



BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE, INNOVATION,
COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Group Ministerial Meeting

24th July 2026

BRICS Voluntary Principles for Climate-Resilient Urban Infrastructure



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Preamble

- 1.** Recognising that rapid urbanisation across BRICS member countries is creating unprecedented opportunities for economic growth, innovation and improved quality of life, while simultaneously increasing exposure to climate change, extreme weather events, disasters and other systemic risks;
- 2.** Acknowledging that cities and urban infrastructure are increasingly affected by climate-induced hazards, including floods, heatwaves, storms, droughts, sea-level rise and other extreme events, and geological hazards, whose impacts frequently cascade across interconnected systems such as energy, transport, water, housing, communications, health and public services;
- 3.** Recalling the commitments reflected in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, while recognising that each BRICS member country will pursue its own national priorities, development pathways and institutional arrangements;
- 4.** Affirming that effective multi-level governance, empowered local governments and strong municipal institutions are foundational to climate-resilient and inclusive urban development, ensuring integrated planning, coordinated implementation, sustainable infrastructure management and responsive public service delivery that safeguards the well-being of present and future generations.
- 5.** Recognising the value of voluntary cooperation, mutual learning, technology exchange, South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing among BRICS member countries, while fully respecting national sovereignty, national circumstances and domestic priorities;
- 6.** The BRICS member countries adopt the following voluntary principles to guide cooperation towards climate- resilient urban infrastructure.



Principle 1: Promote Integrated Climate and Disaster -Risk-Informed Urban Planning

- 7.** Integrate multi-hazard and climate risk assessments in planning the life-cycle of urban infrastructure. These assessments should inform spatial and land-use planning, building codes and regulations, master plans, city climate action plans, disaster risk reduction strategies and long-term urban development frameworks.
- 8.** Such integration can reduce future risks, prevent maladaptation, limit adverse environmental impacts and improve investment decisions. It can also strengthen the resilience of rapidly growing urban areas.
- 9.** Member Countries may cooperate, on mutually agreed terms, by sharing risk information, methodologies, decision-support tools and good practices. Such cooperation may also strengthen institutional capabilities and technical capacities for climate- and disaster-risk-informed urban planning.

Principle 2: Adopt a Systems Approach to Urban Infrastructure Resilience

- 10.** Plan, design, operate and maintain urban infrastructure as interconnected systems rather than isolated assets. This approach should recognize links among energy, transport, industry, water and sanitation, housing, communications, health and other critical infrastructure.
- 11.** Resilience should be considered throughout the infrastructure lifecycle. This includes assessment, planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, retrofitting, renewal and recovery. In accordance with national priorities, investments may reduce vulnerabilities and improve redundancy, flexibility and reliability. They should also support the continuity of essential urban services and generate wider resilience benefits.
- 12.** Member Countries may strengthen institutional and technical capacities for infrastructure management, operation and maintenance. This can contribute to disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development.



Principle 3: Advance Climate- Resilient and Nature-Positive Infrastructure

- 13.** Promote climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and nature-positive urban infrastructure. Approaches should reflect national circumstances and priorities and support sustainable development.
- 14.** These approaches may combine engineering solutions with nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and blue-green infrastructure. They may also include passive cooling, energy-efficient buildings, climate-resilient and low-carbon construction, and sustainable urban design. Particular attention may be given to informal settlements and underserved or high-risk communities. Planning and implementation may draw on locally appropriate materials, Indigenous and traditional knowledge, and community participation.
- 15.** These measures can reduce disaster and climate risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities. They can also improve thermal comfort, conserve biodiversity, support resilient livelihoods and deliver wider environmental, social and economic benefits. This can contribute to national climate and sustainable development objectives.

Principle 4: Strengthen Sustainable and Innovative Financing for Urban Resilience

- 16.** Promote sustained and innovative financing in resilient urban infrastructure across its lifecycle. Financing may include public and private investment, blended finance, public-private partnerships, municipal finance, green and resilience bonds, climate finance and other nationally appropriate mechanisms.
- 17.** Member Countries may strengthen project preparation and improve the bankability of resilient infrastructure. They may also recognise resilience benefits in investment decisions and improve access to international climate and disaster-risk financing, as appropriate. The financial and technical capacities of local governments may be strengthened. This should include capacities for infrastructure planning, asset management, operation and maintenance.

