BRICS WBA

BRICS INDIA 2026

BRICS Women's Business Alliance Annual Report

INDIA I 2026

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FOREWORD

FOREWORD

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) continues to evolve as a powerful platform for advancing women's economic participation, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership across the BRICS community. As we present the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Annual Report 2026, we are pleased to reflect on another year of strengthened collaboration, meaningful dialogue, and collective action among our member countries.

This year marks another important milestone in the Alliance's journey. With the participation of Brazil, China, India, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, the BRICS Women's Business Alliance represents an even broader community of economies, cultures, and experiences united by a common commitment-to unlock the full potential of women as drivers of sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity.

We are also pleased to welcome the newest member country, Saudi Arabia, to the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA), further enriching the Alliance with new perspectives, partnerships, and opportunities for collaboration.

Across our six Working Groups-Innovative Development, Inclusive Economy, Healthcare, Food Security & Environmental Safety, Creative Industries, and Tourism-the Alliance continued to facilitate substantive discussions aimed at identifying practical solutions to common challenges and opportunities. Through a series of Working Group Meetings, webinars, consultations, and cross-country exchanges, members shared best practices, showcased successful initiatives, and developed recommendations that reflect the Alliance's shared priorities and long-term vision.

During the year, the Alliance further strengthened its commitment to fostering women's entrepreneurship and innovation through initiatives such as the BRICS WBA Women's Startup Contest, knowledge-sharing sessions, thematic webinars, and the Compendium of Positive Stories, highlighting inspiring examples of women-led enterprises and transformative initiatives across BRICS nations These efforts reaffirm our belief that collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange are fundamental to building resilient economies and creating new opportunities for women.

The recommendations presented in this Annual Report are the result of extensive deliberations across the Alliance. They seek to promote greater access to finance, technology, markets, skills, healthcare, digital inclusion, and cross-border business partnerships. More importantly, they aim to strengthen an enabling ecosystem where women-led enterprises can thrive and contribute meaningfully to national and global economic development.

As BRICS continues to expand its global role, the Women's Business Alliance remains committed to ensuring that women are not merely participants in economic growth but active architects of a more resilient, innovative, and sustainable future. The dedication and collaborative spirit demonstrated across the Alliance exemplify its shared commitment to advancing women-led development. Our collective strength lies in our diversity, our shared purpose, and our determination to transform ideas into impactful action.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all Chapter Chairs, Council Members, Working Group Chairs, Co-Chairs, Members, and Chapter Secretariats for their unwavering commitment, invaluable expertise, and collaborative spirit throughout the year. Their leadership, active engagement, and shared vision have been instrumental in shaping the work of the Alliance and the recommendations presented in this Annual Report.

We are honoured to present the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Annual Report 2026 to the Leaders of the BRICS nations. We hope that the recommendations contained herein will contribute to informed policymaking, deeper economic cooperation, and strengthened partnerships among our countries, ultimately advancing the shared vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

Together, we reaffirm our commitment to building stronger economies through women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation, and we look forward to continuing this journey of collaboration and shared progress across the BRICS community.

Avarna Jain
Global Chairperson,
BRICS Women's Business Alliance India Presidency 2026

Signatures

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The global economy is entering a period of profound transformation. Rapid technological advancements, digitalisation, evolving patterns of trade and investment, climate change, demographic shifts and changing consumer expectations are reshaping industries and redefining the future of work. As countries seek to build resilient, sustainable and inclusive economies, the role of women as entrepreneurs, innovators, business leaders and investors has become increasingly significant. Across the BRICS countries, women are not only contributing to economic growth but are also driving innovation, creating employment, strengthening communities and building enterprises that respond to emerging economic and societal needs.

Against this backdrop, fostering an enabling environment for women-led businesses is both an economic imperative and an important driver of inclusive and sustainable development. Unlocking the full potential of women entrepreneurs requires policies and ecosystems that expand access to finance, markets, technology, skills and leadership opportunities while encouraging innovation, sustainability and cross-border collaboration.

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) provides a unique platform for advancing this agenda. By bringing together women business leaders, entrepreneurs and industry experts from across BRICS countries, the Alliance promotes dialogue, knowledge exchange and practical cooperation to address common challenges and unlock new opportunities. Through its Working Groups, the Alliance identifies actionable recommendations that reflect both national experiences and shared priorities, while encouraging collaboration that strengthens women's economic participation across BRICS.

This Annual Report presents the collective work of the Alliance's six Working Groups - Healthcare, Inclusive Economy, Food Security, Creative Economy, Innovative Development and Tourism. While each Working Group addresses distinct sectors and policy priorities, together they present a comprehensive framework for strengthening women's leadership across the economy. The recommendations recognise that women's economic empowerment is multidimensional and requires coordinated action across institutions, industries and governments.

A central theme emerging from the report is that women's economic empowerment is one of the most powerful drivers of sustainable development and long-term economic resilience. Across every Working Group, women are recognised not simply as participants in economic activity, but as innovators, entrepreneurs, employers, creators of knowledge and leaders of transformation. Investing in women-led enterprises and enabling women to participate fully in economic life strengthens productivity, promotes innovation and contributes to more resilient and inclusive societies.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Despite addressing diverse sectors, the six Working Groups converge around several common priorities that together define the enabling ecosystem required for women-led enterprises to flourish.

Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development emerges as a recurring priority across the report. The Working Groups emphasise the need to strengthen business ecosystems that encourage entrepreneurship, support enterprise formalisation, reduce barriers to business growth and expand opportunities for women-led MSMEs across both traditional and emerging sectors.

Innovation, Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies are recognised as key enablers of inclusive growth. The report encourages greater adoption of digital technologies, artificial intelligence and innovation-driven business models while promoting digital inclusion, technology diffusion and stronger innovation ecosystems that enable women entrepreneurs to compete in an increasingly digital economy.

Access to Finance and Investment remains fundamental to the growth of women-led businesses. The recommendations highlight the importance of expanding access to credit, investment, financial services and innovative financing mechanisms that enable women entrepreneurs to scale their enterprises and participate more effectively in domestic and international markets.

Skills, Leadership and Capacity Building feature prominently throughout the report. The Working Groups underline the importance of entrepreneurship development, digital literacy, leadership training, STEM education and continuous skills development to prepare women for emerging economic opportunities and future industries.

Sustainability and Resilient Development are integrated across multiple sectors. Whether through climate-smart agriculture, resilient healthcare systems, sustainable tourism or creative industries, the report demonstrates that economic growth and environmental sustainability are complementary objectives that can reinforce one another through innovation and responsible business practices.

Finally, the report consistently highlights the importance of Partnerships, Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange. Greater cooperation among BRICS countries, strengthened institutional networks and the sharing of best practices can accelerate innovation, promote policy learning and create new opportunities for women entrepreneurs across borders.

Highlights from the Working Groups:

- The Healthcare Working Group highlights the importance of strengthening women's leadership across healthcare systems through innovation, digital health, workforce development and improved access to quality healthcare. It emphasises collaboration to build more resilient, inclusive and technology-enabled health ecosystems.
- The Inclusive Economy Working Group focuses on expanding women's participation in economic activity by strengthening entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, digital access and supportive policy frameworks that enable women-led enterprises to grow and succeed.
- The Food Security and Environmental Safety Working Group recognises women as central contributors to food security, rural development and sustainable agriculture. It promotes climate-smart farming, agri-tech innovation, improved market access and stronger support for women across agricultural value chains.
- The Creative Economy Working Group highlights the growing contribution of women to cultural and creative industries, encouraging entrepreneurship, intellectual property development, digital creativity and the scaling up of women-led creative enterprises.
- The Innovative Development Working Group emphasises women's leadership in science, technology, innovation and investment, advocating stronger innovation ecosystems, enhanced access to emerging technologies and greater participation of women in future-oriented industries.
- The Tourism Working Group promotes women-led tourism enterprises through digital innovation, sustainable tourism, community-based entrepreneurship and enhanced market access, recognising tourism as a powerful driver of inclusive local economic development.

Key Recommendations:

Across the six Working Groups, the report advances a coherent set of recommendations aimed at strengthening the ecosystem for women-led enterprises across BRICS. Collectively, these include:

- Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks that support women's entrepreneurship and leadership.
- Expanding access to finance, investment and financial services for women-led enterprises.
- Accelerating digital transformation and responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.
- Promoting innovation ecosystems that encourage research, entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation.
- Investing in education, skills development, leadership and lifelong learning.
- Advancing cross-border skills development, employment mobility and industrial cooperation through stronger linkages between government, academia and industry across BRICS countries.
- Improving access to domestic, regional and international markets.
- Encouraging sustainable and climate-resilient business practices.
- Strengthening collaboration among governments, businesses, financial institutions, academia and civil society.
- Promoting cross-border partnerships, knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation among BRICS countries.
- Leveraging complementary strengths and existing capabilities across BRICS countries to create scalable economic opportunities for women in strategic sectors and value chains.
- Building inclusive ecosystems that enable women entrepreneurs to innovate, grow and contribute to long-term economic prosperity.

Way Forward

The diversity of experiences across BRICS countries is one of the Alliance's greatest strengths. While each country has developed unique approaches to advancing women's entrepreneurship and economic participation, many of the challenges - and opportunities - are shared. By learning from one another, strengthening institutional partnerships and promoting practical collaboration, BRICS countries can accelerate progress towards more inclusive, innovative and resilient economies.

The recommendations presented in this report are intended to serve as practical pathways for action. Their successful implementation will depend upon sustained engagement among governments, businesses, financial institutions, research organisations and women entrepreneurs themselves. The BRICS Women's Business Alliance will continue to play an important role in facilitating dialogue, fostering partnerships and encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences that support women-led enterprises across the BRICS community.

As BRICS continues to strengthen its role in shaping the global economic landscape, empowering women to participate fully in innovation, enterprise and leadership will be essential to building more prosperous, resilient and sustainable societies. This report reflects the Alliance's collective commitment to that vision and reaffirms the belief that when women succeed, businesses grow, communities prosper and economies become stronger.

About BRICS Women's Business Alliance

About BRICS Women's Business Alliance

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance (BRICS WBA) is an official BRICS mechanism established by the decision of the Heads of State at the XII BRICS Summit during Russia's Chairship in 2020 to strengthen the role and participation of women in economic development across BRICS economies. Bringing together leading women in business and entrepreneurship from member countries, the Alliance serves as a platform for advancing business cooperation, trade and investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, market access and women's participation in regional and global value chains. innovation, market access and women's participation in regional and global value chains.

Operating within the broader BRICS economic cooperation architecture, the Alliance works through its National Chapters and Joint Working Groups to identify barriers to women's economic participation, formulate recommendations for consideration within the BRICS process, originate and advance multi-country initiatives, and facilitate practical business-to-business cooperation across member states. Through this mandate, BRICS WBA seeks not only to strengthen the enabling environment for women-led enterprises, but to translate BRICS cooperation into commercial partnerships, investment opportunities, market linkages, knowledge and technology exchange, and measurable economic outcomes for women across BRICS economies.

Since its establishment, successive BRICS Leaders' Declarations have progressively reinforced this economic mandate, recognising the Alliance's contribution to women's economic empowerment, strengthening business ties, promoting trade and investment, deepening BRICS economic and trade cooperation, expanding access to finance and markets, and supporting women-led businesses, innovation and entrepreneurship. The Alliance's annual work therefore reflects both its contribution to the broader BRICS agenda and the practical economic cooperation advanced through its National Chapters, Joint Working Groups and cross-border initiatives.

Under the BRICS India Presidency 2026, the BRICS Women's Business Alliance is committed to advancing India's Presidency theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," by strengthening collaboration among BRICS member countries to create greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs, professionals, innovators, and business leaders. Through policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, capacity-building initiatives, business networking, and collaborative projects, the India Presidency seeks to foster an enabling ecosystem that supports women-led enterprises and promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The India Presidency 2026 has adopted a six Working Group structure reflecting contemporary priorities and emerging opportunities for women across the BRICS economies:

- Inclusive Economy
- Innovative Development
- Healthcare
- Food Security and Environmental Safety
- Creative Industries
- Tourism

These Working Groups bring together experts and business leaders from all BRICS member countries to deliberate on sector-specific challenges, identify best practices, and develop actionable recommendations for submission to the BRICS Leaders. The Alliance also promotes cross-border collaboration through webinars, business exchanges, knowledge publications, startup initiatives, and joint projects that encourage innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship among women-led businesses. The Joint Working Groups serve as the sectoral implementation platforms of the Alliance, bringing together business leaders, entrepreneurs, industry experts and relevant institutional stakeholders from BRICS member countries to identify shared economic opportunities and constraints, develop recommendations for consideration within the BRICS process, and originate practical areas of multi-country cooperation. Their work is intended to connect complementary capabilities across member states and advance women's participation in trade, investment, industrial development, innovation, technology, finance, market access and regional and global value chains.

Beyond policy recommendations and knowledge exchange, the Working Groups provide a structured platform for developing and advancing cross-border initiatives, business partnerships and investment opportunities. Through business-to-business, the Alliance seeks to connect women-led enterprises with markets, capital, technology, skills and strategic partners, while supporting the development of joint projects and commercially relevant cooperation across BRICS economies.

As India leads the BRICS WBA in 2026, the Presidency aims to strengthen women-led development by fostering resilient partnerships, leveraging technology and innovation, encouraging sustainable business practices, and creating new opportunities for women to contribute meaningfully to economic transformation across the BRICS nations. Building on the Alliance's legacy of cooperation and practical policy recommendations, the India Presidency seeks to further position women as key drivers of inclusive growth, innovation, and global prosperity.

