

2020 BRICS Moscow Summit Final Compliance Report

18 November 2020 to 23 August 2021

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Feedback is welcome and is kept anonymous.

This report has not been sent to stakeholders for review prior to publication. Scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available that meets the requirements set by the methodology used for monitoring compliance.

We encourage readers to send comments to

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Preface

The BRICS Research Group has been assessing progress made by the BRICS members in implementing commitments their leaders make at each summit since the 2011 Sanya meeting. These reports monitor each member's efforts to implement a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments produced at each summit. They are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the BRICS's work more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the causes of compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the BRICS Information Centre at <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/compliance> and at the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration available at <http://www.ranepa.ru/eng/ciir-ranepa/research-areas/brics/analytics>.

This current final report analyses compliance performance by BRICS countries with 17 priority commitments selected from the 45 commitments made by the leaders virtually at Moscow on 17 November 2020. The report covers actions taken by the BRICS members to implement those commitments between 18 November 2020 and 23 August 2021. The BRICS Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports for its assessments. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments from stakeholders. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for the contents of this report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the BRICS Research Group.

John Kirton and Marina Larionova
Co-directors, BRICS Research Group

Introduction and Summary

The 2020 BRICS Moscow Final Compliance Report, prepared by the BRICS Research Group (based at the University of Toronto and the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration [RANEPA]), analyses compliance performance by BRICS countries with 17 priority commitments drawn from the total 45 commitments made by the leaders at the Moscow Summit, which was held virtually on 17 November 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final report covers actions taken by the BRICS countries to implement the selected commitments between 18 November 2020 and 23 August 2021.

Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7 compliance since 1996 and adapted for monitoring G20 performance since 2008.¹ The use of this time-tested methodology provides for cross-institutional, cross-member and cross-issue consistency and thus allows compatibility and comparability of the compliance performance by different summit institutions and establishes a foundation for evidence-based assessment of the effectiveness of these institutions.²

The methodology uses a scale from -1 (0%) to +1 (100%), where +1 (50%) indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, -1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose final results can therefore not be assessed.³ Each member receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment.

The Breakdown of Commitments

At the Moscow Summit in 2020, the BRICS leaders focused on three pillars: policy and security, economy and finance, and culture and people-to-people exchanges. The theme was “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth.” The topics discussed included being united for a better world; the COVID-19 pandemic and the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative; a global ceasefire, international peace and security, disarmament and non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and anti-corruption. In the economic sphere, BRICS leaders acknowledged that the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic growth and discussed how to address new challenges, including through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Monetary Fund as well as reforming both institutions.

Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (that is, the period between summits), the research team selects commitments that reflect the breadth of the BRICS agenda and the priorities of the summit’s host, while balancing the selection to allow for comparison with past and future summits.⁴ The selection

¹ The Compliance Coding Manual is available at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#method>.

² Informal summity institutions are defined as international institutions with limited membership, relatively low bureaucracy and reliance on open, flexible and voluntary approaches. Regular meetings of the heads of states and governments who engage on a wide range of international, regional and domestic politics stand at the pinnacle of such international arrangements, which involve many actors operating according to established procedures on two levels: domestic and international. Commitments contained in the collectively agreed documents are not legally-binding but their implementation is stimulated by peer pressure. Among such bodies engaged in global and regional governance are G7, G20, BRICS, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and others.

³ The formula to convert a score into a percentage is $P=50 \times (S+1)$, where P is the percentage and S is the score.

⁴ Guidelines for choosing priority commitments, as well as other applicable considerations, are available in the Compliance Coding Manual.

also takes into account the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one (see Table 1). The primary criteria for selecting a priority commitment for assessment are the comprehensiveness and relevance to the summit, the BRICS and the world. Selected commitments must meet secondary criteria such as measurability and ability to comply within a year. Tertiary criteria include significance, as identified by relevant stakeholders in the host country and scientific teams. Of the 45 commitments made at the virtual 2020 Moscow Summit, the BRICS Research Group selected 17 priority commitments for its compliance assessment (see Table 2).

Compliance Scores

Compliance for the 2020 Moscow Summit final report is +0.44 (72%) (see Table 3). This is the same as the 72% compliance with commitments made at the 2019 Brasilia Summit. While these two years have seen the lowest compliance score since 2011 when it was 64%, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on compliance in 2021.

By country, host India received the highest compliance score at +0.65 (82%), followed by Russia at +0.47 (74%). Brazil and China both received a score of +0.41 (71%), with South Africa earning a score of +0.24 (62%).

By issue, six commitments earned the top score of +1 (100%): the trade commitment on enhancing BRICS trade; the trade commitment on WTO reform; the macroeconomics commitment on micro, small and medium sized enterprises; the health commitment on COVID-19 vaccines; the health commitment on joint responses; and the climate change commitment on the Paris Agreement. The commitment on the digital divide received a score of +0.80 (90%). Both the development commitment on Africa and COVID-19 and the terrorism commitment on supporting the UN earned a score of +0.40 (70%). The macroeconomics commitment on national currencies and the international taxation commitment on tax avoidance received scores of +0.20 (60%). Five commitments received a score of 0 (50%): the commitment on international financial institution reform, the digital economy commitment on the E-Commerce Working Group, the regional security commitment on North Korea, the crime and corruption commitment on BRICS cooperation, and the energy commitment on energy investment. Finally, the regional security commitment on Iraq received a score of -0.60 (20%).

Table 1: Distribution of BRICS Commitments Across Issue Areas, 2009–2020

Issue Area	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Energy	5	9	1	2					6	2	2	3
Finance		3	1			6	6	5	9	5	1	
Climate Change		1	6	3	1	1	1	1	3		3	1
Macroeconomic Policy		1	5	1	5	7	6	4	4	3	1	2
Trade	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	2
International Cooperation	1	2	5	3	6	8	30	7	21	18	8	8
Socioeconomic Development	1	1	3	2		7	5	2		2		
Natural Disasters	1	1	1									
Food and Agriculture	3		1	1		1	17		5	3		2
ICT			2			1	17	3	12	3	2	3
Science and Education	1	1	1		2	5						
Health			1	1		1	6	2	6	1		4
Human Rights			1		1	2	5		2		1	
Accountability			1									
Regional Security	1		1	4	8	6	6	4	12	7	4	7
Terrorism			1	1	2	2	1	4	7	3	1	2
Culture		1				3	1	2	3			1
Sport		1										
IFI Reform	1	2	1	2	9	8	3	2	5	2	2	1
Non-Proliferation					1			1	2		1	
Crime and Corruption						4	10	3	8	6	10	3
Environment						1	1	1	3	3	3	
Tourism							1			1		
International Taxation										4	5	1
Space												1
Inter-BRICS Cooperation												1
Total	15	31	38	32	47	68	130	45	125	73	49	45

Notes: ICT = information and communication technologies; IFI = international financial institution.

Table 2: 2020 BRICS Moscow Summit Priority Commitments

	Issue Area	Commitment
1	Reform of International Financial Institutions: Role of BRICS	Cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS
2	Development: Africa and COVID-19	We reaffirm our readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.
3	Trade: Enhance BRICS Trade	[Noting the current challenges for balanced, inclusive and resilient economic growth of BRICS, the BRICS members will take actions to:] enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.
4	Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization	We support the necessary reform of the WTO with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO Members. [The reform must, inter alia, preserve the centrality, core values and fundamental principles of the WTO, and consider the interests of all members, including developing countries and LDC, recognizing that the majority of WTO members are developing countries.]
5	Macroeconomics: Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	[BRICS members will take actions to:] create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets.
6	Macroeconomics: National Currencies	Promote work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.
7	Digital Economy: E-Commerce Working Group	[In the context of accelerated development of the e-commerce sector and increased volume of online-transactions worldwide], we will enhance our cooperation through the BRICS E-commerce Working Group.
8	Digital Economy: Digital Divide	Address digital divide by bridging the gap in access of BRICS population to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services and ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.
9	Health: COVID-19 Vaccine	We acknowledge initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organizations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics, and support cooperative approaches in this regard.] We will work to ensure that, when available, it is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.
10	Health: Joint Responses	[Recalling all BRICS Leader's Declarations since Ufa (2015)], we reiterate our commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being including through developing effective joint responses to the continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and others) and the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential.

11	Terrorism: Supporting the United Nations	[The BRICS countries will] deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter- 4 Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.
12	Regional Security: North Korea	[We express our support for continuing the diplomatic negotiations in bilateral and multilateral formats to resolve all issues pertaining to the Korean Peninsula, including its complete denuclearization, and maintain peace and stability in North East Asia.] We reaffirm the commitment to a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation.
13	Regional Security: Iraq	We reaffirm our continued support for efforts by the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue.
14	Crime and Corruption: BRICS Cooperation	[We reaffirm our commitment to]...strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption
15	Climate Change: Paris Agreement	We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.
16	Energy: Energy Investment	[We will enhance strategic partnership in energy by]...facilitating mutual investments
17	International Taxation: Tax Avoidance	We remain committed to enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

Table 3: 2020 BRICS Moscow Summit Final Compliance Scores

	Issue Areas	Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa	Average	
1	International Financial Institution Reform: Role of BRICS	0	0	0	0	0	0	50%
2	Development: Africa and COVID-19	-1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.40	70%
3	Trade: Enhance BRICS Trade	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
4	Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
5	Macroeconomics: Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
6	Macroeconomics: National Currencies	+1	0	-1	+1	0	+0.20	60%
7	Digital Economy: E-Commerce Working Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	50%
8	Digital Economy: Digital Divide	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.80	90%
9	Health: COVID-19 Vaccine	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
10	Health: Joint Responses	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
11	Terrorism: Supporting the United Nations	0	+1	+1	0	0	+0.40	70%
12	Regional Security: North Korea	-1	+1	+1	0	-1	0	50%
13	Regional Security: Iraq	-1	-1	0	0	-1	-0.60	20%
14	Crime and Corruption: BRICS Cooperation	0	0	0	0	0	0	50%
15	Climate Change: Paris Agreement	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	100%
16	Energy: Energy Investment	+1	0	+1	-1	-1	0	50%
17	International Taxation: Tax Avoidance	+1	0	+1	0	-1	+0.20	60%
	Average	+0.41	+0.47	+0.65	+0.41	+0.24	+0.44	72%
		71%	74%	82%	71%	62%	72%	

1. International Financial Institution Reform: Role of BRICS

“Cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.”

Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average		0 (50%)	

Background

On 17 November 2020, the BRICS leaders’ summit was hosted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this summit, BRICS leaders adopted the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025. This Strategy covers three main areas: trade, investment and finance. The Strategy includes commitments on the World Trade Organization (WTO), strengthening investment cooperation, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and more. The document also discusses the digital economy, which includes the digital transformation of industry, innovation and technology, and sustainable development, which includes climate change, energy, infrastructure development, human resource development and food security.⁵

The reform of international financial institutions (IFIs) has been a focus of BRICS members since the beginning of BRICS summitry. In November 2008, BRIC finance ministers met in Sao Paulo to discuss the financial crisis. They discussed IFI reform and called for the “reform of multilateral institutions in order that they reflect the structural changes in the world economy and the increasingly central role that emerging markets now play...agreed that international bodies should review their structures, rules and instruments in respect of aspects like representation, legitimacy and effectiveness and also to strengthen their capacity in addressing global issues.”⁶

In March 2009, BRIC finance ministers met in Horsham, United Kingdom, where they continued the discussion on IFI reform, calling for a review of “the IMF role and mandate so as to adapt it to a new global monetary and financial architecture...and decided to enhance [their] collaboration, including through greater exchange of information, in light of deepening of the global crisis.”⁷

On 16 June 2009, at the Yekaterinburg Summit, BRIC leaders committed to “advance[ing] the reform of international financial institutions, so as to reflect changes in the global economy. The emerging and developing economies must have greater voice and representation in international

⁵ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/2020-strategy.html>

⁶ Brazil, Russia, India and China Finance Ministers Joint Communiqué, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 7 November 2008. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/081107-finance.html>

⁷ BRICS Finance Communiqué, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 March 2009. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/090314-finance.html>

financial institutions, whose heads and executives should be appointed through an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process.”⁸

In September 2009, the finance ministers met in London, reaffirming the importance of reforming IFIs with a focus on the IMF and the World Bank. The finance ministers pushed for balanced reforms that would improve the current underrepresentation of emerging and developing countries.⁹

On 15 April 2010, at the Brasilia Summit, BRIC leaders recognized the progress made on IFI reform and committed to continue the work of IMF and World Bank reform. The leaders stressed the need for both institutions to reform voting powers “in favor of emerging market economies and developing countries to bring their participation in decision making in line with their relative weight in the world economy.”¹⁰

At the 2011 Sanya Summit, BRICS leaders reiterated their support for the reform of the IMF with a specific focus on improving the international monetary system.¹¹ A subsequent meeting of BRICS finance ministers in Washington DC noted the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF. Finance ministers pushed for “the comprehensive review of the quota formula by January 2013 and the completion of the next review of quotas by January 2014...[and] reiterate[d] our support for measures to protect the voice and representation of the IMF’s poorest Members.”¹²

Concerns over the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF were acknowledged again at the 2012 New Delhi Summit,¹³ the 2013 Durban Summit,¹⁴ the 2014 Fortaleza Summit.¹⁵ Specifically, at the 2013 Durban Summit, BRICS leaders stressed the importance of the strengthened voice and representation of the poorest IMF members, including Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁶

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders underscored their disappointment with the US for failing to ratify the IMF 2010 reform package. The leaders called on the U.S. to ratify the package by mid-September 2015. BRICS leaders further reaffirmed their commitment “to maintaining a strong, well-resource and quota-based IMF and, in this regard, urge other Members to continue the reform process through the 15th General Quota Review without delay.”¹⁷ At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders continued their support for IMF reform to strengthen the voices and representation of the

⁸ Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries’ Leaders, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/090616-leaders.html>

⁹ Meeting of BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2009. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/090904-finance.html>

¹⁰ 2nd BRIC Summit of Heads of State and Government: Joint Statement, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 April 2010. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/100415-leaders.html>

¹¹ Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

¹² BRICS Finance Ministers’ Joint Communiqué, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 22 September 2011. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110922-finance.html>

¹³ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

¹⁴ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

¹⁵ The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>

¹⁶ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

¹⁷ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

poorest IMF members, including sub-Saharan African members.¹⁸ However, in the subsequent year, there was no mention of IMF reform, or IFI reform writ large, at the 2017 Xiamen Summit.¹⁹

On 26 July 2018, BRICS leaders met in Johannesburg for their 10th summit. The Johannesburg Declaration dedicated an entire section to global economic governance, entitled “BRICS Partnership for Global Economy Recovery, Reform of Financial and Economic Global Governance Institutions, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.” BRICS leaders committed to “conclude the IMF’s 15th General Review of Quotas, including a new quota formula while protecting the voice of the poorest countries by the 2019 Spring Meetings and no later than the 2019 Annual Meetings,” stating that “governance reform of the IMF should strengthen the voice and representation of the poorest Members of the IMF, including Sub-Saharan Africa.”²⁰

At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders committed to strengthening and reforming the multilateral system and advancing economic and financial cooperation. They called on the IMF to continue the necessary reforms to foster balanced and open IFIs that promote inclusivity and development.²¹

Commitment Features

The 2020 commitment reads: “[we will] cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.”

To define the key concepts in this commitment, “cooperate” is understood to mean “the action or process of working together to the same end.”²² “Issues” are the subjects or problems at hand.²³ To contextualize this commitment, BRICS leaders called on the IMF to expedite actions “on completing the 16th General Review of Quotas within the agreed time frame and implementing the long overdue governance reforms.”²⁴

“Reforming” is understood to mean actions that “make an improvement, especially by changing a person’s behavior or the structure of something.”²⁵ BRICS leaders reiterated their intention to strengthen cooperation on enhancing BRICS voting shares in the IMF and World Bank and expedite IMF governance reform relating to the 16th General Review, including a new quota formula, by 15 December 2023.²⁶

¹⁸ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-goa.html>

¹⁹ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

²⁰ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

²¹ Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilgia.html>

²² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³ Issue, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/issue>

²⁴ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

²⁵ Reform, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reform>

²⁶ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/2020-strategy.html>

“The international financial architecture” refers to “the collective governance arrangements at the international level for safeguarding the effective functioning of the global monetary and financial systems.”²⁷ The Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF and the World Bank Group, are the main IFIs. However, IFIs also “include multilateral, regional and national development banks with international operations,” such as the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, Development Bank of Latin America, Eurasian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Islamic Development Bank and more.²⁸

“Focus” is understood to mean “the main or central point of something, especially of attention or interest.”²⁹ “Increasing” is “to (make something) become larger in amount or size.”³⁰

To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member must participate in cooperative efforts towards reforming the international financial architecture, as well as increase the role of BRICS in this process. With regards to the first part of this commitment, the BRICS member must work with other BRICS members, countries and/or international organizations to fulfill the requirement of cooperation stipulated in the commitment. With regards to the second part of this commitment, the BRICS member must participate in IFI reform with specific endeavours to increase the role of the BRICS.

Partial compliance with this commitment, or a score of 0, would be given if a member, for instance, expresses verbal affirmation, attends meetings, makes public statements, signs agreements or supports the issues of reforming the international financial architecture — but without focusing on increasing the role of BRICS. In other words, any actions that contribute to international cooperation on the issue of IFI reform count towards compliance, but full compliance is only achieved if a BRICS member also focuses on increasing the role of BRICS. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, would be assigned to a BRICS member that does not take any actions to cooperate on IFI reform.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does NOT cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture NOR with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.
0	The BRICS member cooperates on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture NOT with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.
+1	The BRICS member cooperates on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture AND with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

²⁷ Reform of the Global Financial Architecture: The Role of BRICS and the G20, E-International Relations (London) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/10/01/reform-of-the-global-financial-architecture-the-role-of-brics-and-the-g20>

²⁸ UNDP and International Financial Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/international_financialinstitutions.html

²⁹ Focus, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/focus>

³⁰ Increase, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/increase>

On 21 November 2020, Brazil reiterated its commitment to cooperate on the reforming of international financial institutions (IFIs) by committing to “ensure a stronger global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center,” to revisit “the adequacy of quotas,” and to “continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023” at the G20 Riyadh Summit.³¹

On 24 February 2021, Brazil attended the First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies under the Indian Presidency in 2021. During the meeting, the priorities for the financial cooperation agenda were discussed, including the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the activities of the New Development Bank (NDB).³²

On 5 April 2021, Brazil attended the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development virtual meeting to release a communiqué in which the members emphasized the importance of the IMF 16th General Review of Quotas, criticized the IMF’s surcharge policy and urged the suspension of surcharges during the pandemic.³³

On 6 April 2021, Minister of the Economy Paulo Guedes attended the first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India Chairmanship. During the meeting Minister Guedes emphasized the NDB’s potential to expand and become a strategic tool to promote investments in developing economies. More importantly, he reiterated Brazil’s support for the IMF governance reform, and pointed out in particular to the importance of the 16th General Review of Quotas.³⁴

On 1 June 2021, Ambassador Carlos Alberto Franco França attended the BRICS foreign ministers meeting on multilateralism. The BRICS then released a joint statement on “Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” in which members reiterated their commitment to enhancing the role of emerging markets and developing countries in the “international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes” and to strengthening the Global Financial Safety Net “with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center.” Furthermore, members called for “the timely and successful completion of the 16th [General Review of Quotas] by” 15 December 2023” and for a “governance reform in the recruitment processes of the World Bank and the IMF by ensuring selection through an open and merit- based process.”³⁵

On 9 July 2021, Brazil attended the G20 Third Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting under the Italian Presidency. During the meeting, member countries reiterated their commitment to “maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF at its centre” and to “revisiting the adequacy of IMF quotas.” Member countries also stated that they will continue “the process of IMF governance reform under

³¹ Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³² India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies, PIB Delhi (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>.

³³ G24 communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021, The Bretton Woods Project (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/g24-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

³⁴ Guedes diz que proteção de vidas, vacinas e recuperação da economia são prioridades, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 7 April 2021. Access date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/guedes-diz-que-protexcao-de-vidas-vacinas-e-recuperacao-da-economia-sao-prioridades>

³⁵ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

the 16th General Review of Quotas” and will work on a new quota formula to guide this process by 15 December 2023.³⁶

Brazil has partially complied with this commitment by reiterating its commitment to reforming the IMF and engaging in discussions with BRICS on the new Development Bank. However, Brazil has not significantly engaged with the issue of IFI reform beyond verbal statements. Moreover, the Bolsonaro administration has consistently rejected Brazil’s longstanding tradition in multilateralism and has created frictions in its relationship with BRICS members, overall demonstrating a lack of commitment to increasing the role of BRICS.³⁷

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna B. M. L. Carneiro

Russia: 0

Russia partially complied with its commitment to cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

On 21 November 2020, Russia reiterated its commitment to cooperate on the reforming of international financial institutions by committing to “ensure a stronger global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center,” to revisit “the adequacy of quotas,” and to “continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023” at the G20 Riyadh Summit.³⁸

On 10 December 2020, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova stated Russia’s commitment to the reinforcement of main global institutions, including the IMF, through G20 interactions and the enhancement of “the role of emerging economies in their governing bodies.”³⁹

On 24 February 2021, Russia attended the First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies under the Indian Presidency in 2021. During the meeting, the priorities for the financial cooperation agenda were discussed, including the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the activities of the New Development Bank (NDB).⁴⁰

On 6 April 2021, Russia attended the first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the India Presidency. During the meeting, representatives emphasized the NDB’s

³⁶ Third Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué 9-10 July 2021, G20 (Venice) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCEBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

³⁷ Rumos da diplomacia do governo Bolsonaro seguem um caminho que pode distanciar o país de antigos aliados, G1 Jornal Nacional (Rio de Janeiro) 20 January 2021. Access Date: February 19 2021. <https://g1.globo.com/jornal-nacional/noticia/2021/01/20/rumos-da-diplomacia-do-governo-bolsonaro-minaram-as-relacoes-com-india-e-china.ghtml>

³⁸ Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁹ Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Moscow, December 10, 2020, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4478713

⁴⁰ India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies, PIB Delhi (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>.

potential to expand and become a strategic tool to promote investments in developing economies, and the importance of the 16th General Review of Quotas.⁴¹

On 1 June 2021, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations via videoconference.⁴² After this meeting, Russia, along with other BRICS members, released a “Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” which reaffirmed their commitment to reforming the existing international financial architecture by “broadening and strengthening the participation of emerging markets and developing countries in the international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁴³ Meanwhile, they reaffirmed their commitment to a strong Global Financial Safety Net centred around a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF and called for timely and successful completion of the 16th General Review of Quotas by 15 December 2023.⁴⁴ Additionally, they called for governance reform to turn the recruitment processes of the World Bank and the IMF into a truly open and merit-based selection, as well as protection of the voice and quota shares of the poorest and smallest members.⁴⁵

Russia has not taken sufficiently robust cooperative actions beyond verbal affirmation to promote reforms of international financial architecture, with an emphasis on advancing the role of BRICS members, at international financial institutions.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Wenny (Yiyao) Jin

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

On 21 November 2020, India reiterated its commitment to cooperate on the reforming of international financial institutions by committing to “ensure a stronger global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center,” to revisit “the adequacy of quotas,” and to “continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023” at the G20 Riyadh Summit.⁴⁶

On 24 February 2021, India hosted the First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies under its Presidency in 2021. During the meeting, the priorities for the financial cooperation agenda

⁴¹ Guedes diz que proteção de vidas, vacinas e recuperação da economia são prioridades, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 7 April 2021. Access date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/guedes-diz-que-protecao-de-vidas-vacinas-e-recuperacao-da-economia-sao-prioridades>

⁴² Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s statement and answers to media questions at a news conference following the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting via videoconference, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4760543

⁴³ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁴⁴ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁴⁵ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁴⁶ Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

were discussed, including the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the activities of the New Development Bank (NDB).⁴⁷

On 5 April 2021, India attended the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development virtual meeting to release a communiqué in which the members emphasized the importance of the IMF 16th General Review of Quotas, criticized the Fund's surcharge policy and urged the suspension of surcharges during the pandemic.⁴⁸

On 6 April 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hosted the virtual meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in New Delhi. Minister Sitharaman reiterated India's support for greater coordination among BRICS nations on the issue of the 16th General Review of Quotas of the IMF to give more say to developing countries.⁴⁹ While chairing the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, Minister Sitharaman urged the BRICS members to coordinate their actions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and also on the side lines stressed thematic priorities for the New Development Bank for discussion during 2021 and IMF reforms.⁵⁰

On 8 April 2021, the communiqué of the 43rd meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee was issued.⁵¹ Minister Sitharaman stated that “the failure of the 15th General Review of Quotas has been disappointing.”⁵² She urged greater coordination between the BRICS members.⁵³

On 1 June 2021, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BRICS nations met through a video conference chaired by External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on the landmark occasion of the 15th anniversary of the BRICS.⁵⁴ The Ministers released the BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System emphasizing the importance of “strengthening the participation of emerging markets and developing countries in the international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes.”⁵⁵ The BRICS members also “reaffirmed their commitment to a strong Global Financial Safety Net with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center and expressed their deep disappointment at the failure in addressing the quota and governance reforms

⁴⁷ India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies, PIB Delhi (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>.

⁴⁸ G24 communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021, The Bretton Woods Project (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/g24-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁴⁹ IMF quota review: Sitharaman pushes for greater coordination among BRICS nations (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/imf-quota-review-sitharaman-pushes-for-greater-coordination-among-brics-nations-101617727378156.html>

⁵⁰ IMF quota review: Sitharaman pushes for greater coordination among BRICS nations (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/imf-quota-review-sitharaman-pushes-for-greater-coordination-among-brics-nations-101617727378156.html>

⁵¹ IMFC communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021 (Washington DC) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/imfc-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁵² IMFC communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021 (Washington DC) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/imfc-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁵³ IMFC communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021 (Washington DC) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/imfc-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁵⁴ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33888/brics-joint-statement+on+strengthening+and+reforming+the+multilateral+system>

⁵⁵ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33888/brics-joint-statement+on+strengthening+and+reforming+the+multilateral+system>

under the 15th General Review of Quotas. They called for the timely and successful completion of the 16th GRQ by 15 December 2023.”⁵⁶

India partially complied with this commitment by cooperating with the G20 to commit to reforming the international financial architecture. However, India has not taken significant actions beyond verbal affirmations on the commitment.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Natasha Pirzada

China: 0

China partially complied with its commitment to cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

On 21 November 2020, China reiterated its commitment to cooperate on the reforming of international financial institutions by committing to “ensure a stronger global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center,” to revisit “the adequacy of quotas,” and to “continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023” at the G20 Riyadh Summit.⁵⁷

On 23 November 2020, China emphasized its stance to “[spearhead] the reform of global economic governance system.”⁵⁸ State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated the importance of continuing to reform the international financial system, “conclude the IMF’s 16th General Review of Quotas on schedule, expand the role of the Special Drawing Rights, buttress the global financial safety net, and raise the representation and voice of developing countries.”⁵⁹

On 24 November 2020, Premier Li Keqiang attended the fifth “1+6” Roundtable, along with incumbent leaders of several international financial institutions, such as World Bank Group President David Malpass, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and Financial Stability Board Chairman Randal Quarles.⁶⁰ Premier Li called for the international community to uphold multilateralism and contribute together to improve “the international economic governance system.”⁶¹

⁵⁶ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33888/brics+joint+statement+on+strengthening+and+reforming+the+multilateral+system>

⁵⁷ Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵⁸ A Strong Call for the Times to Direct a Right Way for the World – State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Talks About President Xi Jinping’s Attendance of the 12th BRICS Summit, the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting and the 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1834885.shtml

⁵⁹ A Strong Call for the Times to Direct a Right Way for the World – State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Talks About President Xi Jinping’s Attendance of the 12th BRICS Summit, the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting and the 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1834885.shtml

⁶⁰ China to promote higher-level opening-up for more win-win outcomes, CCTV (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://english.cctv.com/2020/11/25/ARTIH03P01ez3l1DN7WNnaW4201125.shtml>

⁶¹ China to promote higher-level opening-up for more win-win outcomes, CCTV (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://english.cctv.com/2020/11/25/ARTIH03P01ez3l1DN7WNnaW4201125.shtml>

On 24 February 2021, China attended the First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies under the Indian Presidency in 2021. During the meeting, the priorities for the financial cooperation agenda were discussed, including the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the activities of the New Development Bank (NDB).⁶²

On 5 April 2021, China attended the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development virtual meeting to release a communiqué in which the members emphasized the importance of the IMF 16th General Review of Quotas, criticized the Fund's surcharge policy and urged the suspension of surcharges during the pandemic.⁶³

On 6 April 2021, China attended the first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the India Presidency. During the meeting, representatives emphasized the NDB's potential to expand and become a strategic tool to promote investments in developing economies, and the importance of the 16th General Review of Quotas.⁶⁴

On 1 June 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the Video Conference of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations.⁶⁵ After this meeting, China, along with other BRICS members, released a “Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” which reaffirmed their commitment to reforming the existing international financial architecture by “broadening and strengthening the participation of emerging markets and developing countries in the international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁶⁶ Meanwhile, they reaffirmed their commitment to a strong Global Financial Safety Net centred around a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF and called for timely and successful completion of the 16th General Review of Quotas by 15 December 2023.⁶⁷ Additionally, they called for governance reform to turn the recruitment processes of the World Bank and the IMF into a truly open and merit-based selection, as well as protection of the voice and quota shares of the poorest and smallest members.⁶⁸

China has not taken sufficiently robust cooperative actions beyond verbal affirmation to promote reforms of international financial architecture, with an emphasis on advancing the role of BRICS members, at international financial institutions.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Wenny (Yiyao) Jin

⁶² India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies, PIB Delhi (New Delhi) 24 February 2021.

Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>.

⁶³ G24 communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021, The Bretton Woods Project (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/g24-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁶⁴ Guedes diz que proteção de vidas, vacinas e recuperação da economia são prioridades, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 7 April 2021. Access date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/guedes-diz-que-protecao-de-vidas-vacinas-e-recuperacao-da-economia-sao-prioridades>

⁶⁵ Wang Yi Attends the Video Conference of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/wshd_665389/t1880721.shtml

⁶⁶ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁶⁷ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁶⁸ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture with a focus on increasing the role of BRICS.

On 21 November 2020, South Africa reiterated its commitment to cooperate on the reforming of IFIs by committing to “ensure a stronger global financial safety net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF [International Monetary Fund] at its center,” to revisit “the adequacy of quotas,” and to “continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023” at the G20 Riyadh Summit.⁶⁹

On 1 December 2020, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor reiterated the commitments made during the BRICS 2020 Moscow Summit to the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) and the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, including that of reforming the international financial architecture. In the address, the minister expressed the expectation that SABTT will provide feedback and recommendations to improve South Africa’s “engagement within BRICS.”⁷⁰

On 17 February 2021, Minister Pandor reinforced the call of other African countries for a debt standstill and the issuance of additional Special Drawing Rights by the IMF. Minister Pandor, however, made no reference to the role of BRICS and instead cited developing countries ability to respond to the pandemic as a reason for such calls.⁷¹

On 24 February 2021, South Africa attended the First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies under the Indian Presidency in 2021. During the meeting, the priorities for the financial cooperation agenda were discussed, including the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement and the activities of the New Development Bank (NDB).⁷²

On 5 April 2021, South Africa attended the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development virtual meeting to release a communiqué in which the members emphasized the importance of the IMF 16th General Review of Quotas, criticized the Fund’s surcharge policy and urged the suspension of surcharges during the pandemic.⁷³

On 6 April 2021, South Africa attended the first meeting of the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the India Presidency. During the meeting, representatives emphasized the NDB’s potential to expand and become a strategic tool to promote investments in developing economies, and the importance of the 16th General Review of Quotas.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁷⁰ Virtual Lecture by Minister GNM Pandor on the “BRICS Approach to the Post-COVID-19 Recovery”, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-lecture-minister-gnm-pandor-”brics-approach-post-covid-19-recovery”-1-december-2020>

⁷¹ Debate on State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-debate-state-nation-address-17-feb-2021-0000#>

⁷² India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies, PIB Delhi (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>.

⁷³ G24 communiqué analysis – Spring Meetings 2021, The Bretton Woods Project (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2021/04/g24-communiqué-analysis-spring-meetings-2021/>

⁷⁴ Guedes diz que proteção de vidas, vacinas e recuperação da economia são prioridades, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 7 April 2021. Access date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/guedes-diz-que-protecao-de-vidas-vacinas-e-recuperacao-da-economia-sao-prioridades>

On 18 May 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the Paris summit on the financing of African economies where he reiterated calls for the IMF to review the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) mechanism to support vulnerable countries and urged the Fund to explore options for members to channel SDRs “on a voluntary basis to the benefit of low- and middle-income countries.”⁷⁵

On 1 June 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor attended the BRICS foreign ministers meeting on multilateralism. The BRICS then released a joint statement on “Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” in which members reiterated their commitment to enhancing the role of emerging markets and developing countries in the “international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes” and to strengthening the Global Financial Safety Net “with a quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at its center”. Furthermore, members called for “the timely and successful completion of the 16th [General Review of Quotas] by” 15 December 2023” and for a “governance reform in the recruitment processes of the World Bank and the IMF by ensuring selection through an open and merit- based process.”⁷⁶

On 9 July 2021, South Africa attended the G20 Third Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting under the Italian Presidency. During the meeting, member countries reiterated their commitment to “maintaining a strong and effective Global Financial Safety Net with a strong, quota-based, and adequately resourced IMF at its centre” and to “revisiting the adequacy of IMF quotas.” Member countries also stated that they will continue “the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th General Review of Quotas” and will work on a new quota formula to guide this process by 15 December 2023.⁷⁷

South Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate on the issues of reforming the international financial architecture in both domestic and international fora. However, South Africa has failed to demonstrate commitment beyond verbal affirmations and public statements, as well did not demonstrate a focus on increasing the role of BRICS, demonstrating partial compliance with this commitment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna B. M. L. Carneiro

⁷⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Paris summit on financing African economies, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/financing-african-economies-18-may-2021-0000>

⁷⁶ BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/210601-foreign.html>

⁷⁷ Third Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué 9-10 July 2021, G20 (Venice) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

2. Development: Africa and COVID-19

“We reaffirm our readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia		0	
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+0.40 (70%)		

Background

Since South Africa became a member of the BRICS, issues relating to Africa have gained increased importance in BRICS summitry. BRICS leaders’ commitments and references to the African continent have addressed important development challenges and armed conflict. BRICS leaders have also expressed support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the New Development Bank’s activities concerning Africa. BRICS communiqués have also expressed support for the African Union, its Agenda 2063, and various areas of socioeconomic development, notably infrastructure.

On 14 April 2011, at the Sanya Summit, BRICS leaders pledged to continue their cooperation in the UN Security Council on Libya, support infrastructure development in Africa, and foster industrialization under the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. Furthermore, BRICS leaders also reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals, highlighting that the “eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is a moral, social, political and economic imperative of humankind and one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Least Developed Countries in Africa and elsewhere.”⁷⁸

At the fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi in 2012, BRICS leaders discussed issues in the Middle East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. The leaders stated: “we will take our cooperation forward to support their efforts to accelerate the diversification and modernisation of their economies. This will be through infrastructure development, knowledge exchange and support for increased access to technology, enhanced capacity building, and investment in human capital, including within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)... We express our commitment to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis that still affects millions of people in the Horn of Africa and support international efforts to this end.”⁷⁹

On 27 March 2013, the Durban Summit was hosted by South Africa under the theme of “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization.” BRICS leaders pledged to hold a retreat with African leaders under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s potential: BRICS and Africa Cooperation on Infrastructure” to “discuss how to strengthen cooperation between the BRICS

⁷⁸ Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

⁷⁹ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

countries and the African Continent.”⁸⁰ BRICS leaders further reaffirmed their support for sustainable infrastructure development in Africa and committed to assisting African countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.⁸¹

The 2014 Fortaleza Summit concluded with several statements on the geopolitical situations in West and Central Africa, as well as a reiteration of the commitment “made during the BRICS Leaders-Africa Retreat at the 5th BRICS Summit to foster and develop BRICS-Africa cooperation in support of the socioeconomic development of Africa, particularly with regard to infrastructure development and industrialization.”⁸²

At the 2015 Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders highlighted several devastating conflicts across the African continent and the Ebola crisis.⁸³ The first mention of Africa by BRICS foreign ministers also took place in the context of the Ebola outbreak in 2014. On 25 September 2014, BRICS foreign ministers met in New York, where they discussed conflict hotspots in Africa, expressed support for the interim African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis and the African Stand-by Force, and called on the UN and World Health Organization to assist affected countries in addressing the Ebola outbreak.⁸⁴

On 22 May 2015, BRICS deputy foreign ministers met to discuss the situation in the Middle East, West Africa and North Africa. The ministers discussed internal crises in Africa, expressed readiness to provide relevant humanitarian aid and other support to Yemen, and reiterated their support for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.⁸⁵ In September 2015 and 2016, the ministers of foreign affairs met and discussed African efforts to resolve conflicts on the continent.^{86,87}

At the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders welcomed the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and pledged to “continue to engage in joint endeavors to advance Africa’s solidarity, unity and strength through support measures for regional integration and sustainable development.”⁸⁸

The 2017 Xiamen Declaration underscored the BRICS members’ commitment to the African continent. The leaders “reaffirm[ed] [their] commitment to strengthen cooperation with Africa.”⁸⁹ This declaration follows the expressed intention to “help the continent to address illegal wildlife

⁸⁰ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

⁸¹ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

⁸² The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>

⁸³ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁸⁴ Press release on the Meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2014. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140925-foreign.html>

⁸⁵ Press Release on the Meeting of BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers on the Situation in the Middle East (West Africa) and North Africa, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 22 May 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150522-foreign-deputies.html>

⁸⁶ Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 September 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150929-foreign.html>

⁸⁷ Press Release: Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 20 September 2016. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/160920-foreign.html>

⁸⁸ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html>

⁸⁹ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

trade, promote employment, food security, infrastructure development and industrialization including through connectivity and developmental initiatives and projects.”⁹⁰

The 2018 Johannesburg Summit was held under the theme “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution.” BRICS leaders welcomed outreach to African countries and reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable infrastructure development in Africa.⁹¹

In 2019, the BRICS Summit was held on 14 November in Brasilia. BRICS leaders recognized the efforts of the African Union and the progress in Sudan, highlighting that “increased trade can help with global growth, but the demand deficit in the global economy requires additional sources of growth, which could include infrastructure investment, including in digital infrastructure, skills development, particularly for young people, sustainable investment, investment in local basic services, and outward investment to areas of high potential growth, including on the African continent.”⁹²

Commitment Features

The present commitment reads: “we affirm our readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim of strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.” This commitment has two components: 1) reaffirming the BRICS members’ readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent and 2) strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic and social effects of COVID-19.

To define the key concepts in this commitment, “reaffirm” is to “‘affirm again’ whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgement.”⁹³ “Readiness” is the “willingness or a state of being prepared.”⁹⁴ “To develop” is “to (cause something to) grow or change into a more advanced, larger or stronger form.”⁹⁵ “Further cooperation with the African continent” refers to BRICS members increasing their partnerships with the African continent, specifically in the areas of health, economy and society to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The term “including” connotes that this commitment has two complementary pillars, reflecting the added aspect of pandemic response to assisting African development writ large. The second part of the commitment is thus given greater weight due to the linkage of “including.” In the second part of this commitment, “to strengthen” is “to make something stronger or more effective, or to become stronger or more effective.”⁹⁶ The phrase “with the aim” is understood to mean “a result that plans

⁹⁰ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

⁹¹ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

⁹² Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 November 2019. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>

⁹³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁹⁴ Readiness, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/readiness>

⁹⁵ Develop, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/develop>

⁹⁶ Strengthen, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/strengthen>

or actions are intended to achieve.”⁹⁷ In this case, the aim is to strengthen the potential of the African continent in response to the intersectional health, economic, and social effects of the pandemic. The plans and actions in question would be to develop further cooperation with the African continent. Such actions can refer to individual countries as well as the African Union and regional organizations. The core of the commitment is to strengthen the ability of such actors to address the closely connected challenges facing health, social, and economic systems in Africa.⁹⁸

For full compliance, a BRICS member must both demonstrate its readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, broadly speaking, and specify its intention to work towards strengthening Africa’s potential to address the effects COVID-19. For the first part of the commitment, verbal affirmations would suffice, as the phrase “reaffirm its readiness” implies a soft political obligation. Such affirmation can take the form of attending meetings, delivering public statements, or participating in the work of other organizations. More robust actions include concrete cooperation with African countries, organizations or regional institutions, as these actions would satisfy the cooperation dimension stipulated in the commitment. BRICS members can also host meetings, draft proposals, introduce laws or agreements, provide financial or technical assistance, or ratify agreements to signal the readiness to cooperate as prescribed by the commitment.

To comply with the latter part of the commitment, due consideration must be given to all three dimensions: health, economic and social effects of COVID-19. For example, vaccine distribution and donation can alleviate the health effects of COVID-19 but may not directly address the pandemic’s social implications. Alternatively, strengthening social security systems, providing cash transfers, and advising on economic stimulus measures can address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, but not the biomedical dimension of the virus. In this context, to score full compliance, a BRICS member must cooperate on all three dimensions through strong action in each area.

To elaborate on the threshold for partial compliance, a member receives a score of 0 if it demonstrates less than strong compliance across all three components, or strong action in one of the three components and less than strong action in the rest. For this assessment, it is important to note that one government and policy action can simultaneously address more than one of the three dimensions — health, economic and social effects of COVID-19 — if such actions substantively address the pillars and presume a readiness to cooperate.

If a BRICS member undertakes such an affirmation without referencing or specifying a focus on the pandemic, this does not demonstrate compliance with the commitment and the member receives a score of –1. In other words, if a BRICS member takes concrete actions to reaffirm its readiness for further developmental cooperation with Africa but does not specify support for the continent’s capacity to address COVID-19, the member would be scored non-compliance, given that the commitment centers the pandemic.

However, if a BRICS member were to only focus on strengthening the ability of the continent to address the health, economic and social effects of COVID-19 — without overall statements in support of cooperation with Africa — the assessed member would still be scored full compliance, given that pandemic response constitutes a substantial contribution to furthering development cooperation with the African continent.

⁹⁷ Aim, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/aim>

⁹⁸ Intertwined, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/intertwined>

A BRICS member will receive a score of –1 for non-compliance if it does not reaffirm its readiness to cooperate with Africa in furthering its development. This necessarily precludes any efforts to support the continent’s pandemic response.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	The BRICS member does NOT reaffirm its readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim of strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.
0	The BRICS member reaffirms its readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, but NOT with the aim of strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.
+1	The BRICS member reaffirms its readiness to develop further cooperation with the African continent, AND with the aim of strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Brazil: –1

Brazil has failed to comply with its commitment to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Brazil has not taken any actions or made any verbal commitments to affirm its support of African nations in combatting COVID-19.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of –1.⁹⁹

Analyst: Ana Brinkerhoff

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

As of 15 December 2020, Russia did not join the World Health Organization’s COVAX facility, which donates vaccines to African nations indirectly.¹⁰⁰ However, on 22 January 2021, the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev was reported to have affirmed Russia’s preference of working with African countries directly to combating COVID-19, rather than through indirect measures such as COVAX.¹⁰¹

On 23 January 2021, the RDIF and the African Union discussed shipments of Russia-made COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V to African countries. As of 23 January 2021, the Russian vaccine had been approved by Algeria, one of the African Union member states, following the emergency use

⁹⁹ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br>, <https://www.who.int>, <https://africacdc.org>, <https://www.oecd.org>, <https://www.imf.org>, and <https://www.worldbank.org>

¹⁰⁰ List of participating economies, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 12 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/list-of-participating-economies>

¹⁰¹ COVAX will be a “small” part of Russia’s Sputnik V portfolio, fund CEO says, Devex (Washington, D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2021. <https://www.devex.com/news/covax-will-be-a-small-part-of-russia-s-sputnik-v-portfolio-fund-ceo-says-98964>

authorization procedure.¹⁰² The vaccination campaign started on 30 January 2021 following arrival of the first batch of the vaccine.¹⁰³

On 29 January 2021, Guinea authorized the administration of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19.¹⁰⁴ Mr. Dmitriev said, “We appreciate the decision of the national regulator to authorize Sputnik V and stand ready to help the Republic of Guinea to fight the pandemic.”¹⁰⁵

On 30 January 2021, Tunisia authorized the administration of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19.¹⁰⁶ Mr. Dmitriev said, “RDIF is ready to help Tunisia obtain access to one of the best vaccines in the world.”¹⁰⁷

On 19 February 2021, the RDIF confirmed its donation of 300 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 to the African Union.¹⁰⁸ The RDIF expects to rollout vaccine shipments to the AU beginning in May 2021.¹⁰⁹ The RDIF also committed to providing a financial aid package to countries that accept the Sputnik V vaccine.¹¹⁰

As of 11 March 2021, the RDIF is in discussions with COVAX to begin a partnership to subsidize the cost of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 for African countries.¹¹¹ The RDIF was reported to have said that it was in “advanced negotiations” with the World Health Organization.¹¹² This partnership would be on top of the RDIF’s 300 million dose donation of the Sputnik V vaccine to African countries.¹¹³

Russia has demonstrated its partial commitment to assisting African countries with combatting COVID-19 by coordinating vaccine efforts with countries such as Guinea and Tunisia. The RDIF’s confirmation of a donation of vaccines to the African Union also indicates Russia’s compliance with

¹⁰² Russia and African Union to discuss ‘Sputnik V’ shipments to Africa, Interfax (Moscow) 23 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/746500>

¹⁰³ Algeria to kick-off vaccination campaign using ‘Sputnik V’, Interfax (Moscow) 30 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/748626>

¹⁰⁴ Sputnik V vaccine authorized in the Republic of Guinea, Sputnik Vaccine (Moscow) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-vaccine-authorized-in-the-republic-of-guinea/>

¹⁰⁵ Sputnik V vaccine authorized in the Republic of Guinea, Sputnik Vaccine (Moscow) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-vaccine-authorized-in-the-republic-of-guinea/>

¹⁰⁶ Sputnik V vaccine authorized in Tunisia, Sputnik Vaccine (Moscow) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-vaccine-authorized-in-tunisia/>

¹⁰⁷ Sputnik V vaccine authorized in Tunisia, Sputnik Vaccine (Moscow) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-vaccine-authorized-in-tunisia/>

¹⁰⁸ African Union says Russia offered 300 million doses of Sputnik V vaccine, Reuters (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa/african-union-says-russia-offers-300-million-doses-of-sputnik-v-vaccine-idUSKBN2AJ0ZP>

¹⁰⁹ African Union says Russia offered 300 million doses of Sputnik V vaccine, Reuters (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa/african-union-says-russia-offers-300-million-doses-of-sputnik-v-vaccine-idUSKBN2AJ0ZP>

¹¹⁰ African Union says Russia offered 300 million doses of Sputnik V vaccine, Reuters (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa/african-union-says-russia-offers-300-million-doses-of-sputnik-v-vaccine-idUSKBN2AJ0ZP>

¹¹¹ Africa proves rocky terrain for Russian and Chinese vaccines, Reuters (London) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa-vaccine-dip-idUSKBN2B40P7>

¹¹² Africa proves rocky terrain for Russian and Chinese vaccines, Reuters (London) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa-vaccine-dip-idUSKBN2B40P7>

¹¹³ Africa proves rocky terrain for Russian and Chinese vaccines, Reuters (London) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-africa-vaccine-dip-idUSKBN2B40P7>

this commitment. Finally, Russian officials have verbally communicated their favouring of partnering with African countries directly. However, Russia has not demonstrated a commitment to addressing the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in African countries.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Ana Brinkerboff

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

From 27-28 November 2020, Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Seychelles where he expressed interested in developing further cooperation with Seychelles, inviting President Ramkalawan to India in 2021. Discussions during this visit included “the need to further expand and deepen bilateral engagement, and to coordinate and cooperate to counter the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.”¹¹⁴

On 12 December 2020, Minister Jaishankar spoke at the India-Africa Health Summit. Minister Jaishankar announced that India has supplied medicine to 35 African nations and deployed medical teams to countries in distress. Due to India’s assistance, it has come to be regarded as the “Pharmacy of the World.” Furthermore, Minister Jaishankar highlighted the importance inclusive and sustainable development, and stated that “to find solutions to the barriers of access to quality healthcare, building essential infrastructure for patients, harness technology, address the shortage of skilled workforce and medical professionals and ways to improve patient outcomes.”¹¹⁵ At this summit, the Healthcare Federation of India and the Africa Healthcare Federation signed a memorandum of understanding “to increase healthcare collaboration between the two federations with potential to result in increased investment and business in healthcare between India and Africa.”¹¹⁶

On 14 December 2020, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan spoke with Acting Foreign Minister of Sudan Omar Gamar Aldin Ismail. They discussed strengthening their bilateral trade and investment ties, as well as future cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, mining, renewable energy, health and education, including ways to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, Minister Muraleedharan invited Acting Foreign Minister Ismail to visit India to co-chair the India-Sudan Joint Ministerial Committee meeting in early 2021.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁴ Visit of External Affairs Minister to Republic of Seychelles (November 27-28, 2020), Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33246/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_Republic_of_Seychelles_November_2728_2020

¹¹⁵ Speech by Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs at the “India -Africa Health Summit” (New Delhi) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/33297>

¹¹⁶ NATHEALTH and Africa Healthcare Federation sign historic agreement at the first-ever India Africa Health Summit on World UHC Day paving the path towards collaboration, partnership, technology exchange and innovation (New Delhi) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://www.businesswireindia.com/nathealth-and-africa-healthcare-federation-sign-historic-agreement-at-the-first-ever-india-africa-health-summit-on-world-uhc-day-70767.html>

¹¹⁷ Virtual Meeting between MOS for External Affairs and the Acting Foreign Minister of Sudan, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33294/>

On 23 December 2020, Minister Muraleedharan spoke with Foreign Minister of Gabon Pacome Moubelet Boubeya. They discussed further strengthening cooperation, specific in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, post-COVID and bilateral trade.¹¹⁸

On 4 February 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges, as well as the vaccination campaigns both countries were undertaking, and further collaboration on vaccines and medicines. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi noted that India would “continue to serve the needs of all countries, including those in Africa.”¹¹⁹

On 17 February 2021, Minister Muraleedharan spoke at the India-Ethiopia Business Forum. Minister Muraleedharan reaffirmed India’s commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations with Ethiopia in every aspect and remarked how the partnership between the two countries managed to grow despite the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁰

On 18 February 2021, Prime Minister Modi spoke at a workshop on COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward with 10 neighbouring countries, including Mauritius and Seychelles. Prime Minister Modi applauded the cooperation between the countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, encouraging the same cooperative and collaborative spirit to continue in the face of vaccine deployment. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi suggested information sharing of successful public health policies, a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses to travel easily, a regional platform for gathering data on COVID-19 vaccines and a regional network to prevent future pandemics.¹²¹

On 20 February 2021, during his two-nation tour to Maldives and Mauritius, Minister Jaishankar delivered an additional 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, under the “Vaccine Maitri” initiatives to the Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Minister of Health Kerafa Naseem.¹²² Maldivian Foreign Minister Shahid thanked India for the generous gift and added that the two countries would fight COVID-19 together.¹²³

On 22 February 2021, Minister Jaishankar visited the island of Mauritius to increase health cooperation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁴ In addition to vaccines, India supplied 23 tonnes of essential medicines, half a million tonnes of tablets of hydrochloroquine and a big consignment of

¹¹⁸ Virtual Meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs and the Foreign Minister of Gabon, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33336>

¹¹⁹ Prime Minister speaks to His Excellency Matemela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33480>

¹²⁰ Remarks by Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs at the India-Ethiopia Business Forum (February 17, 2021), Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/33531>

¹²¹ Prime Minister addresses a workshop on “Covid-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward” with 10 Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33542>

¹²² India, PM Modi hailed globally for providing COVID-19 vaccination assistance (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/india-pm-modi-hailed-globally-for-providing-covid-19-vaccination-assistance20210224152201/>

¹²³ India, PM Modi hailed globally for providing COVID-19 vaccination assistance (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/india-pm-modi-hailed-globally-for-providing-covid-19-vaccination-assistance20210224152201/>

¹²⁴ New Momentum in India-Mauritius Ties (New Delhi) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/india-mauritius-ties-rber-300321>

ayurvedic medicines.¹²⁵ Moreover, a 14-member Medical Assistance team, under the Indian, “Mission Sagar” initiative also visited the country.¹²⁶

On 23 March 2021, in response to Madagascar’s appeal to deal with natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian naval ship Jalwasha arrived at Port Ehoala, as part of the Mission Sagar IV, to deliver 1000 tonnes of rice and 100,000 tablets of hydrochloroquine tablets.¹²⁷ This is the second mission of a naval ship to Madagascar, the first Mission Sagar I, being in June 2020 that delivered medicines.¹²⁸ This deployment echoes Prime Minister Modi’s vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region.¹²⁹

On 8 May 2021, Prime Minister Modi, during a virtual meeting of the European Council, urged the European Union to support India’s and South Africa’s proposal to waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines.¹³⁰ India is currently undergoing the second wave of the COVID-19 crisis and the proposed relaxations in the norms of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement are aimed at ensuring that vaccines are received equitably by developing countries including India and those in the African continent.¹³¹ This is a continuation of efforts of last October, when India and South Africa along with 57 members of the World Trade Organization proposed a waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for agreement for prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID-19.¹³²

On 12-14 June 2021 Minister Jaishankar co-chaired the third session of Kenya-India Joint Commission Meeting.¹³³ Both sides agreed to improved bilateral cooperation especially in the midst of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed to joint economic collaboration during

¹²⁵ New Momentum in India-Mauritius Ties (New Delhi) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/india-mauritius-ties-rberi-300321>

¹²⁶ New Momentum in India-Mauritius Ties (New Delhi) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/india-mauritius-ties-rberi-300321>

¹²⁷ Mission Sagar IV INS Jalashwa arrives at Port Ehoala in Madagascar (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/mission-sagar-iv-ins-jalashwa-arrives-at-port-ehoala-in-madagascar20210323223452/>

¹²⁸ Mission Sagar IV INS Jalashwa arrives at Port Ehoala in Madagascar (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/mission-sagar-iv-ins-jalashwa-arrives-at-port-ehoala-in-madagascar20210323223452/>

¹²⁹ Mission Sagar IV INS Jalashwa arrives at Port Ehoala in Madagascar (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/mission-sagar-iv-ins-jalashwa-arrives-at-port-ehoala-in-madagascar20210323223452/>

¹³⁰ PM Modi asks EU to back India, South Africa on patent waiver of COVID-19 vaccines (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-asks-eu-to-back-india-south-africa-on-patent-waiver-for-covid-vaccines/articleshow/82482665.cms>

¹³¹ PM Modi asks EU to back India, South Africa on patent waiver of COVID-19 vaccines (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-asks-eu-to-back-india-south-africa-on-patent-waiver-for-covid-vaccines/articleshow/82482665.cms>

¹³² PM Modi asks EU to back India, South Africa on patent waiver of COVID-19 vaccines (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-asks-eu-to-back-india-south-africa-on-patent-waiver-for-covid-vaccines/articleshow/82482665.cms>

¹³³ India-Kenya Joint Statement on the Visit of External Affairs Minister to Kenya (Nairobi) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33918/IndiaKenya_Joint_Statement_on_the_Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_Kenya_June_12_2021

the pandemic either virtually or in person and emphasized the importance of equitable and affordable vaccines.¹³⁴

On 15 June 2021, Minister Jaishankar inaugurated the newly renovated Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Library at the University of Nairobi in Kenya.¹³⁵ He said that India and Africa should strive for “decentralized globalization,” and jointly fight the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He added, “when supply chains are disrupted and demand outstrips supply, the more vulnerable will inevitably get short changed.” In this light he further emphasized the importance of South- South cooperation in agriculture, human rights and health to name a few.¹³⁶

On 13 July 2021, Minister Jaishankar addressed the 16th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India and Africa Project Partnership through video- conference. The conference was themed “Harnessing the Africa-India Opportunity: Connect, Create and Collaborate.”¹³⁷ He emphasized that in a post-COVID-19 world, there would be four domains at the focus of India’s collaborative activities with regard to Africa; public health, digital delivery, skilling and capacity building, and green economy.¹³⁸ He further reiterated that, “There is no doubt that in Africa, as in other parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a new awareness and demand on the public health side and inequity in access to medicines and vaccines has further highlighted problems that need to be resolved.”¹³⁹

India has fully complied with this commitment by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Africa Healthcare Federation to increase healthcare collaboration, while also reaffirming its commitment to working with the South Africa, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sudan, Seychelles, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and the greater African continent to address the intertwined impacts of COVID-19.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Natasha Pirzada

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

¹³⁴ India-Kenya Joint Statement on the Visit of External Affairs Minister to Kenya (Nairobi) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33918/IndiaKenya_Joint_Statement_on_the_Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_Kenya_June_1214_2021

¹³⁵ India, Africa must strive together for decentralised globalisation: EAM (Nairobi) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-africa-must-strive-together-for-decentralised-globalisation-eam-121061401566_1.html

¹³⁶ India, Africa must strive together for decentralised globalisation: EAM (Nairobi) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-africa-must-strive-together-for-decentralised-globalisation-eam-121061401566_1.html

¹³⁷ India’s initiatives in Africa envisage co-benefits, promote local ownership, says Jaishankar (New Delhi) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-initiatives-in-africa-envisage-co-benefits-promote-local-ownership-says-jaishankar/article35302777.ece>

¹³⁸ India’s initiatives in Africa envisage co-benefits, promote local ownership, says Jaishankar (New Delhi) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-initiatives-in-africa-envisage-co-benefits-promote-local-ownership-says-jaishankar/article35302777.ece>

¹³⁹ India’s initiatives in Africa envisage co-benefits, promote local ownership, says Jaishankar (New Delhi) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 11 August 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-initiatives-in-africa-envisage-co-benefits-promote-local-ownership-says-jaishankar/article35302777.ece>

On 21 November 2020, at the G20 Riyadh Summit, China reaffirmed its commitment to making the COVID-19 vaccine a global public good and continuing its assistance to developing countries.¹⁴⁰

On 4 December 2020, at the United Nations Security Council High-level Debate, China reaffirmed its support for Africa to address the health, economic, and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and aid with post-pandemic recovery.¹⁴¹

On 10 December 2020, the 14th Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held in Beijing. China reaffirmed its readiness to work with Africa to overcome the effects of COVID-19. Both Chinese and African officials expressed readiness to cooperate on strengthening the African continent's capacity to recover, through measures including COVID-19 vaccine development, infrastructure construction, trade and investment, poverty alleviation, and human resources training.¹⁴²

On 16 December 2020, Ambassador to Kenya Zhou Pingjian stated in an interview with Kenyan newspaper Daily Nation that China is committed to making the COVID-19 vaccine a global public good, particularly to Africa and other developing countries.¹⁴³

On 4 January 2021, China and Egypt signed agreement to mutually cooperate on development and acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines.¹⁴⁴

On 7 January 2021, China donated more medical equipment to help Zambia combat the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. President of Chililabombwe's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Samuel Musonda commented that China's donation would "safeguard" lives of Zambians and contribute to economic recovery of the country.¹⁴⁵

On 8 January 2021, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with Tanzanian Foreign Minister Palamagamba Kabudi. Minister Wang reaffirmed that China would step up cooperation with Africa to help the continent with capacity-building and COVID-19 response.¹⁴⁶

On 20 January 2021, China and South Africa agreed to collaborate on training South African public service employees to improve response to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁷

On 25 January 2021, at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda, China stated the international community should be committed to closing North-South divide, which has

¹⁴⁰ Together, Let Us Fight COVID-19 and Create a Better Future, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1834379.shtml

¹⁴¹ Building Consensus for Solidarity and Cooperation and Working Together for a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/wjbz_663308/2461_663310/t1838068.shtml

¹⁴² The 14th Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Takes Place in Beijing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjzj_663340/fzs_663828/xwlb_663830/t1839894.shtml

¹⁴³ Kenya Daily Nation Publishes Interview with Ambassador Zhou Pingjian, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfzs_1/t1842278.htm

¹⁴⁴ China, Egypt sign letter of intent for COVID-19 vaccine cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1844133.htm

¹⁴⁵ China hailed over medical equipment donation to Zambia, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1845470.htm

¹⁴⁶ Foreign Minister Wang Yi Articulates a Seven-Point Proposition to Upgrade China-Africa Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1845365.shtml

¹⁴⁷ S. Africa collaborates with China to train public service employees, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/jmhzt/t1847295.htm

exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic. China identified balancing COVID-19 response and economic development as a priority.¹⁴⁸

On 26 January 2021, the Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia donated 500,000 washable masks and 10,000 thermometers to the Ethiopia Ministry of Education as part of China's commitment to supporting social development in Ethiopia.¹⁴⁹

On 18 February 2021, in a phone conversation with Ethiopia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister Demeke Mekonnen, Minister Wang affirmed China's readiness to support economic and social development in Ethiopia. Minister Wang stated that China had agreed to "to provide Ethiopia with a batch of COVID-19 vaccines and financial assistance to help the African country fight the pandemic and restore its economy."¹⁵⁰

On 19 February 2021, China announced it would donate 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Algeria and facilitate purchase of the vaccine in Algeria to help the country "overcome the pandemic and restore its economic and social life to normal as soon as possible."¹⁵¹

On 20 February 2021, China agreed to donate 100,000 doses of vaccine upon Namibia's request as part of China's commitment to supporting Namibia's COVID-19 response and socioeconomic development.¹⁵²

On 20 February 2021, China affirmed that it would continue to support economic development in Senegal and deepen bilateral cooperation regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.¹⁵³

On 24 February 2021, Ambassador to Sudan Ma Xinmin met with the new head of the Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan to discuss bilateral cooperation in the medical field, including the COVID-19 response. China reaffirmed its commitment to making the COVID-19 vaccine a global public good, especially for developing countries. China agreed to collaborate with Sudan's Ministry of Health on vaccine distribution in Sudan and increase exchanges in the training of healthcare professionals.¹⁵⁴

On 1 March 2021, at the handover ceremony of Chinese vaccines to Sierra Leone, China reaffirmed readiness to work with Sierra Leone and other development partners in supporting the country in building capacity to respond to the pandemic.¹⁵⁵

On 8 March 2021, at the "March 8" International Women's Day observance event jointly organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Security of Liberia and UN Women in Liberia, China affirmed its readiness to increase international cooperation to promote gender equality and

¹⁴⁸ Let the Torch of Multilateralism Light up Humanity's Way Forward, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1848323.shtml

