emphasized 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 and also strengthen technical multilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing capacities in the fields of ... Universal Health Coverage.<sup>170</sup>

In 2023 Johannesburg Declaration BRICS members committed to intensify efforts towards improving collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and strengthening ability to fight back any such pandemics in the future collectively.<sup>171</sup> This commitment was reiterated in Kazan Declaration in 2024.

### **Commitment features**

The BRICS leaders promised to take action on improving collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and strengthening ability to fight back any such pandemics in the future collectively. This commitment has two parts: making effort at national level and through international cooperation.

#### *Domestic Actions*

Domestic actions include reforming national health systems, providing financing to medical institutions and implementing programs to develop national health systems, personnel development actions, surveillance systems improvement, nation-wide vaccine programmes, information campaigns, drugs development and others.

#### *International Partnerships*

International actions include cooperation with international organizations, mainly WHO, and providing necessary financing to them, joint initiatives with other countries on research and development in the field of infectious diseases, vaccine collaboration, aid to developing countries, medical technology transfer and others.

To achieve full compliance BRICS member should take action both on domestic level and through international cooperation. Measures implemented on only one aspect of the commitment will count towards partial compliance. Lack of action on any of the two parts of commitment is rewarded with the score of -1.

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<sup>169</sup> XIII BRICS Summit – New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021. Department of International Relations & Cooperation of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <https://dirco.gov.za/xiii-brics-summit-new-delhi-declaration-9-september-2021/>.

<sup>170</sup> XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, BRICS 2022 China's Presidency (n.d.) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/dtxw/202206/t20220624\\_10709295.html](http://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/dtxw/202206/t20220624_10709295.html).

<sup>171</sup> XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg II Declaration, South African BRICS Presidency 2023 (Gauteng) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <https://brics2023.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Jhb-II-Declaration-24-August-2023-1.pdf>

**Scoring guidelines**

-1	BRICS member does not take action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response
0	BRICS member takes action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response EITHER domestically OR through international partnerships
+1	BRICS member takes action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response BOTH domestically AND through international partnerships

*Lead Analyst: Irina Popova**Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov***Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 27 January 2025, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Brazilian Ministry of Health conducted a training on international outbreak response, in the city of Brasilia, Brazil.<sup>172</sup> This event, held on 27 January 2025, was attended by 35 experts from GOARN partner institutions interested to engage with the network and participate in international missions. The training was designed for public health experts with experience in national emergencies but limited or no experience in international responses.

On 18-19 February 2025, the Ministry of Health brought together in Brasília health surveillance managers from all federative units to collaboratively align strategies and advances in health and environmental surveillance actions throughout the country.<sup>173</sup> The meeting, aimed exclusively at state representatives, aimed to strengthen the partnership and discuss priority topics, such as vaccination, arbovirus control, strategic stocks and preparation for climate and public health emergencies.

On 15 April 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on an international instrument to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response to future global health emergencies.<sup>174</sup> The Pandemic Agreement is the result of negotiations that have taken place over the past few years, in more than 13 rounds of negotiations, at the headquarters of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Brazil actively participated in the negotiations, including as a representative of the Americas region on the board of directors of the work, reaffirming its commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation in public health, solidarity between nations and the promotion of principles of equity, transparency and respect for national sovereignty.

On 22 April 2025, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen malaria control activities in

<sup>172</sup> Brazil, GOARN and PAHO train public health experts to work in international outbreak response, PAHO (Brasilia) 29 January 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/29-1-2025-brazil-goarn-and-paho-train-public-health-experts-work-international-outbreak>.

<sup>173</sup> State leaders meet in Brasilia to strengthen health surveillance in the country, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 19 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/fevereiro/dirigentes-estaduais-reunem-se-em-brasilia-para-reforcar-vigilancia-em-saude-no-pais>.

<sup>174</sup> Conclusion of the Pandemic Agreement Negotiations at the World Health Organization - Joint Note MRE/MS, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 15 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/conclusao-das-negociacoes-do-acordo-de-pandemias-na-organizacao-mundial-da-saude-nota-conjunta-mre-ms](https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/conclusao-das-negociacoes-do-acordo-de-pandemias-na-organizacao-mundial-da-saude-nota-conjunta-mre-ms).



Amazon border regions of countries of the Americas.<sup>175</sup> The aim of the agreement is to address some of the main barriers to achieving malaria elimination in border areas of the region, including through strengthening the exchange of experiences between countries.

On 30 April 2025, the Government of Brazil and the Government of Guyana together with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, officially launched the Cross-Border Vaccination Week in the Americas.<sup>176</sup>

Brazil took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 25 October 2024, the Ministry of Health presented amendments to the Federal program “Healthcare development” goals and tasks for 2025.<sup>177</sup> Among the key changes, a target for increasing life expectancy has been added (raising the goal from 78 years by 2030 to 81 years by 2036), and the indicator for public satisfaction with medical care has been specified at 55 percent by 2030 (up from 47.6 percent in 2023). The programme’s funding “passport” has also been updated through 2027, allocating a total of RUB5.268 trillion for 2025–2027—of which RUB4.7 trillion will come from the federal budget—and reorganizing how subsidies are distributed across federal projects and newly launched national initiatives.

On 20 January 2025, Russia and Zimbabwe signed an agreement on cooperation in healthcare.<sup>178</sup>

On 17 April 2025, Russia and Qatar signed an agreement on cooperation in healthcare.<sup>179</sup>

On 21 April 2025, Russia and Kyrgyzstan signed an agreement on promotion of scientific research and healthcare services organization.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> PAHO and CAF sign agreement to strengthen malaria response in Amazon border regions, PAHO (Washington DC) 22 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/22-4-2025-paho-and-caf-sign-agreement-strengthen-malaria-response-amazon-border-regions>

<sup>176</sup> Guyana and Brazil Strengthen Health Collaboration with Cross-Border Vaccination Week Launch, PAHO (Lethem) 30 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/30-4-2025-guyana-and-brazil-strengthen-health-collaboration-cross-border-vaccination-week>.

<sup>177</sup> The Ministry of Health will update the parameters and goals of the state program “Health Development” for 2025, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 October 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://vademec.ru/news/2024/10/25/minzdrav-obnovit-parametry-i-tseli-gosprogrammy-razviti-zdravookhraneniya-na-2025-god/>

<sup>178</sup> Russia and Zimbabwe sign an agreement on cooperation in the field of health care, Ministry of Health of Russia (Moscow) 20 January 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2025/01/20/22714-rossiya-i-zimbabve-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-v-oblasti-zdravookhraneniya>

<sup>179</sup> Russia and Qatar signed a cooperation agreement in healthcare, Ministry of Health of Russia (n.d.) 17 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2025/04/17/24500-rossiya-i-katar-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-v-oblasti-zdravookhraneniya>

<sup>180</sup> Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in scientific research and healthcare sector management, Ministry of Health of Russia (Bishkek) 21 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025.

On 23 - 25 April 2025, Russia and Ethiopia held a three-day joint emergency response exercise aimed at prevention of epidemiological crises.<sup>181</sup> More than 100 participants from 15 African countries also took part in the event. On the margins of the joint exercise Russia and Ethiopia has reached an agreement on the provision of a state-of-the-art mobile laboratory for Ethiopia and specialized training for local healthcare professionals.

On 16 May 2025, Russia and Sri Lanka had a bilateral meeting on new opportunities for cooperation.<sup>182</sup> Russia and Sri Lanka agreed upon establishing partnerships between healthcare institutions of the two countries, knowledge sharing in healthcare sector digitalization, and the management of tropical diseases.

Russia took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 4 December 2024, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organized, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, a workshop on Mpox in New Delhi.<sup>183</sup> The workshop aimed to strengthen India's preparedness and response to Mpox through collaborative strategies and knowledge-sharing involving various domestic and international stakeholders.

On 17 March 2025, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel announced the launch of QUAD Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for Indo-Pacific Region.<sup>184</sup> The goal of the workshop was to strengthen global health emergency frameworks, enhancing preparedness and resilience to health threats, and ensure coordinated responses to evolving pandemics as well as the implementation of One Health approach, addressing human, animal, and environmental health through a multisectoral lens.

On 1 May 2025, a real-time digital surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases was launched in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.<sup>185</sup> The government initiated digital surveillance system – the Unified Disease Surveillance Portal is aimed at facilitating real-time case reporting and data collection.

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<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2025/04/21/24605-rossiya-i-kyrgyzstan-razvivayut-sotrudnichestvo-v-sfere-nauchnyh-issledovaniy-i-organizatsii-zdravoohraneniya>

<sup>181</sup> Ethiopia, Russia deepen health partnership with joint emergency response exercise, Capital (n.d.) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://capitalethiopia.com/2025/04/29/ethiopia-russia-deepen-health-partnership-with-joint-emergency-response-exercise-2>

<sup>182</sup> Sri Lanka and Russia Forge Stronger Ties in Healthcare Cooperation, Embassy of Sri Lanka (Moscow) 16 May 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://mfa.gov.lk/en/sri-lanka-and-russia-forge-stronger-ties-in-healthcare-cooperation>

<sup>183</sup> Collaborative surveillance key to strengthening public health response to Mpox, WHO India (New Delhi) 9 December 2024. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.who.int/india/news/item/09-12-2024-collaborative-surveillance-key-to-strengthening-public-health-response-to-mpox>

<sup>184</sup> Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel inaugurates QUAD Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for Indo-Pacific Region, Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 17 March 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2111705>

<sup>185</sup> UP first to initiate real-time digital surveillance of VPDs, the Times of India (New Delhi) 2 May 2025. Access Date 11 May 2025. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/up-first-to-initiate-real-time-digital-surveillance-of-vpds/articleshow/120802114.cms>

India took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 25 February 2025, the Chinese embassy in Tonga provided emergency funding to Tonga to fight against dengue fever.<sup>186</sup> Chinese ambassador Liu Weimin mentioned that China actively supports Tongan people to fight against Dengue Fever and safeguard public health, is ready to work together with Tonga to enhance cooperation in medical and health field and promote the capacity building of Tonga in epidemic prevention and control.

On 30 April 2025, the State Council Information Office issued a white paper titled "Covid-19 Prevention, Control and Origins Tracing: China's Actions and Stance".<sup>187</sup> The paper provides for measures to work with all nations in advancing global public health and good governance and contribute more proactively to preventing new infectious diseases in the future.

On 30 April 2025, China adopted a revised Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, aiming to improve its prevention of epidemics and protect the life and health of people.<sup>188</sup> The revised law will take effect on 1 September 2025. The new law provides a strong legal safeguard for the development of a disease control system led by medical and health institutions, integrating prevention and treatment, and supported by cooperation across all sectors of society. The law further clarifies the rights, obligations and responsibilities of various parties - including government departments, disease control agencies, medical institutions, businesses and individuals - in the prevention and control of infectious diseases and strengthens cross-departmental coordination mechanisms.

China has taken action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

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<sup>186</sup> Chinese Embassy in Tonga Provides Emergency Funding to Tonga to Fight against Dengue Fever, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China 25 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xw/zwbdt/202502/t20250227\\_11564708.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zwbdt/202502/t20250227_11564708.html).

<sup>187</sup> China releases white paper on Covid-19 prevention, control and origins tracing, National Health Commission of China 30 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [https://en.nhc.gov.cn/2025-04/30/c\\_86425.htm](https://en.nhc.gov.cn/2025-04/30/c_86425.htm).

<sup>188</sup> China revises law to strengthen infectious disease prevention, control, State Council of China 30 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/30/content\\_WS681208b5c6d0868f4e8f238c.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/30/content_WS681208b5c6d0868f4e8f238c.html).