BRICS WBA

BRICS INDIA 2026

BRICS
Women's Business Alliance Members

BRICS
Women's Business Alliance Members

BRAZIL



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Chairperson

Zhao Haiying

Chairperson,
BRICS WBA China Chapter



Chapter Member

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Chairperson,
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Chapter Member

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Chapter Member

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Corporate Senior Vice President and
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EGYPT



Chairperson

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Chapter Member

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Chapter Member

Resham Chordia

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Chapter Member

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Kirloskar Brothers Limited &
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IRAN



Chairperson

Zahra Rahaei

Founder & CEO,
Navak Chemipakhsh



Chapter Member

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Chairperson

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Chapter Member

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Chairperson

HRH Lebogang Zulu

Vice President of the India-South Africa Chamber of Commerce, Group CEO of Kampara Group Holdings, Deputy President, South African Mining Association & Chairperson, BRICS WBA South Africa Chapter



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UNITED ARAB OF EMIRATES



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Deputy CEO and COO, DMCC



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Co-Chair Inclusive Economy Working Group and Assistant Undersecretary, Support Services Sector - Ministry of Economy of the UAE



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Chapter Member

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Co-Chair Innovative Development Working Group and Director of Ecosystem Development at Sheraa (Sharjah Entrepreneurship Centre)



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BRICS WBA

BRICS INDIA 2026

STOCK-TAKING OF BRICS WOMEN'S BUSINESS ALLIANCE WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Creative Industries

Overview

Under India's BRICS Presidency in 2026, the Working Group on Creative Industries adopted the theme "Women Leading Creative Growth", aligned with the overarching Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Recognising the growing importance of the creative economy as a driver of innovation, employment, entrepreneurship and cultural exchange, the Working Group sought to strengthen collaboration among BRICS countries to create a more inclusive, resilient and globally competitive creative ecosystem.

Creative industries - including animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR), film, music, digital media, design and cultural exports - are increasingly shaping the digital economy while creating new opportunities for women entrepreneurs, creators and innovators. As technological advances such as artificial intelligence, immersive technologies and digital platforms transform creative production and distribution, greater cross-BRICS cooperation can help expand innovation, facilitate knowledge exchange, strengthen cultural ties and unlock new avenues for trade and investment.

Despite this significant potential, women remain underrepresented across many high-growth creative sectors and continue to face barriers in accessing technology, finance, markets, intellectual property protection, specialised skills and international business networks. Addressing these structural constraints requires coordinated efforts to build enabling ecosystems that support women throughout the creative value chain - from content creation and technology adoption to commercialisation and global market access.

Against this backdrop, the Working Group identified three strategic priorities for collaboration: advancing women-led innovation in creative technologies and digital media; expanding market access and global creative partnerships; and strengthening skills, talent mobility and creative entrepreneurship. Together, these priorities seek to foster women-led innovation, promote cross-border collaboration and develop practical mechanisms that enhance the participation and leadership of women in the creative industries across BRICS economies.

Strategic Priority 1

Advancing Women-Led Innovation in Creative Technologies and Digital Media

Context

As creative industries increasingly embrace artificial intelligence (AI), virtual production, extended reality (XR), gaming and other emerging technologies, empowering women to lead innovation across the digital creative ecosystem has become critical to building a resilient and globally competitive creative economy. While BRICS countries possess significant creative and technological capabilities, women remain underrepresented in technology-intensive creative roles and in the creation of high-value intellectual property. Strengthening collaboration across BRICS can help expand women's participation in emerging creative technologies, foster innovation, encourage original content creation and build a more inclusive digital creative ecosystem.

Recommendations

- Promote women's leadership in emerging creative technologies by expanding opportunities for women to participate in AI-enabled content creation, virtual production, animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR), enabling them to play a greater role in shaping the future of digital storytelling and creative innovation.
- Strengthen BRICS women's participation in the gaming and new media ecosystem by considering a dedicated platform for BRICS women entrepreneurs, developers, creators and innovators that may encompass knowledge exchange, capacity building, as well as talent showcasing opportunities. In addition, also leverage international industry platforms, including Gamescom LATAM, to showcase BRICS collaboration and women-led innovation in the global gaming industry.
- Promote the creation of original technology-driven intellectual property (IP) by encouraging women-led enterprises to move beyond service-oriented activities towards the development, ownership and commercialisation of scalable creative content and collectively developed intellectual property across BRICS countries.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and industry collaboration through regular industry-led webinars, mentorship programmes, masterclasses in AVGC-XR technologies and a high-level BRICS Roundtable on Women and AVGC-XR Innovation during FICCI FRAMES to promote networking, capacity building and cross-border partnerships.

Strategic Priority 2

Expanding Market Access and Global Creative Partnerships

Context

Women-led creative enterprises possess significant potential to contribute to trade, cultural exchange and economic growth across BRICS countries. However, many continue to face barriers in accessing international markets, commercial networks, financing and intellectual property ecosystems. Strengthening cross-border partnerships, facilitating international market access and creating enabling commercial frameworks can help transform creative ideas into globally competitive enterprises while enhancing the visibility of BRICS' diverse creative industries, including by leveraging existing initiatives and collaborative models within the BRICS ecosystem, such as the BRICS Kids Channel project.

Recommendations

- Strengthen cross-border distribution of creative content by supporting the international circulation and commercialisation of women-led films, animation, gaming content and other creative intellectual property across BRICS countries and global markets, enabling greater cultural exchange and commercial opportunities.
- Consider establishing a BRICS Creative Industries Platform for Film and Related Activities, bringing together filmmakers, digital content creators, scriptwriters, artists, designers, animators, producers and other creative professionals from BRICS countries for knowledge sharing, identifying collaboration opportunities and supporting capacity-building across the sector.
- Establish BRICS Creative Pavilions at leading international markets and festivals to provide a permanent platform for women creators to showcase their work, build business partnerships and access global audiences. Such participation should include major international platforms such as the, Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) and the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa.

- Promote multilateral co-productions and joint intellectual property development among BRICS partners encouraging collaborative production models, co-creation of original content and jointly owned creative intellectual property that strengthens the global competitiveness and cultural influence of BRICS creative industries.
- Develop hybrid market access models by combining physical exhibitions with digital showrooms to facilitate buyer-seller matchmaking, expand international market access and create year-round commercial engagement opportunities for women-led creative enterprises.
- Establish a BRICS Creative Marketplace Platform to support the commercialisation and licensing of creative assets while connecting women creators with investors, buyers, distributors and business partners across BRICS countries.
- Strengthen cooperation on intellectual property protection and governance by developing a collaborative BRICS framework that addresses jurisdictional challenges, facilitates secure cross-border collaboration and safeguards women-led creative innovations and intellectual property.
- Promote innovative financing mechanisms for creative enterprises by exploring structured funding models to improve access to finance and address credit constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in the creative industries.

Strategic Priority 3

Strengthening Skills, Talent Mobility and Creative Entrepreneurship

Context

The continued growth of the creative economy depends on a skilled, entrepreneurial and globally connected workforce. While women are making significant contributions across creative sectors, they continue to face barriers in accessing specialised training, international exposure, professional networks and entrepreneurial support. Strengthening cross-BRICS collaboration in skills development, talent mobility and capacity building can help equip women creators and entrepreneurs with the knowledge, resources and international partnerships needed to succeed in an increasingly digital and interconnected creative ecosystem.

Recommendations

- Strengthen skills development for women in the creative industries by promoting specialised training in emerging technologies, creative entrepreneurship and digital business models, while facilitating knowledge exchange on industry best practices and future skills requirements across BRICS countries.
- Promote talent mobility and professional exchanges by establishing a BRICS Creative Industries Residency and Exchange Programme that enables women creators, artists, designers, filmmakers, animators and digital innovators to undertake collaborative residencies, cross-border learning and joint creative projects across member countries.
- Support women-led creative entrepreneurship by strengthening incubation, mentorship and networking opportunities that help women-led enterprises scale innovative business models, access industry expertise and build sustainable creative ventures across the BRICS creative ecosystem.
- Recognise and celebrate emerging women leaders in the creative industries by instituting a BRICS Award for Emerging Women Designers to honour excellence, encourage innovation and provide greater international visibility to women designers and creative entrepreneurs across BRICS countries.

Collaborative Initiatives

To strengthen collaboration among BRICS creative ecosystems and translate the Working Group's recommendations into practical outcomes, members proposed a series of collaborative initiatives that promote knowledge exchange, capacity building and cross-border partnerships among women creators and entrepreneurs.

- The Working Group will support the organisation of industry-led webinars, mentorship sessions and technical masterclasses to facilitate the exchange of expertise in emerging creative technologies, including artificial intelligence, animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR). In addition, a High-Level BRICS Roundtable on Women and AVGC-XR Innovation, to be convened during FICCI FRAMES, will provide a dedicated platform for dialogue among policymakers, industry leaders and women entrepreneurs on emerging opportunities, technological trends and collaborative partnerships.
- The Working Group also proposed the establishment of a BRICS Creative Industries Residency and Exchange Programme, on a voluntary basis, to strengthen talent mobility, institutional collaboration and creative co-production across member countries. The programme would facilitate immersive learning experiences, collaborative projects and professional exchanges among women creators, while fostering long-term partnerships between leading creative institutions across BRICS.

Way Forward

The Creative Industries Working Group reaffirmed the importance of strengthening collaboration among BRICS countries to create a more inclusive, innovative and globally competitive creative economy led by women. As creative industries continue to evolve through digital technologies, artificial intelligence and new business models, sustained cooperation will be essential to ensure that women creators and entrepreneurs are equipped to seize emerging opportunities and contribute meaningfully to economic growth and cultural exchange.

Going forward, the Working Group will seek to promote practical collaboration through knowledge sharing, industry partnerships, talent mobility, capacity-building initiatives and stronger institutional linkages across the BRICS creative ecosystem. By fostering innovation, expanding market opportunities and supporting women-led creative enterprises, BRICS countries can collectively build a vibrant and resilient creative economy that celebrates cultural diversity, drives entrepreneurship and strengthens people-to-people connections across member countries.

Working Group on Food Security and Environmental Safety

Overview

Food security, environmental sustainability and women's economic empowerment are increasingly interconnected priorities for building resilient and inclusive agrifood systems. Across BRICS countries, women make substantial contributions to agriculture, livestock, fisheries, agroforestry and food processing, playing a critical role in strengthening food security, rural livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management. Yet, despite their significant contribution, women continue to face persistent barriers in accessing land, finance, technology, markets, skills and leadership opportunities, limiting their full participation across agricultural value chains.

Recognising these shared opportunities and challenges, the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Working Group on Food Security & Environmental Safety focused on strengthening women's leadership across sustainable agrifood systems through innovation, entrepreneurship, collective enterprises and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The Working Group recognised that empowering women as entrepreneurs, producers, innovators and community leaders is essential not only for improving agricultural productivity and rural incomes but also for enhancing food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and economic resilience across BRICS countries.

The Working Group also highlighted the transformative potential of digital technologies, climate-smart agriculture, women-led producer organisations, sustainable fisheries, and knowledge exchange in creating more inclusive and resilient agrifood systems. Greater collaboration among BRICS countries can accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies, strengthen market linkages, promote sustainable production practices and expand opportunities for women across the agricultural value chain.

Against this backdrop, the Working Group identified strategic priorities to strengthen women-led innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership across agriculture and allied sectors, while promoting sustainable production systems, climate resilience, inclusive value chains and greater cooperation among BRICS countries. Together, these priorities seek to enhance food security, strengthen rural livelihoods and foster more sustainable, productive and inclusive agrifood systems across BRICS economies.

Strategic Priority 1

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Innovation in Agriculture

Context

Women are at the heart of agricultural and food systems across BRICS countries, contributing significantly to crop production, livestock, fisheries, agroforestry, food processing and rural enterprises. Their participation is fundamental to strengthening food security, improving rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural development. Despite their central role, women continue to face structural barriers in accessing technology, digital services, finance, extension support, research, markets and entrepreneurial opportunities, limiting their productivity and economic participation.

Rapid advances in digital technologies, precision agriculture, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and mechanisation are transforming agricultural production and value chains. These innovations present significant opportunities to enhance productivity, improve resource efficiency and strengthen climate

resilience. Ensuring that women farmers, entrepreneurs and innovators can access and benefit from these technologies is essential to building more inclusive and future-ready agrifood systems across BRICS countries.

The Working Group recognised that stronger collaboration among governments, research institutions, universities, industry, startups and women entrepreneurs can accelerate the development, adaptation and adoption of innovative agricultural solutions. Promoting women-led innovation ecosystems, strengthening research partnerships and facilitating knowledge exchange across BRICS countries will be critical to unlocking the full potential of women as leaders in agricultural transformation.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen women-led innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture across BRICS countries:

- Promote women-led AgriTech entrepreneurship by establishing cross-BRICS incubation and regional mentorship hubs under a hybrid physical–digital model, providing women entrepreneurs with structured access to technology, finance, markets, expert networks and business support to develop and scale innovative agricultural enterprises.
- Strengthen collaboration in agricultural research, higher education and innovation by encouraging partnerships among universities, research institutions, innovation centres and industry, while expanding scholarships, mentoring programmes and research opportunities that enable more women to pursue careers in agricultural science, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Promote digital inclusion and innovation ecosystems by encouraging the sharing of anonymized or aggregated agricultural datasets - including weather, crop, soil and market information - and supporting testing, validation and demonstration infrastructure on a voluntary basis and in accordance with each member's national laws and regulations.
- Promote gender-responsive agricultural innovation ecosystems by encouraging the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data in agricultural innovation and startup programmes, strengthening evidence-based policymaking and ensuring that innovation policies effectively respond to the needs of women entrepreneurs.
- Strengthen and institutionalise the BRICS Knowledge Exchange on Women and Digital Agriculture to facilitate the sharing of practical frameworks, scalable digital inclusion pilots and successful models that enhance women's participation in digital agriculture. The platform should promote collaboration among member countries to identify digital skills gaps and exchange experiences on inclusive digital infrastructure, advisory services, access to modern farm equipment, market integration and other innovative approaches that support women farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and cross-border collaboration by encouraging partnerships among BRICS countries to share best practices, innovative technologies, successful business models and women-led agricultural innovations that can be adapted and scaled across member countries.

Strategic Priority 2

Strengthening Women-Led Producer Collectives and Inclusive Value Chains

Context

Women play a vital role across agricultural value chains, from production and post-harvest management to processing, marketing and trade. However, many women farmers continue to operate on a small scale with limited access to organised markets, finance, technology and business networks.

Strengthening women-led producer collectives - including Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives and community enterprises - can improve economies of scale, enhance market access and increase the bargaining power and incomes of women producers.

Across BRICS countries, collective enterprises have emerged as effective models for promoting financial inclusion, value addition, entrepreneurship and rural livelihoods. At the same time, growing consumer demand for nutritious foods, sustainable production and diversified agricultural products presents new opportunities for women-led enterprises in areas such as millets, fisheries, aquaculture and food processing. Realising these opportunities requires stronger value chain integration, improved access to finance, infrastructure, technology and markets, and greater collaboration among producer organisations across BRICS countries.

