



12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting

21st August, 2026

Chair's Statement and Outcome Document*

1. We, the BRICS Communications Ministers, convened in Pune, Maharashtra, India, under the Chairship of India at the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting on 21 August 2026.
2. We welcome the continued strengthening of BRICS cooperation and reaffirm our commitment to digital and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystems that are universally accessible, meaningful, inclusive, affordable, open, fair, safe, secure, sovereign, interoperable, innovation-driven, predictable, transparent and sustainable. We underscore the role of ICTs in advancing sustainable development and the interests of the developing countries, as well as cooperation, innovation and entrepreneurship in the digital domain, and the transformative potential of digital technologies for inclusive growth, bridging digital divides, sustainable development and citizen-centric services.
3. We recognize that digital and ICT ecosystems are a critical foundation for economic development, social inclusion, improved service-delivery, sustainable growth, resilience and innovation and emphasize deepening BRICS cooperation towards a sovereign and self-reliant digital ecosystem. In line with the 2026 BRICS Theme "*Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability*" and the BRICS ICT Track theme "*Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future*", we underscore our shared vision of moving beyond basic access to resilient, meaningful, affordable and secure connectivity for all, recognizing the role of resilient infrastructure, safe, secure and reliable networks, digital public infrastructure and digital public goods as enablers of inclusive digital transformation and collaborative innovation.

Sustainable and Resilient Digital and ICT Ecosystems

4. We reaffirm that sustainable and resilient digital and ICT ecosystems are a foundational pillar of inclusive digital transformation and long-term sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. We recognize that universal and meaningful connectivity requires a multidimensional approach encompassing availability, quality, affordability, devices, skills and security.
5. We note that connectivity gaps persist in geographically challenging, hard-to-reach and underserved regions. Addressing them requires coherent policy frameworks and cost-effective, clean energy-integrated, energy-efficient and context-responsive infrastructure.
6. We underscore the importance of enhancing the resilience of ICT networks and their continuity, reliability, quality and availability under disruptions including natural disasters, climate events and technological risks, through robust architectures, redundancy and diversified infrastructure pathways. We recognize telecommunications infrastructure as a critical pillar underpinning economic growth, governance and social inclusion and note shared priorities relating to telecom security, inclusive connectivity, particularly in rural and remote areas and environmentally sustainable digital development.
7. We recognize the transformative potential of resilient, safe, inclusive and interoperable digital public infrastructure and digital public goods, based on national priorities and circumstances, to strengthen digital ecosystems, by enabling the seamless integration of connectivity, platforms and services, built upon open-source standards and interoperable architectures, to deliver digital services at scale, support sustainable

*The Chair's Statement and Outcome Document comprising the entire text was agreed by all the BRICS Members. One issue raised by a Member, which could not gain consensus, is not included in the document.

growth, support inclusive and accountable public service delivery, strengthen faith in public institutions, and increase social and economic opportunities for all.

8. We note the proposal to launch the digital public infrastructure repository for BRICS countries by India, a knowledge sharing repository showcasing best practices, open platforms, and successful digital public infrastructure models from BRICS countries to advance the agreed work of Focus Group on Digital Public Infrastructure. We encourage BRICS countries to contribute voluntarily and benefit from shared resources, publications, and technical materials.
9. Further advancing practical cooperation, we note India's proposal to launch the pilot projects of digital public infrastructure solutions for digital transformation for BRICS countries towards a more resilient future. These will be voluntary, demand-driven, cross-BRICS projects by countries with established capabilities in digital public infrastructure to support innovations and to address context-specific digital transformation challenges.
10. We acknowledge the growing significance of satellite and other non-terrestrial networks, including NGSO and Low Earth Orbit constellations, in reaching remote, disaster-prone and hard-to-reach areas and strengthening redundancy while respecting the sovereignty of the member nations and subject to authorization of their concerned authorities. We affirm the crucial role of national governments in shaping policies that foster innovation while ensuring sustainable use of space resources and addressing security risks as well as the key role of the ITU in global management of spectrum and satellite orbits, alongside space sustainability.
11. We recognize the importance of environmentally sustainable digital and ICT ecosystems through energy-efficient technologies and network deployment, climate-resilient infrastructure and responsible practices, while supporting national efforts towards the transition to low-carbon energy for the long-term sustainability of digital infrastructure, responsible e-waste management and circular economy principles in the ICT sector. In this regard, we encourage the member states to strengthen technological cooperation.
12. We note China's proposal of the establishment of a digital ecosystem cooperation network for BRICS countries, including proposal on relevant information portal. We invite BRICS countries for engagement.
13. We appreciate the Indian Presidency's and other member states' efforts in developing a "Compendium on Universal and Resilient Digital Connectivity: Policies, Best Practices and digital public infrastructure Approaches" for sharing policy experiences with BRICS countries.
14. We commit to strengthening cooperation on sustainable and resilient digital and ICT ecosystems through innovation, infrastructure development frameworks and deployment practices, ensuring connectivity ecosystems that are robust, efficient, scalable, resilient, interoperable and responsive to evolving socio-economic requirements.