¹⁴⁹ China Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia donates COVID-19 supplies to education ministry, 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/jmhz/t1848892.htm

¹⁵⁰ China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Ethiopia: FM, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1854526.htm

¹⁵¹ China to donate 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Algeria: ambassador, Xinhua (Beijing) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-02/19/c_139753147.htm

¹⁵² China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1855089.htm

¹⁵³ China to continue to support Senegal's economic stabilization -- Chinese ambassador, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfzs_1/t1855451.htm

¹⁵⁴ Ambassador Ma Met with Sudan's New Health Minister, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/zjzw/t1857579.htm

¹⁵⁵ Chinese ambassador hands over COVID-19 vaccines to Sierra Leonean president, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfzs_1/t1857906.htm

implement the outcomes of the Beijing Declaration and Platform Action in the context of fighting the pandemic.¹⁵⁶

On 14 March 2021, at a news conference, Minister Wang stated that China remains committed to carrying out development and infrastructure projects belonging to the Belt and Road Initiative. Assisting the African continent with containing the COVID-19 virus and contributing to the continent's economic recovery are priorities in China-Africa cooperation under the BRI framework.¹⁵⁷

On 18 March 2021, China and South Sudan signed a development pact for the expansion and modernization of the Juba Teaching Hospital. This pact aims to improve South Sudan's capacity to deliver healthcare and respond to the pandemic.¹⁵⁸

On 22 March 2021, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Wang Chen spoke with Liberian House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa. Vice Chairman Wang affirmed China's commitment to cooperate with Liberia in building capacity to respond to the pandemic. Vice Chairman Wang also expressed China's readiness to assist with Liberia's development through cooperation in agriculture and poverty alleviation.¹⁵⁹

On 6 April 2021, China and Tunisia signed an agreement that affirmed further bilateral cooperation between the two countries on social development and infrastructure projects. One objective of this agreement is to help Tunisia address and recover from the pandemic.¹⁶⁰

On 11 April 2021, Cameroon receives its first batch of foreign-provided COVID-19 vaccines from China. At the handover ceremony, Ambassador to Cameroon Wang Yingwu reaffirmsd China's commitment to making the vaccine more accessible, especially to developing countries.¹⁶¹

On 11 April 2021, at the handover ceremony of 200,000 doses of Chinese-produced COVID-19 vaccine in Somalia, Ambassador to Somalia stated that China remains committed to assisting Somalia in development efforts including capacity-building to address the pandemic and improving vaccine accessibility.¹⁶²

On 21 April 2021, Egypt and China signed agreement to manufacture the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine locally in Egypt. Both countries consider this a milestone in helping Egypt, the Middle East, and the African continent in building capacity for local COVID-19 responses.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁶ Chinese Ambassador to Liberia H.E. Ren Yisheng Attends "March 8" International Women's Day Observance Event, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/zzjw/t1860269.htm

¹⁵⁷ Africa's global links deepened with BRI, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfzs_1/t1860892.htm

¹⁵⁸ China, South Sudan ink deal to modernize health facility, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1862917.htm

¹⁵⁹ China ready to enhance cooperation with Liberia: senior legislator, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/jmhzt1863410.htm

¹⁶⁰ Tunisia, China sign economic, technical cooperation agreement, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/jmhzt1867392.htm

¹⁶¹ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1868363.htm

¹⁶² Somalia receives China-donated Sinopharm vaccines, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1868362.htm

¹⁶³ Egypt signs agreement with China to manufacture Sinovac vaccine locally, Xinhua (Beijing) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-04/23/c_139899433.htm

On 27 April 2021, Ambassador to Botswana Wang Xuefeng reaffirmed China's readiness to "bring the friendly and cooperative relations between China and Botswana to a new level." Regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, Ambassador Wang stated that China remains committed to making the COVID-19 vaccine a global public good. Ambassador Wang identified improving accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries as a top priority for this commitment. He cited China's donation of vaccines to Botswana as contribution towards achievement of this goal.¹⁶⁴

On 30 April 2021, the President of Seychelles, the First Lady, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism met with officials of the Chinese Embassy in Seychelles. The two sides expressed readiness to strengthen bilateral cooperation on pandemic control, economic recovery, social and economic development.¹⁶⁵

On 4 May 2021, the fourth batch of China-donated medical supplies arrived in Liberia. The medical supplies, which include 180 ventilators, 50 oxygen concentrators together with 1,800 full face masks and 500 tubing parts, 17,600 medical protective face masks, and 100 infrared thermometers are intended to help Liberia in the effort to combat the pandemic. At the handover ceremony, China also reaffirmed commitment to cooperate with Liberia in areas including public health, people-to-people exchanges, infrastructure, telecommunication and electricity, agriculture, and mining.¹⁶⁶

On 10 May 2021, the chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Wang Yang and Egyptian Senate Speaker Abdel Razeq met over video conference. The two sides reaffirmed commitment to cooperate on addressing the pandemic. Both also expressed readiness to work together on social and economic development.¹⁶⁷

On 12 May 2021, China offered to provide Zambia COVID-19 vaccine to support vaccine distribution in Zambia under the framework of the COVID-19 Global Vaccines Alliance.¹⁶⁸

On 14 May 2021, the Charity Care Center and the Embassy in Gaborone donated goods including blankets, food hampers, and wheelchairs valuing at BWP60,000 to children at SOS Children's Villages of Botswana. The donation is intended to support children in need during the pandemic.¹⁶⁹

On 14 May 2021, the Embassy in Seychelles donated 150 boxes of food and daily necessities valuing approximately SCR100,000 to Seychellois healthcare workers as an expression of support for the African country's COVID-19 response.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁴ Ambassador Wang Xuefeng Gives an Interview to Duma FM on China-Botswana Relations, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1878156.htm

¹⁶⁵ The President of Seychelles and First Lady and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism visit the Chinese Embassy, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021.

http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/zzjw/t1875262.htm

¹⁶⁶ China donates more medical supplies to Liberia, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1873806.htm

¹⁶⁷ China's top political advisor meets with Egyptian Senate speaker via video link, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/zzjw/t1874935.htm

¹⁶⁸ China to provide Zambia Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1875708.htm

¹⁶⁹ Chinese Charity Care Center makes new donations to the needy in Botswana, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1876112.htm

¹⁷⁰ The Chinese Embassy in Seychelles donates daily supplies to Seychelles health care worker, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1876887.htm

On 14 May 2021, Ambassador to Senegal Xiao Han and Senegal's President Macky Sall discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries. At this meeting, Ambassador Xiao reaffirmed China's readiness to advance cooperation with Senegal and the African continent under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. On this day, a batch of COVID-19 vaccine offered by China arrived in Dakar, Senegal.¹⁷¹

On 19 May 2021, the chairperson of the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China Li Zhanshu spoke with Madagascar parliament speaker Christine Razanamahasoa over video conference. Both parties agreed to increase cooperation in pandemic response, agriculture, energy, infrastructure construction, and cultural exchanges.¹⁷²

On 23 May 2021, Egypt received the first shipment of China's Sinovac vaccine raw material. Egypt became the first country on the African continent to produce vaccines locally in cooperation with China. Egyptian Health Minister Hala Zayed stated that after meeting domestic needs, Egypt will export the vaccine to the Middle East and the rest of the African continent. Minister Zayed identified this event as significant for the pandemic response and post-pandemic recovery of Egypt. Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang reaffirmed China's commitment to actively participate in Egypt and the rest of the African continent's pandemic response capacity-building. Both China and Egypt called on the international community to improve the African continent's access to vaccines and other resources such as financial aid, technology, and medicine to address the pandemic.¹⁷³

On 21 June 2021, a batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by China arrived in Tunisia. The Chinese Embassy to Tunisia reaffirmed China's commitment to continuing bilateral relation with Tunisia on pandemic response and economic recovery.¹⁷⁴

On 29 June 2021, China and South Sudan held virtual workshop on development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). China commented that supporting SMEs is crucial to "improving South Sudan's economic structure, promoting market circulation, and increasing youth employment." South Sudan remarked that supporting SMEs is especially important for recovering from the dire economic situation exacerbated by the pandemic.¹⁷⁵

On 10 July 2021, a newly drilled borehole opened in the Bulilima district of the semiarid Matebeleland South Province, Zimbabwe. This borehole is part of the China-Zimbabwe bilateral program China Aid Zimbabwe 500 Boreholes Project, which aims to make clean water accessible to rural Zimbabweans. Ntutuko Ndebele, a councilor in Gwanda Urban, expressed gratitude for the borehole bringing clean water to residents and the importance of such access during the pandemic.¹⁷⁶

On 19 July 2021, during a meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, Minister Wang declared that China would continue to support Algeria in "taking a development path in line with its own national conditions." Minister Wang also reaffirmed that China will continue to provide

¹⁷¹ Senegalese president meets Chinese ambassador over China-Senegal cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/zjzw/t1876111.htm

¹⁷² China, Madagascar to enhance parliamentary cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/jmhzt1877370.htm

¹⁷³ Egypt receives raw materials to produce Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1878158.htm

¹⁷⁴ Tunisia receives China's CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1886136.htm

¹⁷⁵ China, South Sudan hold workshop on SMEs development, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhzlt2018/eng/zfgx_4/jmhzt1888818.htm

¹⁷⁶ Zimbabweans have plenty to sing about with China's water aid, China Daily (Harare) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202107/17/WS60f213c0a310efa1bd662839.html>

vaccines and other resources for Algeria's full recovery from the pandemic. China and Algeria also agreed to accelerate negotiations to implement the five-year plan for China-Algeria comprehensive strategic cooperation and joint development plan of the Belt and Road Initiative.¹⁷⁷

On 2 August 2021, a new batch of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines and protective medical equipment donated by China arrived in Tunisia. At the handover ceremony, Chinese Ambassador Tunisia Zhang Jianguo commented that he "[is] convinced that this batch of vaccines will play a positive role in slowing the spread of the pandemic and preserving the health of the Tunisian people." Ambassador Zhang also reaffirmed that China remains committed to improving accessibility of vaccine to developing countries.¹⁷⁸

On 7 August 2021, 100,000 doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine and 102,400 syringes donated by China arrived in Zambia. At the handover ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Li Jie emphasized the importance of COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good and urged the international community to improve vaccine accessibility to developing countries.¹⁷⁹

China has verbally reaffirmed readiness to deepen cooperation with the African continent with the aim to strengthen its capacity to address the intertwined health, social, and economic impacts of the pandemic. China has also taken concrete actions that demonstrate compliance to this commitment through vaccine donations and assisting various African countries with vaccine acquisition, dispatching medical teams and other resources, and participating in bilateral and multilateral development projects.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Christina (Wing Gi) Tse

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to develop further cooperation with the African continent, including with the aim to strengthening its potential to address the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

On 21 November 2020, at the G20 Riyadh Summit's Side Event on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, South Africa called for cooperation between the G20 and the African Union (AU) on building the African continent's capacity to address the health, economic, and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. South Africa cited debt relief and deferred payments, G20 support for infrastructure development projects, improvement of healthcare systems, acquisition of vaccines, and empowerment of women as ways to strengthen the capacity of the African continent to address crises.¹⁸⁰

On 5 December 2020, at the Virtual Meeting of the 13th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU on the African Continental Free Trade Area, Minister of International Relations and

¹⁷⁷ China supports Algeria in taking its own development path: FM, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zfhz/t2018/eng/zfgx_4/jmhz/t1893761.htm

¹⁷⁸ New batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by China arrives in Tunisia, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1897112.htm

¹⁷⁹ Remark at the Welcoming Ceremony of China's Aid to Zambia's Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine by H.E. Mr. Li Jie, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. http://www.focac.org/eng/zfgx_4/rwjl/t1898306.htm

¹⁸⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit Side Event on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, The Presidency (Pretoria) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-g20-leaders%E2%80%99-summit-side-event-pandemic-preparedness-and>

Cooperation Naledi Pandor called for cooperation between African countries on economic recovery to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸¹

On 14 December 2020, in a media briefing on International Development for 2020, Minister Pandor called for cooperation between countries to ensure that all people have access to health, economic and social measures combatting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Pandor reaffirmed South Africa's readiness to continue focusing on Africa's post-COVID economic recovery.¹⁸²

On 24 December 2020, South Africa attended a teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU and the Chairpersons of the AU Regional Economic Communities. The participants discussed plans to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸³

On 14 January 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, who served as the Chairperson of the AU at the time of this event, secured a provisional 270 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and opened pre-orders to the 55 AU member states.¹⁸⁴

On 19 January 2021, Minister Pandor expressed at the virtual Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) that "it is necessary" to continue development plans under the PIDA framework to avoid "further decline in [Africa's] socio-economic conditions" in the face of challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸⁵

On 28 January 2021, at a symposium held by the AU Development Agency, South Africa reaffirmed its commitment to work with the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility and ensure that the needs of developing countries are considered.¹⁸⁶

On 6 February 2021, in President Ramaphosa's statement at the 34th ordinary session of the assembly of heads of state and government of the AU, he reaffirmed South Africa's readiness to cooperate with other AU members on overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸¹ Minister Naledi Pandor: Virtual Meeting of the 13th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on the AfCFTA, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-pandor-during-virtual-meeting-13th-extra-ordinary-session-assembly-african-union>

¹⁸² Minister Naledi Pandor on International Developments for the year 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/international-developments-year-2020-14-dec-2020-0000>

¹⁸³ Communique of the teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union and the Chairpersons of the AU Regional Economic Communities, The Presidency (Pretoria) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/communique-teleconference-meeting-bureau-assembly-african-union-and-chairpersons-au>

¹⁸⁴ AMSP opens COVID-19 vaccines pre-orders for 55 African Union Member States, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Johannesburg) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://africacdc.org/news-item/amsp-opens-covid-19-vaccines-pre-orders-for-55-african-union-member-states/>

¹⁸⁵ Welcoming Remarks by Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, during the virtual Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Week 2020, 19 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0119.htm>

¹⁸⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: New Partnership for Africa's Development 20th Symposium, The Presidency (Pretoria, Cape Town) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/welcome-address-african-union-chairperson-28-jan-2021-0000>

¹⁸⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Handover statement at 34th ordinary session of the assembly of heads of state and government of the African Union, The Presidency (Pretoria, Cape Town) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/handover-statement-6-feb-2021-0000>

On 17 February 2021, at the annual State of National Address event, Minister Pandor confirmed cooperation between South Africa and the AU in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Minister Pandor acknowledged the establishment the COVID-19 Emergency Fund achieved by President Ramaphosa during his term as the AU Chairperson. The speech delivered by Minister Pandor called for continuing multilateral cooperation to address the health, economic, and social challenges posed by the pandemic.¹⁸⁸

On 8 March 2021, in a speech delivered at the Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, Minister Pandor stressed the Africa continent's vulnerability to the health, economic, and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Pandor called on governments to develop responses specific to the context of the African continent through increased investment in research and training healthcare professionals. Unpaid care work, gender gap in the workplace, and disproportionate rate of unemployment among women compared to men were identified as impacts of the pandemic that need to be focused on.¹⁸⁹

On 9 March 2021, South Africa attended a meeting with the Heads of States and Governments of various countries, together with UN Secretary General António Guterres. At this meeting, the leaders discussed the importance of supporting the WHO and the COVAX. The participants stressed the critical role of multilateral cooperation to safeguarding and rebuilding the global economy in a more sustainable way.¹⁹⁰

On 12 March 2021, Minister Pandor attended a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers virtual meeting. The Council approved the budget for delivering the outcomes of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030. The Council also directed the Expanded Technical Committee for Coordinating and Monitoring the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health to monitor and analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop region-specific responses.¹⁹¹

On 25 March 2021, South Africa chaired the 30th Summit of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government. Objectives of this virtual summit include providing participants with opportunity to exchange experiences and engage in constructive dialogue on socio-economic development and responding to the pandemic.¹⁹²

On 29 March 2021, President Ramaphosa called on the World Trade Organization (WTO) to end "vaccine nationalism" and allow countries to produce vaccines locally. President Ramaphosa mentioned the marginalization of the African continent in previous pandemics; he emphasized the

¹⁸⁸ Minister Naledi Pandor: Debate on State of the Nation Address, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-debate-state-nation-address-17-feb-2021-0000>

¹⁸⁹ Webinar Address by Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, during the Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit: 08 March 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0308.pdf>

¹⁹⁰ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹⁹¹ SADC holds Council of Ministers Virtual Meeting, Southern African Development Community (Gaborone) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/sadc-holds-council-ministers-virtual-meeting/>

¹⁹² Museveni asks African governments to invest in Covid-19 vaccine research, Daily Monitor (Kampala) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/museveni-asks-african-governments-to-invest-in-covid-19-vaccine-research-3337742>

importance for developing countries to build capacity to address the pandemic in context-specific ways.¹⁹³

On 31 March 2021, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched the Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre (SA-RCC). South Africa is one of the ten members of this initiative. The SA-RCC is intended to form the link between its member states, the AU, and the Africa CDC for efficient communication on healthcare related matters and promote regional cooperation in public health.¹⁹⁴

On 15 April 2021, South Africa hosted the virtual meeting for the 13th South Africa-Spain Consultations. During this meeting, representatives from the South African and the Spanish sides reaffirmed readiness to strengthen bilateral between the two countries and multilateral cooperation between the AU and the European Union to tackle the pandemic.¹⁹⁵

On 4 to 5 May 2021, South Africa attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting in London, United Kingdom. South Africa and other attendees affirmed readiness to strengthen cooperation with countries in Africa. The aims include making vaccines more easily accessible and supporting the continent's healthcare system development. The attendees also encouraged African governments to foster conditions to increase trade, attract investment, and create sustainable jobs.¹⁹⁶

On 6 May 2021, South Africa and the United Kingdom co-chaired the 12th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission. Both parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in expanding the African continent's capacity to manufacture vaccines.¹⁹⁷

On 8 May 2021, South Africa and representatives from various other AU member states affirmed readiness to increase regional cooperation and strengthen collaboration with multilateral institutions including the WHO to enhance Prevention, Monitoring, and Treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic in the African continent. The member states called on the international community to support the WTO Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights waiver and exchange vaccine manufacturing technology as crucial steps to ensure equitable access to vaccines. During this meeting, member states also highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation to addressing the economic and sociopolitical dimensions of the pandemic in the African continent.¹⁹⁸

On 18 May 2021, at the Summit on Financing African Economies held in Paris, South Africa and other participants adopted the declaration calling on the international community and multilateral

¹⁹³South African President Ramaphosa calls on WTO to allow countries manufacture vaccines locally, CGTN Africa (Nairobi) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://africa.cgtn.com/2021/03/29/sa-president-ramaphosa-calls-on-wto-to-allow-countries-manufacture-vaccines-locally/>

¹⁹⁴ Africa CDC launches Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centre, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Addis Ababa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://africacdc.org/news-item/africa-cdc-launches-southern-africa-regional-collaborating-centre/>

¹⁹⁵ Spain and South Africa hold 13th round of bilateral consultations, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación (Madrid) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/SalaDePrensa/NotasdePrensa/Paginas/2021_NOTAS_P/20210415_NOTA076.aspx

¹⁹⁶ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting: Communiqué, European Union External Action (Brussels) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/97842/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-communiqu%C3%A9_en

¹⁹⁷ South Africa and the UK holds a Joint Ministerial Commission in the UK, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/uk0506.htm>

¹⁹⁸ Communiqué of the High-Level Emergency Virtual Meeting of African Ministers of Health n The Covid-19 Situation in Africa, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Addis Ababa) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://africacdc.org/news-item/communique-of-the-high-level-emergency-virtual-meeting-of-african-ministers-of-health-on-the-covid-19-situation-in-africa/>

financial institutions to support the African continent's vaccine acquisition and local production, COVID-19 response, and economic recovery.¹⁹⁹ Regarding this declaration, Minister Pandor identified the need to help Africa with vaccine acquisition and facilitate local production, and for the International Monetary Fund to allocate funding from Special Drawing Rights to Africa as strategies to support socio-economic recovery in the continent.²⁰⁰

On 28 May 2021, President Ramaphosa hosted President Emmanuel Macron of France for his first state visit. The leaders affirmed commitment to making knowledge, technology, and other material that address the COVID-19 pandemic global public goods. They agreed to further cooperate on research and innovation beyond COVID-19, with the intention of strengthening public health security in the African continent.²⁰¹

On 3 June 2021, in a remark on the occasion of the Minister's Dinner with Heads of Mission from the Asia and Middle East Region resident in Pretoria, Minister Pandor stated that South Africa intends to strengthen cooperation with Asia and the Middle East region to contain the pandemic, delivery post-pandemic economic recovery, and initiate efforts towards local production of COVID-19 vaccines in the African continent. Minister Pandor also declared that South Africa firmly supports the COVAX's commitment to facilitating vaccine rollout in the Global South.²⁰²

On 23 June 2021, South Africa attended the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the SADC, held at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique. As a member state of the SADC, South Africa contributed to the Summit's collective call for action to fellow member states and the international community to end vaccine nationalism and support the proposal for temporary changes to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), intended to enable more countries to produce the COVID-19 vaccine. President Ramaphosa was commended for his effort in championing this cause.²⁰³

On 29 June 2021, at the G20 meeting in Matera, Italy, Minister Pandor expressed South Africa's support for international effort to address the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Pandor advocated engagement in multilateral cooperation through institutions such as the UN to promote sustainable development, fair vaccine access, post-pandemic recovery, economic growth and social development through trade and investment. In a meeting concerning development, Minister Pandor spoke about the exacerbation of poverty—which disproportionately affect women and youth—caused by the pandemic. Minister Pandor's remark shed light on illicit financial flows from Africa, which she identified as a challenge for sustainable development.²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁹ Summit on the Financing of African Economies, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/10/8cafcd2d4c6fbc57cd41f96c99f7aede6bd351f1.pdf>

²⁰⁰ Budget Speech by Dr Naledi Pandor, MP, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation on 20 May 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0520a.htm>

²⁰¹ Joint Communiqué at the Conclusion of the Official Discussions of the State Visit of His Excellency French President Emmanuel Macron to South Africa, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/fran0528.pdf>

²⁰² Remarks by Minister Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Minister's Dinner with Heads of Mission from the Asia and Middle East Region resident in Pretoria, 3 June 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0603.htm>

²⁰³ Communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, Southern African Development Community (Maputo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/sadc0623.pdf>

²⁰⁴ South Africa reiterates its support for multilateral efforts aimed at tackling global challenges, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/g-20_0629.htm

On 13 July 2021, South Africa attended a virtual Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the topic “NAM at the Centre of Multilateral Efforts in responding Global Challenges.” Minister Pandor called on NAM members to support the proposal for changes to the Agreement on TRIPS that would allow more countries, particularly developing countries, to produce the COVID-19 vaccine. Minister Pandor also called on members to work collectively on addressing the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and on post-pandemic recovery. Post-pandemic recovery measures mentioned by Minister Pandor include trade and cooperation in agriculture, mining, ocean and green economy opportunities, and digital modernization of NAM countries. Minister Pandor identified empowerment of women and girls as a priority for all post-pandemic recovery programs.²⁰⁵

On 21 July 2021, at the Annual Observance of the Nelson Mandela International Day held in New York, Minister Pandor condemned systemic racism in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Pandor stated that lives that could have been saved were lost due to systemic racism during the pandemic; Minister Pandor called on attendees to take collective action against systemic racism, xenophobia, and other related forms of discrimination.²⁰⁶

South Africa has verbally reaffirmed readiness to deepen cooperation with the African continent with the aim to strengthen its capacity to address the intertwined health, social, and economic impacts of the pandemic. South Africa has also taken concrete actions in bilateral and multilateral initiatives that demonstrate compliance to this commitment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Christina (Wing Gi) Tse

205 Statement by HE Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement under the Theme: “Non-Aligned Movement at the Centre of Multilateral Efforts in responding Global Challenges,” 13-14 July 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0713.htm>

206 Remarks by HE Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, at the Annual Observance of the Nelson Mandela International Day, 21 July 2021, New York, UN General Assembly Hall, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0721.htm>

3. Trade: Enhancing BRICS Trade

“[Noting the current challenges for balanced, inclusive and resilient economic growth of BRICS, the BRICS members will take actions to:] enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.”

Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1 (100%)		

Background

Trade and economic cooperation have been a longstanding priority in BRICS summitry. Between 2009 and 2019, BRICS leaders adopted 47 discrete, specific, and politically binding commitments on trade.²⁰⁷ Such commitments span a diverse range of issues, including resisting protectionism, upholding a WTO-centered multilateral trading system, expressing support for the Doha Round and trade for development, enhancing trade cooperation, as well as exploring the intersection between trade and investment, monetary cooperation, and fiscal policy.

On 15 April 2010, at the Brasília summit, BRIC leaders adopted a commitment to resist all forms of trade protectionism and fight disguised restrictions on trade.²⁰⁸ A similar commitment was made at the New Delhi summit in 2012 to reaffirm this pledge to a rule-based multilateral trading system.²⁰⁹

On 14 April 2011, BRICS leaders adopted the Sanya Declaration, which included a commitment to expand and deepen trade cooperation.²¹⁰ This commitment was complemented by a further pledge to sustain “strong and sustained economic growth” through increased cooperation on trade matters.²¹¹

On 29 March 2012, BRICS leaders adopted the Delhi Declaration with a commitment to host regular consultations at the trade ministerial level and encourage further measures to consolidate trade and economic ties between BRICS economies.²¹² The emphasis on ministerial coordination was echoed in 2013 under the chairmanship of South Africa. The outcome document of the 2013 leaders’

²⁰⁷ Appendix E: Commitments by Issue Area 2009-2019, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2020.

²⁰⁸ 2nd BRIC Summit of Heads of State and Government: Joint Statement, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 April 2010. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/100415-leaders.html>

²⁰⁹ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

²¹⁰ Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

²¹¹ Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

²¹² Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

summit recognized the contributions of BRICS trade ministers, finance ministers and central bank governors.²¹³

On 4 September 2017, the Xiamen Leaders' Declaration was adopted with a section dedicated to "BRICS Practical Economic Cooperation."²¹⁴ This section contained 49 commitments spanning the issue areas of trade, ICT/digitalization, macroeconomic policy, financial regulation, crime and corruption, terrorism, development, energy, international cooperation and more.²¹⁵

On 17 November 2020, the BRICS leaders met virtually and adopted 20 commitments on trade. Trade accounted for 9% of the total 222 commitments identified across all outcome documents produced at the 2020 summit.

The present commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation and reduce barriers in mutual trade builds upon pledges made at previous BRICS summits. This timely commitment reflects the importance of upholding the multilateral trading system during turbulent times of protectionism and uncertainty. As reflected in individual leaders' public statements at the 2020 summit, scope for further economic cooperation among BRICS countries is expected to feature prominently in the present and future of BRICS summitry.

Commitment Features

The present commitment to enhance mutual trade and economic cooperation is found in the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, one of the outcome documents adopted on 17 November 2020 at the virtual leaders' summit chaired by Russia.²¹⁶

In this commitment, the phrase "BRICS members will take actions" connotes an expressed intention to act and qualifies this commitment as a "politically binding obligation."²¹⁷ This phrase establishes the threshold of action for compliance with this commitment.²¹⁸ For full compliance, BRICS members should take definitive policy action, as verbal affirmations do not suffice.

To define the key terms of this commitment, "enhance" is understood to mean "heighten or intensify."²¹⁹ "Trade and economic cooperation" refer to joint endeavors between countries to generate conditions that are conducive to fostering economic integration and international trade. At the policy level, international economic cooperation and coordination can yield benefits such as

²¹³ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

²¹⁴ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

²¹⁵ 2019 BRICS Brasilia Summit Interim Compliance Report (Table 1: Distribution of BRICS Commitments across Issue Areas, 2009-2019), BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019-brasilia-interim-compliance.pdf>

²¹⁶ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/2020-strategy.html>

²¹⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²¹⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²¹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

greater certainty and transparency, further exchange of market access, avoidance of political economy inefficiencies, and higher welfare and stronger growth overall.²²⁰

The second part of this commitment, “reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services,” refers to actions that roll back protectionism and promote freer cross-border flows of goods and services. Efforts to reduce trade barriers conventionally fall into two categories: 1) lowering tariffs and 2) reducing non-tariff measures, the latter of which refer to forms of bureaucratic or legal red tape that hinder trade flows.²²¹ Examples of non-tariff barriers disciplined by international rules include import licensing, customs valuation, pre-shipment inspection, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade and more.²²² Trade barriers can unfold at the border or as internal measures in the importing market.

In the second part of the commitment, the word “mutual” is understood to refer to intra-BRICS trade. Thus, actions amounting to full compliance should strive to advance trade and economic cooperation between BRICS economies. However, actions that fall within the scope of this commitment need not exclusively pertain to intra-BRICS trade. Furthermore, the qualifying phrase “where possible” should be interpreted to mean that the scope of this commitment is inclusive of actions that work towards reducing trade barriers, even if such policy efforts do not yet amount to a concrete reduction of trade barriers as such.

The term “including” connotes that to achieve full compliance, the BRICS member must fulfill both pillars of this commitment: 1) enhance trade and economic cooperation, and 2) reduce barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible, and with reference to trade between BRICS economies.

A BRICS member will be scored partial compliance, or a score of 0, if it fulfills one of the two pillars of this commitment. Alternatively, if a BRICS member takes action to support both parts of this commitment, but the actions fall short of decisive, strong and substantive policy actions (as would be required for a score of full compliance), the member will also receive a score of 0 for partial compliance. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be attributed to BRICS members who fail to advance either pillar of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does NOT take actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation NOR reduce barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.
0	The BRICS member takes actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation OR reduce barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.
+1	The BRICS member takes actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation AND reduce barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

²²⁰ Updating Trade Cooperation: An Economic View, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/tradecooperation111218_e.htm

²²¹ Non-tariff barriers: red tape, etc., World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 22 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm9_e.htm

²²² Non-tariff barriers: red tape, etc., World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 22 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm9_e.htm

On 17 December 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture stated that Brazil was committed to taking measures to boost corn exports to China in the near future.²²³

On 17 December 2020, Brazil enacted a 20 per cent tariff on all imports of ethanol from the US.²²⁴ This tariff replaces the current tariff rate quota as it expires.

On 22 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro announced that tariffs on imported toys would be reduced from 35 per cent to 20 per cent as part of his administration's plans to revitalise the economy through an ambitious programme of trade liberalisation, cuts to bureaucracy, and structural reforms.²²⁵

On 29 December 2020, the government extended zero import tax rates on 298 products considered essential in the fight against COVID-19 for six more months.²²⁶ The zero-import tax rates on products covering medicines, supplies, and testing equipment for virus detection and vaccines will be extended until 30 June 2021.

On 9 January 2021, President Bolsonaro met with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to discuss future bilateral trade between the two nations, including plans to improve the business environment in Brazil and further incentivize Japanese investment.²²⁷

On 20 January 2021, President Bolsonaro addressed a letter to President Joe Biden of the US, stating hopes that the two countries will pursue a broad free trade agreement during Biden's time in office.²²⁸

On 25 January 2021, Brazil, the world's largest producer and exporter of soybeans, announced it will lift import restrictions on soybeans to bolster domestic supply.²²⁹

On 17 March 2021, Brazil announced its commitment to lowering import tariffs on nearly 1,500 capital goods and white goods by 10 per cent.²³⁰ According to the Ministry of Economy, this measure aims at reducing import costs and consumer prices.

On 20 April 2021, the government announced that it will waive import duties from supplies outside Mercosur in response to a request from the Brazilian Animal Protein Association.²³¹

²²³ Brazil eager to export corn to China, World Grain (Regina) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.world-grain.com/articles/14623-brazil-eager-to-export-corn-to-china>

²²⁴ US ethanol groups say Brazil tariff is devastating, World Grain (Regina) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.world-grain.com/articles/14624-us-ethanol-groups-say-brazil-tariff-is-devastating>

²²⁵ Paulo Guedes' star fades as Brazil reform agenda stall, Financial Times (London) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/34e7b7ea-dd69-4665-a4eb-5a42a374d7f0>

²²⁶ Brazil extends zero import tax on products to fight coronavirus to June 30, Reuters (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-brazil-tariffs/brazil-extends-zero-import-tax-on-products-to-fight-coronavirus-to-june-30-idINL1N2J90YZ?edition-redirect=in>

²²⁷ Japan, Brazil sign deal for Amazon's biodiversity, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/japan-brazil-sign-deal-for-amazons-biodiversity/2103980>

²²⁸ Brazil's Bolsonaro says he wants free trade agreement with U.S. in letter to Biden, Reuters (London) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-brazil-idUSKBN29P2RM>

²²⁹ The World's Two Largest Soybean Exporters Have Depleted Their Supplies, Forbes (Jersey City) 25 January 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/salgilbertie/2021/01/25/the-worlds-two-largest-soybean-exporters-have-depleted-their-supplies/?sh=499395ee327c>

²³⁰ Brazil lowers import tariffs on capital goods, white goods by 10% – Economy Ministry, Latin America News (Rio de Janeiro) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/brazil-lowers-import-tariffs-on-capital-goods-white-goods-by-10-economy-ministry/>

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture announced a postponement on import duties on soy, corn, soybean meal and soybean oil until the end of 2021 in order to curtail inflation.²³²

On 26 April 2021, President Bolsonaro sent to Congress annexes to the Brazil-US Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, which includes a protocol on trade rules and transparency. The Presidential Office stated that the goal of the agreement is to expand trade and strengthen bilateral economic relations by promoting an open and predictable environment and reducing non-tariff barriers.²³³

On 25 May 2021, Brazil announced that it would be seeking a 20 per cent reduction in the South American Mercosur trade blocs Common External Tariff (TEC). Brazil's policy aims to reduce the TEC in two rounds – 10 per cent immediately, and the other 10 per cent in December of this year.²³⁴

On 22 June 2021, Gro Intelligence reported that Brazil had renewed tariff exemptions on imports of soybeans, corn, soybean oil, and soybean meal from outside the Mercosur bloc in an effort to keep its domestic market in balance amid soaring domestic prices.²³⁵

On 1 July 2021, Brazil's lower house approved a free trade agreement “signed with Chile in 2018 under the umbrella of the Mercosur trade bloc that provides for, among other things, the end of roaming between the countries and facilitates e-commerce.” It also includes the protection of consumer rights on internet purchases.²³⁶

On 8 July 2021, in a speech to commensurate Brazil's presidency of the Mercosur trade bloc, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said that Brazil would work for the reduction of trade tariffs and “eliminate other barriers to the flow of trade among [the Mercosur] and with the world.”²³⁷

On 20 July 2021, Brazil announced that it had agreed to take forward India's trade proposals before the BRICS meeting in September. The proposals “seek to deepen trade and economic ties and include a framework for ensuring consumer protection in e-commerce, a mechanism to resolve non-tariff measures relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures [relating to food safety, animal and plant health standards] and technical barriers to trade.”²³⁸

²³¹ Brazil meat lobby says tariff waiver allows cheaper U.S., Ukraine corn imports, Reuters (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-meat-lobby-says-tariff-waiver-allows-cheaper-us-ukraine-corn-imports-2021-04-20/>

²³² Brazil to temporarily halt soy, corn import duties, World Grain (Sao Paulo) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.world-grain.com/articles/15168-brazil-to-temporarily-halt-soy-corn-import-duties>

²³³ Bolsonaro sends attachments to Brazil-U.S. agreement to national Congress for approval, Rio Times (Rio De Janeiro) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/bolsonaro-forwards-attachments-to-brazil-u-s-agreement-to-congress/>

²³⁴ Brazil to seek 20% reduction in Mercosur's common external tariff, Fibre2Fashion (Ahmedabad) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/brazil-to-seek-20-reduction-in-mercotur-s-common-external-tariff--274141-newsdetails.htm>

²³⁵ Supply Constraints and Price Volatility Trigger US-Brazil Trade Flow Reversal, Gro Intelligence (New York) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://gro-intelligence.com/insights/articles/supply-constraints-and-price-volatility-trigger-us-brazil-trade-flow-reversal>

²³⁶ Brazil's lower house approves FTA with Chile, BNamericas (Santiago) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/brazils-lower-house-approves-fta-deal-with-chile>

²³⁷ Brazil takes over Mercosur presidency; Bolsonaro calls for modernization, The Rio Times (Rio De Janeiro) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/business-brazil/brazil-takes-over-mercotur-presidency-bolsonaro-calls-for-modernization/>

²³⁸ Piyush Goyal to chair BRICS trade meeting in September, Mint (Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/piyush-goyal-to-chair-brics-trade-meeting-in-september-11626769340526.html>

On 27 July 2021, the government of Brazil eliminated the 150 per cent tax that Brazilian exporters who sell firearms to Central and South American countries had to pay. This is the second attempt during Bolsonaro's term to remove barriers to the Brazilian arms trade.²³⁹

Brazil has taken actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation through bilateral trade and investment discussions with Japan and the US. Brazil has also reduced its tariff and non-tariff trade barriers.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Landon Apollo Leone

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

On 21-22 November 2020, President Vladimir Putin attended the virtual G20 Riyadh Summit. In his address, President Putin affirmed the need to contain protectionism, abandon the practice of unilateral sanctions, and resume delivery chains. He also stressed the importance of reforming multilateral trade rules on e-commerce.²⁴⁰

On 24 November 2020, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng co-chaired the 17th meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Energy Cooperation. The meeting discussed investment, trade, and economic cooperation between the two countries. Both leaders "expressed their satisfaction with the strengthening of Russian-Chinese strategic relations in the energy sector" and agreed to facilitate the expansion of bilateral energy projects, such as Yamal Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Arctic LNG.²⁴¹

On 2 December 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin hosted the 25th regular meeting of Russian and Chinese heads of government with Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang. The meeting promoted cooperation in investment, industry, energy, agriculture, and transport. Prime Minister Mishustin discussed efforts to merge China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) by establishing "a system of digital corridors between the five Union member countries" and creating "favourable conditions for introducing electronic certification in mutual trade."²⁴²

On 9 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin attended the 2020 Made in Russia International Export Forum. He declared that Russia aims to achieve "real growth in non-resource-based and non-energy exports by 2030 to increase their share to over 70 per cent compared to 2020."²⁴³

²³⁹ Brazil eliminates taxes on domestic arms exports, The Rio Times (Rio De Janeiro) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/brazil-eliminates-taxes-on-domestic-arms-exports/>

²⁴⁰ G20 Summit, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64460>

²⁴¹ Alexander Novak chairs the 17th meeting of the Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Energy Cooperation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40936/>

²⁴² 25th regular meeting of Russian and Chinese heads of government, The Russian Government (Moscow) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41002/>

²⁴³ Mikhail Mishustin attends the 2020 Made in Russia International Export Forum, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41068/>

On 26 January 2021, Russia formally approved a decree to raise export duties on wheat and introduce export duties on barley and corn, effective 1 March and 15 March 2021, respectively. These tariffs are designed to protect domestic supply and stabilize food prices, especially for flour and bread.²⁴⁴

On 5 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin attended the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council with other EAEU heads. In his address, he noted the approval of the EAEU Development Strategy for the next five years, which focuses on ensuring comfortable working conditions and creating a favourable business environment across the Union.²⁴⁵

On 19 February 2021, Russia and Belarus signed an agreement to ship Belarusian oil exports through Russian ports. This agreement provides an opportunity to further increase cargo traffic by Russian rail and sea transport and is likely to boost the attractiveness of Russia's infrastructure.²⁴⁶

On 2 March 2021, at the opening ceremony of the Indian Energy Center in Moscow, Russia and India agreed to establish a new working group on interaction in the energy sphere. Regarding further Indo-Russian cooperation, Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin noted that "huge potential is in place to boost mutual investments, already amounting to dozens of billions of dollars, and for joint projects in development of new provinces, greenfields and new segments like LNG, and oil production in new regions."²⁴⁷

On 5 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Novak attended the 14th Meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Ministers. He affirmed that Russia would maintain current agreements to support the recovery of the global oil market in 2021.²⁴⁸

On 29 April 2021, President Putin met with French business leaders and other members of the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In his address, President Putin highlighted French investment in Russia and announced plans to launch a "golden visa" programme, through which residence permits could be issued in exchange for investment in the real economy. This programme is designed to attract foreign specialists in key sectors of the Russian economy.²⁴⁹

On 17 June 2021, Deputy Economic Development Minister Vladimir Ilyichev attended an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in which member countries agreed to a uniform macroeconomic policy to support post-pandemic recovery. The policy calls upon APEC members to "make efforts to introduce advanced regulatory practices" and to "continue international cooperation

²⁴⁴ Russia doubles wheat export duty to stabilize domestic food prices, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/28557.html>

²⁴⁵ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

²⁴⁶ Russia and the Republic of Belarus have reached an agreement on shipping Belarusian oil products intended for export via Russian seaports, The Russian Government (Moscow) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41580/>

²⁴⁷ Russia, India to set up new working group in energy sphere, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/28708.html>

²⁴⁸ Alexander Novak takes part in the 14th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41675/>

²⁴⁹ Meeting with French business leaders, President of Russia (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65469>

in the field of regulation in order to raise the competitiveness of economies, reduce barriers to trans-border trade and investments, further the inseparability and continuity of supply chains.”²⁵⁰

On 26 June 2021, Russia announced that it will adopt temporary export tariffs on sales of metals and metal products from 1 August to 3 December. These duties are designed to protect the domestic market from global price spikes and will not affect EAEU member countries.²⁵¹

On 28 June 2021, President Putin held a virtual meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping in the run-up to the 20th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation. Both leaders, along with highlighting expanded trade and economic cooperation measures, adopted a joint statement announcing an official extension of the Treaty.²⁵²

On 10 July 2021, the Free Trade Agreement between the EAEU and Serbia came into effect. This Agreement will facilitate Serbian primary exports of metals (steel, copper), high technology, machinery and equipment, agricultural products, foodstuffs, petrochemicals, electricity and medicines into Russian and EAEU markets.²⁵³

On 18 July 2021, Russia and OPEC+ countries approved new oil production baselines and agreed to extend the agreement until the end of 2022. Under the framework of the agreement, Russia and Saudi Arabia will raise their respective production baselines by 0.5 million barrels per day (bpd), to 11.5 bpd.²⁵⁴

Russia has taken actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation with BRICS members and other countries. Russia has also taken actions to reduce barriers in mutual trade in goods and services.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Farley Sweatman

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

²⁵⁰ The APEC economy ministers have come to an agreement on the uniform macroeconomic policy in order to overcome the pandemic consequences Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/29140.html>

²⁵¹ Russia to introduce export duties on metals to protect domestic market from price spikes, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/29169.html>

²⁵² Conversation with President of China Xi Jinping, President of Russia (Moscow) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65940>

²⁵³ Entry into force of Serbia-Eurasian Economic Union free trade agreement historic-minister, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/29236.html>

²⁵⁴ OPEC+ countries approve new production baselines, extend deal until end of 2022, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/29268.htm>

On 21-22 November 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the virtual G20 Riyadh Summit. He announced that India has adopted a “Self-Reliant India” initiative, which enables India to become “an important and reliable pillar of World Economy and Global Supply Chains.”²⁵⁵

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal launched the India-Australia Economic Strategy Report. This report is designed to align India-Australia trade and economic policies, so as to determine areas of cooperation for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in the future.²⁵⁶

On 21 December 2020, during the India-Bangladesh Digital Conference on the Agriculture Sector, Minister Goyal assured Bangladesh of complete cooperation in ensuring barrier-free trade between the two countries. In his address, Minister Goyal stressed bilateral cooperation as a way to overcome current economic challenges and offered duty-free market access to Bangladesh in products such as agri-exports.²⁵⁷

On 8 January 2021, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan concluded the final session of India’s Seventh Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organization (WTO). In his closing statement, the Commerce Secretary reaffirmed India’s commitment to forging greater economic and trade linkages with the world and highlighted the country’s liberal Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme.²⁵⁸

On 12 January 2021, India held the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on “New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26.” India’s new Foreign Trade Policy will come into effect from 1 April 2021 for five years. The policy will strive to make India a leader in the area of international trade with a USD5 trillion economy though “systematically addressing domestic and overseas constraints related to the policy, regulatory and operational framework for lowering transactions costs and enhancing the ease of doing business, creating a low-cost operating environment through efficient, cost-effective and adequate logistical and utilities infrastructure.”²⁵⁹

On 28 January 2021, India and Japan held the fifth joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum (AEF). The AEF discussed several new projects under ongoing bilateral cooperation, specifically those pertaining to the modernization of the North Eastern Region of India.²⁶⁰

On 24 February 2021, India and Mauritius signed the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), which will cover 310 Indian export items. As the

²⁵⁵ 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33346/15th_G20_Leaders_Summit

²⁵⁶ Shri Piyush Goyal launches the India-Australia Economic Strategy Report, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-launches-india-australia-economic-strategy-report/>

²⁵⁷ Shri Piyush Goyal assures Bangladesh India’s complete cooperation in ensuring barrier-free trade between the two countries, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-assures-bangladesh-indias-complete-cooperation-in-ensuring-barrier-free-trade-between-the-two-countries/>

²⁵⁸ Seventh Trade Policy Review of India at the WTO, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/seventh-trade-policy-review-of-india-at-the-wto/>

²⁵⁹ Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of Commerce and Industry on “New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26” held, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/parliamentary-consultative-committee-meeting-of-commerce-and-industry-on-new-foreign-trade-policy-2021-26-held/>

²⁶⁰ 5th Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33422/>

first trade agreement signed by India with an African country, CECPA will serve as an institutional mechanism to encourage and further improve trade between the two countries.²⁶¹

On 26 March 2021, India and the US agreed to strengthen their trade relationship during a virtual meeting between Minister Goyal and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai. Both parties agreed to further India-US economic cooperation based on shared objectives and strengthen the India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum.²⁶²

On 4 May 2021, India and the UK agreed to an Enhanced Trade Partnership at the India-UK Virtual Summit. With the goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2030, this trade agreement is expected to lower or remove many current tariff and non-tariff barriers on British products.²⁶³ Both countries also declared their shared intent to consider an interim trade agreement.²⁶⁴

On 8 May 2021, India and the EU agreed to resume negotiations on a balanced and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. India and the EU also announced dedicated dialogues on WTO rules, regulatory cooperation, market access issues, and supply chain resilience.²⁶⁵

On 9 July 2021, Minister Goyal attended the 21st Session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation. Indian and Italian representatives held discussions on bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the areas of food processing, textiles, railways, start-ups, and in the promotion of small and mid-size enterprises. Both parties also addressed bilateral market access issues and non-tariff barriers as obstacles to further trade and investment.²⁶⁶

On 25 July 2021, India entered talks with the Russian government over oil and gas investments in Russia's Far Eastern and Arctic regions. India also expressed particular interest in the development of the Vostok Oil project in the Arctic, which has an annual crude production projected at 100 million tons.²⁶⁷

On 30 July 2021, India and the United States signed the Second Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development. The Second Amendment extends the validity of the SGP Agreement until 2026 and expands the scope of joint development activities. Under this framework, India and the United States will continue to leverage

²⁶¹ India and Mauritius sign Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-and-mauritius-sign-comprehensive-economic-cooperation-and-partnership-agreement/>

²⁶² India and the United States agree to strengthen their Trade Relationship, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-and-the-united-states-agree-to-strengthen-their-trade-relationship/>

²⁶³ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

²⁶⁴ India-UK Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33839/INDIAUK_VIRTUAL_SUMMIT

²⁶⁵ India-EU Leaders' Meeting, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33856/IndiaEU_Leaders_Meeting

²⁶⁶ 21st Session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/21st-session-of-india-italy-joint-commission-for-economic-cooperation/>

²⁶⁷ India in talks with Russia over investments in Russian oil and gas assets, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.ved.gov.ru/eng/general/news/19/29303.html>

their combined capacities to provide demand-driven development partnerships and technical assistance with countries globally.²⁶⁸

India has taken concrete actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation. India has also taken measures to reduce trade barriers.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Farley Sweatman

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

On 20 November 2020, President Xi Jinping stated that China would actively consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP).²⁶⁹

On 23 November 2020, Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan and Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Sodbaatar met via video for the 16th meeting of the China-Mongolia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, to affirm both countries' desire to continue economic cooperation.²⁷⁰

On 24 November 2020, Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi. They agreed to strengthen rules-based multilateral trade, bring the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) into effect, hold three-way talks with South Korea, and reopen borders for business travel.²⁷¹

On 24 November 2020, Vice Premier Hu Chunhua and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko met virtually and reaffirmed the aim to grow bilateral trade.²⁷²

On 27 November 2020, at the 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, President Xi Jinping called for greater bilateral economic and trade cooperation. He reaffirmed China's prioritization of the ASIAN region for cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative.²⁷³

On 9 December 2020, Premier Li Keqiang and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin met virtually, calling for increased bilateral trade cooperation and coordination.²⁷⁴

²⁶⁸ Extension of the Agreement on Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development between India and the US, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34088/>

²⁶⁹ China may join trade pact that replaced Trans-Pacific Partnership, Xi Jinping tells Apec, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3110784/china-may-join-trade-pact-replaced-trans-pacific-partnership>

²⁷⁰ Minister Zhong Shan and Mongolian Deputy Prime Minister Sodbaatar Co-chair the 16th Meeting of China-Mongolia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202011/43797_1.html

²⁷¹ Japan and China agree to promote rules-based multilateral trade, Nikkei Inc. (Tokyo) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Japan-and-China-agree-to-promote-rules-based-multilateral-trade>

²⁷² China, Russia to expand economic, energy and agriculture cooperation, Global Times (Beijing) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1208786.shtml>

²⁷³ Xi calls for enhanced regional trade, China Daily Information Co (Beijing) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202011/28/WS5f5c18488a31024ad0ba9810f.html>

²⁷⁴ China, Russia to expand economic, energy and agriculture cooperation, Global Times (Beijing) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1208786.shtml>

On 18 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland met via video for the 4th meeting of the China-Iceland Joint Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee. The countries agreed to continue their work together in supporting free trade and promoting economic development.²⁷⁵

On 30 December 2020, China and the European Union completed principal negotiations on the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment. It improves the EU-China trade relationship and commits China to open its markets to the EU in certain sectors. The text of the agreement is being finalized.²⁷⁶

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and other five departments announced that China would allow imports of iron and steel raw materials that met recycling standards. The announcement came into effect on 1 January 2021.²⁷⁷

On 1 January 2021, the State Council Tariff Commission's Tariff Adjustment Plan 2021 came into effect, lowering tariffs for 883 types of goods. These tariffs were adjusted for individual free trade agreements signed by China. None of the tariff reductions involved BRICS members.²⁷⁸

On 9 January 2021, Minister Wang asserted that China would explore free trade cooperation with Africa at the upcoming 2021 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.²⁷⁹

On 18 January 2021, Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Li Zhanshu expressed hope that Cambodia and China will further their economic cooperation through the RCEP.²⁸⁰

On 21 January 2021, spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce Gao Feng expressed that China is willing to sign more free trade partnerships through the China-Japan-South Korea free trade agreement talks and similar discussions with the Gulf Cooperation Council, Israel and Norway. China will also consider joining CPTPP.²⁸¹

On 26 January 2021, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met virtually with New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor to sign the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement, which will promote greater economic cooperation between the countries.²⁸²

²⁷⁵ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202012/44077_1.html

²⁷⁶ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2233>

²⁷⁷ China: The Ministry of Ecology and Environment and other five departments issued the "Announcement on Regulating the Import Management of Recycling Iron and Steel Raw Materials" No. 78 of 2020, Bureau of International Recycling (Brussels) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.bir.org/news-press/news/item/china-the-ministry-of-ecology-and-environment-and-other-five-departments-issued-the-announcement-on-regulating-the-import-management-of-recycling-iron-and-steel-raw-materials-no-78-of-2020>

²⁷⁸ Tariffs for imports to be lowered next year, China Daily Information Co (Beijing) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202012/24/WS5fe308a6a31024ad0ba9ddddd.html>

²⁷⁹ Foreign Minister Wang Yi Articulates a Seven-Point Proposition to Upgrade China-Africa Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1845365.shtml

²⁸⁰ China, Cambodia to enhance cooperation, boost ties, People's Daily (Beijing) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0119/c90000-9810804.html>

²⁸¹ China plans to expand free trade network, accelerate FTA talks, Global Times (Beijing) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202101/1213551.shtml>

²⁸² China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202102/44454_1.html

On 4 February 2021, a Ministry of Commerce official remarked that China will actively expand its imports from Central and Eastern European countries and seek to build more balanced trade.²⁸³

On 14 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance halved rates of additional tariffs on certain US products.²⁸⁴

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Commerce met virtually with Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy to discuss the second phase of bilateral FTA negotiations.²⁸⁵ The negotiations were launched in December 2017.

On 11 March 2021, China and Norway conducted FTA negotiations on trade in goods and services, investment, and barriers to trade, among other issues of economic cooperation. The countries confirmed their commitment to completing negotiations as soon as possible.²⁸⁶

On 23 March 2021, Minister Wang Yi met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Minister Wang affirmed China's continued commitment to strengthening ties with Russia and promoting bilateral trade between the countries.²⁸⁷

On 25-31 March 2021, China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on the China-Singapore FTA upgrade.²⁸⁸

On 27 March 2021, Minister Wang Yi and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif signed a twenty-five-year strategic cooperation agreement to address economic issues in oil and mining, transport and agriculture.²⁸⁹

On 7 April 2021, China and Belarus held the first round of negotiations on a potential service trade and investment agreement. The countries agreed on the terms of reference and plans for next steps.²⁹⁰

On 8 April 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and Indonesian Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi met virtually to exchange views on deepening economic and trade ties. Minister Wang expressed China's

²⁸³ Nation to enhance trade ties with Central, Eastern Europe, China Daily Information Co (Beijing) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202102/10/WS60231ceba31024ad0baa86fd.html>

²⁸⁴ China to halve rates of additional tariffs on some US products, The State Council (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202002/06/content_WS5e3baa43c6d0a585c76ca8ef.html

²⁸⁵ China and the ROK actively promoted the second phase of the FTA negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202103/44637_1.html

²⁸⁶ China and Norway will complete the FTA negotiations as soon as possible, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202103/44677_1.html

²⁸⁷ Wang Yi Holds Talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1863858.shtml

²⁸⁸ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. http://fta.mofcom.gov.cn/enarticle/enrelease/202104/44818_1.html

²⁸⁹ Iran and China sign 25-year cooperation agreement, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3127278/iran-and-china-sign-25-year-cooperation-agreement>

²⁹⁰ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

willingness to increase cooperation with Indonesia and invited Indonesia to participate in the fourth China International Import Expo.²⁹¹

On 8 April 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and Kazakh Minister of Trade and Integration Bakkhyt Sultanov met via video conference to discuss bilateral economic cooperation. Minister Wang said that the parties would accelerate negotiations and the signing of medium and long-term plans on economic and trade cooperation.²⁹²

On 1 May 2021, China lowered tariffs on certain steel products and raw materials, which will assist domestic businesses and foreign suppliers. The goal is to lower iron ore consumption and rising prices.²⁹³

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that 79 products will be made exempt from US tariffs, including ores, minerals, chemicals and petrochemical products. The tariff waivers will come into effect on 19 May 2021.²⁹⁴

On 25 May 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs and Employment Mika Lintilä held a video conference to discuss bilateral trade and economics. Minister Wang encouraged both sides to further “liberalize trade and facilitate investment.”²⁹⁵

On 25 May 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade Franck Riester met via videoconference to discuss new areas for economic cooperation. Minister Wang stated that “China and France are both advocates of multilateralism and free trade. China is willing to further pool consensus with France and work together to contribute to reform of the World Trade Organization.”²⁹⁶

On 27 May 2021, International Trade Representative and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce Yu Jianhua and Croatian Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Tomislav Čorić met to discuss the implementation of the outcomes of the China-CEEC Summit and discuss further bilateral economic cooperation. Minister Jianhua declared a willingness to import more agricultural products from Croatia, promote Croatian business domestically, and “push for balanced development of trade.”²⁹⁷

²⁹¹ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia trade and economic links, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051660.shtml>

²⁹² Wang Wentao: Creating new growth areas in China-Kazakhstan economic relations and trade, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202105/20210503061144.shtml>

²⁹³ China cuts steel import tariffs to push industry to improve, The Associated Press (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/china-global-trade-business-ef3c5267d5ee256945bbef520dace416>

²⁹⁴ China tariffs: Beijing announces new raft of US imports eligible for waivers amid rising superpower tensions, South China Morning Post (Beijing) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3083973/china-announces-new-raft-us-imports-eligible-trade-war-tariff>

²⁹⁵ Wang Wentao: Promote China-Finland Trade and Economic Relations at Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202106/20210603066862.shtml>

²⁹⁶ Wang Wentao: Implement Leaders’ Consensus to Fuel China-France Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202106/20210603066854.shtml>

²⁹⁷ China International Trade Representative and Vice Minister of Commerce Yu Jianhua Meets with Croatian Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Tomislav Čorić, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202106/20210603069414.shtml>

On 3 June 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien had a phone call to discuss the promotion of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Minister Wang expressed the desire to further grow cooperation through “close communication and exchanges.”²⁹⁸

On 10 June 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo had a phone call to exchange views and discuss issues relating to trade concerns. Both agreed to “promote the sound development of practical cooperation on trade and investment” and to continue contact.²⁹⁹

On 23 June 2021, Representative and Minister Yu Jianhua delivered a virtual speech at the Economic Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and suggested that members promote regional cooperation through five channels: the promotion of trade liberalization and recovery; building a market and law-based business environment; enhance connectivity; prove cooperation on digital economy; and promote sustainable growth.³⁰⁰

On 17-25 June 2021, China and Singapore held the second round of follow-up negotiations on the China-Singapore FTA upgrade. Both agreed to “conduct market access consultations on negative lists of service trade and investment.”³⁰¹

On 30 June 2021, Minister Wang Wentao and Ukrainian Minister of Infrastructure Oleksandr Kubrakov signed an agreement to deepen cooperation on infrastructure development. Both countries hope this will deepen economic cooperation and trade bilaterally.³⁰²

On 22 July 2021, China and Belarus held the second round of negotiations on the Agreement on Trade in Services and Investment.³⁰³

On 28 July 2021, Assistant Minister of Commerce Ren Hongbin and First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Voitov Aziz Botirovich jointly held the first virtual meeting of the China-Uzbekistan Investment Cooperation Working Group. The group will help facilitate further economic cooperation, improve government and enterprise interactions, and increase business exchanges.³⁰⁴

²⁹⁸ Wang Wentao: Elevating China-Vietnam Trade and Economic Cooperation to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 6 June 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202106/20210603079222.shtml>

²⁹⁹ Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao has a Telephone Call with U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202106/20210603079233.shtml>

³⁰⁰ China International Trade Representative and Vice Minister Yu Jianhua: Jointly building a stronger and closer SCO community with a shared future, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202107/20210703174030.shtml>

³⁰¹ China and Singapore actively promote the follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202107/20210703174028.shtml>

³⁰² China and Ukraine signed an intergovernmental cooperation agreement in infrastructure development, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202107/20210703175113.shtml>

³⁰³ China and Belarus hold second round of talks on services trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202107/20210703181844.shtml>

³⁰⁴ The first meeting of the China-Uzbekistan Investment Cooperation Working Group successfully held, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202108/20210803183878.shtml>

On 29 July 2021, Assistant Minister Ren Hongbin and Undersecretary of Finance of the Philippines Mark Dennis Joven co-chaired a video conference on bilateral relations. Assistant Minister Ren Hongbin expressed China's willingness to work with the Philippines to reach a consensus on trade and economic cooperation "at a high level" among other areas of cooperation.³⁰⁵

On 29 July 2021, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative Wang Shouwen and Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs of the US Chamber of Commerce Myron Brilliant had a video discussion. Vice Minister and Representative Wang Shouwen stated that China intends to continue "opening-up with multiple favourable measures," such as lowering tariffs and barriers to investment access.³⁰⁶

China has taken actions to enhance economic cooperation through trade negotiations and reduce tariffs as trade barriers.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to enhance trade and economic cooperation, including with respect to reducing barriers in mutual trade in goods and services, where possible.

On 25 December 2020, the High Commissioner to Colombo committed to fulfilling a "request to lower, for a period of time not exceeding three years, tea tariffs...to give some relief to Sri Lanka...in the spirit of supporting developing countries become sustainable as they can be."³⁰⁷

On 1 January 2021, South Africa and other African countries began officially trading under a new continent-wide free trade area.³⁰⁸ The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to bring together 1.3 billion people in a USD3.4 trillion economic bloc.

On 18 January 2021, as a member of the Southern African Customs Union, South Africa signed a new trade deal with the post-Brexit UK, which guarantees duty-free and quota-free access to British markets.³⁰⁹

On 15 February 2021, Director-General of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Lionel October stated that "the government will need to maintain some form of protection for South African manufacturers if it is to build up local production capacity and create employment."³¹⁰

³⁰⁵ China and the Philippines Held a Video Conference on Trade and Economic Consultations, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202108/20210803183872.shtml>

³⁰⁶ Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, had a video discussion with U.S. Chamber of Commerce and several representatives from member enterprises, Ministry of Commerce, PRC (Beijing) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202108/20210803183868.shtml>

³⁰⁷ South Africa willing to consider slashing tariffs for Sri Lankan tea exports, Lanka Page (Colombo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20B/Dec25_1608909632CH.php

³⁰⁸ After months of COVID delays, African free trade bloc launches, Aljazeera (Doha) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/1/1/after-months-of-covid-delays-african-free-trade-bloc-launches>

³⁰⁹ UK-Africa trade: What will Brexit change? Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/uk-africa-trade-what-will-brexit-change/a-56262464>

³¹⁰ Biden Faces South African Push to Extend Trade Concessions, Bloomberg (New York) 15 February 2021. Access Date 20 February 2021. <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/biden-faces-south-african-push-to-extend-trade-concessions-1.1563724>

On 24 February 2021, a proposal introduced by South Africa and India entitled “Waiver from Certain Provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19” garnered the support of over 90 WTO members.³¹¹ This proposal requested that members be permitted to choose to neither grant nor enforce patents and other intellectual property disciplines related to COVID-19 drugs, vaccines and medical products for the duration of the pandemic.

On 5 March 2021, South Africa approved a new tax on exported ferrochrome ore.³¹²

On 21 March 2021, South Africa published a list of products that will be exempted from duties in future years under the AfCFTA.³¹³ South Africa has incorporated AfCFTA into its domestic laws, and the provisions of the agreement provide for tariff-free trade on 90 per cent of imports from other African parties within five years.

On 5 July 2021, it was reported that South African officials were in talks with Indian trade ministers to discuss opportunities to increase and diversify Indian exports to South Africa.³¹⁴ Products such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, transportation equipment, engineering goods, footwear, dyes and intermediates, chemicals, textiles, rice, gems, and jewellery are all potential targets for this increase in free trade between two BRICS nations.