The Working Group recognised that strengthening women-led producer collectives and expanding market opportunities can contribute to food security, rural prosperity and inclusive economic growth while creating more resilient and diversified agrifood systems.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen women-led producer collectives and inclusive agricultural value chains across BRICS countries:

- Strengthen women-led producer organisations by supporting the growth and capacity of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives and other community-based enterprises, enabling women to improve productivity, value addition, collective bargaining and market participation.
- Establish a structured BRICS collaborative platform to facilitate systematic knowledge exchange, document and disseminate best practices, share innovative financing models, and promote cross-country learning from women-led cooperatives, producer collectives and Farmer Producer Organisations that have successfully expanded market access and strengthened financial linkages.
- Strengthen trade and market integration among women-led producer organisations by promoting collaboration among dairy and poultry cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and other producer collectives to expand cross-border trade, strengthen inclusive value chains and support sustainable income growth across BRICS countries.
- Promote sustainable value chains for nutritious and high-value agricultural products by encouraging greater collaboration in areas such as millets, food processing and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, while supporting women entrepreneurs to develop value-added products and access new markets.
- Promote millet-based value chains through a dedicated BRICS initiative by encouraging collaboration on millet production, processing, product innovation and market development, with a special focus on women farmers, producer collectives and entrepreneurs. As part of this initiative, explore the organisation of a BRICS Millet Food Festival, complemented by the exchange of traditional and innovative millet-based products and recipes among member countries. Such collaboration can strengthen cultural exchange, promote value addition, expand market opportunities and reinforce the role of millets in advancing nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture across BRICS economies.
- Strengthen cross-BRICS cooperation on women-led fisheries and the blue economy by improving access to technology, finance, skills, safety infrastructure and inclusive markets, while promoting sustainable and climate-resilient fisheries and coastal enterprises. BRICS countries should also

encourage the scaling of successful women-led fisheries models and establish a BRICS Blue Economy Exchange Platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, partnerships and market linkages across member countries.

Strategic Priority 3

Advancing Women's Leadership in Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture

Context

Climate change, environmental degradation and increasing pressure on natural resources are reshaping agricultural systems across BRICS countries. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, water scarcity, land degradation and biodiversity loss pose significant risks to agricultural productivity, food security and rural livelihoods. Women farmers are often disproportionately affected by these challenges, while also playing a critical role in adopting sustainable farming practices, conserving natural resources and strengthening community resilience.

The transition towards climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture presents significant opportunities to improve productivity, strengthen food systems and enhance environmental sustainability. Climate-smart farming practices, digital agriculture, precision technologies, sustainable water management and nature-based solutions can help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions while improving resource efficiency and reducing environmental impacts. Expanding women's access to these technologies, knowledge and resources is essential for building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems across BRICS countries.

The Working Group recognised that greater collaboration among BRICS countries in research, innovation, policy dialogue and capacity building can accelerate the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices and strengthen women's leadership in advancing sustainable food systems.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to advance climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture across BRICS countries:

- Promote cross-BRICS cooperation to advance climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable agriculture by strengthening women's access to advisory services, adaptive technologies, finance and agricultural risk-management systems. Cooperation should promote sustainable soil management to combat land degradation, improve water-use efficiency, advance integrated nutrient and pest management, and encourage circular agronomy approaches that enhance resilience to climate variability, reduce environmental impacts and improve long-term agricultural productivity.
- Expand women's access to climate-resilient technologies and digital agriculture by promoting precision agriculture, digital advisory services, remote sensing, artificial intelligence and other innovative solutions that improve productivity, strengthen climate adaptation and optimise resource use.
- Consider to establish a BRICS Knowledge Platform on Climate-Resilient Agriculture to facilitate the exchange of practical tools, pilot projects, innovative technologies and policy experiences that support the scaling of successful climate-smart agricultural practices and women-led innovations across member countries.
- Strengthen capacity building and knowledge exchange by encouraging collaboration among governments, research institutions, extension systems, universities and industry to disseminate best

practices, strengthen technical capabilities and accelerate the adoption of sustainable agricultural innovations across BRICS countries.

- Promote environmental stewardship through women-led agricultural initiatives by supporting programmes that encourage sustainable land use, ecosystem restoration, circular bioeconomy approaches and community-led natural resource management, recognising women as key drivers of sustainable agricultural transformation.

Strategic Priority 4

Strengthening Women's Leadership, Recognition and Knowledge Exchange

Context

Women are central to the transformation of agriculture and food systems across BRICS countries - not only as farmers and producers, but also as entrepreneurs, researchers, innovators, educators and community leaders. Despite their substantial contribution, women remain underrepresented in agricultural leadership, policy dialogue, research institutions and decision-making processes. Recognising and strengthening women's leadership is essential to building more inclusive, innovative and resilient agrifood systems.

Developing future-ready agricultural leadership requires sustained investment in skills, education, research, institutional capacity and international collaboration. BRICS countries possess diverse experiences and expertise in sustainable agriculture, digital innovation, agribusiness development and rural transformation. Greater cooperation through knowledge exchange, capacity building and collaborative platforms can accelerate learning, promote innovation and create new opportunities for women across agricultural value chains.

The Working Group recognised that celebrating women's contributions to agriculture while strengthening regional and international cooperation will help inspire greater participation, enhance leadership opportunities and promote more gender-responsive agricultural policies across BRICS countries.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen women's leadership and cooperation across BRICS countries:

- Strengthen leadership development and capacity building by expanding opportunities for women farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers and young professionals through leadership programmes, technical training, academic collaboration and professional exchanges across BRICS countries.
- Promote knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation by facilitating partnerships among governments, universities, research institutions, industry associations and women-led organisations to share best practices, research, innovations and successful models in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Undertake a coordinated BRICS Initiative on the International Year of Women Farmers 2026 to recognise and celebrate the contributions of women farmers while promoting greater cooperation among member countries. The initiative may serve as a forum to facilitate the exchange of best practices, documentation of successful models, policy dialogues, capacity-building programmes and knowledge-sharing platforms that strengthen women's leadership across agriculture and allied sectors. It may also provide opportunities for member countries, in accordance with their national priorities and contexts, to share experiences on strengthening agricultural data systems and advancing policies and programmes that support women farmers.

- Encourage sustained BRICS cooperation on women in agriculture by promoting regular dialogue, collaborative programmes and institutional partnerships that strengthen women's participation in agricultural policymaking, innovation and sustainable rural development across member countries.

Collaborative Initiatives (2026)

In addition to the policy recommendations outlined above, the Working Group has undertaken the following collaborative initiatives during 2026 to strengthen cooperation, knowledge exchange and women-led innovation across BRICS agrifood systems.

1. BRICS Network for Women in Agriculture and Agri-Innovation

   The Working Group will facilitate the establishment of a collaborative network bringing together women farmers, entrepreneurs, researchers, academic institutions, agribusinesses and innovation ecosystems across BRICS countries. The network will promote knowledge exchange, research collaboration, business partnerships and the sharing of best practices in sustainable agriculture, AgriTech and food systems transformation.

2. BRICS Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Resilience

   The Working Group will promote regular knowledge-sharing initiatives, technical exchanges and capacity-building programmes on climate-smart agriculture, digital agriculture, sustainable farming practices, natural resource management and women-led agricultural innovation. These initiatives will support the dissemination of successful models and strengthen technical cooperation among BRICS countries.

3. Collaboration among Universities, Research Institutions and Centres of Excellence

   The Working Group will encourage partnerships among universities, agricultural research institutions and centres of excellence to strengthen research collaboration, innovation, skills development and academic exchanges, with particular emphasis on supporting women researchers, innovators and future leaders in agriculture.

Way Forward

The Food Security & Environmental Safety Working Group reaffirmed that empowering women across agriculture and allied sectors is fundamental to strengthening food and nutrition security, enhancing rural livelihoods and building more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems across BRICS countries. Advancing women's leadership in agricultural innovation, strengthening producer collectives, promoting climate-resilient farming practices and expanding opportunities for entrepreneurship are mutually reinforcing priorities that can drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Working Group emphasised that achieving these objectives will require stronger collaboration among governments, businesses, research institutions, academia, financial institutions and civil society, supported by greater knowledge exchange, innovation and cross-border partnerships. By leveraging the collective strengths and diverse experiences of BRICS countries, the Alliance can help accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies, strengthen women-led enterprises and promote more inclusive agricultural value chains.

As the Alliance advances its work, the Working Group remains committed to fostering practical cooperation, supporting collaborative initiatives and facilitating the exchange of successful policies, technologies and business models that empower women across the agrifood sector. Through sustained partnership and collective action, BRICS countries can strengthen agri and food systems that are more productive, climate-resilient, inclusive and capable of contributing to long-term food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and shared prosperity.

Working Group on Healthcare

Overview

Access to quality, affordable and equitable healthcare remains fundamental to building resilient and inclusive societies. As BRICS countries continue to strengthen their health systems, greater emphasis is being placed on primary and preventive healthcare, digital innovation and community-based service delivery to improve health outcomes and advance Universal Health Coverage. Within this context, women play a dual role - as primary beneficiaries of healthcare services across the life course and as frontline providers, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders who contribute significantly to strengthening health systems.

Recognising these priorities, the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Healthcare Working Group focused on "Strengthening Women-Centric Primary & Preventive Healthcare" as a framework for enhancing cooperation among BRICS countries. The Working Group recognised that, despite significant progress in expanding healthcare access, common challenges persist, including the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, disparities in access to quality healthcare, and the need to strengthen prevention-oriented approaches that improve health outcomes while reducing long-term healthcare costs.

The Working Group also highlighted the transformative potential of digital health technologies, artificial intelligence, telemedicine and women-led healthcare innovation in expanding access to preventive healthcare and improving service delivery. At the same time, it recognised the importance of strengthening women-led healthcare enterprises, promoting knowledge exchange, and expanding access to finance and partnerships to support innovative healthcare solutions across BRICS countries.

Against this backdrop, the Working Group identified three strategic priorities to strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries: strengthening preventive healthcare across the life course; promoting women-led innovation in primary and preventive care; and advancing financing mechanisms that support prevention-oriented, equitable and sustainable healthcare systems. Together, these priorities seek to foster greater collaboration, knowledge sharing and innovation while supporting more resilient, accessible and women-centric healthcare systems across BRICS economies.

Strategic Priority 1

Strengthening Preventive Healthcare across the Life Course

Context

Primary and preventive healthcare form the foundation of resilient, equitable and sustainable health systems and are central to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Across BRICS countries, women play a pivotal role both as beneficiaries of healthcare services throughout the life course and as frontline providers through community health work, nursing, midwifery, caregiving and other essential health services. Strengthening women-centric primary and preventive healthcare is therefore not only a public health priority but also a strategic investment in social and economic development.

BRICS countries have made significant progress in expanding healthcare access and strengthening primary healthcare systems, with increasing emphasis on prevention, early diagnosis, community-based care and digital health. However, common challenges remain. The growing burden of non-communicable diseases, persistent disparities in healthcare access - particularly among rural and underserved communities - and the need to improve maternal health, reproductive health, nutrition, mental health and healthy ageing underscore the importance of strengthening prevention-oriented healthcare systems.

The Working Group recognised that greater cooperation among BRICS countries in sharing best practices, strengthening community-based healthcare, enhancing institutional capacity and promoting innovation can significantly improve health outcomes while reducing long-term healthcare costs. For instance, the Working Group organised the "BRICS: Health for All" Wellbeing Quiz under the BRICS Health Umbrella, which aimed to raise awareness about physical, mental and social health, with its findings intended to support evidence-based policy recommendations and the development of targeted health initiatives responding to societal needs.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen preventive healthcare across BRICS countries:

- Strengthen prevention-first health systems by prioritising investments in preventive healthcare across the life course and promoting collaboration on early disease detection, immunisation, maternal and adolescent health, mental health, cervical and breast cancer prevention, HPV vaccination and integrated primary healthcare.
- Advance women-centric healthcare across the life course by expanding access to preventive healthcare services, strengthening collaboration on maternal and reproductive health, healthy ageing, chronic disease management, mental health and anaemia reduction, while supporting innovative community-based and technology-enabled models that improve equitable access to care.
- Strengthen community-based primary healthcare systems by enhancing the capacity of frontline health workers, nurses, midwives and community health networks, while facilitating the exchange of successful community-based healthcare models, workforce development strategies and health literacy initiatives across BRICS countries.
- Enhance healthcare quality, diagnostics and institutional capacity by promoting cooperation in quality assurance, diagnostics, laboratory standards, accreditation, workforce training and professional capacity building, while strengthening dialogue among healthcare institutions to facilitate knowledge exchange and the adoption of best practices.
- Integrate patient safety, infection prevention and control (IPC), and antimicrobial stewardship as key strategies for addressing antimicrobial resistance in the healthcare ecosystem.

Strategic Priority 2

Promoting Women-Led Innovation in Primary and Preventive Care

Context

Digital technologies and innovation are transforming healthcare delivery, creating new opportunities to strengthen primary and preventive healthcare across BRICS countries. Significant progress has been made in areas such as maternal and child health, reproductive healthcare, cancer prevention, nutrition, digital health and community-based healthcare systems. At the same time, women are increasingly contributing not only as beneficiaries of healthcare services but also as leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators and providers driving healthcare transformation.

Across BRICS countries, innovative approaches - including digital health platforms, artificial intelligence-enabled diagnostics, telemedicine, community-based healthcare models and public-private partnerships - are improving access to quality healthcare and preventive services. The Working Group recognised that these experiences present valuable opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange and the scaling of innovative solutions that can strengthen women-centric primary and preventive healthcare across BRICS economies.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to promote women-led innovation in primary and preventive healthcare:

- Leverage digital health and emerging technologies by promoting collaboration on digital health platforms, artificial intelligence-enabled diagnostics, telemedicine, remote monitoring, integrated health information systems and interoperable digital health infrastructure to strengthen preventive healthcare.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange on digital health governance and innovation by sharing best practices on digital health governance, evidence generation and capacity building to support the responsible, equitable and effective adoption of emerging technologies across BRICS countries.
- Empower women as healthcare leaders and innovators by fostering enabling ecosystems for women-led healthcare enterprises, digital health start-ups, diagnostic innovations and community-based care models.
- Strengthen collaboration among women entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, researchers and innovators to promote knowledge exchange, partnerships and the scaling of impactful healthcare solutions across BRICS countries.