Safe, Secure and Reliable ICT

15. We recognize that safe, secure and reliable digital environment is a fundamental prerequisite for the stability, credibility and growth of the digital economy. As digital and ICT ecosystems expand in scale, complexity and interdependence, ensuring the integrity, authenticity and reliability of digital interactions is a critical imperative, supported by internationally recognized standards, conformity assessment and interoperability.
16. We note the increasingly sophisticated risks in the digital environment including malicious use of ICT resources, evolving cyber threats, data breaches, vulnerabilities of highly interconnected systems and new technologies, which require strengthened institutional capacities, adaptive policy frameworks and enhanced BRICS cooperation.
17. We recognize the critical importance of ICT resources such as network equipment, data transmission channels, submarine cables, data centers and AI infrastructure, as the backbone of the global digital economy. We underscore the need to ensure their security, reliability and resilience against evolving risks and disruptions and also the need for enhanced cooperation to protect submarine cable networks from natural hazards and deliberate disruptions.

18. We emphasize our commitment to ensuring a safe digital environment for children, including through proactive measures, awareness-raising, prevention, exchange of best practices, capacity-building and user-centric protection. Noting that evolving ICTs, including AI, bring both opportunities and risks for children, we call for stepped-up sharing of experience, best practices, and where possible, research on identifying and forecasting threats and evaluating the efficiency of protective measures, as well as any other relevant information. We further emphasize our commitment to ensuring a safe digital environment for senior citizens, as well as for people in vulnerable situations, for whom targeted preventive and awareness-raising measures are required.
19. We underscore safe, secure and reliable digital environments that inspire confidence among users, enterprises and governments, through transparent governance, risk-informed regulation and accountability, alongside responsible and ethical development and deployment of digital technologies, ensuring a safe, secure and reliable ICT ecosystem, aligned with applicable international norms and best practices while respecting domestic laws and sovereign regulatory approaches.
20. We reaffirm that Artificial Intelligence presents immense opportunity to stimulate economic growth and sustainable development for all. We further note that international cooperation in enhancing accessibility of AI resources while ensuring its safety, security, inclusiveness and reliability, for promoting energy efficiency of AI systems, fostering AI innovation, developing ethical AI ecosystem, leveraging AI for economic growth and social good and mitigating potential risks would be essential for promoting a just, fair and prosperous future of all countries, especially those of Global South. We congratulate India on the successful holding of the AI Impact Summit in February 2026 and China on World Artificial Intelligence Conference in July 2026.
21. We recognize the growing challenge of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation disseminated through digital channels and the need for enhanced cooperation in addressing these challenges, including exchange of experience and verification methodologies and increasing fact-checking capacities, reflecting the cultural and national contexts of BRICS members, while respecting digital national sovereignty and priorities and respective approaches.
22. We underscore the importance of the ethical, safe, secure, reliable, fair and responsible development, deployment and use of new and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), for sustainable development and inclusive growth, and emphasize AI governance grounded in transparency, accountability, privacy, data protection, fairness, safety, security, reliability and human-centric values, promoting AI for good, in the service of humanity, respecting national sovereignty, aligning with development goals and upholding inclusiveness and collaboration, and centered on the United Nations.
23. We recognize that rapid AI advancement brings both opportunities and the risk of widening inequalities, and encourage concerted measures to bridge the “AI divide” through fair access for all countries, particularly developing ones, to computing infrastructure, data, algorithmic models and best practices. We emphasize strengthening the technological sovereignty of BRICS countries, domestic capacities in foundational models, datasets reflecting local cultural and linguistic heritage, safe, secure and reliable computing infrastructure, and data governance. We advocate open, shared and adaptable AI solutions reflecting our multicultural and multilingual diversity, and call for cooperation in capacity building.
24. We recognize the growing strategic importance of quantum technologies for strengthening the digital and ICT ecosystems. We encourage enhancing engagement among BRICS countries in quantum technologies to support sustainable and secure digital development, including coordination in standardization.
25. We encourage advancing cooperation in safe, secure and reliable ICT ecosystems through sustained dialogue and practical collaboration, including within BRICS Working Group on Security in the use of ICTs, with a view to reinforcing safety, security and reliability in the ICT ecosystem, while supporting inclusive and sustainable digital development through cooperation among the capacity building centers and institutes.