On 31 January 2025, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) presented its updated Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2030 period.<sup>189</sup> The Plan outlines the SAHPRA's commitment to enhancing regulatory frameworks, particularly in the realm of advanced therapies. Key initiatives include establishing clear guidelines for gene and cell therapies, aligning with international standards from bodies like WHO and EMA, and building internal expertise to evaluate these emerging treatments. The plan also emphasizes ethical considerations, stakeholder collaboration, and active participation in global health initiatives to ensure South Africa's alignment with international developments and standards.

On 13 March 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed a joint press conference during the 8th South Africa–European Union Summit in Cape Town.<sup>190</sup> He emphasized the deepening of the strategic partnership between South Africa and the EU, highlighting shared commitments to democracy, human rights, and multilateral cooperation. Key outcomes included the EU's announcement of a EUR4.7 billion Global Gateway Investment Package aimed at supporting South Africa's initiatives in green energy, vaccine production, and infrastructure development.

South Africa took action to improve its national capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, but its actions lack those focusing on the commitment's implementation through international partnerships.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: +1**

The United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 28 January 2025, the Surveillance and Monitoring Network at the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control held its ninth regular meeting with the participation of network members from various Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Participants discussed targeted projects for 2025, which include:

- Surveillance and Monitoring Reports aimed at improving health data collection and analysis.
- Disease Data Dashboard, developed to enhance data quality and provide more precise analytical insights.
- Healthy Life Expectancy Index Project, reflecting the overall quality of life and public health in the Gulf region.
- Infectious Disease Prediction Models Project, focused on developing advanced analytical tools for disease surveillance and proactive response measures.

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<sup>189</sup> SAHPRA Strategic Plan 2025 And 2026 – 2029 And 2030, SAHPRA (n.d.) 3 April 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <http://sahpra.org.za/document/sahpra-strategic-plan-2025-and-2026-2029-and-2030>

<sup>190</sup> Remarks by President Ramaphosa at the Joint Press Conference: South Africa-European Union Summit, 13 March 2025, Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa (Cape Town) 13 March 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://dirco.gov.za/remarks-by-president-ramaphosa-at-the-joint-press-conference-south-africa-european-union-summit-13-march-2025>

- Gulf Cancer Registry for GCC Countries, designed to improve cancer data accuracy and enhance prevention and control strategies.<sup>191</sup>

In 21-22 February 2025, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP), in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Emirates Health Services, the Dubai Health Authority, and the American Society for Microbiology, hosted the 8th UAE International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance.<sup>192</sup> The two-day conference explored the latest innovations and health research tackling antimicrobial resistance, with the discussions expected to contribute to the sustainable development of the healthcare sector in line with international best practices.

On 6 March 2025, the MoHAP organized a two-day consultative workshop in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University to chart out a long-term strategy for the national health workforce. The workshop explored ways to develop an integrated national strategy for health cadres, ensuring it aligns with global trends and international best practices. It also set out key strategic guidelines to strengthen and future-proof the national health workforce, equipping it to meet the evolving demands of the sector.<sup>193</sup>

The United Arab Emirates took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Iran: +1**

Iran has fully complied with the commitment to reform and strengthen the international pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

On 26 January 2025, the Ministry of Health announced plans to incorporate the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into the national immunization program, aiming to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and genital warts.<sup>194</sup> The initiative will primarily target high-risk groups, as genital warts are relatively uncommon in the country. Iran has developed a domestically produced bivalent HPV vaccine targeting subtypes 16 and 18, which are associated with many cervical cancers.

On 14 March 2025, Iran and Indonesia has made an agreement on promotion of vaccine production.<sup>195</sup> This collaboration involves Biofarma, Indonesia's state-run vaccine manufacturer, and aims to integrate these

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<sup>191</sup> Surveillance and Monitoring Network Holds Ninth Regular Meeting to Discuss Achievements and Future Projects, Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control (Riyadh) 28 January 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://gulfcdd.org/en/News/Surveillance-and-Monitoring-Network-Holds-Ninth-Regular-Meeting-to-Discuss-Achievements-and-Future-Projects>.

<sup>192</sup> MoHAP organises the 8th UAE International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Health and Prevention (Dubai) 26 February 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/w/mohap-organises-the-8th-uae-international-conference-on-antimicrobial-resistance>.

<sup>193</sup> Ministry of Health and Prevention brings together experts and specialists to discuss the future of the healthcare workforce, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Health and Prevention (Dubai) 6 March 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/w/ministry-of-health-and-prevention-brings-together-experts-and-specialists-to-discuss-the-future-of-the-healthcare-workforce>.

<sup>194</sup> HPV vaccination to be implemented nationwide, Tehran Times (Tehran) 26 January 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/509088/HPV-vaccination-to-be-implemented-nationwide>

<sup>195</sup> Iranian-made HPV, flu vaccines to be manufactured in Indonesia, Tehran Times (Tehran) 13 March 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/510941/Iranian-made-HPV-flu-vaccines-to-be-manufactured-in-Indonesia>

vaccines into Indonesia's national immunization program, benefiting its population of approximately 300 million. The agreement also includes provisions for Iran to transfer plasma refining technology to Indonesia and to supply medical services and equipment, such as telesurgery systems, enhancing Indonesia's healthcare infrastructure.

On 9 May 2025, the Ministry of Health confirmed the market entry for the first Iran-made HPV vaccine.<sup>196</sup> This vaccine, targeting HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18, was created using local expertise and has successfully passed all clinical trials. The initiative aims to reduce dependence on imported vaccines, enhance public health by preventing HPV-related diseases such as cervical cancer and genital warts, and potentially position Iran as a vaccine exporter in the region.

Iran took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: +1**

Egypt has fully complied with the commitment on health.

On 30 December 2024, the Government published the National One Health Operational Plan for 2024-2027.<sup>197</sup> Work to formulate the operational plan involved a systematic approach aimed at engaging relevant stakeholders and ensuring comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and aligning with overarching strategic objectives. The operational plan is accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation framework that tracks different outputs, outcomes, and a impact setting in place indicators and targets for each one. The plan provides for establishing partnerships and networking with neighboring countries, other countries, and international organizations, including through facilitating conferences and webinars, and developing a framework for cross-border collaboration on priority areas and adopting MOUs to support collaboration across countries.

On 10 May 2025, Minister of Health Ahmed El Sobky held a meeting with the World Health Organization's representative in Egypt Ne'ma Saeed Abid to explore ways of strengthening cooperation in developing the country's healthcare system.<sup>198</sup> El Sobky said the collaboration is structured around six core axes, including joint scientific research, the establishment of a WHO-certified emergency medical team, and the creation of a "Collaboration Center" focused on clinical governance and infection control. He also announced the upcoming pilot launch of Egypt's first national AI-powered remote diagnostics platform, which will rely on WHO-approved treatment protocols.

Egypt has taken action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of +1.

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<sup>196</sup> Iranian-made HPV vaccine enters domestic market, Tehran Times (Tehran) 9 May 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/512812/Iranian-made-HPV-vaccine-enters-domestic-market>

<sup>197</sup> National One Health Operational Plan 2024-2027, Ministry of Environment of Egypt (Cairo) 30 December 2024. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/Uploads/Topics/Files/20241230104742998.pdf>.

<sup>198</sup> Egypt, WHO expand AI diagnostics, emergency response cooperation, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 10 May 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/208612/Egypt%2C-WHO-expand-AI-diagnostics%2C-emergency-response-cooperation?lang=en-us>.

*Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

**Ethiopia: +1**

Ethiopia has partially complied with the commitment to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention

On 23 April 2025, Ethiopia and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on strengthening cooperation in the health sector, with a focus on hygiene, epidemic prevention, and rapid emergency response.<sup>199</sup> The document aims to enhance health security through early disease detection, coordinated prevention strategies, and fast response to public health threats.

On 23 - 25 April 2025, Russia and Ethiopia held a three-day joint emergency response exercise aimed at prevention of epidemiological crises.<sup>200</sup> More than 100 participants from 15 African countries also took part in the event. On the margins of the joint exercise Russia and Ethiopia has reached an agreement on the provision of a state-of-the-art mobile laboratory for Ethiopia and specialized training for local healthcare professionals.

Ethiopia took action to improve collective capacity for global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response both domestically and through international partnerships.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>199</sup> Ethiopia, Russia sign cooperation agreement in health to boost epidemic readiness, Fana Broadcasting Corporate (Addis Ababa) 23 April 2025. Access Date 11 May 2025. <https://www.fanamc.com/english/ethiopia-russia-sign-cooperation-agreement-in-health-to-boost-epidemic-readiness/>

<sup>200</sup> Ethiopia, Russia deepen health partnership with joint emergency response exercise, Capital (n.d.) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 16 May 2025. <https://capitalethiopia.com/2025/04/29/ethiopia-russia-deepen-health-partnership-with-joint-emergency-response-exercise-2>

## 6. Food and Agriculture

We commit to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers [with the view to ensure a continuous flow of food and essential inputs for agricultural production which should be exempted from undue restrictive economic measures, inconsistent with WTO rules, including those affecting producers and exporters of agricultural products as well as business services with regard to international shipments]

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa			+1
UAE			+1
Egypt			+1
Iran		0	
Ethiopia		0	
Average	+0.44 (72%)		

### Background

BRICS has been dealing with issues of food security and agricultural development since the first meeting in Yekaterinburg in 2009 where Brazil, Russia, India and China committed to set up the sustainable conditions for the provision of food security.<sup>201</sup> This commitment (in different wording, but carrying the same meaning) was reiterated in Sanya in 2011<sup>202</sup>, in New Delhi in 2012<sup>203</sup>, and Ufa in 2015<sup>204</sup>.

In 2020 in Moscow, the BRICS focused on the role of trade in agriculture and the necessity to fight against protectionism to ensure food security.<sup>205</sup> The BRICS nations highlighted “the importance of a targeted, proportionate, transparent, timely and consistent with WTO rules approach when taking urgent response measures in connection with the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing the impact of these measures on the functioning of global food supply chains and the stability of agricultural markets consistent with national requirements”.<sup>206</sup>

<sup>201</sup> Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries Leaders, BRICS Young Scientists Forum (n.d.) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://www.brics-ysf.org/sites/default/files/2nd\\_Summit.pdf](https://www.brics-ysf.org/sites/default/files/2nd_Summit.pdf)

<sup>202</sup> III BRICS Sanya Declaration, 2022 BRICS China (n.d.) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308\\_10649517.html](https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202203/t20220308_10649517.html)

<sup>203</sup> Delhi Declaration, Kremlin (Moscow) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/supplement/1189>

<sup>204</sup> VII BRICS Summit - Ufa Declaration, Government of Brazil (n.d.) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/vii-brics-summit-ufa-declaration>

<sup>205</sup> XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, Kremlin (n.d.) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <http://en.special.kremlin.ru/supplement/5581>

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.



In 2021 in New Delhi<sup>207</sup>, in 2022 in Beijing<sup>208</sup>, and in 2023 in Johannesburg<sup>209</sup> BRICS did not explicitly address the issue of trade restrictions impacting food security while adhering to common goal of deepening cooperation in this sphere.

In 2024 in Kazan, the BRICS leaders committed to “minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers” with the view to “ensure a continuous flow of food and essential inputs for agricultural production which should be exempted from undue restrictive economic measures, inconsistent with WTO rules, including those affecting producers and exporters of agricultural products as well as business services with regard to international shipments”.<sup>210</sup>

### Commitment Features

The commitment requires a BRICS member to take steps as to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers. For the sake of the guideline, we take “disruptions” as “events that affect the flow of products and can be caused by extreme weather, natural disasters, conflicts, pandemics, and political situations, among others”.<sup>211</sup> “Rule-based trade” in this context refers to “trade within the framework of the WTO agreements”<sup>212</sup>.