Strategic Priority 3

Financing Prevention and Primary Care

Context

As BRICS countries experience demographic transitions, rapid urbanisation and a growing burden of non-communicable diseases alongside persistent infectious diseases, strengthening financing for preventive and primary healthcare has become essential to building resilient and sustainable health systems. Investments in prevention and primary care improve health outcomes through early detection and timely intervention while reducing long-term healthcare costs and enhancing workforce productivity.

Given the diversity of healthcare financing models across BRICS countries, there is considerable opportunity to exchange best practices on innovative financing mechanisms, including strategic purchasing, public-private partnerships, blended finance and health insurance reforms that prioritise preventive healthcare. The Working Group also recognised that expanding access to finance for women-led healthcare enterprises and community-based innovations can strengthen last-mile healthcare delivery while promoting women's entrepreneurship and leadership in the healthcare sector. The Working Group also recognised the potential of building on initiatives such as the BRICS Women Advancement Fund, proposed in 2023, as a model for facilitating investment in women-led enterprises, including those operating in the medical and preventive healthcare sectors.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen financing for preventive and primary healthcare across BRICS countries:

- Facilitate investment in women-led preventive healthcare enterprises by creating a BRICS platform that connects women entrepreneurs with public and private investors, development finance institutions, incubators and innovation funds to support scalable solutions in primary healthcare, digital health, diagnostics and community-based preventive care.

- Promote knowledge exchange on innovative healthcare financing models by convening regular dialogues among policymakers, financial institutions, healthcare leaders and women entrepreneurs to share best practices on blended finance, impact investing, public-private partnerships and outcome-based financing that expand access to preventive healthcare services.
- Strengthen the capacity of women healthcare entrepreneurs and innovators through BRICS-wide mentorship, business acceleration and leadership programmes that improve investment readiness, access to finance, market linkages and cross-border partnerships, enabling women-led healthcare enterprises to scale affordable and inclusive primary healthcare solutions across BRICS countries.

Way Forward

The Healthcare Working Group reaffirmed that strengthening women-centric primary and preventive healthcare is fundamental to building healthier, more resilient and inclusive societies across BRICS countries. By advancing cooperation in preventive healthcare, digital innovation and sustainable financing, while fostering greater collaboration among governments, businesses, healthcare institutions and women entrepreneurs, BRICS countries can accelerate the development of accessible, equitable and future-ready healthcare systems. Continued knowledge exchange, partnership and innovation will be critical to translating these recommendations into meaningful outcomes that improve health and well-being across the BRICS region.

To support implementation of these recommendations, BRICS countries may consider establishing an Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (IMEL) Framework with common indicators, reporting templates, governance mechanisms, and a digital dashboard to monitor progress, facilitate knowledge sharing, and enable the replication of successful interventions across member countries.

Working Group on Inclusive Economy

Overview

Women's economic empowerment is central to building more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies. Greater participation of women in the workforce, entrepreneurship, leadership and value chains contributes to higher productivity, stronger economic growth and broader social development. While BRICS countries have made significant progress in advancing women's education, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, structural barriers continue to limit women's full participation in economic life, particularly in business ownership, leadership, access to markets, formal employment and enterprise growth.

Recognising these shared challenges, the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Working Group on Inclusive Economy focused on strengthening the enabling ecosystem for women's economic participation across BRICS countries. The Working Group recognised that achieving inclusive growth requires a comprehensive approach that not only expands opportunities for women to participate in the economy but also addresses the structural constraints that limit their ability to enter, remain and progress within the workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Working Group further emphasised that women's economic participation cannot be viewed independently of the care economy or enterprise development. The unequal distribution of unpaid care responsibilities continues to constrain women's labour-force participation, while women-led enterprises often face persistent challenges in accessing skills, finance, technology, markets and business networks necessary for growth and scale. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires coordinated policy approaches, stronger institutional support and greater collaboration among governments, businesses and civil society across BRICS countries.

Against this backdrop, the Working Group identified three strategic priorities to advance women's economic empowerment across BRICS countries: strengthening women's economic participation architecture; recognising and revaluing the care economy; and enabling women-led enterprises to grow through skills development, peer learning and improved access to finance. Together, these priorities seek to create more inclusive economic ecosystems that enable women to participate fully, lead businesses, create employment and contribute to sustainable and resilient economic growth across BRICS economies.

Strategic Priority 1

Strengthening Women's Economic Participation Architecture

Context

Women's full participation in the economy is essential for driving inclusive growth, productivity and long-term economic resilience. Across BRICS countries, however, women remain underrepresented in higher-value economic roles, including business ownership, management, procurement, exports and leadership. These gaps reflect structural barriers rather than capability deficits, limiting women's participation in formal value chains, growth sectors and decision-making processes.

While significant progress has been made in advancing education, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, persistent disparities remain in labour-force participation, earnings, enterprise ownership and leadership representation. Women operating in micro, small, informal and gig enterprises often face additional barriers related to business formalisation, regulatory compliance, access to markets and institutional support. Strengthening the enabling ecosystem for women's

economic participation therefore requires coordinated policy interventions, improved data systems and stronger networks that support women's progression from participation to leadership and enterprise growth.

The Working Group recognised that greater collaboration among BRICS countries in sharing policy experiences, strengthening institutional frameworks and promoting evidence-based decision-making can accelerate women's economic participation and create more inclusive labour markets and business ecosystems.

Equally important is the need to ensure continued mentorship and peer-learning opportunities for aspiring women entrepreneurs by leveraging existing initiatives and proven practices such as the BRICS+ International Youth Mentoring Program and Women Entrepreneurship Platform, which aim to develop a new generation of business leaders and strengthen economic potential by connecting young entrepreneurs with experienced women mentors from BRICS member and partner states.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen women's economic participation across BRICS countries:

- Promote simplified and accessible business formalisation mechanisms by encouraging low-friction registration and compliance processes that enable women operating in micro, small, informal and gig enterprises to transition into the formal economy.
- Strengthen pathways to economic leadership and market participation by supporting policies and programmes that expand women's participation in ownership, management, procurement, supplier development, export ecosystems and leadership positions across the public and private sectors.
- Promote gender-responsive data and evidence-based policymaking by encouraging relevant ministries and public agencies, in accordance with national legislation and capacities, to progressively establish and maintain gender-disaggregated dashboards across welfare, social protection and entrepreneurship programmes to strengthen monitoring, transparency and informed policy decisions.
- Strengthen mentorship, peer learning and professional networks by encouraging structured mentoring, guided peer-learning platforms and business networks that support women's progression throughout the enterprise and leadership pipeline.

Strategic Priority 2

Recognising and Revaluing the Care Economy

Context

The care economy forms the foundation of inclusive and productive societies. Across BRICS countries, unpaid and underpaid care work - predominantly undertaken by women - supports labour markets, human capital development and social well-being through childcare, eldercare, disability support and household management. Despite its significant economic and social contribution, care work remains undervalued and is often excluded from economic planning, investment priorities and policy frameworks. As a result, women continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of care responsibilities, limiting their participation in paid employment, entrepreneurship and leadership.

Evidence from across BRICS and internationally demonstrates that investment in care infrastructure - including childcare, eldercare and community-based care services - not only improves the well-being of families and communities but also expands women's labour-force participation, generates

employment and supports sustainable economic growth. As demographic change, urbanisation and evolving labour markets reshape care needs across BRICS countries, strengthening care systems has become an important economic as well as social priority.

The Working Group recognised that integrating care into national economic and social planning, strengthening care infrastructure and supporting care workers through appropriate policy, financing and professional standards can unlock greater economic opportunities for women while contributing to more inclusive and resilient economies.

Recommendations:

The Working Group recommends the following actions to strengthen the care economy across BRICS countries:

- Develop or strengthen national policy frameworks that recognise care work and care services as critical economic infrastructure and explicitly link care systems with women's labour-force participation, enterprise growth and leadership.
- Promote the recognition of paid and unpaid care work in national statistical systems and relevant policy frameworks, in accordance with national priorities and capacities, to better reflect its contribution to labour-force participation, productivity and women's economic empowerment.
- Expand community-based and workplace-supported care services by promoting childcare, eldercare and other care models suited to urban, peri-urban and rural contexts, enabling women to participate more fully in paid employment and entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen investment in care infrastructure and care innovation by encouraging, as appropriate to national priorities and capacities, investment in the physical and digital backbone of care - including childcare facilities, eldercare centres, telehealth, AI-enabled care technologies, care worker cooperatives and trusted digital care platforms - to improve access, quality and sustainability of care services across BRICS countries.
- Strengthen knowledge exchange on care economy policies and practices across BRICS countries and partners by utilising the “Care Economy BRICS White Paper” as a repository of best practices and innovative solutions, enabling member states to learn from successful approaches, adapt them to local contexts and accelerate progress in building sustainable care systems.

Strategic Priority 3

Enabling Women-Led Enterprises through Skills Development, Peer Learning and Access to Finance

Context

Women entrepreneurs play an increasingly important role in driving innovation, employment and inclusive economic growth across BRICS countries. While women are entering entrepreneurship at encouraging rates, many women-led enterprises remain informal, undercapitalised and digitally excluded, limiting their ability to grow, innovate and integrate into regional and global value chains. A significant gap persists between early-stage entrepreneurship and the successful establishment of sustainable, growth-oriented businesses.

Women-led enterprises continue to face multiple constraints, including limited access to finance, digital technologies, skills development, business networks and new markets. These challenges are particularly pronounced for enterprises seeking to adopt digital technologies, leverage artificial intelligence, expand into higher-value sectors or participate in cross-border trade. Evidence from across BRICS demonstrates that combining skills development, mentoring, financial access and market linkages can significantly improve enterprise growth, job creation and innovation outcomes.

Recognising that women-owned businesses operate at different stages of growth and require tailored support, the Working Group emphasised the importance of strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems that equip women with the capabilities, networks and financial resources needed to build resilient and competitive enterprises.

Recognising that the competitiveness of women-led enterprises increasingly depends on access to future-ready skills, industrial capability and international market exposure, the Working Group further acknowledged the importance of strengthening cross-border cooperation in skills development, workplace learning and employment mobility. Building on the recent adoption of the BRICS Cooperation Network for Capacity Building, Employability, New Skills & Technologies (BRICS CONNECT) by the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers, there is an opportunity to complement this flagship initiative through practical public-private implementation frameworks that connect government, academia and industry, creating structured pathways for skills development, workplace learning, employment mobility and industrial development cooperation across BRICS member states.

Such implementation frameworks have the potential to strengthen women's participation in strategic sectors, accelerate enterprise growth through industry-led skills development and workplace experience, and support the progressive development of a more integrated BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Economy founded on complementarity, inclusive growth and people-to-people cooperation. Existing initiatives and programmes, such as the BRICS Mobility Center, may also be leveraged to support vocational training and professional development across multiple sectors and countries, thereby enhancing skills development and facilitating greater labour mobility.

Recommendations:

The Working Group recommends the following actions to support the growth of women-led enterprises across BRICS countries:

- Expand tailored digital literacy and emerging technology capabilities by promoting integrated digital learning platforms and, where appropriate, AI-focused training programmes designed to meet the evolving needs of women-owned enterprises across BRICS economies.
- Strengthen future-ready skills development by expanding large-scale skilling, reskilling and upskilling opportunities aligned with emerging sectors, including AI-enabled services, green industries, digital commerce and platform-based work, enabling women entrepreneurs and workers to participate in future economies.
- Strengthen investment readiness and enterprise scalability by supporting women-led businesses to develop the governance, financial, technical, operational and commercial capabilities required to attract capital, compete for larger opportunities and participate in domestic, regional and global value chains.
- Promote gender-responsive access to finance, markets and business opportunities by encouraging financial instruments, guarantee mechanisms, tailored financial products and structured cross-border market-access pathways that connect women-led enterprises with verified buyers, procurement opportunities, investors, distributors, technology providers and strategic business partners across BRICS markets, supported by market intelligence, business matching and appropriate post-engagement follow-through.
- Strengthen cross-border skills development, employment mobility and industrial development cooperation by encouraging public-private implementation frameworks that connect government, academia and industry to facilitate workplace learning, industrial placements, technical exchange and employment pathways for women across strategic sectors within BRICS member states.

Collaborative Initiatives (2026)

In addition to the policy recommendations outlined above, the Working Group has undertaken the following collaborative initiatives during 2026 to promote implementation, knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation across BRICS countries.

1. BRICS Compendium on Financial Inclusion Best Practices

   The Working Group will develop a BRICS Compendium on Financial Inclusion Best Practices that documents innovative policies, programmes and scalable models that have strengthened financial inclusion, particularly for women. The compendium will serve as a knowledge resource for policymakers, financial institutions and business leaders, facilitating cross-country learning and the replication of successful approaches across BRICS economies.

2. BRICS Care Economy Policy Principles and Frameworks

   The Working Group will develop a BRICS Care Economy Policy Principles and Frameworks document outlining key principles, policy approaches and practical strategies that member countries may adapt to strengthen care systems, expand care infrastructure, create quality employment and enhance women's economic participation. The framework will support greater policy dialogue and cooperation among BRICS countries in advancing the care economy as a driver of inclusive growth. The framework will build upon the experience of compiling best practices into the BRICS White Paper on Care Economy, ensuring that successful case studies are systematically integrated into the policy guidance.

3. BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Initiative

   Building on the recent establishment of the BRICS Cooperation Network for Capacity Building, Employability, New Skills & Technologies (BRICS CONNECT), the Working Group will advance the development of the BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Initiative as a collaborative public-private implementation framework that strengthens cross-border skills development, workplace learning, employment mobility and industrial development cooperation across BRICS member states. The initiative seeks to connect government, academia and industry through structured institutional partnerships that leverage existing national investments in higher education, skills development and workforce development to expand opportunities for women across strategic sectors. Designed as a scalable implementation framework, the initiative will support academic exchange, technical cooperation, workplace learning, industrial placements and employment pathways while contributing towards the progressive development of a BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Economy founded on complementarity, inclusive growth and strengthened people-to-people cooperationThe Working Group will continue stakeholder engagement with relevant public institutions, universities, businesses and industry partners to further refine the framework, establish initial implementation partnerships and support its progressive expansion across participating BRICS member states.