Digital Skilling and Capacity Building

26. We recognize human capital development as a critical enabler of digital transformation, dependent on relevant skills, institutional capabilities and learning ecosystems. We highlight inclusive approaches

ensuring equitable access to digital skills and services for all, especially women, youth, rural communities, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and other underserved groups across diverse socio-economic contexts, with particular attention to youth and women as a substantial share of the untapped digital workforce.

27. We note that disparities in digital skills could constrain equitable participation and widen gender and rural-urban digital divides. Addressing them calls for voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, open-source software democratization, enabling policy environments, and sustained efforts to expand learning, upskilling workers, preparing citizens for the digital economy, developing technology professionals and improving access to digital services, while strengthening institutional capacities to promote digital literacy and skills. In this regard, we note India's proposal for the capacity building centres for BRICS member states as a commendable effort towards fostering a future-ready workforce.
28. We underscore adaptive, demand-driven, practical, and future-oriented skill, which include foundational digital literacy alongside advanced competencies in AI literacy, data science, and digital services; entrepreneurial and career-readiness skills for youth livelihoods; digital and AI capacity building for civil servants; and the growing role of universities, research institutions, vocational schools.
29. We further emphasize the need to strengthen institutional frameworks that support capacity development through structured collaboration among training institutions, governments, academia, research organizations, civil society and youth-led organizations and industry, thereby enabling continuous learning pathways, systematic skill development and the transfer of knowledge across priority areas relevant to BRICS cooperation. We commit to enhancing cooperation in digital skilling and capacity building through scalable, context-responsive and collaborative approaches, with a view to supporting inclusive participation and sustainable digital development across BRICS countries.
30. We underscore the importance of protecting children in the digital environment and welcome Russia's proposal to launch a platform to protect children in the digital environment for BRICS member countries, which enables the sharing of best practices, exchange of knowledge and relevant information, including national regulation and initiatives. We further recognize the complementary role of relevant stakeholders, including youth-led non-governmental organizations and social enterprises, delivering localized career-readiness and entrepreneurship coaching, and translating skill development into employment and livelihood opportunities. We recognise role of international digital platforms in this issue and advocate for accountability and responsible conduct.
31. We commit to explore cooperation in digital skilling and capacity building through scalable, context-responsive and collaborative approaches, with a view to supporting inclusive participation, innovative capability and sustainable digital development across BRICS countries. Such effort can be realised through capacity building programmes under ICT Cooperation Track such as the capacity building centres and excellence training workshop on ICTs.
32. We recognize the importance of capacity building centers and institutions of BRICS countries to address misinformation, disinformation and malinformation. We support to raise public awareness and exchange practices on educational programs and trainings that equip users, including journalists, and public officials with the skills and knowledge to critically interact with information and enhance resilience against harmful impacts of misinformation and disinformation.

Innovation, Startups and Entrepreneurship

33. We recognize innovation-driven growth as a key catalyst for economic diversification, technological progress and competitiveness, with vibrant ecosystems, supported by policies, accessible finance, in which startups, entrepreneurial enterprises playing an indispensable role in effectively driving value creation and employment. We note the diversity of innovation landscapes and that strengthened cooperation among innovation ecosystems for research and development and academia-industry collaboration can facilitate mutual learning and sustainable innovation ecosystems.
34. We underscore the need of enabling environments for innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting programmes to facilitate access to funding, capacity building, and facilitating market linkages and the role of digital technologies in new business models and MSME participation in the digital economy, promoting

the integration of startups and MSMEs, particularly from developing countries and new BRICS members, into broader innovation networks and value chains.

35. We further note similar discussion under the BRICS SME Working Group and 2025 BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting during the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which also emphasized a more integrated, dynamic and supportive ecosystem for MSMEs that would enhance synergy and collaboration among the BRICS SMEs.
36. We commit to strengthening cooperation in innovation, startups and entrepreneurship through practical, outcome-oriented and collaborative approaches, fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth and technological development across BRICS countries.