On 20 July 2021, South Africa announced that it had agreed to take forward India’s trade proposals before the September BRICS meeting. These proposals “seek to deepen trade and economic ties and include a framework for ensuring consumer protection in e-commerce, a mechanism to resolve non-tariff measures relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures [relating to food safety, animal and plant health standards] and technical barriers to trade.”³¹⁵

On 22 July 2021, IOL reported on “a productive and useful China-South Africa Trade and Investment Roundtable in Hangzhou,” in which the two BRICS nations met to discuss reinforcing international economic interaction while providing new trade and investment opportunities.³¹⁶

South Africa has taken actions to enhance trade and economic cooperation and reduce barriers to trade, notably through trade agreements and bilateral economic relations.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Landon Apollo Leone

³¹¹ India-South Africa IPR waiver proposal gets support of about 90 WTO members, Business Line (New Delhi) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-south-africa-ipr-waiver-proposal-gets-support-of-about-90-wto-members/article33923087.ece>

³¹² South Africa: New export tax on chrome ore intended to resurrect the ferrochrome industry, Lexology, 5 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=abff3bca-79fd-44c7-9819-e2dffc8b4f5>

³¹³ SA businesses can already benefit from African free trade deal. Here’s what you need to know, Business Insider (Cape Town) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.businessinsider.co.za/african-free-trade-what-south-africa-businesses-should-know-2021-3>

³¹⁴ Indian exporters to explore opportunities for increased trade with South Africa, Business Line (New Delhi) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/indian-exporters-to-explore-opportunities-for-increased-trade-with-south-africa/article35153188.ece>

³¹⁵ Piyush Goyal to chair BRICS trade meeting in September, Mint (Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/piyush-goyal-to-chair-brics-trade-meeting-in-september-11626769340526.html>

³¹⁶ Strengthening economic co-operation between South Africa and China, IOL (Cape Town) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/strengthening-economic-co-operation-between-south-africa-and-china-1a74106f-e4e6-453d-9f6b-fd1258e4babf>

4. Trade: World Trade Organization Reform

“We support the necessary reform of the WTO with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO Members. [The reform must, inter alia, preserve the centrality, core values and fundamental principles of the WTO, and consider the interests of all members, including developing countries and LDCs, recognizing that the majority of WTO members are developing countries.]”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

In the 2020 BRICS Moscow Declaration, the leaders acknowledged the crucial role of international trade in the global economic recovery, and expressed their commitment to a “transparent, open, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, as embodied in the World Trade Organization.”³¹⁷ These commitments reflect a continuation of the BRICS’ long-term commitment to supporting the multilateral trading system and the central role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) within.

The WTO was first referenced by BRICS members in the context of Russia’s accession to the WTO in 2012. Adopted on 29 March 2012, the Delhi Declaration acknowledged Russia’s accession as a step towards a more representative WTO system. BRICS leaders also emphasized the importance of upholding a rule-based multilateral trading system and rolling back trade protectionism.³¹⁸

BRICS members have consistently reaffirmed its support for an “open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system,” notably at the 2014 Fortaleza Summit,³¹⁹ the 2015 Ufa Summit,³²⁰ the 2016 Goa Summit,³²¹ and the 2017 Xiamen Summit.³²² Specifically, BRICS leaders have also advocated for the representation of developing members in the 2018 Johannesburg Declaration³²³ and the 2019 Brasilia Declaration.³²⁴ At the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders

³¹⁷ Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

³¹⁸ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>.

³¹⁹ The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>.

³²⁰ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 13 December 2019. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html.

³²¹ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html>.

³²² BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>.

³²³ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>.

reiterated their commitment to preserving and strengthening the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its centre. Specifically, the BRICS leaders called on all WTO members to avoid unilateral and protectionist measures. The BRICS added that the reform must preserve the fundamental principles of the WTO and consider the interests of all members, including developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs). In the Brasilia Declaration, BRICS leaders also recognized the importance of WTO reform “to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the organization and its capacity to better address current and future challenges.”³²⁵

Commitment Features

The overarching aim of this commitment is to support WTO reform. Specifically, the BRICS committed to support WTO reform in view of several objectives. As the commitment outlines, these objectives are to make the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions. In addition, the commitment also specifies that these objectives should be pursued in the interest of all WTO members. Thus, this commitment can be broken down into two parts. The first part is the general commitment to improve the WTO’s key functions and its resilience and effectiveness in confronting global economic challenges. Taking actions towards only this part counts towards partial compliance. The second part is the more specific commitment to pursue these objectives in the interests of all members, particularly developing countries and LDCs. Only when this objective is also satisfied can the member country achieve full compliance.

Part 1: Improving the WTO’s resilience, effectiveness and key functions

The first part of this commitment requires BRICS members to take actions to support WTO reform, including actions that make the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and actions that improve the WTO’s key functions.

“Support” includes “the action or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”³²⁶

“WTO reform” refers to the steps taken to modernize the WTO in order to address challenges that are putting the multilateral trading system and the role of the WTO under stress. These steps include safeguarding and strengthening the WTO’s dispute-settlement mechanism, reinvigorating its negotiating function, strengthening its deliberative function, etc.³²⁷

“Resilience” is defined as the “ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.”³²⁸ In the context of this commitment, resilience refers specifically to the WTO’s ability to cope with challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis, which represents an unprecedented shock to world trade.³²⁹

³²⁴ 3 Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Brasilia) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>.

³²⁵ Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Brasilia) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>.

³²⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³²⁷ Ottawa Group and WTO reform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/05/ottawa-group-and-wto-reform.html>

³²⁸ Definition of resilience, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resilience>

³²⁹ COVID-19 and world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm

“Effectiveness” is defined as the ability to produce the intended results.³³⁰ Here, effectiveness refers directly to how well the WTO is able to perform its key functions, which will be defined below.

“Global economic challenges” refer to all the challenges confronting the world that are economic in nature. Specifically, the economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly important for this commitment.

“Improve” is defined as “make or become better,” “produce something better than” (as improve upon), and to update existing initiatives (without implying that brand new initiatives need to be launched).³³¹

Finally, the WTO’s six “key functions” are:

1. Administering trade agreements
2. Acting as a forum for trade negotiations
3. Settling trade disputes
4. Reviewing national trade policies
5. Building the trade capacity of developing economies
6. Cooperating with other international organizations³³²

Overall, to comply with the first part of this commitment, BRICS members must take actions that contribute to the improvement of the WTO’s key functions, which in turn would improve the WTO’s resilience and effectiveness in confronting global economic challenges. Specifically, BRICS members must provide verbal, political, economic/financial, institutional or administrative assistance to the WTO reform process. Actions supporting any relevant aspect of reform could count towards compliance. Relevant reform processes that BRICS members can support include reforming the WTO’s dispute settlement mechanism, improving the WTO’s deliberative function, improving the WTO’s administrative functions, etc.

A BRICS member can fall short of this threshold, for instance, if it contributes to WTO reform yet without a focus on the functions that contribute to the organization’s resilience and effectiveness in crisis response and management. Alternatively, this threshold is also not met if a member merely expresses verbal affirmations to support the objective of WTO reform, without taking concrete action to demonstrate contributions to the organization’s improvement. In these instances, the member only demonstrates partial compliance with the first part of the commitment.

Part 2: Taking into account the interest of all WTO members

The “interest of all WTO members” refers to both developed and developing country members. In the context of the Moscow Declaration, the interests of developing countries and LDCs have a special significance. As the text of the declaration explains, WTO reform must “consider the interests of all members, including developing countries and LDCs, recognizing that the majority of WTO

³³⁰ Effectiveness, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/effectiveness>

³³¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020.
http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³³² WTO in Brief, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020.
https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/inbrief_e/inbr_e.htm

members are developing countries.”³³³ Thus, the second part of the commitment requires BRICS members to not only support the WTO’s general reform process but to specifically consider the interests of developing countries and LDCs.

Specifically, the WTO deals with the special needs of developing countries in three ways:

1. The WTO agreements contain special provisions on developing countries;
2. The Committee on Trade and Development is the main body focusing on work in this area in the WTO, with some others dealing with specific topics such as trade and debt, and technology transfer;
3. The WTO Secretariat provides technical assistance (mainly training of various kinds) for developing countries.³³⁴

In addition, WTO Agreements contain special provisions that give special rights to developing countries including:

- Longer time periods for implementing agreements and commitments;
- Measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries;
- Provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries;
- Support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes and implement technical standards;
- Provisions related to least-developed country members.³³⁵

Thus, given the special needs, interests and concerns of developing countries and LDCs, the BRICS must also take actions that ensure the WTO reform process pays adequate attention to safeguarding these interests. Examples include actions that support the WTO’s reform of its special provisions on developing countries and LDCs in a way that addresses their concerns, improve the function of institutional bodies dealing specifically with developing countries and LDCs, or provide support to giving developing countries and LDCs a more important voice and role within the WTO, etc.

Actions that fall short of this threshold will be scored partial compliance. For example, verbal affirmations of the goal of inclusivity in the WTO would merit a score of 0 for partial compliance. Partial compliance would also be observed in instances where a BRICS member only considers the interests of developing countries or LDCs, rather than both groups, as stipulated in the commitment.

In sum, a BRICS member must strongly comply with both aspects of this commitment to merit a score of +1 for full compliance. If a BRICS member somewhat complies with both aspects of the commitment, or strongly with one dimension and somewhat with the other, the member will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance. A score of –1 for non-compliance will be attributed to members that fail to take any action towards supporting WTO reform.

³³³ XXI BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

³³⁴ Understanding the WTO: Development Countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/dev1_e.htm

³³⁵ Special and differential treatment provisions, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/dev_special_differential_provisions_e.htm

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member has not taken actions towards supporting reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
0	The BRICS member has taken actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO's key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. However, no special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries or LDCs.
+1	The BRICS member has taken actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO's key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. In addition, special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries or LDCs.

Analyst: Alissa Xinbe Wang

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to support the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO members.

On 21 November 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro advocated for WTO reform in the areas of negotiations, dispute settlement, and transparency.³³⁶

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ernesto Araújo expressed support for “a process of reform of the WTO that brings the WTO back to its original calling of working with the principles of the market economy.”³³⁷

On 29 January 2021, Minister Araújo reaffirmed Brazil's support for “the reform and strengthening of the WTO based on a common set of goals and objectives.”³³⁸ Specifically, Minister Araújo called for a reduction of agricultural domestic support entitlements, a permanent multilateral solution to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, the “conclusion of negotiations on investment facilitation and services domestic regulation, as well as an advanced and consolidated negotiating text in electronic commerce,” and the “conclusion of negotiations on fisheries with a robust outcome for both sustainability and trade.”³³⁹

³³⁶Bolsonaro advocates for WTO reform at G20 Summit, ANBA (São Paulo) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://anba.com.br/en/bolsonaro-advocates-for-wto-reform-at-g20-summit/>

³³⁷Remarks by Minister Ernesto Araújo in the panel “Redefining Geopolitics”, of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/minister-of-foreign-affairs-speeches/remarks-by-minister-ernesto-araujo-in-the-panel-redefining-geopolitics-of-the-world-economic-forum-in-davos-january-29th-2021>

³³⁸Remarks by Minister Ernesto Araújo in the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/minister-of-foreign-affairs-speeches/remarks-by-minister-ernesto-araujo-at-the-wto-informal-ministerial-meeting>

³³⁹Remarks by Minister Ernesto Araújo in the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/minister-of-foreign-affairs-speeches/remarks-by-minister-ernesto-araujo-at-the-wto-informal-ministerial-meeting>

On 22 March 2021, Minister Araújo expressed Brazil's support for WTO reform, specifically in regards to trading systems, domestic agricultural support, fisheries subsidies, the Dispute Settlement Mechanism, and the integration of plurilateral agreements into the structure of the WTO.³⁴⁰

On 14 April 2021, Ambassador Sarquis J. B. Sarquis affirmed Brazil's support for "the efforts of the WTO DG to promote a 'third way' dialogue that guarantees large-scale production and timely and equitable distribution of vaccines."³⁴¹

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Alberto Franco França expressed opposition to the recent US support for India and South Africa's Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver proposal.³⁴² Minister França maintained the importance of intellectual property rights and reaffirmed Brazil's support for the "third way" for facilitating technology transfer within multilateral frameworks.³⁴³

On 7 May 2021, Brazil's foreign, health, and economy ministries released a joint statement welcoming recent US support for India and South Africa's TRIPS waiver proposal.³⁴⁴ The statement said that negotiating a TRIPS agreement would help combat the pandemic and "facilitate the implementation of the 'third way' proposals, which aim to increase and diversify the production and dissemination of vaccines, mainly in developing countries, with better use of idle capacity."³⁴⁵

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Foreign Ministers released a statement in support of equitable access to health products and technologies to combat the global pandemic.³⁴⁶ The statement also highlighted the importance of greater consideration of developing countries in the WTO, and the need to avoid protectionism and unilateralism through strengthening multilateral institutions such as the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.³⁴⁷

On 23 June 2021, the Cairns Group (of which Brazil is a member) issued a Ministerial Statement in favour of continuing multilateral agricultural trade reforms through the WTO in order to make

³⁴⁰Address by Minister Ernesto Araújo at the Ottawa Group Ministerial Videoconference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/minister-of-foreign-affairs/speeches/address-by-minister-ernesto-araujo-at-the-ottawa-group-ministerial-videoconference-world-trade-organization-wto-22-03-2021>

³⁴¹Address by the Secretary for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade (SCAEC), Ambassador Sarquis J. B. Sarquis, at the WTO event on equity in access to vaccines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/content-centers/speeches-articles-and-interviews/diplomats/speeches/address-by-the-secretary-for-economic-affairs-and-foreign-trade-scaec-ambassador-sarquis-j-b-sarquis-at-the-wto-event-on-equity-in-access-to-vaccines-4-14-2021>

³⁴²Biden decide apoiar quebra de patentes das vacinas enquanto Brasil mantém posição contrária, MEMO (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.monitordooriente.com/20210507-biden-decide-apoiar-quebra-de-patentes-das-vacinas-enquanto-brasil-mantem-posicao-contraria/>

³⁴³Biden decide apoiar quebra de patentes das vacinas enquanto Brasil mantém posição contrária, MEMO (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.monitordooriente.com/20210507-biden-decide-apoiar-quebra-de-patentes-das-vacinas-enquanto-brasil-mantem-posicao-contraria/>

³⁴⁴Brazil welcomes U.S. call for talks on vaccine patents, Reuters (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-welcomes-us-call-talks-vaccine-patents-2021-05-07/>

³⁴⁵Brazil welcomes U.S. call for talks on vaccine patents, Reuters (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-welcomes-us-call-talks-vaccine-patents-2021-05-07/>

³⁴⁶BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

³⁴⁷BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

agricultural trade “more predictable, open, fair, and market oriented.”³⁴⁸ The Ministers also called upon the WTO Secretariat to “update and improve” analytical tools on domestic subsidies in order to improve compliance with existing transparency obligations.³⁴⁹

On 15 July 2021, Brazil reiterated its proposal to reduce global fisheries subsidies, but noted that “appropriate and effective S&DT treatment for developing and least developed countries should be recognized.”³⁵⁰

Brazil has taken actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO’s key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. In addition, special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erfan Ehsan

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to support the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO members.

On 30 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin stressed the significance for all WTO member states to carry out their obligations and to obey the organization’s rules in accordance to the clauses of WTO, and more importantly, to preserve and to improve the playbook as to reform WTO in order to increase its inclusiveness and to hold member states that are carrying out “protectionist measures” accountable, as verbal proposals, during a meeting of the Heads of Government Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.³⁵¹

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Foreign Ministers released a statement in support of equitable access to health products and technologies to combat the global pandemic.³⁵² The statement also highlighted the importance of greater consideration of developing countries in the WTO, and the need to avoid protectionism and unilateralism through strengthening multilateral institutions such as the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.³⁵³

On 23 June 2021, Russia proposed to establish a working group to discuss the WTO reform ahead the ministerial conference scheduled on 29 November – 3 December 2021. Russia advocates

³⁴⁸ Cairns Group Minister’s Statement on the WTO reform process in agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/cairns-group-minister-s-statement-on-the-wto-reform-process-in-agriculture>

³⁴⁹ Cairns Group Minister’s Statement on the WTO reform process in agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/cairns-group-minister-s-statement-on-the-wto-reform-process-in-agriculture>

³⁵⁰ World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting on fisheries subsidies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/world-trade-organization-wto-ministerial-meeting-on-fisheries-subsidies-2013-joint-press-release-by-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-the-ministry-of-agriculture-livestock-and-food-supply-2013-july-15-2021>

³⁵¹ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

³⁵² BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

³⁵³ BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

improvement of the WTO dispute settlement system, collective actions to vanish competitive disproportions in global trade with an eye on contemporary approaches and practices along with lifting up barriers for exchanges in technologies and discussing the global trade rules exceptions.³⁵⁴

On 9 July 2021, Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov held a video conference with the WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. The parties discussed Russia's proposals concerning the Organization's reform. Among other issues including reforming the WTO dispute settlement system, Minister Reshetnikov highlighted the urgent need for rebalancing the global trade to bridge the growing gap between developing and developed countries following the concept of competitive neutrality.³⁵⁵

Russia has taken verbal actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO's key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges, Russia also paid special attention to the interests of developing countries.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Charlie Lecheng Zeng

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to support the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO members.

On 2 December 2020, during the WTO negotiations on fisheries, India, South Africa and Fiji, among other developing countries, stated that any future agreement must have effective special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing and least developing countries which aligns also with the Sustainable Development Goal target 14.6.³⁵⁶

On 10 December 2020, India and South Africa submitted a joint proposal to the General Council that the WTO hold structured discussions on e-commerce and digital trade.³⁵⁷ This proposal aims to counter initiatives by other WTO members to establish global rules on digital trade outside the WTO.³⁵⁸

³⁵⁴ Russia prose to establish WTO reform working group, Interfax (Moscow) 23 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.interfax.ru/business/773599>

³⁵⁵ Maxim Reshetnikov discussed Russia's priorities with WTO Director-General in Geneva, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 August 2021.

https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/news/maksim_reshetnikov_obsudil_s_gendirektorom_vto_rossiyskie_prioritety_na_peregovorah_v_zheneve.html

³⁵⁶ WTO Members reveal "Entrenched" differences as fisheries talks approach 2020 deadline, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Geneva) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/wto-members-reveal-entrenched-differences-as-fisheries-talks-approach-2020-deadline/>

³⁵⁷ India and South Africa revive multilateral talks on e-commerce, Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-and-south-africa-revive-multilateral-talks-on-ecomm/articleshow/79650347.cms>

³⁵⁸ India and South Africa revive multilateral talks on e-commerce, Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-and-south-africa-revive-multilateral-talks-on-ecomm/articleshow/79650347.cms>

On 8 January 2021, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan urged WTO members to find “a permanent solution to Public Stock Holding for food security.”³⁵⁹

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal urged WTO members to “rise above the narrow interests and entrenched positions.”³⁶⁰ This comment was in regards to India and South Africa’s Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver proposal, which seeks to “avoid barriers to the timely access to affordable medical products including vaccines and medicines or to scaling-up of research, development, manufacturing and supply of essential medical products.”³⁶¹ Minister Goyal also called for equitable resolutions for developing countries on issues such as public stockholding, agricultural subsidies, and e-commerce.³⁶²

On 19 February 2021, the Indian and South African delegations to the WTO circulated a document discussing the legality of Joint Statement Initiatives (JSI).³⁶³ The document argues that plurilateral agreements and JSIs are inconsistent with the Marrakesh Agreement, and undermine the multilateral principles of the WTO.³⁶⁴

On 25 February 2021, Minister Goyal reiterated the importance of India and South Africa’s TRIPS waiver proposal in order to facilitate the economic recovery of developing countries.³⁶⁵

On 26 February 2021, Permanent Representative to the WTO Brajendra Navnit highlighted the necessity of India and South Africa’s TRIPS waiver proposal in order to achieve “true vaccine internationalism.”³⁶⁶

On 2 March 2021, Permanent Representative Navnit urged WTO members to “reach consensus on the Waiver proposal to ramp up production for the cause of truly ensuring fair, equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 products in a timely manner.”³⁶⁷

³⁵⁹India urges WTO members to find permanent solution to public stock holding for food security, Economic Times (New Delhi) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-urges-wto-members-to-find-permanent-solution-to-public-stock-holding-for-food-security/articleshow/80173869.cms>

³⁶⁰Rise above narrow interests, support plan for uninterrupted flow of medicines, vaccines: India tells WTO, Economic Times (New Delhi) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/rise-above-narrow-interests-support-plan-for-uninterrupted-flow-of-medicines-vaccines-india-tells-wto/articleshow/80589357.cms>

³⁶¹Members to continue discussion on proposal for temporary IP waiver in response to COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trip_10dec20_e.htm

³⁶²Rise above narrow interests, support plan for uninterrupted flow of medicines, vaccines: India tells WTO, Economic Times (New Delhi) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/rise-above-narrow-interests-support-plan-for-uninterrupted-flow-of-medicines-vaccines-india-tells-wto/articleshow/80589357.cms>

³⁶³The Legal Status of ‘Joint Statement Initiatives’ and their Negotiated Outcomes, WTO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W819.pdf>

³⁶⁴The Legal Status of ‘Joint Statement Initiatives’ and their Negotiated Outcomes, WTO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W819.pdf&Open=True>

³⁶⁵I am sure global pharma industry will support India’s WTO proposal: Goyal, Business Standard (New Delhi) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/i-am-sure-global-pharma-industry-will-support-india-s-wto-proposal-goyal-121022500468_1.html

³⁶⁶We need true vaccine internationalism: Indian Ambassador to WTO, Economic Times (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: April 1 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/we-need-true-vaccine-internationalism-indian-ambassador-to-wto/articleshow/81232022.cms>

On 11 March 2021, India presented proposals at the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues in regard to its TRIPS waiver proposal, e-commerce, dispute resolution mechanisms, and information sharing frameworks.³⁶⁸

On 12 March 2021, India called upon WTO members to address issues regarding public stockholding and special safeguard measures.³⁶⁹ India seeks a permanent solution in order to protect the ability of developing countries to procure food grains and ensure food security.³⁷⁰

On 14 April 2021, Minister Goyal highlighted the importance of reforming intellectual property rights protections in the WTO in order to respond to the global health crisis.³⁷¹

On 17 May 2021, as a co-sponsor of the TRIPS waiver proposal, India called on opponents to consider the proposal and join negotiations.³⁷²

On 31 May 2021, India reiterated its calls for support for its TRIPS waiver proposal in order to assist global vaccination efforts and maintain the “relevance and credibility” of the WTO.³⁷³

On 31 May 2021, India argued for the necessity of S&DT in fisheries subsidies negotiations.³⁷⁴

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Foreign Ministers released a statement in support of equitable access to health products and technologies to combat the global pandemic.³⁷⁵ The statement also highlighted the importance of greater consideration of developing countries in the WTO, and the need to avoid protectionism and unilateralism through strengthening multilateral institutions such as the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.³⁷⁶

³⁶⁷India urges WTO members to reach consensus on TRIPS waiver proposal, Economic Times (New Delhi) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-urges-wto-members-to-reach-consensus-on-trips-waiver-proposal/articleshow/81292932.cms>

³⁶⁸BRICS: India proposes deliverables on TRIPS waiver, e-comm consumer protection, traditional knowledge, Economic Times (New Delhi) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/brics-india-proposes-deliverables-on-trips-waiver-e-comm-consumer-protection-traditional-knowledge/articleshow/81463425.cms>

³⁶⁹India, China voice same agri concerns at WTO, Times of India (New Delhi) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-china-voice-same-agri-concerns-at-wto/articleshow/81458764.cms>

³⁷⁰India, China voice same agri concerns at WTO, Times of India (New Delhi) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-china-voice-same-agri-concerns-at-wto/articleshow/81458764.cms>

³⁷¹Need to create environment for quick scaling up of global COVID vax production: Piyush Goyal, Economic Times (New Delhi) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/need-to-create-environment-for-quick-scaling-up-of-global-covid-vax-production-piyush-goyal/articleshow/82083324.cms>

³⁷² JOINT STATEMENT OF CO-SPONSORS, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/Cosponsors'_Joint_Statement_17_May_2021.pdf

³⁷³ Intervention at the Informal Open-ended Meeting of the TRIPS Council held on 31 May, 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/TRIPs_Informal_Meeting_31st_May_2021.pdf

³⁷⁴ Statement at the open-ended meeting on S&DT provisions in the NGR fisheries subsidies negotiations held on Monday, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/Statement-31-May-on-S&DT-provisions.pdf

³⁷⁵ BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

³⁷⁶ BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

On 12 June 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a “One Earth, One Health” approach to fighting the pandemic, and called upon the G7 to support India and South Africa’s TRIPS waiver proposal at the WTO.³⁷⁷

On 27 June 2021, India made several statements to the WTO General Council.³⁷⁸ India called for improvements to WTO multilateralism, discussed public stockholding programmes for food security, and highlighted LDC concerns regarding fisheries subsidies negotiations, S&DT provisions, and LDCs’ integration into global trade.³⁷⁹ Furthermore, India called upon WTO Members to review the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission and reiterated its support for the proposed TRIPS waiver.³⁸⁰

On 15 July 2021, Minister Goyal criticized the current form of the WTO fisheries subsidies deal, stating that the agreement remained “short of finding the right balance and fairness in the agreement.”³⁸¹ Specifically, Minister Goyal argued for greater flexibility for developing countries in terms of subsidies and sustainability, preservation of sovereign rights over maritime resources, as well as S&DT “for a country as a whole,” rather than solely for artisanal fishermen.³⁸²

On 23 July 2021, Permanent Representative to the WTO Brajendra Navnit urged the WTO to deliver on several matters, including trade restrictions and protectionism, TRIPS waivers, public stockholding, S&DT, fisheries subsidies, and restoring the two-stage dispute settlement mechanism.³⁸³

India has taken actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO’s key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. In addition, special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erfan Ehsan

³⁷⁷ At G7 summit, PM Modi calls for 'One Earth, One Health' approach for pandemic, seeks support for TRIPS waiver, India Today (New Delhi) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/one-earth-one-health-pm-modi-g7-summit-india-pandemic-1814138-2021-06-12>

³⁷⁸ India's Statements delivered by Ambassador & PR at the Formal General Council Meeting held on 27-28 July 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/statements/MjQ5Mg>

³⁷⁹ India's Statements delivered by Ambassador & PR at the Formal General Council Meeting held on 27-28 July 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/statements/MjQ5Mg>

³⁸⁰ India's Statements delivered by Ambassador & PR at the Formal General Council Meeting held on 27-28 July 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/statements/MjQ5Mg>

³⁸¹ Statement delivered by H.E. Mr Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister of India at the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting of the WTO held on 15 July 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/statements/MjUzNQ>

³⁸² Statement delivered by H.E. Mr Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister of India at the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting of the WTO held on 15 July 2021, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/statements/MjUzNQ>

³⁸³ Statement by India, Permanent Mission of India to WTO (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.pmindiaun.gov.in/public_files/assets/pdf/Statement_delivered_by_Brajendra_Navnit-23_7_2021.pdf

China +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to support the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO members.

On 1 December 2020, China renewed a USD500,000 pledge to the WTO's least developed countries (LDCs) and Accessions Programme at a signing ceremony with WTO Deputy Director General Yonov Frederick Agah and Chinese Ambassador to the WTO Zhang Xiangchen.³⁸⁴

On 2 December 2020, China, Korea, the European Union, and the United States urged for a timely conclusion of the fisheries subsidy's negotiations by the end of 2020.³⁸⁵ At the fisheries negotiations, discussions include dispute settlement, subsidies in areas of illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing, sustainability considerations, and special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries.³⁸⁶

On 11 December 2020, the 9th China Round Table on WTO Accession within the framework of China's LDCs and Accessions Programme took place.³⁸⁷ The Round Table discussed challenges and emerging best practices in WTO accessions and how to make this process more effective, including with respect to least-developed countries and developing countries as well as the role of the WTO's Guidelines on the Accession of LDCs.³⁸⁸

On 16 December 2020, Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen attended a WTO General Council Meeting. At the meeting, he indicated China support for the Draft General Council Declaration action plan to enhance cotton by-product development in the LDC's, and China willingness to work with WTO and other International Organizations to collaborate and explore possibilities to provide technical and financial assistance for cotton development.³⁸⁹

On 17 December 2020, Ambassador Xiangchen attended a WTO General Council Meeting. At the meeting, the Ambassador expressed China support for a WTO reform proposal submitted by African WTO members known informally as the African Group that is Chair by a South Africa's envoy to the WTO. China also expressed their belief a WTO reform is necessary to allow developing members to benefit from participation and China willingness to advance WTO reform with WTO members.³⁹⁰

³⁸⁴ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

³⁸⁵ WTO Members reveal "Entrenched" differences as fisheries talks approach 2020 deadline, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Geneva) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/wto-members-reveal-entrenched-differences-as-fisheries-talks-approach-2020-deadline/>

³⁸⁶ WTO members conclude cluster of fisheries subsidies meetings, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/fish_02dec20_e.htm

³⁸⁷ 9th China Round Table on WTO Accessions, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/9thcrt_e.htm

³⁸⁸ Ninth China Round Table to reflect on 25 years of WTO accessions, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/acc_08dec20_e.htm

³⁸⁹ Statements by H.E. Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen of China at the WTO General Council Meeting, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. <http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/chinaviewpoins/202012/20201203024189.shtml>

³⁹⁰ Statements by H.E. Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen of China at the WTO General Council Meeting, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. <http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/chinaviewpoins/202012/20201203024189.shtml>

On 18 December 2020, China participated in a dispute settlement body meeting. At the meeting, China advocated members to bring WTO inconsistent measures into conformity, especially United States to complete implementation rulings in DS160. In addition, China expressed its concern about the United States' continued noncompliance of implementing anti-dumping rules. Moreover, China reached an agreement with Canada for prompt resolution of the WTO dispute settlement system during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹¹

On 25 January 2021, at a Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) meeting, China expressed disappointment with the United States' unwillingness to implement modified measures of the Appellate Body that has undermined the effectiveness of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and urged the United States to conform without delay.³⁹²

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao attended an informal WTO Ministerial Meeting with 29 members to discuss the post-COVID-19 global economic recovery and the upcoming 12th WTO Ministerial Conference trade negotiations. At the meeting, China expressed its support to advance WTO reform by working with parties to uphold the multilateral trading system, support appointment of a new WTO Director General, and resume the Appellate Body functions as well as jointly building an open world economy through trade negotiations.³⁹³

On 22 February 2021, at a dispute settlement body meeting, China reiterated its disappointment at the United States for failing to adopt recommendations and rulings of the DSB and urge them to fully conform. At the meeting, China also took the floor to express support of a group proposal made by Mexico on behalf of the 121 WTO members to begin filling the remaining seats of the Appellate Body. China reiterated their firm support to preserve a two-tier dispute settlement system, including a panel and appeals stage, in order to restore the full operations of the Appellate Body.³⁹⁴

On 25 February 2021, Ambassador Li Chenggang attended an informal Trade Negotiations Committee and Head of Delegates meeting. Ambassador Chenggang's statement at the meeting expressed China's support to conclude the fisheries subsidies and joint statement initiatives such as services domestic regulation and investment facilitation negotiations, and reaffirmed China's position on restoring the Appellate Body as soon as possible so that rule-making can resume.³⁹⁵

³⁹¹ Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 18 December 2020, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 7 February 2021.
<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/disputesettlementbodydsb/202101/20210103028390.shtml>

³⁹² Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 25 January 2021, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 7 February 2021.
<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/disputesettlementbodydsb/202101/20210103035362.shtml>

³⁹³ Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao attended Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting, People's Republic of China – Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 6 February 2021.
<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203037185.shtml>

³⁹⁴ Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 22 February 2021, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 5 March 5, 2021.
<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/disputesettlementbodydsb/202102/20210203040574.shtml>

³⁹⁵ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Li Chenggang at the Informal TNC and HODs meeting, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 5 March 2021.
<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/chinaviewpoin/202102/20210203041065.shtml>

On 28 April 2021, at a DSB meeting, China echoed Mexico's statement to preserve a two-tier independent and impartial dispute settlement system by restoring a functioning Appellate Body and continue to urge the United States to implement DSB recommendations.³⁹⁶

On 5 and 6 May 2021, at the General Council Meeting, China expressed support to bring the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Waiver (TRIPS) waiver negotiations to text-based phase and explore ways to integrate JSIs statements into the WTO framework. China also recognized the impact the pandemic had on LDCs and has been implementing zero tariffs on 97 per cent of LDCs' exports to China.³⁹⁷

On 19 May 2021, Ambassador Chenggang said in a statement that repairing WTO's normal functions of rulemaking and dispute settlement and striving to make the WTO relevant to the twenty-first century are WTO moving forward priorities.³⁹⁸

On 21 May 2021, President Xi Jinping at the Global Health Summit conference announced several measures to support COVID-19 with notable assistance to developing countries greatly affected by the pandemic. President Jinping said China will provide international aid of USD3 billion over three years for economic and social recovery in developing countries, transferring its vaccine companies' technologies to developing countries and assist in production, support WTO on an early decision about waiving TRIPS on COVID-19 vaccines, and setting up an international forum on vaccine cooperation for vaccine-developing and producing countries.³⁹⁹

On 28 May 2021, at a DSB meeting, China supported Mexico's proposal on behalf of 121 co-sponsors regarding appointments of the Appellate Body. China expressed support for an independent and impartial two-tier DSB and urged members to engage in constructive solution-based consultation with the goal of selecting appointees at the earliest date.⁴⁰⁰

On 27-28 July 2021, China's Permanent Representative to the WTO Ambassador Li Chenggang's statement at a meeting of the General Council reiterated China's belief that restoring the Appellate Body through safeguarding the two-tier dispute settlement system is a top priority of WTO reform. He further proposed establishing a working group on WTO reform to avoid overlapping configurations.⁴⁰¹

³⁹⁶ Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 28 April 2021, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/202105/20210503057935.shtml>

³⁹⁷ Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 28 April 2021, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/202105/20210503057935.shtml>

³⁹⁸ Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Li Chenggang at the RSIS-WTO Virtual Parliamentarian Workshop, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/chinaviewpoins/202105/20210503063141.shtml>

³⁹⁹ Full Text: Remarks by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Global Health Summit, XinhuaNet (Beijing) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-05/21/c_139961512.htm

⁴⁰⁰ Statement by China at the DSB Meeting on 28 May 2021, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/202106/20210603067350.shtml>

⁴⁰¹ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Li Chenggang at GC Meeting, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (Beijing) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021.

<http://wto2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/meetingsandstatements/202107/20210703182243.shtml>

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Foreign Ministers released a statement in support of equitable access to health products and technologies to combat the global pandemic.⁴⁰² The statement also highlighted the importance of greater consideration of developing countries in the WTO, and the need to avoid protectionism and unilateralism through strengthening multilateral institutions such as the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.⁴⁰³

China has taken actions to make the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. In addition, special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries or LDCs.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to support the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to making it more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges and to improve its key functions in the interest of all WTO members.

On 2 December 2020, during the WTO negotiations on fisheries, South Africa, India, and Fiji, among other developing countries, stated that any future agreement must have effective special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing and least developing countries which aligns also with the Sustainable Development Goal target 14.6. In addition, South Africa, China, and El Salvador and other members noted that S&DT provision be effective to exploit marine resources within their economic zones.⁴⁰⁴

On 10 December 2020, at the meeting of the Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), South Africa and India put forward a proposal to temporary waive certain TRIPS provisions in order to increase production and access to affordable medical products during the pandemic. At the outset of the meeting, WTO members agreed to continue the discussion of the proposal at the WTO General Council meeting on 16-17 December 2021.⁴⁰⁵ South Africa's permanent mission to the WTO representative, Mustaqeem De Gama said the waiver will "open space for further collaboration, for the transfer of technology and for more producers to come in to ensure that we have scalability in a much shorter period of time."⁴⁰⁶

On 10 March 2021, South Africa and India renewed their bid to waive certain patent rules of the WTO's TRIPS agreement in order to increase COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁰⁷ Since its submission, the

⁴⁰² BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

⁴⁰³ BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

⁴⁰⁴ WTO Members reveal "Entrenched" differences as fisheries talks approach 2020 deadline, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Geneva) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/wto-members-reveal-entrenched-differences-as-fisheries-talks-approach-2020-deadline/>

⁴⁰⁵ Members to continue discussion on proposal for temporary IP waiver in response to COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trip_10dec20_e.htm

⁴⁰⁶ COVID-19: fledgling vaccination programmes leave poorer nations and vulnerable groups behind, International Bar Associations (London, UK) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 14 February 2021. <https://www.ibanet.org/Article/NewDetail.aspx?ArticleUid=156AEF8A-72A2-4B9C-B297-1F7F4EA077B7>

⁴⁰⁷ Rich, developing nations wrangle over COVID vaccine patents, Reuters (New York) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-wto-idUSKBN2B21V9>

proposal is co-sponsored by a number of developing countries and least developed countries, including Bolivia, Eswatini, Kenya, Egypt, Mozambique, Mongolia, Pakistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.⁴⁰⁸

On 5 May 2021, Mr. De Gama commented that the consequences of not waiving the intellectual property rights protection for COVID-19 vaccines and medications are “staggering” and that “intellectual property rights constitute a very substantial barrier to ensure equitable access” of vaccines.⁴⁰⁹

On 6 May 2021, at the WTO’s General Council meeting, South Africa and India presented a communications paper of negotiated outcomes of joint initiatives involving e-commerce, investment facilitations, domestic regulation of services, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and indicated any new attempts to introduce new rules should adhere to fundamental rules of the WTO.⁴¹⁰

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Foreign Ministers released a statement in support of equitable access to health products and technologies to combat the global pandemic.⁴¹¹ The statement also highlighted the importance of greater consideration of developing countries in the WTO, and the need to avoid protectionism and unilateralism through strengthening multilateral institutions such as the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.⁴¹²

On 15 June 2021, South Africa hosted a BRICS webinar to further discuss the TRIPS waiver for COVID-19-related medical technologies. At the meeting, Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter stated that the proposal to waive TRIPS obligations will tackle challenges relating to unequal access, vaccine nationalism and supply constraints. The Ambassador also clarified that the proposal text pertained to COVID-19-related diagnostics, treatment, and pharmaceutical products, to which a temporary waiver would apply for at least three years, subject to possible termination by the General Council.⁴¹³

On 23 June 2021, the Cairns Group (of which South Africa is a member) issued a Ministerial Statement in favour of continuing multilateral agricultural trade reforms through the WTO in order to make agricultural trade “more predictable, open, fair, and market oriented.”⁴¹⁴ The Ministers also

⁴⁰⁸ Members discuss TRIPS waiver, LDC transition period and green tech role for small business, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/trip_11mar21_e.htm

⁴⁰⁹ Biden Backs Waiving International Patent Protections For COVID-19 Vaccines, NPR (Washington) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/05/05/993998745/biden-backs-waiving-international-patent-protections-for-covid-19-vaccines>

⁴¹⁰ Trade and public health, fish subsidies and LDC concerns in General Council spotlight, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/gc_06may21_e.htm

⁴¹¹ BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

⁴¹² BRICS seeks reforms in multilateral fora, Mint (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/brics-call-for-reforming-united-nations-imf-wto-and-who-11622563520198.html>

⁴¹³ South Africa at the forefront of the COVID-19 vaccine IP waiver debate, Health-E News (Johannesburg) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://health-e.org.za/2021/06/22/south-africa-at-the-forefront-of-the-covid-19-vaccine-ip-waiver-debate/>

⁴¹⁴ Cairns Group Minister’s Statement on the WTO reform process in agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/cairns-group-minister-s-statement-on-the-wto-reform-process-in-agriculture>

called upon the WTO Secretariat to “update and improve” analytical tools on domestic subsidies in order to improve compliance with existing transparency obligations.⁴¹⁵

On 23 July 2021, at an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter expressed concerns regarding the “dysfunctionality of the Appellate Body”. The Ambassador supported further discussions on strengthening the WTO to promote development and inclusivity, and emphasized that “WTO reform does not mean accepting either inherited inequalities or new proposals that would worsen imbalances. Reforms must be premised on the principals of inclusivity and development.”⁴¹⁶

South Africa took actions towards supporting WTO reform aimed at improving the WTO’s key functions and thus making the WTO more resilient and effective in confronting global economic challenges. In addition, special attention was paid to the interests of developing countries.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

⁴¹⁵ Cairns Group Minister’s Statement on the WTO reform process in agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/cairns-group-minister-s-statement-on-the-wto-reform-process-in-agriculture>

⁴¹⁶ TWN Infor Service on WTO and Trade Issues, TWN Third World Network (Penang) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.twn.my/title2/wto.info/2021/ti210723.htm>

5. Macroeconomic Policy: Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

“[BRICS members will take actions to:] create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets.”

Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of many economies, representing a substantial share of business activity and employment globally.⁴¹⁷ This is particularly true of developing countries and emerging economies. In recognition of the significance of MSMEs, BRICS leaders committed to creating “a favorable domestic legal framework for BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets” in the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025 adopted on 17 November 2020.⁴¹⁸

Discussions at the level of BRICS leaders on small businesses can be traced back to the Durban summit hosted by South Africa. On 27 March 2013, BRICS leaders recognized the fundamental role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in their economies as creators of jobs and wealth.⁴¹⁹ The leaders committed to “explore opportunities for cooperating in the field of SMEs and recognise the need for promoting dialogue among the respective Ministries and Agencies in charge of the theme, particularly with a view to promoting their international exchange and cooperation and fostering innovation, research and development.”⁴²⁰

On 16 October 2016, at the Goa summit, BRICS leaders agreed that “MSMEs provide major employment opportunities, at comparatively lower capital cost, and create self-employment opportunities in rural and underdeveloped areas. MSMEs thus help assure equitable wealth distribution nationally and globally.”⁴²¹ The leaders commended the “organisation of BRICS second round-table on MSMEs by India with a focus on technical and business alliances in MSMEs Sector,” and committed to “work for greater integration of MSMEs in Regional and Global Value Chains.”⁴²²

⁴¹⁷ Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Finance, World Bank (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/sme/finance>

⁴¹⁸ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/2020-strategy.html>

⁴¹⁹ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 4 January 2021. [brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html](http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html)

⁴²⁰ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 4 January 2021. [brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html](http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html)

⁴²¹ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 4 January 2021. [brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html](http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html)

⁴²² 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 4 January 2021. [brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html](http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html)

On 26 July 2018, at the Johannesburg summit, BRICS leaders adopted a commitment encouraging “measures that support greater participation, value addition and upward mobility in Global Value Chains for our firms, particularly in industry and agriculture, especially MSMEs, including through the preservation of policy space to promote industrial development.”⁴²³ Furthermore, BRICS leaders welcomed the “further enhancement of cooperation in E-commerce, on standards and technical regulations, MSMEs and model e-port.”⁴²⁴

At the Brasília summit on 14 November 2019, BRICS leaders adopted the Brasília Declaration, in which a commitment on MSMEs is found in the Declaration’s section on economic and financial cooperation. The commitment reads: “we will explore in appropriate fora ways to promote and facilitate investments in productive sectors, e-commerce, MSMEs, infrastructure and connectivity, which will help to promote economic growth, trade and job creation. In so doing, we will take into account national imperatives and policy frameworks, with the aim of enhancing transparent, effective and an investment-friendly business environment.”⁴²⁵

Commitment Features

On 17 November 2020, BRICS leaders adopted the present commitment at a virtual leaders’ summit hosted by Russia. The commitment reads: “[BRICS members will take actions to:] create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets.”⁴²⁶

To define the key terms of this commitment, “create” is understood to mean “to make something new or invent something.”⁴²⁷ The word “favorable” refers to actions that support or provide an advantage or a higher chance of success.⁴²⁸ In the context of this commitment, “favorable” should be understood as referring to legislative actions that are conducive to or facilitative of the conditions in which the stated objective can be achieved.

“Domestic legal framework” refers to a government’s national “system of rules that governs and regulates decision-making, agreements, laws” and more.⁴²⁹ A supplementary definition of this phrase underscores the “rules, rights and obligations of companies, governments, and citizens [that] are set forth in a system of legal documents” such as the “constitution, legislation, policy, regulations and contracts.”⁴³⁰ In the context of the present commitment, the phrase “domestic legal framework” indicates the scope of this commitment. Actions of a BRICS member enacting legislation at the national level count towards compliance. Other forms of regulatory instruments and policy actions

⁴²³ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 4 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html

⁴²⁴ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 4 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html

⁴²⁵ Brasília Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilvia.html

⁴²⁶ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/2020-strategy.html>

⁴²⁷ Create, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/create>

⁴²⁸ Favorable, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/favourable>

⁴²⁹ Legal Framework, TransLegal: World Law Dictionary Project (Stockholm) Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.translegal.com/dictionary/en/legal-framework/noun>

⁴³⁰ Legal Framework: Navigating the Web of Laws and Contracts Governing Extractive Industries, Natural Resource Governance Institute (New York) March 2015. Access Date: 4 January 2021. https://resourcegovernance.org/sites/default/files/nrgi_Legal-Framework.pdf

do not fall squarely within the scope of full compliance with this commitment, as actions must relate to the member's domestic legal framework.

Noting the absence of a single agreed definition of this term, "MSMEs" broadly refer to small "non-subsidiary, independent firms" that have employee numbers below a certain threshold, a numerical ceiling established by respective national jurisdictions.⁴³¹ MSMEs are typically considered entrepreneurial endeavors at a relatively small scale. Given their size, MSMEs commonly experience barriers to "enter[ing] global markets," understood as efforts to engage in cross-border trade of goods and services and connect with international economic flows more broadly. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the ten biggest challenges facing small businesses include:

1. "Inadequate quantity of and/or untrained personnel for internationalization
2. Shortage of working capital to finance exports
3. Limited information to locate/analyse markets
4. Identifying foreign business opportunities
5. Lack of managerial time to deal with internationalization
6. Inability to contact potential overseas customers
7. Developing new products for foreign markets
8. Unfamiliar foreign business practices
9. Meeting export product quality/standards/specifications
10. Unfamiliar exporting procedures/paperwork"⁴³²

To this end, for example, a BRICS member can support MSMEs access to finance and capital to grow MSMEs international business activities and trade capacity.⁴³³ Alternatively, a BRICS member can enact laws that enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs abroad. For further examples, one can look to international guidelines and best practices, such as the Athens Action Plan for Removing Barriers to SME Access to International Markets, adopted on 8 November 2006 at an OECD-APEC Global Conference.⁴³⁴ In other words, actions that amount to full compliance should strive to address the aforementioned challenges facing MSMEs' internationalization through domestic legal action.

In addition, the commitment states "BRICS MSMEs," which indicates that actions of an assessed BRICS member to support both MSMEs domestically and/or MSMEs in other BRICS members can count toward compliance.

⁴³¹ Removing Barriers to SME Access to International Markets, OECD iLibrary (Paris) 7 April 2008. Access Date: 4 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/removing-barriers-to-sme-access-to-international-markets_9789264045866-en

⁴³² Removing Barriers to SME Access to International Markets, OECD iLibrary (Paris) 7 April 2008. Access Date: 4 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/removing-barriers-to-sme-access-to-international-markets_9789264045866-en

⁴³³ Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Finance, World Bank (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/smefinance>

⁴³⁴ Removing Barriers to SME Access to International Markets, OECD (Athens) 8 November 2006. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/37818332.pdf>

To score full compliance, a BRICS member should take new steps within the compliance cycle to establish legislative actions that foster an advantageous and conducive legal environment for BRICS MSMEs to connect with international financial, business and trade networks. Such actions should include the explicit and targeted objective to serve the benefits of MSMEs.

Partial compliance will be assigned to BRICS members that fall short of full compliance. For example, if a BRICS member verbally reaffirms the value of the stated objective through a public statement or adopts non-legislative policy instruments to advance the global economic integration of MSMEs, the BRICS member will be attributed a score of 0.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned to BRICS members that fail to take any action within the scope or stated objective of this commitment since the Moscow Summit.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does NOT take actions to create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.
0	The BRICS member takes SOME actions to create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets, including verbal support without legislative action.
+1	The BRICS member takes actions to create a favorable domestic legal framework for the BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets.

Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to create a favourable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.

On 26 November 2020, as part of Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), Brazil signed a trade agreement with the European Union Confederation of European Business, agreeing to establish new trade opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises. Benefits of the largest MERCOSUR-EU agreement entail access to government procurement markets within both the EU and MERCOSUR, trade facilitation, and removal of high tariffs, which serve to open access for SMEs to an international market.⁴³⁵

On 15 December 2020, the government of the Federal District, part of the legislative branch of the government, launched the Guarantee Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises. The fund is being funded by Banco de Brasília and created by the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service, otherwise known as Sebrae. The fund aims to guarantee quick and simple access to credit for MSMEs that have been impacted by COVID-19. BRB has reserved BRL50 million for the Fund and Sebrae made available BRL600 million, collectively easing the pressure of MSMEs to acquire funding.⁴³⁶

On 18 December 2020, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) was granted a loan by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The loan is comprised of a total of

⁴³⁵ Strengthening Economic Relations between EU and Mercosur Countries, Business Europe (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.bussinesseurope.eu/publications/strengthening-economic-relations-between-eu-and-mercosur-countries-declaration-business>

⁴³⁶ Injeção de mais de R\$ 1 bilhão na economia, Agência Brasília (Brasília) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.agenciabrasilia.df.gov.br/2020/12/15/injecao-de-mais-de-r-1-bilhao-na-economia/>

BRL4 billion for MSMEs.⁴³⁷ The funds will be allocated to MSMEs and finance 20,000 entrepreneurs, including through digital platforms, who will be able to access the resources through the lines available at BNDES.⁴³⁸ The credit will also be used to promote fintech companies focusing on facilitating credit for MSMEs.⁴³⁹

On 29 December 2020, the National Support Program for Micro and Small Enterprises, otherwise known as Pronampe, announced that it was opening its third phase of credit through Provisional Measure no. 1020.⁴⁴⁰ The line of credit is listed to total BRL10 billion.⁴⁴¹ With resources from the National Treasury, the three phases of the program have released BRL37.5 billion through the Operations Guarantee Fund.⁴⁴² Pronampe's credit allows for smaller companies to gain access to credit, where the government becomes a guarantor of the entrepreneur, subsequently supporting the operation of small and medium sized enterprises.⁴⁴³

On 3 February 2021, Desenvolve SP, the bank of the State Government, announced that an additional BRL100 million in credit for working capital would be provided to support micro and small companies.⁴⁴⁴ With the additional funds, MSMEs will be able to request credit for working capital with rates of 0.8 per cent per month plus the Selic rate, the Brazilian federal funds rate, with a 60-month repayment term and a 12-month grace period.⁴⁴⁵

On 8 February 2021, the government began its use of AntecipaGov, a financing program that tracks anticipation of receivables. The program allows suppliers to request credit advances from accredited finance institutions of a maximum of 70 per cent of what they still have to receive.⁴⁴⁶ The credit

⁴³⁷ IDB Loan Supports Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Companies in Brazil, AgênciaBrasil (Brasília) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2020-12/emprestimo-do-bid-apoia-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas-no-brasil>

⁴³⁸ IDB Loan Supports Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Companies in Brazil, AgênciaBrasil (Brasília) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2020-12/emprestimo-do-bid-apoia-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas-no-brasil>

⁴³⁹ IDB Loan Supports Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Companies in Brazil, AgênciaBrasil (Brasília) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2020-12/emprestimo-do-bid-apoia-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas-no-brasil>

⁴⁴⁰ Provisional Measure No. 1,020 of December 29, 2020, Presidency of the Republic: Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs (Brasília) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv1020.htm

⁴⁴¹ Provisional Measure No. 1,020 of December 29, 2020, Presidency of the Republic: Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs (Brasília) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv1020.htm

⁴⁴² Pronampe beneficia mais de 500 mil empresas, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/trabalho-e-previdencia/2021/01/pronampe-beneficia-mais-de-500-mil-empresas>

⁴⁴³ Provisional Measure No. 1,020, of December 29, 2020, Presidency of the Republic: Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs (Brasília) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv1020.htm

⁴⁴⁴ Desenvolve SP Announces Another R \$ 100 million in Credit for Micro and Small Companies, Desenvolve SP (Brasília) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.desenvolvesp.com.br/comunicacao/releases/desenvolve-sp-anuncia-mais-r-100-milhoes-em-credito-para-micro-e-pequenas-empresas/>

⁴⁴⁵ Desenvolve SP Announces Another R \$ 100 million in Credit for Micro and Small Companies, Desenvolve SP (Brasília) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.desenvolvesp.com.br/comunicacao/releases/desenvolve-sp-anuncia-mais-r-100-milhoes-em-credito-para-micro-e-pequenas-empresas/>

⁴⁴⁶ AntecipaGov: programa auxilia fornecedores do Governo Federal na obtenção de crédito, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/antecipagov-programa-auxilia-fornecedores-do-governo-federal-na-obtencao-de-credito>

advances will support MSMEs through economic fluctuations and obtain the necessary funds to expand their production.⁴⁴⁷

On 10 February 2021, the Trade and Investment Promotion Agency Apex-Brasil signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service Sebrae with the aim of supporting 300 companies.⁴⁴⁸ The partnership aims to expand the international business activities of MSMEs through commercial promotion, cultivation of market intelligence, and diffusion of export culture.⁴⁴⁹

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy launched the Entrepreneur Defense System platform.⁴⁵⁰ The platform, available on the Entrepreneur Portal service, aims to provide a channel between the government and MSME owners, allowing MSMEs to report situations of abuse or discrimination committed by any public agency or entity.⁴⁵¹ The Entrepreneur Defense System also allows the monitoring of notices and normative acts related to small businesses, giving MSMEs access to public tenders and public notices of fairs and competitions.⁴⁵²

On 26 April 2021, the BNDES announced its investment of BRL225 million in the Credit Rights Investment Fund (FIDC) Captalys MPME organized by the fintech platform, Tomático.⁴⁵³ The FIDC's financing expands the credit channels available to MSMEs by complementing existing channels through other financial institutions.⁴⁵⁴ The fund will receive the investment through a

⁴⁴⁷ AntecipaGov: programa auxilia fornecedores do Governo Federal na obtenção de crédito, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/antecipagov-programa-auxilia-fornecedores-do-governo-federal-na-obtencao-de-credito>

⁴⁴⁸ Apex-Brasil e Sebrae assinam acordo para promover os negócios internacionais de micro e pequenas empresas brasileiras, Apex-Brasil (Brasilia) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://portal.apexbrasil.com.br/noticia/apex-brasil-e-sebrae-assinam-acordo-para-promover-os-negocios-internacionais-de-micro-e-pequenas-empresas-brasileiras/>

⁴⁴⁹ Apex-Brasil e Sebrae assinam acordo para promover os negócios internacionais de micro e pequenas empresas brasileiras, Apex-Brasil (Brasilia) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://portal.apexbrasil.com.br/noticia/apex-brasil-e-sebrae-assinam-acordo-para-promover-os-negocios-internacionais-de-micro-e-pequenas-empresas-brasileiras/>

⁴⁵⁰ Governo lança plataforma para reclamações de micro e pequenas empresas, Agência Brasil (Brasília) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2021-03/governo-lanca-plataforma-para-reclamacoes-de-micro-e-pequenas-empresas>

⁴⁵¹ Governo lança plataforma para reclamações de micro e pequenas empresas, Agência Brasil (Brasília) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2021-03/governo-lanca-plataforma-para-reclamacoes-de-micro-e-pequenas-empresas>

⁴⁵² Governo lança plataforma para reclamações de micro e pequenas empresas, Agência Brasil (Brasília) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/economia/noticia/2021-03/governo-lanca-plataforma-para-reclamacoes-de-micro-e-pequenas-empresas>

⁴⁵³ BNDES mobilizes R\$400 million in credit fund for micro, small and medium sized companies, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <http://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-mobiliza-rs-400-milhoes-em-fundo-de-credito-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

⁴⁵⁴ BNDES mobilizes R\$400 million in credit fund for micro, small and medium sized companies, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <http://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-mobiliza-rs-400-milhoes-em-fundo-de-credito-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

subscription of the fund's quota and estimates that 22400 MSMEs will benefit from the investment.⁴⁵⁵

On 27 April 2021, the federal government announced the start of registrations for Brazil Mais. The program is an initiative that aims to increase the competitiveness of MSMEs in all industries by improving their productive and managerial practices.⁴⁵⁶ It is coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Development, the National Service for Industrial Learning and Sebrae.⁴⁵⁷

On 30 April 2021, the Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial – otherwise known as the National Institute of Industrial Property – signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service, Sebrae. The agreement aims to support MSMEs by providing industrial property training to more than 2000 entrepreneurial researchers, which will assist MSMEs in curating intellectual property such as trademarks, patents, industrial designs, and geographical indications.⁴⁵⁸

On 6 May 2021, President Bolsonaro issued a statement to the Federal Senate to contract an agreement between BNDES and the IADB regarding the creation of an external line of credit for MSMEs.⁴⁵⁹ The agreement provides a guarantee of USD750 million to Brazil from the IADB and USD150 million from BNDES, which will be allocated through the IADB-BNDES Global Emergency Credit Program for the Financing of MSMEs.⁴⁶⁰ The objective of the agreement is to source financial sustainability for MSMEs in regards to the maintenance, production, distribution, and consumption of their goods.⁴⁶¹

On 2 June 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law no. 13,999 of 18 May 2020, which originally allowed for the operation of the National Support Program for Micro and Small Enterprises run by Sebrae, to make this program a permanent credit policy. The permanent installation of this program

⁴⁵⁵ BNDES mobilizes R\$400 million in credit fund for micro, small and medium sized companies, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021.

<http://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-mobiliza-rs-400-milhoes-em-fundo-de-credito-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

⁴⁵⁶ Inscrições abertas para o Brasil Mais, novo programa do Governo Federal, Confederação das Associações Comerciais e Empresariais do Brasil (Brasilia) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://cacb.org.br/inscricoes-abertas-para-o-brasil-mais-novo-programa-do-governo-federal/>.

⁴⁵⁷ Inscrições abertas para o Brasil Mais, novo programa do Governo Federal, Confederação das Associações Comerciais e Empresariais do Brasil (Brasilia) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://cacb.org.br/inscricoes-abertas-para-o-brasil-mais-novo-programa-do-governo-federal/>.

⁴⁵⁸ INPI e Sebrae assinam acordo de cooperação para estimular uso da PI pelas PMEs, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/inpi/pt-br/central-de-conteudo/noticias/inpi-e-sebrae-assinam-acordo-de-cooperacao-para-estimular-uso-da-pi-pelas-pmes>

⁴⁵⁹ Presidente envia ao Senado solicitação de operação de crédito externo para micro, pequenas e médias empresas, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/presidente-envia-ao-senado-solicitacao-de-operacao-de-credito-externo-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

⁴⁶⁰ Presidente envia ao Senado solicitação de operação de crédito externo para micro, pequenas e médias empresas, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/presidente-envia-ao-senado-solicitacao-de-operacao-de-credito-externo-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

⁴⁶¹ Presidente envia ao Senado solicitação de operação de crédito externo para micro, pequenas e médias empresas, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/presidente-envia-ao-senado-solicitacao-de-operacao-de-credito-externo-para-micro-pequenas-e-medias-empresas>.

showcases SMEs with favorable credit policies as “agents of support, transformation, and development of the national economy.”⁴⁶²

On 4 June 2021, Provisional Measure no. 1053 opened extraordinary credit of BRL5 billion for Pronampe.⁴⁶³ The credit would be used to continue the program in its efforts to support MSMEs, which was made permanent on 2 June 2021.

Brazil has engaged with national economic institutions in the country and abroad to develop measures that expand its domestic legal frameworks to support MSMEs’ access to finance and capital to enter into the global markets.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Leila Koobi

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to create a favourable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin stated during a Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting that the Council would work on passing laws that clarify the state of origin of products among Eurasian Economic Union member states. This would improve the efficiency of MSMEs’ products passing customs into international markets.⁴⁶⁴

On 25 February 2021, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Sergei Katyrin informed President Putin ahead of the upcoming CCI congress that CCI had established “operational business councils” with 76 other states to work on resolving issues including customs regulations and phytosanitary control. The new councils will help to clear paths for domestic products from MSMEs to enter the foreign markets more efficiently and more effectively.⁴⁶⁵

On 25 February 2021, President of the CCI Sergei Katyrin proposed to President Putin that regular forum meetings among the State Duma, government members, and family household corporations would be formalized into law, such that household companies would become a legal concept. This suggestion complements the existing domestic legal framework to make it more convenient for family businesses to have formal representations as an entity from Russia on the international market.⁴⁶⁶

On 11 March 2021, at a meeting on boosting investment activities with delegates from business communities, President Vladimir Putin announced that Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin worked with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs to terminate more than 3000 restrictive governmental policies in the area of industrial construction, and will continue with the

⁴⁶² Law No. 14.161, of June 2, 2021, Câmara Dos Deputados (Brasília) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www2.camara.leg.br/legin/fed/lei/2021/lei-14161-2-junho-2021-791414-norma-pl.html>.

⁴⁶³ Provisional Measure No. 1053, Congresso Nacional (Brasília) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.congressonacional.leg.br/materias/medidas-provisorias/-/mpv/148684>.

⁴⁶⁴ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 12 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

⁴⁶⁵ Meeting with Head of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sergei Katyrin, President of Russia (Moscow) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65071>

⁴⁶⁶ Meeting with Head of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sergei Katyrin, President of Russia (Moscow) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65071>

abolishment of additional 3800 procedures in the coming months. This procedure had removed barriers for business to initiate investment projects.⁴⁶⁷

On 1 April 2021, during his meeting with Deputy Prime Ministers, Prime Minister Mishustin reported that the government will start simplifying tax-paying procedures for all businesses. This contains the new proposal that all businesses can pay off their debts, fines, and taxes in one single tax payment.⁴⁶⁸

On 13 May 2021, upon the submission of the annual report of government performance to the State Duma, Prime Minister Mishustin announced that the state halved insurance premiums for MSMEs, also offering deferrals of insurance, tax, and lease payments. The state also supported MSMEs financially to manage the uncertain economic conditions resulting from the pandemic.⁴⁶⁹

On 10 June 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin announced that the country is working to adopt veterinary laws that make the procedure of situational checks more efficient. This will simplify export procedures for livestock companies and agricultural companies.⁴⁷⁰

On 22 June 2021, the government issued a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of logistics corridors. The Memorandum was signed between Russia and Uzbekistan, stating that the two countries will work together on the development of trade and increase of exports by eliminating trade barriers and simplifying custom checks and logistical procedures to the extent possible. This will contribute to creating better opportunities and conditions for MSMEs to enter the international and Uzbekistani market.⁴⁷¹

On 19 July 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin reported to President Vladimir Putin on the strategic socio-economic development plans for national development goals, which includes drafting a legal framework for MSMEs on customs and tax managements.⁴⁷²

Russia has taken actions not only to verbally reaffirm its commitments, but also to enact legislation and to create a favorable domestic legal framework for BRICS MSMEs, supporting them domestically and helping to enhance their competitiveness in entering global markets.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Charlie Lecheng Zeng

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to create a favourable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.