The WTO’s agriculture policy regulation framework was established in 1995 – this year the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture’s implementation period started.<sup>213</sup> The Agreement is built on three fundamental pillars aimed at liberalizing trade in agricultural products, namely Market Access; Export Competition; and Domestic Support.

#### *Market Access*

The pillar focuses on reducing barriers to trade in agricultural products, such as tariffs and quotas, to promote fairer global trade. Non-tariff barriers, such as import restrictions and quantitative limits, are required to be converted into tariffs through a process known as “tariffication.”<sup>214</sup> This transformation ensures greater transparency and predictability in trade. Additionally, WTO members commit to progressively reducing these tariffs over time according to agreed schedules, creating a more open trading environment.

Non-tariff barriers include the following categories: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) (e.g., limits on pesticide residues, bans on imports of diseased animals); Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) (e.g., labeling requirements, technical standards for product safety); Pre-shipment Inspection and Other Formalities (e.g., quality verification, customs classification reviews); Contingent Trade-Protective Measures (e.g., antidumping duties, safeguard measures); Non-Automatic Import Licensing, Quotas, Prohibitions, and Quantity-Control Measures (e.g., import quotas on specific goods, licenses for restricted products); Price-Control Measures

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<sup>207</sup> XIII BRICS Summit- New Delhi Declaration, BRICS 2021 India (n.d.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-51.pdf>

<sup>208</sup> XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, BRICS 2022 China (n.d.) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202207/t20220705\\_10715631.html](https://brics2022.mfa.gov.cn/eng/hywj/ODS/202207/t20220705_10715631.html)

<sup>209</sup> XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, BRICS 2023 (n.d.) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <https://brics2023.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Jhb-II-Declaration-24-August-2023-1.pdf>

<sup>210</sup> XVI BRICS Summit, Kremlin (Moscow) 23 October 2024. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/en/RosOySvLzGaJtmx2wYFv0IN4NSPZploG.pdf>

<sup>211</sup> Disruptions in the food supply chain: A literature review, Heliyon (n.d.) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 21 January 2025. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S240584402410761X>

<sup>212</sup> Let’s Talk Rules-based Trade, World Trade Organization (n.d.) n.d. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/webcas\\_e/itt\\_e/itt10\\_e.htm#:~:text=within%20agreed%20limits,-,Trade%20within%20the%20framework%20of%20the%20WTO%20agreements%20is%20described,rules%20are%20around%20the%20world.](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/webcas_e/itt_e/itt10_e.htm#:~:text=within%20agreed%20limits,-,Trade%20within%20the%20framework%20of%20the%20WTO%20agreements%20is%20described,rules%20are%20around%20the%20world.)

<sup>213</sup> Agreement on Agriculture, World Trade Organization (n.d.) 1995. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/ag\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ag_e.htm)

<sup>214</sup> Tariffication, World Trade Organization (n.d.) n.d. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/glossary\\_e/tariffication\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/glossary_e/tariffication_e.htm)

(e.g., minimum import prices, additional import taxes); Finance Measures (e.g., restrictions on foreign currency for imports, payment terms requirements); Measures Affecting Competition (e.g., state monopolies, preferential treatment for domestic firms); Trade-Related Investment Measures (e.g., local content requirements, export performance requirements); Distribution Restrictions (e.g., limitations on distribution channels, restrictions on retail locations); Restrictions on Post-Sales Services (e.g., requirements for local maintenance facilities, limits on warranties); Subsidies and Other Forms of Support (e.g., production subsidies, financial grants to exporters); Government Procurement Restrictions (e.g., domestic supplier preferences, tendering requirements for local firms); Intellectual Property Measures (e.g., enforcement of patents, protection of geographical indications); Rules of Origin (e.g., criteria for determining origin, certificates of origin requirements); Export-Related Measures (e.g., export licensing requirements, export taxes on certain goods).<sup>215</sup>

To further facilitate access, tariff-rate quotas are implemented, allowing a specified quantity of goods to enter markets at lower tariff rates while maintaining higher tariffs for imports exceeding the quota. This mechanism ensures minimum market access and prevents complete isolation of domestic agricultural markets. By addressing both transparency and access, the market access provisions aim to balance the liberalization of trade with the protection of domestic agricultural industries.

### *Export Competition*

This pillar focuses on reducing and regulating measures that distort international trade through financial or policy support for exporters. This includes direct export subsidies provided to agricultural producers, which lower their costs and make their products artificially competitive in global markets. Other examples include marketing subsidies that help exporters promote their goods abroad and export credit guarantees that reduce risks for foreign buyers, making imported goods more attractive.

Under the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, members commit to reducing the volume and value of such subsidies over time to create a more level playing field for all trading partners. By limiting these practices, the export competition provisions aim to address unfair trade advantages, promote greater transparency, and support fairer global competition in agricultural markets. These measures also encourage countries to rely on market-driven mechanisms rather than distortive financial incentives to boost exports.

### *Domestic Support*

This pillar focuses on regulating and reducing government subsidies that distort trade in agricultural products. Subsidies are classified into three categories or "boxes," depending on their impact on trade. The *Amber Box* includes subsidies that directly influence production and prices, such as price supports or input subsidies. These are subject to reduction commitments to minimize their trade-distorting effects. The *Blue Box* encompasses subsidies tied to production-limiting programs, such as payments based on fixed areas or yields, which are considered less distorting and are exempt from reductions. The *Green Box* contains subsidies with minimal or no trade-distorting effects, including those for environmental protection, research, and infrastructure development, which are not subject to reduction commitments.

Members of the WTO agree to limit the overall level of trade-distorting subsidies under the Aggregate Measurement of Support, with specific reduction targets. These commitments aim to create a fairer competitive environment by discouraging excessive reliance on subsidies that distort markets and give unfair advantages to domestic producers. The domestic support provisions promote greater transparency and encourage a shift toward non-distorting forms of support that align with sustainable agricultural practices and global trade objectives.

As to achieve full compliance with the commitment made, a BRICS member is required to take actions facilitating trade in agricultural goods in terms of providing greater market access or creating conditions

<sup>215</sup> International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures 2019 version, UNCTAD (n.d.) 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2025. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctab2019d5\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctab2019d5_en.pdf)

favoring just export competition. Thus, a BRICS member state shall take steps as to remove market access barriers by means of non-tariff measures tariffication, reduce the volume and value of export subsidies that may grant unfair trade advantages, and reduce domestic support measures that may be attributed to either Amber or Blue boxes. Also, the commitment required the BRICS membership to refrain from introduction of new restrictive measures besides the abovementioned Amber or Blue boxes measures.

Introduction of new restrictive / trade distorting measures without lifting of existing measures results in “-1” score and a verdict of non-compliance. “0” score indicating partial compliance is granted if a BRICS member takes steps aimed at liberalization of trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers, but also introduces new restrictive measures, or no action that might be treated as liberalizing or restrictive by nature is taken during the monitoring period.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	A BRICS member takes NO steps aimed at liberalization of trade in agricultural goods or fertilizers in ANY of three pillars: market access; export competition; or domestic support AND introduce new restrictive measures.
0	A BRICS member DOES NOT introduce new restrictive measures on agricultural trade, AND does not lift already existing restrictive measures OR introduce new restrictive measures along with measures aimed at liberalization of trade in ANY of the three pillars: market access; export competition; or domestic support.
+1	A BRICS member DOES NOT introduce new restrictive measures on agricultural trade AND take steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers in ANY of three pillars: market access; export competition; or domestic support.

*Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

On 10-13 March 2025, a mission led by Brazil’s Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Mapa) advanced trade ties with Chile, focusing on agribusiness supply chain integration. The mission featured high-level seminars, bilateral meetings, and technical visits aimed at fostering business opportunities and strengthening collaboration between the Brazilian and Chilean agribusiness sectors.<sup>216</sup>

On 29 April 2025, the Government of Brazil and the Government of India concluded negotiations to enable the export of five citrus products from Brazil to India.<sup>217</sup>

Brazil did not introduce new restrictive measures on agricultural trade and took steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### Russia: 0

<sup>216</sup> Brazil and Chile deepen agribusiness trade relations in high-level mission, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 24 March 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/en/news/brazil-and-chile-deepen-agribusiness-trade-relations-in-high-level-mission>.

<sup>217</sup> Abertura de mercado na Índia para produtos cítricos brasileiros, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. [https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/abertura-de-mercado-na-india-para-produtos-citricos-brasileiros](https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/abertura-de-mercado-na-india-para-produtos-citricos-brasileiros).

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

On 22 November 2024, the Government raised the export duty on wheat by 12.3 percent according to introduced in June 2021 a grain damper mechanism that introduces floating export duties on wheat, corn, and barley, with the revenues used to subsidize agricultural producers.<sup>218</sup> The decision is to remain active until 3 December 2025.

On 25 November 2024, the Government announced the raise of sunflower export duty by 3.2 times starting from December 2024.<sup>219</sup>

On 30 November 2024, the Government announced an export tariff quota on rapeseed produced in Zabaykalsky Krai to remain active from 9 December 2024 to 31 August 2025.<sup>220</sup>

On 11 December 2024, the Government lowered export duties on mineral fertilizers from 10 percent to 7 percent till the end of December 2024.<sup>221</sup>

On 20 December 2024, the Government raised the export duty on wheat by 15.3 percent starting from 25 December 2024 to remain active until 12 January 2025.<sup>222</sup>

On 27 December 2024, the Government reduced export duties on certain types of peas, chickpeas and lentils from 7 percent to 5 percent starting from 1 January 2025.<sup>223</sup>

On 9 January 2025, the Government announced RUB100.55 billion (USD 953.65 million) in state aid to support preferential lending to domestic agricultural producers in 2025.<sup>224</sup> It constitutes a RUB91.36 billion (USD866.49 million) decrease compared to the regular budget of this scheme in 2024, which amounted to at least RUB191.91 billion (USD1.82 billion).

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<sup>218</sup> The export duty on wheat from Russia will increase by 12.3% starting November 27, Interfax (Moscow) 22 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/994056>

<sup>219</sup> The export duty on sunflower oil from Russia will increase 3.2 times in December, reaching nearly 9,200 rubles per ton, Interfax (Moscow) 25 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.interfax.ru/business/994388>

<sup>220</sup> Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1688 dated November 30, 2024, "On the Establishment and Specifics of the Allocation of Tariff Quotas for the Export of Certain Types of Rapeseed Seeds Outside the Territory of the Russian Federation to Countries that Are Not Members of the Eurasian Economic Union.", Government of Russia (Moscow) 30 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202412020026>

<sup>221</sup> The government has reduced export duties on mineral fertilizers, Government of Russia (Moscow) 11 December 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <http://government.ru/news/53693/>

<sup>222</sup> The export duty on wheat from Russia will increase by 15.3% starting December 25, Interfax (Moscow) 20 December 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://www.interfax.ru/business/999897>

<sup>223</sup> Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1929 dated December 27, 2024, "On Amending Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 2068 dated November 27, 2021.", Government of Russia (Moscow) 27 December 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202412280073?index=2>

<sup>224</sup> Selection of credit institutions for participation in the preferential lending program under Subsidy Grant Decision No. 25-66428-01969-R (Decree No. 1528, 68850), Portal for the Provision of Government Financial Support Measures (n.d.) 28 December 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 12 May 2025. <https://promote.budget.gov.ru/public/minfin/selection/view/9be32317-68dc-43bd-9ebc-5213007d824b?showBackButton=true&competitionType=0&tab=1>

Russia introduced new restrictive measures along with measures aimed at liberalization of trade in agricultural products.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

## **India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

On 13 February 2025, the Indian Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 14/2025-Customs reducing the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess on the imports of bourbon whiskey.<sup>225</sup>

On 7 March 2025, the Indian Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 16/2025-Customs imposing a 5 percent customs duty on the imports on lentils.<sup>226</sup>

On 22 March 2025, the Indian Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 19/2025-Customs, bringing the export duty on onions from 20 percent to 0 percent.<sup>227</sup>

On 2 April 2025, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued Notification No. 02/2025-26, prohibiting the import of roasted areca nuts.<sup>228</sup>

India introduced new restrictive measures along with measures aimed at liberalization of trade in agricultural products.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

## **China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment on food and agriculture.

On 8 March 2025, the State Council Tariff Commission imposed additional tariffs on a range of goods covered under 72 eight-digit tariff lines from Canada.<sup>229</sup> Specifically, the government added an additional 25 percent on 64 eight-digit tariff lines, including aquatic products and pork. In addition, the government added an additional 100 percent on eight eight-digit tariff lines, including rapeseed oil, oil cake and peas.