Way Forward

The Inclusive Economy Working Group reaffirmed that advancing women's economic empowerment is fundamental to building more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies across BRICS countries. Expanding women's participation in the workforce, recognising and strengthening the care economy, and enabling women-led enterprises to grow are mutually reinforcing priorities that can unlock significant economic and social gains for all BRICS members.

The Working Group emphasised that sustained progress will require coordinated action among governments, businesses, financial institutions and civil society, supported by stronger partnerships, knowledge exchange and the sharing of good practices across BRICS countries. By fostering enabling policy environments, investing in skills and innovation, strengthening access to finance and markets, and recognising the critical role of care in economic development, BRICS countries can create more inclusive economic ecosystems that empower women as entrepreneurs, leaders and drivers of sustainable growth.

The Working Group further recognises that the continued evolution of BRICS cooperation presents an opportunity to strengthen implementation through structured public-private partnerships that connect government, academia and industry across member states. By leveraging existing national investments in skills development, higher education, employment and industrial capability, BRICS countries can progressively build more integrated pathways for women's economic participation, workforce development and industrial cooperation, reinforcing the Alliance's shared commitment to inclusive growth, strengthened people-to-people cooperation and sustainable economic development.

The Working Group further recognises the opportunity to strengthen the progression of women-led enterprises from participation and enterprise development towards investment readiness, access to appropriate forms of capital, cross-border market access and scale. This includes exploring commercially viable and institutionally aligned financing frameworks for women-led enterprises, while leveraging existing BRICS WBA platforms and enterprise pipelines to connect high-potential businesses with investors, financial institutions, strategic partners, technology, procurement opportunities and markets across BRICS economies.

As the Alliance advances its work, the Working Group remains committed to promoting practical collaboration, sharing successful models and supporting initiatives that translate recommendations into measurable economic outcomes. Through continued cooperation and collective action, BRICS countries can strengthen pathways for women to build capability, access capital, enter new markets, participate in strategic sectors and value chains, create employment and grow enterprises of scale, thereby contributing meaningfully to trade, investment and sustainable economic growth across BRICS economies.

Working Group on Innovative Development

Overview

Under India's BRICS Presidency in 2026, the Working Group on Innovative Development adopted a collaborative approach to strengthen women-led innovation ecosystems across BRICS countries, aligned with the overarching Presidency theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Recognising innovation as a key driver of sustainable economic growth, competitiveness and resilience, the Working Group focused on enhancing collaboration to enable women entrepreneurs to participate more actively in technology-driven sectors and contribute to the development of knowledge-based economies.

As emerging technologies, digital transformation and research-driven innovation continue to reshape industries and business models, women entrepreneurs have significant opportunities to lead innovation across high-growth sectors. However, they continue to face structural barriers, including limited access to specialised knowledge, technology ecosystems, investment networks, research infrastructure and growth-stage financing. Addressing these challenges requires stronger cross-border collaboration, enabling policy environments and institutional mechanisms that facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity building and access to finance.

Against this backdrop, the Working Group adopted a dual approach to advance cooperation among BRICS countries. The first pillar focuses on strengthening innovation ecosystems through technology adoption, knowledge exchange and collaborative platforms, while the second seeks to enhance investment readiness, financial literacy and access to finance for women-led enterprises. Together, these priorities aim to foster innovation, build entrepreneurial capabilities and strengthen the participation of women in shaping the future of technology-driven economic growth across BRICS economies

Strategic Priority 1

Strengthening Innovation Ecosystems, Technology Adoption and Knowledge Exchange

Context

Innovation and knowledge exchange are essential to enabling women entrepreneurs to participate meaningfully in rapidly evolving technology ecosystems. As emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, drone technology, biotechnology, agritech, fintech and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) continue to transform industries and redefine business models, stronger collaboration among BRICS countries can help women-led enterprises access new technologies, build innovation capabilities and expand cross-border partnerships. Strengthening innovation ecosystems also requires structured platforms that facilitate knowledge exchange, showcase technological advancements and promote collaboration among entrepreneurs, researchers, industry and policymakers.

Recommendations

- Establish a BRICS Technology Exchange Platform to facilitate regular sector-focused technology showcases that enable women entrepreneurs to access emerging technologies, exchange knowledge, identify collaboration opportunities and strengthen cross-border innovation partnerships across BRICS countries.
- Promote public-private partnerships to strengthen innovation ecosystems by expanding access to mentorship, incubation support and research infrastructure for women-led enterprises, particularly those operating in deep technology sectors, thereby accelerating innovation and technology commercialisation.

- Develop a BRICS repository of best practices and scalable innovation models to facilitate knowledge sharing, support evidence-based policymaking and encourage the replication of successful interventions that strengthen women-led innovation ecosystems across member countries.

Strategic Priority 2

Building Investment Readiness and Expanding Access to Finance

Context

Capacity building and improved access to finance are critical to enabling women-led enterprises to transform innovative ideas into scalable and sustainable businesses. Despite increasing participation in entrepreneurial ecosystems, many women entrepreneurs continue to face challenges in understanding investment landscapes, developing robust financial models and navigating complex funding processes. Strengthening investor readiness, improving financial literacy and facilitating structured engagement with investors can help bridge these gaps. By leveraging digital learning platforms and collaborative ecosystems, BRICS countries can build long-term entrepreneurial capabilities while expanding access to diverse sources of finance, including venture capital, impact investment and blended finance. In this context, the BRICS Women Advancement Fund, proposed in 2023 under the South African Chairship, may be considered for implementation as a mechanism to facilitate investment in women-led enterprises.

Recommendations

- Develop structured investor readiness programmes for women entrepreneurs focusing on financial modelling, business valuation, pitch development and due diligence to strengthen their ability to attract investment and scale innovation-driven enterprises.
- Establish cross-border investor connect platforms that facilitate engagement between women-led enterprises and angel investors, venture capital firms, development finance institutions and other investment networks across BRICS countries, enabling greater access to growth-stage capital and strategic partnerships.
- Promote innovative financing mechanisms by encouraging the adoption of blended finance instruments, gender-lens investment funds and other financing models that address funding gaps and improve access to capital for women-led innovation-driven enterprises.
- Strengthen digital learning infrastructure and knowledge hubs to provide continuous, scalable and multilingual capacity-building support that enhances financial literacy, entrepreneurial capabilities and long-term business growth across BRICS innovation ecosystems.

Way Forward

The Innovative Development Working Group reaffirmed the importance of strengthening collaboration among BRICS countries to build more inclusive, resilient and innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystems. As emerging technologies and digital transformation continue to reshape global economies, sustained cooperation will be essential to ensure that women entrepreneurs have the knowledge, skills, institutional support and access to finance required to participate fully in technology-driven growth and innovation.

Going forward, the Working Group will seek to advance practical collaboration through technology exchange, knowledge sharing, capacity-building initiatives and stronger linkages between entrepreneurs, research institutions, industry and investors across BRICS countries. By fostering innovation, strengthening investment readiness and expanding access to finance, the Working Group aims to empower women-led enterprises to scale innovative solutions, create high-value employment and contribute meaningfully to sustainable, inclusive and technology-driven economic development across the BRICS economies.

Working Group on Tourism

Overview

Tourism is a powerful catalyst for inclusive economic growth, employment generation and cultural exchange, with women playing a pivotal role as entrepreneurs, artisans, service providers and custodians of local heritage. Across BRICS countries, women-led enterprises contribute significantly to the tourism value chain through hospitality, handicrafts, culinary traditions, cultural experiences and community-based tourism. However, many continue to operate at a micro or informal level, constrained by limited access to finance, technology, markets and business support.

Rapid advancements in digital technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), are transforming the tourism ecosystem by improving market access, enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening traveller safety and enabling personalised experiences. When leveraged responsibly, these technologies can help women entrepreneurs formalise and scale their enterprises, expand opportunities in rural and experiential tourism, and create safer, more inclusive travel ecosystems. At the same time, digital innovation must be accompanied by supportive policies, capacity building and cross-border collaboration to ensure that the benefits of technological transformation are accessible to all.

Recognising these opportunities, the Working Group identified three strategic priorities to strengthen women's participation and leadership in the tourism sector across BRICS: (i) empowering women-led tourism enterprises through digital innovation and formalisation; (ii) building safe and inclusive tourism ecosystems for women travellers; and (iii) promoting experiential and rural tourism through technology-enabled, community-based development. Collectively, these priorities seek to foster a more resilient, innovative and sustainable tourism ecosystem that advances women's economic empowerment and strengthens cooperation among BRICS nations.

In addition, BRICS countries should work towards strengthening tourism and people-to-people exchanges by exploring possibilities for enhancing direct air connectivity, considering traveller-friendly visa processes, consistent with each member's national policies promoting regular knowledge and best-practice exchanges, and deepening collaboration among tourism ministries, industry associations and the private sector to support joint initiatives, capacity building and sustainable tourism development

Strategic Priority 1

Empowering Women-Led Tourism Enterprises through Digital Innovation and Formalisation

Context

Women play a central role in the tourism economy across BRICS countries, operating homestays, travel services, handicraft enterprises, cultural experiences, food businesses and community-based tourism initiatives. However, a significant proportion of these enterprises continue to operate in the informal sector, limiting their access to finance, markets, technology, social protection and opportunities for business growth. Formalising and strengthening women-led tourism enterprises is therefore essential to unlocking their full economic potential and fostering a more inclusive and resilient tourism ecosystem.

Digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital public infrastructure and online platforms, offer new opportunities to overcome many of these barriers. These technologies can simplify business registration and compliance, enhance financial inclusion, improve market visibility, strengthen customer engagement and enable data-driven decision-making. At the same time,

capacity building, mentorship and access to digital tools are critical to ensuring that women entrepreneurs can fully benefit from these advancements. By creating an enabling policy environment that promotes digital innovation and supports enterprise formalisation, BRICS countries can empower women-owned tourism businesses to scale, compete and contribute more effectively to sustainable economic growth.

Recommendations

- Promote the formalisation of women-led tourism enterprises by simplifying business registration, licensing and regulatory compliance through digital platforms, while expanding access to targeted financial incentives, credit facilities and business development support.
- Strengthen digital capabilities and entrepreneurial capacity through training programmes, mentorship networks and AI-enabled business support tools that enhance financial management, marketing, customer engagement and operational efficiency.
- Expand market access for women-owned tourism enterprises by promoting inclusive digital tourism platforms and technologies that improve visibility, facilitate direct engagement with customers, reduce market barriers and strengthen participation in domestic and international tourism value chains.
- Encourage women-led tourism projects linked to formalization, digital innovation, experiential tourism and traveler safety. These projects would provide visible implementation examples, generate measurable outcomes and create a pipeline of BRICS case studies that can be showcased annually.

Strategic Priority 2

Building Safe and Inclusive Tourism Ecosystems for Women Travellers

Context

A safe and inclusive tourism environment is fundamental to increasing women's participation in tourism, both as travellers and as entrepreneurs. Safety concerns remain one of the primary factors influencing travel decisions, particularly for solo women travellers. Strengthening confidence in tourism destinations not only enhances mobility and visitor experiences but also contributes to higher tourism demand, local economic development and greater opportunities for women-led enterprises across the tourism value chain.

Digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), smart mobility solutions and integrated digital platforms, are transforming how destinations anticipate, prevent and respond to safety challenges. Real-time information systems, emergency response mechanisms, multilingual communication tools and data-driven risk management can significantly improve traveller safety while enabling more seamless travel experiences. However, technology alone is insufficient. Effective collaboration between tourism authorities, public safety agencies, local communities and the private sector is essential to create trusted, responsive and inclusive tourism ecosystems that encourage greater participation of women in tourism across BRICS countries. In this context, existing initiatives such as “Sustainability and Safety of Transportation as a Condition for Tourist Exchanges of the BRICS Countries” may offer a relevant platform for strengthening cooperation on common safety standards, sharing innovative technologies and promoting sustainable and safe tourism growth across BRICS countries.

Recommendations

- Strengthen technology-enabled safety infrastructure by promoting integrated digital platforms that provide real-time travel information, emergency response services, safe route guidance and multilingual assistance for women travellers.

- Promote safe and inclusive tourism standards by encouraging the adoption of safety protocols, digital verification mechanisms and best practices across tourism facilities, accommodation providers and transport services, while strengthening collaboration between tourism stakeholders and public authorities.
- Enhance cross-border cooperation among BRICS countries to exchange best practices, leverage emerging technologies and develop collaborative approaches to improving safety, accessibility and traveller confidence across the region.
- Consider BRICS Tourism Knowledge Exchange Mechanism for regular dialogue, exchange of best practices, and coordination of joint actions among government authorities, transport operators, manufacturers, and business associations to promote innovative solutions, and support sustainable tourism growth across the BRICS countries.
- Develop a BRICS Women Traveler Safety and Inclusion Portal/ Platform, as a voluntary information-sharing mechanism where each member country may, at its discretion and in accordance with its national laws, upload publicly available uploads verified information on safety guidelines, emergency response services, safe route guidance, multilingual assistance, complaint channels and women-friendly tourism services. The platform could begin as a shared country repository and evolve into a public-facing digital tool supporting safer and more inclusive travel across BRICS destinations.

Strategic Priority 3

Advancing Experiential and Rural Tourism through Digital Innovation

Context

Experiential and rural tourism are emerging as important drivers of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, creating opportunities for local communities to showcase their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, handicrafts, cuisine and natural assets. Women play a central role in these tourism ecosystems as entrepreneurs, artisans, guides and community leaders, contributing significantly to local livelihoods while preserving cultural identity. Strengthening women-led experiential and rural tourism can diversify tourism offerings, generate employment and promote balanced regional development across BRICS countries.

Digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital platforms and data-driven solutions, are helping overcome barriers of geography, market access and limited business capacity. These technologies can enhance the visibility of rural destinations, enable direct engagement with domestic and international visitors, support personalised tourism experiences and improve enterprise management. Coupled with investments in digital infrastructure, skills development and supportive policy frameworks, technology can enable women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses while ensuring that tourism growth remains community-centred, culturally authentic and environmentally sustainable.