⁴⁶⁷ Meeting on measures to boost investment activity, President of Russia (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65141>

⁴⁶⁸ Government meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41864/>

⁴⁶⁹ Annual Government report on its performance to the State Duma, the Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁴⁷⁰ Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42461/>

⁴⁷¹ Memorandum of Understanding on development of logistics corridors signed between Russian and Uzbekistani governments, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42573/>

⁴⁷² Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42850/>

From 19 November to 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises established a request for proposals concerning an “Evaluation Study of the Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of MSME “Assistance to Training Institution (ATI) Scheme on Quality and Cost Based Selection.””⁴⁷³ The ATI Scheme improves “capacity for training or skill development, entrepreneurship, provides training to staff of District Industries Centers and related government institutions, dealing with MSMEs and strengthening overall capacity of national institutions under ministry of MSME to undertake these trainings.”

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises announced that the Draft Environmental and Social Systems Assessment under a World Bank-funded programme, Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP), opened to stakeholder feedback as a requirement for World Bank funding to ensure environmental and social compliance standards.⁴⁷⁴ RAMP is a “USD500 million operation to support the Government of India on Raising the Productivity and Competitiveness of MSMEs in India with a counterpart funding of 500 million USD from Government of India.” Currently, the program is being finalized.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of MSMEs announced assistance measures for interest subvention, top-up subsidy, reimbursement of state Goods and Services Tax and waiver of annual institutional maintenance charges.⁴⁷⁵ This will benefit women entrepreneurs and other sectors which were affected harmfully by the pandemic. 17,000 MSMEs will receive benefits of interest subvention under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme. The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme will provide INR 270 million to marginalized sectors such as scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, minority women, and other groups with disabilities. A top-up subsidy has also been provided for food processing units functioning.

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that the Union Budget 2021-22 was established to provide support to MSMEs.⁴⁷⁶

On 17 June 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises released an e-book on MSME schemes.⁴⁷⁷ The scheme provides financial assistance and information for self-employment and sustainable employment opportunities in rural and urban areas, creating continuous employment opportunities for MSMEs.

⁴⁷³ Letter of Invitation, Lol for assignment under Scheme of Survey, Studies and Policy Research, 11/19/2020 to 12/16/2020, Indian Government (Delhi) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 18 January 2021.

<https://msme.gov.in/tender/letter-invitation-loi-assignment-under-scheme-survey-studies-and-policy-research>

⁴⁷⁴ Inviting comments of stakeholders on The Draft Environmental and Social Assessment, ESSA under a World Bank funded programme – Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity, RAMP, Indian Government (Delhi) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://msme.gov.in/whatsnew/inviting-comments-stakeholders-draft-environmental-and-social-assessment-essa-under-world>

⁴⁷⁵ Odisha CM announces Rs 289 crore package for pandemic-hit MSMEs, The Times of India (Bhubaneswar) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-cm-announces-rs-289-crore-package-for-pandemic-hit-msmes/articleshow/79741058.cms>

⁴⁷⁶ MSMEs need government support: Union Minister, The Times of India (Pune) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/msmes-need-government-support-union-minister/articleshow/81235207.cms>

⁴⁷⁷ E-book on schemes of MSME, Government of India (Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <https://www.msme.gov.in/whatsnew/e-book-schemes-msme>

On 9 August 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises announced that urban street vendors are now included in the category of MSMEs and can register on the Udyam Registration Portal.⁴⁷⁸

India has taken actions to create a favourable domestic legal framework for BRICS MSMEs to enter global markets, including analysis of its central sector, finalization of the RAMP program, and financial assistance to MSMEs. It has further offered capacity-building for national institutions and ministries, improved the quality and competitiveness of MSMEs, enhanced financing schemes for small businesses, and became more inclusive to include urban street vendors as MSMEs.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kelley Prendergast

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to create a favourable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.

On 14 December 2020, the State Council passed a resolution to merge the registration of movable property and pledging rights beginning 1 January 2021. Unifying registration provides financial institutions with a comprehensive conception of ownership and movable property of enterprises, improving the efficacy of acquiring financing for MSMEs.⁴⁷⁹

On 21 December 2020, Premier Li Keqiang announced an extension to the inclusive SME loan deferred repayment policy and credit loan support plan. The extension of the repayment plan invokes a phased approach and will utilize incentives and support from financial institutions in the form of inclusive credit loans.⁴⁸⁰

On 30 December 2020, in collaboration with the EU, China announced the approval of a Comprehensive Agreement on Investments. The agreement seeks to allow for Chinese enterprises, including MSMEs, to enter the European market and vice versa, opening possibilities for internationalization.⁴⁸¹

On 26 January 2021, the State Council adopted measures to curbed arbitrary charges, such as unnecessary fees or excessive fines from enterprises regulated by industry associations.⁴⁸² The motion adopted measures that would aim to achieve three purposes: standardize charges for businesses,

⁴⁷⁸ Inclusion of urban street vendors in MSME category - reg., Government of India (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.msme.gov.in/whatsnew/inclusion-urban-street-vendors-msme-category-reg>

⁴⁷⁹ Li Keqiang Hopes to Drive Financial Inclusion in China with Unification of Movable Property Registration under Central Bank, China Banking News (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2020/12/18/li-keqiang-hopes-to-drive-financial-inclusion-in-china-with-unification-of-movable-property-registration-under-central-bank/>

⁴⁸⁰ Li Keqiang presided over the executive meeting of the State Council and decided to extend the include small and micro enterprise loan deferred principal and interest policy and credit loan support plan, etc., China Government Network (Beijing) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2020-12/22/content_5572293.htm

⁴⁸¹ EU, China Give Political Approval to Comprehensive Agreement on Investments, China Briefing (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/eu-china-give-political-approval-to-comprehensive-agreement-on-investments/>

⁴⁸² Charges curbed to ease burdens on SMEs, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202101/26/WS600f6af6a31024ad0baa5068.html>

highlight the need for measures to support market players with a focus on MSMEs, and place economic recovery on a more stable foundation.⁴⁸³

On 5 March 2021, at the Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress, the government presented a working report of its key tasks for economic development in 2021. The report includes tax reduction policies for MSMEs.⁴⁸⁴ It affirms the government's commitment to implement systemic tax reduction policies, increasing the value-added tax threshold for small-scale taxpayers from monthly sales of CNY100,000 to CNY150,000.⁴⁸⁵ For MSMEs whose annual taxable income is less than CNY1 million, the income tax will be halved.⁴⁸⁶

On 18 March 2021, the General Office of the People's Government approved the "Several Measures to Support Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and Individual Industrial and Commercial Households in Normalizing Epidemic Prevention and Control and Accelerating the Resumption of Development."⁴⁸⁷ The six measures aim to coordinate the prevention and control of COVID-19, social and economic development, and support for MSMEs to induce the recovery of their production and operation.⁴⁸⁸ The measures include a national tax and fee reduction of 50 per cent for MSMEs with an annual taxable income of CNY1 million, a deferred repayment of principal and interest for credit loans until 31 March 2021, an unemployment insurance premium refund policy, subsidization for exhibition projects continuing in 2021 that were cancelled the prior year, and research and development subsidies of CNY200,000 to MSMEs in the field of technology.⁴⁸⁹

On 31 March 2021, the State Council implemented an extension to the deferred principal and interest payment policy for MSMEs, which was previously set to expire on that day.⁴⁹⁰ This is the

⁴⁸³ Charges curbed to ease burdens on SMEs, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202101/26/WS600f6af6a31024ad0baa5068.html>

⁴⁸⁴ Government Working Report, National People's Congress (Beijing) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5593438.htm

⁴⁸⁵ Government Working Report, National People's Congress (Beijing) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5593438.htm

⁴⁸⁶ Government Working Report, National People's Congress (Beijing) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2021/content_5593438.htm

⁴⁸⁷ Notice of the General Office of the Beijing Municipal People's Government on Printing and Distributing the "Several Measures to Support Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and Individual Industrial and Commercial Households in Normalizing Epidemic Prevention and Control and Accelerating the Resumption of Development, Beijing Municipal People's Government (Beijing) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/19/content_5593888.htm.

⁴⁸⁸ Notice of the General Office of the Beijing Municipal People's Government on Printing and Distributing the "Several Measures to Support Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and Individual Industrial and Commercial Households in Normalizing Epidemic Prevention and Control and Accelerating the Resumption of Development, Beijing Municipal People's Government (Beijing) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/19/content_5593888.htm.

⁴⁸⁹ Notice of the General Office of the Beijing Municipal People's Government on Printing and Distributing the "Several Measures to Support Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and Individual Industrial and Commercial Households in Normalizing Epidemic Prevention and Control and Accelerating the Resumption of Development, Beijing Municipal People's Government (Beijing) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/19/content_5593888.htm.

⁴⁹⁰ The deferred debt service policy is renewed, and the deferred debt service policy is renewed. Is the bank's bad debt risk alleviated?, EastMoney (Shanghai) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <http://finance.eastmoney.com/a/202103311866509061.html>

fourth extension of loans for MSMEs, with the first beginning in March 2020. The renewal will extend the credit loan support plan until the end of 2021 to maintain financing for MSMEs.⁴⁹¹

On 7 April 2021, the State Council announced a series of tax reductions for MSMEs, including deductions for research and development, preferential income tax, and value-added tax.⁴⁹² The tax reductions serve to ensure continued financial stability for MSMEs and promote equitable economic recovery.

On 28 May 2021, Enterprise Letter no. 134 of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced a list of practical actions to serve MSMEs, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. The five practical actions include strengthening organizational leadership, mobilizing the forces of all parties, focusing on key groups, an innovation service model, and comprehensive publicity and promotion.⁴⁹³ These five actions aim to assist in the promotion and development of MSMEs to be launched from 1-30 June 2021.⁴⁹⁴

On 30 July 2021, the Political Bureau of the State Council's Central Committee held a meeting to analyze the current economic situation and plan the economic work for the second half of the year. The meeting highlighted the need for robust economic policy and the need to maintain reasonable and sufficient liquidity for MSMEs.⁴⁹⁵ In the discussion of the 14th Five Year Plan, the meeting accelerated the major projects listed in the plan to guide MSMEs and increase investments in their implementation of new technologies.⁴⁹⁶

On 9 August 2021, the State Council announced new policies for the “in-depth promotion of mass entrepreneurship and innovation.”⁴⁹⁷ To focus on ensuring the stability and safety of the industrial chain, the announcement called for the creation of a “chain master” that integrates resources and activities to support MSMEs.⁴⁹⁸ Additionally, to focus on guiding the growth of MSMEs in the domestic market, the announcement called for the promotion of “the little giant” within industries.⁴⁹⁹

⁴⁹¹ The deferred debt service policy is renewed, and the deferred debt service policy is renewed. Is the bank's bad debt risk alleviated?, EastMoney (Shanghai) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <http://finance.eastmoney.com/a/202103311866509061.html>

⁴⁹² Small and micro enterprises, manufacturing enterprises become the focus of burden reduction, a new round of tax cut dividends enters a period of intensive distribution, China Government Network (Beijing) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/07/content_5598196.htm.

⁴⁹³ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Launching the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Service Month, China Government Network (Beijing) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2021-06/27/content_5621059.htm.

⁴⁹⁴ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Launching the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Service Month, China Government Network (Beijing) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2021-06/27/content_5621059.htm.

⁴⁹⁵ Xi Jinping presided over the meeting of the political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to analyze and study the current economic situation and economic work, China Government Network (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-07/30/content_5628481.htm?jump=false.

⁴⁹⁶ Xi Jinping presided over the meeting of the political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to analyze and study the current economic situation and economic work, China Government Network (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-07/30/content_5628481.htm?jump=false.

⁴⁹⁷ This work will be deployed many times in the country, see the latest support policy, China Government Network (Beijing) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/09/content_5630223.htm?jump=false.

⁴⁹⁸ This work will be deployed many times in the country, see the latest support policy, China Government Network (Beijing) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/09/content_5630223.htm?jump=false.

⁴⁹⁹ This work will be deployed many times in the country, see the latest support policy, China Government Network (Beijing) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/09/content_5630223.htm?jump=false.

Third, the announcement called for secured loans and the implementation of an interest discount policy to support independent entrepreneurs and MSMEs, with loans for MSMEs expanding to CNY3 million.⁵⁰⁰ Finally, the notice announced that MSME loans at the five large state-owned commercial banks have increased by 30 per cent with the deferred principal and interest payment policy postponed to 31 December 2021.⁵⁰¹

China has engaged with national economic institutions domestically and abroad to develop measures that expand its domestic legal frameworks to support MSMEs' access to finance and capital to enter into the global markets.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Leila Koobi

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to create a favourable domestic legal framework for the BRICS micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) to enter global markets.

On 19 November 2020, the virtual Cabinet approved the publication of amendments to the National Small Enterprise Act (NSEA) of 1996 for public feedback. The amendments would repeal the establishment of an “Advisory Body,” provide greater “access to justice” to small enterprises through the Ombud Service and generate job creation opportunities. The government also published a call for stakeholder feedback for amendments to the National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill, which aim to cultivate a trained workforce and promote entrepreneurial skills to address poverty, inequality and unemployment.⁵⁰²

On 3 December 2020, the Commission for Gender Equality, an independent chapter nine institution, held a webinar on women’s economic empowerment, including government support for women-owned enterprises.⁵⁰³ Women-owned businesses and MSMEs are most likely to close during their first two years of operation. During the pandemic, 2 million South African women have become unemployed, among a total of 3 million unemployed South Africans.

On 14 January 2021, Minister of Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni stated that the Democratic Alliance announced misinformation about COVID-19 relief funds for small businesses.⁵⁰⁴ The Minister stated that reprioritization occurred for ZAR500 million of Small Medium and Micro Enterprise Debt Relief. However, the Democratic Alliance claimed that ZAR1.4 billion has been reprioritized. The Auditor-General audits the MSME Debt Relief Fund. Of the

⁵⁰⁰ This work will be deployed many times in the country, see the latest support policy, China Government Network (Beijing) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/09/content_5630223.htm?jump=false.

⁵⁰¹ This work will be deployed many times in the country, see the latest support policy, China Government Network (Beijing) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-08/09/content_5630223.htm?jump=false.

⁵⁰² Statement on virtual Cabinet Meeting of 18 November 2020, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-18-november-2020-19-nov-2020-0000>

⁵⁰³ Gender Commission hosts webinar on challenges facing women’s economic empowerment, 3 Dec, South African Government (Johannesburg) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-commission-hosts-webinar-challenges-facing-women%E2%80%99s-economic-empowerment-3-dec-2-dec>

⁵⁰⁴ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni responds to misinformation on Covid-19 expenditure, South African Government (Johannesburg) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/smme-debt-relief-scheme-%E2%80%93-fund-expenditure-14-jan-2021-0000>

14,451 fully complete applications, the Small Enterprise Finance Agency approved 1,497 applications for ZAR513 million, accounting for 10 per cent of the applications, and ZAR316 million of the ZAR513 million was provided as of 14 January 2021.

On 20 January 2021, Khumovest, a Level 1 contributor to Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, announced its new equity fund, which will invest equity capital into SMEs in South Africa.⁵⁰⁵ Khumovest received ZAR125 million in committed funding from the 27four Black Business Growth Fund. The 27four Black Business Growth Fund is a blended fund from the National Treasury Jobs Fund and institutional investors in South Africa.

On 25 February 2021, the President presented an overview of MSMEs at a virtual engagement.⁵⁰⁶ The newly established Small Medium and Micro Enterprises Debt Relief Scheme set targets for designated groups of entrepreneurs, namely for enterprises owned by black individuals, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The President stated: “the total value of interest and capital repayments foregone by SEFA [Small Enterprise Finance Agency] was approximately ZAR106 million, resulting in over 37,000 jobs being saved.”⁵⁰⁷ The government will also establish a credit guarantee scheme of ZAR200 billion. The Department of Small Business Development further inaugurated a Business Viability Scheme to help businesses adapt to current economic conditions. The department also enhanced its implementation of the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme to encourage more entrepreneurs from rural areas.⁵⁰⁸

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries will restart its supply chain management workshops online to promote a comprehensive understanding of its procurement and business opportunities for the 2021/2022 financial year.⁵⁰⁹ The workshops strive to ensure open and transparent procurement processes and will work towards the National Development Planning Vision 2030 for decreasing unemployment, poverty and inequality.

On 26 April 2021, in honour of World Intellectual Property Day, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the Department of Science and Innovation held a webinar entitled “Respect for Intellectual Property” in conjunction with the packaging and printing business sector.⁵¹⁰ To promote employment and expand revenue streams, this year’s priority for World Intellectual Property Day was to educate SMEs on how to utilize intellectual property as an asset.

⁵⁰⁵ New private equity fund launches for local SMEs, Ventureburn (Cape Town) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <https://ventureburn.com/2021/01/new-private-equity-fund-launches-for-local-smes/>

⁵⁰⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, South African Government (Johannesburg) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁵⁰⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, South African Government (Johannesburg) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁵⁰⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, South African Government (Johannesburg) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁵⁰⁹ Environment, Forestry and Fisheries holds Supply Chain Management workshops, 10 Mar to 9 Apr, South African Government (Johannesburg) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/environment-forestry-and-fisheries-holds-supply-chain-management-workshops-10-mar-9-apr-8>

⁵¹⁰ Science and Innovation on government helping small businesses reach their potential through intellectual property protection, South African Government (Johannesburg) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/science-and-innovation-government-helping-small-businesses-reach-their-potential-through-26>

On 25 May 2021, Minister Khumbudzo announced a budget of ZAR868 million for the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).⁵¹¹ R157 million will be dedicated to the SEDA Technology Programme to institute the SMME Support Plan. This includes the Incubation and Digital Hubs program, Start-Up Nation, Product Standard Conformity, and Technology Transfer. The Department will also establish the National Startup Nation Framework to promote technology and high-growth start-ups in South African and African markets. The Budget also includes ZAR1.25 billion of transfers and subsidies for the Small Enterprise Manufacturing Support Programme (SEMSP), specifically for the MSME-focused Localisation Programme, Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme, and financial intermediaries as direct lenders to MSMEs and cooperatives.

On 11 August 2021, the Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition announced an economic support recovery intervention consisting of ZAR3.75 billion for the restoration of businesses due to violent looting and unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.⁵¹² This funding package involves loan support at 0 per cent interest rate for the revitalization of infrastructure, including equipment, premises fitting, stock and working capital. This funding will include an ZAR100 million grant facility to assist small and informal businesses in towns, rural areas and small towns affected by the unrest. The funding also includes ZAR400 million for the Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme Economic Stabilisation Fund, which will assist manufacturing companies and services affected by violent looting and unrest.

South Africa took actions to create a favourable domestic legal framework for its MSMEs to enter global markets. In this process, the government collected public feedback, promoted women's economic empowerment, corrected misinformation about COVID-19 relief funds for small businesses, provided funds to invest in equity capital, hosted workshops on MSME procurement processes, tabled a favourable budget for MSMEs, and established a supportive economic recovery intervention.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kelley Prendergast

⁵¹¹ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Small Business Development Dept Budget Vote 2021/2022, South African Government (Johannesburg) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-small-business-development-dept-budget-vote-202122-25-may>

⁵¹² Trade, Industry and Competition announced economic recovery support interventions for affected businesses. South African Government (Johannesburg) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-announces-economic-recovery-support-interventions-affected>

6. Macroeconomic Policy: National Currencies

“[BRICS members will take actions to:] promote work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.”

Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia		0	
India	-1		
China			+1
South Africa		0	
Average		+0.20 (60%)	

Background

Currency cooperation and payments in national currencies, including in mutual trade, is one of the top priorities for the BRICS in the economic sphere.

At the Brasilia Summit in 2010, the leaders emphasized the importance of currency cooperation for enhancing mutual trade and investment: “In order to facilitate trade and investment, we will study feasibilities of monetary cooperation, including local currency trade settlement arrangement between our countries.”⁵¹³ However, no practical steps have been taken in this area. At the Ufa Summit in 2015, the commitment was reiterated in almost the same form: “We acknowledge the potential for expanding the use of our national currencies in transactions between the BRICS countries. We ask the relevant authorities of the BRICS countries to continue discussion on the feasibility of a wider use of national currencies in mutual trade.”⁵¹⁴

Following this mandate to the ministers, at the 2017 Xiamen Summit the BRICS leaders agreed “to communicate closely to enhance currency cooperation, consistent with each central bank’s legal mandate, including through currency swap, local currency settlement, and local currency direct investment, where appropriate, and to explore more modalities of currency cooperation.”⁵¹⁵ Besides, they agreed to “to promote the development of BRICS Local Currency Bond Markets and jointly establish a BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund, as a means of contribution to the capital sustainability of financing in BRICS countries, boosting the development of BRICS domestic and regional bond markets, including by increasing foreign private sector participation, and enhancing financial resilience of BRICS countries.”⁵¹⁶

Similar commitments were included in the 2018 BRICS Johannesburg Declaration.⁵¹⁷ In the 2019 BRICS Brasilia Declaration, the commitments on the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund and other areas of currency cooperation were for the first time linked together and included in the same

⁵¹³ Second Summit: Joint Statement, RANEP (Moscow) 16 April 2010. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency1/Second%20Summit%202010.pdf>

⁵¹⁴ VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 9 July 2014. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁵¹⁵ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁵¹⁶ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁵¹⁷ 10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 27 July 2018. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/BRICS/JOHANNESBURG_DECLARATION.pdf

paragraph.⁵¹⁸ In 2020, the commitment on currency cooperation was included in the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025.⁵¹⁹

Commitment Features

This commitment focuses on “increasing the share of national currencies in mutual payments.” Thus, it requires measures to stimulate the use of the BRICS members’ national currencies in transactions between economic agents of the member-states. The latest and most comprehensive research indicates that there is “considerable inertia in global trade invoicing currency patterns. Yet the data also indicate that invoicing currency choices can change both radically and rapidly...as the result of the establishment of a currency union or episodes of deep institutional integration.”⁵²⁰ BRICS does not intend to move towards either a currency union or an integration grouping. So, the progress towards increasing the share of national currencies in mutual payments is bound to be long and will require consistent action in two areas: internationalization of the national currencies and creating incentives for the economic agents’ choice of the currencies.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) elaborated six key areas required for promoting internationalization of the national currency.⁵²¹

Possible actions include but are not limited to:

1. *Macroeconomic stability.* Requires governments to stabilize its currency by keeping inflation rates low;
2. *Market-based monetary framework.* Implies reorientation of national monetary policy towards a more market-based framework including market-determined interest and exchange rates;
3. *Capital account liberalization.* Key steps to enhance foreign access to domestic financial markets, which also require sufficient market and institutional development and adequate oversight, include: i) reducing or eliminating the required approval process for transactions as they add considerable costs and risks to the end users; ii) allowing forward delivery of the domestic currency; iii) reducing various direct and indirect taxes on income and capital flows (e.g., reserves requirements, withholding taxes, transaction taxes); iv) allowing/increasing the ability of foreigners to borrow in domestic currency, permitting domestic entities to borrow in foreign currency, and allowing for cross-border swap settlements between banks and between banks and end users; and v) allowing foreign institutions to establish banking and capital markets businesses on the same basis as domestic entities to spur competition and innovation in cross-border flows and products;
4. *Liquidity provision.* Central banks in countries aspiring to achieve broad internationalization may also consider establishing swap lines with other central banks and be willing to stand ready to enhance the liquidity of their assets by providing access to a discount window at normal times;

⁵¹⁸ 11th BRICS Summit – Brasília Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

⁵¹⁹ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, RANEPa (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/STRATEGY%20FOR%20BRICS%20ECONOMIC%20PARTNERSHIP%202025.pdf>

⁵²⁰ Patterns in Invoicing Currency in Global Trade by Emine Boz, Camila Casas, Georgios Georgiadis, Gita Gopinath, Helena Le Mezo, Arnaud Mehl, Tra Nguyen, IMF (Washington, D.C.) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/001/2020/126/article-A001-en.xml>

⁵²¹ Internationalization of Emerging Market Currencies: A Balance between Risks and Rewards, IMF (Washington D.C.) 19 October 2011. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2011/sdn1117.pdf>

5. *Sequencing*. Broad sequencing could begin by encouraging use in invoicing and settling of trade; followed by use in private financial transactions and as foreign reserves;
6. *Capacity building*. Financial sector policies need to focus on building institutional capacity and strengthening financial system oversight, corporate governance, and resolution schemes. They should aim at encouraging the development and growth of various sub-components of the financial markets (e.g., market infrastructure for trading and market-making, as well as the payments, securities clearing, and settlement systems to facilitate the use of nondollar currencies for securities trading, cash payments, and derivatives transactions).

The BRICS members will also need to create necessary infrastructure and commercial incentives for their economic agents. These include but are not limited to developing the market payment infrastructure,⁵²² increasing the number of clearing centers, expanding correspondent banking relationships, providing stimuli to invoice in a specific currency by hedging risks or receiving discounts from suppliers.⁵²³

Thus, to achieve full compliance, the BRICS members have to take actions towards both the national currencies' internationalization and creating incentives for the economic agents' choice of the national currencies in mutual payments.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not take steps for increasing the share of national currencies in mutual payments.
0	The BRICS member takes steps either to advance the internationalization of the national currencies or to create stimuli to encourage the economic agents' choice of the national currencies in mutual payments.
+1	The BRICS member takes steps both to advance the internationalization of the national currencies and to create stimuli to encourage the economic agents' choice of the national currencies in mutual payments.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on promoting work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

On 3 January 2021, the Central Bank released the fundamental requirements for the Brazilian instant payments system. The communiqué sets out the basic characteristics of the system, including governance for defining rules, forms of participation, centralized settlement infrastructure, connectivity services and provision of liquidity. The definition of the fundamental requirements is the starting point for the beginning of the process of implementing the instant payment system in Brazil.⁵²⁴

⁵²² SWIFT gpi How payment market infrastructures can support gpi payments, SWIFT (La Hulpe) October 2018. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.swift.com/sites/default/files/documents/swift_brochure_gpi_mis_guide_2018.pdf

⁵²³ Worldwide Currency Usage and Trends Information paper prepared by SWIFT in collaboration with City of London and Paris EUROPLACE December 2015, SWIFT (La Hulpe) 18 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.swift.com/swift-resource/19186/download?language=en>

⁵²⁴ Agenda BC+: BC define os requisitos fundamentais para o sistema de pagamentos instantâneos brasileiro, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 3 January 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/319/noticia>

On 5 February 2021, the Central Bank's Collegiate Board decided to amend the Financial Stability Committee (Comef) Regulation to improve its communication and competencies. Among the changes is the reformulation of the Comef Minutes as a Collegiate Board communication tool, which will be published within five working days after each meeting. It will disclose the Committee's assessment of financial stability, including aspects related to the definition of the Countercyclical Additional Capital Principal for Brazil, the strength and efficiency of the National Financial System. The Comef Minutes will be added to the Financial Stability Report and the Comef Communiqué as communication tools of the Committee.⁵²⁵

On 25 February 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro "signed the complementary law that defines the objectives of the Central Bank of Brazil, provides for its autonomy and the appointment and dismissal of its president and its directors. According to the text, the mandates of the president and directors of the Central Bank do not coincide with the mandate of president" of Brazil. "The Central Bank of Brazil, which before the change was linked to the Ministry of Economy, will become an autarchy of a special nature, characterized by the absence of ties to the Ministry, tutelage or hierarchical subordination, by technical, operational, administrative and financial autonomy."⁵²⁶

On 8 April 2021, Central Bank of Brazil proposed the improvement of the rules of risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility "applicable to the institutions of the system, in order to incorporate the most recent international debates on the subject and the national experience."⁵²⁷

On 7 May 2021, Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) published "guidelines for independent auditors in line with the best practices in the capital market. The new version of the document is a direct result of the regulators' supervision and inspection action."⁵²⁸

On 11 May 2021, CVM issued two resolutions: "the CVM Resolution 29, on rules for establishment and operation of experimental regulatory environment (regulatory sandbox)" and "the CVM Resolution 30, on the verification task of adapting products, services and operations to the customer profile (suitability). The measures are part of the work of reviewing and consolidating normative acts below the decree, determined by Decree 10.139/19." "The main focus of this initiative is to increase the efficiency of regulation, without disregarding the risks that such actions may represent for the protection of investors."⁵²⁹

On 2 July 2021, the Central Bank launched the new Liquidity Finance Lines in local currency, which are resources permanently available to financial institutions. The two lines created are instituted in the form of a loan against a basket of collateral. Initially, debentures and commercial notes will be

⁵²⁵ BC starts to disclose the Financial Stability Committee Minutes, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 February 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/512/noticia>

⁵²⁶ President sanctions law that gives autonomy to the Central Bank, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/fevereiro/presidente-bolsonaro-sanciona-lei-que-da-autonomia-ao-banco-central>

⁵²⁷ BC proposes new rules for risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/530/noticia>

⁵²⁸ CVM publishes new guidelines for independent auditors, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-orientacoes-para-auditores-independentes>

⁵²⁹ CVM publishes new resolutions on regulatory sandbox and suitability, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-resolucoes-sobre-sandbox-regulatorio-e-suitability>

eligible as collateral. This is an action from the BC# Agenda, Competitiveness dimension, which seeks to increase market efficiency.⁵³⁰

Brazil has taken actions directly aimed at the issues stipulated in the commitment features section.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on promoting work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

On 30 November 2020, Rosstat, the central statistic body of Russia, announced its intention to introduce a new method of inflation calculation based on data gathered with online cash registers. The method is said to increase accuracy of inflation forecasts.⁵³¹

On 8 January 2021, the Central Bank of Russia presented its working plan for 2021. In 2021, the Bank of Russia will continue to improve banking regulation so that its adjustment, among other things, would enable banks to assess risks even more accurately and, at the same time, contribute to the economic development. The measures include further implementation of Basel III credit risks assessment standard, improvement in risk assessment techniques to support small and middle-sized enterprises and other steps.⁵³²

On 8 February 2021, the Central Bank of Russia presented the Roadmap for the transition to a unified data model for banks statements collection. A unified approach would increase efficiency in data usage and decrease the amount of request from the central regulator.⁵³³

On 19 March 2021, the Central Bank of Russia decided to increase the key interest rate by 25 base points up to 4.5 per cent.⁵³⁴ Later, on 23 April 2021, the Bank again increased the key interest rate up to 5.0 per cent.⁵³⁵ Taking these steps, the regulator hopes to contain inflation rates lower the target indicator of 5.0 per cent per annum.

⁵³⁰ Novas Linhas Financeiras de Liquidez vão aumentar a eficiência do Sistema Financeiro Nacional, Brazilian Central Bank 2 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/562/noticia>

⁵³¹ Rosstat will start calculating inflation based on "millions" of prices, RBK Group (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/30/11/2020/5fc0c9fe9a79472cdddcbd2f>

⁵³² Development of banking regulation: plans for 2021, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=9451>

⁵³³ The Bank of Russia has prepared a roadmap for the transition to a unified data model when collecting bank statements, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=9563>

⁵³⁴ The Bank of Russia decided to raise the key rate by 25 bp to 4.50% per annum, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. https://www.cbr.ru/press/pr/?file=19032021_133000key.htm

⁵³⁵ The Bank of Russia decided to raise the key rate by 50 bp to 5.00% per annum, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. https://www.cbr.ru/press/pr/?file=23042021_133000key.htm

On 8 April 2021, the Central Bank of Russia presented the concept of Russia's digital currency. The documents defines pros of the "digital ruble" namely reduction of operational costs, payments flexibility and facilitation of innovations.⁵³⁶

On 14 April 2021, the Central Bank of Russia presented the National Payment System Development Strategy 2021 – 2023. The key objective of the strategy is to create environment of affordable and effective payment services to satisfy the needs of the general population, business, and the state. The key initiative under the Strategy includes promotion of non-bank financial institutions, introduction of open API interfaces and e-invoicing system development.⁵³⁷

On 21 May 2021, the Central Bank of Russia decided to increase odds coefficients on mortgage loans from 1 August 2021. The decision is predetermined by growing prices index on real estate market and growing share of loans with low initial installments that leads to vulnerability of lending banks and the country's financial system at large.⁵³⁸

On 29 June 2021, the Central Bank of Russia formed a pilot group of 12 banks to test the digital ruble project. The group is to complete the development of the digital ruble platform in December 2021 and start the testing in January 2022.⁵³⁹

On 11 June 2021, the Central Bank of Russia decided to increase the key interest rate by 50 base points up to 5.5 per cent.⁵⁴⁰

On 13 July 2021, the Central Bank of Russia has announced cancellation of the limit on the portion of Russian issuers' shares to be placed and circulate on foreign markets. Previously the total number of such shares was fixed at 25 per cent of the total stocks of the same type along with maximum of 50 per cent of the total equity that might be traded abroad.⁵⁴¹

On 23 July 2021, the Central Bank of Russia announced that starting from 26 July 2021 the interest rate for small and medium-sized enterprises will be determined following the formula 'key interest rate – 1.5 percentage points'.⁵⁴²

On 23 July 2021, the Central Bank of Russia decided to increase the key interest rate by 100 base points up to 6.5 per cent.⁵⁴³

Russia has taken actions to create stimuli to encourage the economic agents' choice of the national currencies in mutual payments. However, no actions taken by Russia to advance the internationalization of the national currencies have been found yet.

⁵³⁶ The Bank of Russia presented the Concept of the digital ruble, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=9736>

⁵³⁷ National payment system: development strategy until 2023, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/press/event/?id=9761>

⁵³⁸ Bank of Russia raises macroprudential requirements for mortgage loans, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. https://www.cbr.ru/press/pr/?file=21052021_171601DSD21052021_172512.htm

⁵³⁹ First pilot group for digital ruble testing formed, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=11003>

⁵⁴⁰ Russia raises key rate to 5.5%, flags more hikes to curb inflation, Reuters (Moscow) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-economy-rates-idUSKCN2DN1DQ>

⁵⁴¹ Bank of Russia simplifies Russian issuers' entry to foreign markets, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=11044>

⁵⁴² Bank of Russia amends loan pricing for SME lending support facilities, Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/pr/?id=33327>

⁵⁴³ The Bank of Russia increases the key rate by 100 bp to 6.00% p.a., Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/pr/?id=33320>

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

India: -1

India has not complied with the commitment on promoting work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

India is not taking actions to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.⁵⁴⁴

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on promoting work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

On 19 November 2020, a senior official from the People's Bank of China announced that soon "foreign-invested enterprises will not be required to maintain a separate account for renminbi-denominated capital flows at a pilot project in Shanghai." China also noted that it is interested in further liberalization of the cross-border capital flows.⁵⁴⁵

On 20 February 2021, the People's Bank of China conducted RMB10 billion (more than USD1.5 billion) of reverse repos. That repurchase was carried out in order to maintain reasonable and sufficient liquidity in the banking system. The interest rate for the repos was set at 2.2 per cent.⁵⁴⁶

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will steadily advance the opening up of banking, deepen the interconnection of domestic and foreign capital markets, and improve the system for qualified foreign investors, promote the internationalization of the renminbi, create a new type of mutually beneficial cooperation based on the free use of renminbi.⁵⁴⁷

On 9 August 2021, the People's Bank presented the key objectives of the national monetary policy, claiming that one of the pillars would be strengthening of the national currency exchange rate's flexibility.⁵⁴⁸

On 15 August 2021, the People's Bank announced the launch of testing of removing the credit card rating requirements to boost issuance of non-financial debt instruments. The Banks urges market entities to use external ratings and drive the market reform.⁵⁴⁹

⁵⁴⁴ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Public Information Bureau <https://www.pib.gov.in/indexd.aspx>; National Portal of India <https://www.india.gov.in/>; India Ministry of Finance <https://finmin.nic.in/>; India Department of Economic Affairs <https://dea.gov.in/>.

⁵⁴⁵ Shanghai to champion financial opening-up, China Daily (Beijing) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202011/20/content_WS5fb7172ac6d0f7257694032f.html

⁵⁴⁶ The central bank launches a 10 billion yuan reverse repos operation, Xinhua (Beijing) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-02/20/content_5587975.htm

⁵⁴⁷ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

⁵⁴⁸ China's central bank to keep monetary policy stable, Xinhua (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/10/c_1310117857.htm

⁵⁴⁹ China eases restrictions on non-financial corporate debt instruments, Xinhua (Beijing) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/15/c_1310128613.htm

On 16 August 2021, the People's Bank announced its intention to inject RMB600 billion (about USD92.71 billion) into the market to keep liquidity at an adequate rate.⁵⁵⁰

China has taken to advance both the internationalization of the national currencies and to create stimuli to encourage the economic agents' choice of the national currencies in mutual payments.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on promoting work to increase the share of national currencies in mutual payments.

On 27 January 2021, according to the information provided by the Government of South Africa, it "launched the Tourism Equity Fund aimed at creating an inclusive and growing tourism sector by supporting entrepreneurship and investment on the supply side of the tourism sector."⁵⁵¹

On 28 April 2021, according to the information provided by the South African Reserve Bank, it "embarked on the Authenticated Collections (AC)/DebiCheck project. This project is a first of its kind that seeks to address the increasing levels of abuse in the debit order payment system, known commercially as the early debit order (EDO) payment system. From 1 May 2021, all new and renegotiated EDO mandates will be originated in the AC/DebiCheck payment system and not in the current EDO payment system. Early debit orders will only be processed through the AC/DebiCheck payment system, while normal debit orders will still be processed later in the day as per current arrangements."⁵⁵²

On 18 May 2021, Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced that the Tourism Transformation Fund would be restructured to make it more responsive and accessible for entrepreneurs.⁵⁵³

On 20 May 2021, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided against changing the repo rate keeping it at 3.5 per cent per annum amid other steps taken to tackle rising inflation.⁵⁵⁴

On 25 May 2021, according to the information provided by the South African Reserve Bank, it "embarked on a study to investigate the feasibility, desirability and appropriateness of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) as electronic legal tender, for general-purpose retail use, complementary to

⁵⁵⁰ China's central bank injects liquidity into market, Xinhua (Beijing) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/16/c_1310129997.htm

⁵⁵¹ Government launches R1.2bn Tourism Equity Fund, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-launches-r12bn-tourism-equity-fund>

⁵⁵² The South African Reserve Bank modernizes the national payment system with the DebiCheck project, South African Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2021/The-SARB-modernises-NPS-with-Debichack-Project>

⁵⁵³ Fund being restructured to improve access for entrepreneurs, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/fund-being-restructured-improve-access-entrepreneurs>

⁵⁵⁴ Repo rate remains unchanged at 3.5%, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/repo-rate-remains-unchanged-35-1>

cash. A retail CBDC can be defined as a digital form of cash aimed at providing the best attributes of both cash and electronic payments.”⁵⁵⁵

South Africa has taken action to advance to create stimuli to encourage the economic agents’ choice of the national currencies in mutual payments but has not taken steps to internationalize its national currency.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁵⁵⁵ SARB commences feasibility study for a general-purpose retail central bank digital currency, South Africa Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021.
<https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2021/SARB-commences-feasibility-study-for-a-general-purpose-retail-central-bank-digital-currency>

7. Digital Economy: E-Commerce Working Group

“[In the context of accelerated development of the e-commerce sector and increased volume of online-transactions worldwide], we will enhance our cooperation through the BRICS E-commerce Working Group.”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average		0 (50%)	

Background

E-commerce has been an important area of discussion among BRICS leaders since 2012. At the second meeting of the BRICS Trade and Economic Ministers in New Delhi, BRICS Trade Ministers began exploring the possibility of e-commerce cooperation among BRICS members.⁵⁵⁶ At the fourth meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers in Fortaleza 2014, BRICS Trade Ministers emphasized the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation in e-commerce and welcomed a proposal to establish a BRICS Expert Dialogue on E-Commerce.⁵⁵⁷ At the fifth meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers in 2015, the BRICS ministers again highlighted the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and welcomed the Framework for E-Commerce Cooperation as an instrument to promote BRICS partnerships in this area.⁵⁵⁸ At the Ufa Summit in 2015, promoting e-commerce development and cooperation was listed as one of the goals and priority areas for BRICS trade cooperation.⁵⁵⁹ Importantly, the leaders also endorsed the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation as an instrument to promote current and future initiatives and to build close partnerships in the sphere of e-commerce.⁵⁶⁰ At the sixth meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers in 2016, the BRICS ministers reiterated the importance of BRICS e-commerce cooperation and emphasized that the development potential in this area has not been fully realized. Thus, they took note of a proposal to conduct a joint study to promote cooperation in areas of common interest in e-commerce.⁵⁶¹

The BRICS E-Commerce Working Group was officially established in 2017 at the 7th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers in Shanghai under China’s chairmanship. At this meeting, BRICS Trade Ministers pointed out that “E-commerce has become one of the world’s most dynamic and constantly evolving business activities, which is playing an increasingly important role in promoting trade growth, industry transformation and job creation, and has the potential to enable developing countries and SMEs to better

⁵⁵⁶ The 2nd Meeting of the BRICS Trade and Economic Ministers: Joint Press Release, BRICS Information Center (New Delhi) 28 March 2012. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120328-trade.html>

⁵⁵⁷ The 4th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers: Joint Communique, BRICS Information Center (Fortaleza) 14 July 2014. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140714-trade.html>

⁵⁵⁸ The Fifth Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers: Joint Communique, BRICS Information Center (Moscow) 7 July 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150707-trade.html>

⁵⁵⁹ The Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, BRICS Information Center (Ufa) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-partnership-strategy-en.html>

⁵⁶⁰ 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS information Center (Ufa) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁵⁶¹ Trade Ministers Communique: 6th meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers, BRICS Information Center (New Delhi) 13 October 2016. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161013-trade.html>

participate in and benefit from global value chains and international trade.” The ministers also recognized the challenges brought about by the digital divide, and the need to bridge the digital divide to address its socio-economic implications and to ensure e-commerce better contributes to inclusive growth. As such, they agreed to establish the BRICS E-commerce working group.⁵⁶² Annex IV to the seventh meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers Statement, titled the “BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation Initiative,” announced the establishment of the working group. The document stated the working group aims to promote BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and serve as a body to coordinate inter-governmental cooperation on e-commerce and related areas. The working group was designed to meet periodically and conduct activities such as “exchanging information including on policy and best practices, providing guidance to the members on enhancing cooperation, and exploring a roadmap for cooperation.”⁵⁶³

The importance of e-commerce cooperation was reaffirmed in subsequent summits by BRICS leaders and in subsequent trade ministers’ meetings. In the 2020 Moscow Declaration, the BRICS leaders recognized “the role of the digital economy as an important tool for modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of inclusive economic growth, support of seamless global trade and business conduct, and thus helping BRICS national economies to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.” The leaders also acknowledged the challenges arising from “the unprecedented growth of digital technologies and e-commerce” and emphasized the need to overcome the digital divide and support developing countries. In this context, the BRICS leaders committed to enhance cooperation through the E-Commerce Working Group. They also noted “the potential for establishing a workstream to examine the experience of BRICS and other countries, as well as international associations in the field of consumer protection in e-commerce and create a basis for exploring the development of a practical framework for ensuring consumer protection in the BRICS countries.”⁵⁶⁴

Commitment Features

In this commitment, BRICS leaders stated that they will enhance their cooperation through the E-Commerce Working Group. “Enhance” is defined as to heighten or to intensify. “Cooperation” is defined as the action or process of working together to the same end.⁵⁶⁵ The BRICS “E-Commerce Working Group” is the institutional body created by the BRICS in 2017, with the goal of promoting BRICS cooperation on e-commerce and coordinating inter-governmental cooperation on e-commerce and related areas.⁵⁶⁶

One of the guiding documents in the sphere of BRICS E-commerce cooperation is the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation, endorsed by the leaders in the 2015 Ufa Summit, as an instrument to promote current and future initiatives and intra-BRICS cooperation in e-commerce. The document outlines the main objectives of BRICS e-commerce cooperation:

- To keep abreast with the rapid development of global cross-border e-commerce and accelerate the development of BRICS e-commerce industry and market

⁵⁶² 7th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers Statement, BRICS information Center (Shanghai) 2 August 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170802-trade.html>

⁵⁶³ BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation Initiative, BRICS Information Center (Shanghai) 31 August 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170831-ecommerce.html>

⁵⁶⁴ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

⁵⁶⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵⁶⁶ BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation Initiative, BRICS Information Center (Shanghai) 31 August 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170831-ecommerce.html>

- To address the related issues that may hinder the growth of e-commerce, create enabling environment and further utilize e-commerce to promote cross-border trade and facilitate goods and services flows
- To enhance the capability of the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to be well integrated into international markets, and increase MSMEs participation in global value chains.
- To increase the opportunity for the public to access the global products with original and local characteristics, and to improve their welfare.

The document also provides specific examples of concrete actions that BRICS members can undertake to attain these overarching goals. These actions fall under seven spheres of cooperation:

1. Strengthening the partnership between public and private sectors
 - Develop partnership between the public and the private sectors, with a special focus upon the MSMEs' participation;
 - Encourage innovation and strengthening intellectual property rights cooperation regarding cross-border e-commerce;
 - Promote more opportunities for MSMEs' participation in electronic trading platforms of the BRICS countries, and enable MSMEs on the usage of electronic trading platforms for business purposes;
 - Encourage pilot projects with the participation of the business community of the BRICS countries in order to satisfy the real needs of cross-border e-commerce participants;
 - Foster the establishment of certain BRICS Cross-border e-Commerce Pilot Cities and Projects, with the aim to construct a BRICS Cross-border e-Commerce Network.
2. Capacity building
 - Encourage member-countries to conduct capacity-building cooperation via four tiers, namely, government agencies, business and industrial associations, enterprises, and academia;
 - Support joint workshops and training programs on e-commerce, and encourage capacity-building initiatives by those members that are capable to provide more training opportunities.
3. Promotion of dialogues and studies on cross-border e-commerce policies
 - Explore possibilities of joint studies which involves government officials, academics, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges faced by BRICS members
 - Enhance coordination in multilateral for a with the aim to seek greater collective voice and influence in process of formulating international rules in this area
 - Develop common approaches towards definition and content of e-commerce concept
 - Study possibility of establishing information-analytical system of BRICS countries
 - Share experiences and exchange best practices in developing legal and policy framework in e-commerce
 - Encourage members' participation in related information sharing platforms (e.g. BRICS Information Sharing and Exchange Platform)
4. Development of cross-border e-commerce infrastructure
 - Strive to strengthen the broadband and wireless internet construction and further improving domestic e-commerce infrastructure environment, including improving the related investment climate;

- Enhance simplifying the customs and other border procedures and explore the transformation of trade process from paper documents to paperless trade;
 - Promote dialogue between BRICS tax authorities on issues related to e-commerce cross-border transactions taxation;
 - Make efforts to provide facilitation and policy support for cross-border logistics development;
 - Enhance cooperation in matters related to trade finance and payment services in cross-border e-commerce;
 - Strive to facilitate the mutual access of the BRICS companies to electronic trading platforms in the BRICS e-markets;
 - Improve linguistic technologies and data retrieval systems used in e-commerce;
 - Enhance mutual trust in data cooperation, including information security and data protection issues.
5. Reduction of existing barriers in e-commerce between BRICS countries (administrative, customs, tax, logistics and other barriers)
6. Promotion of confidence and trust
- Discuss the possibility of the establishment of transboundary trust space or the mutual recognition of electronic documents based on international standards between the BRICS countries in the Internet for the exchange of electronic documents within the framework of e-Commerce, telemedicine, distance education and other functional applications.
 - Further coordinate work in different international initiatives to develop additional ambitious and measurable actions and targets to build an efficient international e-commerce system. These actions and targets need to be forward-looking and directed towards the guiding principles of the Framework for BRICS E-commerce Cooperation.
7. Development of analytical systems, standards and linguistics technologies in e-commerce, etc.⁵⁶⁷

Thus, taking actions that fall into any of the above categories counts towards compliance. However, to achieve full compliance, BRICS members must not only take actions that contribute to the goal of enhancing BRICS E-commerce cooperation (as outlined above) but also specifically work together through the BRICS E-commerce Working Group.

Furthermore, of the seven spheres of cooperation mentioned above, a BRICS member should take strong and concrete actions under the framework of the Working Group in at least five work areas to score full compliance. If a member takes actions in one to four work areas, a score of 0 will be assigned for partial compliance. Alternatively, if the strength of the action falls short of the threshold stipulated in the commitment – such as verbal declarations of support – the member will also receive a score of 0. If a member fails to take any actions in line with the seven spheres of cooperation and the objective of e-commerce cooperation between BRICS members, it receives a score of –1 for non-compliance.

⁵⁶⁷ List of actions adapted from: Framework for BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation, BRICS Info (Ufa) December 2015. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://www.brics-info.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Ecommerce-cooperation.pdf>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member has not taken any actions that enhance BRICS e-commerce cooperation.
0	The BRICS member has taken actions that enhance BRICS e-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS e-commerce cooperation BUT has not taken any actions specifically through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.
+1	The BRICS member has taken actions that enhance BRICS E-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS e-commerce cooperation, AND has taken actions specifically through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Analyst: Alissa Xinbe Wang

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to enhance e-commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

On 3 December 2020, the Government of Brazil's Goiás state used technology provided by China's Huawei to launch a pilot 5G network for agribusiness connectivity. State Governor Ronaldo Caiado was present at the activation of the 5G signal that was transmitted live on YouTube.

On 16 January 2021, Brazil announced that it would allow China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd to partake in Brazil's 5G network auctions to provide the next generation cellular network for carriers in Brazil.⁵⁶⁸

On 13 February 2021, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations announced 12 selected projects that responded to a public call launched in partnership with the BRICS countries. The proposals had to involve at least 3 of the 5 BRICS countries. The projects focus on new diagnostic technologies and artificial intelligence applied to medicines, vaccines and treatments. The aim of the call was to promote the mobility of researchers through joint research projects and proposals from the countries.⁵⁶⁹

On 26 February 2021, Brazil expanded its government information technology (IT) spending optimization model. The model aims to drive taxpayer savings on IT purchases. The Ministry of Economy's Digital Government Service announced that the model has now been adopted by the House of Representatives in the National Congress, the Supreme Federal Court and the regional courts in Minas Gerias and Goiás.⁵⁷⁰

On 20 April 2021, Brazil borrowed USD1 billion from the Inter-American Development Bank for its Brazil Plus Digital program. The program focuses on digital infrastructure, digital economy, digital government and enabling factors that contribute to developing human talent. Ceará, the first state to benefit from this financing, will receive a USD28 million loan to digitize the Judiciary Branch of government.⁵⁷¹

⁵⁶⁸ Brazil's Bolsonaro to allow China's Huawei in 5G auctions: newspaper, Reuters (London) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-huawei-tech-idUSKBN29L0JM>

⁵⁶⁹ Notice to combat COVID-19 in partnership with BRICS discloses 12 chosen proposals, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/01/edital-para-combate-a-covid-19-em-parceria-com-brics-divulga-as-12-propostas-escolhidas>

⁵⁷⁰ Brazil expands government IT spending optimization model, ZDNet (San Francisco) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-expands-government-it-spending-optimization-model/>

⁵⁷¹ Brazil to boost digital transformation with IDB support, Inter-American Development Bank (Washington) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.iadb.org/en/news/brazil-boost-digital-transformation-idb-support>

On 27 April 2021, the purchasing office of the Ministry of Economy confirmed that Extreme Digital Solutions had been selected as the Brazil government's new integrator for cloud computing services. The cloud integration tender is part of Brazil's centralized approach to IT procurement.⁵⁷²

On 16 July 2021, Brazil created a cyber response network called the Federal Cyber Incident Management Network.⁵⁷³ It includes the Institutional Security Office of the presidency and other entities under the federal governing administration.⁵⁷⁴ The network was created for a more efficient response to cyber threats through better coordination between federal government bodies.⁵⁷⁵

Brazil took actions that enhance BRICS E-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce cooperation. However, it did not take any actions to enhance E-Commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarah Nasir

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to enhance e-commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

On 5 February 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin attended the Digital Future of the Global Economy international forum. He affirmed Russia's support behind "comprehensive digitalisation must become the driving force behind growth in the [Eurasian Economic Union] countries", and affirmed the importance of developing a common digital platform as well as preserving national sovereignty.⁵⁷⁶

On 24 February 2021, Russia introduced two changes to its tax regime which affect software and e-commerce industries. Firstly, the Russian government substantially restricted the 2008 Value-Added Tax (VAT) exemption for software and database licenses; the exemption will now be unavailable to foreign software companies and will only apply to companies listed in Russia's National Software Register.⁵⁷⁷ Secondly, the Russian VAT Regime will require foreign vendors to also be registered for Russian tax purposes and collect, report, and remit VAT in Russian rubles themselves.⁵⁷⁸ Unlike other European countries, Russia does not have a separate VAT-taxpayer registration. For many

⁵⁷² Brazil government concludes cloud integration tender, ZDNet (San Francisco) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazilian-government-concludes-cloud-integration-tender/>

⁵⁷³ Brazil creates cyberattack response network, ZD Net (San Francisco) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-creates-cyberattack-response-network/>

⁵⁷⁴ Brazil creates cyberattack response network, ZD Net (San Francisco) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-creates-cyberattack-response-network/>

⁵⁷⁵ Brazil creates cyberattack response network, ZD Net (San Francisco) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-creates-cyberattack-response-network/>

⁵⁷⁶ Mikhail Mishustin attends the Digital Future of the Global Economy international forum, The Russian Government (Moscow) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41467/>

⁵⁷⁷ Russia Radically Changes Tax Landscape for Software Companies, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/russia-radically-changes-tax-landscape-for-software-companies>

⁵⁷⁸ Russia Radically Changes Tax Landscape for Software Companies, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/russia-radically-changes-tax-landscape-for-software-companies>

foreign suppliers of e-services to Russian companies and individuals, the added registration and compliance is a significant extra cost and exposure.⁵⁷⁹

On 8 April 2021, the Central Bank announced its plans to test the digital ruble throughout the entirety of 2022. Issued by the Central Bank, the digital ruble will be a “full-fledged circulating medium equal to ordinary ruble and will be able to be widely-used by households, businesses and the state in the payment area, ensuring simplicity of payments, their high speed, low costs and high reliability.”⁵⁸⁰ First Deputy Governor of the Regulator Olga Skorobogatova stated that Russia “[plans] to spend the whole 2022 on the testing stage, and only after obtaining the results of testing we will understand which roadmap on introduction of the targeted platform will be implemented and when.”⁵⁸¹ Additionally, the Bank of Russia announced they will set equal rules and tariffs for transactions in digital currency.

On 16 June 2021, at a plenary session of the 12th International IT Forum with the participation of BRICS and SCO member states, the head of the Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation said that “Russian developers are strengthening their positions in practically every area of AI usage.”⁵⁸² Stating that the “digital transformation has become a life saver for traditional economic sectors that rarely ventured beyond the offline format in the past,” he also addressed the importance of AI in aiding the digital transformation of Russia’s economic and social sectors.⁵⁸³

On 29 June 2021, the Bank of Russia announced that the first pilot group has been formed for testing the digital ruble.⁵⁸⁴ The central bank stated that “the [pilot] group consists of 12 banks that have stated willingness to participate in the pilot project and submitted respective letters to the Bank of Russia.”⁵⁸⁵

On 1 July 2021, President Vladimir Putin signed a law requiring large foreign IT corporations to open branch offices in Russia to “fully represent the interests of the parent companies.”⁵⁸⁶ Additionally, a set of measures is also being introduced to force IT companies to comply with Russian legislation, including bans on advertising on an information resource and the collection and cross-border transfer of personal data of Russian citizens.⁵⁸⁷

⁵⁷⁹ Russia Radically Changes Tax Landscape for Software Companies, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/russia-radically-changes-tax-landscape-for-software-companies>

⁵⁸⁰ Bank of Russia plans to test digital ruble in 2022, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1275515>

⁵⁸¹ Bank of Russia plans to test digital ruble in 2022, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow), 8 April 2021. Access date: 13 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1275515>

⁵⁸² AI is the most crosscutting of all modern information technologies, Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://ac.gov.ru/en/news/page/ai-is-most-crosscutting-of-all-modern-information-technologies-26780>

⁵⁸³ Pandemic gives strong impetus to development of digital sector, Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://ac.gov.ru/en/news/page/pandemic-gives-strong-impetus-to-development-of-digital-sector-26779>

⁵⁸⁴ Russian Central Bank forms pilot group of 12 banks for testing digital ruble, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1308437>

⁵⁸⁵ Russian Central Bank forms pilot group of 12 banks for testing digital ruble, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1308437>

⁵⁸⁶ Putin signs law on opening large foreign IT company branches in Russia, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1309321>

⁵⁸⁷ Putin signs law on opening large foreign IT company branches in Russia, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1309321>

Russia took actions that enhance BRICS E-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce cooperation. However, it did not take any actions to enhance E-Commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Naomi Shi

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to enhance e-commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

On 5 November 2020, India simplified Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines of the Department of Telecommunications.⁵⁸⁸ The new guidelines included the removal of the registration requirement for OSPs and the business process outsourcing industry engaged in data related work would not be subject to OSP regulations.⁵⁸⁹

On 3 December 2020, India and South Africa circulated a joint proposal that countered the plurilateral Joint Statement Initiative and called for a multilateral system to discuss the revenue and industrial impacts due to the moratorium on custom duties on electronic transmissions.⁵⁹⁰

On 9 December 2020, India approved the proposal of the Department of Telecommunications to set up Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators where there would be no license fee for providing Broadband Internet through the public Wi-Fi networks.⁵⁹¹ The proposal aims to promote the growth of Public Wi-Fi networks in India.⁵⁹²

On 9 December 2020, India approved the Universal Service Obligation Fund Scheme to provide mobile coverage in Arunachal Pradesh, KarbiAnglong and Dima Hasao. The project will provide mobile coverage to 2,374 villages that are not covered.⁵⁹³

On 10 December 2020, India and South Africa submitted a joint proposal for the World Trade Organization (WTO) to host structured dialogue on the developmental aspects of e-commerce and the implications of imposing a ban on states levying taxes on digital transmissions.⁵⁹⁴

On 15 December 2020, the Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank launched DakPay which is a digital payment app.⁵⁹⁵ The app provides digital financial and assisted banking services

⁵⁸⁸ Massive encouragement for 'Other Service Provider' Industry in BPO and ITES Sectors, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 5 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670405>

⁵⁸⁹ Massive encouragement for 'Other Service Provider' Industry in BPO and ITES Sectors, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 5 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670405>

⁵⁹⁰ South Africa, India calls for development-oriented approach to e-com, Third World Network (Penang). 9 December 2020. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.twn.my/title2/wto.info/2020/ti201209.htm>

⁵⁹¹ Cabinet approves setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators to provide public Wif-Fi service through Public Data Offices without levy of any License Fee, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679344>

⁵⁹² Cabinet approves setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators to provide public Wif-Fi service through Public Data Offices without levy of any License Fee, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679344>

⁵⁹³ Cabinet approves setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators to provide public Wif-Fi service through Public Data Offices without levy of any License Fee, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679344>

⁵⁹⁴ India and South Africa revive multilateral talks on ecommerce, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

through the postal “Dak” network. The app was launched with the aim of improving digital financial inclusion in India.⁵⁹⁶

On 15 February 2021, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad chaired a meeting to address harassment through text messages, fraudulent loan transactions and the security of digital transactions.⁵⁹⁷ It was decided that a web and mobile applications and test messaging system was to be developed to address financial frauds conducted via telecom resources.⁵⁹⁸

On 17 February 2021, India approved the Production Linked Initiative scheme for telecom and networking products which promotes the manufacturing of telecom and networking products in India.⁵⁹⁹ The scheme also supports exports of telecom and networking products.⁶⁰⁰

On 6 March 2021, India and South Africa delegations at the WTO opposed an ongoing initiative by some countries to establish a pact on e-commerce regulations.⁶⁰¹ India and South Africa expressed the dire need to invest in digital infrastructure and skills at the current period rather than setting rules on e-commerce.⁶⁰²

On 9 March 2021, Minister Prasad inaugurated an online certification course on 5G technology which would be used to train and certify officers of the Government of India.⁶⁰³ The course would “act as a capsule programme for learning overall 5G technology from the perspective of policy making.”⁶⁰⁴

⁵⁹⁵ India Post Payments Bank launches its digital payments’ services ‘DakPay’, aims to Transform Banking Experience at the last mile, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1680754>

⁵⁹⁶ India Post Payments Bank launches its digital payments’ services ‘DakPay’, aims to Transform Banking Experience at the last mile, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1680754>

⁵⁹⁷ Telecom Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad chairs high level meeting to make digital transactions secure, reliable and trustworthy, Minister of Communications (Delhi). 15 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698158>

⁵⁹⁸ Telecom Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad chairs high level meeting to make digital transactions secure, reliable and trustworthy, Minister of Communications (Delhi). 15 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698158>

⁵⁹⁹ Telecom manufacturing to reach global scale in India, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 17 February 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698686>

⁶⁰⁰ Telecom manufacturing to reach global scale in India, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 17 February 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698686>

⁶⁰¹ India, South Africa oppose plurilateral initiative for e-commerce at WTO, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-south-africa-oppose-plurilateral-initiative-for-e-commerce-at-wto/article34004906.ece>

⁶⁰² India, South Africa oppose plurilateral initiative for e-commerce at WTO, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-south-africa-oppose-plurilateral-initiative-for-e-commerce-at-wto/article34004906.ece>

⁶⁰³ Telecom Secretary Shri Anshu Prakash inaugurates an online certification course on 5G technology, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 9 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1703599>

⁶⁰⁴ Telecom Secretary Shri Anshu Prakash inaugurates an online certification course on 5G technology, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 9 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1703599>

On 4 May 2021, the Department of Telecommunication approved Telecom Service Providers to conduct trials for 5G technology. The trials will be conducted in rural, semi-urban and urban settings to ensure that 5G technology benefits all of India instead of being limited to urban areas.⁶⁰⁵

On 17 May 2021, Minister Prakash inaugurated an online course to train and certify officers in network security. The course is offered to officers in the Department of Telecommunications but is proposed to expand to other government officers and eventually the private sector.⁶⁰⁶

On 20 July 2021, the Department of Telecommunication, on behalf of Bharat Broadband Network Limited, invited global tender for the BharatNet project.⁶⁰⁷ The goal is to make BharatNet more accessible and effective by developing BharatNet through a public private partnership model in sixteen states.⁶⁰⁸

India took actions that enhance BRICS e-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce cooperation. However, it did not take any actions to enhance e-commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarah Nasir

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to enhance cooperation through the BRICS E-commerce Working Group.

