

TERMS OF REFERENCE

OF

THE BRICS ENERGY RESEARCH COOPERATION PLATFORM

23.06.2026

Gurugram, India

Preamble

The Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy & the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Power of the Republic of India, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Department of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of South Africa, the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates.

Aiming to strengthen energy security of the BRICS countries, while recognizing the importance of coordinated action among BRICS members in ensuring market stability and uninterrupted, secure, and affordable supply of energy as well as acknowledging the important role of all energy sources including fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear energy in national energy mixes.

Reaffirming our commitment to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 7, while making efforts towards just, orderly, equitable, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

Willing to implement the undertaking of the BRICS Leaders to strengthen cooperation in energy, especially in transitioning to more efficient and sustainable energy systems supportive of the global sustainable development agenda, balanced economic growth and the collective socio-economic well-being.

Recalling the agreement reached at the 3rd Meeting of the BRICS Energy Ministers (Johannesburg, 28 June 2018) to establish the “BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform” (BRICS ERCP) and to develop its Terms of Reference, which was acknowledged by the BRICS Leaders at the 10th BRICS Summit (Johannesburg, 25-27 July 2018).

Recalling the BRICS Roadmap for Energy Cooperation adopted at the 10th Meeting of the BRICS Energy Ministers (Brasilia, 2025), including the agreed timeline of action therein, which calls for updating the Terms of Reference of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform in 2026.

and Mindful of the expansion of BRICS and our commitment to strengthening energy security and sustainable development of the energy sector.

Hereby adopt the updated BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform Terms of Reference, to reflect the inclusive participation of all BRICS countries and aligned with the collective aspirations for a secure, sustainable, and equitable energy future.

Vision

To serve as a collaborative framework for strengthening energy security and advancing efficient, sustainable, and people-centric energy systems across BRICS countries and other Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, through a comprehensive cooperation in energy research, innovation, technology transfer and dissemination on mutually agreed terms, and capacity building while respecting national sovereignty, diversity of national energy mix and circumstances, development priorities, and energy system characteristics.

Mission

Promote energy security while making efforts towards just, orderly, equitable, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities through cooperation in energy research and innovation, supporting capacity-building initiatives, sharing of best practices and regulatory experiences; and provide a platform for inclusive dialogue on energy issues to support universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, strengthen energy system resilience, and amplify BRICS’ role in global energy governance.

Objectives

BRICS ERCP activities will, in principle, be aimed at:

1. Enhancing collective understanding of energy security challenges and system resilience, including emerging risks and vulnerabilities, through shared analysis, experience-sharing and collaborative research on a mutually agreed and voluntary basis.
2. Encouraging proposals for deepening energy cooperation among BRICS participating States, by advancing collaboration on emerging energy solutions including but not limited to cross-border regional energy connectivity; development, generation, transmission, and distribution; encouraging investment, particularly through enhanced engagement with the private sector and financial institutions, including the New Development Bank; promoting cooperation on mutual recognition of standards in accordance with national regulations; and supporting capacity building, sharing of best practices and industry use cases; consistent with diverse national circumstances and development priorities.
3. Promoting a balanced approach in fossil fuel use while pursuing just, orderly, equitable, affordable and inclusive energy transitions, facilitating productivity and efficiency improvements, new and cleaner technologies, and deployment of renewables and low-carbon solutions.
4. Expanding educational and professional exchanges and interaction among regulators, academia, business, financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders in the energy field with a view to strengthening cooperation and advancing human and institutional capacity building.
5. Developing synergies with other BRICS mechanisms, as well as dialogue with international fora on topical issues of the global energy agenda, contributing to a stronger collective voice for BRICS, while respecting national priorities and circumstances.
6. Facilitating exchange of information, knowledge, and best practices in the energy field including through joint reports and pilots in emerging areas supporting evidence-based decision-making and strengthening energy system resilience while respecting national sovereignty.

Working Procedures

1. The BRICS ERCP is a flexible, voluntary cooperation format, with membership open to state bodies of the BRICS countries and, upon the recommendation of the concerned State, to scientific and research organizations, think tanks, academic institutions, experts, companies and associations from BRICS participating States. Representatives of other States and entities may be invited by consensus among BRICS countries to take part in the ERCP activities.
2. The BRICS Chair shall take the leading role in organizing or supervising regular and ad -hoc events within the BRICS ERCP, including general meetings, as and when necessary, and work -streams activities in accordance with the annexed (Annexure-I) Governance Model for the ERCP workstreams adopted in 2025. List of ERCP workstreams is attached as Annexure – II.
3. The activities of the BRICS ERCP will be coordinated by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials which will discuss the work of the platform on a regular basis at least once a year.
4. The BRICS Members should consider nominating focal points (public officials, representatives of research institutes, companies or any other entities) in their respective countries who will be engaged in the BRICS ERCP activities in specific areas (work -streams) consistent with the vision, mission and objectives of the ERCP. The focal points will collaborate and communicate through meetings, letters, videoconferences, webinars and other ways deemed appropriate.
5. Outcomes of the research activities will be considered by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials, which shall decide on the adoption and possible submission of the outcomes to BRICS Energy Ministers' meetings for decisions on follow-up actions.
6. Preparation of the BRICS ERCP annual reports will be coordinated by BRICS Chair, validated by Senior Energy Officials and presented to the BRICS Energy Ministers meeting.