Recommendations

- Promote women-led experiential and rural tourism enterprises by supporting the digital documentation, promotion of local culture, heritage, traditional knowledge and community-based tourism experiences.
- Strengthen digital infrastructure and market access by encouraging inclusive digital tourism platforms, interoperable digital ecosystems and technology-enabled solutions that connect rural tourism enterprises directly with domestic and international markets.

- Enhance access to finance, technology and capacity building through targeted support for digital skills, AI-enabled business tools, alternative financing mechanisms and enterprise development programmes that enable rural women entrepreneurs to scale sustainable tourism businesses.

Way Forward

Tourism has the potential to serve as a powerful engine for inclusive growth, cultural exchange and women's economic empowerment across BRICS countries. By fostering an enabling environment that supports women-led enterprises, promotes safe and inclusive travel experiences, and strengthens experiential and rural tourism through digital innovation, BRICS countries can unlock new opportunities for sustainable development while enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of the tourism sector.

The Working Group emphasises that continued collaboration among BRICS countries will be essential to harness the transformative potential of digital technologies, strengthen knowledge sharing and promote innovative, community-centred tourism models. By advancing cooperation, exchanging best practices and investing in women's entrepreneurship, skills and digital capabilities, BRICS can build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable tourism ecosystem that empowers women as leaders, entrepreneurs and drivers of economic growth.

Country Initiatives

Country Initiatives

The following initiatives have been shared by the respective BRICS WBA Chapters as examples of existing projects, programmes and practices that may offer opportunities for further discussion and collaboration within the Alliance. These initiatives are presented for consideration and knowledge sharing and may serve as a basis for exploring potential areas of cooperation, replication and adaptation across BRICS countries, in line with the priorities of the respective Working Groups.

Panel Discussion on Frame by Frame: She Changed the Game (India)

A panel discussion spotlighting some of India's most accomplished women cinematographers who are reshaping visual storytelling across films, OTT content and independent cinema. Moderated by Working Group member Ms. Aparna Purohit, CEO, Aamir Khan Productions, the session featured Ms. Pooja S. Gupte, Ms. Madhura Palit, Ms. Neha Parti Matiyani and Ms. Archana Ghangrekar, who shared insights on their creative journeys, industry challenges and the growing influence of women behind the camera.

Masterclass on Instagram Visibility: Building a Powerful Presence (India)

Led by Working Group member Dr. Falguni Vasavada, Academic Head, School of Applied Creativity, MICA, this masterclass focused on personal branding, digital visibility and audience engagement. Participants gained practical insights into building authentic online identities, leveraging social media effectively and strengthening their professional presence in the evolving creator economy.

Panel Discussion FICCI–GDAI BRICS Women in Games Leadership Forum 2026 (India)

The FICCI–GDAI BRICS Women in Games Leadership Forum 2026 brought together women leaders from BRICS countries to discuss gaming ecosystem development, entrepreneurship, studio building and opportunities for global collaboration. The forum featured Ms. Shruti Verma (India), Ms. Patrícia Sato (Brazil), Ms. Tina Balachandran (India), Ms. Saishree Ashwin (India), Ms. Avuzwa Ntshongwana (South Africa) and Ms. Camilla Slotfeldt (Brazil), fostering dialogue on leadership, innovation and international partnerships within the gaming industry.

A Masterclass on From Script to Screen: Visual Development and World Building for Animation and Live Action (India)

This masterclass featured renowned production designer Ms. Rupali Gatti. The session explored the creative process of visual development and immersive world building across animation and live-action formats, providing participants with insights into storytelling, design thinking and visual narrative creation.

Fireside Conversation: Into the Wild (India)

A fireside conversation featuring filmmaker Ms. Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Co-Founder, Earthsky Pictures, in discussion with Ms. Aishwarya Sridhar, wildlife filmmaker, photographer and conservation storyteller. The session explored the intersection of storytelling, conservation and wildlife filmmaking, while highlighting women's leadership and the power of documentaries to drive environmental awareness and social impact.

Masterclass on Animating Indian Culture Through Stop Motion Animation (India)

Led by animation filmmaker and designer Ms. Swati Agarwal, this masterclass explored how India's rich cultural heritage can be interpreted through stop-motion animation. Participants learned about creative techniques, visual storytelling approaches and the role of animation in preserving and reimagining cultural narratives for contemporary audiences.

BRICS Women's Business Alliance: Positive Stories Compendium 2026 (India)

The Compendium of Positive Stories 2026 celebrates inspiring women leaders, women-owned enterprises, and organisations across BRICS that are driving economic growth and social transformation. Through stories of entrepreneurship, innovation, resilience, and leadership across diverse sectors, the Compendium highlights progress in women's economic participation while showcasing pathways for collaboration, learning, and creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous future.

BRICS Women's Business Alliance Women's Startup Contest 2026 (India)

The BRICS WBA Women's Startup Contest 2026, hosted by India during its BRICS Chairship, marked the third consecutive edition of this flagship initiative. Originally launched in 2024 during Russia's BRICS Chairship, the Contest was continued by Brazil in 2025, the year of its BRICS Chairship, and has since been driving women-led entrepreneurship, innovation, and cross-border business collaboration across consecutive years. The Contest received 545 applications from 11 BRICS countries across six sectors. Startups were evaluated across three development stages—Early Stage, Growth and Scale Up—through a structured qualification, technical assessment and final review process. The Contest culminated in the selection of 7 winners, with winners recognised across the seven categories and three business stages. The initiative also resulted in the BRICS WBA Women's Startup Contest 2026 Winners Compendium, showcasing the selected women-led startups, their innovative solutions and entrepreneurial journeys, while providing a platform to enhance their visibility and opportunities for cross-border collaboration across the BRICS ecosystem.

Knowledge Paper On Digital Public Infrastructure (India)

Digital Public Infrastructure: Enabling Women-Led Development explores how India's DPI ecosystem is expanding women's access to finance, public services, healthcare, education, skilling and entrepreneurship. Drawing on national and grassroots perspectives, the paper highlights how interoperable digital platforms can advance women's economic participation and independence. It offers practical insights for BRICS nations on building inclusive, accessible, safe and trusted digital ecosystems that enable women to participate, prosper and lead.

BRICS WBA Healthcare Working Group Roundtable on "Strengthening Women-Centric Primary & Preventive Healthcare" (India)

FICCI, as the official secretariat of BRICS WBA, was pleased to organise a Roundtable on "Strengthening Women-Centric Primary & Preventive Healthcare" under its Healthcare Working Group on June 5, 2026 in hybrid format. The roundtable brought together healthcare leaders, women entrepreneurs, innovators, and public health experts to exchange insights on advancing inclusive and prevention-focused healthcare systems. A key highlight of the roundtable was the sharing of country-led initiatives and best practices from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, showcasing innovative approaches to strengthening women's health, enhancing preventive care, and improving access to primary healthcare services. The rich exchange of experiences and perspectives underscored the importance of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing in addressing common healthcare challenges and advancing better health outcomes for women across nations.

Ayurvedic Wellness Masterclass with Kama Ayurveda (India)

BRICS WBA India Chapter organized an Ayurvedic Wellness Masterclass in collaboration with Kama Ayurveda on 5 August 2026, as an initiative promoting holistic well-being and wellness among women leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals. Designed as an interactive session, the masterclass introduced participants to traditional Ayurvedic and wellness practices aimed at supporting focus, stress management, emotional well-being and work-life balance. The session covered a range of practices including Ayurveda and Dosha principles, guided Pranayama, Dhumapana (Aroma Healing), Marma Chikitsa, Face Yoga, Mudras and Nada Chikitsa (Sound Healing). Led by a certified yoga teacher and wellness practitioner, the initiative sought to encourage participants to incorporate practical and accessible wellness practices into their daily routines, supporting healthier and more mindful lifestyles.

Roundtable Care Economy (India)

The BRICS Working Group on Inclusive Economy convened a Roundtable on the Care Economy on 14 August 2026, bringing together representatives from member countries to share experiences, discuss effective policies and innovations, and identify opportunities for collaboration. The dialogue fostered cross-country learning and contributed to a shared vision for advancing care services, workforce development, technology adoption, and inclusive economic growth across BRICS.

Webinar on ESG: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Growth through Women-Led Enterprises (India)

BRICS WBA India Chapter organized a webinar on “Women Leading Systemic Change: Building Resilient and Inclusive Economic Systems” on 10 March 2026, in collaboration with Good Business Lab and TechEquity. The initiative brought together BRICS WBA Chapter Chairs and experts for a cross-country dialogue on the role of women leaders in shaping resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic systems. The discussions explored leadership journeys, institutional resilience, structural and policy enablers for greater inclusion, and practical approaches to advancing women's participation in decision-making. The webinar also facilitated the exchange of experiences and perspectives across BRICS economies, highlighting the importance of strengthening women's leadership and creating enabling ecosystems for inclusive economic growth.

Webinar on Women Leading Systemic Change: Building Resilient and Inclusive Economic Systems (India)

BRICS WBA India Chapter organized a webinar on “Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Growth through Women-Led Enterprises” on 10 August 2026, bringing together experts and representatives from BRICS economies to examine the growing relevance of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices for women-led businesses. The initiative provided a platform for knowledge-sharing on emerging ESG trends, policies and business practices across BRICS countries, while highlighting examples of ESG implementation and the contribution of women-led enterprises to sustainable and inclusive growth. The discussions also focused on practical approaches for women entrepreneurs, particularly startups and SMEs, to understand and integrate ESG principles into their business strategies, strengthen competitiveness, enhance resilience, access sustainable finance and unlock new business opportunities.

Webinar on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (India)

The webinar aimed to empower women entrepreneurs through knowledge exchange on innovation, emerging technologies, and investment trends. The programme received 343 startup registrations, with participation from 9 countries and speakers representing 5 countries. Key participating sectors included DeepTech, AgriTech, Manufacturing, Healthcare, and FoodTech.

Webinar on Capacity Building on Access to Finance (India)

The webinar focused on empowering women entrepreneurs through investor readiness, financial capability building, and improved understanding of access to finance. The programme received 225 startup registrations, with participation from 7 countries and speakers from 3 countries. Major participating sectors included DeepTech, Healthcare, Education, Manufacturing, and AgriTech.

Webinar on BRICS Women Innovators Virtual Technology Showcase 2026 (India)

The BRICS Women Innovators Virtual Technology Showcase 2026 aimed to provide a global platform for women innovators to showcase cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions to policymakers, investors, industry leaders, corporates, and key stakeholders across the BRICS innovation ecosystem.

BRICS Strategic Project for the Implementation of the CMG – Rio Market Cooperation Agreement (Brazil)

The project aims to implement the cooperation agreement between CMG and Rio Market to expand economic, cultural and creative relations between Brazil and China via through the audiovisual sector. This entails the attraction of investments to drive co-production, international distribution, technology exchange, infrastructure and training in the sector. The project hopes to increase bilateral content distribution, promote other creative industries through audiovisual productions, nurture private and government partnerships and establish a bination streaming platform and a cooperative fund for the project.

Fome de Tudo Platform (Brazil)

Fome de Tudo is a Brazilian platform that uses advanced technology and social intelligence to connect supermarkets, industries, NGOs, and public institutions with vulnerable populations. It facilitates the redistribution of surplus food while promoting local production and food security policies. The platform features a robust data reporting system, transparent governance, and a scalable white-label model that allows other organizations to customize its use under their own brand. Fome de Tudo is the only organization in Brazil with an official partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), reinforcing its alignment with global food security goals and standards. The initiative aims to (i) reduce food waste, (ii) increase access to nutritious meals, (iii) empower women and youth through income generation and entrepreneurship, (iv) support family and smallholder farming, and (v) build capacity for public and private actors engaged in food and nutrition security. To date, it has redistributed over 11 million meals to 300,000+ beneficiaries, avoided 15 tons of CO2 emissions, and saved over US$150,000 per partner per year in food value.

BRICS Cervical Cancer Eradication (Brazil)

The initiative involves the expansion of HPV vaccination, screening, and early treatment. Based on a pilot project from Brazil, the initiative intends to offer pilot projects in at least one city per member country, with an impact assessment after one year, to promote a scalable model for other cities. Support in Cervical Cancer Eradication in BRICS countries through a harmonized and evidence-based approach to care.

Women's Mental Health Initiative (Brazil)

Development of a common guideline for the screening, diagnosis, and management of anxiety and depression in women, based on the creation of unified protocols and basic training for health workers in primary care networks. This guideline will be proposed in partnership with the Health Ministries of BRICS countries, with technical support from the World Health Organization and validation by local academic institutions.

BRICS WBA Health Side-Event at Hospitalar 2025 (Brazil)

Side-event organized by the BRICS Healthcare WBA WG during the 30th edition of Hospitalar, the leading healthcare business and knowledge event in Latin America. WBA brought together business leaders, government officials, and representatives of multilateral organizations to address key public health challenges faced by women across BRICS countries, with a special focus on preventable diseases and mental health. Give visibility for WBA proposals for coordinated, measurable actions aimed at eliminating cervical cancer through expanded HPV vaccination, and the development of shared guidelines for the screening and management of anxiety and depression in women, with a focus on primary care.

WBA Tourism Symposium (Brazil)

Hybrid symposium on policy solutions for women in Tourism planned for the Women's entrepreneurship week, on November 19th. Bring together academic and business voices to discuss promotional practices, public policies and the promotion of female entrepreneurship.

CMG–Rio Market Cooperation Agreement (Brazil)

The CMG–Rio Market Cooperation Agreement was proposed to strengthen cooperation between Brazil and China in the audiovisual and creative industries. The initiative seeks to promote co-production, content distribution, investment, technology exchange, infrastructure development and professional training, while fostering public-private partnerships. It also explores the potential establishment of a binational streaming platform and cooperation fund to support and facilitate joint creative projects.

BRICS WBA Health Side-Event at Hospitalar 2025 (Brazil)

The Working Group organized a BRICS WBA Health Side-Event during Hospitalar 2025 and 2026, bringing together business leaders, government representatives and multilateral organizations to discuss key women's health challenges across BRICS countries. The event focused on cervical cancer prevention and women's mental health, promoting coordinated actions to expand HPV vaccination and advance shared guidelines for the screening and management of anxiety and depression, particularly within primary healthcare.