On 7 December 2020, China published the “Implementation Outline for the Construction of a Society under the Rule of Law,” a five-year plan that proposes legal regulations that aim to perfect the cyberspace governance system. The outline prescribes China’s active participation in constructing international rules and standards in the fields of digital economy, e-commerce, information technology, and cybersecurity. Among its main objectives include enhancing the protection of intellectual property rights for innovations such as “Internet technology,” “business models,” “big data,” “improving the cross-border e-commerce system and “standardizing the behaviour of cross-border e-commerce operators,” and revising laws on and formulating new management methods of Internet information services.⁶⁰⁹

On 8 December 2020, the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center opened in Xiamen, China as proposed during the 12th BRICS Summit in November 2019. President of the China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation Guo Yezhou emphasized that “the innovation center will provide a foothold for BRICS countries to make use of technological innovation and digital transformation brought by the new industrial revolution.” The innovation

⁶⁰⁵ Telecom Department gives go-ahead for 5G Technology and Spectrum Trials, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715927>

⁶⁰⁶ Telecom Secretary Shri Anshu Prakash inaugurates an online course to train and certify Officers in Network Security, Ministry of Communications (Delhi). 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719394>

⁶⁰⁷ BharatNet Project: Tender invited for Public Private Partnership, Ministry of Communications (Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737325>

⁶⁰⁸ BharatNet Project: Tender invited for Public Private Partnership, Ministry of Communications (Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737325>

⁶⁰⁹ The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the “Implementation Outline for the Construction of a Society Ruled by Law (2020-2025)”, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/07/content_5567791.htm

center will help BRICS countries collaborate and gather ideas on how to navigate technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain.⁶¹⁰

On 18 December 2020, the Cyberspace Administration of China established pilot projects for the security management of cross-border data flows. The pilot project will focus on key areas such as “artificial intelligence, biomedicine, industrial Internet, and cross-border e-commerce,” and aim to solve problems with cross-border data flows, such as the security issues relating to the cross-border transfer of personal information and the certification of enterprises’ data protection capabilities.⁶¹¹

On 28 January 2021, Ambassador to South Africa Chen Xiaodong reaffirmed China’s willingness to work with South Africa to strengthen coordination in multilateral affairs, including their cooperation in the BRICS. Stressing China’s commitment to helping African countries seize the opportunities brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Ambassador Xiaodong stated that China and South Africa will “share technology and experiences in the digital economy” and “strengthen cooperation in talent and skills training.”⁶¹²

On 31 January 2021, China issued the “Action Plan for Constructing a High-Standard Market System,” which emphasizes the Chinese leadership’s focus on emerging technologies and the digital economy heading into the 14th Five Year Plan period. Among its main development goals for the economy include the comprehensive improvement of the property rights protection systems, such as intellectual property rights. Specifically, the plan stated that China will “formulate rules for the protection of intellectual property rights in the [field of] cross-border e-commerce” and “publish guidelines for corporate intellectual property protection” as well as “country-specific guidelines for intellectual property protection.”⁶¹³

On 7 February 2021, the State Administration for Market Regulation published the Antitrust Guidelines for the Platform Economy with immediate effect. The main purpose of the guidelines is to regulate the Chinese digital economy and “create a fair and competitive market on online platforms and to safeguard consumer interests.” Designed to prevent and stop monopolistic behaviours by Chinese internet giants, these guidelines are enacted to promote the sustainable and healthy development of online commerce.⁶¹⁴

On 25 February 2021, the National Information Security Standardization Technical Committee released the key action points for 2021, which covers seven categories that focus on the need to improve national network security work.⁶¹⁵ Among the fields in which the Chinese government will

⁶¹⁰ BRICS countries launch partnership innovation center in Xiamen, China Internet Information Center (Xinhua) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-12/09/content_76993040.htm

⁶¹¹ Beijing promotes pilot projects for cross-border data flow security management, Beijing Daily (Beijing) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/24/content_5572905.htm

⁶¹² China is willing to work with South Africa, IOL (Cape Town) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/china-is-willing-to-work-with-south-africa-6c0172ab-f394-4ab4-9fe3-f353dba1be1f>

⁶¹³ The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the “Action Plan for Building a High Standard Market System”, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2020. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-01/31/content_5583936.htm

⁶¹⁴ China Enforces Antitrust Guidelines on its Online Economy, China Briefing (Beijing) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-antitrust-guidelines-enforcement-online-economy/>

⁶¹⁵ Notice on Soliciting Opinions on 3 National Standards (Draft for Solicitation of Comments) including “Guidelines for Information Security Technology Network Audio and Video Service Data Security, National Information Security Standardization Technical Committee (Beijing) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.tc260.org.cn/front/postDetail.html?id=20210224114731>

further develop national standards for network security include industrial Internet, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and digital currency.⁶¹⁶

On 5 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced the goals for the 14th Five-Year Plan at the National People's Congress (NPC) held in Beijing. The major focus of this new plan was “the Digital China initiative”, which seeks to accelerate the development of the Chinese digital economy. In his work report to the NPC, Premier Keqiang underscored efforts to create “new strengths for the digital economy” and the urgency to create “a digital society, digital government, and healthy digital ecosystem” through the initiative.⁶¹⁷ The five-year plan also calls on companies to “share data from search, e-commerce and social media services [to assist] the development of a third-party big data platform.”⁶¹⁸ In addition to expanding digitalization, the plan also strengthened the government crackdown on monopolistic practices and unfair competition.

On 11 March 2021, China's market regulator announced that it had fined 12 companies, including Baidu Inc, Tencent, and Didi Chuxing over their violations of anti-monopoly rules. China Daily, an official state-owned newspaper, wrote that “the rapid development of the digital economy [leads to] people's lives [becoming] inseparable from internet platforms” and that “some platforms [who have captured the market] have abandoned their due social responsibilities and they are trying to monopolize the sector by becoming ‘slaves’ of capital.”⁶¹⁹

On 8 April 2021, the Bank of China announced that the digital yuan can be used for cross-border transactions in addition to its role as a domestic currency. Still in the early stages of testing cross-border use of the currency, the Bank of China stated that “the next steps for the digital renminbi program are (i) to further promote the pilot, and (ii) to accumulate more experience on the use of renminbi.”⁶²⁰

On 10 April 2021, regulators in China imposed a USD2.75 billion on Chinese technology and e-commerce giant, Alibaba.⁶²¹ Penalizing the corporation for restricting competition by stopping some sellers using other platforms, this case is the highest profile anti-monopoly action taken by the Chinese government to penalize anti-competitive behaviour in e-commerce.

On 25 April 2021, the fourth Digital China Summit was held in Fuzhou, where a report reviewing the country's digital development in 2020 was released. The report underscored China's achievements in areas such as 5G networks, big data, communications, and artificial intelligence. In his keynote speech, Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of

⁶¹⁶ China – Cyber security and data protection April Round up, Lexology (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6f84e596-d94a-4325-b790-2f8f6cbe2303>

⁶¹⁷ China's ‘two sessions’ 2021: plans for ‘Digital China’ transformation come with increased regulations for personal data, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3124305/chinas-two-sessions-2021-plans-digital-china-transformation-come>

⁶¹⁸ China's ‘two sessions’ 2021: plans for ‘Digital China’ transformation come with increased regulations for personal data, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3124305/chinas-two-sessions-2021-plans-digital-china-transformation-come>

⁶¹⁹ Analysis: China delivers on threats to rein in internet economy, Reuters (Beijing) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-china-antimonopoly-analysis-idUSKBN2BA0S6>

⁶²⁰ The central bank continues to increase financial support for coordinated regional development, the digital renminbi is fully qualified for cross border transactions, Economic Daily (Beijing) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.findknowdo.com/sites/default/files/news/attachments/2021/04/central-bank-continues-increase-financial-support-regional-coordinated-development.pdf>

⁶²¹ China fines Alibaba record \$2.75 billion for anti-monopoly violations, Reuters (Shanghai) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-alibaba-idUSKBN2BX015>

China Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the Central Committee, stressed the importance of “building [a] digital economy that is high in standards and quality.”⁶²² Emphasizing the role of information technology in promoting national development, he also called for further integration of the digital economy with the real economy.⁶²³

On 29 April 2021, China fined 11 tech companies, including internet giant Tencent, for “violating anti-trust laws after they failed to get regulatory approval for past acquisitions or joint-venture deals.”⁶²⁴ Additionally, regulators announced that 13 major technology firms, including Tencent, ByteDance, JD.com, Meituan, and Didi Chuxing, will face similar restrictions imposed on Alibaba, marking the tightening of China’s crackdown on fintech and e-commerce firms.⁶²⁵

On 21 May 2021, Vice Premier Liu He and the State Council called for a further crackdown on the mining and trading of cryptocurrency, announcing in a statement that it is necessary to “crack down on Bitcoin mining and trading behaviour, and resolutely prevent the transmission of individual risks to the social field.”⁶²⁶ Additionally, the statement reiterated the need to “maintain the smooth operation of the stock, debt, and foreign exchange markets, severely crack down on illegal securities activities, and severely punish illegal financial activities.”⁶²⁷

On 10 June 2021, the National People’s Congress announced the Data Security Law (DSL), which will take effect 1 September 2021.⁶²⁸ The DSL contains provisions that cover the usage, collection, and protection of data and represents a policy framework for future legislative development of China’s centrally planned digital economy rather than a detailed prescription of data handling requirements.⁶²⁹ Its aim is to “further strengthen the current protection for the country’s fast-growing digital economy and emphasize top-down coordination of data security implementation among local governments and differentiated fines based on severity of violations.”⁶³⁰ The DSL also has an international focus. It has provisions for extraterritorial reach, cross-border data transfer

⁶²² Digital economy key for nation’s development, China Daily (Fuzhou) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202104/26/WS6085f4c5a31024ad0baba3ce.html>

⁶²³ Digital economy key for nation’s development, China Daily (Fuzhou) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202104/26/WS6085f4c5a31024ad0baba3ce.html>

⁶²⁴ China’s crackdown on Alibaba and other big tech firms will change industry in massive way, The Straits Time (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/chinas-crackdown-on-alibaba-and-other-big-tech-firms-will-change-industry-in-massive>

⁶²⁵ China Widens Regulatory Net for Fintech Crackdown, Finews.Asia (Singapore) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.finews.asia/finance/34382-china-widens-regulatory-net-for-fintech-crackdown>

⁶²⁶ Liu He presided over the 51st meeting of the State Council Financial Stability and Development Committee, China Government Network (Beijing) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-05/21/content_5610192.htm?ivk_sa=1023197a

⁶²⁷ Liu He presided over the 51st meeting of the State Council Financial Stability and Development Committee, China Government Network (Beijing) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-05/21/content_5610192.htm?ivk_sa=1023197a

⁶²⁸ A Close Reading of Chian’s Data Security Law, in Effect Sept. 1, 2021, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/a-close-reading-of-chinas-data-security-law-in-effect-sept-1-2021/>

⁶²⁹ A Close Reading of Chian’s Data Security Law, in Effect Sept. 1, 2021, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/a-close-reading-of-chinas-data-security-law-in-effect-sept-1-2021/>

⁶³⁰ A Close Reading of Chian’s Data Security Law, in Effect Sept. 1, 2021, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/a-close-reading-of-chinas-data-security-law-in-effect-sept-1-2021/>

controls, and restrictions on cooperation with foreign law enforcement officials.⁶³¹ Thus, the DSL can apply to data processing activities conducted outside China.⁶³²

On 4 July 2021, the Cyberspace Administration of China notified app stores to remove Didi Chuxing, Chinese leading car-hailing app, due to what it deemed “serious” violations of laws and regulations regarding the collection and use of personal information.⁶³³ This decision follows the Cybersecurity Review Office’s announcement that it was launching a review into Didi Global Inc, which had recently raised USD4.4 billion in its IPO on the New York Stock Exchange, with the purpose of “[guarding] against national data security risks [and safeguarding] national security and the public interest.”⁶³⁴

On 11 August 2021, the State Council and Central Committee released a five-year plan that calls for greater regulatory control over key industries.⁶³⁵ The document states that authorities will “actively” work on legislation in areas such as national security, technology, and monopolies across a variety of sectors, including big data and artificial intelligence.⁶³⁶

China has taken actions that enhance BRICS E-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce cooperation; it has strengthened the development of analytical systems, standards and linguistics technologies in e-commerce and the development of cross-border e-commerce infrastructure. However, China has not taken actions specifically through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Naomi Shi

South Africa: 0

South Africa partially complied with its commitment to enhance E-commerce cooperation through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

On 12 October 2020, Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams announced the South African Post Office (SAPO) would launch its e-commerce platform in the

⁶³¹ A Close Reading of China’s Data Security Law, in Effect Sept. 1, 2021, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/a-close-reading-of-chinas-data-security-law-in-effect-sept-1-2021/>

⁶³² A Close Reading of China’s Data Security Law, in Effect Sept. 1, 2021, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/a-close-reading-of-chinas-data-security-law-in-effect-sept-1-2021/>

⁶³³ China Removes Didi from App Stores: What We Learned from the Case and China’s Cybersecurity Regime, China Briefing(Hong Kong) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-removes-didi-from-app-stores-lessons-learned-chinas-cybersecurity-regime/>

⁶³⁴ China Removes Didi from App Stores: What We Learned from the Case and China’s Cybersecurity Regime, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-removes-didi-from-app-stores-lessons-learned-chinas-cybersecurity-regime/>

⁶³⁵ China unveils 5-year plan to enhance control of economy, The Straits Times (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/china-unveils-5-year-plan-to-enhance-control-of-economy>

⁶³⁶ China unveils 5-year plan to enhance control of economy, The Straits Times (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/china-unveils-5-year-plan-to-enhance-control-of-economy>

upcoming few months.⁶³⁷ The SAPO platform aims to enhance e-commerce in South Africa by promoting interaction between small craftspeople, traders and buyers.⁶³⁸

On 15 October 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.⁶³⁹ The economic recovery plan key elements included enhancing infrastructure development, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting smart E-commerce in South Africa.⁶⁴⁰

On 10 December 2020, South Africa and India submitted a joint proposal for the World Trade Organization (WTO) to host structured dialogue on the developmental aspects of e-commerce and the implications of imposing a ban on states levying taxes on digital transmissions.⁶⁴¹

On 17 February 2021, Small Business Development and Acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni announced that the government will revise the guidelines on broadband connectivity.⁶⁴² The national connectivity program aims to ensure affordable and fast access to the internet nationwide, through connecting health facilities, schools and homes.⁶⁴³ The revision of the broadband connectivity guidelines will aim to support micro, small and medium sized enterprises and cooperatives in achieving more accessible connectivity to enhance business operations.⁶⁴⁴

On 6 March 2021, the South African and Indian delegations at the WTO opposed an ongoing initiative by some countries to establish a pact on e-commerce regulations.⁶⁴⁵ South Africa and India expressed the dire need to invest in digital infrastructure and skills at the current period rather than setting rules on e-commerce.⁶⁴⁶

⁶³⁷ Ministry promises SAPO e-commerce site in 'next few months', ITWeb (Johannesburg) 12 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/Pero3MZxr5VvQb6m>

⁶³⁸ Ministry promises SAPO e-commerce site in 'next few months', ITWeb (Johannesburg) 12 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/Pero3MZxr5VvQb6m>

⁶³⁹ SACCI welcomes economic recovery plan, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 16 October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴⁰ SACCI welcomes economic recovery plan, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 16 October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴¹ India and South Africa revive multilateral talks on ecommerce, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴² Government revising guidelines on broadband connectivity, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴³ Government revising guidelines on broadband connectivity, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴⁴ Government revising guidelines on broadband connectivity, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sacci-welcomes-economic-recovery-plan>

⁶⁴⁵ India, South Africa oppose plurilateral initiative for e-commerce at WTO, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-south-africa-oppose-plurilateral-initiative-for-e-commerce-at-wto/article34004906.ece>

⁶⁴⁶ India, South Africa oppose plurilateral initiative for e-commerce at WTO, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-south-africa-oppose-plurilateral-initiative-for-e-commerce-at-wto/article34004906.ece>

On 25 March 2021, South Africa approved the publication of the Draft National Data and Cloud Policy in the national gazette for public feedback.⁶⁴⁷ Minister Ntshavheni stated, “The policy seeks to align existing policies and legislation to ensure that the country takes full advantage of developments in the digital economy.”⁶⁴⁸ The policy aims to enhance South Africa’s cloud and data services essential for the digital economy and e-commerce.⁶⁴⁹

On 2 May 2021, the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority launched in partnership with Microsoft an initiative to boost the digital skills of 20,000 unemployed young South Africans.⁶⁵⁰ The initiative aims to provide the participants with the digital skills needed to succeed in the field of e-commerce and the Information and Communications Technology Industry.⁶⁵¹

On 19 May 2021, the Competition Commission launched the Online Intermediation Platforms Market Inquiry which aims to better understand e-commerce in South Africa and detect any factors that may hinder competition in online markets.⁶⁵² Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel announced that the inquiry is a practical implementation of the country’s competition policy on digital markets.⁶⁵³

On 20 May 2021, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams announced that the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies will host a digital economy investment virtual conference in September 2021 for potential businesses and investors.⁶⁵⁴ Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams stressed on the importance of partnerships between the private sector and the government for digitizing the South African economy.⁶⁵⁵

On 25 May 2021, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams called on African leaders to establish an environment with suitable transport and ICT infrastructure

⁶⁴⁷ Taking advantage of digital economy opportunities, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/taking-advantage-digital-economy-opportunities>

⁶⁴⁸ Taking advantage of digital economy opportunities, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/taking-advantage-digital-economy-opportunities>

⁶⁴⁹ Taking advantage of digital economy opportunities, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/taking-advantage-digital-economy-opportunities>

⁶⁵⁰ 20 000 young South Africans to get digital skills boost, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/sundayindependent/news/20-000-young-south-africans-to-get-digital-skills-boost-7739c4c0-94dc-4028-b656-1d9efcfa8c5e>

⁶⁵¹ 20 000 young South Africans to get digital skills boost, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/sundayindependent/news/20-000-young-south-africans-to-get-digital-skills-boost-7739c4c0-94dc-4028-b656-1d9efcfa8c5e>

⁶⁵² Competition Commission Launches inquiry into online shops, The Citizen (Johannesburg) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://citizen.co.za/business/business-news/2493859/competition-commission-launches-inquiry-into-online-shops/>

⁶⁵³ Competition Commission Launches inquiry into online shops, The Citizen (Johannesburg) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://citizen.co.za/business/business-news/2493859/competition-commission-launches-inquiry-into-online-shops/>

⁶⁵⁴ Ndabeni-Abrahams says partnerships needed to achieve national digital transformations, Engineering News (Johannesburg) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://citizen.co.za/business/business-news/2493859/competition-commission-launches-inquiry-into-online-shops/>

⁶⁵⁵ Ndabeni-Abrahams says partnerships needed to achieve national digital transformations, Engineering News (Johannesburg) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://citizen.co.za/business/business-news/2493859/competition-commission-launches-inquiry-into-online-shops/>

that allows Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises to succeed.⁶⁵⁶ As stated by the minister, “It is, therefore, important to continue to prioritize and strengthen our programmes to build our regional and national ICT infrastructure and the digital economy. The implementation of the African Digital Transformation strategy will no doubt be critical to support regional integration.”⁶⁵⁷ The Minister urged African states to continue prioritizing and supporting programs that develop the continent's capacity-building, digital skills, digital infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship.⁶⁵⁸

On 15 June 2021, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams, announced that the ministry would be conducting training programmes that aim to bridge the digital divide everywhere in South Africa, including rural areas.⁶⁵⁹ According to the minister, “these training programs are part of the National Digital and Future Skills strategy, whose objective is to establish an education and skills development ecosystem that provides all South Africans with the required skills to create and participate in the digital economy.”⁶⁶⁰

South Africa has taken actions to enhance BRICS E-commerce cooperation, as outlined in the Framework for BRICS E-Commerce cooperation. However, South Africa has not taken any actions specifically through the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Omar S. Abdellatif

⁶⁵⁶ African leaders urged to support SMMEs, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/african-leaders-urged-support-smmes>

⁶⁵⁷ African leaders urged to support SMMEs, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/african-leaders-urged-support-smmes>

⁶⁵⁸ African leaders urged to support SMMEs, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/african-leaders-urged-support-smmes>

⁶⁵⁹ Positioning the Youth for the digital economy, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/positioning-youth-digital-economy>

⁶⁶⁰ Positioning the Youth for the digital economy, South African Government News Agency (Johannesburg) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/positioning-youth-digital-economy>

8. Digital Economy: Digital Divide

“[BRICS will take steps to] address digital divide by bridging the gap in access of BRICS population to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services and ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.”

Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa			+1
Average		+0.80 (90%)	

Background

The BRICS first addressed issues related to digital growth during Russia’s BRICS presidency in 2015. In the Ufa Declaration the BRICS leaders highlighted the importance of an “open, non-fragmented and secure Internet.”⁶⁶¹ In 2016, the BRICS noted the need for “enhanced cooperation in e-commerce” and declared support for “efforts aimed at capacity building for effective participation in e-commerce trade.”⁶⁶²

The digital economy itself was discussed during China’s BRICS presidency in 2017. In the Xiamen Declaration, the BRICS leaders committed to “act on the basis of principles of innovation, partnership, synergy, flexibility, open and favorable business environment, trust and security, protection of consumer rights in order to ensure the conditions for a thriving and dynamic digital economy, that will foster global economic development and benefit everyone.”⁶⁶³

In 2019 under the Brazilian BRICS presidency, the BRICS communication ministers held a meeting in Brasilia. The parties committed to work together on connectivity, innovation, security, human development, fostering digital transformation and promoting digital governance.⁶⁶⁴ The BRICS leaders underscored “the importance of an open, secure, peaceful, stable, accessible and non-discriminatory environment for information and communications technologies” and committed to “explore in appropriate fora ways to promote and facilitate investments in productive sectors, ecommerce, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, infrastructure and connectivity, which will help to promote economic growth, trade and job creation.”⁶⁶⁵

⁶⁶¹ VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁶⁶² Goa Declaration October 16, 2016, RANEP (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁶³ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁶⁶⁴ Declaration of the 5th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting, RANEP (Moscow) 14 August 2019. Access Date:

11 January 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/Declaration_of_the_5th_BRICS_Communications_Ministers_Meeting-Bras%C3%ADlia.pdf)

[Declaration_of_the_5th_BRICS_Communications_Ministers_Meeting-Bras%C3%ADlia.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/Declaration_of_the_5th_BRICS_Communications_Ministers_Meeting-Bras%C3%ADlia.pdf)

⁶⁶⁵ 11th BRICS Summit – Brasilia Declaration, RANEP (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

In 2020, the BRICS leaders recognized “the role of the digital economy as an important tool for modernization and transformation of the industry, promotion of inclusive economic growth, support of seamless global trade and business conduct” and highlighted the need to focus on “overcoming the digital divide.”⁶⁶⁶

Commitment Features

The commitment could be divided into two aspects. To achieve the full compliance, a BRICS member should take actions that match both aspects.

First, the commitment requires the BRICS member states to take actions in order to provide the general population with access to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services.

Following the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s definition, digital infrastructure implies “efficient, reliable and widely accessible broadband communication networks and services, data, software, and hardware [that] are the foundations on which the digital economy is based.”⁶⁶⁷ The BRICS communication ministers in their Joint Declaration following the 6th meeting that took place in Moscow on 17 September 2020 noted that it is necessary to “develop an infrastructure providing wide penetration of broadband access, including paying special attention to the last mile connection, based on the principles of openness, fairness and non-discrimination.”⁶⁶⁸ Taking this into account, the BRICS countries are required to make efforts aimed at increasing indicators such as the number of personal computers (PCs) and mobile devices with the Internet access per 100 inhabitants; the number of households with a PC or the Internet access; the number of broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants; the total number of Internet users, etc.

The notion of “digital skills” in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) interpretation means “a range of abilities to use digital devices, communication applications, and networks to access and manage information.”⁶⁶⁹ UNESCO also specifies, that there are two types of digital skills namely “entry-level” skills and “advanced” ones. The first group includes “basic functional skills required to make basic use of digital devices and online applications” besides “traditional reading, writing, and numeracy skills.”⁶⁷⁰ The “advanced” digital skills include “the higher-level abilities that allow users to make use of digital technologies in empowering and transformative ways such as professions in ICT” meaning usage of such technologies as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, big data analytics, etc.⁶⁷¹ To satisfy this requirement, the BRICS country shall make efforts to ensure a wider spread of the above-mentioned competencies among the general population.

Finally, digitally enabled services (also known as “ICT-enabled services” or “digitally delivered services” in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development interpretation) are those that

⁶⁶⁶ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

⁶⁶⁷ OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2017, OECD (Paris) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264276284-en>

⁶⁶⁸ Declaration of the 6th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting 17 September 2020, RANEPa (Moscow) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/6th%20BRICS%20Ministers%20of%20Communication%20Declaration%2017%2009%202020.pdf>

⁶⁶⁹ Digital skills critical for jobs and social inclusion, UNESCO (Paris) 15 March 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/digital-skills-critical-jobs-and-social-inclusion>

⁶⁷⁰ Digital skills critical for jobs and social inclusion, UNESCO (Paris) 15 March 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/digital-skills-critical-jobs-and-social-inclusion>

⁶⁷¹ Digital skills critical for jobs and social inclusion, UNESCO (Paris) 15 March 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/digital-skills-critical-jobs-and-social-inclusion>

are “delivered remotely over ICT networks,” namely “insurance and pension services, financial services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications, computer and information services, other business services, and audiovisual and related services.”⁶⁷² The BRICS countries are required to take steps to ensure the wider use of such services among the population.

The second aspect of this commitment requires that BRICS members “ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.” To reach the full compliance, the BRICS member should not only take efforts that provide its general population with a better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services, but also take into account the needs of people living in rural areas as well as persons with disabilities. It should be noted that “the distinction between the urban and the rural population is not yet amenable to a single definition that would be applicable to all countries or, for the most part, even to the countries within a region.”⁶⁷³ It means that during the monitoring process the differences in definitions of urban and rural areas that exist among the BRICS members should be taken into account. Recalling the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we recognize persons with disabilities as “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”⁶⁷⁴ In this case, differences in national approaches to definition of persons with disabilities, if there are any, should be noted.

Overall, a +1 score will be given if a country takes steps in all three subject areas and at least some of these actions are designed to satisfy the special needs of rural population and persons with disabilities.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not take actions aimed at providing better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills or digitally enabled services.
0	The BRICS member takes actions that match ONE, TWO or all THREE subject areas, but no evidence of the BRICS country taking actions specially designed to satisfy the needs of rural population or persons with disabilities has been found.
+1	The BRICS member takes actions that match all THREE subject areas and at least some of them are specially designed to satisfy the needs of rural population or persons with disabilities.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to provide better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills or digitally enabled services.

On 3 March 2021, the innovative program, known as Startup Gov.br, from the Ministry of Economy was launched. It “seeks to accelerate the development of digital transformation projects within the

⁶⁷² Digital Economy Report 2019, UNCTAD (Geneva) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2021. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/der2019_en.pdf

⁶⁷³ Population density and urbanization, United Nations Statistical Division (New York) n.d. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/Demographic/sconcerns/densurb/default.htm>

⁶⁷⁴ United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, United Nations (New York) 13 December 2006. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

Federal Government. In practice, the program aims to digitize federal public services, saving resources and actions that simplify citizens' lives."⁶⁷⁵

On 18 March 2021, "the Special Secretariat for Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness, of the Ministry of Economy, in partnership with Microsoft, started the professional training program in digital skills ["School of Employee 4.0."] The project aims to train young people and adults with a focus on increasing employability. The target audience is workers, over 18 years old, looking for a job, who want to reinvent themselves and prepare for the new demands of the labor market, mainly with a focus on the digital environment. The goal is to reach 5.5 million workers by February 2023. The distance learning platform is open to the entire national territory and has 58 instructors provided by Microsoft to offer personalized guidance to up to 315,000 people. In order to increase the number of instructors, other partnerships with the private sector will be leveraged."⁶⁷⁶

On 20-22 April 2021, Brazil Forum was held "to promote the exchange of experiences on the use of digital technologies in the provision of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Ater) services" and in the marketing of family farming products. "The initiative is the result of a partnership between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil (MAPA), the Latin American Network of Extension Services, the Organization of the Nations United Nations for Agriculture and Food and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean." "During the virtual event, opportunities, challenges, institutional models and successful experiences of Ater digital actions will be presented. The forum will also promote debates on how digital channels can be a great tool for promoting and marketing family farming products and services."⁶⁷⁷

On 22 April 2021, it was announced that digital transformation undertaken by the Brazilian Government received support from the Inter-American Development Bank, which launched USD1 billion credit line to boost the digitization of public services in states and municipalities across the country. "The credit line – called Brasil Mais Digital – is aimed at investment projects and will be available through three channels of resource allocation: federal government agencies, subnational governments (state or municipal) and national or regional development banks. Four sectors were prioritized for the integration and alignment of public policies: digital infrastructure, digital economy, digital government and enabling factors."⁶⁷⁸

On 6 May 2021, it was announced that "the Wi-Fi Brazil program, coordinated by the Ministry of Communications, will activate 300 free, unlimited broadband internet access points, with satellite

⁶⁷⁵ Startup Gov.br Program to Accelerate Delivery of Digital Transformation Projects, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/financas-impostos-e-gestao-publica/2021/03/programa-startup-gov-br-acelerara-entrega-de-projetos-de-transformacao-digital>

⁶⁷⁶ Program will qualify more than 5 million young people and adults by 2023, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/trabalho-e-previdencia/2021/03/programa-qualificara-mais-de-5-milhoes-de-jovens-e-adultos-ate-2023>

⁶⁷⁷ Forum Brasil addresses the use of digital technologies in Ater services and in the commercialization of family farming products, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/forum-brasil-aborda-uso-de-tecnologias-digitais-em-servicos-de-ater-e-na-comercializacao-de-produtos-da-agricultura-familiar>

⁶⁷⁸ IDB to support states and municipalities in digitizing public services, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/financas-impostos-e-gestao-publica/2021/04/bid-apoiara-estados-e-municipios-na-digitalizacao-de-servicos-publicos>

connection, in isolated regions across the country. Through this program, it has been possible to serve more than 8.5 million people who lacked connectivity so far.”⁶⁷⁹

On 7 May 2021, it was announced that the Ministry of Communications, would “distribute 560 recovered computers to 13 states and the Federal District. The machines will be installed in public schools, libraries, telecentres, shelters for the elderly, indigenous health centers, city halls, among other digital inclusion points. This is another action carried out under the Computers for Inclusion program. In this program, computers from Executive, Legislative and Judiciary bodies, in addition to partner companies and even individuals, are donated to Computer Refurbishment Centers.”⁶⁸⁰

On 7 May 2021, it was announced that the “Digital Cities program will provide all the infrastructure for internet connection to four more Brazilian cities that do not yet have the service.” The new municipalities benefiting from the Digital Cities are the following: Anguera, Rio Pardo, São Joaquim and Louveira. This action by the Ministry of Communications “seeks to integrate city halls and local public bodies in the world of [information and communications technology] and to offer free public access points to the population in squares, parks and bus stations.”⁶⁸¹

On 11 May 2021, with the objective of getting to know the applications of 5G standalone technology in the agricultural sector, the Minister of Communications Fábio Faria and Minister of MAPA Tereza Cristina visited the model farm Instituto Mato-grossense de Cotton. Minister Faria “pointed out the economic impact of the new technology in agricultural production, which will enable more automation and precision.”⁶⁸²

On 12 May 2021, “the commitment of the Ministry of Communications to offer high quality connection to all Brazilians, in addition to modernizing broadcasting services, was presented to the members of the Chamber of Deputies’ Commission for Science and Technology, Communication and Informatics.” “In a virtual public hearing, [Minister Faria] presented to parliamentarians the portfolio plan for this year,” which includes “the imminent 5G auction, the Wi-Fi Brasil program and its partnerships, the Digitaliza Brasil program.”⁶⁸³

On 13 May 2021, the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Secretariat of Strategic Affairs formalized the Brazilian participation in the multilateral project to launch the submarine fiber optic cable, the “Humboldt.” With the objective of increasing the efficiency of the

⁶⁷⁹ Wi-Fi Brazil: MCom promotes program and partnerships at the Brazilian Satellite operation center, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/wi-fi-brasil-mcom-promove-programa-e-parcerias-no-centro-de-operacao-do-satelite-brasileiro>

⁶⁸⁰ MCom will deliver 560 recovered computers to digital inclusion points, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/mcom-vai-entregar-560-computadores-recuperados-para-pontos-de-inclusao-digital>

⁶⁸¹ During the National Communications Week, the Digital Cities program reaches four more Brazilian municipalities, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/na-semana-nacional-das-comunicacoes-programa-cidades-digitais-chega-a-mais-quatro-municipios-brasileiros>

⁶⁸² The future of agro: MCom and MAPA visit model farm for rural connectivity, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/o-futuro-do-agro-mcom-e-mapa-visitam-fazenda-modelo-de-conectividade-rural>

⁶⁸³ MCom presents action plan to the Chamber of Deputies, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/mcom-apresenta-plano-de-acoas-a-camara-dos-deputados>

internet connection in South America, Oceania and Asia, the cable has an 8-fiber optic system and initial data transmission capacity of up to 400 Gbps.⁶⁸⁴

On 21 June 2021, the Ministry of Infrastructure (MInfra) presented a new Digital transformation plan. This plan aims to establish a new paradigm of Digital Transformation for the Transport Infrastructure and Transit Services Sector, with a focus on creating value and improving competitiveness resulting from the improvement in the quality and experience of users of digital services. MInfra's Digital Transformation portfolio is in line with the objectives contained in the 2020-2022 Digital Government Strategy.⁶⁸⁵

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Communications signed a partnership with Central Bank and Sebrae Nacional to install over a thousand points of the Wi-Fi Brazil program.⁶⁸⁶

On 6 August 2021, National Telecommunications Agency opened two public consultations with the objective of updating the requirements aimed at assessing the technical compliance of smartphones, tablets and other devices with 5G.⁶⁸⁷

Brazil has taken actions to provide better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills or digitally enabled services and several measures were specially designed to satisfy the needs of rural population or persons with disabilities.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 30 December 2020, Minister of Digital Development of Russia M. Shadayev prolonged the experimental project “Dostupnyj Internet” (Affordable Internet). The project is designed to provide low-income citizens with access to socially important Internet services. First launched in April 2020, the project had been prolonged till 30 June 2021.⁶⁸⁸

On 15 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation declared starting of the federal project “Cadres for the Digital Economy” aimed

⁶⁸⁴ Brazil Announces Partnership in Undersea Cable Project to Interconnect South America, Oceania and Asia, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/maio/adesao-brasileira-ao-projeto-do-cabo-de-fibras-oticas-201chumboldt201d>

⁶⁸⁵ Plano de Transformação Digital 2021-2022, Ministerio da Infraestrutura (Brasilia) 21 June 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/infraestrutura/pt-br/assuntos/transformacao-digital/arquivos/pdt-1706.pdf>

⁶⁸⁶ Novos 3 mil pontos de Wi-Fi Brasil serão entregues à população até o fim de 2021, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/julho/novos-3-mil-pontos-de-wi-fi-brasil-serao-entregues-a-populacao-ate-o-fim-de-2021>

⁶⁸⁷ 5G: dê a sua opinião sobre requisitos para certificação de smartphones e tablets, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcom/pt-br/noticias/2021/agosto/5g-de-a-sua-opinio-sobre-requisitos-para-certificacao-de-smartphones-e-tablets>

⁶⁸⁸ “Dostupnyj Internet” to be Prolonged for Six Months, Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40282/>

at wider spread of digital skills among administrative personnel, governmental officials and education specialists.⁶⁸⁹

On 18 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation started the “KLIK” program that is designed to facilitate digital transformation of Russia’s economy by wider spread of digital skills, especially data-related competencies. Vice Minister Eugeney Kislyakov said that the program would contribute to further improvement of the effectiveness of business and government bodies’ performance.⁶⁹⁰

On 5 April 2021, Deputy Chair of the Government D. Chernyshenko announced the government’s intention to extend the Internet coverage all across the country. Special attention would be given to small rural communities of 100-500 inhabitants; more than 1500 basic stations providing Internet access would be installed in 2021.⁶⁹¹

On 13 July 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development presented a set of 30 types of digital competences. The set is to become a part of educational standard for schools and higher education.⁶⁹²

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development launched an educational co-financing program aimed at spread of digital skills (programming, web engineering, etc.). The Ministry would finance 50 per cent of a program’s price, the rest is to be paid either by a participant or an employer.⁶⁹³

On 27 July 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development announced the launch of a new digital education platform “Gotov k Cifre” (“Ready for Digital”). The platform will aggregate digital educational resources to facilitate spread of digital skills and competences.⁶⁹⁴

Russia has not only taken steps to provide better access to digital infrastructure and digitally enabled services and facilitate digital skills development, but also to satisfy the needs of rural population.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Naomi Shi

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on addressing digital divide by bridging the gap in access of BRICS population to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services and

⁶⁸⁹ Start of the ‘Digital Economy’ educational program, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40374/>

⁶⁹⁰ Selection for Digital Economy Training Started, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40394/>

⁶⁹¹ D. Chernyshenko: More Than 1000 Basic Stations to be Installed in 2021 to Provide Rural Areas with Internet Access, Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40738/>

⁶⁹² Set of 30 Digital Competences Approved for University Graduates, the Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41177/> (in Russian)

⁶⁹³ Registration For Training in IT Professions with The Financial Support of The State Is Open, the Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41181/> (in Russian)

⁶⁹⁴ A New Online Service “Ready for Digital” Launched in Russia, the Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 27 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41195/> (in Russian)

ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.

On 9 December 2020, India, together with Better Than Cash Alliance (a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations, based at the United Nations), co-organized a joint Peer Exchange in order to promote digital payments and to work jointly towards the goal of “Digital India for all.”⁶⁹⁵

On 27 July 2021, T.K. Paul, a senior Indian Department of Telecommunications official mentioned that telecom and IT industries have achieved a level of maturity and built capabilities for business in India. He also mentioned that the government would take policy initiatives to propel India to this path of growth of digital infrastructure and the digital economy as a whole” in the areas of licensing and legislative framework, spectrum management, new technology and innovations, broadband infrastructure, ease of doing business, manufacturing and R&D.⁶⁹⁶

India has taken actions aimed at providing better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills or digitally enabled services, ~~but did not take any~~including actions designed to satisfy the needs of rural population or persons with disabilities.

Thus, India receives the score of +10.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrey Shelepon

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on addressing digital divide by bridging the gap in access of BRICS population to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services and ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.

On 24 November 2020, Xinhua announced the release of “Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology.” The plan insists on deploying new, more comprehensive and more straight-forward services for the elderly. The plan also proposes that in the future the elderly should not encounter any problems in using their smartphones. The technologies should meet all the basic needs of the elderly.⁶⁹⁷

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, the “new infrastructure” (5G, data centers, software etc.) will see enhanced investments. Moreover, one of the

⁶⁹⁵ India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679436>

⁶⁹⁶ Govt focused on enabling policies to strengthen digital infrastructure: DoT official, Times of India (Bombay) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-focussed-on-enabling-policies-to-strengthen-digital-infrastructure-dot-official/articleshow/84796273.cms>

⁶⁹⁷ The General Office of the State Council issued the "Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology", Xinhua (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/24/content_5563861.htm

mentioned objectives is to strengthen the construction of terminal networking, and intelligent dispatching systems.⁶⁹⁸

On 17 August 2021, China presented the draft regulation on preventing unfair competition in the Internet-related sectors. The rules are said to maintain the market order, protect the rights and interests of consumers and services operators and promote sustainable digital development.⁶⁹⁹

China has taken actions aimed at providing better access to digital infrastructure, digital skills or digitally enabled services, but has not taken any actions designed to satisfy the needs of rural population or persons with disabilities.

Thus, China receives the score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on addressing digital divide by bridging the gap in access of BRICS population to digital infrastructure, digital skills and digitally enabled services and ensure inclusion of digitally deprived segments of society by laying special stress on improving the access and connectivity of people living in rural areas, as well as groups of persons with disabilities, to the Internet.

On 19 January 2021, South Africa launched a new educational program for public servants to promote digital skills. Another aim of the program is to teach public officials necessary crisis management and leadership skills. The program is a joint venture in partnership with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France.⁷⁰⁰

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Basic Education had submitted amendments to the national school curriculum. Some schools in South Africa were said to incorporate the new coding and robotics curriculum in 2021. The new curriculum were submitted for consideration by the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training.⁷⁰¹

On 11 March 2021, South Africa decided to relocate extra funds to fulfil the obligations under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Further reprioritization is considered as a part of the Medium-Term Budget process that would take place later this year.⁷⁰²

On 24 March 2021, South Africa approved the gazetting of the Draft National Data and Cloud Policy for public comment. The policy seeks to align existing policies and legislation to ensure that the country takes full advantage of developments in the digital economy.⁷⁰³

⁶⁹⁸ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021.

<http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

⁶⁹⁹ China releases draft rules preventing unfair competition in internet sector, Xinhua (Beijing) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/17/c_1310131931.htm

⁷⁰⁰ Public servants to get training on digital transformation, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/public-servants-get-training-digital-transformation>

⁷⁰¹ Some schools to start piloting coding, robotics curriculum, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/some-schools-start-piloting-coding-robotics-curriculum>

⁷⁰² NSFAS to release funds for new qualifying students, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/nsfas-release-funds-new-qualifying-students>

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Communications and Digital Technology Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams opened a digital college in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality. This initiative, a public and private partnership, aims to take digital technology to rural communities in order to begin closing the digital gender divide. This college will offer unique courses for everyone including children from as young as four years.⁷⁰⁴

On 15 June 2021, the Government Communication and Information System and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Technologies hosted a master class on digital skills development for the youth. Representatives of the governmental authorities and private entities including Google joined to younger generations for the fast changing technological landscape.⁷⁰⁵

South Africa has not only taken steps to provide better access to digital infrastructure and digitally enabled services and facilitate digital skills development, but also satisfy the needs of rural population.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁷⁰³ Statement on the virtual Cabinet Meeting of 24 March 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-24-march-2021-25-mar-2021-0000>

⁷⁰⁴ Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams officially opens Digital College in Lenyenye Village, 15 Apr, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-stella-ndabeni-abrahams-officially-opens-digital-college-lenyenye-village-15-apr>

⁷⁰⁵ Government hosts Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities, 15 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-25-jun-11-jun>

9. Health: COVID-19 Vaccine Dissemination

“[We acknowledge initiatives by the World Health Organization, governments, non-profit organisations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics, and support cooperative approaches in this regard.] We will work to ensure that, when available, it is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Novel Coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern under the International Health Regulations.⁷⁰⁶

Since the onset of the global pandemic, COVID-19 has resulted in catastrophic human and socio-economic costs to societies and countries across the world, fundamentally changing the way individuals and communities work, live and interact. In this context, on 17 November 2020, BRICS leaders adopted the present commitment to “acknowledge initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organisations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics, and support cooperative approaches in this regard.”⁷⁰⁷ They committed to “work to ensure that, when available, [the COVID-19 vaccine] is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.”⁷⁰⁸

The commitment of BRICS members to fair, equitable and affordable health solutions dates back to the 2012 New Delhi Summit. On 29 March 2020, BRICS leaders directed their health ministers to host institutionalized meetings and address shared health “challenges in the most cost-effective, equitable and sustainable manner.”⁷⁰⁹

On 9 July 2015, at the Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders expressed concern regarding the “emergence of infections with pandemic potential, such as highly pathogenic influenza, novel coronavirus or Ebola.” They committed to work together to manage pandemic-related risks and support the “research, development, production and supply of medicines aimed at providing increased access to

⁷⁰⁶ Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. [https://www.who.int/news/item/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

⁷⁰⁷ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

⁷⁰⁸ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

⁷⁰⁹ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html

prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.”⁷¹⁰ Specifically, with regards to the Ebola outbreak, BRICS leaders articulated their commitment to support efforts that address “emergency and longer-term systematic issues and gaps in preparedness and response on national, regional and global level.”⁷¹¹

BRICS leaders have also made previous commitments on vaccine cooperation. On 4 September 2017, at the Xiamen Summit, BRICS leaders agreed to “enhance BRICS role in global health governance, especially in the context of the World Health Organization and United Nations agencies, and foster the development and improve the availability of innovative medical products through promotion of research and development and access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing.”⁷¹²

On 26 July 2018, BRICS leaders adopted the Johannesburg Declaration, in which they committed to “strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries.”⁷¹³ BRICS leaders also welcomed a proposal to establish the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.⁷¹⁴

On 17 November 2020, at the virtual Moscow summit, BRICS leaders committed to supporting vaccine dissemination in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. They acknowledged “the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, once safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines are available.”⁷¹⁵ Along with the present commitment assessed by this compliance report, BRICS leaders also committed to supporting the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.⁷¹⁶

Commitment Features

The present commitment was adopted on 17 November 2020 as part of the Moscow Declaration. The commitment is prefaced by a sentence that states: “we acknowledge initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organisations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics and support cooperative approaches in this regard.” This sentence contextualizes the interpretation of the commitment proper, which reads: “we will work to ensure that, when available, [the COVID-19 vaccine] is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.”⁷¹⁷

⁷¹⁰ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁷¹¹ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁷¹² BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html

⁷¹³ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html

⁷¹⁴ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html

⁷¹⁵ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

⁷¹⁶ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

⁷¹⁷ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 2 January 2021. brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html

In this commitment, the phrase “will work to ensure” connotes an expressed intention to act and qualifies this commitment as a “politically binding obligation.”⁷¹⁸ This phrase establishes the threshold and depth of action for compliance with this commitment: for full compliance, BRICS members should take definitive policy action, as verbal affirmations do not suffice.

To define the key terms of this commitment, to “ensure” refers to the act of “making something certain to happen.”⁷¹⁹ The commitment phrase “work to ensure” suggests a softer tone that commits BRICS members to endeavour and strive for – rather than accomplish – the stated objective.

To “disseminate” is understood to mean “to spread or give out something to a lot of people.”⁷²⁰ In the context of this commitment, the phrase refers to the pledge of BRICS leaders widely distribute the COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes available.

The word “equitable” “should be interpreted to mean fair and just as indicated by law.”⁷²¹ Given that the terms “fair” and “equitable” are similar in their definitions in this context, these two words will be interpreted in conjunction and constitute the first element of compliance with this commitment – the distributive aspect. In other words, the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine should account for equal coverage (e.g. countries across the world) and equitable consideration for the disadvantaged and vulnerable (e.g. socio-economically marginalized communities).

The word “affordable” is understood to mean “not expensive,” or accessible to socio-economically disadvantaged individuals without a high income.⁷²² In the context of this commitment, BRICS members should strive to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to marginalized communities and/or developing countries. This requirement constitutes the second element of compliance with this commitment – the affordability aspect.

For full compliance, BRICS members must address both the distributive aspect (i.e. fair and equitable distribution) and affordability aspect (i.e. affordable dissemination) of this commitment. Full compliance would be scored if the BRICS member fully and strongly supports both aspects of the commitment.

With regards to the first aspect of this commitment, for example, a BRICS member can develop a global vaccine distribution scheme for its domestically produced vaccine candidates. This plan can fulfill the distributive aspect of fairness and equity by focusing on developing countries, and in particular, least developed countries. Alternatively, a BRICS member can consider contributing to or establishing technical assistance projects that enhance the capacity of vulnerable and affected countries in distributing COVID-19 vaccines domestically.

With regards to the second aspect of the commitment, for example, a BRICS member can strive to ensure the affordability of COVID-19 vaccines by addressing potential barriers to accessibly-priced

⁷¹⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁷¹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁷²⁰ Disseminate, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) Access Date: 2 January 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/disseminate>

⁷²¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁷²² Affordable, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) Access Date: 2 January 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/affordable>

vaccines posed by intellectual property policies. For instance, a member could conceivably advocate for further flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in the World Trade Organization regime. These examples are indicative of actions that a BRICS member could adopt to demonstrate compliance.

In contrast, partial compliance will be attributed to BRICS members that only fulfill one of the two aspects of COVID-19 vaccine dissemination, once the vaccine becomes available i.e. only the distributive or affordability aspect of the commitment. If a BRICS member somewhat supports both elements of the commitment, i.e. it does not take decisive action to support both components of the commitment as required by full compliance, it will receive a score 0 for partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to BRICS members that fail to fulfill both parts of this commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does NOT work to ensure that, when available, COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics are disseminated in a fair, equitable NOR affordable basis.
0	The BRICS member strongly works to ensure that, when available, COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics are disseminated in a fair and equitable way (without addressing the affordability aspect) OR on an affordable basis (without addressing fairness and equitability) OR does some of both.
+1	The BRICS member strongly works to ensure that, when available, COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics are disseminated in BOTH a fair, and equitable way AND on an affordable basis.

Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that, when available, the COVID-19 vaccine is disseminated on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

On 9 December 2020, the Ministry of Health and Blue Airlines announced a partnership for the free national distribution of vaccines against COVID-19. The Minister of Health stated that this partnership will guarantee improved speed and security in the logistical process of immunization.⁷²³

On 6 January 2021, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy decided to reduce import taxes to zero for five more products, including syringes and needles. This tax reduction aims to ensure the availability of necessary supplies for vaccination of the population against COVID-19.⁷²⁴

On 19 January 2021, in a letter, the Ministry of Health alerted the National Council of State Health Secretaries, the National Council of Municipal Health Secretaries, all State Health Secretaries, and all the State Councils of the Municipal Health Secretariats that it is essential for all health units of the Federation to comply with upcoming national immunization guidelines. The letter dictated that this

⁷²³ Vaccine against Covid-19 will be distributed by Azul Linhas Aéreas, free of charge, in the four corners of Brazil in partnership with the federal government, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/vacina-contra-covid-19-sera-distribuida-pela-azul-linhas-aereas-gratuitamente-nos-quatro-cantos-do-brasil-em-parceria-com-o-governo-federal>.

⁷²⁴ Saúde asks the Ministry of Economy to reduce the import tax for syringes and needles to zero and to suspend the anti-dumping measure for inputs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-solicita-ao-ministerio-da-economia-reducao-a-zero-do-imposto-de-importacao-para-seringas-e-agulhas-e-suspensao-da-medida-antidumping-para-insumos>.

was necessary to ensure that there are enough vaccines to immunize with the two doses provided for in this first cycle of the vaccination campaign.⁷²⁵

On 21 January 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the Epidemiological Fund, developed in partnership with the National Council of Health Secretaries and the National Council of Municipal Health Secretaries. The fund will allocate a quota of new doses of vaccines to regions most impacted by the pandemic in the period analyzed. The Ministry of Health also affirmed that the rest of the vaccines will be distributed to states, free of charge, simultaneously and equitably, for the continuation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Operationalization Plan.⁷²⁶

On 25 January 2021, the Ministry of Health recommended to the city of Manaus that it ensure that its vaccination teams guarantee COVID-19 immunization as fast as possible to the first vaccination group and the elderly above 60 years of age.⁷²⁷

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Health released the National Plan for Operationalization of the Vaccine of COVID-19, which establishes a vaccination order for priority groups. The selection of populations with priority in immunization is based on the principles of the World Health Organization and made in agreement with entities such as the National Council of Health Secretaries and the National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats. The priority list includes people aged 60 or over, institutionally disabled people, indigenous peoples living on indigenous lands and more.⁷²⁸

On 15 February 2021, the Minister of Health stated that the Amazonas should be the first state to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The Minister stated that vaccines will be sent to the states by proportional sharing and the Ministry of Health will allocate 5% of the Immunization Fund to Amazonas.⁷²⁹

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Health reported that 60 per cent of the indigenous population has already received the first dose of the vaccine. The Ministry also confirmed that it has enough vaccines to immunize 100% of the indigenous population.⁷³⁰

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it sent health teams to support the vaccination campaign for 500 Yanomami peoples. Specifically, the SESAI Volante Health Team and

⁷²⁵ Health alerts states and municipalities that it is essential to follow the National Vaccination Plan against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-alerta-estados-e-municipios-ser-imprescindivel-seguir-o-plano-nacional-de-vacinacao-contra-a-covid-19>.

⁷²⁶ Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>.

⁷²⁷ Ministry of Health calls for reinforcement of teams for rapid vaccination of the first group and elderly people over 60 years, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-pede-reforco-de-equipes-para-a-vacinacao-rapida-do-primeiro-grupo-e-idosos-acima-de-60-anos>.

⁷²⁸ Understand the order of vaccination against Covid-19 among the priority groups, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/entenda-a-ordem-de-vacinacao-contra-a-covid-19-entre-os-grupos-prioritarios>.

⁷²⁹ Amazonas should be the first to vaccinate the entire population, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/amazonas-deve-ser-primeiro-a-vacinar-toda-a-populacao>.

⁷³⁰ Indigenous vaccination: more than 60% of the target audience has already received the first dose, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/vacinacao-indigena-mais-de-60-do-publico-alvo-ja-recebeu-a-primeira-dose>.

a technical team from the Department of Environmental Determinants of Indigenous Health (DEAMB/SESAI) were sent to support the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.⁷³¹

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it will send health professional teams into forests nationwide to immunize indigenous populations.⁷³²

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Health distributed more than 5 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccinations prioritized health professionals, elderly individuals aged 70 to 74, riverside communities and quilombolas. It is expected that this distribution will cover 100% of inhabitants in riverside communities and 63% of quilombola communities across the country.⁷³³

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Health updated its vaccine recommendations, moving people living with AIDS/HIV into a higher priority immunization group.⁷³⁴

On 8 April 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that 4.4 million vaccine doses from Coronavac, the Butantan Institute, and Astrazeneca will be distributed in a proportional and equal way across Brazil.⁷³⁵

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations announced that Brazil is co-sponsoring a World Trade Organization (WTO) initiative that aims to expand the distribution of vaccines. The initiative is focused on encouraging the WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to engage in discussions with developers and manufacturers of vaccines, as well as other medical equipment to “i) ensure the identification and use of the installed capacity for the production of these medicines; ii) facilitate the conclusion of licensing agreements for the transfer of technology, expertise, and know-how; and iii) identify and address, on a consensual basis, any trade barriers to the production and distribution of these products, including those related to intellectual property.”⁷³⁶

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Health created a strategy for COVID-19 vaccination to ensure that priority groups are vaccinated first. Groups that will be prioritized during the vaccine deployment

⁷³¹ Health sends teams to reinforce service to Yanomami peoples, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-envia-equipos-para-refor-car-atendimento-aos-povos-yanomami>.

⁷³² Health professionals enter forests to vaccinate the indigenous population against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/profissionais-de-saude-adentram-florestas-para-vacinar-a-populacao-indigena-contra-a-covid-19>.

⁷³³ Health sends over 5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines nationwide, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-envia-mais-5-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-covid-19-para-todo-o-pais>.

⁷³⁴ Health expands vaccination against COVID-19 for people with HIV / AIDS, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-amplia-vacinacao-contra-a-covid-19-para-pessoas-com-hiv-aids>.

⁷³⁵ Health distributes over 4.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-4-4-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-covid-19>.

⁷³⁶ Vaccines and Patents – Joint Press Release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/vaccines-and-patents-2013-joint-press-release-by-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-ministry-of-economy-ministry-of-health-and-ministry-of-science-technology-and-innovations>.

include people with permanent disabilities, pregnant women, postpartum women with up to 45 days postpartum and people with comorbidities, including some rare diseases.⁷³⁷

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga stated that Brazil received its first batch of one million Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. The Ministry of Health stated that the vaccines will be distributed proportionally and equally to 27 Brazilian capitals.⁷³⁸

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it will bring vaccines to the 34 indigenous health districts. The Ministry of Health stated that this effort was part of its contribution to “World Vaccination Week” to ensure that regions that need the vaccine the most are prioritized in the distribution scheme.⁷³⁹

On 9 May 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it will distribute 1.1 million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to all states and federal districts in a fair and equitable way. Specifically, the Ministry noted that the distribution will prioritize people with comorbidities, pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, and people with permanent disabilities.⁷⁴⁰

On 21 July 2021, Minister Queiroga highlighted the role of the Brazilian Unified Health System in fighting COVID-19 in a panel organized by the World Health Organization and the WTO. The panel was centered on the theme of expanding the production of COVID-19 vaccines to promote equitable access. Minister Queiroga defended the adoption of measures to expand the production capacity of vaccines, medicines, and health products in a greater number of developing countries.⁷⁴¹

On 27 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that the adolescents from 12 to 17 years of age, with priority given to those with comorbidities, would be included in the national vaccination campaign against COVID-19.⁷⁴²

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Health sent teams from the National Force of the Unified Health System to strengthen immunization against Covid-19 in the border region of Alto Solimões, in the

⁷³⁷ Covid-19: vaccination of people with comorbidities, permanent disabilities, pregnant women and women who have recently given birth should be carried out in two stages, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/covid-19-vacinacao-de-pessoas-com-comorbidades-deficiencia-permanente-gestantes-e-puerperas-deve-ser-feita-em-duas-etapas>.

⁷³⁸ Brazil receives the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer this Thursday (29/4), Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-recebe-primeiro-lote-de-vacinas-covid-19-da-pfizer-nesta-quinta-feira-29-4>.

⁷³⁹ Health reinforces coverage of indigenous vaccination throughout Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-reforca-cobertura-de-vacinacao-indigena-em-todo-o-brasil>.

⁷⁴⁰ Ministry of Health sends over 1.1 million doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 May 2021. Access Date 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-envia-mais-1-1-milhao-de-doses-de-vacina-covid-19-da-pfizer>.

⁷⁴¹ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>.

⁷⁴² Vaccination of adolescents starts after the first dose of the adult population, announces Queiroga, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/vacinacao-de-adolescentes-inicia-apos-primeira-dose-da-populacao-adulta-anuncia-queiroga>.

Amazons. This measure is part of the government's aim to provide full and unrestricted support to states and municipalities in the COVID-19 vaccination effort.⁷⁴³

By targeting marginalized communities, prioritizing the most vulnerable for COVID-19 vaccination, and ensuring that the vaccine is free to its population, Brazil has demonstrated efforts to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Isabel Davis

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that, when available, the COVID-19 vaccine is disseminated on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

On 23 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced that the government will expand its list of essential and vital medications to include 25 new medications.⁷⁴⁴ All medications on this list must be accessible to all people who are not vaccinated.⁷⁴⁵

On 7 December 2020, President Vladimir Putin launched a large-scale vaccination campaign in which all medical workers and teachers can receive a COVID-19 vaccine for free.⁷⁴⁶

On 15 December 2020, the government declared that everyone who is sick from COVID-19 can access free medicine to help them beat the virus.⁷⁴⁷ The government will spend RUB2.8 billion on providing free medicine, which is in addition to its earlier investment of RUB5 billion.

On 26 December 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine is safe for people over the age of 60.⁷⁴⁸ People in this age group can now participate in Russia's large-scale vaccination campaign.⁷⁴⁹

⁷⁴³ National Force of SUS sends teams to strengthen immunization against Covid-19 in the border regions of Amazonas, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/forca-nacional-do-sus-envia-equipos-para-fortalecer-imunizacao-contra-covid-19-nas-regioes-de-fronteira-do-amazonas>.

⁷⁴⁴ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40922/>

⁷⁴⁵ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40922/>

⁷⁴⁶ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41047/>

⁷⁴⁷ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41122/>

⁷⁴⁸ The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation approved the use of the Sputnik V vaccine for people over 60 years old, The Ministry of Health (Moscow) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/26/15765-minzdrav-rf-odobril-primenenie-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-dlya-lyudey-starshe-60-let>

⁷⁴⁹ The Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation approved the use of the Sputnik V vaccine for people over 60 years old, The Ministry of Health (Moscow) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/26/15765-minzdrav-rf-odobril-primenenie-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-dlya-lyudey-starshe-60-let>

On 18 January 2021, President Putin announced the beginning of Russia's mass vaccination campaign.⁷⁵⁰ This campaign targets the entire population and COVID-19 vaccines are provided to everyone for free.⁷⁵¹

On 4 February 2021, Russia gave Palestine their first batch of the Sputnik V vaccines.⁷⁵² These vaccines were donated from various countries, and 2000 of these doses were provided by Russia.⁷⁵³

On 25 February 2021, Russia decreased the sales price of its Sputnik V vaccine.⁷⁵⁴ This action aims to make the vaccines more affordable for other countries and focus on accessibility rather than prioritizing profits.⁷⁵⁵

On 3 March 2021, Russia's Sputnik V vaccine was approved in 42 countries around the world.⁷⁵⁶ Russia has reached deals with more than 40 countries to sell or donate doses of its Sputnik V vaccine.⁷⁵⁷

On 23 March 2021, Russia applied for the participation of its Sputnik V vaccine in the COVAX facility.⁷⁵⁸ The COVAX facility aims to subsidize and distribute COVID-19 vaccines around the world, with a focus on providing low-income countries with vaccine doses.⁷⁵⁹

On 7 May 2021, the Ministry of Health announced a new approach to COVID-19 response and released new COVID-19 guidelines. The new guidelines detail the country's steps for preventing, diagnosing, and treating COVID-19. One of the major differences is the drugs used to treat COVID-19 infections. Many drugs that were previously on the list have been removed as new research shows that they have low efficacy rates. For example, hydroxychloroquine will no longer be used in Russia to treat COVID-19.⁷⁶⁰

⁷⁵⁰ COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41342/>

⁷⁵¹ COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41342/>

⁷⁵² Palestinians receive first shipment of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, Reuters (Ramallah) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-palestinians-vacci-idUSKBN2A40PZ>

⁷⁵³ Gaza launches COVID-19 vaccinations, with just 22 000 doses, The Guardian (Gaza) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/world/gaza-launches-covid-19-vaccinations-with-just-22000-doses-555132/>

⁷⁵⁴ Government lowers maximum sales price for Sputnik V vaccine, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41609/>

⁷⁵⁵ Government lowers maximum sales price for Sputnik V vaccine, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41609/>

⁷⁵⁶ Sputnik V approved for use in Angola, Congo and Djibouti, Sputnik Vaccine (Moscow) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-approved-for-use-in-angola-congo-and-djibouti/>

⁷⁵⁷ Russia has struck deals to supply its vaccine to over 40 countries as poorer nations struggle to access Western shots, Insider (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.businessinsider.com/russia-sputnik-vaccine-40-countries-west-hoards-shots-2021-3>

⁷⁵⁸ Russia applied for participation of Sputnik V vaccine in COVAX, The Russian News Agency (Moscow) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1269389>

⁷⁵⁹ Russia applied for participation of Sputnik V vaccine in COVAX, The Russian News Agency (Moscow) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1269389>

⁷⁶⁰ The Russian Ministry of Health has released a new version of the guidelines for coronavirus, The Ministry of Health (Moscow) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/05/07/16568-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-novuyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-koronavirusu>

On 17 June 2021, Russia announced that the vaccine would be free for all residents in every region in the country.⁷⁶¹

On 25 June 2021, Russia announced a new directive to use assets of the Federal Compulsory Medical Insurance Fund to assist COVID-19 patients and unconfirmed COVID-19 cases. The directive is worth RUB25 billion and will support the hospitalization of at least 700,000 people.⁷⁶²

On 9 July 2021, Russia announced RUB 2.5 billion for all regions in Russia to be able to purchase the necessary medicine to treat patients at home for free. The investment should provide medicine for almost 800,000 people.⁷⁶³

On 16 July 2021, Russia announced an additional RUB85 billion-plus on top of the RUB25 billion announced in June, to allow people to get timely and comprehensive treatment. The investment aims to make regional healthcare systems more resilient to contain COVID-19.⁷⁶⁴

Russia has demonstrated efforts to comply with its commitment to disseminate COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in a fair, equitable and affordable manner through its actions to provide COVID-19 vaccines and related medicine to its population for free. Russia also took steps to ensure fair and equitable distribution by lowering the price of the vaccine and donating domestic vaccine doses to Palestine. Russia further focused on making the COVID-19 vaccine available to developing countries and least developed countries through vaccine deals and its application to join the COVAX facility.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson and Areej Malik

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that, when available, the COVID-19 vaccine is disseminated on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced India's mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign.⁷⁶⁵ This is the largest vaccination campaign at the time of its launch and aims to inoculate 30 million people in the first round.⁷⁶⁶ These vaccines are given to healthcare and essential workers for free.⁷⁶⁷

⁷⁶¹ Meeting of the Government Coordination Council to control the incidence of the novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, Russian Government (Moscow) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 20 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42517/>.