On 7 May 2025, the People's Bank of China announced providing CNY300 billion (USD41.57 billion) in financing to, among others, agricultural enterprises.<sup>230</sup> The support is provided through the Central Bank's re-lending facility. The state aid will also be available to SMEs. The stated objective is to encourage local

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<sup>225</sup> CBIC Amends Customs Notification; Notifies Effective Rates for Bourbon Whiskey, A2Z Taxcorp LLP (New Delhi) 14 February 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://a2ztaxcorp.net/cbic-amends-customs-notification-notifies-effective-rates-for-bourbon-whiskey/>

<sup>226</sup> Govt amends import duty on Lentils (Mosur) from 8th March 2025, TaxGuru (New Delhi) 22 March 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://taxguru.in/custom-duty/govt-amends-import-duty-lentils-mosur-8th-march-2025.html>

<sup>227</sup> 20% Export Duty on Onions Withdrawn Effective 1st April 2025, TaxGuru (New Delhi) 22 March 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://taxguru.in/custom-duty/20-percent-export-duty-onions-withdrawn-effective-1st-april-2025.html>

<sup>228</sup> The GoI's DGFT issued Notification No. 02/2025-26, Tax Management India (New Delhi) 4 April 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. [https://www.taxmanagementindia.com/web/tmi\\_highlights\\_details.asp?id=87138](https://www.taxmanagementindia.com/web/tmi_highlights_details.asp?id=87138)

<sup>229</sup> China to impose additional tariffs on some Canadian products after anti-discrimination probe, Xinhua (Beijing) 8 March 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://english.news.cn/20250308/e536046b6ede428ea911d5b5044cbf52/c.html>

<sup>230</sup> China's central bank vows more financial support for certain sectors via relending, Xinhua (Beijing) 7 May 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://english.news.cn/20250507/fb3599ff25ee422282312271ef26ef1e/c.html>

financial institutions to increase credit support for entities involved in agriculture, small and micro businesses, and private enterprises.

China has taken steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers but has also introduced new restrictive measures on agricultural trade.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

On 13 March 2025, the Government presented an updated version of the budget that includes several positive measures for the agricultural sector.<sup>231</sup> Major investments were announced for restoring and upgrading infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports—critical for agricultural logistics. Additional funding was allocated for disaster response and recovery, particularly at the municipal level. The government also plans to expand the list of VAT-exempt food items to offset the upcoming 0.5 percent VAT increase set for 1 May 2025. These steps aim to support farmers and strengthen national food security.

On 20 March 2025, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) announced its plan to formally withdraw all longstanding customs and excise concessions that lack current legal or policy backing.<sup>232</sup> The SARS explains these outdated allowances have been overtaken by new laws, procedures, and technology, making them no longer relevant or lawful. Affected traders must, within 21 business days, submit reasons for retaining any such concessions or propose legislative changes to legitimize them, or risk non-compliance once the concessions are withdrawn.

On 10 April 2025, South Africa has reached an agreement with Botswana on lifting agricultural export ban.<sup>233</sup> This policy shift aims to alleviate domestic supply shortages and enhance regional trade. South Africa highlights the decision's potential to strengthen economic ties within the Southern African Customs Union and support South African farmers, particularly in provinces like Limpopo and Gauteng.

South Africa did not introduce new restrictive measures on agricultural trade and took steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: +1**

The United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

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<sup>231</sup> Statement | Budget 2.0: An opportunity for Parliament to work towards a pro-poor budget, Institute for Economic Justice (n.d.) 13 March 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. [https://iej.org.za/statement-budget-2-0\\_13-march-2025/](https://iej.org.za/statement-budget-2-0_13-march-2025/)

<sup>232</sup> SARS to Withdraw Long-Standing Customs and Excise Concessions, SARS (Pretoria) 20 March 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. [https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Docs/CandE/Withdrawal-of-Customs-and-Excise-Concessions\\_250320.pdf](https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Docs/CandE/Withdrawal-of-Customs-and-Excise-Concessions_250320.pdf)

<sup>233</sup> Botswana Lifts its Restrictions on Vegetable Imports from South Africa, Fostering Trade Relations and Bolstering Opportunities for Regional Agricultural Collaboration, Trade World News (n.d.) 10 April 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.tradeworldnews.com/botswana-lifts-ban-on-vegetable-imports>

On 6 November 2024, the UAE and the Government of Australia signed the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>234</sup> The trade deal delivers unprecedented the UAE market access and preferential treatment to Australian: farmers, producers, manufacturers, services providers. The trade agreement will eliminate tariffs on more than 99 percent of Australia's exports to the UAE, once fully implemented. It is the most liberalizing trade agreement the UAE has signed to date.

On 17 April 2025, in the context of promoting and supporting shared goals that include promoting sustainable agricultural development, achieving food security, empowering agricultural communities, and facilitating investment and innovation in the agricultural sector, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and the World Agricultural Forum.<sup>235</sup> Under this memorandum, it was agreed to cooperate in several areas, most notably innovative agricultural investments, supporting and empowering farmers, and enhancing global cooperation in the field of agriculture. It was also agreed to facilitate public-private partnerships to support pioneering developments and sustainable agricultural practices, and to exchange knowledge and build capacity through the organization of joint workshops, conferences, and trade exhibitions. In addition to supporting the promotion and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and solutions capable of adapting to climate change.

The United Arab Emirates did not introduce new restrictive measures on agricultural trade and took steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Egypt: +1**

Egypt has fully complied with the commitment on food and agriculture.

On 13 March 2025, minister of investment and foreign trade Hassan El-Khatib and minister of agriculture and land reclamation Alaa Farouk co-chaired the meeting of the Potato Export Regulation Committee, with the participation of several exporters.<sup>236</sup> The meeting discussed Ministerial Decree No. 187 of 2024, which regulates the production, inspection, and export of potatoes, ensuring compliance with importing countries' requirements and expanding Egypt's agricultural exports. The committee also reviewed the current export season and explored strategies to position Egypt as a leading global potato exporter while maintaining the high quality associated with Egyptian produce.

Egypt has not introduced new restrictive measures on agricultural trade and has taken steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of +1.

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<sup>234</sup> Australian Government signs new trade agreement with United Arab Emirates, Australian Government (Canberra) 6 November 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://export.business.gov.au/australian-government-signs-new-trade-agreement-with-united-arab-emirates>.

<sup>235</sup> Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and the World Agricultural Forum, Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (Dubai) 17 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.aaaid.org/en/news/signing-a-memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-arab-authority-for-agricultural-investment-and-development-and-the-world-agricultural-forum/>.

<sup>236</sup> Trade, Agriculture ministers set strategy for potato export, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 13 April 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/205522/Trade%2c-Agriculture-ministers-set-strategy-for-potato-export?lang=en-us>.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **Iran: 0**

Iran has partially complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

On 26 February 2025, Iran imposed export ban on some agricultural goods.<sup>237</sup> The decision aimed to ensure sufficient supply during periods of heightened demand, as dates are traditionally consumed during Ramadan, and apples and oranges are staples for Nowruz celebrations.

On 15 May 2025, a free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) came into force.<sup>238</sup> This agreement significantly reduces tariffs rate from 16.7 percent to 5.2 percent. The sectors poised to benefit most include metals, grains, oils, paper, and radar equipment. This development marks a substantial opening of Iran's market to goods from EEU member countries, promoting increased trade across various sectors.

Iran introduced new restrictive measures on agricultural trade and took steps to liberalize trade in agricultural goods and fertilizers.

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Ethiopia: 0**

Ethiopia has partially complied with the commitment to minimize disruptions and promote rules-based trade in agriculture and fertilizers.

No information on Ethiopia's trade measures targeting agricultural goods was registered during the monitoring period.

Ethiopia took no action to either liberalize or restrict the cross-border movement of agricultural goods.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>237</sup> Iran bans exports of some crops amid soaring domestic prices, Tehran Times (Tehran) 26 February 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/510241/iran-bans-exports-of-some-crops-amid-soaring-domestic-prices>

<sup>238</sup> Russian-backed union free trade deal with Iran goes into effect, Reuters (Moscow) 15 May 2025. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/russian-backed-union-free-trade-deal-with-iran-goes-into-effect-2025-05-15>



## 7. Regional security

We reaffirm our support for African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union ... in line with the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia			+1
India	-1		
China			+1
South Africa		0	
UAE			+1
Egypt			+1
Iran		0	
Ethiopia		0	
Average	+0.33 (67%)		

### Background

Regional security issues have been on the BRICS agenda since the first summit in 2009 in Yekaterinburg.<sup>239</sup> The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China expressed support for “political and diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in international relations”.

Since 2011, the BRICS leaders addressed various security issues in different regions and countries of the planet – Libya, Afghanistan, Mali, Central African Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Somalia, Western Sahara, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine and Israel, the Korean Peninsula, and Ukraine.

In 2016 in Goa, the BRICS leaders committed to support the African Union (AU) peace efforts for the first time. In the Goa Declaration, the BRICS leaders supported “the AU’s efforts to resolving conflicts through its peace and security architecture, in collaboration with the United Nations and the continent’s regional organisations, and to contribute towards lasting and sustainable peace and security in Africa” and also supported “efforts aimed at full operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF)”<sup>240</sup>.

In 2023 in Johannesburg, the BRICS leaders reiterated their adherence to the principle “African solutions to African problems” that “should continue to serve as the basis for conflict resolution” and supported “African peace efforts on the continent by strengthening the relevant capacities of African States”.<sup>241</sup>

<sup>239</sup> Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries Leaders, BRICS Young Scientists Forum (n.d.) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://www.brics-ysf.org/sites/default/files/2nd\\_Summit.pdf](https://www.brics-ysf.org/sites/default/files/2nd_Summit.pdf)

<sup>240</sup> Goa Declaration at 8th BRICS Summit, Ministry of External Affairs of India (n.d.) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/27491/Goa+Declaration+at+8th+BRICS+Summit>

<sup>241</sup> XV BRICS Summit Johannesburg II Declaration, Ministry of External Affairs of India (n.d.) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/CPV/Declaration\\_2408.pdf](https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/CPV/Declaration_2408.pdf)

In 2024 in Kazan, the BRICS leaders reaffirmed support for “African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union” while respecting “the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity”.<sup>242</sup>

### Commitment Features

The commitment requires BRICS member states to take actions aimed at peaceful resolution of disputes on the African continent while respecting the principle of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity.