Funding

Research and cooperation projects, as well as other activities will be carried out by the BRICS participating States on a voluntary basis collectively and individually in accordance with the relevant national laws and regulations. Each country shall cover the costs of participation of its representatives in the activities carried out within the BRICS ERCP. BRICS participating States can make voluntary contributions in order to implement activities within the BRICS ERCP. Additional contributions can be made by the interested entities including the New Development Bank. Decisions on the acceptability of contributions to the BRICS ERCP regular and ad-hoc events and workstreams activities could be reviewed by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials upon request.

Amendments

Amendments to the present BRICS ERCP Terms of Reference will be considered by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials and approved by BRICS Energy Ministers.

ANNEXURE - I

Governance Model for the ERCP Workstreams' activities

1. Purpose

To establish clear and streamlined guidelines for the creation, operation, and closure of ERCP Workstreams (ERCP WS), ensuring strategic alignment, transparency, and efficiency in governance.

2. Governance mechanisms

- a. Committee of Senior Energy Officials: The highest governance mechanism, responsible for approving the creation and closure of ERCP WS.
- b. BRICS ERCP Chairship: Responsible for providing guidance about the procedures related to the creation of ERCP WS, sharing the WS proposals with BRICS ERCP members, consolidating activity reports, and providing the list of the active ERCP WS by the end of its presidency.
- c. ERCP Focal Point: Each country should designate and maintain updated its focal point for the ERCP.
- d. ERCP WS Coordination: Each WS must have one or more lead country(ies) to act as coordinator throughout the workstream duration, being responsible for managing activities, reporting progress, and delivering outputs, with support of technical/knowledge institutions as appropriate.

3. Procedures for the Creation of Workstreams

3.1 Requirements for Proposal Submission:

- a. Clear justification of the WS objective and relevance.
- b. Strategic alignment with the overarching objectives of the Roadmap.
- c. Adequacy to the priority issues or/and thematic areas listed in the Roadmap.
- d. Proposed composition, including involved institutions and participant profiles.
- e. Preliminary work plan, with goals, timeline, and expected deliverables.
- f. Designation of lead country (-ies) to act as WS Coordinator(s).

3.2 Approval Process:

- a. The proposal is submitted to the BRICS ERCP Chairship, which conducts a technical review and forwards it to the Committee of Senior Energy Officials.
- b. The Committee of Senior Energy Officials deliberates on the creation of the WS, providing a recommendation to the BRICS Energy Ministers to include a reference to it in the ministerial communiqué.
- c. The approval of the WS must be formally registered in the ministerial communiqué.

4. Regular Activities of the ERCP WS:

- a. ERCP WS Coordinator should at least once a year present to the Committee of Senior Energy Officials the report on the activities.
- b. ERCP WS Coordinator should submit to the Committee of Senior Energy Officials the two-year workplan of the ERCP WS for approval.
- c. The Committee of Senior Energy Officials deliberates by consensus the adoption of the work plan, providing a recommendation to the BRICS Energy Ministers to include a reference to it in the ministerial communiqué.

5. Procedures for the Closure of Workstreams

5.1 Conditions for Closure:

- a. Completion of the activities outlined in the work plan.
- b. Shift in strategic priorities.
- c. Technical or operational infeasibility.
- d. Overlap or integration with other WS.
- e. Other relevant issues, based on a formal justification to be presented by the WS Coordinator.

5.2 Closure Process:

- a. The WS Coordinator submits a final report to the BRICS ERCP Chairship, providing an assessment of outcomes.
- b. The BRICS ERCP Chairship issues a technical recommendation for closure.
- c. The Committee of Senior Energy Officials deliberates and approves the closure.

6. Other Provisions

- a. The existing WS should present a report of their activities annually from the approval of the Roadmap, including a reference to the accomplished deliverables and proposed future activities.
- b. WS that remain inactive for more than one year without formal justification may be reviewed for potential closure or replacement of the leading country(-ies). Furthermore, WS that remain with no leading country, within one year from the approval of the Roadmap, will be reviewed for potential closure.
- c. Amendments to this governance model must be approved by the Committee of Senior Energy Officials.

ANNEXURE – II

Following work streams have been established under the ERCP:

1. Energy research	6. Smart Grids	11. Capacity Building
2. Digitization	7. Technological Cooperation	12. Hydrogen
3. Coal	8. Renewables	13. Finance
4. Natural Gas including LNG	9. Bioenergy	14. Standards and Regulations
5. Energy Efficiency	10. Transport	15. Skills for Energy Transition

*** The Annexure will be updated from time to time in accordance with the prevailing status of the ERCP workstreams.**