⁷⁶² Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of the novel coronavirus infection in Russia, Russian Government (Moscow) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 20 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42609/>.

⁷⁶³ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of the novel coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, Russian Government (Moscow) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 20 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42724/>.

⁷⁶⁴ Meeting of the Presidium of the Government Coordinating Council to control the incidence of the novel coronavirus infection in Russia, Russian Government (Moscow) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 August 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42786/>.

⁷⁶⁵ Vaccine Campaign of this scale is unprecedented in the history of mankind: PM, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689034>

⁷⁶⁶ Those who need the vaccine the most will get it first: PM, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689030>

⁷⁶⁷ Those who need the vaccine the most will get it first: PM, Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689030>

On 24 January 2021, India gifted COVID-19 vaccine doses to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, and Seychelles through its Vaccine Friendship initiative.⁷⁶⁸

On 28 January 2021, India donated 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to Sri Lanka.⁷⁶⁹ These vaccines were created at the Serum Institute of India.⁷⁷⁰ India also provided Sri Lanka with a USD400 million currency swap facility to assist the country in regaining financial stability following the negative effects caused by the pandemic.⁷⁷¹

On 28 January 2021, Minister of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava announced India's plan to gift 100,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to United Nations health care workers through COVAX.⁷⁷² Srivastava also announced India's donation of 1 million vaccine doses to Africa.⁷⁷³

On 1 February 2021, India provided 1 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to South Africa.⁷⁷⁴

On 7 February 2021, India dispatched 500,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to Afghanistan.⁷⁷⁵ This donation was made through India's Vaccine Friendship Initiative.⁷⁷⁶

On 8 February 2021, India donated 100,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to Barbados.⁷⁷⁷ India also donated 70,000 doses to Dominica. These donations were made through the Vaccine Friendship Initiative.⁷⁷⁸

On 1 March 2021, India began the second phase of its vaccination campaign.⁷⁷⁹ The second phase will provide free vaccines to individuals above the age of 60 and those aged 49 to 59 if they have pre-existing medical conditions.⁷⁸⁰

⁷⁶⁸ India Launches "Neighborly Vaccine Diplomacy", VOA News (New Delhi) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/india-launches-neighborly-vaccine-diplomacy>

⁷⁶⁹ India donates first 500,000 doses of vaccine to Sri Lanka, CTV News (Colombo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/india-donates-first-500-000-doses-of-vaccine-to-sri-lanka-1.5285528>

⁷⁷⁰ India donates first 500,000 doses of vaccine to Sri Lanka, CTV News (Colombo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/india-donates-first-500-000-doses-of-vaccine-to-sri-lanka-1.5285528>

⁷⁷¹ India donates first 500,000 doses of vaccine to Sri Lanka, CTV News (Colombo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/india-donates-first-500-000-doses-of-vaccine-to-sri-lanka-1.5285528>

⁷⁷² India to supply 10 million doses of coronavirus vaccine to Africa, 1 million to UN health workers: MEA, The Times of India (New Delhi) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-supply-10-million-doses-of-coronavirus-vaccine-to-africa-1-million-to-un-health-workers-mea/articleshow/80512516.cms>

⁷⁷³ India to supply 10 million doses of coronavirus vaccine to Africa, 1 million to UN health workers: MEA, The Times of India (New Delhi) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-supply-10-million-doses-of-coronavirus-vaccine-to-africa-1-million-to-un-health-workers-mea/articleshow/80512516.cms>

⁷⁷⁴ South Africa welcomes first delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, ABC News (Johannesburg) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/south-africa-delivery-covid-19-vaccines-75608564>

⁷⁷⁵ Vaccine diplomacy: India seeks to rival China with broad shipments, Reuters (New Delhi) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-diplomacy-idUSKBN2A70C8>

⁷⁷⁶ Vaccine diplomacy: India seeks to rival China with broad shipments, Reuters (New Delhi) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-diplomacy-idUSKBN2A70C8>

⁷⁷⁷ India dispatches Covid-19 vaccines to Barbados, Dominica, The Times of India (New Delhi) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-dispatches-covid-19-vaccines-to-barbados-dominica/articleshow/80741542.cms>

⁷⁷⁸ Some Caribbean, Latin American nations are finally getting COVID vaccines, thanks to India, Miami Herald (Miami) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/article249351155.html>

On 23 March 2021, India announced that it has provided vaccine doses to 74 countries through grants, commercial sales, or the COVAX facility.⁷⁸¹ India donated a total of 17.499 million vaccine doses through the COVAX facility.⁷⁸² India also donated a total of 8.125 million vaccine doses to 37 countries and sold 33.967 million vaccine doses to 24 countries.⁷⁸³

On 27 March 2021, India donated 200,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to the United Nations.⁷⁸⁴ This donation aims to assist the United Nations with its goal of vaccinating peacekeepers.⁷⁸⁵

On 1 April 2021, India started the third phase of its vaccination campaign.⁷⁸⁶ This phase will provide free vaccines to individuals above the age of 45.⁷⁸⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Rural Development began a health promotion program to spread information about COVID-19 prevention measures and encourage the uptake of protective behaviours and vaccinations in rural areas.⁷⁸⁸ This program was introduced following an increase in COVID-19 cases in rural towns.⁷⁸⁹

On 8 May 2021, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Power began a vaccination drive to provide vaccines to all employees above the age of 18 who work for organizations in the power sector.⁷⁹⁰

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a new drug called 2-DG to help in the fight against COVID-19.⁷⁹¹ This drug reduces one's average recovery time from COVID-19 by 2.5 days and inhibits the virus's synthesis from infected cells.⁷⁹²

⁷⁷⁹ Massive India Vaccine Program Boosted by Modi Receiving Shot, Bloomberg (New Delhi) 7 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-07/india-s-massive-vaccine-program-perks-up-after-modi-gets-a-shot>

⁷⁸⁰ Massive India Vaccine Program Boosted by Modi Receiving Shot, Bloomberg (New Delhi) 7 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-07/india-s-massive-vaccine-program-perks-up-after-modi-gets-a-shot>

⁷⁸¹ Export of Vaccine to Other Nations, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706942>

⁷⁸² Export of Vaccine to Other Nations, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706942>

⁷⁸³ Export of Vaccine to Other Nations, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706942>

⁷⁸⁴ India donates 200,000 vaccines to protect UN blue helmets against COVID, UN News (Mumbai) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088472>

⁷⁸⁵ India donates 200,000 vaccines to protect UN blue helmets against COVID, UN News (Mumbai) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1088472>

⁷⁸⁶ India Covid-19 vaccination for 45+: Third phase launches as cases rise, BBC News (New Delhi) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-56345591>

⁷⁸⁷ India Covid-19 vaccination for 45+: Third phase launches as cases rise, BBC News (New Delhi) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-56345591>

⁷⁸⁸ DAY-NRLM promotes appropriate behaviours, health seeking and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination among rural population through its network of Self-Help Groups, Ministry of Rural Development (New Delhi) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710652>

⁷⁸⁹ DAY-NRLM promotes appropriate behaviours, health seeking and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination among rural population through its network of Self-Help Groups, Ministry of Rural Development (New Delhi) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710652>

⁷⁹⁰ Covid 19 vaccination being carried at IREDA, New Delhi for employees of MOP, MNRE and PSUs/ organizations under MOP and MNRE, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716967>

On 21 June 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine was officially free for every adult in India.⁷⁹³

India has demonstrated efforts to comply with its commitment to disseminate COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in a fair, equitable and affordable manner through its actions to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the domestic population for free and vaccine donations to various countries. India also took steps to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to developing countries or least developed countries through its Vaccine Friendship Initiative.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson and Areej Malik

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that, when available, the COVID-19 vaccine is disseminated on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

On 15 December 2020, the provincial branches of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention have begun efforts to inoculate its citizens.⁷⁹⁴ The rollout prioritized key groups such as first responders, healthcare workers, customs staff, transport workers as well as those working at fresh markets.⁷⁹⁵ According to Deputy Head of the National Health Commission Zeng Yixin, 7.5 million of these people have already been inoculated.⁷⁹⁶ Deputy Head Yixin further stated that a total of 25,392 vaccination sites were available nationwide and the vaccine would be administered in the order of key groups, high-risk groups, and the general population as the vaccine's production capacity increases.⁷⁹⁷

⁷⁹¹ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister 2-DG developed by DRDO in collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Lab Drug to reduce average recovery time by 2.5 days and oxygen demand by 40% Today is a historic day in our fight against COVID: Dr. Harsh Vardhan Union Health Minister lauds efforts of scientists for developing first indigenous anti COVID drug, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁹² Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister 2-DG developed by DRDO in collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Lab Drug to reduce average recovery time by 2.5 days and oxygen demand by 40% Today is a historic day in our fight against COVID: Dr. Harsh Vardhan Union Health Minister lauds efforts of scientists for developing first indigenous anti COVID drug, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁹³ EXPLAINER: How India is changing vaccine plan amid shortages, AP News (New Delhi) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/india-coronavirus-pandemic-science-business-health-1b3f4b4bde4910e171de7ec026dbfa06>

⁷⁹⁴ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁷⁹⁵ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁷⁹⁶ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁷⁹⁷ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

On 31 December 2020, Deputy Head Yixin announced at a press conference that all COVID-19 vaccines will be available free of charge to its citizens.⁷⁹⁸ At the same press conference, Foreign Ministry official Shen Bo stressed China's commitment to the affordability and accessibility of vaccines in developing nations.⁷⁹⁹

On 4 February 2021, the Chinese embassy in Baghdad announced that 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been donated to Iraq.⁸⁰⁰

On 8 February 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Laos Jiang Zaidong and the Minister of Health of Laos Bounkong Syhavong received the first batch of Chinese-donated Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines at an airport in Vientiane.⁸⁰¹

On 18 February, Ambassador to Namibia Zhang Yiming announced that the Chinese government donated 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines at the request of Namibia.⁸⁰²

On 19 February 2021, China delivered its COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, which was received by Belarusian Health Minister Dmitry Pinevich at a handover ceremony at an airport in Minsk.⁸⁰³

On 25 February 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian reaffirmed that China is committed to making COVID-19 vaccines a global public good. Zhao also noted that China has provided or is providing vaccine aid to 53 countries, and Chinese enterprises have exported or are exporting vaccines to 27 countries.⁸⁰⁴

On 4 March 2021, the Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control announced that a total of 7.65 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to over 5 million people in Beijing as of 2 March 2021. It also mentioned that the authorities inoculated elderly individuals with special vaccination and health needs.⁸⁰⁵

⁷⁹⁸ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁷⁹⁹ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁸⁰⁰ China donates 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/05/content_WS601c9d5ec6d0f72576945267.html

⁸⁰¹ China-donated Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Laos, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202102/08/content_WS6020d81dc6d0719374af8988.html

⁸⁰² China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁸⁰³ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁸⁰⁴ China to promote equitable global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines: foreign ministry, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/25/content_WS6037a8e0c6d0719374af9922.html

⁸⁰⁵ Over 5 million Beijing residents receive COVID-19 jabs, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202103/04/content_WS604047e5c6d0719374af9efc.html

On 24 March 2021, Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian delivered the second batch of donated Sinovac vaccines in the Philippines.⁸⁰⁶

On 29 March 2021, China delivered a batch of donated Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Palestine to support its fight against the pandemic.⁸⁰⁷

On 6 April 2021, the National Health Commission released a notice on its website announcing that residents of Macau and Hong Kong were eligible to receive free COVID-19 vaccinations.⁸⁰⁸

On 2 May 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar announced the arrival of a batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government.⁸⁰⁹

On 12 June 2021, a handover ceremony of a batch of Chinese donated COVID-19 vaccines was held at the Afghan presidential palace in Kabul.⁸¹⁰

On 9 July 2021, deputy director-general of the department of international economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Guo Xuejun, had announced that China has provided more than 100 countries and international organizations with more than 500 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The deputy director-general went on to announce that Chinese vaccine enterprises have carried out joint vaccine production with several countries including the UAE, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Brazil, Turkey, Pakistan and Mexico, with doses exceeding 200 million.⁸¹¹

On 9 August 2021, the China National Biotech Group, a domestic drugmaker, announced that a shipment of nearly 980,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been delivered to Pakistan earlier that day through the global COVAX program.⁸¹²

China has demonstrated strong efforts at distributing COVID-19 vaccines on a fair, equitable and affordable basis by providing vaccines on a free and equitable basis throughout various parts of China. It has also demonstrated efforts to comply with this commitment by providing COVID-19 vaccine donations on a free and equitable basis to various countries around the world.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Adebisi Akande

⁸⁰⁶ 2nd batch of Sinovac vaccines donated by China arrives in Philippines, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/24/content_WS605aa10fc6d0719374afb4ee.html
⁸⁰⁷ China hands over donated COVID-19 vaccines to Palestine, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/30/content_WS6062803ec6d0719374afbc4c.html

⁸⁰⁸ Vaccines offered to Macao, HK people, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/08/content_WS606e3eb1c6d0719374afc2d3.html.

⁸⁰⁹ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Myanmar, HK people, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202105/02/content_WS608e82bdc6d0df57f98d8fac.html.

⁸¹⁰ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines handed over to Afghanistan, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202106/13/content_WS60c56ce8c6d0df57f98db28d.html

⁸¹¹ China provides 500m COVID-19 vaccine doses to intl community, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 09 July 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202107/09/content_WS60e85263c6d0df57f98dcab7.html

⁸¹² Chinese doses delivered through COVAX, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 09 August 2021. Access Date: 12 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202108/10/content_WS6111cf2dc6d0df57f98de408.html

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that, when available, the COVID-19 vaccine is disseminated on a fair, equitable and affordable basis.

On 3 January 2021, the Department of Health released a document outlining its COVID-19 national vaccination strategy.⁸¹³ The plan covers various aspects of vaccine rollout, including vaccine procurement, vaccine distribution, vaccine regulation, and vaccine management and surveillance.⁸¹⁴ The plan provides an overview of South Africa's vaccine distribution strategy, whereby vaccines will be disseminated through an equitable three-phased approach that prioritizes healthcare and essential workers, the elderly, and adults with comorbidities, followed by other persons in the general populace.⁸¹⁵

On 28 January 2021, during a webinar on COVID-19 vaccination, Health Department Technical Adviser Dr. Aquina Thulare announced that vaccinations will be free of charge, noting that South Africans will have access to vaccinations regardless of their health insurance status.⁸¹⁶

On 1 February 2021, after receiving the first million doses of the Covidshield vaccine, President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterated the government's determination to ensure that the vaccine will be distributed in an equitable manner. He stated: "the vaccine will be available to all adults living in South Africa, regardless of their citizenship or residence status."⁸¹⁷ However, this statement stands in marked contrast to that of Minister of Health Zweli Mkhize, who stated that vaccines will only be given to citizens, given that the country lacks the capacity to inoculate undocumented, foreign nationals.⁸¹⁸

South Africa has demonstrated efforts to distribute vaccines on an affordable basis through its national vaccination plan. It has also strived to ensure that vaccines are provided on an equitable basis, both through verbal affirmations and through a rollout plan that prioritizes vulnerable groups. However, it remains unclear whether South Africa will aim to vaccinate groups such as undocumented individuals and foreign nationals.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Adebisi Akande

⁸¹³ COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine Strategy, Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2021/01/12/what-does-south-africas-covid-vaccine-roll-out-plan-say/>

⁸¹⁴ Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout Strategy, Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://bhekisisa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-Vaccine-Plan-03012021.pdf>

⁸¹⁵ Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout Strategy, Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://bhekisisa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-Vaccine-Plan-03012021.pdf>

⁸¹⁶ COVID-19 vaccine free at point of service, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-vaccine-free-point-service>

⁸¹⁷ Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa On Progress In the National Effort to Contain the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of Health of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2021/02/01/statement-by-president-cyril-ramaphosa-on-progress-in-the-national-effort-to-contain-the-covid-19-pandemic-1st-february-2021/>

⁸¹⁸ Only South African citizens to receive vaccine: Mkhize, SABC (Johannesburg) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/pregnant-women-newborns-to-be-exempted-from-covid-19-vaccination-mkhize/>

10. Health: Joint Responses

“[Recalling all BRICS Leader’s Declarations since Ufa (2015)], we reiterate our commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being including through developing effective joint responses to the continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and others) and the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential.”

XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

Background

The BRICS members addressed health issues for the first time in 2011 in the Sanya declaration, where the BRICS leaders stated “firm commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of social protection, decent work, gender equality, youth, and public health, including the fight against HIV/AIDS.”⁸¹⁹

In 2012, BRICS health ministers committed to “focus on cooperation in combating HIV/AIDS through approaches such as innovative ways to reach out with prevention services, efficacious drugs and diagnostics, exchange of information on newer treatment regimens, determination of recent infections and HIV-TB co-infections.”⁸²⁰ At their third meeting in 2013 they reiterated their joint commitment to “collaborate on key thematic areas focusing on strengthening health surveillance systems; reducing Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors through prevention and health promotion; Universal Health Coverage (UHC); strategic health technologies, with a focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases; medical technologies; and drug discovery and development.”⁸²¹

In 2014, at their fourth meeting, health ministers during Brazil’s presidency expressed deep concern about recent outbreak of Ebola in West African countries and called for “urgent and comprehensive international support to the efforts coordinated by the UN, and particularly to the actions undertaken by the WHO [World Health Organization], to accelerate the response to the Ebola outbreak.”⁸²²

In 2015, under Russia’s presidency, BRICS leaders expressed deep concern with “continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB [tuberculosis], malaria and others), and with the emergence of

⁸¹⁹ Sanya Declaration, 2011, RANEP (Moscow) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/chpresidency1/Sanya%20Declaration.pdf>

⁸²⁰ Communiqué of the II Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP (Moscow) 11 January 2013. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/inpresidency1/health%202013%201.pdf>

⁸²¹ Communiqué of the III Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP (Moscow) 7 November 2013. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/sapresidency1/health2013.pdf>

⁸²² Communiqué of the IV Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers, RANEP (Moscow) 5 December 2014. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/Communiqu%C3%A9%20of%20the%20IV%20Meeting%20of%20BRICS%20Health%20Ministers.pdf>

infections with a pandemic potential, such as highly pathogenic influenza, novel coronavirus or Ebola.”⁸²³ They agreed to work together in such areas as:

- Management of risks related to emerging infections with pandemic potential;
- Compliance with commitments to stop the spread of and eradicate communicable diseases that hamper development (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, “neglected” tropical diseases, poliomyelitis, measles);
- Research, development, production and supply of medicines aimed at providing increased access to prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.⁸²⁴

Between 2011 and 2015 BRICS countries discussed such issues as HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and sexual and reproductive health. At the 2016 Goa Summit, the BRICS made its first commitment on antimicrobial resistance.⁸²⁵

In 2017 in Xiamen, BRICS leaders agreed to foster the development and improve the availability of innovative medical products through promotion of research and development, foster access to affordable, quality, effective and safe drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other medical products and technologies as well as to medical services through enhanced health systems and health financing and to improve surveillance capacity...to combat infectious diseases, including Ebola, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as non-communicable diseases.⁸²⁶

In 2018 in Johannesburg, BRICS leaders committed to strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries.⁸²⁷

In the 2020 Moscow Declaration leaders acknowledged initiatives by the WHO, governments, non-profit organizations, research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to expedite the research, development and production of the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics and support cooperative approaches in this regard and promised to ensure that, when available, it is disseminated in a fair, equitable and affordable basis. They supported the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative. BRICS countries also reiterated their commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being including through developing effective joint responses to the continuing spread of major diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and others) and the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential.⁸²⁸

Commitment Features

BRICS leaders committed to enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being through developing effective joint responses to the continuing spread of major diseases and the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential. Actions to address challenges to health and human well-being can be taken on domestic level and through international partnerships,

⁸²³ Ufa Declaration, 2015, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁸²⁴ Ufa Declaration, 2015, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

⁸²⁵ Goa Declaration, 2016, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
<http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

⁸²⁶ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

⁸²⁷ 10th BRICS Summit Review of South Africa’s Trade and Investment Relationships with BRIC, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/BRICS/brics_15_year_review.pdf

⁸²⁸ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
<https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/images/114/81/1148126.pdf>

including through initiatives adopted in cooperation with BRICS partners. This commitment has three parts: domestic initiatives, international partnerships and specific cooperation with BRICS partners.

Domestic Actions

Domestic actions include reforming national health systems, providing financing to medical institutions and implementing programs to develop national health systems, personnel development actions, surveillance systems improvement, nation-wide vaccine programmes, information campaigns, drugs development and others.

International Partnerships

International actions include cooperation with international organizations, mainly WHO, and providing necessary financing to them, joint initiatives with other countries on research and development in the field of infectious diseases, vaccine collaboration, aid to developing countries, medical technology transfer and others.

BRICS Cooperation

In their statement leaders promised to enhance BRICS cooperation in the field of health, that is why intra-BRICS cooperation is a very important part of the commitment. BRICS member should collaborate with BRICS partners through bilateral and BRICS-wide initiatives in the field of research, vaccine development and others.

To reach full compliance BRICS member should take actions at all three levels: domestic, international and BRICS. If actions were taken only in one or two aspects, BRICS members receives a score of 0. If no actions are taken by BRICS members, it receives a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member did not take any actions on any of the three aspects of the commitment: domestic, international and through intra-BRICS cooperation
0	The BRICS member took actions on ONE or TWO of the three aspects of the commitment: domestic OR international OR through intra-BRICS cooperation
+1	The BRICS member took actions on all three aspects of the commitment: domestic, international and through intra-BRICS cooperation

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

On 23 January 2021, Brazil's government received 2 million doses of coronavirus vaccine from India.⁸²⁹

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Health signed a deal with Indian pharmaceutical company Bharat Biotech for the purchase of 20 million doses of the Covaxin vaccines.⁸³⁰

⁸²⁹ Brazil receives vaccine cargo from India amid supply concern, AP News (Rio de Janeiro) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/public-health-brazil-rio-de-janeiro-health-south-america-e013b5193bf6a38471b3ab80aa8410d4>

⁸³⁰ Brazil signs COVID-19 vaccine deal with Bharat Biotech, The Hindu (Sao Paolo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/brazil-signs-covid-19-vaccine-deal-with-bharat-biotech/article33938621.ece>

On 4 April 2021, Brazil and China agreed to continue its partnership to ensure mass vaccination of the population. A meeting between Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga and the Chinese Embassy took place virtually. “During the meeting, [Minister Queiroga] reiterated his appreciation for Sino-Brazilian cooperation on health issues and thanked the cooperation received in the fight against the COVID-19. With regard to vaccination of Brazilians, a priority goal of his administration, Minister Queiroga recognized the importance of the partnership with China for the supply of inputs for vaccines used by the National Immunization Program.”⁸³¹

On 30 April 2021, the National Health Surveillance Agency approved the production of the active pharmaceutical ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine within the scope of technology transfer from AstraZeneca to the Instituto de Tecnologia em Immunobiologicos Bio-Manguinhos, from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.⁸³²

On 7 May 2021, “the Ministry of Health donated vaccines to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health to support the country’s immunization program: 82,000 doses of the Pentavalente vaccine, administered, in three doses, at two, four and six months of age, against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae and hepatitis B; 56,000 doses of the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis – DTP vaccine, as reinforcement, at 15 months and four years of age, against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; and 95,000 doses of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, administered, at 15 months and at four years of age, as protection against poliovirus type 1 and 3 of polio.”⁸³³

On 7 May 2021, Brazil “welcomed the willingness of the US to negotiate, within the [World Trade Organization (WTO)], a multilateral solution that would contribute to the fight against COVID-19, as well as to intensify its efforts – together with the private sector and other interested parties – to increase the production and distribution of inputs and vaccines globally.” Brazil stated that it shares the objective to provide safe and efficient vaccines to as many people as possible in the shortest possible time. The Brazilian government promised to deepen consultations, with flexibility, pragmatism and responsibility, with all its international partners, as well as with the private sector, to develop the multilateral understandings necessary for the rapid and safe production and distribution of vaccines. “In particular, Brazil will discuss, in greater depth, with the US, its new position and its practical implications for facilitating ample and urgent access to vaccines and medicines in the fight against COVID-19.” At the WTO, Brazil promised to continue to work with Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and with all the members of the Organization to build a consensual and cooperative solution that will make it possible to accelerate the production and dissemination of vaccines against COVID-19 in the smallest possible term.⁸³⁴

Brazil took domestic, international and intra-BRICS measures addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

⁸³¹ Brazil and China follow partnership to ensure mass vaccination of the population, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-china-seguem-parceria-para-garantir-vacinacao-em-massa-da-populacao>

⁸³² Fiocruz is authorized to produce the AstraZeneca vaccine input, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 May 2021. Translated by report author. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/saude-e-vigilancia-sanitaria/2021/05/fiocruz-e-autorizada-a-produzir-o-insumo-da-vacina-astrazeneca>

⁸³³ Brazil Donates Vaccines to Ecuador, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayout/1688>

⁸³⁴ Vaccines and patents – Joint Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/vacinas-e-patentes-2013-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-do-ministerio-da-economia-do-ministerio-da-saude-e-do-ministerio-da-ciencia-tecnologia-e-inovacoes

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

On 26 December 2020, the Ministry of Health approved Sputnik V vaccine for treatment of patients older than 60. Russia-made vaccine proved its safety and more than 90 per cent efficiency and thus might be used to protect vulnerable population amid the pandemic.^{835,836}

On 29 December 2020, Russia has delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Belarus. Russian vaccine is said to be the primary component of Belarus-wide vaccination campaign.⁸³⁷

On 10 February 2021, Russia and Iran discussed issues of bilateral cooperation in health sphere. The meeting's agenda included treatment of COVID-19 infection along with plans to start production of Russia-made Sputnik V vaccine in Iran.⁸³⁸

On 20 February 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the third Russia-made vaccine against COVID-19. KoviVak vaccine has proved its efficiency during the pre-launch testing; however, further testing would be conducted after the formal approval.⁸³⁹

On 15 April 2021, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) reached an agreement with South Korean GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS on production of Russian Sputnik V vaccine for export. On Korea's side, 6 other companies besides GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS would join the agreement.⁸⁴⁰

On 23 April 2021, Russia delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Uzbekistan. The shipment was conducted by the Russian Direct Investment Fund. Uzbekistan started the nation-wide vaccination campaign on the 1 April 2021; on 17 April 2021, Uzbekistan control authorities approved Sputnik V for local use.⁸⁴¹

⁸³⁵ S. Korea, New Zealand discuss cooperation in vaccines, hydrogen technologies, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512009000325?section=search>

⁸³⁶ Ministry of Health Approved "Sputnik V" for Vaccination of Elderly Population, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/26/15765-minzdrav-rf-odobril-primenenie-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-dlya-lyudey-starshe-60-let>

⁸³⁷ M. Murashko Comments on 'Sputnik V' Vaccine Supplies to Belarus, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/29/15778-mihail-murashko-prokomentiroval-nachalo-postavok-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-v-belorussiyu>

⁸³⁸ Ministry of Health Discussed Cooperation with Iran in healthcare and 'Sputnik V' Production, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/10/16064-v-minzdrave-obsudili-voprosy-sotrudnichestva-s-iranom-v-sfere-zdravoohraneniya-i-organizatsii-proizvodstva-vaktsiny-sputnik-v>

⁸³⁹ Ministry of Health Approved the Third COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 07 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/20/16138-minzdrav-rossii-zaregistroval-tretyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

⁸⁴⁰ RDIF, GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS Agreed on Production of 'Sputnik V' Vaccine in Korea, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/#!rfpi_gl_rapha_i_isu_abxis_obyavlyayut_o_sotrudnichestve_dlya_proizvodstva_vakciny_sputnik_v_v_koree

⁸⁴¹ Russia Delivered the First Batch of Vaccines to Uzbekistan, Gazeta.ru (Moscow) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.gazeta.ru/tags/organization/rossiiskii_fond_pryamyh_investitsii.shtml

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the fourth Russia-made vaccine against COVID-19. Sputnik Lite is a one-component vaccine that demonstrated 100 per cent efficiency in forming cell-immunity against COVID-19.⁸⁴²

On 13 July 2021, the RDIF and Serum Institute of India reached an agreement on production of Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in India starting from September 2021. According to the agreement, the production capacity would reach 300 million doses per year.⁸⁴³

Russia has taken domestic actions to address challenges related to health, provided assistance to developing countries and taken steps to promote intra-BRICS cooperation on health-related issues.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

On 20 November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi “reviewed the preparedness of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, distribution and administration.” The government also provided more than USD124 million to support research and development of COVID-19 vaccination.⁸⁴⁴

On 22 November 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to depute high level Central Teams to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to control and support their COVID response.⁸⁴⁵

On 29 November 2020, the government provided another grant (more than USD124 million) to the Department of Biotechnology for Research and Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines. According to the information provided, “the important objectives of the fund will be accelerating pre-clinical & clinical development; licensure of COVID-19 vaccine candidates that are currently in clinical stages or ready to enter clinical stage of development, establishing clinical trial sites, and strengthening the existing immunoassay laboratories, central laboratories and suitable facilities for animal studies, production facilities and other testing facilities to support COVID-19 vaccine development.”⁸⁴⁶

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Modi launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive. It is the world’s largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3006 session sites participated in the launch. During this phase, priority groups

⁸⁴² Minzdrav Approved the Fourth COVID-19 Vaccine Made in Russia, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/05/06/16566-minzdrav-zaregistriroual-chetvertuyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

⁸⁴³ Russia’s RDIF, India’s SII to make Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine in India, Reuters (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/russias-rdif-indias-sii-make-sputnik-covid-19-vaccine-india-2021-07-13/>

⁸⁴⁴ PM Shri Narendra Modi today reviewed preparedness of Covid-19 vaccine delivery, distribution and administration, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674593>

⁸⁴⁵ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁸⁴⁶ Government Launches Mission COVID Suraksha to accelerate Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676998>

and health care workers were to be vaccinated.⁸⁴⁷ Moreover, a 24/7 call center has been established for addressing the queries related to COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine rollout.⁸⁴⁸

On 23 January 2021, Brazil's government received 2 million doses of coronavirus vaccine from India.⁸⁴⁹

In January 2021, India launched the Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) initiative to gift and supply made-in-India vaccines to low-income and other developing countries globally. As of 29 May 2021, Indian vaccines were supplied to 95 countries.⁸⁵⁰

On 1 April 2021, the Government of India decided to operationalize both public and private sector COVID-19 Vaccination Centres on all days of April. It also decided that from the 1 of April the COVID-19 vaccination of people above the age of 45 will start.⁸⁵¹

On 5 April 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Integrated Health Information Platform, the world's biggest online disease surveillance platform. It will be tracking 33 diseases and ensure near-real-time data in digital form.⁸⁵²

India took some domestic actions to challenge the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential and also participated in intra-BRICS and broader international initiatives.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrey Shelepov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a COVID-19 vaccine production facility which is expected to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase. The production operation is due to begin in eight months.⁸⁵³

On 31 December 2020, it was announced that China had granted conditional marketing authorization for its first self-developed COVID-19 vaccine. It was also announced that the vaccines would be provided completely free of charge to all people of China.⁸⁵⁴

⁸⁴⁷ PM Launches pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689021>

⁸⁴⁸ PM Modi to launch Pan India Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccination drive, DD News (New Delhi) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/pm-modi-launch-pan-india-rollout-covid-19-vaccination-drive>

⁸⁴⁹ Brazil receives vaccine cargo from India amid supply concern, AP News (Rio de Janeiro) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/public-health-brazil-rio-de-janeiro-health-south-america-e013b5193bf6a38471b3ab80aa8410d4>

⁸⁵⁰ Vaccine Maitri. Vaccine Supply, Ministry of External Affairs of India (New Delhi) 29 May 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/vaccine-supply.htm>

⁸⁵¹ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1708915>

⁸⁵² Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁸⁵³ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, Xinhua (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. China has provided 50,000 doses of vaccine to Iraq. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.⁸⁵⁵

On 4 April 2021, Brazil and China agreed to continue partnership to ensure mass vaccination of the population. Meeting between Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga and the Chinese Embassy took place virtually. “During the meeting, [Minister Queiroga] reiterated his appreciation for Sino-Brazilian cooperation on health issues and thanked the cooperation received in the fight against the COVID-19.”⁸⁵⁶

On 6 April 2021, China begun offering free COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Hong Kong and Macao who are Chinese nationals and are living on the Chinese mainland. It was also mentioned that they will also be entitled to the same treatment and reimbursement policies as mainland residents if they have adverse reactions after inoculation.⁸⁵⁷

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.⁸⁵⁸

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq. Iraq noted that it is willing to keep deepening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and health, and work together with China to win the battle against the epidemic as soon as possible.⁸⁵⁹

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that at the end of March the Chinese government has contributed RMB24 billion (USD3.67 billion) to ensure the smooth rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The funds were provided to vaccine buyers who then paid vaccine manufacturers in advance to help guarantee their operations.⁸⁶⁰

On 7 May 2021, the Foreign Ministry announced that a batch of medical supplies would be set off to Nepal to help the country in fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁶¹

⁸⁵⁴ Free for all! China’s first COVID-19 vaccine was approved for marketing authorization. Injecting confidence during the global fight against the pandemic, Xinhua (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2020-12/31/c_1126932380.htm

⁸⁵⁵ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Bagdad) 2 March 2021. Access date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

⁸⁵⁶ Brazil and China follow partnership to ensure mass vaccination of the population, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Translated by report’s author. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-china-seguem-parceria-para-garantir-vacinacao-em-massa-da-populacao>

⁸⁵⁷ Vaccines offered to Macao, HK people, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/08/content_WS606e3eb1c6d0719374afc2d3.html

⁸⁵⁸ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 2 March 2021. Access date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

⁸⁵⁹ Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Bagdad) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

⁸⁶⁰ Fund injection smooths out vaccine drive, China Daily (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202104/15/content_WS60778e02c6d0df57f98d7d8d.html

⁸⁶¹ Chinese anti-epidemic supplies to be sent to Nepal: spokesperson, , the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-05/08/c_83640.htm

On 20 May 2021, the National Health Commission announced that a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is available as an option for patients along with the two-dose vaccines used according to the country's vaccination plan.⁸⁶²

On 20 July 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced the set of priorities for the national healthcare system reform, inspired by the outcomes of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Premier Li stressed the importance of easing the difficulties of visiting hospitals and medical cost. The country plans to allocate extra resources to stabilize medicine prices, developing supplementary medical practices and applying digital technologies in healthcare.⁸⁶³

China has taken domestic, international and intra-BRICS measures addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to further enhance BRICS cooperation in addressing the challenges to health and human well-being.

On 16 February 2021, South Africa received the first delivery of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Shortly before that South African Health Product Authority had approved the vaccine for local usage.⁸⁶⁴

On 17 February 2021, South Africa started nationwide vaccination program using the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.⁸⁶⁵ The government plans to immunize 67 per cent of the population by the end 2021.⁸⁶⁶

On 6 April 2021, South Africa signed a deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses to be delivered later in April. Combined with Johnson & Johnson vaccine deliveries, South Africa has secured enough doses to reach the goals of national vaccination campaign.⁸⁶⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Department of Science and Innovation announced that the Government would allocate ZAR25 million (approximately USD1.7 million) to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats research.⁸⁶⁸

⁸⁶² Single-dose vaccine now available, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-05/20/c_83746.htm

⁸⁶³ Premier pledges to advance medical reform, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-07/21/c_84184.htm

⁸⁶⁴ Government receives Johnson & Johnson Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccine, 16 Feb, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-receives-johnson-johnson-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-16-feb-16-feb-2021-0000>

⁸⁶⁵ Coronavirus: South Africa rolls out vaccination programme, BBC News (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55675806#:~:text=South%20Africa%20has%20started%20Covid,use%20the%20Oxford%2DAstraZeneca%20vaccine.>

⁸⁶⁶ COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccine strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/covid-19/vaccine/strategy>

⁸⁶⁷ South Africa signs deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses, Reuters (Johannesburg) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-safrica-pfizer-idUSKBN2BT13M>

⁸⁶⁸ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

On 15 June 2021, the Government Communication and Information System and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Technologies hosted a masterclass on digital skills development for the youth. Representatives of the governmental authorities and private entities including Google joined to younger generations for the fast changing technological landscape.⁸⁶⁹

South Africa has taken some domestic actions to challenge the emergence of infections with a pandemic potential and some steps to enhance international or intra-BRICS cooperation in health-related issues.

Thus, South Africa receives the score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁸⁶⁹ Government hosts Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities, 15 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-25-jun-11-jun>

11. Terrorism: Supporting the United Nations

“[The BRICS countries will] deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.”

BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia			+1
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average		+0.40 (70%)	

Background

Terrorism has been a significant focus of the BRICS since the first meeting.

On 16 June 2009, BRIC leaders met in Yekaterinburg, Russia. They declared to “strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterate that there can be no justification for any act of terrorism anywhere or for whatever reasons. We note that the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism is currently under the consideration of the UN General Assembly and call for its urgent adoption.”⁸⁷⁰

In the 2010 Brasilia Joint Statement, BRIC leaders condemned “terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations. We note that the fight against international terrorism must be undertaken with due respect to the UN Charter, existing international conventions and protocols, the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism, and that the prevention of terrorist acts is as important as the repression of terrorism and its financing. In this context, we urge early conclusion of negotiations in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States.”⁸⁷¹ Furthermore, Brazil and China expressed sympathy and solidarity with Russia and India following recent terrorist attacks.⁸⁷²

At the 2011 Sanya Summit, BRICS leaders reiterated their commitment to combat terrorism. They stated “we believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating the international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of the international law. In this context, we urge early conclusion of negotiations in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States. We are determined to strengthen our cooperation in countering this global threat. We express our commitment to cooperate for strengthening international information security. We will pay special attention to combat cybercrime.”⁸⁷³

⁸⁷⁰ Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries’ Leaders, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/090616-leaders.html>

⁸⁷¹ 2nd BRIC Summit of Heads of State and Government: Joint Statement, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 April 2010. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/100415-leaders.html>

⁸⁷² 2nd BRIC Summit of Heads of State and Government: Joint Statement, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 April 2010. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/100415-leaders.html>

⁸⁷³ Sanya Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 April 2011. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/110414-leaders.html>

On 29 March 2012, BRICS leaders met in New Delhi, India where they made more commitments on terrorism. This summit produced a commitment supporting “regional and international cooperation for stabilization of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.” Furthermore, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their “determination to strengthen cooperation in countering this menace and believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of international law. We emphasize the need for an early finalization of the draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN General Assembly and its adoption by all Member States to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address this global scourge.”⁸⁷⁴

At the 2013 Durban Summit on 27 March 2013, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism in Afghanistan and reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism. They once again stated that “We believe that the UN has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of international law. In this context, we support the implementation of the UN General Assembly Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and are determined to strengthen cooperation in countering this global threat. We also reiterate our call for concluding negotiations as soon as possible in the UN General Assembly on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States and agreed to work together towards this objective.”⁸⁷⁵

At the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, BRICS leaders once again dealt with the topic of terrorism, with a new focus on terrorism and extremism of al Qaeda in Syria, as well as reiterating support for combatting terrorism in Afghanistan. Calling on the UN again, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment “to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We express our concern at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies (ICTs), in particular the Internet and other media, and reiterate that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance and dialogue among peoples. We will continue to work together to conclude as soon as possible negotiations and to adopt in the UN General Assembly the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We also stress the need to promote cooperation among our countries in preventing terrorism, especially in the context of major events.”⁸⁷⁶

On 9 July 2015, BRICS leaders gathered in Ufa, Russia. Revisiting their focus on terrorism, BRICS leaders pledged to “consistently strengthen our cooperation in preventing and countering international terrorism,” once again stressed the UN’s role in “coordinating international action against terrorism” and called upon all states and the international community to adhere to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.⁸⁷⁷ Furthermore, BRICS leaders reaffirmed “their commitment to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation” and to combating the spread of violent extremism.⁸⁷⁸ Commitments on terrorism included the use of information and communications

⁸⁷⁴ Fourth BRICS Summit: Delhi Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 29 March 2012. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120329-delhi-declaration.html>

⁸⁷⁵ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

⁸⁷⁶ The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>

⁸⁷⁷ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁸⁷⁸ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

technologies to conduct terrorism; condemning terrorism in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and by terrorist and violent extremist groups in Africa.⁸⁷⁹

At the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa, BRICS leaders revisited the topic of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and in other countries. BRICS leaders declared support for “launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, including at the Conference on Disarmament...call[ed] upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including Foreign Terrorist Fighters, blocking sources of financing terrorism, including through organised crime by means of money-laundering, drug trafficking, criminal activities, dismantling terrorist bases, and countering misuse of the Internet including social media by terror entities through misuse of the latest Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)...welcome[d] the setting up and the first meeting of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism on 14 September 2016 in New Delhi...reaffirm[ed] our commitment to the FATF International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation and call for swift, effective and universal implementation of FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing, including effective implementation of its operational plan...[and] note[d] with deep concern the increasing links between drug trafficking and terrorism, money laundering and organised crime. We commend the cooperation between BRICS drug control agencies and welcome the deliberations in second Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting held in New Delhi on 8 July 2016.”⁸⁸⁰

At the 2017 Xiamen Summit on 4 September, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitments on Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation in FATF, combating terrorism in Afghanistan, condemned the actions of terrorist groups, called upon the international community to create an international counter-terrorism coalition and supported the UN’s actions on counterterrorism.⁸⁸¹

Prior to the summit, from 19-20 April 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Working Group held a meeting. On 26 July 2018, BRICS leaders met in Johannesburg for the 10th summit. BRICS leader acknowledged the devastating effects of terrorism, continued their call for an international counter-terrorism coalition, called for the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by the UN General Assembly, and supported launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention suppressing acts of chemical and biological terrorism. Furthermore, they once again noted combating terrorism in Afghanistan and Syria, and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation in FATF.⁸⁸²

Brazil hosted a seminar on BRICS Strategies for Countering-Terrorism from 22-25 July 2019 and a meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Counter-Terrorism from 1-2 August 2019.

⁸⁷⁹ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

⁸⁸⁰ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html>

⁸⁸¹ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

⁸⁸² BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

At the 14 November 2019 Brasilia Summit, the BRICS leaders welcomed sub-working groups under the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group. They also reaffirmed their commitments to fighting terrorism under the UN, countering the financing of terrorism and combating terrorism in Syria.⁸⁸³

On 16 February 2020, the BRICS Council on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism within the FATF was held in Paris, France. From 18-23 June 2020, the meeting of the BRICS Council on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism was held. From 31 August-2 September 2020, the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group held a meeting. From 18-23 October 2020, the BRICS Council on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism with the FATF met.⁸⁸⁴

Commitment Features

The BRICS commitment is to “deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.” This commitment includes a depth component on how strong the action taken by a BRICS member is. This commitment was agreed to under the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Definitions and Concepts

“Deepen” is “to make something increase or become more serious.”^{885,886}

“Cooperation” is “the process of working with another company, organization or country in order to achieve something.”⁸⁸⁷

“Reaffirm” is to “‘affirm again’ whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgement.”

“Comprehensive” refers to being “complete and including everything that is necessary.”⁸⁸⁸

“Implementation” is “the act of starting to see a plan or system.”⁸⁸⁹

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy “is a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism...it resolves to take practical steps, individually and collectively, to prevent and combat terrorism. Those practical steps include a wide array of measures ranging from strengthening state capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating UN System’s counter-terrorism activities.”⁸⁹⁰ The pillars of this strategy are “1) addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; 2) measures to prevent and combat terrorism; 3)

⁸⁸³ Brasília Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>

⁸⁸⁴ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

⁸⁸⁵ Deepen, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deepen>

⁸⁸⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁸⁷ Cooperation, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cooperation>

⁸⁸⁸ Comprehensive, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/comprehensive>

⁸⁸⁹ Implementation, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/implementation>

⁸⁹⁰ UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

measures to build states’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; 4) measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.”⁸⁹¹ This UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2006 and is reviewed every two years.⁸⁹²

“Balanced way” refers to “considering all sides or opinions equally and containing an equal amount or number of similar things or people.”⁸⁹³

Interpretive Guidelines

A BRICS member can somewhat or fully take action on this commitment. Partial action would be verbal reaffirmation of the commitment, attending meetings on the topic, and/or making statements on future endeavors to deepen cooperation. As well, individual action would only be considered partial compliance as this commitment calls for deepened cooperation. For full compliance, a BRICS member must implement concrete actions through hosting meetings, signing agreements, giving financial or technical assistance for implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, drafting laws or launching programs that contribute to this commitment. A BRICS member also must work in partnership with another BRICS member, another country or an international organization for full compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does not deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.
0	The BRICS member somewhat deepens their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.
+1	The BRICS member fully deepens their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Brazil: 0

Brazil partially complied with its commitment to deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

On 26 December 2020, Brazil condemned terrorism in Nigeria following the terrorist attack in the city of Pemi and announced that its dedication to investigating “the links between drug trafficking in South America and terrorism in Africa.”⁸⁹⁴

On 10 February 2021, Brazil Ambassador-designate Antonio José Maria De Souza e Silva presented his letter of credence to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.⁸⁹⁵ In accepting his credentials, President

⁸⁹¹ UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁸⁹² UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

⁸⁹³ Balanced, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/balanced>

⁸⁹⁴ Attack in the city of Pemi, Nigeria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/attack-in-the-city-of-pemi-nigeria>

⁸⁹⁵ President Duterte welcomes new ambassadors, Presidential Communications Operations Office (Manila) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://pcoo.gov.ph/news_releases/president-duterte-welcomes-new-ambassadors-2/

Duterte stated that he “[looks] forward to enhanced cooperation...and combating transnational crimes, including cybersecurity and counterterrorism” with Brazil.⁸⁹⁶

From 11-16 February 2021, Brazil participated in the seventh Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman 2021, hosted by the Pakistan navy.⁸⁹⁷ The drill was aimed at strengthening “maritime peace, stability and lawful order at sea”⁸⁹⁸ and “a united resolve against terrorism.”⁸⁹⁹

From 28-30 June 2021, representatives of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency attended the Second United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.⁹⁰⁰ During the conference, Director General Alexandre Ramagem reiterated that “Brazil is fully committed to the fight against terrorism and remains permanently engaged in international cooperation efforts and in interagency activities.”⁹⁰¹

Brazil partially complied with its commitment to deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. Brazil has participated in military exercises with international partners, thereby deepening cooperation and strengthening its capacity to combat terrorism. Brazil has also provided a verbal statement, reaffirming its commitment to countering and preventing terrorism, rooted in broader social issues such as drug trafficking in South America. However, Brazil has failed to implement legislative measures which will further these goals and protect human rights.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Yana Sadeghi

Russia: +1

Russia fully complied with its commitment to deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

On 2 December 2020, Russia pledged to “expand and widen their counter-terror partnership” with India in multilateral institutions.⁹⁰² This decision came after a consultation on issues related to the

⁸⁹⁶ PRRD welcomes five new ambassadors, People’s Television Network (Quezon City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://ptvnews.ph/prrd-welcomes-five-new-ambassadors/>

⁸⁹⁷ Naval Chief praises participation of navies in AMAN-2021 exercise, The Nation (Lahore) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2021/naval-chief-praises-participation-of-navies-in-aman-2021-exercise>

⁸⁹⁸ Aman-2021 demonstrates Pakistan’s commitment to peace: naval chief, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2283919/aman-2021-demonstrates-pakistans-commitment-to-peace-naval-chief>

⁸⁹⁹ Aman-2021 to counter crime, terrorism in maritime domain: CJSC, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2284123/aman-2021-to-counter-crime-terrorism-in-maritime-domain-cjsc>

⁹⁰⁰ ABIN directors present the Brazilian position on counterterrorism at the UN, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/abin/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/diretores-da-abin-apresentam-na-onu-posicao-brasileira-no-contraterrorismo>

⁹⁰¹ ABIN directors present the Brazilian position on counterterrorism at the UN, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/abin/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/diretores-da-abin-apresentam-na-onu-posicao-brasileira-no-contraterrorismo>

⁹⁰² India and Russia decides to expand their counter-terror ties, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-russia-decides-to-expand-their-counter-terror-ties/articleshow/79533505.cms>

United Nations Security Council between the Russian Foreign Ministry and an Indian delegation sent to Moscow.⁹⁰³

On 8 December 2020, the National Anti Terrorism Committee released a statement after a joint meeting with the Federal Crisis Centre, disclosing that the government agency has averted over 40 terrorist attacks in 2020.⁹⁰⁴ Federal Security Service Director Alexander Bortnikov credited this to “the well-coordinated activities of law enforcement agencies.”⁹⁰⁵

On 5 February 2021, Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and Africa Mikhail Bogdanov “reiterated Moscow’s unwavering supports for Iraq’s efforts to uproot terrorism and extremism” in a meeting with Baghdad’s Ambassador to Moscow Abdul-Rahman Hamid al-Husseini.⁹⁰⁶

On 8 February 2021, Russia announced that it will host a conference on counter-terrorism in Moscow in 2021 “with the participation of representatives from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and Turkey.”⁹⁰⁷ The conference aims to “[develop] common approaches” and coordinate legislative policies targeting terrorism and drug trafficking.⁹⁰⁸

From 11-16 February 2021, the Russian navy participated in “Aman 2021,” a multinational naval exercise hosted by the Pakistan Navy.⁹⁰⁹ The drill was aimed at strengthening “maritime peace, stability and lawful order at sea”⁹¹⁰ and “a united resolve against terrorism.”⁹¹¹ During Aman-2021, Russia participated in demonstrations and “[exchanged] experience in combating maritime piracy in waterways with busy traffic.”⁹¹² This marked the first time that Russia has joined NATO in a military drill in a decade.⁹¹³

⁹⁰³ India and Russia decides to expand their counter-terror ties, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-russia-decides-to-expand-their-counter-terror-ties/articleshow/79533505.cms>

⁹⁰⁴ Russian law enforcement agencies thwart over 40 terrorist attacks in 2020, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1232511>

⁹⁰⁵ Russian law enforcement agencies thwart over 40 terrorist attacks in 2020, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1232511>

⁹⁰⁶ Russia pledges unwavering support for Iraq in anti-terror fight, Press TV (Tehran) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2021/02/05/644629/Iraq-Russia-fight-terrorism>

⁹⁰⁷ Russia to host conference on counter-terrorism, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/russia-to-host-conference-on-counter-terrorism/2137710#>

⁹⁰⁸ Russia to host conference on counter-terrorism, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/russia-to-host-conference-on-counter-terrorism/2137710#>

⁹⁰⁹ Multinational naval exercise ‘Aman-2021’ begins in Arabian Sea, Naval Technology (New York) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://www.naval-technology.com/news/aman-2021-arabian-sea/>

⁹¹⁰ Aman-2021 demonstrates Pakistan’s commitment to peace: naval chief, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2283919/aman-2021-demonstrates-pakistans-commitment-to-peace-naval-chief>

⁹¹¹ Aman-2021 to counter crime, terrorism in maritime domain: CJSC, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2284123/aman-2021-to-counter-crime-terrorism-in-maritime-domain-cjsc>

⁹¹² Naval exercise starts off Karachi at the AMAN-2021 multinational drills, attended by Russia & several NATO countries, RT News (Moscow) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.rt.com/russia/515478-naval-exercise-karachi-aman/>

⁹¹³ Pakistan-hosted multinational military drill kicks off, The Express Tribune (Karachi) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2283782/pakistan-hosted-multinational-military-drill-kicks-off>

On 17 February 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov held a meeting with Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla on bilateral cooperation.⁹¹⁴ During the meeting, the officials discussed terrorist-related activity and counter-terrorist measures, specifically in relation to Afghanistan and Iran, as well as regional security and cyber-space threats.⁹¹⁵

On 17 February 2021, Russia issued a joint statement with Turkey and Iran, agreeing “to continue cooperation aimed at eliminating terrorists of the Islamic State and Al-Nusra Front groups [...] in Syria,” DAESH, and other groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda following the 15th international meeting on Syria in the Astana process.⁹¹⁶

On 1 March 2021, Russian officers from the counterterrorism units were deployed to a military base in Serbia for military training.⁹¹⁷ Other countries including China and the United States had also been in attendance, thus illustrating Russia’s commitment to deepening cooperation.⁹¹⁸

On 16 March 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Oleg Syromolotov spoke at the opening ceremony of the Virtual Regional Workshop on Fostering Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation and Information-Sharing, a regional workshop launched by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.⁹¹⁹ Minister Syromolotov stated that the Russian Federation funded this project to further develop “measures to prevent illegal arms trafficking in the context of counter-terrorism” in Central Asia, thus demonstrating its commitment to combatting terrorism and deepening cooperation.⁹²⁰

On 18 March 2021, as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Russia announced a joint anti-terrorism exercise for the eight competent member states including India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, called “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021,” to take place later in the year. The SCO member states also approved a draft cooperative anti-terrorism program for 2022-2024 to “counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism.”⁹²¹

⁹¹⁴ View: India-Russia strategic partnership is special and privileged, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/view-india-russia-strategic-partnership-is-special-and-privileged/articleshow/80916987.cms>

⁹¹⁵ View: India-Russia strategic partnership is special and privileged, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/view-india-russia-strategic-partnership-is-special-and-privileged/articleshow/80916987.cms>

⁹¹⁶ Russia, Turkey, Iran to continue joint effort to combat terrorists in Syria, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://tass.com/world/1257573>

⁹¹⁷ US Special Forces train in Serbia, where China and Russia have strengthened military ties, Stars and Stripes (Washington, D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/us-special-forces-train-in-serbia-where-china-and-russia-have-strengthened-military-ties-1.664538>

⁹¹⁸ US Special Forces train in Serbia, where China and Russia have strengthened military ties, Stars and Stripes (Washington, D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/us-special-forces-train-in-serbia-where-china-and-russia-have-strengthened-military-ties-1.664538>

⁹¹⁹ Statement by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Oleg Syromolotov at the Virtual Regional Workshop on Fostering Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation and Information-Sharing under the auspices of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, 16 March 2021, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4640505

⁹²⁰ Statement by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Oleg Syromolotov at the Virtual Regional Workshop on Fostering Judicial and Law Enforcement Cooperation and Information-Sharing under the auspices of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, 16 March 2021, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4640505

⁹²¹ SCO to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise in 2021, Xinhuanet (Tashkent) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/18/c_139820090.htm

On 18 March 2021, members of the “extended troika” convened for a meeting in Moscow with representatives from Russia, China, Pakistan, and the United States to discuss the ongoing peace process in Afghanistan.⁹²² Following the meeting, the members released a joint statement calling on the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban to “continue counterterrorism cooperation.”⁹²³

In March 2021, Russia deployed forces to several African countries, including Sudan, Central African Republic, Libya, Zimbabwe, Angola, Madagascar, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, and Mozambique to provide training cyber warfare and military procedures.⁹²⁴

On 29 April 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin met with Iran’s Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali to discuss the “expansion of constructive cooperation,” with the intention of combating regional threats and terrorism.⁹²⁵

On 14 May 2021, Secretary of Russia’s Security Council Nikolai Patrushev convened with Serbian Interior Minister Aleksandar Vulin to discuss bilateral cooperation on the Balkan peninsula.⁹²⁶ Both parties placed importance on the issue of counterterrorism and expressed interested in increasing cooperation in the security sphere.⁹²⁷

On 20-25 May 2021, joint Russian-Serbian counter-terrorism exercises were conducted “to practice airborne landings using the Arbalet parachute systems, troop movement towards facilities occupied by outlawed armed gangs, as well as ways to block and destroy such facilities,” thus emphasizing the importance of cooperation in the fight against terrorism.⁹²⁸

On 30 July 2021, Foreign Intelligence Service Director Sergei Naryshkin stated that the government “[shares] intelligence on a wide range of issues related to the global fight against terrorism” with the United States Central Intelligence Agency, indicating Russia’s continued commitment to international cooperation.

