

CONCEPT NOTE
10th BRICS YOUNG SCIENTIST FORUM
AND
8th BRICS YOUNG INNOVATOR PRIZE

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It was adopted at the 2nd BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Brasília (March 2015), in Paragraph 9 of the Brasília Declaration, a proposal for the creation of a BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF), whose participants should come from the scientific community. During the VII BRICS Summit in Ufa, Russia, BRICS countries decided to host the Forum annually starting in 2016, with the country presiding the BRICS hosting the event.

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

The 10th Young Scientist Forum will also host the 8th BRICS Young Innovator Prize, a special recognition of young talented entrepreneurs and researchers whose outstanding innovations (inventions, products, applications, and services) have the potential to make a profound impact on the quality of life in BRICS societies.

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

In 2025, Brazil will host the 10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and the 8th BRICS Young Innovator Prize on September 15-17, 2025, in Brasília.

II. EVENTS

THE BRICS YOUNG SCIENTIST FORUM – BRICS YSF

The YSF aims to offer opportunities for young scientists to share their experiences, incentives, constraints and opportunities in pursuing education, research and entrepreneurship in science, engineering and related subjects in line with STI emerging developments.

The YSF Participants' requirements are:

- Candidates must be affiliated with BRICS countries by nationality (born or naturalized) or residency (permanent residency visa);
- Candidates must come from the scientific community;
- Candidates must be under the age of forty (40) by December 31st, 2025;
- Candidates must hold at least a master's degree, although an ongoing or completed doctorate is preferable.

The BRICS Young Scientist Forum is pivotal in cultivating a cohort of well-prepared, innovative thinkers who are poised to drive progress in their respective fields and contribute to the advancement of knowledge, science and society at large.

The main objectives of the Forum encompass:

- Enhancing interaction among young people of BRICS countries to consolidate knowledge in addressing common social problems through research and innovation;
- Promoting skills and research development of young scientists in the BRICS countries;
- Strengthening the BRICS role in the international arena in the field of science and technology with the help of creative young people who have the potential and capacity to accelerate innovation;
- Encouraging the development of transnational research networks and partnerships that can drive innovation and advance scientific knowledge; and
- Strengthening BRICS STI and youth policies, enhancing the skills of talented young people and developing entrepreneurial principles.

THE BRICS YOUNG INNOVATOR PRIZE – BRICS YIP

The 8th BRICS YIP will be one of the most important events of the 10th BRICS YSF. The contest aims to recognise and foster the best results of scientific research and innovative projects related to technological innovations, which

may provide an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the development of scientific and technological branches in the BRICS countries.

The contest will take place within the YSF Programme. Young innovators from BRICS countries are invited to present their projects to the international BRICS jury members. YIP Participants requirements are:

- Candidates must be affiliated with BRICS countries by nationality (born or naturalized) or residency (permanent residency visa);
- Candidates must be under the age of forty (40) by December 31st, 2025.

The works will be evaluated by a BRICS jury, involving an evaluation related to the applicability of innovative technological solutions to current social, economic and environmental problems in the BRICS countries, namely:

- Availability of innovative technological solutions (novelty, social impact);
- Relevance in the short-term period (current demand);
- Relevance in the long-term period (anticipated demand);
- Technical feasibility (accessibility of implementation);
- Market feasibility (business model of the project, applicability and advantage over competitors); and
- Quality of the project presentation (clarity, consistency of information and methodology).

The BRICS jury, composed of experts from universities, research institutes, enterprises, investment institutions and other relevant organisations in BRICS countries, will be established to monitor and enforce the requirements. Each BRICS country will nominate one independent member to compose the jury.

The final evaluation of the Young Innovators' projects will be held in person during the BRICS Young Scientist Forum. The presentation of each project is limited to a 10-minute pitch, with 10 minutes for Q&A from the jury.

The jury will score all the final projects which will then be ranked according to their score. The award-winning projects will be the top three highest-scoring projects, with a total prize value of 50K USD distributed as follows:

- 1st place – USD 25.000 (twenty-five thousand dollars);
- 2nd place – USD 15.000 (fifteen thousand dollars); and
- 3rd place – USD 10.000 (ten thousand dollars).

The prize payment will be made by deposit in personal Bank Accounts. Candidates must provide a bank account before the beginning of the competition with the following information: (SWIFT number, IBAN, Name of

the Bank, Address of the bank, account number, full name of the candidate, copy of passport). **YIP Terms and Conditions will be sent separately.**

III. PARTICIPANTS

Each BRICS country is invited to nominate:

- Twelve young scientists (3 representatives for each thematic area);
- Three young innovators;
- One independent jury member for the BRICS Young Innovator Prize; and
- One head of the delegation (member of the government).

OBS: The organization advises that the jury member must be a different person other than the Head of Delegation.

IV. SESSIONS AND THEMES

The 10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum will comprise three parallel sessions on the following thematic areas:

- 1. Research on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A contribution from BRICS to the 30th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change/UNFCCC (COP30);**
- 2. Science diplomacy in a changing world. The views of BRICS and the Global South; and**
- 3. Artificial Intelligence for Societal Solutions. How can emerging technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?**

OBS: A detailed description of the thematic areas is provided in part VII.