“Ownership” in this context refers to “the de facto political control over an issue” and “African” (or “Africanisation”) refers to the process of increasing the extent and quality of African participation in a particular activity or field.<sup>243</sup>

By “peaceful resolution of disputes on the African continent” we understand international and interior conflicts that involve one or more countries with most of territory geographically belonging to the African continent. In this respect, resolution of disputes implies peacebuilding activities including mediation.

According to the manual on mediation and peacebuilding facilitation presented by ETH Zurich, Switzerland, there are four main domains requiring actions to ensure sustainable peace: Economy and Environment; Justice and Governance; Security; and Society.<sup>244</sup> This manual lays down the methodological framework of the presented guideline.

#### *Economy and Environment*

This pillar embraces issues of proper wealth and resources sharing along with the establishment of facilitating conditions for sustainable development.

The guideline indicates that countries with subsistence agriculture, weak economies and political instability are more prone to violent conflicts over scarce resources such as water and land. Strong evidence exists in favor of treating availability of resources in-demand (oil, diamonds, timber, rare earth metals, etc.) corresponds with onset, intensity or duration of armed conflicts and civil wars.

Several international initiatives such as the Kimberley Process for diamonds<sup>245</sup> or the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative<sup>246</sup>, are designed as to curb possible negative impact of valuable resource trade on stability and peace in unstable regions. On the example of Kimberley process, we presume the following list of exemplary actions that might be treated as indicating compliance with the Economy and Environment pillar of the commitment: a BRICS member state could enact robust legislation preventing the import, export, and trade of conflict diamonds; establish transparent certification and tracking protocols to verify diamond origins; foster cross-border cooperation and intelligence-sharing among law enforcement bodies; fund capacity-building programs in regions prone to illicit diamond mining; engage in diplomatic efforts to promote compliance with international diamond-trade standards; and launch public-awareness campaigns highlighting the ethical and economic importance of responsible diamond sourcing. Actions pursuing similar

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<sup>242</sup> XVI BRICS Summit, Kremlin (Moscow) 23 October 2024. Access Date: 23 January 2025.

<http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/en/RosOySvLzGaJtmx2wYFv0IN4NSPZploG.pdf>

<sup>243</sup> Who owns African ownership? The Africanisation of security and its limits, Taylor & Francis (n.d.) 15 December 2008. Access Date: 23 January 2025. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10220460802614486>

<sup>244</sup> Mediation and Facilitation in Peace Processes, ETH Zurich (Zurich) 2007. Access Date: 23 January 2025. [https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/30542/dossier\\_Mediation\\_and\\_Facilitation.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/30542/dossier_Mediation_and_Facilitation.pdf)

<sup>245</sup> Kimberley Process, Kimberley Process (n.d.) n.d. Access Date: 27 January 2025. <https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/>

<sup>246</sup> EITI strategic priorities 2024 -2028, EITI (n.d.) n.d. Access Date: 27 January 2025. <https://eiti.org/>

purposes, but referring to other kinds of valuable resources, may also contribute to the commitment's fulfilment.

States seeking to support the sustainable development of countries vulnerable to internal conflicts over limited resources can implement equitable resource-sharing frameworks to ensure fair benefits for local communities; strengthen governance structures through transparent budgeting and anti-corruption measures; invest in infrastructure, healthcare, and education to build resilience and diversify economic opportunities; promote inclusive decision-making processes that engage civil society and marginalized groups; encourage environmentally sound practices to conserve natural assets for future generations; and collaborate with regional partners, international agencies, and private stakeholders to mobilize funding, expertise, and technology for long-term economic stability and conflict prevention.

### *Justice and Governance*

In this domain, transitional justice, governance and institution building, and integrating local with international norms are central. Creating peace requires confronting past injustices, often committed by those who must uphold settlements. Judicial and nonjudicial mechanisms ensure acknowledgment of wrongdoing and reparations, while careful sequencing prevents parties from withdrawing too soon. Constitutions, peace agreements, and interim measures establish stable institutions. Integrating human rights must balance local norms with international standards, fostering legitimacy and preventing impunity.

As external actors, BRICS member countries may support African countries in addressing these conflict-related challenges by following means: launch of diplomatic initiatives or establishment of policy frameworks championing international legal standards for conflict settlement; provision of technical or financial assistance that helps establish or reform transitional justice mechanisms (e.g., truth commissions, special tribunals) to address past atrocities; taking advisory or consulting roles aiding in the drafting or amendment of constitutions, thus ensuring human rights protections and robust governance structures; acting as mediators providing support for peace agreements that avoid blanket amnesties for war crimes and help organize interim arrangements; launching cross-cultural engagement programs that integrate local African practices into international norms to foster legitimate and widely accepted institutions; strategic sequencing of human rights issues in negotiations to maintain party engagement; reconciliation-focused aid for victims and impacted communities; and facilitating broader governance reforms backed by capacity-building efforts, designed to strengthen institutions, promote democratic legitimacy, and minimize the risk of renewed violence.

### *Security*

This domain relies upon three main pillars: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW); Security Sector Reform; and Peacebuilding and Peace Enforcement.

DDR and SALW pillar imply that parties involved in peacebuilding activities shall seek opportunities to resolve issues related to treatment of persons directly involved into combats and curb spread of weapons that is typical for societies experiencing internal disputes or engaged with foreign intervention. The DDR-component requires involved parties to provide help in demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants, militia and retiring members of the armed forces or groups into society. Reintegration implies not only provision of alternative source of income, but also facilitation of access to psychological support. On practice, these measures usually include provision of educational services and creation of infrastructure to integrate former combatants into peaceful life rather than direct allocation of money. The SALW issue refers to uncontrollable spread of weaponry among general population during and after a dispute's ending. Weaponization may cause growth of violence and spread of organized crime that would hamper post-conflict reconstruction and development. Thus, involved parties and their external partners including BRICS nations

shall spare no effort to prevent further proliferation of SALW among locals living in a conflict zone or currently recovering after a peace deal is reached.

### *Society*

This domain relies upon three main pillars: Inclusive Mediation and Public Participation; Gender and Vulnerable Groups Protection; and Cultural, Religious, and Media-Sensitive Approaches. Engaging the broader society - especially displaced populations, women, and children - is crucial for peace agreements to gain legitimacy beyond elite negotiators, with forced migration creating tensions in both host communities and upon return. Acknowledging gender differences increases effectiveness by incorporating the needs of women as both actors and victims, while focusing on child soldiers underscores the importance of reintegration. Respect for cultural and religious diversity helps prevent violence instigated by manipulated beliefs, and a balanced media role can foster public dialogue rather than derail negotiations. Finally, informal workshops and facilitation methods complement formal talks by enabling stakeholders to explore shared concerns and lay the groundwork for more enduring societal acceptance.

As external actors, BRICS member countries may support African nations in addressing these society-wide conflict challenges by promoting inclusive negotiation frameworks that involve broader segments of society beyond elite actors; implementing forced migration and repatriation programs that ease tensions and enable reintegration; launching gender-sensitive initiatives to protect both women and men, particularly against systematic violence; advancing child-focused policies that prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and support their reintegration; fostering cultural and religious dialogue that respects diverse identities and counters manipulative narratives; ensuring balanced media engagement to promote transparency and constructive public discourse; and organizing dialogue workshops that encourage broader stakeholder collaboration, ultimately bolstering public legitimacy, reducing vulnerabilities, and enhancing sustainable peace and reintegration.

As to ensure full compliance with the commitment (“+1” score), a BRICS member state shall undertake actions in at least three of the four key domains—Economy and Environment; Justice and Governance; Security; and Society—to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent while upholding the principles of African ownership, complementarity, and subsidiarity. Such actions may include enacting or supporting measures to curb trade in conflict-implicated resources, assisting in the reform or establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, participating in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants, and facilitating inclusive mediation efforts that engage diverse social groups. If fewer than three domains are addressed (e.g., no involvement in establishing frameworks for transitional justice or reintegration programs for ex-combatants), that may constitute a “0” score and partial compliance. “-1” or non-compliance is given if a BRICS member neither provides any support in these core areas nor respects African ownership and local norms, or if evidence shows its actions undermine peacebuilding—such as ignoring local voices, fueling the unregulated flow of arms, or violating fundamental human rights standards that underpin post-conflict recovery and governance.

## Scoring Guidelines

-1	A BRICS member state takes NO action in any of the four key domains - Economy and Environment; Justice and Governance; Security; Society, AND / OR fails to respect embedded principles of the commitment namely African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity, OR if evidence shows its actions undermine peacebuilding measures.
0	A BRICS member state undertakes actions relevant to AT LEAST ONE, BUT fewer than THREE out of four domains of the commitment, AND no action clearly violates embedded principles of the commitment namely African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity OR undermines peacebuilding measures.
+1	A BRICS member state undertakes actions in AT LEAST THREE out of four key domains to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent, upholding African ownership, complementarity, and subsidiarity, AND none of its actions clearly violates embedded principles of the commitment namely African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity OR undermines peacebuilding measures.

*Compliance Director and Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

## Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on security in Africa.

On 31 October 2024, Brazilian plane maker Embraer signed a preliminary deal with Morocco to invest in the nation's civilian and defense aerospace sector, including setting up a maintenance and repair plant.<sup>247</sup>

On 28 January 2025, Brazil urged all parties involved in the conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo to recommit to the ceasefire agreement and to engage in ongoing mediation efforts, especially within the Luanda and Nairobi processes, with a view to reducing regional tensions and achieving sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region. Brazil strongly condemned the attacks on the troops of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the mission of the Southern African Development Community in the DRC (SAMIRDC), which have, to date, claimed the lives of 13 personnel. Brazil is a longstanding contributor to MONUSCO, currently deploying 22 Brazilian military personnel to the Mission.<sup>248</sup>

On 15 February 2025, Brazilian Government reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening its partnership with the African Union and with African countries to fight hunger and promoting social justice and sustainable development.<sup>249</sup>

Brazil has supported African Union in the area of social justice.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

<sup>247</sup> Brazil's Embraer pledges investment in Morocco's aerospace sector, Reuters 31 October 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/brazils-embraer-pledges-investment-morocco-aerospace-sector-2024-10-31/>.

<sup>248</sup> Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 29 January 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/situation-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-1>.

<sup>249</sup> Congratulations to the New President of the African Union and the President of the African Union Commission, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 15 February 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/congratulations-to-the-new-president-of-the-african-union-and-the-president-of-the-african-union-commission>.

**Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support for African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union in line with the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity

On 10 November 2024, the first ministerial conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum took place in Sirius, Russia, bringing together foreign ministers from Russia and UN-recognized African states, the African Union Commission, and regional African organizations.<sup>250</sup> The joint statement affirmed a strong commitment to deepening strategic cooperation in key areas including international security, counterterrorism, disarmament, peaceful space exploration, information security, sustainable development, and support for Africa's Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda. Participants emphasized sovereignty, non-interference, equal development, and the importance of UN-centered multilateralism. The forum also highlighted enhanced trade, infrastructure projects, educational and cultural exchange, media cooperation, and joint environmental and climate initiatives, reaffirming dedication to preparing the third Russia-Africa summit in 2026.

From 12 to 14 November 2024, the international business forum “Russia–Ethiopia: Time Waits for No One!” was held in Addis Ababa, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and promoting Russian products and technologies on the African market.<sup>251</sup> Organized by AFROCOM and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation with support from the Roscongress Foundation, the forum gathered Russian companies across various sectors—industry, agriculture, IT, banking, education, and cybersecurity—alongside major Ethiopian partners. Keynote speeches and meetings emphasized Ethiopia’s growing role as a close Russian partner, especially following its 2024 accession to BRICS. High-level talks, including with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, affirmed mutual commitment to trade, localization, and technological collaboration, while also fostering cultural and diplomatic ties.