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18. Multilateral development institutions, including the New Development Bank, may support these efforts in accordance with their mandates. Such support may include financing, technical cooperation and capacity-building.
 19. These efforts can reduce disaster risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities, particularly in high-risk and underserved communities. They can also support long-term fiscal sustainability and inclusive urban development.

Principle 5: Strengthen Institutions and Multilevel Governance for Urban Infrastructure Resilience

20. Strengthen coherent, inclusive and coordinated multilevel governance for urban infrastructure resilience across national, subnational and local levels. This should be supported by strong institutions, appropriate regulatory frameworks, technologies, financing arrangements and stakeholder engagement.
21. Member Countries may strengthen multi-sectoral coordination. They may also clarify institutional roles and responsibilities and support the meaningful participation of communities, civil society, academia and the private sector. Local disaster risk governance may be strengthened through knowledge exchange, mutual learning and capacity development. Member Countries may voluntarily share experiences relating to standards, codes, guidelines and regulations.
22. Such cooperation should be consistent with national laws, priorities, institutional arrangements and development needs. It can improve institutional effectiveness and support resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban development.

Principle 6: Adopt appropriate technologies and strengthen collaboration for technology transfer

23. Adopt appropriate and innovative technologies that can improve the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of urban infrastructure. They can also enhance performance, reliability, sustainability and continuity of essential services.

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- 24.** Technology choices should reflect national priorities, local conditions and available capacities. The selection and use of technologies should be context-sensitive, accessible, interoperable, affordable and responsive to local capacities, while addressing digital inequalities and protecting personal and sensitive data.
- 25.** BRICS member countries may promote the use of appropriate technologies like geospatial information, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, digital twins, digitalized climate services and early warning systems to improve urban planning, infrastructure management and informed decision-making. Cooperation in research, innovation, standards, technology exchange and capacity development may be pursued on mutually agreed terms and consistent with national priorities.
- 26.** Cooperation in research, innovation, standards, technology exchange and capacity development may be pursued voluntarily and on mutually agreed terms. Such cooperation should respect national priorities and applicable data-protection, cybersecurity, intellectual-property and licensing arrangements.

Principle 7: Promote Inclusive Cities, Local Leadership and South-South Cooperation

- 27.** Place people at the centre of resilient and inclusive urban development. The BRICS Member Countries may promote universal accessibility, social inclusion and equitable access to resilient infrastructure and essential services. Particular attention may be given to communities and territories facing higher levels of exposure and vulnerability.
- 28.** The capacities of local governments and municipal institutions may be strengthened. This can support local leadership, city-level innovation and effective implementation.
- 29.** South-South cooperation may be advanced through technical exchanges, city-to-city partnerships, academic collaboration, professional networks and community engagement. Member Countries may also voluntarily share knowledge, experience, innovation and good practices. Such cooperation may focus on scalable and locally adapted solutions. These can reduce social and territorial inequalities and strengthen underserved urban and peri-urban

communities. They can also support community participation and sustainable urban transformation.

- 30.** These voluntary and non-binding principles provide a common strategic framework for cooperation among BRICS Member Countries. They support climate-resilient, inclusive, people-centred and sustainable urban infrastructure while recognising different national circumstances and development pathways. They also aim to reduce risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities and ensure that resilience investments benefit communities facing the greatest risks.
- 31.** The principles complement national policies and relevant international commitments. They do not create additional obligations. Their implementation will be voluntary, mutually agreed and consistent with national sovereignty, laws, priorities and institutional arrangements.
- 32.** As knowledge, technologies and financing approaches evolve, these principles may be reviewed and refined by consensus. This will enable BRICS cooperation to respond to emerging challenges and support resilient and sustainable urban development across all Member Countries.