The 8th BRICS Young Innovator Prize theme for the contest is: **Artificial Intelligence applied to Public Service Solutions. How can emerging technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?**

All participants will have an opportunity to attend the plenary sessions on cross-cutting thematic areas.

V. LOGISTICS

The event will take place during three full days: September 15th-16th-17th. Participants are expected to arrive in Brasilia, Brazil on September 14th and

departure on September 18th. Airport: Aeroporto Internacional de Brasília - Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek. (IATA code: BSB / ICAO: SBBR).

Brazil, as the host country, will provide local hospitality for all delegates which includes accommodation, transfers between the airport, hotel and venue of the Forum and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), for the period between September 14th and 18th 2025.

Air tickets to Brasilia, Brazil, travel documents, and medical and travel insurance of foreign delegates are borne by the BRICS participating countries.

The Brazilian government will grant a courtesy visa (VICOR) to delegates attending meetings under the official agenda of the Brazilian BRICS Presidency. More details, including whether a visa is necessary for each country, will be sent in a separate document.

Each country must proceed with its national selection of nominees for the Forum and Innovators Prize. The nominated delegates' registration procedures as well as the accreditation system will be made available as soon as possible. The nominated delegates will be able to upload information regarding their names, flight itineraries, passport copies, photos and dietary information.

The Head of Delegation for each country must send the participants forms and a list of delegates indicating who will participate in YIP and YSF, as well as the designated thematic area for each.

This information must be sent to <sti@brics.br> <multilateral@mcti.gov.br> <marcus.moraes@mcti.gov.br> no later than September 5th. An Administrative Circular with all logistics details will follow in August.

VI. TIMESCALE

| Task | Deadline |
|---|--------------------------|
| Nomination of representatives for the 10 th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and the 8 th BRICS Young Innovator Prize. | August 20, 2025 |
| Submission of innovators' profiles and project presentations for the BRICS Young Innovator Prize | August 29, 2025 |
| Submission of travel details by representatives. Full registration on the accreditation system | September 5, 2025 |

VII. DESCRIPTION OF THEMATIC AREAS OF THE BRICS YSF:

1. Research on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A contribution from BRICS to the 30th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change/UNFCCC (COP30).

In the context of preparations for the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in the city of Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, we highlight the role of science and technology as allies in providing means to combat climate change and its effects.

The objective of this theme is to recognise scientific research, and the development of technologies carried out within BRICS member countries which effectively contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change and its effects.

Under the umbrella of this theme, are expected presentations of research projects and technologies related to greenhouse gases, oceans, biodiversity, health, energy, food security, bioeconomy and others.

2. Science diplomacy in a changing world. The views of BRICS and the Global South.

In the context of the current global geopolitics, the role of science diplomacy is becoming increasingly relevant in supporting the prominence of BRICS countries in discussions of emerging issues on the international agenda.

Given this changing geopolitical scenario, the objective of this theme is to recognise scientific research and case studies on science diplomacy addressed from the perspective of the BRICS countries and the Global South, emphasising the contributions and challenges of science policy and scientific advice, as well as of anticipation of future technologies.

Under the umbrella of this theme, are expected presentations of research projects and case studies highlighting the role of science diplomacy and its impacts related to issues of global interest, such as food security, water, health, climate, energy, biodiversity, and emerging technologies, among others, in the view of the BRICS countries.

3. Artificial Intelligence for Societal Solutions. How can emerging

technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?

Considering societal challenges, the use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence enables the modernisation of processes through the automation of repetitive tasks, improvement of efficiency and quality of services, cost reduction, increased transparency and more informed decision-making. These benefits bring some issues related to data privacy and security, algorithm bias and ethical and legal aspects, among others.

Under the umbrella of this theme, are expected presentations of scientific research related to the development or implementation of software, hardware, database management, and high-performance computing infrastructure applied to societal challenges aiming to improve their performance, security, transparency and efficiency, strengthening BRICS country's positions in the global scientific and technological scenario.

DESCRIPTION OF THEME OF THE BRICS YIP:

Artificial Intelligence applied to Public Service Solutions. How can emerging technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?

Considering the public sector, the use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence enables the modernization of processes through the automation of repetitive tasks, improvement of efficiency and quality of services, cost reduction, increased transparency and more informed decision-making. These benefits bring some challenges related to data privacy and security, algorithm bias and ethical and legal aspects, among others.

Under the umbrella of this theme, are expected presentations of innovative products and services applied to the public sector, with the potential to improve the socio-economic conditions in the lives of citizens of BRICS countries. Development and applications in AI of inference models, generative and AI agents, LLM, fine-tuning or RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation), Augmented Recovery Generation with efficiency evaluation methods in terms of hit rates, response time, computing intensity, and/or reduction of biases in AI applications, used in the segments of health, education, public safety, economic development, among others are welcome.