On 3 April 2025, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergei Lavrov stated that Russia is ready to enhance the combat capabilities of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, including through the training of soldiers and law enforcement personnel.<sup>252</sup> He criticized foreign countries for allegedly supporting terrorist groups in the Sahel region. Lavrov welcomed the creation of the Confederation of Sahel States—formed by the three nations after recent coups—as a step toward regional security and independent foreign policy. The Sahel states have accused Ukraine of backing terrorist groups, leading to the severing of diplomatic ties in mid-2024. While Kyiv denied the allegations, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso called on the UN Security Council to respond.

Russia undertook steps in the Security, Economy & Environment, and Society domains to support peaceful dispute-resolution and stability in Africa, while respecting African-led agendas and regional structure.

Thus, Russia receives a score +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>250</sup> Joint Statement by the Participants of the First Ministerial Conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum (Russian Federation, Federal Territory of Sirius, November 10, 2024), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (Sirius) 11 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 April 2025. Available at: [https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign\\_policy/rossiya\\_afrika/1980876/](https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/rossiya_afrika/1980876/)

<sup>251</sup> The Results Of The Business Forum “Russia–Ethiopia: Time Waits For No One!” In Addis Ababa Have Been Summarized, Roscongress (Addis Ababa) 15 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 April 2025. Available at: <https://roscongress.org/news/podvedeny-itogi-biznes-foruma-rossija-efiopija-vremja-ne-zhdet-v-addis-abebe/>

<sup>252</sup> Lavrov to Comment on Russia’s Response to Ukraine’s Actions in Africa, RBC (Moscow) 3 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 4 April 2025. <https://www.rbc.ru/politics/03/04/2025/67ee6b6a9a794751c5e40df5>

## India: -1

India has failed to comply with the commitment to support peace efforts in Africa.

No information on India's actions to promote peace in Africa during the monitoring period was found.

India took no action to support African peace efforts.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

## China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on regional security.

On 20 February 2025, foreign minister Wang Yi took part in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.<sup>253</sup> He highlighted that China firmly supports the African people in independently resolving African problems and opposes external interference in the internal affairs of African countries.

On 27 February 2025, China's permanent representative to the UN Fu Cong made remarks at the UN Security Council briefing on Sudan.<sup>254</sup> He stressed that since the outbreak of the conflict China had continued to provide assistance to Sudan. Moreover, China stands ready to work with the international community to help alleviate the humanitarian situation in Sudan and promote the resolution of the conflict.

On 24 April 2025, president Xi Jinping held talks with Kenyan president William Ruto.<sup>255</sup> Ruto mentioned that cooperation between Africa and China is conducive to Africa's peaceful development, and Kenya would closely coordinate and cooperate with China to implement the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

On 24 April 2025, China and Kenya adopted the Joint Statement on Creating an Inspiring Example in the All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era.<sup>256</sup> The two sides called for the international community to support efforts by African countries and the African Union as well as other regional organizations in Africa to independently resolve African issues in the African way. China supported the AU to actively address regional security challenges and mediate regional conflicts and disputes. Kenya appreciated the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa put forward by China. The two sides also agreed to further enhance exchanges at all levels in the field of peace and security, and strengthen cooperation in such areas as personnel training, defense industry and trade, counterterrorism, and joint exercises and training.

China has taken actions in all four key domains to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent

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<sup>253</sup> Remarks by H.E. Wang Yi at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 21 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202502/t20250221\\_11560001.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202502/t20250221_11560001.html).

<sup>254</sup> Remarks by China's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Fu Cong at the UN Security Council Briefing on Sudan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 27 February 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xw/zwb/202503/t20250304\\_11567849.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zwb/202503/t20250304_11567849.html).

<sup>255</sup> China, Kenya elevate ties as Xi, Ruto hold talks, National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Beijing) 25 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2025-04/25/c\\_1088448.htm](http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2025-04/25/c_1088448.htm).

<sup>256</sup> Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kenya on Creating an Inspiring Example in the All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 24 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xw/zyxw/202504/t20250424\\_11603292.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zyxw/202504/t20250424_11603292.html).

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to support for African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union in line with the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity.

On 13 March 2025, South Africa, Tanzania, and Malawi announced the withdrawal of their troops from eastern Congo following significant casualties and growing domestic criticism of the operation.<sup>257</sup> These troops, deployed under the Southern African Development Community, faced heavy fighting against the M23 rebel group, prompting the decision to exit the conflict-torn region gradually. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the decision to withdraw troops was made because a ceasefire process “has now been embraced.”

South Africa took actions that correspond with the Security component of the commitment. However, no action matching other domains has been found.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **UAE: +1**

United Arab Emirates has fully complied with the commitment on security in Africa.

On 14 February 2025, the United Arab Emirates, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have held a “High-Level Humanitarian Conference for the People of Sudan” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.<sup>258</sup> The conference aimed to mobilize regional and global support to address Sudan’s catastrophic humanitarian crisis and deliver a strong unified call for a humanitarian ceasefire during the month of Ramadan. In this regard, numerous countries joined the UAE’s call for a humanitarian pause, and an end to the war. UAE pledged additional USD200 million in aid to Sudan.

On 13 March 2025, the United Arab Emirates participated in the European Union’s third Humanitarian Senior Officials’ Meeting on Sudan, which was hosted in Brussels.<sup>259</sup> The high-level meeting gathered leading humanitarian donors and stakeholders from all EU Member States, international organizations, and key partner countries to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan through effective and collective response efforts. The UAE’s delegation, led by His Excellency Rashed Al Hemeiri, Director of Development and International Cooperation Department, reiterated the country’s steadfast commitment to continue providing humanitarian assistance and supporting diplomatic efforts to mitigate the ongoing conflict.

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<sup>257</sup> South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi will withdraw troops from conflict-torn eastern Congo, Associated Press (Harare) 13 March 2025. Access Date: 10 April 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/sadc-eastern-congo-troop-withdrawal-c2ff984c65af472f8f3609826fbd82ba>

<sup>258</sup> UAE, Ethiopia, AU and IGAD Hold “High-Level Humanitarian Conference for the People of Sudan” in Addis Ababa, United Arab Emirates Foreign Affairs Ministry (Abu Dhabi) 14 February 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2025/2/14/14-2-2025-uae-sudan>.

<sup>259</sup> UAE participates in EU’s Third Humanitarian Senior Officials’ Meeting on Sudan, United Arab Emirates Foreign Affairs Ministry (Abu Dhabi) 13 March 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/MediaHub/News/2025/3/13/13-3-2025-UAE-Sudan>.



Moreover, H.E. Al Hemeiri expressed the UAE's readiness to scale up its humanitarian and coordination efforts to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches those in need.

On 10 April 2025, Chairperson of the African Union Commission met with the UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia H.E. Mohamed Salem Al-Rashedi, , to explore ways to further deepen collaboration between the African Union and the United Arab Emirates. They discussed enhancing UAE investments in key sectors across Africa, and the Chairperson requested for the UAE's support for AU-led peace and stabilization initiatives. Ambassador Al-Rashedi reaffirmed the UAE's continued commitment to AU-UAE cooperation and conveyed a formal invitation from his government for the Chairperson to visit the UAE.<sup>260</sup>

On 17 April 2025, Assistant Minister for Political Affairs Lana Nusseibeh met with Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya, to discuss bilateral relations between the UAE and Kenya, as well as opportunities to enhance people-to-people ties and joint cooperation across several sectors. During the meeting the two sides also exchanged views on the ongoing crisis in Sudan and regional efforts to support a political resolution; where both sides agreed on the importance of constructive cooperation with African partners, including the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The UAE stressed the importance of an African role in addressing regional crises, including Sudan, and reaffirmed its constant calls for African-led solutions.<sup>261</sup>

The United Arab Emirates undertook actions in all four key domains - Economy and Environment; Justice and Governance; Security; and Society - to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent while upholding the principles of African ownership, complementarity, and subsidiarity.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Egypt: +1**

Egypt has fully complied with the commitment on regional security.

On 28 November 2024, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Badr Abdelatty stressed Egypt's firm commitment to promoting peace, security and development in Africa.<sup>262</sup> He urged for enhancing the effectiveness of the Peace and Security Council's tools to address security challenges in Africa amid the increasing suspensions of member states within the African Union. Abdelatty called for adopting more positive strategies based on strengthening national institutions and supporting African states during transitional periods. He also emphasized the need to bolster the African Union's capacity to handle crises and advance post-conflict peacebuilding for bringing about sustainable stability.

On 2 February 2025, Minister of Foreign Affairs Badr Abdelatty held a telephone conversation with Equatorial Guinea's Minister of for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and the Diaspora Siméon

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<sup>260</sup> AUC Chairperson met with H.E. Mohamed Salem Al-Rashedi, the UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia, African Union (Addis Ababa) 10 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://au.int/es/node/44604>.

<sup>261</sup> United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kenya Discuss Enhancing Bilateral Relations and Regional Security, African Business (London) 17 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://african.business/2025/04/apo-newsfeed/united-arab-emirates-uae-and-kenya-discuss-enhancing-bilateral-relations-and-regional-security>.

<sup>262</sup> FM stresses Egypt's firm commitment to promoting peace, security, development in Africa, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/202276/FM-stresses-Egypt%E2%80%99s-firm-commitment-to-promoting-peace%2c-security%2c-development-in-Africa?lang=en-us>.

Oyono Esono Angue to discuss promoting peace and security in Africa.<sup>263</sup> They discussed ways to achieve peace and security in Africa, particularly the situations in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. Both ministers underscored the importance of intensifying efforts to support political solutions and promote stability on the continent. In preparation for the upcoming African Union summit, they affirmed their commitment to ongoing coordination within the AU framework and agreed to exchange support for each other's candidacies for international positions

On 29 April 2025, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and his Angolan counterpart João Lourenço met to discuss key African issues.<sup>264</sup> According to a joint statement issued by the Egyptian presidency, both leaders exchanged views on pressing peace and security issues in Africa. El-Sisi and Lourenço voiced deep concern over the ongoing fighting in Sudan and its humanitarian repercussions. They called for an immediate end to hostilities and the launch of an inclusive national dialogue that safeguards Sudan's unity and sovereignty while easing the suffering of its people. They also expressed support for regional and international efforts aimed at resolving the Sudanese crisis, highlighting the AU's central role in mediation and conflict resolution. Both leaders further rejected any attempts to establish a parallel government in Sudan. Furthermore, the Egyptian president and his Angolan counterpart expressed concern about recent developments that could escalate political and security tensions in South Sudan. They underscored the need for dialogue and consensus building, while calling for full adherence to South Sudan's 2018 peace deal – the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict (R-ARCSS). Regarding Somalia, the two presidents reaffirmed their support for the country's unity, stability, and security. As for the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), both leaders reiterated their condemnation of all forms of violence that threaten peace and stability. They emphasized their commitment to the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the DRC, stressing the need for continued dialogue among all relevant parties to reach a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Egypt has taken actions in all four key domains to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

## **Iran: 0**

Iran has partially complied with the commitment to support for African peace efforts on the continent including those undertaken by the African Union in line with the principles of African ownership, complementarity and subsidiarity

On 19 December 2024, President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the D-8 summit in Egypt, highlighting initiatives to enhance economic cooperation, investment, and youth empowerment among member states.<sup>265</sup> He emphasized the necessity of unity among Islamic nations to counter regional security threats, specifically calling for joint actions against Israeli aggression. Egypt assumed the presidency of D-8, aiming to strengthen collaboration in agriculture, trade, energy, and sustainable development among the organization's members.