WE Forum – Women Entrepreneurship Forum (Brazil)

Held on March 3, 2026, in Brasília, the WE Forum was promoted by the Brazilian Chapter of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance, under the Movimente initiative and coordinated by the National Confederation of Industry (CNI). The initiative aims to establish a permanent platform for international engagement to strengthen women's leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation, and business cooperation among BRICS countries and their partners. Open to broad participation, the Forum mobilizes key stakeholders and fosters strategic dialogue, networking, and economic integration.

Brazil–India Business Mission (Brazil)

In February 2026, the Brazilian Chapter of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance participated in the business mission accompanying President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's official visit to India. Coordinated by the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), the delegation promoted institutional and business engagement focused on trade, investment, innovation, energy, agribusiness, and women's entrepreneurship. The programme included the Brazil–India Business Forum and the inauguration of ApexBrasil's first office in India, in New Delhi, strengthening Brazil's permanent presence in the country and creating new opportunities for bilateral and intra-BRICS cooperation.

2026 BRICS Women's Leadership Forum (China)

The BRICS Women's Leadership Forum (hereinafter referred to as the Forum) is a flagship event of the BRICS WBA China Chapter. It serves as an important platform and key initiative to advance women's empowerment and innovation cross BRICS countries, as well as to boost women-centred economic and trade cooperation. First launched in 2022, the Forum has been held five sessions.

The 2026 Forum convened in Beijing on 23 June under the theme "Forging BRICS Strength for a Shared Future". The programme featured an Opening Ceremony, Special Remarks, Outcome Preview and Panel Discussions Sessions covered supply chain resilience, resilient leadership, pioneering innovation, digital technology and cultural exchange. Participants held in-depth exchanges on priority issues for women's empowerment and development, and shares outstanding experiences and best practices on women-led Over 300 participants, including government officials, business leaders, experts, scholars and diplomats from BRICS countries, attended the event.

Exploring BRICS· Grain Buds Tea Salon (China)

Hosted by the BRICS WBA China Chapter, the Exploring BRICS·Grain Buds Tea Salon was held on May 21, 2026, at the 400-year-old Junwangfu Mansion. The date coincided with China's Grain Buds solar term as well as the UN International Tea Day. The gathering brought together women business leaders from BRICS countries for cultural exchange and networking. Representatives from several BRICS embassies in China, along with more than 30 Chinese and international guests from more than 15 organizations, joined the gathering.

Guests shared experiences and insights from their professional endeavors and business practices around the theme "Women in Business and Resilient Leadership". They exchanged views on leadership development, and expressed their collective commitment to advancing women-led growth.

BRICS Women's Development Report (2026) (China)

The BRICS Women's Development Report is an annual public product output launched by the China Chapter back in 2022. It provides in-depth analysis of women's development status across BRICS countires in health, education, economic participation, decision-making and technology. It identifies key challenges and put forward practical policy recommendations to strengthen cross-country collaboration and elevate women's status and role in economic and social development.

The 2026 edition continues this comprehensive tracking work. It places emphasis on boosting women's competitiveness in science and technology and narrowing gender gaps, and delivers recommendations covering policy support, scale-up resource investment, and deeper multi-stakeholder collaboration. This year's report also features women's development in India-- the BRICS chairing country for 2026. It systematically documents India's ongoing efforts and tangible achievements in improving women's living conditions, raising standards of education and healthcare, and advancing women's economic empowerment.

Private Sector Initiative for the Care Economy (Egypt)

CIRA Education launched CIRA CARE, the Middle East's first private sector initiative dedicated to the Care Economy, under the patronage Ministers for Human Development, Health, Social Solidarity, Investment and Foreign Trade, and Minister of Labor.

The initiative focuses on revolutionizing care services in Egypt, including childcare, elder care, healthcare, and disability support, with partnerships from Mohawk College, Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC), Thompson Rivers University, Bow Valley College, Amideast, Emirates Scholar Research Center, SIS – Middle East, Egyptian Nursing Syndicate, Upscale, Badr University in Cairo (BUC), Badr University in Assiut (BUA), Saxony Egypt University (SEU), and Innovvette for Education.

Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness (OWAP) (Egypt)

Delivered entrepreneurship training and helped establish women-owned and led agricultural productive cooperatives registered under the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

WiB Agri Africa Program (Egypt)

This is a collaborative initiative by SmartAgri Egypt and the Women in Business Network (WiB), 2 NGO's, designed to empower female entrepreneurs and export managers in the local agricultural and food processing sectors.

The program focuses building leadership skills, improve market readiness and expand global trade participation for women-led entrepreneurs in the agricultural field

The project is also backed by the Partner Africa Project & the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development.

RABAHA Programme (Egypt)

Egypt has allocated over EGP 1.3 billion through national and international partnerships to support nearly 25,900 women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Key governmental bodies like the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA) and the National Council for Women (NCW) lead these economic integration efforts.

Rabah Programme, Implemented jointly by the NCW, UN Women, UNIDO, and MSMEDA, this multi-year initiative provides business skills training, market study, financial management, and post-training incubation support for female entrepreneurs.

Egypt Fashion Days (Egypt)

Scheduled for November 2026, the initiative is the collaboration between the Egyptian Fashion Design Council (EFDC) and BRICS Egypt Chapter to create an impactful event BRICS Fashion Days, to be held in Cairo, Egypt.

BRICS Fashion Days is envisioned as a distinguished two-day B2B platform that celebrates collaboration, innovation, and cultural exchange among BRICS nations within the global fashion and textile ecosystem.

Care Economy Policy Dialogue for Inclusive Growth (Iran)

Under Iran's leadership of the Inclusive Economy Working Group, this initiative mainstreams the care economy to drive sustainable development. Conducting over twelve multi-stakeholder consultations with government, academia, civil society, and private sector representatives, the program prioritizes rigorous policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. These efforts are currently culminating in a comprehensive policy framework designed to guide future cross-border BRICS cooperation.

Enhancing Women's Economic Resilience in Crisis Contexts (Iran)

In response to disruptions arising from the recent conflict, Iran's BRICS WBA Office implemented an initiative strengthening the economic resilience of 153 women-led businesses. Partnering with four leading NGOs, it supported business continuity via supply chain coordination, peer networks, crisis management, and targeted mental health programmes, while documenting practical lessons to inform broader BRICS resilience strategies.

National BRICS Women's Knowledge and Opportunity Network (Iran)

Advancing the regional innovation ecosystem, this strategic platform facilitates cross-sector collaboration among knowledge-based enterprises, dynamic startups, and industry professionals. By promoting capacity building, B2B communications, and financial opportunity awareness, the network successfully integrates Iran's private sector into the broader BRICS framework. Engaging 548 women entrepreneurs, including 123 technology innovators, this initiative drives inclusive growth and strengthens international business partnerships.

Rapid Reconnection to International Cooperation (Iran)

Despite the disruptions caused by the recent conflict, Iran's BRICS WBA Office rapidly restored its international engagement by reactivating thematic working groups, resuming collaboration with the BRICS WBA Secretariat and member chapters, and expanding partnerships with public institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations. This initiative reinforced institutional agility, sustained international cooperation, and strengthened Iran's active participation within the BRICS WBA network.

ASEAN–BRICS Cooperation (Russia)

The Initiative on BRICS–ASEAN Business Cooperation seeks to strengthen economic ties and promote inclusive growth between Southeast Asia and the BRICS community. The BRICS WBA and ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN) have undertaken joint strategic engagement to explore areas of cooperation, including the proposed establishment of a BRICS–ASEAN Business Umbrella Platform.

The proposed platform would integrate business networks and regional offices while providing opportunities for mentorship, educational programmes, business matchmaking and regular dialogue among women entrepreneurs to address shared challenges and develop collaborative solutions.

Opening of Regional Offices

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance Regional Offices are being established across BRICS partner states and countries interested in cooperation, serving as a single point of entry for women entrepreneurs seeking access to Alliance opportunities and networks. The offices are intended to strengthen economic ties among women entrepreneurs across regions, promote women's leadership, facilitate knowledge exchange, organise joint events and collaborate with relevant stakeholders. Regional Offices have so far been officially opened in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyztan and Malaysia. Going forward, additional Regional Offices may be established in other BRICS partner states and countries interested in cooperation, with the consent of all National Chapters,

Expert ESG Dialogue (Russia)

Established in 2024, the Expert ESG Dialogue serves as a dedicated platform for ESG professionals from the BRICS community to exchange knowledge, experiences and practical approaches. The initiative seeks to consolidate cooperation among ESG stakeholders and encourage coordinated initiatives supporting the sustainable development agenda across BRICS member and partner states.

BRICS WBA Panel Session at Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) (Russia)

The BRICS WBA Panel Session at SPIEF is a flagship annual event of the Russian Chapter of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance. It provides a platform for dialogue among women entrepreneurs, government representatives and international experts from BRICS member and partner countries. The 2026 panel, titled “BRICS – What Unites Us: Shared Victories and New Opportunities for Women's Entrepreneurship,” featured discussions on successful projects implemented under the BRICS WBA framework and explored opportunities for future collaboration.

III BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum (Russia)

The BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum is a flagship initiative of the Russian Chapter of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance and an annual platform for strengthening economic cooperation and fostering sustainable partnerships across the BRICS community. The III BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum is scheduled to take place on 15–16 September 2026 in Ekaterinburg, Russia, as part of the International Festival of Youth – 2026. The Forum will bring together participants from BRICS member states, partner countries and interested nations through panel discussions, expert interviews, workshops, multimedia and photo exhibitions, film screenings and masterclasses.

BRICS Kids Channel (Russia)

The BRICS Kids Channel is a TV and digital platform dedicated to children's animation from the BRICS countries. It aims to promote original content, preserve and showcase the cultural heritage of the BRICS nations, strengthen international cooperation in children's media, and expand global market opportunities for studios through a shared distribution platform for young audiences worldwide.

BRICS Families – National Heritage (India and Russia)

The project, implemented jointly by the Russian and Indian Chapters of the Alliance, aims to foster cultural exchange and strengthen interpersonal connections among the BRICS nations. It features a series of family photographs showcasing traditional national costumes from BRICS member and partner countries, highlighting the rich cultural diversity and heritage of each nation. Selected photographs are showcased at international exhibitions held alongside the Women-Led Development Conference in India and the III BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in Russia.

The project's outcomes are preserved in a portable, tangible format - as a photo book.

Association of Beauty Industry Professionals of the BRICS Countries (Russia)

The initiative aims to strengthen cooperation across the beauty industry within the BRICS countries. Through joint events, knowledge-sharing programmes and strategic partnerships, the Association seeks to build a cohesive professional ecosystem that promotes innovation, raises industry standards and opens new markets for member and partner countries.

Creation of Thematic Pharma Clusters for Development and Organization of Innovative Drug Products Production (Russia)

The initiative aims to advance the development and production of innovative medicines by bringing together the resources and expertise of BRICS member and partner countries, while ensuring rapid access to essential pharmaceuticals during critical situations. Practical steps are already underway through bilateral discussions, including consultations between Russian and Nigerian partners on harmonizing drug registration standards and establishing local pharmaceutical production in Nigeria. These efforts represent an initial step towards a broader multilateral cooperation framework among BRICS member and partner countries.

BRICS Health Umbrella – Wellbeing Quiz “BRICS: Health for All” (Russia)

The BRICS Health Umbrella is a collaborative framework aimed at addressing shared health challenges and advancing sustainable healthcare across BRICS nations. As part of the initiative, the “BRICS: Health for All” Wellbeing Quiz has been launched to raise awareness about physical, mental and social health. The results will be analysed to identify knowledge gaps and wellbeing trends, providing insights that can support evidence-based policy recommendations and the development of projects responding to societal needs.

Eshe Fem Health Pilot (Russia)

The Eshe Fem Health Pilot proposes a digital platform focused on women's health, mental wellbeing and maternal support. The platform combines education, prevention and navigation tools to connect users with existing medical and community resources across BRICS member and partner countries. The proposed ecosystem includes an AI assistant, self-check tools, cycle and pregnancy tracking, preventive alerts, community engagement and partner analytics, supported by early-stage guidance and Women Health Education Ambassadors.

Creation of a System of Local Clusters for the Production of Orthopedic Shoes to Support People with Diabetes in the BRICS Countries (Russia)

The project aims to develop a global ecosystem for remote ordering and distributed manufacturing of orthopedic footwear across BRICS nations. It proposes the use of a 3D-scanning mobile application, AI-driven order processing and modelling, and digital production technologies. The initiative also focuses on establishing local R&D centres, manufacturing facilities and training programmes to create a shared knowledge ecosystem, reduce healthcare inequalities and stimulate regional economic development through job creation.

School on Financial Literacy and Financial Security for Women in the BRICS Countries (Russia)

The BRICS School of Financial Literacy and Security for Women is a comprehensive 72-hour online programme designed to equip women with essential financial knowledge and skills. The curriculum covers personal finance management, investment strategies, taxation, insurance and financial fraud prevention, tailored to the economic and regulatory contexts of BRICS member and partner countries. The programme combines theoretical learning with practical case studies, with graduates receiving an inter-university certificate covering areas including responsible investing, rational credit behaviour, taxpayer integrity and cybersecurity practices.

BRICS Skill Hub (Russia)

The BRICS Skill Hub aims to equip people across the BRICS community, particularly women and vulnerable groups, with skills required for employment in high-demand sectors such as hospitality, retail and catering, alongside foundational digital literacy. The initiative comprises short-term practical vocational training leading to recognised certificates, as well as online courses focused on basic computer and internet skills. Together, these components seek to improve employability, enable participation in modern work environments and facilitate engagement in the digital economy.

BRICS+ International Youth Mentoring Program (Russia)

Implemented jointly by the BRICS Women's Business Alliance and the World Youth Festival Directorate, the BRICS+ International Youth Mentoring Program connects young entrepreneurs and high-potential specialists from BRICS member and partner states with experienced women mentors. The programme supports the development of innovative, high-tech projects and leadership capabilities through online mentoring sessions and an offline internship. It aims to strengthen entrepreneurial and cross-cultural competencies, prepare startups for international scaling and investment, drive innovation and empower young leaders across the BRICS community.