Future Networks

37. We recognize that future networks research and development is of great significance to the promotion of digital transformation and connectivity among BRICS countries. We encourage member countries further strengthen policy exchange and research cooperation in the field of future networks under the framework of BRICS cooperation in ICT.
38. We recall the adoption of the Terms of References of the four Study Groups under the BRICS Institute of Future Networks. We note the progress made under Study Group on Next Generation Communications and the Study Group on EMF Exposure convened by China and India respectively. We encourage all members to actively participate in this regard.
39. We stress that the National BIFN Branches should serve as the primary implementation and coordination mechanisms for study groups, expert nominations, and engagement with national stakeholders. We encourage all BRICS members to nominate a national branch for BIFN.
40. We acknowledge that submarine cable infrastructure for BRICS countries is an important foundation for international digital connectivity and network resilience. We recognize the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation on voluntary basis among BRICS countries, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, to enhance the resilience and reliability of submarine cable infrastructure. We encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices, as appropriate, on measures to strengthen submarine cable resilience, redundancy, secure routing and continuity of connectivity. We encourage enhanced coordination between the BRICS ICT track and the STI track and prevent duplicate work.

Digital Application and Governance

41. We recognize that the rapid application of digital technologies is increasing the complexity of digital governance, making closer BRICS cooperation essential for governance capacity, mutual learning and an inclusive, secure and equitable digital environment. We also reaffirm the role of the Digital BRICS Task Force (DBTF) as an important platform for ICT cooperation on digital governance.
42. We note the discussions on proposals concerning the Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the Digital Application Expert Group and the Digital Governance Expert Group under DBTF.

Stocktaking and Way Forward

43. We appreciate the sustained role of the BRICS Working Group on ICT Cooperation in ensuring structured dialogue, coordination and continuity across priority areas and welcome the progress achieved through Working Group meetings, capacity-building initiatives, thematic exchanges and knowledge exchange platforms during the year, which have advanced practical, implementation-oriented cooperation and convergence of approaches among BRICS members under the ICT Track.
44. We appreciate the organization of the webinar on “Secure, Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Telecom Infrastructure,” convened by India and acknowledge its contribution to advancing knowledge exchange and policy dialogue among BRICS countries. We emphasize continued exchange of best practices, capacity

building and institutional collaboration towards secure, resilient and future-ready digital and ICT ecosystems.

45. We appreciate the holding of BRICS Forum on Future Networks Innovation, excellence training workshop on ICTs by China Branch of BRICS Institute of Future Networks.
46. We note the webinars on proposals of digital ecosystem cooperation among BRICS members and operational model of the BIFN secretariat under existing mechanisms including BIFN and DBTF convened by China. We encourage continued engagement through inclusive consultation and consensus among all BRICS members.
47. We note the co-holding of the webinar on Submarine Cable Network Cooperation and Development by China and Russia.
48. We note the organization of webinars on “AI in Telecoms and Telecoms for AI” and “Digital Transformation”, convened by India. We acknowledge its contribution to strengthening dialogue and knowledge exchange among BRICS countries. We encourage continued cooperation among BRICS countries through the exchange of best practices and capacity building.
49. We welcome the convening of the Digital BRICS Forum 2026, with discussions on Cybersecurity and safe, secure and reliable ICTs, including Child Online Protection and on Sustainable and Resilient Digital Ecosystems, concluding with a Ministerial Fireside Chat on the BRICS ICT Track theme “*Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future*”. We also welcome the Digital BRICS Expo held alongside the Forum. We note the meeting of the Focus Group on Digital Public Infrastructure, at which the two initiatives proposed by India were discussed.
50. We reaffirm the BRICS Working Group on ICT Cooperation as the central mechanism for dialogue, coordination and implementation of Ministers’ decisions, and note with satisfaction the outcomes and deliverables under India's Chairship which contribute to advancing practical and forward-looking outcomes under the ICT Track.
51. We express readiness to further strengthen ICT cooperation and underscore the 2026 BRICS Theme “Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability” and the BRICS ICT Track theme “Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future” for resilient, innovative, inclusive and sustainable digital societies.
52. BRICS Member States extend their appreciation to India’s leadership on the Chairship in 2026 and the holding of the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting.
53. The BRICS Communications Ministers are ready to support China in hosting the 13th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in 2027.

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