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<sup>263</sup> Egypt, Equatorial Guinea FMs Discuss African Peace and Security, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 2 February 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/204666/Egypt%2c-Equatorial-Guinea-FMs-Discuss-African-Peace-and-Security?lang=en-us>.

<sup>264</sup> Egypt, Angola issue joint statement, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/208417/Egypt%2c-Angola-issue-joint-statement?lang=en-us>.

<sup>265</sup> Iran President Attends D-8 Summit in Egypt, 1st Visit in a Decade, Daily News Egypt (n.d.) 19 December 2024. Access Date: 10 April 2025. <https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2024/12/19/iran-president-attends-d-8-summit-in-egypt-first-visit-decade>

Iran took actions that correspond with the Economy and Environment, and the Society components of the commitment, leaving the other domains unreached.

Thus, Iran receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Ethiopia: 0**

Ethiopia has partially complied with the commitment to support peace efforts in Africa.

On 24 March 2025, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reaffirmed the Government's commitment to peaceful negotiations regarding Ethiopia's access to the Red Sea.<sup>266</sup> The issue of maritime access remains a key geopolitical and economic challenge for Ethiopia.

On 6 May 2025, Ethiopia and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding on security cooperation between their national police agencies.<sup>267</sup> The agreement, signed in Addis Ababa, outlines joint efforts to combat cross-border crime, share intelligence, and boost capacity through training and experience exchange.

Ethiopia took action to advance peace and security in Africa, primarily domestically, however it failed to address the three key domains to peacefully resolve disputes on the African continent.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>266</sup> Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Emphasizes Peaceful Resolution for Red Sea Access Amid Regional Tensions, Somali Magazine (Mogadishu) 24 March 2025. Access Date: 14 May 2025.

<https://somalimagazine.so/ethiopian-prime-minister-abiy-ahmed-emphasizes-peaceful-resolution-for-red-sea-access-amid-regional-tensions/>

<sup>267</sup> Ethiopia, Iran police chiefs sign security, intelligence collaboration MoU, Addis Standard (Addis Ababa) 6 May 2025. Access Date: 14 May 2025. <https://addisstandard.com/ethiopia-iran-police-chiefs-sign-security-intelligence-collaboration-mou/?amp=1>

## 8. Trade and Investment

We are resolved to further increase trust in e-commerce and ensure full-fledged protection of the rights of e-commerce parties [ by intensifying cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection, exploring online dispute resolution tools and creating enabling environment for businesses to enter global markets, exchanging views on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce]

*XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
UAE	-1		
Egypt		0	
Iran		0	
Ethiopia			+1
Average	+0.56 (78%)		

### 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.”<sup>268</sup>

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

<sup>268</sup> Joint Communiqué, BRICS Information Centre (Yekaterinburg) 16 May 2008. Access Date: 17 January 2025. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/080516-foreign.html>

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 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.

The 2024 commitment to ensure full-fledged protection of the rights of e-commerce parties outlines three major issue areas for action:

1. intensifying cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection,
2. exploring online dispute resolution tools and creating enabling environment for businesses to enter global markets,
3. exchanging views on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce.

### Commitment Features

The commitment requires the BRICS members to promote protection of the rights of e-commerce parties by acting in the three issue areas outlined in the Declaration. Full compliance (+1 score) requires the BRICS members to 1. Engage in cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection with either BRICS members or other nations; 2. Study and promote the use of online dispute resolution tools and create enabling environment for businesses to engage in e-commerce; 3. Conduct information exchanges on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce.

For partial compliance (0) the BRICS countries need to take action in only one of the three issue areas.

Failure to take action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties results in the score of -1.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS country failed to take action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.
0	The BRICS country took action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties in at least one of the three issue areas.
+1	The BRICS country took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties through intensifying cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection, exploring online dispute resolution tools and creating enabling environment for businesses to enter global markets, and exchanging views on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce.

*Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov*

### Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

On 21 November 2025, Brazil and China signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Promotion of Economic and Trade Cooperation on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.<sup>269</sup> Among the points agreed upon in the memorandum are the sharing of information and good practices on public policies for MSMEs. There is also a commitment to encourage bilateral trade studies and opportunities to identify strategic sectors and map companies and platforms with the potential to increase and diversify bilateral trade. In addition, the parties committed to facilitating trade and cooperation to access relevant markets and to increase participation in the digital economy and e-commerce. As well as seeking to align their positions, where possible, in relation to MSMEs in relevant international organizations and forums, such as the WTO, the BRICS and the G20.

On 27 February 2025, the Federal Police and the Brazilian Post and Telegraph Company renewed the Technical Cooperation Agreement of cooperation intentions, which aims to exchange information,

<sup>269</sup> MDIC and Chinese government strengthen strategic partnership to promote industry, small businesses and sustainable development, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 November 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mdic-e-governo-da-china-reforcam-parceria-estrategica-para-promocao-da-industria-de-pequenas-empresas-e-do-desenvolvimento-sustentavel>.

coordinate and execute integrated actions aimed at preventing and repressing crimes committed against the Post Office or involving the use of postal services for the transportation of illicit content.<sup>270</sup>

On 28 February 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Ordinance No. 779 was published in the Official Gazette of the Union, which officializes the use of the Hyper Integrated Agricultural Surveillance System (SHIVA) within the scope of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Mapa).<sup>271</sup> The system will be used to issue electronic phytosanitary certificates, such as e-Phyto, for products of plant origin. The initiative represents an advance in the digitalization and efficiency of Brazilian foreign trade.

On 2 April 2025, the Brazilian Postal Service signed a contract for the development of the “Mais Correios” marketplace, a new digital platform that will boost e-commerce in Brazil.<sup>272</sup> Initially, Mais Correios will focus on large companies to enable a significant expansion of their operations in all Brazilian cities, thanks to the logistical capillarity of Correios. In the second phase, the platform will open space for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs from all regions of the country, promoting local economic development, digital inclusion and competitiveness.

On 2 April 2025, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Micro and Small Businesses (MEMP) held a broadcast on YouTube, called 'Market Access and Internationalization for MSMEs of the BRICS', with strategies to boost e-commerce and the internationalization of these segments.<sup>273</sup> The experts focused on successful national practices to support the digital transformation of SMEs, overcoming regional challenges in market access and digital adoption, and opportunities for collaboration among BRICS countries to foster SME growth.

On 23 April 2025, during the seminar on Brazil-Chile Business Forum, participants identified that MSMEs require more assertive government support, aiming at the expansion and diversification of trade; greater participation in the digital environment and in global value chains; stimulation of innovation, employment and economic growth; reduction of poverty and appreciation of craftsmanship and formulation of more sustainable public policies, building a greener, more inclusive and resilient future.<sup>274</sup> The parties also agreed on a robust action plan, with cooperation activities aimed at expanding the benefits of the bilateral partnership; Identifying the challenges faced by exporting and importing companies; elaborating proposals for technical assistance and strengthening bilateral trade.

On 5 May 2025, Brazil and Chile began the testing phase for the implementation of the Electronic Certificate of Origin (COE), a tool that will facilitate bilateral trade by replacing the current paper certificates with a

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<sup>270</sup> PF and Correios renew Technical Cooperation Agreement to prevent and repress crimes against postal services, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 27 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/02/pf-e-correios-renovam-acordo-de-cooperacao-tecnica-para-prevencao-e-repressao-de-crimes>.

<sup>271</sup> MAPA establishes SHIVA to modernize phytosanitary certification, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 28 February 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mapa-institui-shiva-para-modernizar-certificacao-fitossanitaria>.

<sup>272</sup> Correios launches marketplace and boosts e-commerce market in Brazil, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 7 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2025/abril/correios-lancam-marketplace-e-impulsionam-mercado-de-e-commerce-no-brasil>.

<sup>273</sup> BRICS experts highlight the importance of digital tools for market access and internationalization of MSMEs, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 9 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/memp/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/especialistas-dos-brics-destacam-a-importancia-das-ferramentas-digitais-para-acesso-a-mercados-e-internacionalizacao-das-mpmes>.

<sup>274</sup> Ministro Márcio França destaca papel estratégico do empreendedorismo na parceria Brasil-Chile, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 23 April 2025. Access Date: 5 May 2025.

secure and efficient electronic system.<sup>275</sup> Furthermore, the COE guarantees authenticity and integrity through digital signatures, raising the standard of security and reliability in export and import processes. This measure also contributes to the reduction of document fraud and to the improvement of customs control, by facilitating the verification of the preferential origin of the products sold.

Brazil took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties through intensifying cooperation in the realms of utilizing digital technologies for consumer rights protection, exploring online dispute resolution tools and creating enabling environment for businesses to enter global markets, and exchanging views on the issue of small value product trade through the cross-border e-commerce.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

On 6 December 2024 the Supreme State Council of the Russia–Belarus Union State adopted Decree No. 6 “On Common Rules in the Field of Consumer Protection,” establishing a single, directly applicable legal regime that supersedes conflicting national rules.<sup>276</sup> The new framework widens liability to cover online marketplaces, codifies standards for distance (e-commerce) sales, and devotes an entire chapter to digital products, thereby embedding robust safeguards for cross-border, small-value online transactions.

On 7 April 2025, Russia enacted the Federal Law No. 69-FZ amending Article 16 of the 1992 Consumer Rights Protection Act.<sup>277</sup> Amendments forbid sellers - including online marketplaces and other aggregators - from pre-ticking boxes or otherwise presuming a buyer’s agreement to pay for ancillary goods, services or warranties, making such charges lawful only after the customer has given explicit written consent.

Russia took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties

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<sup>275</sup> Brazil and Chile advance in the digitalization of trade with Electronic Certificate of Origin, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 30 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 5 May 2025. <https://www.gov.br/mdic/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/abril/brasil-e-chile-avancam-na-digitalizacao-do-comercio-com-certificado-de-origem-eletronico>.

<sup>276</sup> Decree of the Supreme State Council of the Union State N 6 “On unified rules in the field of consumer protection” (adopted in Minsk on 06.12.2024), Consultant Plus (n.d.) 6 December 2024. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025. [https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_496218](https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_496218)

<sup>277</sup> Federal Law 69-FZ On Amending Article 16 of the Law of the Russian Federation “On Protection of Consumer Rights”, NormaCS (n.d.) 7 April 2025. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 17 May 2025. <https://normacs.net/Doclist/doc/275IN.html>



On 26 December 2024, the Government of India announced the launch of the AI-enabled National Consumer Helpline, the e-Maap Portal, and the Jago Grahak Jago mobile application.<sup>278</sup> These tools were designed to expedite the resolution of consumer complaints and empower citizens to make informed choices.

On 18 March 2025, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi announced the 'Be an Empowered Consumer' partnership program with a foreign digital company.<sup>279</sup> The program seeks to educate Indians on recognizing online threats and promoting healthy online habits, including the use of strong passwords, verification of online information, and reporting suspicious activity.

India took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment on e-commerce.

