

Revisiting BRICS Summit 2025

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The [expansion of BRICS](#) from originally BRIC countries i.e. Brazil, Russia, India and China illustrate the growing participation of emerging economies in shaping the international order. The first expansion occurred with the formal invitation extended to South Africa to join the group. The inclusion of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates as full members in 2024 reflects BRICS' intent to broaden the focus on energy security, food systems and south-south cooperation. Further, in 2025, Indonesia joined the BRICS as a full member. BRICS has also inducted Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Uganda and Uzbekistan as partner countries.

Brazil assumed the BRICS Presidency on 1 January 2025. With a [focus](#) on Global South Cooperation and BRICS partnerships for social, economic and environmental development, their priorities included global health cooperation, trade, investment and finance, climate change, artificial intelligence governance, global reform of the multilateral peace system and security architecture and institutional development. The 17th BRICS Summit took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from July 6-7, 2025, under the theme *Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance*. The Summit was hosted by President Luiz Lula da Silva, Brazil, and leaders from several member countries attended the Summit in person including the Prime Minister of India. On behalf of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Qi Liang attended the Summit. The President of Russia joined virtually.

On July 7, the [President of Brazil](#) highlighted the challenges facing multilateralism, emphasising the rise of multiple global conflicts and their consequences for national sovereignty, international security and the global economy. He called for reform of global governance and underlined BRICS' potential as a force for peace and multipolar cooperation. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the [sessions](#) on *Reform of Global Governance and Peace and Security and Strengthening Multilateral, Economic-Financial Affairs and Artificial Intelligence*. He reaffirmed India's commitment to amplifying the voice of the Global South, calling for reform of

global institutions to reflect present day challenges. He stressed the need for greater access to climate finance and technology for developing countries. He further added that BRICS could play a significant role in shaping the multipolar world. Emphasising the role of S&T in advancing equitable development, the Prime Minister proposed creation of a BRICS Science and Research Repository to support the Global South. He called for strengthening critical mineral supply chains to ensure technological resilience. Positioning S&T cooperation and diplomacy as an important pillar of BRICS cooperation, he highlighted the need for responsible AI, thus, balancing innovation with effective governance.

The [Rio Declaration](#) asserts the collective role of BRICS countries as drivers of global reform, particularly through strengthening multilateralism, amplifying the voice of Global South in global governance, advancing equitable access to technology, health and finance. It reflects a forward-looking approach by prioritising science, technology and innovation and technology governance, together with technological self-reliance and cooperation as a key to maintaining influence in the global order. The Declaration aims for a multipolar, inclusive and equitable international order. However, growing global tensions, economic uncertainties, and international institutional landscape and the diversities within BRICS in terms of economic, political and diplomatic are some of the challenges. There is also a need for greater engagement of diverse stakeholders for drawing long-term action plans and asserting greater influence on reform of the global institutions.