Care Economy – BRICS White Paper (Russia)

The BRICS White Paper on Care Economy, presented to BRICS leaders at the 2024 Summit, compiles best practices and experiences aimed at addressing challenges related to the care economy. The initiative has entered a digitalisation phase through a dedicated online section on the BRICS WBA Common Digital Platform. The section provides a structured database of project cards showcasing successful initiatives from member and partner countries, enable stakeholders to submit new solutions and facilitate professional dialogue through a real-time Q&A module. The digital White Paper is envisaged as a resource supporting the BRICS Care Economy Framework.

Common BRICS WBA Digital Platform

The Common BRICS WBA Digital Platform launched during Russia's BRICS Chairship in 2024 serves as digital infrastructure connecting business communities across BRICS and partner nations as well as countries interested in cooperation with the Group after seeking consensus with all national WBA chapters and facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange. The platform, currently moderated by the Indian Chapter of the Alliance, has supported registration for key initiatives including the BRICS Women's Startups Contest and the III BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum. It also hosts a dedicated section for the BRICS WBA Care Economy – BRICS White Paper project and continues to evolve as a central digital resource for the growing BRICS WBA community.

BRICS Mobility Center (Russia)

The BRICS Mobility Center is a flagship initiative launched in 2023 to facilitate specialist mobility and labour migration across BRICS nations. The initiative combines physical training and selection centres. It provides vocational training and professional development programmes that equip participants with in-demand skills and support access to higher-paying employment. The model covers industrial, agricultural and logistics sectors and is being expanded to BRICS partner countries to strengthen international cooperation and labour mobility.

Sustainability and Safety of Transportation as a Condition for Tourist Exchanges of the BRICS Countries (Russia)

The project aims to establish a unified framework for transport safety standards across BRICS nations to enable safe and seamless tourist exchanges while enhancing the competitiveness of the BRICS tourism market. Based on surveys and stakeholder consultations, the initiative proposes a permanent international business platform in the form of a roundtable to facilitate dialogue and experience-sharing among government bodies, transport operators, manufacturers and business associations. The platform would support the development of common safety standards, sharing of innovative technologies and sustainable tourism growth.

Global Women Leadership Programme: South Africa Inaugural Cohort (South Africa)

BRICS WBA South Africa, in partnership with BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Women Empowerment, implemented South Africa's inaugural cohort of the Global Women Leadership Programme (GWLP), a six-month executive leadership and mentorship programme connecting women professionals, entrepreneurs and executives to international learning, strategic networks and cross-border collaboration. Following a national call, 62 applications were received and six South African women leaders were selected through a competency-based assessment process. The programme establishes a foundation for expanding South African participation across sectors and strengthening a pipeline of globally connected women leaders.

Women in Innovation, Science & Entrepreneurship, WISE: South Africa Contribution (South Africa)

BRICS WBA South Africa continued its participation in Women in Innovation, Science & Entrepreneurship (WISE), a BRICS+ platform founded and envisioned by President of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Vertical (BRICS CCI WE), and advanced through BRICS CCI WE to strengthen innovation and collaboration, access to funding and policy advocacy for women. During the 2026 reporting period, the South African delegation participated in B2B and investor matchmaking hosted at the Software Technology Parks of India, engaged with the

MeitY–NASSCOM Centre of Excellence and international WISE partner institutions, and contributed to the WISE Roundtable 2026, Whitepaper and Policy & Legal Framework. South Africa's contribution focused on strengthening women's participation in emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems, investment and international market opportunities, while supporting the continued development of WISE as a platform for deeper BRICS+ cooperation and engagement under future BRICS Presidencies.

King Dinuzulu Innovation Valley (South Africa)

The King Dinuzulu Innovation Valley (KDIV) is being developed by the BRICS WBA South Africa Innovative Development Working Group as an integrated innovation and technology platform anchored in KwaZulu-Natal. The initiative connects digital infrastructure, technology partnerships, research and development, enterprise enablement, skills, finance and technology-enabled market access within one coordinated delivery architecture. In 2026, the Working Group advanced a provincial pilot model that includes the Pan-African Trade House, enterprise and supplier-development platforms and sector-level delivery initiatives, with a pipeline of 2,736 women-led businesses in KwaZulu-Natal.

BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Initiative (South Africa)

The BRICS Skills Development, Employment & Industrial Mobility Initiative was developed during the 2026 reporting period as a South African contribution towards strengthening BRICS cooperation. The initiative aims to establish a practical framework for advancing cross-border skills development, workplace learning, employment mobility and industrial cooperation, connecting government, academia and industry across BRICS countries. Its objective is to create tangible pathways for skills development and greater participation in strategic sectors and emerging economic opportunities.

Tourism, Culture and Business Engagement Programme (South Africa)

BRICS WBA South Africa's Tourism Working Group advanced a diversified programme linking tourism with business engagement, culture, sport and creative enterprise. Activities included the BRICS Golf Tour, hosted at Maritzburg Golf Club in KwaZulu-Natal on 24 April 2026 with 72 golfers and a professional golf clinic; the launch of Silent Screams of a Burdened Nation as a cultural and literary tourism initiative; African Fashion Week 2026 in Johannesburg, which featured 12 designers and connected creative enterprise with buyers and development-finance institutions; and the Zaria Records and Archive Management Conference in Durban, focused on digital transformation, information governance and institutional knowledge preservation. These initiatives illustrate South Africa's use of tourism as a platform for enterprise development, destination promotion, cultural exchange and future cross-border business cooperation.

Africa Health Economy Accelerator (South Africa)

BRICS WBA South Africa commenced development of the Africa Health Economy Accelerator (AHEA) as a proposed platform to strengthen women-led healthcare innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and industrial development. The initiative is designed to connect governments, academia, healthcare providers, research institutions, investors and the private sector around business acceleration, commercialisation, investment readiness, regulatory support, market access and cross-border partnerships. The next phase will focus on establishing founding partners, developing the inaugural enterprise cohort, mobilising blended finance and impact investment and exploring a BRICS Health Innovation Marketplace.

International Wheat Trade and Food Security Initiative (South Africa)

The BRICS WBA South Africa Food Security Working Group facilitated an international wheat trade initiative during the 2026 reporting period to support cross-border agricultural cooperation and strengthen food security. The initiative focused on promoting resilient grain supply chains,

transparency and internationally recognised quality assurance, demonstrating the potential of commercially driven, women-led cooperation to contribute to agricultural trade and food security across BRICS countries.

BRICS-Africa Agricultural Research, Innovation and Technology Partnerships (South Africa)

The BRICS WBA South Africa Food Security Working Group expanded international cooperation during 2026 through engagements with institutions in China and South Africa. The collaboration focused on agricultural research, technology transfer, climate-smart agriculture, skills development, aquaculture, precision agriculture and environmental monitoring, contributing towards a BRICS-Africa knowledge and technology ecosystem for resilient and sustainable food systems.

Evolvin' Global Hospitality Educator Immersion Programme (UAE)

Capacity-building initiative strengthening national hospitality education through a Train-the-Trainer model, where educators undergo a gap assessment, home-country preparatory training, and then an immersion in the UAE, covering operational shadowing, technical observation, and curriculum development. Builds Master Trainer networks with pre/post competency evaluation. Each trained educator can impact an estimated 100–300 students annually, offering a scalable BRICS model.

BRICS UAE–South Africa Women's Talent Mobility Programme (UAE)

Evolvin' Global-led pilot placing 100 young South African women in UAE tourism and hospitality roles for 6-12 months, supported by pre-departure cultural orientation, monthly mentoring from Emirati professionals, and a return and reintegration programme covering career guidance and entrepreneurship. Evolvin' Global has placed 1,400+ African participants since 2020, generating $12.5M+ in salaries. Phase two scopes a parallel China talent pathway.

NAYRA Financial Literacy Platform (UAE)

A mobile-first financial literacy platform from DMCC and the UAE Ministry of Economy, led by the European Women's Association, addressing women entrepreneurs' limited access to financial knowledge, credit readiness, and investor documentation. Two year UAE pilot targets 100,000+ women and girls through universities and business associations, with 3-4-week BRICS localisation. App tracks enrollment, module completion, and Financial Confidence Index improvement.

BASMA Programme (UAE)

Public-private partnership model under the Dubai Health Authority improving affordability and access to continued clinical care for patients who have exhausted health insurance coverage. Demonstrates an effective PPP model for continuity of care while supporting a broader direction toward strengthening preventive cancer screening among women, with KPIs on access, patient burden, and early detection.

UAE IP Protection Framework - Proposal to BRICS Countries (UAE)

Positions the UAE's distributed creative economy stack – world-class, individually, but not yet unified – as a distribution orchestration layer connecting BRICS creators to global markets, and as a first mover on IP protection standards across BRICS, an area with no existing coordination mechanism. As a proposal, early engagement secures UAE Chapter authorship, targeting endorsement from at least 3 National Chapters.

NIA Coffee – Women Coffee Market Access Platform (UAE)

UAE women-led speciality coffee platform linking ethical sourcing, agricultural sustainability, and market access for women farmers, starting with a two-farmer pilot. Platform includes a “Bean to Business” sourcing programme, digital farmer/cooperative marketplace, expansion pathway to other women-led agricultural products, and link to “Bean to Barista” programme, with 80+ African youth trained. The platform's KPIs track farmers onboarded and volume sold.

AgriTech & Food Security Startup Acceleration Track (UAE)

Leverages C3's existing accelerator infrastructure (400+ startups since 2013, 31% in AgriTech/food security/climate, including 75 in 2024–2025) as a low-cost BRICS collaboration platform. Identifies suitable AgriTech/food-security startups, develops BRICS-focused case studies, and connects founders with Working Groups, investors, corporates and ecosystem partners through joint workshops, pitch sessions, and knowledge exchange sessions with BRICS National Chapters.

Development of a Commercial Framework for the BRICS Women Advancement Fund

Building on earlier discussions, the Alliance will consider advancing the development of a commercially viable and institutionally aligned framework for the BRICS Women Advancement Fund (BWAF) as a potential mechanism for strengthening access to appropriate forms of capital for women-led enterprises across BRICS economies.

The proposed work will focus on developing the technical and commercial foundations required before any future structured engagement with relevant development-finance institutions. This may include exploring the Fund's proposed governance architecture, blended-finance structure, risk allocation and risk-sharing mechanisms, investment criteria, project and enterprise pipeline, sustainability model and alignment with the mandates and capital-evaluation requirements of relevant financial institutions.

BRICS Women's Business Alliance Schedule of Meetings

BRICS Women's Business Alliance Schedule of Meetings

S.No.	Meeting Name	Date
1	1st Meeting with BRICS WBA Secretariats	22-Jan-26
2	BRICS WBA Russian Chapter Visits to India - In Person	12-Feb-26
3	Inaugural Meeting of BRICS WBA Chairs & Core Members	17-Feb-26
4	BRICS WBA Lunch with Dr Reddy, Avarna Jain, Anna Roy and Brazil Delegation - In Person	19-Feb-26
5	1st Meeting of the BRICS WBA Healthcare Working Group	19-Feb-26
6	1st Meeting of the BRICS WBA Inclusive Economy Working Group	27-Feb-26
7	1st Meeting of the BRICS WBA Food Security and Environmental Safety Working Group	2-Mar-26
8	1st Meeting of the BRICS WBA Tourism Working Group	5-Mar-26
9	BRICS WBA Virtual Discussion on International Women's Day	10-Mar-26
10	1st Meeting of the BRICS WBA Innovative Development Group	13-Mar-26
11	BRICS WBA Women's Startup Contest Launch	19-Mar-26
12	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Food Security & Environmental Safety Working Group	25-Mar-26
13	1st Meeting on BRICS WBA Creative Industries Working Group	30-Mar-26
14	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Healthcare Working Group	20-Apr-26
15	BRICS WBA Innovative Working Group: Webinar on Emerging Technology	30-Apr-26
16	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Inclusive Economy Working Group	14-May-26
17	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Innovative Development Working Group	21-May-26
18	2nd Meeting with BRICS WBA Secretariats	2-Jun-26
19	BRICS WBA Innovative Development Working Group: Webinar on Capacity Building and Access to Finance	3-Jun-26
20	Roundtable by BRICS WBA Healthcare Working Group on Strengthening Women-Centric Primary & Preventive Healthcare	5-Jun-26
21	BRICS WBA Creative Working Group Masterclass on Instagram Visibility: Building a Powerful Presence - By: Dr. Falguni Vasavada-Oz	15-Jun-26
22	Panel Discussion by BRICS WBA Creative Industries on Frame by Frame, She Changed the Game	24-Jun-26
23	Roundtable by BRICS WBA Creative Working Group on "GDAI FICCI BRICS Women in Game Leadership Forum 2026"	29-Jun-26

S.No.	Meeting Name	Date
24	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Creative Industries Working Group	30-Jun-26
25	2nd Meeting of BRICS WBA Toursim Working Group	7-Jul-26
26	BRICS WBA Creative Industries Working Group Masterclass on “From script to screen Visual Development and World building for animation and live action”	8-Jul-26
27	BRICS WBA Virtual Midterm Meeting	9-Jul-26
28	BRICS WBA Creative Industries Working Group Session on “Into the Wild: A fireside chat between two filmmakers who have made their path in the world of telling stories”	10-Jul-26
29	BRICS WBA Creative Working Group Masterclass on “Animating Indian Culture Through Stop Motion Animation by Swati Agarwal, Animation Filmmaker and Designer”	15-Jul-26
30	3rd Meeting of BRICS WBA Healthcare Working Group	28-Jul-26
31	3rd Meeting of the BRICS WBA Inclusive Economy Working Group	3-Aug-26
32	3rd Meeting of the BRICS WBA Innovative Development Working Group	3-Aug-26
33	3rd Meeting of the BRICS WBA Creative Industries Working Group	4-Aug-26
34	3rd Meeting of the BRICS WBA Working Group on Tourism	6-Aug-26
35	Webinar on ESG: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Growth through Women-Led Enterprises	10-Aug-26
36	Roundtable on Care Economy	14-Aug-26
37	BRICS WBA Women Led Development Summit	9-Sep-26
38	BRICS WBA Annual Session	10-Sep-26
39	Panel Discussion on Women in Business: Driving Partnerships across BRICS Economies at BRICS Business Forum	11-Sep-26
40	BRICS WBA Annual Report Submission to Head of States	13-Sep-26

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