On 4 August 2021, the military launched joint Indo-Russian counter-terrorism drills as part of INDRA-21, establishing stronger ties between India and Russia.⁹²⁹ The drills were intended to exchange intelligence and develop bilateral military practices.⁹³⁰

⁹²² Pakistan, US, Russia, China ask Taliban to ensure Afghan soil not used for terror attacks, The News International (Karachi) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/828974-pakistan-us-russia-china-ask-taliban-to-ensure-afghanistan-is-not-used-for-terror-attacks>

⁹²³ Pakistan, US, Russia, China ask Taliban to ensure Afghan soil not used for terror attacks, The News International (Karachi) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/828974-pakistan-us-russia-china-ask-taliban-to-ensure-afghanistan-is-not-used-for-terror-attacks>

⁹²⁴ Russia’s Wagner Group reportedly deployed in Africa (Ankara) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/russias-wagner-group-reportedly-deployed-in-africa/2165414>

⁹²⁵ Iran, Russia discuss int’l cooperation, Islamic Republic News Agency (Tehran) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://en.irna.ir/news/84313285/Iran-Russia-discuss-int-l-cooperation>

⁹²⁶ Russia’s security chief, Serbian interior minister discuss Balkan situation, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://tass.com/defense/1289745>

⁹²⁷ Russia’s security chief, Serbian interior minister discuss Balkan situation, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://tass.com/defense/1289745>

⁹²⁸ Russian-Serbian counter-terrorism exercise kicks off in Serbia, Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (Moscow) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://tass.com/defense/1291787>

⁹²⁹ Ex-INDRA 21: Indian and Russian ground forces kick off counter terrorism drills, The Financial Express (Noida) 5 August 2021. <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/ex-indra-21-indian-and-russian-ground-forces-kick-off-counter-terrorism-drills/2305109/>

⁹³⁰ Ex-INDRA 21: Indian and Russian ground forces kick off counter terrorism drills, The Financial Express (Noida) 5 August 2021. <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/ex-indra-21-indian-and-russian-ground-forces-kick-off-counter-terrorism-drills/2305109/>

On 9 August 2021, Russian troops participated in a joint-military exercise with the Chinese military for the fourth consecutive year, thus demonstrating its commitment to international cooperation.⁹³¹ The aim of the exercise is to “maintain peace and security” in the region, especially with withdrawal of American troops in Afghanistan.⁹³²

Russia fully complied with its commitment to deepen their cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. Russia has provided verbal affirmations attesting to its commitment to countering-terrorism in meetings with officials from Iraq and India. Additionally, Russia has developed closer ties with international partners by participating in multinational military exercises, organizing a conference, and consulting with other countries in establishing counter-terrorist measures. Furthermore, Russia has implemented legislative measures to target and prevent domestic terrorism.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yana Sadeghi

India: +1

India fully complied with its commitment to deepen its cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

On 19 November 2020, India and the EU held the 12th Counter Terrorism Dialogue. The participants discussed strengthening cooperation between them and multilateral counter terrorism cooperation, including in regard to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Global Counter Terrorism Forum and the UN, specifically the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.⁹³³

On 17 December 2020, at the 12th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to “coordinate and collaborate to counter terrorism” and condemned terrorism “in all its forms and manifestations.”⁹³⁴

On 11 January 2021, the Indian delegation to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) expressed concern over the actions of Boko Haram and the Islamic State’s West Africa Province and called for “closer coordination in counter-terrorism cooperation in the region and its periphery to counter the growth of terrorist entities effectively.”⁹³⁵

On 12 January 2021, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar proposed an eight-point international action plan at the UNSC to combat terrorism which included a reformation of the counter-terrorism committees, call for inclusive approaches, enhanced UN coordination with the FATF, and proper funding to UN counterterrorism bodies. Minister Jaishankar also recognized the absence of technical

⁹³¹ China, Russia Showcase Growing Ties With Joint Military Exercises, Radio Free Europe (Prague) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.rferl.org/a/china-russia-military-cooperation/31401442.html>

⁹³² China, Russia Showcase Growing Ties With Joint Military Exercises, Radio Free Europe (Prague) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.rferl.org/a/china-russia-military-cooperation/31401442.html>

⁹³³ Joint Press Release of the 12th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33217/Joint_Press_Release_of_the_12th_IndiaEuropean_Union_Counter_Terrorism_Dialogue

⁹³⁴ 12th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/12th-meeting-india-australia-joint-working-group-counter-terrorism>

⁹³⁵ At UNSC, India expresses concern over terror acts by Boko Haram, Islamic State in West Africa, WIO News (New Delhi) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/at-uns-c-india-expresses-concern-over-terror-acts-by-boko-haram-islamic-state-in-west-africa-356117>

expertise and legal and operational frameworks as barriers to counterterrorism efforts in some countries.⁹³⁶

From 21-22 January 2021, at the 14th meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, both countries condemned all kinds of terrorism and reaffirmed their faith to strengthen bilateral and international cooperation and discussed the use of proscription as a tool to combat terrorism, including at the UN and the FATF.⁹³⁷

On 25 January 2021, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Nagaraj Naidu highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on many countries' ability to "deal with threats posed by...bioterrorism and cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure" and maintain humanitarian aid. Naidu also documented some countries as "globally recognized state sponsors of terrorism...[who] used the pandemic to ramp up recruitment and infiltration" and called on the international community to hold them accountable.⁹³⁸

On 8-21 February 2021, a joint Indo-US military exercise series, "Yudh Abhyas," was held to enhance interoperability and cooperation between the two nations focused on counter terrorism operations based on the UN mandate.⁹³⁹

On 19 February 2021, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that the nation will emphasize reform of the multilateral system and counterterrorism cooperation when it will chair the 2021 BRICS summit.⁹⁴⁰

On 17 February 2021, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla visited Moscow at the India-Russia Foreign Office Consultations in Moscow.⁹⁴¹ He discussed issues of regional and international significance including "arms control and counterterrorism" with Russian leaders. Secretary Shringla also noted India's commitment to continuing Russia's initiatives on issues like counterterrorism during its current BRICS presidency.⁹⁴²

On 21 February 2021, on a two-day trip to the Maldives, Minister Jaishankar signed a defence Line of Credit worth USD50 million with the Maldives to maintain maritime peace and "combat terrorism in

⁹³⁶ In 8-point action plan against terrorism, Jaishankar slams Pakistan, takes a dig at China, The Times of India (New Delhi) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/in-8-point-action-plan-against-terrorism-jaishankar-slams-pakistan-takes-a-dig-at-china/articleshow/80236576.cms>

⁹³⁷ 14th Meeting of the India-United Kingdom Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 25 January 2021. Access Date 22 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33410>

⁹³⁸ Globally recognised state sponsors of terrorism used Covid-19 to ramp up recruitment: India at UNSC, The Times of India (New Delhi) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/globally-recognised-state-sponsors-of-terrorism-used-covid-19-to-ramp-up-recruitment-india-at-unscc/articleshow/80454215.cms>

⁹³⁹ Indo-US military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' to begin in Rajasthan on February 8, Economic Times (Jaipur) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indo-us-joint-military-exercise-yudh-abhyas-to-begin-in-rajasthan-on-february-8/articleshow/80667571.cms>

⁹⁴⁰ India to focus on counterterrorism cooperation at BRICS, Deccan Herald (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date 21 April 2021. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-to-focus-on-counterterrorism-cooperation-at-brics-953116.html>

⁹⁴¹ Foreign Secretary and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Morgulov at the India-Russia Foreign Office Consultations in Moscow, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/newsdetail1.htm?8543/>

⁹⁴² Russian Foreign Minister to Visit India At The Earliest: Foreign Secretary, NDTV (Moscow) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/foreign-secretary-harsh-varadhan-shringla-says-russian-foreign-minister-sergey-lavrov-to-visit-india-at-the-earliest-2374537>

all its forms and manifestations” in the Indian Ocean. The India-Maldives Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was also launched.⁹⁴³

From 4-5 March 2021, the First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria at the level of National Security Adviser took place. National Security Adviser of Nigeria Major General Babagana Monguno visited New Delhi for the same to discuss threats to democracies from “terrorism, extremism, radicalization” through the cyberspace in addition to challenges from “international crime, arms and drug smuggling and piracy.”⁹⁴⁴

From 10-19 March 2021, Exercise Dustlik-II, a joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan, took place in India. Soldiers from each side shared their expertise and skills in the area of counter-terrorism operations in mountainous, rural, and urban scenarios. The exercise was in line with the UN Mandate and was aimed at reflecting the strong ties between the two nations as well as their resolve to support counter-terrorism efforts.⁹⁴⁵

On 18 March 2021, at the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure, as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), India announced a joint anti-terrorism exercise later this year. The SCO member states also approved a draft cooperative anti-terrorism program for 2022-2024 to “counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism”⁹⁴⁶

On 12 and 13 April 2021, the National Investigation Agency organized a virtual BRICS seminar on the “Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purposes and Role of Digital Forensics in Terrorist Investigation” where 40 experts collectively from all member states discussed various technical challenges to combat terrorism.⁹⁴⁷

On 4 May 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a Virtual Summit to discuss the Covid-19 situation in India. The two nations also agreed to strengthen bilateral relations on counterterrorism and other defence and security domains.⁹⁴⁸

On 13 May 2021, in honor of national Anti-Terrorism Day, held annually on 21 May, India advised all government offices, public institutions, and public sector undertakings to take an anti-terrorism pledge to oppose “all forms of terrorism and violence” and uphold “peace, social harmony and understanding.”⁹⁴⁹

⁹⁴³ India, Maldives sign defence and security-related pacts, The Hindu (Malé) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-maldives-sign-defence-and-security-related-pacts/article33894011.ece>

⁹⁴⁴ India-Nigeria Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs Government of India (New Delhi) 05 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33593>

⁹⁴⁵ Indo-Uzbekistan Field Training Exercise “DUSTLIK” commences in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand), Ministry of Defence (New Delhi), 10 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1703755>

⁹⁴⁶ India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, The Economic Times 21 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-pakistan-china-to-participate-in-sco-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-this-year/articleshow/81617992.cms>

⁹⁴⁷ NIA organizes BRICS Seminar on “Misuse of Internet by Terrorists (New Delhi) 15 April 2021. Access Date 20 April 2021. <https://zeenews.india.com/india/nia-organises-brics-seminar-on-misuse-of-internet-by-terrorists-2355022.html>

⁹⁴⁸ India-UK Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 04 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33839>

⁹⁴⁹ Observance of Anti-Terrorism Day on 21st May, Government of India (New Delhi) 13 May 2021. Access Date 22 May 2021. https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/Antiterrorism21_13052021.pdf

On 4 August 2021, India and Russia launched the joint Ex-INDRA 2021 counter terrorism drill. According to the Indian army, the drill aims to enhance interoperability, practice joint planning and intelligence cooperation as part of anti-terrorist operations between both countries' armed forces.⁹⁵⁰

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that the Indian delegation at the UN is organizing signature events focusing on counter-terrorism, maritime security and peacekeeping operation as a priority of India's presidency of the Security Council during the month of August.⁹⁵¹

On 6 August 2021, India's Permanent Representative T.S. Tirmurti expressed during the Security Council's Meeting on Afghanistan that all "those providing material and financial support to terrorist entities must be held accountable."⁹⁵²

On 6 August 2021, India announced its participation in the Peace Mission 2021 anti-terror military drill of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.⁹⁵³ The Peace Mission 2021 exercise will be held in September 2021 in joint with China and Pakistan to enhance cooperation to combat terrorism and extremism.⁹⁵⁴ The Indian Army will be protecting facilities and carrying air surveillance during the military drill.⁹⁵⁵

India has fully complied with its commitment to deepen its cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. India has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring respect for human rights and strengthening the role of the UN as reflected in its calls to strengthen the UNSC's anti-terrorism strategies, holding military exercises in line with the UN Mandate, and expanding discussions and funding. India has further engaged in dialogues with the international community and another BRICS member as reflected in its bilateral discussions with Australia, the United States, Russia, Nigeria and Uzbekistan to maintain international security and strengthen measures to prevent and combat terrorism. India has financially and diplomatically supported bilateral efforts to prevent terrorism as reflected in its recent ties with the Maldives and the United Kingdom and its hosting of the BRICS Virtual seminar. Lastly, India has addressed the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in its address at the UNSC including the role of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shreya Vobra

⁹⁵⁰ Ex-INDRA 21: Indian and Russian Ground forces kick off counter terrorism drills, Financial Express (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/ex-indra-21-indian-and-russian-ground-forces-kick-off-counter-terrorism-drills/2305109/>

⁹⁵¹ India to Focus On Maritime Security Counter Terrorism Under UN Security Council Presidency, NDTV (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-to-focus-on-maritime-security-counter-terrorism-under-un-security-council-presidency-2503725>

⁹⁵² Will ensure stability in Afghanistan through democratic process: India at UN, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-afghanistan-un-security-council-terrorism-ts-tirumurti-101628266738345.html>

⁹⁵³ India to Hold Military Drill With China and Pakistan, Times Now News (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-to-hold-military-drill-with-china-and-pakistan/795789>

⁹⁵⁴ India to Hold Military Drill With China and Pakistan, Times Now News (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-to-hold-military-drill-with-china-and-pakistan/795789>

⁹⁵⁵ India to Hold Military Drill With China and Pakistan, Times Now News (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-to-hold-military-drill-with-china-and-pakistan/795789>

China: 0

China partially complied with its commitment to deepen its cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

On 22 December 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Luo Zhaohui delivered a keynote address at the International Seminar on “Joint Response to Terrorism under the New Circumstances” hosted by the China Institute of International Studies and noted that to fight terrorism “[countries] must uphold multilateralism, adopt a comprehensive approach, follow a unified standard, and embrace openness and inclusiveness.”⁹⁵⁶

On 5 February 2021, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin stated at a press conference that China has cracked down on terrorist activities in Xinjiang to protect human rights and maintain security in the state. This was done in response to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.⁹⁵⁷

From 11-16 February 2021, the Chinese navy participated in “Aman 2021,” a multinational naval exercise hosted by the Pakistan Navy.⁹⁵⁸ The drill was aimed at strengthening “maritime peace, stability and lawful order at sea”⁹⁵⁹ and “a united resolve against terrorism.”⁹⁶⁰ The exercise would make the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project operational and expand joint efforts to construct ships and units in Karachi to strengthen bilateral relations and regional security.⁹⁶¹

On 26 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin stated at a regular Press Conference that the Chinese government has been implementing the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in Xinjiang which is in line with the principles and spirit of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy.⁹⁶²

On 18 March 2021, as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China announced a joint anti-terrorism exercise for the eight competent member states including India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, called “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021,” to take place later in the year. The SCO member states also approved a draft cooperative anti-terrorism program for 2022-2024 to “counter terrorism, separatism, and extremism.”⁹⁶³

From 27-28 March 2021, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi went to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Minister Wang spoke with Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan to reaffirm

⁹⁵⁶ International Seminar on Joint Response to Terrorism Under the New Circumstances Held in Beijing, China Institute of International Studies (Beijing) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://www.ciis.org.cn/english/NEWS_183/202012/t20201224_7695.html

⁹⁵⁷ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin’s Regular Press Conference on February 5, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1851855.shtml

⁹⁵⁸ Multinational naval exercise ‘Aman-2021’ begins in Arabian Sea, Naval Technology (New York) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://www.naval-technology.com/news/aman-2021-arabian-sea/>

⁹⁵⁹ Aman-2021 demonstrates Pakistan’s commitment to peace: naval chief, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2283919/aman-2021-demonstrates-pakistans-commitment-to-peace-naval-chief>

⁹⁶⁰ Aman-2021 to counter crime, terrorism in maritime domain: CJCS, The Tribune (Chandigarh) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2284123/aman-2021-to-counter-crime-terrorism-in-maritime-domain-cjcs>

⁹⁶¹ Navy’s Aman drill grows to host 45 countries, Dawn (Karachi) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1606284>

⁹⁶² Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin’s Regular Press Conference on February 26, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1851855.shtml

⁹⁶³ SCO to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise in 2021, Xinhuanet (Tashkent) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/18/c_139820090.htm

China's intentions to collaborate with the UAE to expand cooperation on international recognition of health QR codes as well as counterterrorism and de-radicalization efforts.⁹⁶⁴

On 16 April 2021, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian noted at a press conference that China's efforts to combat terrorism in Xinjiang have been successful as reflected in the absence of violent terrorism cases in the region in the last four years.⁹⁶⁵

On 11 May 2021, Minister Wang stated in a meeting with his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan the importance of preventing a resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan. The minister reaffirmed the faith of the SCO to combat terrorism.⁹⁶⁶

On 18 May 2021, Minister Wang offered his Afghan counterpart to mediate peace talks in Afghanistan to foster strategic anti-terrorism cooperation between the two nations.⁹⁶⁷

On 24 July 2021, Minister Wang held a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, agreeing on both countries taking joint measures to combat security concerns in Afghanistan.⁹⁶⁸ China and Pakistan announced that they will jointly counter terrorism in Afghanistan, pushing all conflicting forces to establish a clear line with terrorism.⁹⁶⁹

On 4 August 2021, the China Anti-Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center run by the People's Bank of China signed a memorandum of understanding with the UAE's Central Bank to exchange financial information to better combat terrorism financing and money laundering.⁹⁷⁰

On 6 August 2021, China announced participating in the Peace Mission 2021 anti-terror military drill of the SCO.⁹⁷¹ The Peace Mission 2021 exercise will be held in September 2021 in joint with India and Pakistan to enhance cooperation to combat terrorism and extremism.⁹⁷²

On 9 August 2021, China and Russia begin the Zapad 2021 five-day joint military exercise in the Ningxia region.⁹⁷³ According to Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense "the purpose of the exercise is to deepen the pragmatic cooperation between the

⁹⁶⁴ China, UAW to mutually recognize health codes, expand cooperation, Global Times (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219707.shtml>

⁹⁶⁵ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian's Regular Press Conference on April 16, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://adelaide.china-consulate.org/eng/wjbfyrth/t1869451.htm>

⁹⁶⁶ China says extremism must not be allowed to return to Afghanistan, South China Morning Post 12 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3133237/china-says-extremism-must-not-be-allowed-return-afghanistan>

⁹⁶⁷ China offers to host intra-Afghan talks and help anti-terrorism effort, South China Morning Post (Shanghai) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3133931/china-offers-host-intra-afghan-talks-and-help-anti-terrorism>

⁹⁶⁸ China, Pakistan to take joint actions to tackle terrorist spillover from Afghanistan, Global Times (Beijing) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1229542.shtml>

⁹⁶⁹ China, Pakistan to take joint actions to tackle terrorist spillover from Afghanistan, Global Times (Beijing) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1229542.shtml>

⁹⁷⁰ UAE, China agree to cooperate on money laundering, terrorism financing, Arab News (Abu Dhabi) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1905396/business-economy>

⁹⁷¹ India to Hold Military Drill With China and Pakistan, Times Now News (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-to-hold-military-drill-with-china-and-pakistan/795789>

⁹⁷² India to Hold Military Drill With China and Pakistan, Times Now News (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-to-hold-military-drill-with-china-and-pakistan/795789>

⁹⁷³ J-20 fighter jets highlight China-Russia joint strategic drills opening, Global Times (Beijing) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1231004.shtml>

two militaries, further displaying the determination and ability of both sides to combat terrorist forces and maintain regional peace and security.”⁹⁷⁴

China has partially complied with its commitment to deepen cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. China has promoted international efforts to combat terrorism by engaging in dialogue and deliberations with international partners including Pakistan and the UAE and Afghanistan and calling for cooperation in anti-terrorism measures thereby addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. China has also taken domestic measures to build its capacity to combat terrorism. Lastly, China has engaged in transnational military exercises hosted by Pakistan and has agreed to participate in the SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise to maintain regional and international security and prevent terrorism. However, China has failed to establish counterterrorism laws, engage in substantive international legislative efforts or strengthen the role of the United Nations system in combating terrorism.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shreya Vobra

South Africa: 0

South Africa partially complied with its commitment to deepen its cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way.

On 23 November 2020, the Police Service launched the National Safer City initiative aiming to strengthen government response to acts of crime and terrorism.⁹⁷⁵ The new initiative includes a high-tech fusion centre with the objective of unifying and coordinating the response of all law enforcement agencies to enhance the ability to respond and prevent terrorist and criminal acts nationwide.⁹⁷⁶

On 29 November 2020, South Africa condemned acts of terrorism targeting petroleum facilities in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.⁹⁷⁷ Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr. Naledi Pandor stated, “South Africa maintains that terrorism in all its forms cannot be condoned and therefore strongly supports all efforts by the international community to combat terrorism within the framework of the United Nations.”⁹⁷⁸

On 14 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) consultation meeting in Maputo, dedicated to discussing the recent acts of terrorism in Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique.⁹⁷⁹

On 2 April 2021, President Ramaphosa announced deploying South African forces in Mozambique, following terrorist attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant affiliated militias on the

⁹⁷⁴ J-20 fighter jets highlight China-Russia joint strategic drills opening, Global Times (Beijing) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1231004.shtml>

⁹⁷⁵ SAPS launches crime-fighting initiative, South African News Agency (Durban) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/saps-launches-crime-fighting-initiative>

⁹⁷⁶ SAPS launches crime-fighting initiative, South African News Agency (Durban) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/saps-launches-crime-fighting-initiative>

⁹⁷⁷ South Africa Condemns Acts of Terrorism in Jeddah – Saudi Arabia, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/acts-terrorism-29-nov-2020-0000>

⁹⁷⁸ South Africa Condemns Acts of Terrorism in Jeddah – Saudi Arabia, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/acts-terrorism-29-nov-2020-0000>

⁹⁷⁹ President Ramaphosa in Mozambique for SADC meeting, South African News Agency (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/president-ramaphosa-mozambique-sadc-meeting>

northern town Palma.⁹⁸⁰ The deployed forces are assigned to secured and rescue stranded South African nationals in Mozambique.⁹⁸¹

On 23 June 2021, South Africa approved as part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) the deployment of more forces to support Mozambique in its combat against ISIS affiliated militias.⁹⁸²

On 15 July 2021, the Police Minister Bheki Cele announced that the South African government strengthened security at national key sites including airports, health facilities and electricity power stations, amid reports on the possibility of terror attacks occurring.⁹⁸³

On 29 July 2021, South Africa announced deploying 1,495 troops to Mozambique to fight jihadist groups, under the SADC agreement of June 2021.⁹⁸⁴ The mission of South African forces in Mozambique is set for a three months period.⁹⁸⁵

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to deepen cooperation to reaffirm comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. South Africa has promoted international efforts to combat terrorism by engaging in dialogue and deliberations with international partners to counter terrorism and taking domestic measures to build its capacity to combat terrorism. However, South Africa has taken no action to engage in substantive international legislative efforts or strengthen the role of the United Nations system in countering terrorism.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Omar S. Abdellatif

⁹⁸⁰ Mozambique: South Africa deploys forces after jihadist attack, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/mozambique-south-africa-deploys-forces-after-jihadist-attack/a-57089417>

⁹⁸¹ Mozambique: South Africa deploys forces after jihadist attack, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/mozambique-south-africa-deploys-forces-after-jihadist-attack/a-57089417>

⁹⁸² Southern African Nations to Deploy troops to fight Mozambique insurgency, France24 (Paris) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210623-southern-african-nations-to-deploy-troops-to-fight-mozambique-insurgency>

⁹⁸³ Under terror attack SA beef up security at national key points, Independent Online (Pretoria) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/the-star/news/under-terror-attack-sa-beefs-up-security-at-national-key-points-477da2d3-5b13-4a16-a59f-8381dd168789>

⁹⁸⁴ South Africa Sends 1,500 troops to Mozambique to fight Jihadists, Africa News (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/07/29/south-africa-sends-1-500-troops-to-mozambique-to-fight-jihadists/>

⁹⁸⁵ South Africa Sends 1,500 troops to Mozambique to fight Jihadists, Africa News (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/07/29/south-africa-sends-1-500-troops-to-mozambique-to-fight-jihadists/>

12. Regional Security: North Korea

“[We express our support for continuing the diplomatic negotiations in bilateral and multilateral formats to resolve all issues pertaining to the Korean Peninsula, including its complete denuclearization, and maintain peace and stability in North East Asia.] We reaffirm the commitment to a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation.”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia			+1
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average	+0.00 (50%)		

Background

Efforts to achieve regional security, peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia are shaped predominantly by efforts to pursue the complete denuclearization of North Korea. North Korea began constructing nuclear weapons in the early 1960s. For more than six decades, the nuclear issue remains unresolved. In recent decades, North Korea has advanced its nuclear development. For example, in 2017, the country declared that it completed the development of its state nuclear forces, after launching an intercontinental ballistic missile.⁹⁸⁶

In the past three decades, there has been a number of diplomatic attempts to engage in bilateral and multilateral negotiations involving North Korea. For example, in 1993, North Korea’s withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty precipitated the first nuclear crisis, which in turn paved the way for negotiations that led to the Agreed Framework in 1994. In 2003, large-scale diplomatic efforts were resumed with the Six Party Talks involving China, South Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia and North Korea. These multilateral negotiations led to the 2005 Joint Statement where North Korea pledged to abandon nuclear weapons, and the 2007 agreement which outlined an action plan for disabling North Korea’s nuclear reactor, aid provision and normalization of relations. However, the deal was broken again in 2009. Under the Obama administration, the US tried to pressure North Korea back to the negotiation table. However, in recent years, North Korea focused on accelerating its nuclear and missile programs. Between 2013 and 2017, the country has conducted four nuclear tests, and the UN Security Council responded by applying punitive sanctions.⁹⁸⁷

Most recently, North and South Korea held a series of unprecedented summits in 2018, discussing many different aspects of cooperation in the Korean Peninsula. In June 2018, the US and North Korea also held a summit which resulted in a Joint Statement setting out the long-term goal of denuclearization. However, the statement was vague and lacked a concrete action plan, and as such, was of little substantive significance. A series of further meetings between the US and North Korea

⁹⁸⁶ Sangsoo Lee, US-North Korea Denuclearization Negotiations: An Irresolvable Issue? Institute for Security & Development Policy (Stockholm) June 2020. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://isdsp.eu/publication/u-s-north-korea-denuclearization-negotiations-an-irresolvable-issue/>

⁹⁸⁷ Sangsoo Lee, US-North Korea Denuclearization Negotiations: An Irresolvable Issue? Institute for Security & Development Policy (Stockholm) June 2020. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://isdsp.eu/publication/u-s-north-korea-denuclearization-negotiations-an-irresolvable-issue/>

in 2019 resulted in an impasse. Currently, negotiations are deadlocked and most parties remain doubtful towards North Korea's commitment to denuclearization.⁹⁸⁸

The situation in the Korean Peninsula was first mentioned by BRICS leaders at the 2017 Xiamen Summit. In the 2017 declaration, BRICS leaders deplored the nuclear test conducted by North Korea and expressed “deep concern over the ongoing tension and prolonged nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula,” and emphasized that the issue “should only be settled through peaceful means and direct dialogue of all the parties concerned.”⁹⁸⁹ At the 2018 Johannesburg Summit, BRICS leaders welcomed recent developments to achieve the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and again reaffirmed their “commitment for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation.”⁹⁹⁰ This commitment was reaffirmed once again at the 2019 Brasilia Summit⁹⁹¹ and at the 2020 Summit. In addition, since 2017, the issue of the Korean Peninsula was discussed by BRICS foreign ministers at their meetings as well.⁹⁹²

Commitment Features

In this commitment, BRICS leaders committed to support a “comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic and political solution” to the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

In this context, “comprehensive” means covering completely or broadly.⁹⁹³ “Peaceful” is defined as the absence of violence or force.⁹⁹⁴ “Diplomatic” is defined as relating to or concerned with the practice of conducting negotiations between nations.⁹⁹⁵ “Political” is defined as “relating to a government, or the conduct of government.”⁹⁹⁶ Specifically, the word “political” is used in contrast with a “military” solution which implies the use of force, violence, and coercion.⁹⁹⁷

Overall, there are two central attributes to the kind of solution that the BRICS committed to supporting in the Korean Peninsula. First, the solution must be absent of military force, coercion or violence, as suggested by the terms “peaceful” and “political.” Thus, any actions that support a violent, coercive or military response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula would be a clear

⁹⁸⁸ Sangsoo Lee, US-North Korea Denuclearization Negotiations: An Irresolvable Issue? Institute for Security & Development Policy (Stockholm) June 2020. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://isdip.eu/publication/u-s-north-korea-denuclearization-negotiations-an-irresolvable-issue/>

⁹⁸⁹ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Xiamen) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

⁹⁹⁰ 10th BRICS Summits Johannesburg Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Johannesburg) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

⁹⁹¹ Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Center (Brasilia) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>

⁹⁹² Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Center (New York) 21 September 2017. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170921-foreign.html>; Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Center (Pretoria) 4 June 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

<http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180604-foreign.html>; Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Center (New York) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180927-foreign.html>; Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs, BRICS Information Center (Rio de Janeiro) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2020. <http://brics.utoronto.ca/docs/190726-foreign.html>

⁹⁹³ Definition of comprehensive, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comprehensive>

⁹⁹⁴ Definition of peaceful, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/peaceful>

⁹⁹⁵ Definition of diplomatic, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diplomatic>

⁹⁹⁶ Definition of political, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/political>

⁹⁹⁷ Politics as conflict resolution, The Open University (Milton Keynes) n.d. Access Date: 30 December 2020. <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-2.1.2>

violation of the commitment and would thus result in non-compliance. Second, the solution must involve government-to-government negotiations, as suggested by the terms “political” and “diplomatic.” Thus, taking any actions that support a negotiated solution to the situation in the Korean Peninsula would count towards compliance.

As the commitment’s surrounding text explains, BRICS countries agreed to support the continuing diplomatic negotiations in both “bilateral and multilateral formats.” Based on the history of diplomatic negotiations with North Korea, significant bilateral negotiations include negotiations between the US and North Korea and negotiations between South Korea and North Korea. While both kinds of negotiations were pursued in the past, none has led to any concrete results to date. Supporting the continuation of either of these bilateral negotiations would thus count towards compliance.

Furthermore, supporting bilateral negotiations between North Korea and other significant parties (especially those parties’ part of the Six Party Talks including China, Russia and Japan) would also count towards compliance. However, taking actions to support only one format of negotiations (for example, only supporting bilateral negotiations) would only count as partial compliance. Alternatively, partial action, or a score of 0, will also be attributed to members who demonstrate verbal affirmation or take some action in various components of the commitment. Concrete action in all areas of the commitment is necessary to score full compliance.

Since the word “comprehensive” in this commitment calls for a complete and broad solution, BRICS members must support both bilateral and multilateral negotiations in order to receive full compliance. Based on the history of diplomatic negotiations with North Korea, the most significant multilateral negotiation to date was the Six Party Talks involving North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States. Actions that support furthering these multilateral negotiations would thus count towards compliance. Actions that support bringing North Korea to the negotiation table with other combinations of parties in a multilateral format would also count towards compliance.

Overall, BRICS members must take actions that support negotiations in both the bilateral and multilateral formats in order to achieve full compliance. BRICS members that fall short of this threshold, either in breadth or depth of action, will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance. members that did not take any actions in either aspect of the commitment receive a score of -1 for non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member took actions that support a violent, coercive or military response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula; OR The BRICS member did not take any actions that supported a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic and political response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula.
0	The BRICS member supported diplomatic negotiations in only the bilateral format to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula; OR The BRICS member supported diplomatic negotiations in only the multilateral format to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula;
+1	The BRICS member supported diplomatic negotiations in BOTH bilateral AND multilateral formats to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula.

Analyst: Alissa Xinbe Wang

Brazil: -1

Brazil did not comply with the commitment to support diplomatic negotiations in both bilateral and multilateral formats to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula.

No evidence of Brazil support for a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic and political response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula has been found.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1 .⁹⁹⁸

Analyst: Isabel Davis

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to support diplomatic negotiations in both bilateral and multilateral formats in the Korean Peninsula.

On 23 December 2020, Russian and Chinese aircrafts made a joint intrusion into the Korean Air Defence Identification Zone, without identifying themselves prior to entry.⁹⁹⁹

On 18 January 2021, during a news conference on the results of Russian diplomacy in 2020, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized Russia's "sincere desire to promote the achievement of a lasting peace and agreement" in the Korean Peninsula. Minister Lavrov also noted an action plan created jointly with China, which both countries would submit for discussion "once contacts resumed."¹⁰⁰⁰

On 22 January 2021, Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov expressed hope for a "constructive dialogue...on strengthening peace and security – on the Korean Peninsula, among other locations" when referring to working with the Biden Administration.¹⁰⁰¹

On 9 February 2021, during a call with South Korea's top nuclear envoy Noh Kyu-Duk, Ambassador to South Korea Andrey Kulik expressed hope for continued cooperation with Seoul on Korean Peninsula issues, after Mr. Kyu-Duk asked Russia to play a constructive role in the peace process.¹⁰⁰²

On 12 February 2021, Minister Lavrov and South Korean Foreign Minister Jong Ui Yong discussed the issue of a peaceful settlement on the Korean Peninsula, among other issues. The ministers confirmed their commitment to cooperate "on Seoul's peace initiatives and agreed to promote high-level exchanges this year."¹⁰⁰³

⁹⁹⁸ This non-compliance was determined after a thorough search of the following websites:

<http://www.brazil.gov.br/government/official-notes>, <https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br>,
<https://www12.senado.leg.br/hpsenado>, <https://www.gov.br/defesa/pt-br/assuntos/noticias>
<https://www.icanw.org>, <https://www.un.org>, <https://unrcpd.org>, <https://infobrics.org>

⁹⁹⁹ Chinese, Russian jets probing for Korean ADIZ weak spots, Asia Times (Seoul) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://asiatimes.com/2020/12/chinese-russian-jets-probing-for-korean-adiz-weak-spots/>

¹⁰⁰⁰ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a news conference on the results of Russian diplomacy in 2020, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4527635

¹⁰⁰¹ Ambassador Anatoly Antonov's Interview to Russian Media Outlet "Rossiya Segodnya", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/nota-bene/-/asset_publisher/dx7DsH1WAM6w/content/id/4534340

¹⁰⁰² S. Korea's top nuclear envoy asks for Russia to play role in advancing peninsula peace efforts, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210209001132>

¹⁰⁰³ South Korean and Russian Foreign Ministers discussed a peaceful settlement on the Korean Peninsula – South Korean ministry, SwissInfo (Hong Kong), 12 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://bit.ly/3uoRLkE>

On 19 May 2021, Minister Lavrov met with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on the sidelines of a Ministerial Session of the Arctic Council in Reykjavik, where they agreed to continue cooperation on the issue of nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰⁰⁴

On 1 June 2021, Minister Lavrov noted the successful cooperation of Beijing and Moscow in a number of multilateral forums, as well as on issues such as the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰⁰⁵

On 5 June 2021, President Vladimir Putin called for a solution in the Peninsula that will be “accepted by all concerned countries,” recommending the need to guarantee North Korea’s security and the reduction of sanctions.¹⁰⁰⁶

On 8 June 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov had a phone call with Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming. They discussed joint coordination in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and in achieving a political assessment. Deputy Minister Morgulov noted this would be achieved through both bilateral and multilateral forums.¹⁰⁰⁷

On 9 June 2021, during a journalist question & answer period at the Primakov Readings International Forum, Minister Lavrov stated that Russia is participating and maintaining communication “in internationally recognized multilateral forums” with the Biden Administration, specifically regarding nuclear issues in the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰⁰⁸

On 8 July 2021, Minister Lavrov reiterated the importance of “normalizing the political situation (on the Korean Peninsula) and relations between the North and the South.”¹⁰⁰⁹

On 4 August 2021, during the sixty-seventh session of the UN General Assembly, Minister Lavrov stated that the “creation of a new security architecture in North-East Asia” would be optimal, and verbally supported a “political and diplomatic” solution. To this end, Minister Lavrov pointed to Russian-Chinese initiatives, including the “Roadmap,” the “Action Plan,” and a UNSC political resolution to all be important tools.¹⁰¹⁰

¹⁰⁰⁴ Secretary Antony J. Blinken And Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Before Their Meeting, United States Embassy to Russia (Moscow), 19 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://ru.usembassy.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-and-russian-foreign-minister-sergey-lavrov-before-their-meeting/>

¹⁰⁰⁵ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s video address to the Sixth International Conference Russia and China: Cooperation in a New Era (Moscow) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/cn/-/asset_publisher/WhKWb5DVBqKA/content/id/4759576

¹⁰⁰⁶ Putin calls for guaranteeing N. Korea’s security to resolve nuclear quandary, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210605000500325>

¹⁰⁰⁷ China ready to activate dialogue with Russia on Korea — foreign ministry, TASS News Agency (Beijing) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://tass.com/world/1300055>

¹⁰⁰⁸ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s remarks and answers to media questions at the Primakov Readings International Forum, via videoconference (Moscow) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4779515

¹⁰⁰⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s address on Russia’s International Activities for Russian Regions’ Development, delivered at Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) and answers to questions from students and faculty (Moscow), 8 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya_s_uchastiem_ministra/-/asset_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/4809543

¹⁰¹⁰ Russia’s position at the seventy-sixth session of the UN General Assembly (New York City) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4834791

Russia has verbally affirmed its support for diplomatic negotiations to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula in both bilateral and multilateral platforms.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

India: +1

India fully complied with the commitment to take actions to support a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic, and political response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

On 12 March 2021, leaders of the informal Quadrilateral strategic group, including the leaders of Japan, India, the United States, and Australia, reaffirmed their “commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with United Nations Security Resolutions.”¹⁰¹¹

On 26 March 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with South Korean Defence Minister Suh Wook, Minister Singh voiced support for Seoul’s policy for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and permanent peace.¹⁰¹²

On 3 May 2021, India attended an in-person meeting of G7 foreign ministers, where said ministers discussed non-proliferation and peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, among other issues.¹⁰¹³

On 1 June 2021, under India’s chairmanship, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs produced a statement reiterating the commitment to “support for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to resolve all issues pertaining to the Korean Peninsula, including its complete denuclearization.”¹⁰¹⁴

On 13 June 2021, India attended the forty-seventh G7 summit as a guest, where the final summit G7 communiqué urged “complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula” and continued diplomatic efforts by all parties.¹⁰¹⁵

India verbally affirmed its support for diplomatic negotiations to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula in both bilateral and multilateral platforms.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ashton Mathias

China: 0

China partially complied with the commitment to support diplomatic negotiations in both bilateral and multilateral formats to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula.

¹⁰¹¹ Quad Leaders’ Joint Statement: “The Spirit of the Quad”, Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India (Washington), 12 March 2021. Access date: 2 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33620/>

¹⁰¹² S. Korea, India agree on closer military ties in high-level talks, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul), 26 March 2021. Access date: 2 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210326012900325>

¹⁰¹³ G7 foreign ministers hold pandemic talks amid COVID scare, Deutsche Welle (Berlin), 5 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/g7-foreign-ministers-hold-pandemic-talks-amid-covid-scare/a-57436890><https://www.dw.com/en/g7-foreign-ministers-hold-pandemic-talks-amid-covid-scare/a-57436890>

¹⁰¹⁴ Media statement - Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33887/media+statement++meeting+of+the+brics+ministers+of+foreign+affairsinternational+relations>

¹⁰¹⁵ CARBIS BAY G7 SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ, White House of the United States (Washington) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/13/carbis-bay-g7-summit-communiqué/>

On 26 November 2020, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met in Seoul, South Korea, to establish ten consensuses that will guide China-South Korea relations.¹⁰¹⁶ The eighth consensus reached focuses on supporting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and promoting the process of political settlement in the Korean Peninsula by working together.¹⁰¹⁷ China explicitly stated its support for the improvement of relations between North Korea and South Korea.¹⁰¹⁸

On 26 November 2020, Minister Wang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met in Seoul, South Korea, to discuss their views on the Korean Peninsula situation.¹⁰¹⁹ President Moon expressed his appreciation for China's contribution to the promotion of peace in the Korean Peninsula and stated that South Korea would work with China to achieve peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰²⁰ Minister Wang affirmed that China is committed to working toward denuclearization and establishing peace in the Korean Peninsula through diplomatic methods.¹⁰²¹

On 27 November 2020, Minister Wang and Speaker of the National Assembly of South Korea Park Byeong-seug met in Seoul, South Korea, to discuss China-South Korea diplomatic relations.¹⁰²² Speaker Park thanked China for its efforts to maintain peace in the Korean Peninsula and expressed his desire for China to take on a larger role in promoting peace and stability.¹⁰²³ Minister Wang stated that China would continue to play a constructive role in supporting peace between North Korea and South Korea.¹⁰²⁴

¹⁰¹⁶ State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Reaches 10 Consensuses with the ROK's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836486.shtml

¹⁰¹⁷ State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Reaches 10 Consensuses with the ROK's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836486.shtml

¹⁰¹⁸ State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Reaches 10 Consensuses with the ROK's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836486.shtml

¹⁰¹⁹ ROK's President Moon Jae-in Meets with Wang Yi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836489.shtml

¹⁰²⁰ ROK's President Moon Jae-in Meets with Wang Yi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836489.shtml

¹⁰²¹ ROK's President Moon Jae-in Meets with Wang Yi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836489.shtml

¹⁰²² Wang Yi Meets with Speaker of the ROK's National Assembly Park Byeong-seug, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836502.shtml

¹⁰²³ Wang Yi Meets with Speaker of the ROK's National Assembly Park Byeong-seug, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836502.shtml

¹⁰²⁴ Wang Yi Meets with Speaker of the ROK's National Assembly Park Byeong-seug, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1836502.shtml

On 8 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang attended the 8th China-Republic of Korea Public Diplomacy Forum to discuss enhancing China-Korea cooperation post-COVID-19.¹⁰²⁵ Vice Minister Qin presented three proposals for improving China-Korea cooperation, including strengthening bilateral relations to maintain regional peace.¹⁰²⁶

On 23 December 2020, Chinese and Russian aircrafts made a joint intrusion into the Korean Air Defence Identification Zone, without identifying themselves prior to entry.¹⁰²⁷

On 16 February 2021, Minister Wang spoke on the phone with the new South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong about international issues of concern to both countries.¹⁰²⁸ Minister Wang stated that China and South Korea should strengthen diplomatic relations, continue working toward the stability and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and establish permanent peace in the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰²⁹

On 24 March 2021, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying responded to North Korea's firing of two ballistic missiles on 21 March 2021 by affirming China's commitment to maintaining détente and promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue.

On 3 April 2021, Minister Wang and South Korean Minister Chung met in Xiamen, China, to discuss peacemaking in the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰³⁰ Minister Wang stated that China and South Korea should continue working together to establish permanent peace and to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰³¹ Minister Chung stated that South Korea wanted to strengthen bilateral cooperation with China and continue working to improve relations between North Korea and South Korea, denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and establishing peace on the peninsula.¹⁰³²

On 9 June 2021, Minister Wang spoke with Minister Chung. The two sides agreed to continue their bilateral relations and work towards regional peace. Minister Chung expressed South Korea's hope that China will continue playing a role in the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Minister Wang expressed that China has made efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula

¹⁰²⁵ Vice Foreign Minister Qin Gang Attends the 8th China-ROK Public Diplomacy Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2701_663406/2703_663410/t1839085.shtml

¹⁰²⁶ Vice Foreign Minister Qin Gang Attends the 8th China-ROK Public Diplomacy Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2701_663406/2703_663410/t1839085.shtml

¹⁰²⁷ Chinese, Russian jets probing for Korean ADIZ weak spots, Asia Times (Seoul) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://asiatimes.com/2020/12/chinese-russian-jets-probing-for-korean-adiz-weak-spots/>

¹⁰²⁸ Wang Yi Speaks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong on the Phone, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 16 February 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1854666.shtml

¹⁰²⁹ Wang Yi Speaks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong on the Phone, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 16 February 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1854666.shtml

¹⁰³⁰ Wang Yi holds talks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1867103.shtml

¹⁰³¹ Wang Yi holds talks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1867103.shtml

¹⁰³² Wang Yi holds talks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1867103.shtml

and continues to support the improvement of relations. Minister Wang called on the United Nations Security Council to ease sanctions against North Korea and called on the U.S. to carry out the Joint Statement between the U.S. and North Korea.¹⁰³³

On 23 June 2021, Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming spoke with Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs of the ROK Noh Kyu-duk. Representative Liu affirmed China's support for promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula through engagement in bilateral and multilateral channels. Representative Noh expressed that South Korea wants to strengthen communication with China to promote denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰³⁴

On 6 July 2021, Representative Liu spoke with U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Sung Kim. Representative Liu expressed the importance of working together to promote political settlement on the Korean Peninsula. Representative Sung affirmed the US's commitment to a diplomatic response to resolve issues on the Korean Peninsula.¹⁰³⁵

China demonstrated its commitment to support diplomatic negotiations in the bilateral format to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula. However, China has not supported diplomatic negotiations in the multilateral format to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexandra Nicu

South Africa: -1

South Africa did not comply with the commitment to support diplomatic negotiations in both bilateral and multilateral formats to resolve issues in the Korean Peninsula.

On 22 January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force after 50 states, including South Africa, ratified the treaty.¹⁰³⁶ The treaty represents a commitment to multilateral approaches for denuclearization.¹⁰³⁷ During the commemoration of the entry into force, Deputy Minister Alvin Botes reaffirmed South Africa's support for the elimination of nuclear

¹⁰³³ Wang Yi Speaks with ROK's Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong on the Phone, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1882766.shtml

¹⁰³⁴ Telephone Conversation between Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming and Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs of the ROK Noh Kyu-duk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2767_663538/2769_663542/t1886153.shtml

¹⁰³⁵ Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming speaks with U.S. Special Representative for the DPRK Sung Kim, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China (Beijing) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/yzs_663350/gjlb_663354/2701_663406/2703_663410/t1890077.shtml

¹⁰³⁶ UN treaty banning nuclear weapons set to enter into force in January, UN News (New York) 25 October 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1076082>

¹⁰³⁷ Secretary-General's Video Message on the Occasion of the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, United Nations Secretary-General (New York) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-01-22/secretary-generals-video-message-the-occasion-of-the-entry-force-of-the-treaty-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons>

weapons globally and urged all states to ratify the treaty if they have not already done so.¹⁰³⁸ However, South Africa has not provided a response specifically addressing the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

No evidence of South African support for a comprehensive peaceful, diplomatic, and political response to the situation in the Korean Peninsula has been found.¹⁰³⁹

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Alexandra Nicu

¹⁰³⁸ Statement by HE Deputy Minister Alvin Botes during the virtual commemoration of the entry into force of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Republic of South Africa Department of International Relations and Cooperation: News and Events (Pretoria) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021.
<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/bote0122.htm>

¹⁰³⁹ This non-compliance was determined after a thorough search of the following websites: <https://www.gov.za/#>, <http://www.dirco.gov.za>, <https://www.icanw.org>, <https://www.un.org>, <https://unrcpd.org>, <https://infobrics.org>, <https://www.bbc.com/>, <https://www.thesouthafrican.com>.

13. Regional Security: Iraq

“We reaffirm our continued support for efforts by the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue (regional security).”

XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil	-1		
Russia	-1		
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average		-0.60 (20%)	

Background

Iraq and its people face severe political, security and socioeconomic challenges due to ongoing regional instability, terrorist activity and lack of governmental capacity to tackle the current crisis. The fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime in 2003 and a long military campaign drove the country to the verge of collapse; assistance provided by the American forces and the allied powers helped the new government of Iraq to maintain control in main cities of the country. The withdrawal of the American forces in 2011 and the emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as the main threat to regional peace and security again led to internal crisis in Iraq and endangered the local population.

The BRICS leaders first addressed the situation in Iraq in 2014, expressing their concern and support for the Iraqi government in its “effort to overcome the crisis, uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity.”¹⁰⁴⁰ The BRICS leaders urged regional and global players to refrain from interference that may further deepen the crisis and to support the local government and the people of Iraq in its efforts to “build a stable, inclusive and united Iraq.” The commitment was reiterated in 2015 in Ufa, where the BRICS countries again expressed concerns about “spillover effects of the instability in Iraq...resulting in growing terrorist activities in the region” and proclaimed that they “reaffirm our commitment to the territorial integrity, independence and national sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq.”¹⁰⁴¹ In 2017, the BRICS leaders highlighted the actions taken by the Iraqi government in fight against terrorism and reaffirmed “commitment to Iraq’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and our support for Iraqi government and its people.”¹⁰⁴² In 2020, the BRICS members again reaffirmed their intention to support Iraq in its strive to peaceful internal reconciliation and development.¹⁰⁴³

¹⁰⁴⁰ 2014 Fortaleza Declaration and Action Plan, RANEPА (Moscow) 15 June 2014. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/6th_BRICS_Summit_Fortaleza_Declaration_and_Action_Plan.pdf

¹⁰⁴¹ VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

¹⁰⁴² BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/2017/mEsqRkedzqYLDwXo6AbZnCkmAo9Xta3d.pdf>

¹⁰⁴³ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

Commitment Features

Iraq faces challenges that are closely interconnected and do not possess the capabilities to tackle them successfully. In its Resolution,¹⁰⁴⁴ the United Nations Security Council called on the international community to ‘remain strongly committed to providing support to Iraq for its humanitarian, stabilization, reconstruction, and development efforts’, emphasizing that the current situation in Iraq requires international assistance. Also, the Resolution highlights the Iraq’s request for “further UN electoral advice, support, and technical assistance in this regard.”¹⁰⁴⁵

To overcome the crisis, the country needs massive support in economic, social, security and other spheres. As the UN Resolution states, Iraq struggles to address “the challenges it faces as it continues its stabilization efforts, including the ongoing fight against terrorism and ISIL, al Qaida and their affiliates, and continues the task of recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation, including the requirement to meet the needs of all Iraqis, including women, youth, children, displaced persons, and persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities.”¹⁰⁴⁶ The current problems of Iraq fall within the local government’s jurisdiction. Thus, the BRICS countries’ support for Iraq should be aimed at providing necessary resources to tackle the key issues the country is faced with.

Mentioning the commitment’s background and persisting nature of challenges that Iraq faces these days, the BRICS reaffirmation of “continued support for efforts by the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue”¹⁰⁴⁷ could be interpreted in line with previous commitments taken by the BRICS on the issue. Thus, such aspects mentioned in the commitment as “national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue” could be interpreted as the BRICS support for Iraq in tackling issues of security, socioeconomic development and good governance.

The commitment requires BRICS members to provide capacity-building assistance to Iraq in socioeconomic development, security and good governance that will contribute to national reconciliation, the fight against terrorism, security facilitation, promotion of independent political and economic course. The possible actions were listed in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2522 (2020) extending the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 May 2021.¹⁰⁴⁸ To achieve full compliance, the BRICS member shall provide assistance to Iraq in all three spheres.

Advice, support and assistance for Iraq may include but are not limited to:

- Planning and executing genuinely free and fair Iraqi-led, Iraqi-owned elections and referenda;
- Constitutional reviewing, the implementation of constitutional provisions, as well as on the development of processes acceptable to the Government of Iraq to resolve disputed internal boundaries;

¹⁰⁴⁴ Resolution 2522 (2020), United Nations Iraq (Baghdad) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1024&Itemid=636&lang=en

¹⁰⁴⁵ Resolution 2522 (2020), United Nations Iraq (Baghdad) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1024&Itemid=636&lang=en

¹⁰⁴⁶ Resolution 2522 (2020), United Nations Iraq (Baghdad) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1024&Itemid=636&lang=en

¹⁰⁴⁷ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow). Access Date: <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

¹⁰⁴⁸ Resolution 2522 (2020), United Nations Iraq (Baghdad) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021.

https://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1024&Itemid=636&lang=en

- Progressing on security sector reform, including by prioritizing the planning, funding, and implementation of efforts to strengthen state control and reintegration programmes for former members of armed groups, where and as appropriate, in coordination with other multinational entities;
- Facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation, including on issues of border security, energy, trade, environment, water, infrastructure, public health, and refugees
- Coordination and deliverance of humanitarian assistance and the safe, orderly, and voluntary return or local integration, as appropriate, of refugees and displaced persons;
- Coordination and implementation of programmes to improve Iraq's capacity to provide effective essential civil and social services, including health care and education, for its people and continue to support Iraq's active regional and international donor coordination of critical reconstruction and assistance programmes, including through effective follow-up of international pledges;
- Economic reform, capacity-building and setting conditions for sustainable development and recovery and reconstruction including in areas affected by terrorism, including through coordination with national and regional organizations and, as appropriate, civil society, donors, and other international institutions.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	BRICS member does not provide assistance to Iraq in addressing security, socioeconomic development and governance challenges.
0	BRICS member provides assistance to Iraq in addressing only one or two of the following challenges: security, socioeconomic development or good governance.
+1	BRICS member provides assistance to Iraq in addressing all of the following challenges: security, socioeconomic development and good governance.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with the commitment to provide assistance to Iraq in addressing security, socioeconomic development and governance challenges.

During the compliance period no actions of Brazil's assistance to Iraq have been registered yet.

Brazil has not provided assistance to Iraq in addressing security, socioeconomic development and governance challenges.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.¹⁰⁴⁹

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: -1

Russia has not complied with the commitment on supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue.

¹⁰⁴⁹ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Brazilian Government <https://www.gov.br/mre/en>; Itamaraty (Ministry of foreign affairs) <http://antigo.itamaraty.gov.br/en/>; Embassy of Brazil in Baghdad <http://bagda.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/>; Government of Iraq <https://gds.gov.iq/>

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Lavrov held a meeting with Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs F. Hussain. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral relations including cooperation in trade and socio-economic development assistance. Russia and Iraq stressed the importance of the UN Security Council's Resolution 2254 provisions concerning non-violent approach to Iraq's internal crisis. Moscow and Bagdad highlighted the need to deepen bilateral cooperation in key areas.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 24 December 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Bogdanov held a meeting with the Iraq National Project Party Secretary-General Jamal Ad-Dari. The parties exchanged views on Iraq's internal situation. Russia has reiterated its support for peaceful reconciliation.¹⁰⁵¹

On 20 February 2021, ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization issued a joint statement on measures to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Concerning Iraq, the ministers declared that the member countries speak with one voice in support for unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and that reconciliation should be achieved without external interference. The ministers also called for action from the international community to continue the fight against the terrorist Islamic State until its total elimination.¹⁰⁵²

On 7 April 2021, Deputy Minister of Defense of Russia A. Fomin held a meeting with Faleh Fayad, the Commander-in-Chief of Iraqi Militia. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral military cooperation including technical cooperation.¹⁰⁵³

On 17 May 2021, the BRICS ministries of foreign affairs held a conference on Middle East agenda. The parties discussed the situation in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Persian Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean. The participants stressed out the BRICS's potential in finding the common ground for normalization of ongoing crises.¹⁰⁵⁴

Russia has demonstrated its willingness to support Iraq amid the internal crisis in security, socio-economic development and good governance. However, no concrete steps have been founded within the monitoring period so far.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1 .¹⁰⁵⁵

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹⁰⁵⁰ On Foreign Minister S. Lavrov's Meeting with Iraq's Minister of Foreign Affairs F. Hussain, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁵¹ On Deputy Minister Bogdanov's Meeting with the 'Iraq National Project' Party Secretary General Jamal Ad-Dari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁵² Collective Security Treaty Organization Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on Middle East and Northern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁵³ Deputy Minister of Defense Fomin Held a Meeting with Iraq's Militia Chief, Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁵⁴ On BRICS Consultations Concerning the Situation in Middle East and Northern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

¹⁰⁵⁵ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation <https://www.mid.ru/>; President of Russia <http://en.kremlin.ru/>; Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Erbil, Iraq https://rusgencons-erbil.mid.ru/en_GB/; Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Moscow <https://www.mofa.gov.iq/moscow/en/page/2/>.

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue.

On 17 March 2021, the Embassy of India in Baghdad announced the General Scholarship Scheme of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for the Academic Year 2021-22. Under the ICCR's general Scholarship Scheme, twenty slots have been allotted to Iraqi students who are interested to study in India for the Academic Year 2021-22.¹⁰⁵⁶

On 17 May 2021, the BRICS ministries of foreign affairs held a conference on Middle East agenda. The parties discussed the situation in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Persian Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean. The participants stressed out the BRICS's potential in finding the common ground for normalization of ongoing crises.¹⁰⁵⁷

India has taken actions to provide assistance to Iraq in addressing socioeconomic development by providing Iraq citizens extra opportunities for studying.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue.

On 17 January 2021, an Iraqi official stated that Iraq has given construction projects worth USD20 billion in the southern province of al-Muthanna to a consortium of Chinese state-owned companies. The projects include the construction of a power station and a factory for floors and porcelain.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 21 January 2021, China donated 56 ambulances, 266 generators, motorcycles, computers, printers etc. to Iraq in order to help the Iraqi government confront the COVID-19 pandemic and improve the livelihood of Iraqi people. Ambassador Zhang Tao also highlighted that he is looking forward to deepening the Sino-Iraqi strategic partnership.¹⁰⁵⁹

On 4 February 2021, China donated video conferencing systems, office computers etc. to Iraq in order to help the country in preparations for the general election. The electoral materials provided by China that time were in line with the needs of Iraq, and greatly enhanced the communications between the Independent High Electoral Commission and the provinces and cities.¹⁰⁶⁰

¹⁰⁵⁶ ICCR's General Scholarship Scheme for the Academic Year 2021-22, Embassy of India to Iraq (Baghdad) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. https://www.eoibaghdad.gov.in/news_detail/?newsid=65

¹⁰⁵⁷ On BRICS Consultations Concerning the Situation in Middle East and Northern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4736289

¹⁰⁵⁸ Iraq grants \$20B projects to Chinese companies, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/iraq-grants-20b-projects-to-chinese-companies/2112997>

¹⁰⁵⁹ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, Xinhua (Baghdad) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/22/c_139687946.htm

¹⁰⁶⁰ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the China's aid to the Supreme Electoral Commission of Iraq handover ceremony, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Bagdad) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1851410.htm>

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. China has provided 50 000 doses of vaccine to Iraq. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.¹⁰⁶¹

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq. Iraq noted that it is willing to keep deepening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and health and work together with China to win the battle against the epidemic as soon as possible.¹⁰⁶²

On 17 May 2021, the BRICS ministries of foreign affairs held a conference on Middle East agenda. The parties discussed the situation in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Persian Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean. The participants stressed out the BRICS's potential in finding the common ground for normalization of ongoing crises.¹⁰⁶³

On 18 August 2021, President Xi Jinping held a telephone call with Iraqi President Barham Salih. The parties discussed issues related to Sino-Iraqi relations in energy, electricity, transportation, economic recovery and social development of Iraq.¹⁰⁶⁴

China has taken actions to provide assistance to the Government of Iraq in addressing socioeconomic development and good governance.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with the commitment on supporting the efforts of the Iraqi Government towards national reconstruction, development and a mutually respectful and inclusive national dialogue.

On 17 May 2021, the BRICS ministries of foreign affairs held a conference on Middle East agenda. The parties discussed the situation in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Persian Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean. The participants stressed out the BRICS's potential in finding the common ground for normalization of ongoing crises.¹⁰⁶⁵

South Africa has demonstrated its willingness to support Iraq amid the internal crisis in security, socio-economic development and good governance along with the other BRICS countries. However, no concrete steps have been founded within the monitoring period so far.

¹⁰⁶¹ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Bagdad) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

¹⁰⁶² (Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Bagdad) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

¹⁰⁶³ On BRICS Consultations Concerning the Situation in Middle East and Northern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4736289

¹⁰⁶⁴ Xi says China to expand cooperation with Iraq, Xinhua (Beijing) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/18/c_1310135094.htm

¹⁰⁶⁵ On BRICS Consultations Concerning the Situation in Middle East and Northern Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4736289

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1 .¹⁰⁶⁶

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹⁰⁶⁶ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: South African Government <https://www.gov.za/>; Department of International Affairs and Cooperation <http://www.dirco.gov.za/>; The Presidency <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>; Government of Iraq <https://gds.gov.iq/>

14. Crime and Corruption: BRICS Cooperation

“[We reaffirm our commitment to]...strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.”

BRICS Moscow Declaration

Assessment

Country	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil		0	
Russia		0	
India		0	
China		0	
South Africa		0	
Average Score	0 (50%)		

Background

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) entered into force on 14 December 2005 and is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. This Convention focuses on preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery and technical assistance, and information exchange.¹⁰⁶⁷

The UNCAC has 187 parties. Brazil signed the UNCAC on 9 December 2003 and ratified it on 15 June 2005. China signed the UNCAC on 10 December 2003 and ratified it on 13 January 2006. India signed the UNCAC on 9 December 2005 and ratified it on 9 May 2011. Russia signed the UNCAC on 9 December 2003 and ratified it on 9 May 2006. and South Africa signed the UNCAC on 9 December 2003 and ratified it on 22 November 2004.¹⁰⁶⁸

The UNCAC is frequently referenced at BRICS summits and meetings that address crime and corruption. On 27 March 2013, at the Durban Summit, BRICS leaders explored the theme of “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization.” While corruption was not explicitly a topic of discussion, BRICS leaders acknowledged that anti-corruption is an emerging area of cooperation.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 15 July 2014, BRICS leaders met in Fortaleza, Brazil, where they made a commitment “to combat domestic and foreign bribery, and strengthen international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, in accordance with multilaterally established principles and norms, especially the UN Convention Against Corruption.” This was the first explicit reference to corruption made by BRICS leaders.¹⁰⁷⁰

¹⁰⁶⁷ United Nations Convention against Corruption, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) 14 December 2005. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html>

¹⁰⁶⁸ Signature and Ratification Status, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/ratification-status.html>

¹⁰⁶⁹ BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2013. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/130327-statement.html>

¹⁰⁷⁰ The 6th BRICS Summit: Fortaleza Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html>

On 9 July 2015, at the Ufa Summit, BRICS leaders declared corruption a legal challenge that requires international cooperation to tackle and reaffirmed a commitment to the UN Convention against Corruption. Furthermore, BRICS leaders announced the creation of a BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation.¹⁰⁷¹

On 1 November 2015, the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption met for the first time. The Group expressed its intention to work with the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and other relevant multilateral organizations.¹⁰⁷²

On 16 October 2016, at the 2016 Goa Summit, BRICS leaders met under the theme of “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.” BRICS leaders stated that they will support the strengthening of international cooperation against corruption, including on issues relating to asset recovery and persons sought for corruption, and with the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group.¹⁰⁷³

Before the 2017 Xiamen Summit, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on 22 January 2017 in Berlin and on 9 April 2017 in Brasilia.¹⁰⁷⁴ On 4 September 2017, at the Xiamen leaders’ summit, BRICS leaders declared their support for improving BRICS anti-corruption cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to experience-sharing and compiling a compendium on fighting corruption. BRICS leaders reiterated their support for strengthening international cooperation against corruption, including through the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, based on the UN Convention against Corruption and other international legal instruments.¹⁰⁷⁵

On 26 February 2018, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A subsequent meeting was convened on 26 June 2018 in Paris, France.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 28 July 2018, BRICS leaders met in Johannesburg, where they discussed the negative impacts of corruption and its effect on economic growth. The leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to international cooperation under Chapter IV of UNCAC and committed to strengthening international cooperation under the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation, stating that “subject to our domestic legal systems, we will cooperate in an anti-corruption law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders and repatriation in matters relating to assets recovery and other related criminal and non-criminal matters involving corruption and call on the international community to deny safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.”¹⁰⁷⁷

¹⁰⁷¹ VII BRICS Summit: 2015 Ufa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/150709-ufa-declaration_en.html

¹⁰⁷² Media Note on the Informal Meeting of the BRICS Leaders on the Margins of the G20 Summit in Antalya, BRICS Information Centre (Antalya) 15 November 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/151115-antalya.html>

¹⁰⁷³ 8th BRICS Summit: Goa Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/161016-go.html>

¹⁰⁷⁴ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

¹⁰⁷⁵ BRICS Leaders Xiamen Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 4 September 2017. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/170904-xiamen.html>

¹⁰⁷⁶ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

¹⁰⁷⁷ BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/180726-johannesburg.html>

On 28 June 2019, on the sidelines of the G20 Osaka Summit, BRICS leaders held an informal meeting and released a joint statement. The statement reaffirmed their commitment to fighting corruption, promoting international anti-corruption cooperation, strengthening legal frameworks, improving mutual efforts in prosecuting corrupt persons, and “recogniz[ing] the need to strengthen cooperation, subject to domestic legal systems, in anti-corruption law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders, and in recovering stolen assets.”¹⁰⁷⁸

On 26 July 2019, BRICS ministers of foreign affairs and international relations met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they reiterated their commitment “to strengthen[ing] the legal framework related to the resolution of cases of corruption, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other multilateral principles and norms.”¹⁰⁷⁹

On 14 November 2019, at the 2019 Brasilia Summit, BRICS leaders “reaffirmed our commitment to fight corruption, inter alia, through the strengthening of domestic legal frameworks, as appropriate, to more effectively address cases of corruption. We remain committed to adopting integrity measures in the public sector and promoting integrity standards in private enterprises and to build a stronger global commitment to a culture of intolerance towards corruption. We will maintain our ongoing efforts on anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation and returning of assets, including on civil and administrative proceedings. We will make full use of the BRICS Meeting on Asset Recovery and strengthen experience-sharing and case-cooperation on asset recovery among BRICS countries. We will enhance our exchange of views within multilateral frameworks such as UNCAC and the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, with the aim of joining efforts in denying safe haven to economic and corruption offenders and to facilitate the repatriation of proceeds of crime.”¹⁰⁸⁰

On 3 February 2020, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on the sidelines of the G20 Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Working Group.¹⁰⁸¹

On 4 September 2020, BRICS ministers of foreign affairs and international relations met virtually due to the pandemic. They reaffirmed “their commitment to promote international anti-corruption cooperation and strengthen BRICS collaboration, subject to domestic legal systems, on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on extradition of fugitives, economics and corruption offenders and in recovering stolen assets.”¹⁰⁸²

On 7 September 2020, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group met on the sidelines of the G20 Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Working Group.¹⁰⁸³ They met again on 19 October 2020.¹⁰⁸⁴

¹⁰⁷⁸ Joint Statement on BRICS Leaders’ Informal Meeting on the Margins of G20 Summit, BRICS Information Centre (Osaka) 28 June 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/190628-osaka.html>

¹⁰⁷⁹ Media Statement: Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, BRICS Information Centre (Rio de Janeiro) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/190726-foreign.html>

¹⁰⁸⁰ Brasilia Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/191114-brasilia.html>

¹⁰⁸¹ 1st Meeting of BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) – on the margins of the G20 Meeting of Anti-Corruption Working Group, BRICS Russia 2020 (Riyadh) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/calendar/20200203/9811/1st-Meeting-of-BRICS-Anti-Corruption-Working-Group-ACWG--on-the-margins-of-the-G20-Meeting-of.html>

¹⁰⁸² From coronavirus to terrorism to trade: What was discussed at BRICS meet, India Today (New Delhi) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/from-coronavirus-terrorism-trade-what-discussed-brics-meet-1718897-2020-09-05>

¹⁰⁸³ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

¹⁰⁸⁴ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

Commitment Features

The BRICS commitment is to “strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.”