On 5 December 2024, the ministry of commerce informed on the decisions to promote the reform and innovation of digital trade.<sup>280</sup> The ministry pledged to intensify policy support for the development of digital trade and work with relevant departments and local governments to implement the Guidelines on the Reform, Innovation and Development of Digital Trade, accelerate the formulation of digital trade standards and promote their internationalization, and establish a sound digital trade statistics and monitoring system. China will also foster more business entities in digital trade with strong innovation and international competitiveness, support small and medium-sized digital trade enterprises that are external oriented and have unique competitive advantages, promote institutional openness in digital trade, relax market access in the digital sector and encourage foreign investment in the digital sector, improve the governance system of cross-border data flows, and deepen international cooperation. China committed to actively participate in the WTO e-commerce negotiations, and actively advance accession to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, as well as deepen multilateral, bilateral and regional digital trade dialogue and cooperation with Central Asian countries, the BRICS countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and Belt and Road partner countries.

On 19 March 2025, China informed on the adoption of a three-year action plan to optimize the environment for consumption.<sup>281</sup> The plan, formulated and released in February by five central government departments, including the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Ministry of Commerce, requires authorities to carry out several major initiatives aimed at improving the quality of consumer products and services. To guarantee consumers' rights to be informed, to choose independently and to make fair deals, the plan said the issue of consumers signing unfair agreements for services they purchase, including online shopping, courier services and apartment renovation, should be remedied.

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<sup>278</sup> India launches AI-driven consumer protection initiatives, DigWatch (Geneva) 26 December 2024. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://dig.watch/updates/india-launches-ai-driven-consumer-protection-initiatives>

<sup>279</sup> Consumer awareness is key to a sustainable and secure digital experience: Shri Pralhad Joshi, Indian Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (New Delhi) 18 March 2025. Access Date: 11 May 2025. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2112470>

<sup>280</sup> Ministry of Commerce holds Regular Press Conference (December 5, 2024), Ministry of Commerce of China 6 December 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [https://english.mofcom.gov.cn/News/PressConference/art/2024/art\\_154e2df66a0e424c84307c680986fc47.html](https://english.mofcom.gov.cn/News/PressConference/art/2024/art_154e2df66a0e424c84307c680986fc47.html).

<sup>281</sup> Plan to elevate consumer confidence, State Council of China (Beijing) 19 March 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. [https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202503/19/content\\_WS67da215cc6d0868f4e8f0f67.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202503/19/content_WS67da215cc6d0868f4e8f0f67.html).

On 28 March 2025, Prime Minister Li Qiang presided over a State Council executive meeting, which discussed measures to promote cross-border e-commerce.<sup>282</sup> Highlighting cross-border e-commerce's key role in China's foreign trade, the meeting stressed the need to facilitate the next round of nationwide expansion of pilot zones dedicated to this sector. It noted that new regulatory approaches will be explored for clearance, taxation, foreign exchange and data flows.

On 8 May 2025, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce highlighted China is willing to work with all countries to strengthen cooperation and promote the healthy and sustainable development of cross-border e-commerce.<sup>283</sup>

China has taken action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties in all three issue areas.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on e-commerce.

On 14 April 2025, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, in its Annual Performance Plan 2025/26, committed to roll out online dispute-resolution (ODR) tools and virtual courts as new service channels, reducing costs and speeding redress for consumers in digital marketplaces

On 12 May 2025, the Presidency, together with the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and National Treasury, formally launched South Africa's "Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of Government."<sup>284</sup> The roadmap establishes a Digital Service Unit in the Presidency and sets out four priority projects - digital identity, secure data-exchange, instant digital payments, and a single trusted online services portal - explicitly drawing on G-20 Digital Economy Working-Group practices and other international partners to protect users and cut fraud in online transactions.

On 21 May 2025, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition introduced the "Next-Gen Exporter Incubation Programme," a 12-month initiative that equips youth-led firms to enter cross-border e-commerce channels. Training covers digital-platform compliance, AfCFTA and SADC rules, and logistics for low-value parcel shipments, creating an enabling environment for small businesses to reach global consumers.

South Africa has taken action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties in all three issue areas.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>282</sup> Chinese premier chairs meeting on cross-border e-commerce, corporate payment arrears, State Council of China (Beijing) 28 March 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025.

[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/28/content\\_WS67e6a7c5c6d0868f4e8f1497.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/28/content_WS67e6a7c5c6d0868f4e8f1497.html).

<sup>283</sup> China ready to work with all countries on healthy cross-border e-commerce development: commerce ministry, State Council of China (Beijing) 8 May 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025.

[https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202505/08/content\\_WS681c920dc6d0868f4e8f258d.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202505/08/content_WS681c920dc6d0868f4e8f258d.html).

<sup>284</sup> Presidency on launch of Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of Government, Government of South Africa (n.d.) 12 May 2025. Access Date: 21 May 2025. <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/presidency-launch-roadmap-digital-transformation-government-12-may-2025>

## **UAE: -1**

The United Arab Emirates has not complied with the commitment to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

In 2023, the UAE introduced the Federal Decree-Law No. 14 of 2023 on trading by modern technological means.<sup>285</sup> The law implemented by the UAE last year incorporated various mechanisms to protect consumers and foster a conducive environment for promoting trade through modern means of technology, from eCommerce to digital commerce and beyond. The objective of the law is to create a favorable environment for enhancing commerce through modern means of technology, thereby bolstering the UAE's national economy. The law introduced a new mechanism that integrates the roles of federal and local authorities involved in all aspects of trade conducted through modern means of technology. This mechanism is supported by flexible legislation, which enables effective participation and ensures its sustainability. The implementation of the new law empowers relevant authorities to carry out their roles, ensuring the safety and security of trade activities. This includes the Central Bank's requirements for digital payment gateways, as well as the requirements set forth by the Federal Tax Authority, the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, and federal and local authorities' requirements of cybersecurity. The law also introduced an optional authority for the integration of supervisory, regulatory, and judicial control operations. It applies to both financial and non-financial free zones in the country. The law has implemented various measures to ensure secure online shopping for consumers, protect their interests, and empower them with legal means to combat commercial fraud. Additionally, it aims to protect the intellectual property of both local and international products and trademarks. However, it does not impose any new requirements on digital traders.

Although some strong action was taken on e-commerce in 2023, the United Arab Emirates failed to take action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties during the compliance period.

Thus, the UAE receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

## **Iran: 0**

Iran has partially complied with the commitment to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

On 21 January 2025, Iran's Minister of Information & Communications Technology (ICT) met the newly appointed Indonesian ambassador in Tehran.<sup>286</sup> During the talks the Minister pressed for fast-tracking a bilateral preferential-trade agreement and upgrading the customs accord so that the two governments can "accelerate implementation of e-commerce and smart-services cooperation." He singled out knowledge-sharing on content production, e-commerce logistics and digital consumer-service standards as early joint projects.

On 9 April 2025, speaking for Iran at the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva, Deputy ICT-Minister Dr Sadr urged BRICS and other partners to create "practical mechanisms" for cross-border digital-cooperation that safeguard users' rights and bridge the digital divide.<sup>287</sup> He linked those

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<sup>285</sup> Federal Decree-Law No. 14/2023 on Trading by Modern Technological Means, Lexis Nexis (n.d.) n.d. Access Date: 21 May 2025. <https://www.moec.gov.ae/documents/20121/0/Federal+Decree-Law+No.+14+of+2023+on+Trading+by+Modern+Technological+Means.pdf>

<sup>286</sup> Iran Urges Indonesia to Expedite Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, Information Technology Organization of Iran (Tehran) 21 January 2025. Access Date: 21 May 2025. <https://en.ito.gov.ir/news/90/iran-urges-indonesia-to-expedite-bilateral-cooperation-initiatives>

<sup>287</sup> Dr. Sadr Calls for Bridging the Digital Divide at UN Science and Technology Forum in Geneva, Information Technology Organization of Iran (Geneva) 9 April 2025. Access Date: 21 May 2025.

rights explicitly to inclusive access to online health, commerce and education services, and called for equal government participation in internet-governance forums to ensure fair protection of online consumers worldwide.

On 14 May 2025, the Iranian and Chinese ICT ministers met in Beijing to activate the 25-year Iran–China strategic tech accord.<sup>288</sup> Their joint communiqué lists “exchange of experience in e-government and smart services” and specialist training for public-service platforms among the first deliverables, aimed at making digital markets—especially e-commerce—more reliable for businesses and end-users in both countries.

Iran took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

Thus, Iran receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Egypt: 0**

Egypt has partially complied with the commitment on e-commerce.

On 29 April 2025, investment and foreign trade minister Hassan El-Khatib announced the launch of a unified online licensing platform offering 389 services to investors as part of a broader push to streamline bureaucracy and drive private-sector growth.<sup>289</sup> Minister El-Khatib said the new digital platform aims to simplify regulatory processes, enhance transparency, and reduce friction for local and foreign investors. The move comes as Egypt ramps up efforts to double its GDP and raise exports to USD145 billion annually by 2030.

On 8 May 2025, minister of communications and information technology Amr Talaat met with Japan’s minister for internal affairs and communications Seiichiro Murakami on the sidelines of the SusHi Tech TOKYO 2025 to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in ICT, artificial intelligence, and postal services.<sup>290</sup> Both sides explored further collaboration in cybersecurity by exchanging expertise and best practices, as well as ways to enhance postal cooperation through service development and logistical solutions to boost e-commerce.

Egypt has taken action to ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties in two of the three issue areas.

Thus, Egypt receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Ethiopia: +1**

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<https://en.ito.gov.ir/news/110/dr-sadr-calls-for-bridging-the-digital-divide-at-un-science-and-technology-forum-in-geneva>

<sup>288</sup> Iran, China ICT ministers discuss expansion of technological cooperation, Information Technology Organization of Iran (Tehran) 14 May 2025. Access Date: 21 May 2025. <https://en.ito.gov.ir/news/124/iran-china-ict-ministers-discuss-expansion-of-technological-cooperation->

<sup>289</sup> Egypt to launch online licensing to cut red tape, spur investment next month, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 29 April 2025. Access Date: 1 May 2025. <https://sis.gov.eg/Story/208420/Egypt-to-launch-online-licensing-to-cut-red-tape%2C-spur-investment-next-month?lang=en-us>.

<sup>290</sup> Egypt, Japan discuss ICT cooperation, AI strategy alignment, Egypt State Information Service (Cairo) 8 May 2025. Access Date: 10 May 2025. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/208553/Egypt%2c-Japan-discuss-ICT-cooperation%2c-AI-strategy-alignment?lang=en-us>.

Ethiopia has fully complied with the commitment to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties

On 30 October 2024, the Government announced its partnership with the Chinese company AliExpress aimed at expanding e-commerce in the country.<sup>291</sup> The message from Ethiopian ministry of Commerce stated that the partnership marked “a pivotal step in advancing Ethiopia’s e-commerce landscape as AliExpress officially launches its services in the country, focusing on job creation, local partnerships, and building Ethiopia’s technology, supply chain, and logistics infrastructure.”

On 3 May 2025, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration revealed the plans of the National digital trade platform,” designed to tackle inefficiencies in the country’s market value chain”.<sup>292</sup> Minister of Trade Kassahun Gofe stated that the system would play a key role in increasing the international competitiveness of Ethiopian goods and services by to fostering a fair, open, and globally aligned trade environment.

Ethiopia took action to promote e-commerce and ensure protection of the rights of e-commerce parties.

Thus, Ethiopia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>291</sup> Ethiopia ecommerce expansion in partnership with AliExpress, Borkena Ethiopian News (Addis Ababa) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 13 May 2024. <https://borkena.com/2024/11/04/ethiopia-ecommerce-expansion-in-partnership-with-aliexpress/>

<sup>292</sup> Ethiopia to boost trade efficiency with national e-commerce system, Logistics Business Africa (n.a) 3 May 2025. Access Date: 13 May 2025. <https://www.logisticsbusinessafrica.co.za/ethiopia-to-boost-trade-efficiency-with-national-e-commerce-system/>