To define the key concepts of this commitment, “to strengthen” is “to make or become stronger.” In the context of the present commitment, BRICS leaders pledged to strengthen collaboration between BRICS members on actions relevant to this commitment.¹⁰⁸⁵

A “multilateral framework” refers to “a system of rules, ideas or beliefs that is used to plan or decide something”¹⁰⁸⁶ that are “involving more than two groups or countries.”¹⁰⁸⁷ These multilateral frameworks could include agreements, standards, guidelines and other outcome documents or policy instruments adopted by the G20, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the United Nations. Specifically, the present commitment references the 2021 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly against corruption, welcoming the session and acknowledging the importance of the UNCAC as a channel for international anti-corruption cooperation.¹⁰⁸⁸

“Subject to domestic legal systems” refers to BRICS collaboration within multilateral frameworks relating to anti-corruption law enforcement that must also be viable under the domestic legal systems of BRICS members. Therefore, any actions taken within the scope of this commitment must be legal and applicable under the domestic laws of each member. As the UNCAC is an international convention, legislation must exist within domestic legal systems to implement the international conventions. This can include the incorporation of the convention’s text, substance, terminology, or concepts into national legislation, in order to implement a government’s international obligations and subject the content to interpretation by domestic legal courts and systems.

“Anti-corruption law enforcement” refers to preventative measures to tackle corruption in both the public and private sectors. This includes “model preventive policies, such as the establishment of anti-corruption bodies and enhanced transparency in the financing of election campaigns and political parties.”¹⁰⁸⁹ In other words, public service institutions and public servants must be subjected to safeguards, codes of conduct, protocols of disclosure, disciplinary measures, transparency and accountability mechanisms and more. The UNCAC further acknowledges the involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations, among other factions of civil society, to promote awareness and best practices surrounding corruption. Besides preventive measures, this can include criminalization of corrupt offences, asset recovery, and international cooperation on prevention, investigation and prosecution.¹⁰⁹⁰

¹⁰⁸⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 December 2020.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁰⁸⁶ Framework, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/framework>

¹⁰⁸⁷ Multilateral, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/multilateral>

¹⁰⁸⁸ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, BRICS Information Centre (Toronto) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/201117-moscow-declaration.html>

¹⁰⁸⁹ Convention highlights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html>

¹⁰⁹⁰ Convention highlights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html>

“Asset recovery” refers to “the process by which the proceeds of corruption transferred abroad are recovered and repatriated to the country from which they were taken or to their rightful owners.” It is estimated that developing countries lose between USD20-40 billion each year to corruption.¹⁰⁹¹ Quoting from UNCAC, “several provisions specify how cooperation and assistance will be rendered. In particular, in the case of embezzlement of public funds, the confiscated property would be returned to the state requesting it; in the case of proceeds of any other offence covered by the Convention, the property would be returned providing the proof of ownership or recognition of the damage caused to a requesting state; in all other cases, priority consideration would be given to the return of confiscated property to the requesting state, to the return of such property to the prior legitimate owners or to compensation of the victims...Accordingly, Article 51 provides for the return of assets to countries of origin as a fundamental principle of this Convention. Article 43 obliges state parties to extend the widest possible cooperation to each other in the investigation and prosecution of offences defined in the Convention. With regard to asset recovery, in particular, the Article provides *inter alia* that ‘In matters of international cooperation, whenever dual criminality is considered a requirement, it shall be deemed fulfilled irrespective of whether the laws of the requested State Party place the offence within the same category of offence or denominate the offence by the same terminology as the requesting State Party, if the conduct underlying the offence for which assistance is sought is a criminal offence under the laws of both States Parties.’”¹⁰⁹²

“Denying safe havens to corrupt persons” refers to not allowing persons involved in corruption “a place where [they] are protected from harm or danger,” specifically prosecution by law.¹⁰⁹³ Governments must cooperate to ensure that corrupt public officials are not immune or sheltered by impunity due to a lack of cross-border policy coordination. Possible measures to this end include denying entry or visas to foreign figures alleged to be corrupt.¹⁰⁹⁴

“Proceeds of corruption” refer to “any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of an offence.”¹⁰⁹⁵

The commitment lists three dimensions of cooperation in anti-corruption law enforcement: 1) asset recovery, 2) denying safe havens to corrupt persons and 3) denying safe havens to the proceedings of corruption. The term “including” connotes that this is an indicative rather than exclusive list of areas of anti-corruption law enforcement. In other words, the scope of this commitment can include actions that extend beyond the three dimensions of anti-corruption law enforcement stipulated explicitly in the commitment. However, the word “including” in the text of the commitment suggests a greater emphasis on the three aforementioned dimensions of cooperation, and the three elements must be present for full compliance. Actions outside of these three components may count for partial compliance, but do not suffice as a demonstration of full compliance.

To score full compliance, it is key that a BRICS member engages in anti-corruption cooperation among BRICS members and through multilateral frameworks. Concrete actions of cooperation

¹⁰⁹¹ Asset Recovery, UNCAC Coalition (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://uncaccoalition.org/learn-more/asset-recovery/>

¹⁰⁹² Convention highlights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/convention-highlights.html>

¹⁰⁹³ Safe haven, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/safe-haven>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Unmask the Corrupt: Denying Safe Haven to the Corrupt and Their Ill-Gotten Gains, Transparency International (Berlin) 2014. Access Date: 28 December 2020. http://transparency.org.my/laravel-filemanager/files/shares/Unmask-the%20Corrupt-Campaign-3/2014_UnmaskTheCorrupt_Report_EN.pdf

¹⁰⁹⁵ United Nations Convention Against Corruption, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York City) 31 October 2003. Access Date: 28 December 2020. https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf

include hosting meetings, drafting laws within existing domestic frameworks and based on international best practices, launching a program of technical or financial assistance, or supporting relevant program implementation by other countries, organizations, and multilateral institutions.

Partial compliance is attributed to BRICS members that fall short of full compliance. For example, if the assessed BRICS member complies with one or two of the three dimensions of cooperation in anti-corruption law enforcement, it will receive a score of 0. Alternatively, if the BRICS member strengthens intra-BRICS collaboration without reference to multilateral frameworks, this is also considered partial compliance. Partial action also includes verbal affirmation of the commitment, given that concrete action is required for full compliance. Verbal affirmations to strengthen collaboration, or softer forms of compliant actions, can take the form of joint meetings, public statements, policy and legal proposals and more. The scope of partial compliance also includes scenarios in which a BRICS member was to take full action on two of the issues and partial action on the others, without working with multilateral frameworks on the latter.

If a BRICS member does not take any action relating to strengthening BRICS collaboration related to anti-corruption law enforcement, which necessarily precludes actions in support of multilateral frameworks, the BRICS member would be considered non-compliant and assigned a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member does NOT strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on ANY issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe havens to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption OR does so but less than strongly with only one component.
0	The BRICS member strongly strengthens BRICS collaboration, within OR without multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on ONE OR TWO issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including asset recovery, denying safe havens to corrupt persons and/or proceeds of corruption OR less than strongly does so for two or three components.
+1	The BRICS member strongly strengthens BRICS collaboration, within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all THREE issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery AND denying safe havens to corrupt persons AND proceeds of corruption.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.

On 18 November 2020, Brazil and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the COVID-19 Anti-Corruption Response and Recovery Project to establish an anti-corruption procurement platform in Brazil. This project will “strengthen existing anti-corruption knowledge, frameworks and infrastructure.”¹⁰⁹⁶

¹⁰⁹⁶ UNODC Launches COVID-19 Anti-Corruption Response & Recovery Project, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2021.
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2020/November/unodc-launches-covid-19-anti-corruption-response-and-recovery-project.html>

On 21 November 2020, Brazil virtually attended the 15th G20 summit. Brazil endorsed the Leaders' Declaration. The stated goals of this action include a commitment to counter corruption, demonstrate efforts toward criminalization of foreign bribery, enforcing bribery legislation and encourage adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Bribery Convention.¹⁰⁹⁷

On 1 December 2020, Brazil attended the BRICS Expert Round Table on Anti-Corruption Education. The BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation adopted an Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education. The goal of this action is to encourage BRICS countries to implement initiatives to encourage anti-corruption and anti-laundering education, as well as training for educators, trainers and practitioners, and to create a platform to function as a database of communication for BRICS anti-corruption experts, scholars, educators and practitioners.¹⁰⁹⁸

On 16 December 2020, Brazil attended the fourth meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services via videoconference. Participants adopted a Joint Statement reiterating the importance for further cooperation between the Prosecution Services of BRICS nations to combat the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, at the national, regional and international levels. The stated goals of this action commit to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to law enforcement.¹⁰⁹⁹

On 26 January 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, UN Development Programme, and UNODC launched a pilot project to establish the Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction. "This Center will make it possible, among other activities, to conduct research and analysis related to the behavior of criminal organizations responsible for national and international drug trafficking in Brazil, with a view to obtaining subsidies for decision-making in public policies to reduce the supply of drugs, in particular in the decapitalization of criminal organizations by breaking the financial flow and the confiscation of their assets."¹¹⁰⁰

From 29 March to 1 April 2021, Brazil attended the first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), held under Italian Presidency. The priorities for the ACWG under the Italian Presidency include developing knowledge of corruption through more accurate measurement methodologies, gaining a clear understanding of the new forms of corruption, such as those related to organized crime, and enhancing prevention in new risk areas. The leaders reached consensus on the draft High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime, addressed the topic of measuring corruption through the monitoring of public procurement, discussed the threat of corruption exploited by criminal groups to infiltrate the public sector and the legal economy, and launched the dedicatory G20 Anti-Corruption Resources website.¹¹⁰¹ The leaders acknowledged the promotion of a joint G20 ACWG-Financial Action Task Force meeting to discuss new methods of

¹⁰⁹⁷ Final Declaration Adopted Following G20 Summit, President of Russia (Moscow) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64462>

¹⁰⁹⁸ BRICS Anti-Corruption Expert Event, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/diverse/-/asset_publisher/zwl2FuDbhJx9/content/ob-antikorrupcionnom-ekspertnom-meropriatii-briks-1-dekabra-2020--1

¹⁰⁹⁹ Heads of the BRICS Prosecution Services Discuss Topical Issues of Cooperation, BRICS Russia (Moscow) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/news/20201216/1342545/Heads-of-the-BRICS-Prosecution-Services-discuss-topical-issues-of-cooperation.html>

¹¹⁰⁰ UNODC Launches Centre of Excellence to Fight Drug Trafficking in Brazil, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (Brasilia) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2021/February/unodc-launches-centre-of-excellence-to-fight-drug-trafficking-in-brazil.html>

¹¹⁰¹ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

strengthening ownership transparency for anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, including procurement transparency in the age of digital transformation.¹¹⁰²

On 1 June 2021, BRICS nations met virtually to discuss BRICS cooperation. During their talk, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote international cooperation for anti-corruption initiatives within domestic legal systems, including issues related to asset recovery.¹¹⁰³

On 19 July 2021, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security Márcio de Oliveira met with Enrique Gil Botero, the general secretary of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB) to discuss Brazil's adherence to the Joint Investigation Teams agreement. COMJIB is an international body of Ibero-American countries aiming to promote legal cooperation and fighting against transnational crime¹¹⁰⁴

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety helped the Civil Police of Rio Grande do Sul to launch Operation Brotherhood, which investigates crimes related to drug trafficking and money laundering. The operation is currently blocking the transfer of BRL3.5 million dollars' worth of assets.¹¹⁰⁵

On 3 August 2021, representatives of the National Drug Policy Council approved the draft of the National Drug Policy Plan which provides "strategic information for the planning of actions by the Federal Government, in the next five years, related to them." The council also approved the creation of the Rapid Alert Subsystem on Drugs to allow for the quick identification of the emergence of new psychoactive substances to alert citizens of circulation and consumption of new drugs.¹¹⁰⁶

On 4 August 2021, the Single System of Public Security task force for Combating Organized Crime within the Ministry of Justice and Public Security launched Operation Armory in Rio Grande do Norte to prevent trafficking and manufacturing of arms.¹¹⁰⁷

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment on anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery by establishing the COVID-19 Anti-Corruption Response and Recovery Project, as well as the Centre of Excellence for Illicit Drug Supply Reduction. However, Brazil did not take concrete actions to deny safe havens to corrupt persons.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pantea Jamshidi Nouri

¹¹⁰² First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹⁰³ Media Statement – Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, Ministério das Relações Exteriores (Brasília) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/media-statement-meeting-of-the-brics-ministers-of-foreign-affairs-international-relations>

¹¹⁰⁴ Ministry of Justice and Public Security discusses agreements signed with Ibero-American countries, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasília) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-justica-e-seguranca-publica-discute-acordos-firmados-com-paises-ibero-americanos>

¹¹⁰⁵ Ministry of Justice and Public Security assists operation against drug trafficking and money laundering in six states, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasília) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-justica-e-seguranca-publica-auxilia-operacao-contra-o- trafico-de-drogas-e-lavagem-de-dinheiro-em-seis-estados>

¹¹⁰⁶ Draft of the National Drug Policy Plan is approved at an extraordinary meeting, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasília) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/minuta-do-plano-nacional-de-politicas-sobre-drogas-e-aprovada-em-reuniao-extraordinaria>

¹¹⁰⁷ SUSP Task Force launches operation to combat trafficking and manufacture of firearms in Rio Grande do Norte, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasília) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/forca-tarefa-susp-deflagra-operacao-de-combate-ao-trafico-e-fabricacao-de-armas-de-fogo-no-rio-grande-do-norte>

Russia: 0

Russia partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.

On 21 November 2020, President Vladimir Putin virtually attended the 15th G20 Summit. President Putin addressed G20 member states and additionally endorsed the Leaders' Declaration. The stated goals of this action include a commitment to counter corruption, demonstrate efforts toward criminalization of foreign bribery, enforcing bribery legislation and encourage adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Bribery Convention.¹¹⁰⁸

On 30 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, attended the Heads of Government Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Prime Minister Mishustin encouraged SCO members to continue to operate within the rules and obligations of the World Trade Organization and called for SCO nations to immediately implement the SCO Development Strategy from 2021-2025. The goals of this action include promoting multilateral anti-corruption coordination.¹¹⁰⁹

On 1 December 2020, Ambassador-at-Large for International Anti-Corruption Cooperation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andrey Avetisyan chaired the BRICS Expert Round Table on Anti-Corruption Education. The BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation adopted an Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education. The goal of this action is to encourage BRICS countries to implement initiatives to encourage anti-corruption and anti-laundering education, as well as training for educators, trainers and practitioners, and to create a platform to function as a database of communication for BRICS anti-corruption experts, scholars, educators and practitioners.¹¹¹⁰

On 16 December 2020, Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov chaired the fourth meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services via videoconference. Participants adopted a Joint Statement reiterating the importance for further cooperation between the Prosecution Services of BRICS nations to combat the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, at the national, regional and international levels. The stated goals of this action commit to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to law enforcement.¹¹¹¹

On 28 December 2020, President Putin spoke with the President of China Xi Jinping. President Putin reaffirmed Russia's commitment to promote cooperation in all areas, including to coordinate with China in interests of regional and global peace and stability.¹¹¹²

¹¹⁰⁸ Final Declaration Adopted Following G20 Summit, President of Russia (Moscow) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64462>

¹¹⁰⁹ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, The Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹¹¹⁰ BRICS Anti-Corruption Expert Event, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/diverse/-/asset_publisher/zwl2FuDbhJx9/content/ob-antikorrupcionnom-ekspertnom-meropriatii-briks-1-dekabra-2020--1

¹¹¹¹ Heads of the BRICS Prosecution Services Discuss Topical Issues of Cooperation, BRICS Russia (Moscow) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/news/20201216/1342545/Heads-of-the-BRICS-Prosecution-Services-discuss-topical-issues-of-cooperation.html>

¹¹¹² Telephone Conversation with President of China Xi Jinping, President of Russia (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64758>

On 17 February 2021, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Morgulov met with the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs to India Harsh Vardhan Shringla. The ministers discussed Russo-Indian cooperation, bilateral political consultations, and emphasized their further intentions to coordinate efforts internationally by cooperating multilaterally with international organizations and institutions, including the UN, G20, BRICS, SCO, and the Eurasian Economic Union.¹¹¹³

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov met with Minister Shringla. The ministers agreed to consolidate efforts to strengthen Russo-India strategic partnerships and strengthen coordination on international and regional issues, including through multilateral frameworks. The stated goal of this meeting was to continue developing strategic partnerships between Russia and India for 2021 and discuss the 2021 BRICS summit to be chaired by India.¹¹¹⁴

On 23 March 2021, Minister Lavrov issued a joint statement with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on global governance in modern conditions. The foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the 2016 Declaration of Russia and China on the Promotion of International Law and reiterated the underlying importance of the UN Charter, its goals and principles, which play an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as in the development of international law.¹¹¹⁵

On 26 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the First Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption under India's Presidency of BRICS 2021. Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training of India Rahul Singh held discussions on corruption and gender, as well as discussions pertaining to issues outlined by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, and proposed an Anti-Corruption Training Programme for BRICS countries. The purpose of these actions is to combat and reduce corruption in BRICS countries as well as accelerate economic growth. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed their support for anti-corruption events planned by India in 2021 as chair.¹¹¹⁶

From 29 March to 1 April 2021, Russia attended the first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), held under Italian Presidency. The priorities for the ACWG under the Italian Presidency include developing knowledge of corruption through more accurate measurement methodologies, gaining a clear understanding of the new forms of corruption, such as those related to organized crime, and enhancing prevention in new risk areas. The leaders reached consensus on the draft High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime, addressed the topic of measuring corruption through the monitoring of public procurement, discussed the threat of corruption exploited by criminal groups to infiltrate the public sector and the legal economy, and launched the dedicatory G20 Anti-Corruption Resources website.¹¹¹⁷ The leaders acknowledged the promotion of a joint G20 ACWG-Financial Action Task Force meeting to discuss new methods of

¹¹¹³ О консультациях заместителя Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации И.В.Моргулова с первым заместителем Министра иностранных дел Республики Индии Х.В.Шринглой, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow), 17 February 2021. Access Date: 02 April 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4578440

¹¹¹⁴ Lavrov to Meet India's Deputy Foreign Minister on February 17, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow), 16 February 2021. Access Date: 01 April 2021. <https://tass.com/politics/1257239>

¹¹¹⁵ Joint Statement by the Foreign Ministers of China and Russia on Certain Aspects of Global Governance in Modern Conditions, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4647776

¹¹¹⁶ 1st Meeting of BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-29.pdf>

¹¹¹⁷ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

strengthening ownership transparency for anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, including procurement transparency in the age of digital transformation.¹¹¹⁸

On 6 April 2021, Minister Lavrov spoke with Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The ministers discussed joint Russo-Indian efforts to coordinate matters of bilateral cooperation with regard to trade, bilateral military-technical cooperation, and reaffirmed Russia and India's commitment to cooperate within the frameworks of international organizations including the UN, SCO, G20 and BRICS.¹¹¹⁹

On 25 May 2021, Minister Ryabkov attended a meeting of BRICS Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas. Ministers and Sherpas discussed key areas of multilateral cooperation pertaining to international relations, security, and economics within the context of international organizations and additionally made preparations for a meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations.¹¹²⁰

On 1 June 2021, Minister Lavrov attended a meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations. The Ministers discussed international issues on the agenda, including the strengthening of international institutions and reinforcing multilateral cooperation of BRICS countries in areas of mutual interest with regard to their Permanent Missions to the United Nations. The Ministers approved and signed a Joint Communiqué and a Joint Statement on “Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” which additionally reaffirmed their commitment to “promote international anti-corruption cooperation and strengthen BRICS collaboration, subject to domestic legal systems, on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including asset recovery.”¹¹²¹

From 2-4 June 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov attended the UN General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption. Minister Syromolotov reaffirmed Russian commitment to the UN Convention against Corruption to create a global anti-corruption political and legal environment. The General Assembly adopted a Declaration titled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation,” covering anti-corruption measures including enhancing international cooperation to prevent corruption, exposing corruption through the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, promoting anti-corruption training and safeguarding sport from corruption, as well as strengthening internal legislation on asset recovery. Additionally, Minister Syromolotov reaffirmed Russian commitment to promote anti-corruption training, strengthen international legislation on asset recovery and additionally coordinate with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Russian Prosecutor General's Office organized side events including an expert discussion on international cooperation on corruption

¹¹¹⁸ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹¹⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with Minister of External Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, President of Russia (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/vizity-ministra/-/asset_publisher/ICoYBGcCUGTR/content/id/4665966

¹¹²⁰ Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Ryabkov took part in the meeting of Sherpas / Sous-Sherpas of the BRICS countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4750688

¹¹²¹ Press Release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's participation in the BRICS Foreign Minister's Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4760593

prevention matters attended by legal experts from BRICS member states including India and China, as well as the UNODC and the International Anti-Corruption Academy.¹¹²²

On 28 June 2021, President Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping met to discuss the 20th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation between Russia and China. The Presidents adopted a Joint Statement and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate within and strengthen collaboration within international institutions including the SCO, BRICS, and G20, and bilaterally support efforts to combat and investigate terrorist crimes and suppress financial support to terrorist organizations.¹¹²³

On 9 July 2021, Minister Lavrov spoke with Indian Foreign Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar regarding bilateral international agendas and regional affairs between Russia and India. Minister Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's strategic partnership with India, and the Ministers additionally discussed trade, economic cooperation, as well as strengthening defensive cooperation within domestic legal frameworks through international organizations including the G20, SCO and BRICS.¹¹²⁴

On 15 July 2021, Minister Lavrov spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss Russo-China bilateral ties. Minister Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's commitment to coordinate with China bilaterally as well as within the framework of international organizations including the UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO.¹¹²⁵

Russia has partially supported its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption education, as well as demonstrated a commitment to coordinate within BRICS and other multilateral frameworks with respect to matters of asset recovery, denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption. However, concrete actions taken had not occurred with the coordination all BRICS member states.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ayaz Syed

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.

On 21 November 2020, India virtually attended the 15th G20 summit. India endorsed the Leaders' Declaration. The stated goals of this action include a commitment to counter corruption, demonstrate efforts toward criminalization of foreign bribery, enforcing bribery legislation and

¹¹²² Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Moscow, June 10, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4781270#12

¹¹²³ Conversation with President of China Xi Jinping, President of Russia (Moscow) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65940>

¹¹²⁴ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4811262

¹¹²⁵ Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4813900

encourage adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Bribery Convention.¹¹²⁶

On 30 November 2020, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu participated in the nineteenth meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The heads of delegations noted the importance of deepening cooperation in order to support a transparent, open, inclusive, fair, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system based on principles and rules of the World Trade Organization. The heads of delegations additionally reaffirmed their commitment to implement the SCO Development Strategy until 2025.¹¹²⁷

On 1 December 2020, Deputy Director of the International Police Cooperation Unit of the Central Bureau of Investigation Vijayendra Bidari, virtually moderated the BRICS Expert Round Table on Anti-Corruption Education. The BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation adopted an Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education. The goal of this action is to encourage BRICS countries to implement initiatives to encourage anti-corruption and anti-laundering education, as well as training for educators, trainers and practitioners, and to create a platform to function as a database of communication for BRICS anti-corruption experts, scholars, educators and practitioners.¹¹²⁸

On 16 December 2020, India attended the fourth meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services via videoconference. Participants adopted a Joint Statement reiterating the importance for further cooperation between the Prosecution Services of BRICS nations to combat the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, at the national, regional and international levels. The stated goals of this action commit to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to law enforcement.¹¹²⁹

On 12 January 2021, Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar attended the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts. The Minister reiterated the need for the Financial Action Task Force to continue to identify and remedy weaknesses in anti-money laundering.¹¹³⁰

On 17 February 2021, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Harsh Vardhan Shringla met with the Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Morgulov and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov. Deputy Ministers Shringla and Morgulov discussed Russo-Indian cooperation, bilateral political consultations, and emphasized their further intentions to coordinate efforts internationally by cooperating multilaterally with international organizations and institutions, including the United Nations, G20, BRICS, SCO, and the Eurasian Economic Union. They also discussed strategic partnerships to strengthen coordination on international and regional issues, including through

¹¹²⁶ Final Declaration Adopted Following G20 Summit, President of Russia (Moscow) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64462>

¹¹²⁷ Joint Communique following the nineteenth meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33249>

¹¹²⁸ BRICS Anti-Corruption Expert Event, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/diverse/-/asset_publisher/zwl2FuDbhJx9/content/ob-antikorrupcionnom-ekspertnom-meropriatii-briks-1-dekabra-2020--1

¹¹²⁹ Heads of the BRICS Prosecution Services Discuss Topical Issues of Cooperation, BRICS Russia (Moscow) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/news/20201216/1342545/Heads-of-the-BRICS-Prosecution-Services-discuss-topical-issues-of-cooperation.html>

¹¹³⁰ Address by External Affairs Minister at the UNSC Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/33385/>

multilateral frameworks, strengthen the bilateral “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership” between Russia and India and discuss the 2021 BRICS Summit to be Chaired by India.¹¹³¹

On 5 March 2021, Vice President Naidu called on all countries to ensure economic offenders and persons involved with corruption are denied safe havens and repatriated.¹¹³²

On 26 March 2021, India virtually hosted the first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption. Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training Rahul Singh held discussions on corruption and gender, as well as discussions pertaining to issues outlined by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and proposed an Anti-Corruption Training Program for BRICS countries. The purpose of this action is to educate, combat and reduce corruption in BRICS countries as well as accelerate economic growth.¹¹³³

From 29 March to 1 April 2021, India attended the first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), held under Italian Presidency. The priorities for the ACWG under the Italian Presidency include developing knowledge of corruption through more accurate measurement methodologies, gaining a clear understanding of the new forms of corruption, such as those related to organized crime, and enhancing prevention in new risk areas. The leaders reached consensus on the draft High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime, addressed the topic of measuring corruption through the monitoring of public procurement, discussed the threat of corruption exploited by criminal groups to infiltrate the public sector and the legal economy, and launched the dedicatory G20 Anti-Corruption Resources website.¹¹³⁴ The leaders acknowledged the promotion of a joint G20 ACWG-Financial Action Task Force meeting to discuss new methods of strengthening ownership transparency for anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, including procurement transparency in the age of digital transformation.¹¹³⁵

On 6 April 2021, Minister Jaishankar spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The ministers discussed joint Russo-Indian efforts to coordinate matters of bilateral cooperation with regard to trade, bilateral military-technical cooperation, and reaffirmed Russia and India’s commitment to cooperate within the frameworks of international organizations including the UN, SCO, G20 and BRICS.¹¹³⁶

On 28 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss Indian-Russian strategic cooperation. The leaders reaffirmed their desire to strengthen bilateral ties

¹¹³¹ Visit of the Foreign Secretary to Russia (February 17-18, 2021), Media Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33541/>

¹¹³² Vice President Calls Upon all Nations to Repatriate Absconding Economic Offenders without Delays, Vice President’s Secretariate (New Delhi) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1702757>

¹¹³³ 1st Meeting of BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-29.pdf>

¹¹³⁴ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹³⁵ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹³⁶ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference following talks with Minister of External Affairs of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, President of Russia (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/vizity-ministra/-/asset_publisher/ICoYBGcCUgTR/content/id/4665966

and increase cooperation within the scope of international organizations, including BRICS, and agreed to communicate with regard to bilateral and international issues.¹¹³⁷

From 25-28 May 2021, Secretary Bhattacharyya and Additional Secretary Harish chaired the second BRICS Sherpas' and Sous Sherpas' meeting. Leaders discussed future meetings of BRICS Foreign Ministers in June as well as negotiated deliverables for India as the BRICS 2021 Chair.¹¹³⁸

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Minister Jaishankar will chair the upcoming meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations on 1 June 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening and reforming multilateral political systems, enhancing international institutional capacities to address diverse challenges and international issues including sustainable development, counter-terrorism, and enhancing BRICS member states cooperation.¹¹³⁹

On 1 June 2021, Minister Jaishankar chaired the meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations. The Ministers discussed strengthening international institutions and reinforcing multilateral cooperation of BRICS member states in areas of mutual interest with regard to their Permanent Missions to the UN. The Ministers approved and signed a Joint Communiqué and a Joint Statement on “Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System,” which additionally reaffirmed their commitment to “promote international anti-corruption cooperation and strengthen BRICS collaboration, subject to domestic legal systems, on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including asset recovery.”¹¹⁴⁰

From 2-4 June 2021, Indian Ministers attended the UN General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption. The General Assembly adopted a Declaration titled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.” Ministers agreed to enhance the efficiency of international cooperation to prevent and expose corruption, promote anti-corruption training, strengthen international legislation on asset recovery and additionally coordinate with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with contribution from Convention signatories. Indian Ministers also attended an expert discussion on international cooperation on corruption prevention matters, organised by the Russian Prosecutor General’s Office alongside law enforcement experts from Russia, Brazil, China, the UNODC and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA).¹¹⁴¹

From 7-9 July 2021, Minister Jaishankar met with Minister Lavrov and Deputy Prime Minister Borisov and Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, Leonid Slutsky to

¹¹³⁷ Telephone Conversation between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the Russian Federation H.E. Vladimir Putin, Media Centre, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33826/Telephone_Conversation_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_President_of_the_Russian_Federation_HE_Vladimir_Putin

¹¹³⁸ Second meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas, Media Centre, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33882/Second_meeting_of_BRICS_Sherpas_and_Sous_Sherpas

¹¹³⁹ Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs /International Relations (June 01, 2021), Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33884/Meeting_of_BRICS_Ministers_of_Foreign_Affairs_International_Relations_June_01_2021

¹¹⁴⁰ Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33889/Meeting_of_BRICS_Ministers_of_Foreign_Affairs_International_Relations

¹¹⁴¹ Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Moscow, June 10, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Moscow) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4781270#12

discuss bilateral issues, including bilateral Indian-Russian cooperation on various regional and international issues. The purpose of the meeting is to further strengthen the ‘Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership’ between India and Russia.¹¹⁴²

On 28 July 2021, Minister Singh chaired the BRICS Civil Forum 2021. The Minister expressed Indian commitment to strengthening BRICS cooperation with aims to reform and coordinate within the global multilateral system, as well as cooperate internationally and bilaterally to engage in counter-terrorism operations. The Minister reaffirmed commitment to strengthening, reforming and coordinating within multilateral systems, and highlighted that the action plan to implement the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy would soon be completed. The Minister additionally highlighted the launch of an online platform to offer critical inputs on international issues and suggest concrete policy measures for BRICS members.¹¹⁴³

From 28 July to 29 July 2021, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism Mahaveer Singhvi chaired the 6th meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan containing specific measures to implement the 2020 BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy. Officials reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism and called for cooperation between BRICS member states in line with the Action Plan on matters related to combatting terrorism and radicalism, preventing and exposing the financing of terrorism, preventing travel for terrorists, strengthening border control policies, as well as strengthening information sharing and international and bilateral cooperation.¹¹⁴⁴

On 15 August 2021, the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed Minister Jaishankar’s attendance at the United Nations Security Council from 18 August to 19 August 2021. The purpose of this attendance is to participate in an Open Debate on “Protecting the Protectors: Technology and Peacekeeping” as well as a briefing on “Threats to International Peace and Security caused by Terrorist Acts.”¹¹⁴⁵

India has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption education, as well as demonstrated a commitment to coordinate within BRICS and other multilateral frameworks with respect to matters of asset recovery, denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption. However, concrete actions taken had not occurred with the coordination all BRICS member states.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ayaz Syed

¹¹⁴² Visit of External Affairs Minister to Russia (July 7-9, 2021), Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33983/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_Russia_July_79_2021

¹¹⁴³ Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh inaugurates the BRICS Civil Forum 2021, Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34069/Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_Dr_Rajkumar_Ranjan_Singh_inaugurates_the_BRICS_Civil_Forum_2021

¹¹⁴⁴ 6th Meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group, Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34089/6th_Meeting_of_the_BRICS_Counter_Terrorism_Working_Group

¹¹⁴⁵ Visit of External Affairs Minister to New York to chair India's Presidency Initiatives in the UN Security Council (16-19 August 2021), Media Center, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34183/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_New_York_to_chair_Indias_Presidency_Initiatives_in_the_UN_Security_Council_1619_August_2021

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.

On 21 November 2020, China virtually attended the 15th G20 Summit. China endorsed the Leaders' Declaration recommitting to promote a multi-stakeholder approach, including with international organizations to prevent and combat corruption. The stated goals of this action include a commitment to counter corruption, demonstrate efforts toward criminalization of foreign bribery, enforcing bribery legislation and encourage adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Anti-Bribery Convention.¹¹⁴⁶

On 30 November 2020, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 19th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Premier Keqiang recommended that the SCO increase cooperation in counterterrorism and expeditions.¹¹⁴⁷

On 1 December 2020, China attended the BRICS Expert Round Table on Anti-Corruption Education. The BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation adopted an Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education. The goal of this action is to encourage BRICS countries to implement initiatives to encourage anti-corruption and anti-laundering education, as well as training for educators, trainers and practitioners, and to create a platform to function as a database of communication for BRICS anti-corruption experts, scholars, educators and practitioners.¹¹⁴⁸

On 8 December 2020, chairman of the National Supervisory Commission (NSC) Yang Xiaodu declared that the NSC will contribute USD900,000 to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for anti-corruption cooperation. He also asserted that China would work with nations in the Belt and Road Initiative to combat transnational business bribery and support the authority of the UN on anti-corruption matters.¹¹⁴⁹

On 16 December 2020, Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Prosecutor General's Office Zhang Jun met virtually with the other BRICS countries for the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services. The participants discussed combating crimes in the economy, transnational crime, and recovery of criminal assets. A joint statement of cooperation was adopted following the meeting.¹¹⁵⁰

¹¹⁴⁶ 15th G20 Leaders' Summit, PM India (New Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/15th-g20-leaders-summit-2

¹¹⁴⁷ Li Keqiang Attends the 19th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1837164.shtml

¹¹⁴⁸ BRICS Anti-Corruption Expert Event, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/diverse/-/asset_publisher/zwl2FuDbhJx9/content/ob-antikorrupcionnom-ekspertnom-meropriatii-briks-1-dekabra-2020--1

¹¹⁴⁹ China, BRI nations to unite against corruption, China Daily Information Co (Beijing) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202012/10/WS5fd16ed9a31024ad0ba9ae9d.html>

¹¹⁵⁰ Outcome Document, Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/images/134/25/1342567.pdf>

On 18 December 2020, Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi mentioned continued collaboration and cooperation between the members of the Belt and Road Initiative on matters of anti-corruption but did not mention specific details.¹¹⁵¹

On 23 March 2021, Minister Yi issued a joint statement with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on global governance in modern conditions. The foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the 2016 Declaration of China and Russia on the Promotion of International Law and reiterated the underlying importance of the UN Charter, its goals and principles, which play an important role in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as in the development of international law.¹¹⁵²

On 26 March 2021, China attended the first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption. The purpose of this meeting was to educate, combat and reduce corruption in BRICS countries as well as accelerate economic growth.¹¹⁵³

From 29 March to 1 April 2021, China attended the first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), held under Italian Presidency. The priorities for the ACWG under the Italian Presidency include developing knowledge of corruption through more accurate measurement methodologies, gaining a clear understanding of the new forms of corruption, such as those related to organized crime, and enhancing prevention in new risk areas. The leaders reached consensus on the draft High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime, addressed the topic of measuring corruption through the monitoring of public procurement, discussed the threat of corruption exploited by criminal groups to infiltrate the public sector and the legal economy, and launched the dedicatory G20 Anti-Corruption Resources website.¹¹⁵⁴ The leaders acknowledged the promotion of a joint G20 ACWG-Financial Action Task Force meeting to discuss new methods of strengthening ownership transparency for anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, including procurement transparency in the age of digital transformation.¹¹⁵⁵

On 1 June 2021, China and fellow BRICS countries reaffirmed their commitment to “promote international anti-corruption cooperation and strengthen BRICS collaboration, subject to domestic legal systems, on issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including asset recovery.”¹¹⁵⁶

On 28 June 2021, President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin met to discuss the 20th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation between Russia and China. They adopted a joint statement and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate within and strengthen collaboration within international institutions including the SCO,

¹¹⁵¹ Opening Speech by State Councilor Wang Yi At the Meeting of the Advisory Council of The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 20 December 2020.

Access Date: 22 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1841513.shtml

¹¹⁵² Joint Statement by the Foreign Ministers of China and Russia on Certain Aspects of Global Governance in Modern Conditions, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4647776

¹¹⁵³ 1st Meeting of BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-29.pdf>

¹¹⁵⁴ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹⁵⁵ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹⁵⁶ Media statement - Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1880565.shtml

BRICS, and G20, and bilaterally support efforts to combat and investigate terrorist crimes and suppress financial support to terrorist organizations.¹¹⁵⁷

China has taken actions toward supporting anti-corruption multilaterally and released a joint statement with the other BRICS countries affirming its commitment. However, China has failed to strengthen BRICS collaboration within all three issues in this commitment.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Joy Fan

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks, subject to domestic legal systems, on all issues related to anti-corruption law enforcement, including on matters related to asset recovery and denying safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption.

On 21 November 2020, South Africa virtually attended the 15th G20 summit. South Africa endorsed the Leaders' Declaration. The stated goals of this action include a commitment to counter corruption, demonstrate efforts toward criminalization of foreign bribery, enforcing bribery legislation and encourage adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Bribery Convention.¹¹⁵⁸

On 1 December 2020, South Africa attended the BRICS Expert Round Table on Anti-Corruption Education. The BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation adopted an Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education. The goal of this action is to encourage BRICS countries to implement initiatives to encourage anti-corruption and anti-laundering education, as well as training for educators, trainers and practitioners, and to create a platform to function as a database of communication for BRICS anti-corruption experts, scholars, educators and practitioners.¹¹⁵⁹

On 2 December 2020, the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum (HSACF) met to discuss progress within implementation of initiatives to undermine fraud and corruption within health sector. The HSACF announced that investigations launched into cases of fraud and corruption within the public health sector have resulted in “freezing of pension funds of implicated officials, preservation and restraint orders, recovery of state funds.”¹¹⁶⁰

On 16 December 2020, South Africa attended the fourth meeting of the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services via videoconference. Participants adopted a Joint Statement reiterating the importance for further cooperation between the Prosecution Services of BRICS nations to combat the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, at the national,

¹¹⁵⁷ Conversation with President of China Xi Jinping, President of Russia (Moscow) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65940>

¹¹⁵⁸ Final Declaration Adopted Following G20 Summit, President of Russia (Moscow) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64462>

¹¹⁵⁹ BRICS Anti-Corruption Expert Event, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 December 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/diverse/-/asset_publisher/zwl2FuDbhJx9/content/ob-antikorrupcionnom-ekspertnom-meropriatii-briks-1-dekabra-2020--1

¹¹⁶⁰ Special Investigating Unit on allegations of Corruption and Maladministration received by Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum, South African Government 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sector-anti-corruption-forum%C2%A04-dec-2020-0000>

regional and international levels. The stated goals of this action commit to strengthen BRICS collaboration, including within multilateral frameworks on issues related to law enforcement.¹¹⁶¹

On 24 March 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that he will be testifying as a witness to the corruption inquiry against former President Jacob Zuma, who allowed businessmen close to him to rob the country's resources and to influence government appointments.¹¹⁶²

From 29 March to 1 April 2021, South Africa attended the first meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), held under Italian Presidency. The priorities for the ACWG under the Italian Presidency include developing knowledge of corruption through more accurate measurement methodologies, gaining a clear understanding of the new forms of corruption, such as those related to organized crime, and enhancing prevention in new risk areas. The leaders reached consensus on the draft High-Level Principles on Corruption related to Organized Crime, addressed the topic of measuring corruption through the monitoring of public procurement, discussed the threat of corruption exploited by criminal groups to infiltrate the public sector and the legal economy, and launched the dedicatory G20 Anti-Corruption Resources website.¹¹⁶³ The leaders acknowledged the promotion of a joint G20 ACWG-Financial Action Task Force meeting to discuss new methods of strengthening ownership transparency for anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, including procurement transparency in the age of digital transformation.¹¹⁶⁴

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola commended measures taken by the United Kingdom in its efforts to take action against individuals accused of fraud and corruption in South Africa.¹¹⁶⁵

On 19 May 2021, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) welcomed the prosecution of five individuals accused of corruption following an investigation conducted by the SIU into the Eastern Cape Education Department.¹¹⁶⁶

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS nations met virtually to discuss BRICS cooperation. During their talk, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promote international cooperation for anti-corruption initiatives within domestic legal systems, including issues related to asset recovery.¹¹⁶⁷

On 11 June 2021, South Africa finalized a treaty with the United Arab Emirates allowing the extradition of members of the Gupta family, who are accused of being involved in state corruption,

¹¹⁶¹ Heads of the BRICS Prosecution Services Discuss Topical Issues of Cooperation, BRICS Russia (Moscow) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://eng.brics-russia2020.ru/news/20201216/1342545/Heads-of-the-BRICS-Prosecution-Services-discuss-topical-issues-of-cooperation.html>

¹¹⁶² South African president to testify at corruption inquiry, Reuters (Cape Town) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-safrica-politics/south-african-president-to-testify-at-corruption-inquiry-idUSKBN2BG1PU>

¹¹⁶³ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹⁶⁴ First meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG), G20 Italia 2020 (Rome) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.g20.org/first-meeting-of-the-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-acwg.html>

¹¹⁶⁵ Minister Ronald Lamola on United Kingdom action on corruption, South African Government 28 April 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ronald-lamola-united-kingdom-action-corruption-28-apr-2021-0000>

¹¹⁶⁶ Special Investigations Unit welcomes prosecution of individuals linked to Eastern Cape Education fraud and corruption charges, South African Government 19 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/senior-education-department-officials-charges-fraud-and-corruption%C2%A0-%C2%A0-19-may-2021-0000>

¹¹⁶⁷ Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations, News and Events 2 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0602.htm>

back to South Africa to face trial. The Gupta family is accused of earning money from government contracts by using their association with former President Jacob Zuma.¹¹⁶⁸

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment by taking action against corruption through the launching of investigations into cases of fraud and corruption, and denouncing individuals accused of corruption. However, South Africa did not take concrete actions to strengthen BRICS collaboration within this commitment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pantea Jamshidi Nouri

¹¹⁶⁸ South Africa finalizes treaty to extradite fugitives in UAE, CGTN Africa 12 June 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://africa.cgtn.com/2021/06/12/south-africa-finalizes-treaty-to-extradite-fugitives-in-uae/>

15. Climate Change: Paris Agreement

“We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.”

XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia			+1
India			+1
China			+1
South Africa			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

Background

The BRICS first committed to fight climate change at the 2009 Yekaterinburg Summit, where the leaders pledged to “support international cooperation in the field of energy efficiency” and expressed readiness to engage in “a constructive dialogue on how to deal with climate change based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, given the need to combine measures to protect the climate with steps to fulfill our socio-economic development tasks.”¹¹⁶⁹ Since then the BRICS members have maintained climate change as an integral agenda item, committing to support international efforts to combat its effects and immediate causes.

The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015 stipulates three major goals: a) holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; b) increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and c) making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.¹¹⁷⁰

The concept of common but differentiated responsibilities first manifested in the Rio Declaration at the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992 as Principle 7, which states: “In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.” Similar language exists in the Framework Convention on Climate Change; parties should act to protect the climate system “on the basis of equality and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.”¹¹⁷¹

¹¹⁶⁹ First Summit: Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries Leaders, RANEP (Moscow) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency1/First%20Summit.pdf>

¹¹⁷⁰ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf.

¹¹⁷¹ Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992, United Nations (New York) 14 June 1992. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.jus.uio.no/lm/environmental.development.rio.declaration.1992/portrait.a4.pdf/>

Thus, the common-but-differentiated principle stipulates that although all countries are equally responsible for creating the global public good, each has a different set of capabilities that can be applied to this end.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the BRICS members to both take action aimed at the implementation of the Paris Agreement. To fully comply with the commitment the BRICS member must take action on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement, that is: to take action aimed at greenhouse gases emissions reduction; to support climate adaptation and resilience; to mobilize climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member takes no action on any of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.
0	The BRICS member takes action on less than three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.
+1	The BRICS member takes action aimed at greenhouse gases emissions reduction, supports climate adaptation and resilience, and mobilizes climate finance.

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, “the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) approved the financing of BRL191 million for the construction of three photovoltaic plants with 90 megawatts of installed capacity and the generation of sufficient clean and renewable energy to supply 125,000 homes. The project will be implemented in the municipality of Pedranópolis, in the northwest of São Paulo, and should generate nearly 1,400 jobs.”¹¹⁷²

On 26 January 2021, Brazil launched an online platform where “it is possible to view climate change scenarios for the entire national territory, the Climate Projections portal. The unprecedented tool in the country was built to make climate projections accessible, derived from global and regional models. Through the platform, it is possible to visualize the increase in temperature, the reduction or increase in rainfall, the variation in the number of consecutive hot days, among other aspects related to climate change. Queries can be made through the selection of filters that involve scenarios projected by time horizon, for the next years or decades, or scenarios by level of warming, that is, what should occur in a given region if the global average temperature increases 1.5°C, 2°C or 4°C.”¹¹⁷³

On 28 January 2021, board of the BNDES “approved the creation of the BNDES Program to Encourage the Reduction of CO2 Emissions in the Fuel Sector (BNDES RenovaBio). The program will provide loans to companies that produce biofuels to encourage them to improve energy-

¹¹⁷² BNDES financia R\$ 191 milhões para projeto de energia solar no interior de São Paulo, BNDES (Brasília) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-r-191-milhoes-para-projeto-de-energia-solar-no-interior-de-sao-paulo>

¹¹⁷³ Platform allows access to climate change projections for all of Brazil, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/educacao-e-pesquisa/2020/11/plataforma-permite-acessar-projecoes-de-mudanca-do-clima-para-todo-o-brasil>

environmental efficiency. Those that, during the loan repayment period, reach the CO₂ emission reduction targets stipulated by the program will have a reduction in the interest rate.”¹¹⁷⁴

On 8 February 2021, BNDES approved two loans “for the production of biogas in the interior of Goiás and Paraná. Together, they will avoid the emission of 154 tons of polluting gases, equivalent to the planting of 1,076 trees. Credits of BRL13.3 million will be granted to Albioma Codora Energia, the second cogeneration plant of the sugar cane producer group Albioma, in Goiás, and BRL10.1 million to Cooperativa Agroindustrial Consolata, of Paraná. Most of the support from BNDES (about 98 per cent of the total directed to the two companies) will be financed by resources from the Climate Fund – Renewable Energies subprogram, which has facilitated conditions for the implementation” of such projects.¹¹⁷⁵

On 17 February 2021, Foreign Minister Ernesto Araújo and Environment Minister Ricardo Salles “held a virtual meeting with the US government’s presidential climate envoy John Kerry. On that occasion, possibilities for cooperation and dialogue between Brazil and the US in the area of climate change and combating deforestation were examined. It was agreed to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the mentioned areas, with a structured process in frequent meetings, in search of sustainable and lasting solutions to common climate challenges.”¹¹⁷⁶

On 1 April 2021, BNDES created new structure for issuing green, social and sustainable bonds – Sustainability Bond Framework. The funds to be raised in future operations based on the SBF will be used to finance and refinance new or existing projects in the BNDES portfolio. “The project models eligible for the allocation of resources cover six green and three social categories. Green categories include: renewable energy; energy efficiency; sustainable water, wastewater and sanitation management; pollution prevention and control; clean transportation; and environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use. Social categories, in turn, include health; education; and support for [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)] and microcredit.”¹¹⁷⁷

On 20 April 2021, National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) proposed the development of guidelines for the National Hydrogen Program. “In view of the difficulties encountered by several countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, hydrogen has gained strength as a resource aimed at the decarbonization of economies. The input carries a high energy density, has versatility in use, does not emit CO₂ and can function as energy storage,” stated MME Secretary of Energy Planning and Development, Paulo Cesar Magalhães.¹¹⁷⁸

¹¹⁷⁴ Program created to encourage reduction of CO₂ emissions in the fuel sector, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente-e-clima/2021/01/criado-programa-para-estimular-reducao-de-emissoes-de-co2-no-setor-de-combustiveis>

¹¹⁷⁵ BNDES financia projetos de biogás no Paraná e em Goiás, BNDES (Brasília) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-projetos-de-biogas-no-parana-e-em-goiais>

¹¹⁷⁶ US-Brazil Dialogue on Climate Change – Joint Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/dialogo-brasil-eua-sobre-mudanca-do-clima-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-do-meio-ambiente

¹¹⁷⁷ BNDES cria nova estrutura para emissão de bônus verdes, sociais e sustentáveis, com o apoio do BID, BNDES (Brasília) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-cria-nova-estrutura-para-emissao-de-bonus-verdes-sociais-e-sustentaveis>

¹¹⁷⁸ CNPE propõe diretrizes para o Programa Nacional do Hidrogênio, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-propoe-diretrizes-para-o-programa-nacional-do-hidrogenio>

On 22 April 2021, the CNPE “approved a resolution establishing the Combustível do Futuro program, whose principle is the use of alternative energy sources and the strengthening of national technological development. With the initiative, Brazil takes another step in leading the global energy transition. The program aims to propose measures to increase the use of sustainable and low-carbon fuels, as well as the application of national vehicle technology, with biofuels, with a view to further decarbonizing our transportation matrix.”¹¹⁷⁹

On 23 April 2021, “Brazil joined the initiative “Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM-C),” a joint proposal by the United States and the United Arab Emirates to foster innovation, research and development (R&D) in agriculture in the world.” Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom, Singapore and Uruguay also participate. “The terms of the initiative and the work plan will be defined until the Food Systems Summit, next September, in New York,” and are expected “to present concrete proposals at the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 26), in November 2021.” “Until COP-26, the new initiative aims to announce a collective increase in global investments in innovation and R&D aimed at resilient agrifood systems that are resistant to climate change. It also intends to outline a structure for the discussion and promotion of priorities, at the national and international levels, which allows amplifying the actions” of the initiative’s members. “Investments in innovation should increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable manner and with a consequent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is also essential to ensure that technologies are available to producers at affordable costs, contributing to rural income and democratizing access to food. By catalyzing global investments in agricultural research, the initiative hopes to be able to globally disseminate fast, efficient and transformative actions based on policies and decisions based on data and science.”¹¹⁸⁰

On 11 August 2021, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) announced it will offer better conditions to companies that assume and fulfill goals for the advancement of their environmental, social and governance performance. The BNDES Crédito ASG program will grant financing with free allocation to companies that commit to improving their sustainability indicators. Those that meet the minimum compensation and reach the goals stipulated by the program will have a reduction in the interest rate.¹¹⁸¹

On 16 August 2021, National Civil Aviation Agency launched a Public Consultation for a period of 45 days on a proposal to amend the Brazilian Civil Aviation Regulation, which deals with “Requirements for CO2 Emissions from Airplanes.” The proposal updates the certification requirements for CO2 emissions from aircraft, making it clearer how CO2 emission standards should be implemented. The applicability of these requirements is related to limiting or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases and are aimed at protecting the environment.¹¹⁸²

¹¹⁷⁹ Criado o programa Combustível do Futuro, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 22 April 2021 (Translated by Google Translate). Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2021/04/criado-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

¹¹⁸⁰ Iniciativa da Missão de Inovação Agrícola para o Clima (AIM-C) – Nota Conjunta MRE-MAPA, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 23 April 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/iniciativa-da-missao-de-inovacao-agricola-para-o-clima-aim-c-nota-conjunta-mre-mapa

¹¹⁸¹ Programa BNDES Crédito vai cobrar juro menor de empresa que reduzir emissões ou aumentar iniciativas sociais, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 11 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/financas-impostos-e-gestao-publica/2021/08/programa-bndes-credito-vai-cobrar-juro-menor-de-empresa-que-reduzir-emissoes-ou-aumentar-iniciativas-sociais>

¹¹⁸² Aberta consulta pública para atualização da certificação para emissões de CO2, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 16 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/anac/pt-br/noticias/2021/aberta-consulta-publica-para-atualizacao-da-certificacao-para-emissoes-de-co>

During the compliance period Brazil addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Alexander Kozlov gave an order to renew the list of methods used to calculate harmful fumes air emissions in energy, industry, oil pumping and processing, agriculture, etc.¹¹⁸³

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued a ministerial decree on establishment of the nation-wide greenhouse gas emissions recording system. President Vladimir Putin had previously ordered to prepare a draft concept of such a system that would facilitate local ecosystems' absorbing capacity estimation.¹¹⁸⁴

On 17 March 2021, the state-owned company "Russian Railways" issued irredeemable "green" bonds worth CHF250 million to purchase electricity-powered passenger locomotives and finance social projects.¹¹⁸⁵

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented new criteria to assess environmental impact of economic agents' activities. New regulation would come into power on 1 September 2021. New regulations touch upon organizational issues relating to public consultations on potentially environmentally harmful projects.¹¹⁸⁶

On 21 April 2021, President Putin announced a new system designed to properly allocate funding received from businesses conducting environmental-harmful activities. Funding would be dedicated to environment restoration projects. Also, President Putin ordered to lower atmosphere emissions in 12 biggest industrial complexes by 20 per cent by 2024.¹¹⁸⁷

¹¹⁸³ List of Methods to Calculate Polluters Air Emissions to be Extended), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021.

<http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/>

rasshiren_perechen_metodik_rascheta_vybrosov_zagryaznyayushchikh_veshchestv_v_atmosfernyy_vozdukh/

¹¹⁸⁴ Ministry of Environment to Amend Greenhouse Gases Absorption Qualitative Criteria, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021.

<http://mnr.gov.ru/press/>

news/minprirody_rossii_razrabotalo_rasporyazhenie_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_kolich/

¹¹⁸⁵ Russian Railways to Issue CHF 250 Million 'Green' irredeemable Bonds, Cbonds (Moscow) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://cbonds.ru/news/1344405/>

¹¹⁸⁶ Requirements for materials of environmental impact assessment approved, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 26 May 2021. https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/utverzhdenny_trebovaniya_k_materialam_otsenki_vozdeystviya_na_okruzhayushchuyu_sredu/

¹¹⁸⁷ Vladimir Putin Proposed to Mark All Eco-Payments, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021.

http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/vladimir_putin_predlozhit_okrasit_vse_ekologicheskie_platezhi_/

On 6 May 2021, the Government presented the draft law establishing producing entities owners' liability for liquidation of environmental damage.¹¹⁸⁸

On 30 July 2021, the Government announced that it would allocate RUB2.7 billion (about USD36.9 million) to reduce the gas emissions following the aims of the Federal project "Chisty Vosdukh" ("Clear Air"). The sum would be spent to reduce emissions in three major cities of Russia – Novokuznetsk, Omsk and Chita.¹¹⁸⁹

Russia has taken actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

On 2 December 2020, according to the information provided by the Public Information Bureau, "India has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA). The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions."¹¹⁹⁰

On 22 December 2020, according to the information provided by the Public Information Bureau, "the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas reviewed the progress of switching over of Industries operating in Delhi to Piped Natural Gas with the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, GAIL and Indraprastha Gas Limited. 1644 of Industrial Units will switch to the new fuel until 31 January 2021."¹¹⁹¹

From 31 December 2020 to 15 January 2021, Indian government agencies conducted inspections in the project premises and transportation of materials related to Construction and Demolition activities in the NCR in order to abate dust and air pollution levies.¹¹⁹²

¹¹⁸⁸ The Government Discussed the Law on Industry Infrastructure Owners' Liability for Environmental Damage, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 May 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/v_pravitelstve_obsudili_zakonoproekt_ob_otvetstvennosti_sobstvennikov_predpriyatiy_za_likvidatsiyu_n/ (in Russian)

¹¹⁸⁹ The Government to Allocate RUB2.7 Billion to Reduce Harmful Air Emissions Under the 'Chisty Vosdukh' Federal Project, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 30 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/pravitelstvo_napravit_2_7_mlrdrubley_na_snizhenie_obyemov_vrednykh_vybr osov_v_atmosferu_v_ramkakh_f/ (in Russian)

¹¹⁹⁰ Government constitutes High-level Ministerial Committee for implementation of Paris Agreement, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677630>

¹¹⁹¹ Air Quality Commission directs for 100 percent switching over of industries in Delhi to PNG, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1682640>

¹¹⁹² Inspection teams to abate dust and related Air Pollution levies charges of nearly 76 lakh rupees on non-compliant entities, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690035>

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joseph Biden agreed to launch a high-level India-US Partnership, which envisages bilateral cooperation on strong actions in the current decade to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Partnership will aim to mobilize finance and speed clean energy deployment; demonstrate and scale innovative clean technologies needed to decarbonize sectors including industry, transportation, power, and buildings; and build capacity to measure, manage, and adapt to the risks of climate-related impacts. The Partnership will proceed along two main tracks: the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership and the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue, which will build on and subsume a range of existing processes.¹¹⁹³

India has taken actions on all three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

On 24 November 2020, the General Office of the State Council released the guidelines on artificial weather-modification work. Among other things, it was mentioned that in order to support and restore the environment and continue sustainable development, the guidelines must be followed, and by 2025, a well-organized and effective weather-modification work system should be formed.¹¹⁹⁴

On 12 December 2020, President Xi Jinping announced three proposals to improve global climate governance. He said, “China will lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product by over 65 per cent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 per cent, increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.”¹¹⁹⁵

On 24 December 2020, the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced the establishment of China’s first research center engaged in working on reaching carbon neutrality. The Center will plan research plans and estimate carbon budgets in 2030 and 2060. In the future, the Center will also release the optimal path to reaching carbon neutrality.¹¹⁹⁶

¹¹⁹³ India-US Joint Statement on Launching the “India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership”, Ministry of External Affairs of India (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33821/IndiaUS+Joint+Statement+on+Launching+the+IndiaUS+Climate+and+Clean+Energy+Agenda+2030+Partnership>

¹¹⁹⁴ The General Office of the State Council on promoting the work on Artificial Weather Modification. High-quality opinions on development, Office of the State Council (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 21 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2020-12/02/content_5566429.htm

¹¹⁹⁵ Xinhua Headlines-Xi Focus: China's further commitments inject impetus for global climate actions, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.cma.gov.cn/en2014/news/News/202012/t20201214_568424.html

¹¹⁹⁶ Carbon neutrality to be achieved by 2060. The Chinese Academy of Sciences established a special research center, Xinhua (Beijing) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-12/25/c_1126907810.htm

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released a notice on “further improving” the system of financial subsidies in order to promote a healthy development of the new energy vehicle industry. It stated that the subsidies will be cut by 10 per cent.¹¹⁹⁷

On 12 January 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party published a guideline on implementing the new system of forest chiefs. From then on, each province, city or a town would have forest chiefs, who would organize and lead the protection and development of forests and other green resources.¹¹⁹⁸

On 15 January 2021, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, a state-owned enterprise launched a large carbon neutrality project, stating that it was only the beginning of the company’s green transformation. The company has decided to establish several research institutions, and will continue its path to decarbonization.¹¹⁹⁹

On 9 February 2021, it was stated that China issued its first batch of carbon-neutral bonds worth about USD991.74 million. The bonds will be used to finance carbon-reduction projects.¹²⁰⁰

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China’s installed capacity of nuclear power will reach 70 million kilowatts.¹²⁰¹ Also, according to the plan, the autonomous region Inner Mongolia must make breakthroughs in reduction of carbon emissions and energy conservation.¹²⁰²

On 12 March 2021, Li Keqiang, the premier of the State Council, announced that one of the main goals for China in 2021 is reducing energy consumption by 3 per cent, he also noted that the country will continue reducing pollution.¹²⁰³

On 7 July 2021, the national authorities presented the plan to achieve the goals associated with carbon neutrality and building-up circular economy by 2025. The primary goal was said to establish a national resource recycling system to achieve carbon peak and neutrality. China plans to reach the goal of recycling 60 million tons of paper and 320 million tons of scrap metal and achieve the milestone of RMB5 billion worth of recycling industry annual output.¹²⁰⁴

¹¹⁹⁷ On “Notice of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Development and Reform Commission on Further Improving the Financial Subsidy Policy for the Promotion and Application of New Energy Vehicles”, Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/31/content_5575908.htm

¹¹⁹⁸ Opinions on the Full Implementation of the Forest Chief System, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.mee.gov.cn/zcwj/zygwj/202101/t20210115_817597.shtml

¹¹⁹⁹ CNOOC launches its carbon neutral plan, ChinaNews (Beijing) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <http://www.chinanews.com/cj/2021/01-15/9388542.shtml>

¹²⁰⁰ China issues first batch of carbon-neutral bonds, Xinhua (Beijing) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202102/09/content_WS60227233c6d0719374af8a7e.html

¹²⁰¹ China's installed capacity of nuclear power to reach 70m kW, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/05/content_WS6041b8f4c6d0719374afa16f.html

¹²⁰² Inner Mongolia set to clean up its energy act, China Daily (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/12/content_WS604ac038c6d0719374afaae7.html

¹²⁰³ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

¹²⁰⁴ China plans to promote circular economy, Xinhua (Beijing) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-07/07/c_1310048004.htm

On 17 July 2021, the China Development Bank announced that it would issue a new batch of green finance bonds to support the development of the Yellow River basin and protect the environment. The Bank plans to attract USD1.55 billion in investments from global investors.¹²⁰⁵

On 17 August 2021, the national authorities presented the hydrogen industry 2021-2025 development plan. According to the document, the country's selected regions would allocate extra resources to build-up hydrogen-industry worth RMB100 billion (USD 15.4 billion) and reduce carbon emissions by 2 million tons by 2025.¹²⁰⁶

China has taken actions aimed at greenhouse gases emissions reduction, supports climate adaptation and resilience, and mobilizes climate finance.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 3 February 2021, the Development Bank of Southern Africa has launched its first green bond. "The EUR200 million bond was issued through a private placement with French development finance institution Agence Française de Développement."¹²⁰⁷

On 9 March 2021, the United Kingdom Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions South Africa announced project portfolio to support South Africa's climate change priorities. The total financing would reach GBP3million. The selected projects focus on three priority areas of climate change action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, namely energy transition, low-carbon mobility development and green finance facilitation.¹²⁰⁸

On 30 March 2021, South Africa presented an updated draft nationally determined contribution on climate change.¹²⁰⁹ The document includes a proposed commitment to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 at a pace that is quicker than that outlined in its current pledge to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was lodged in October 2015.

On 16 August 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) announced its intention to establish a new fund to facilitate local businessman willing to realize green-energy-related

¹²⁰⁵ China Development Bank issues 10 bln yuan of green bonds, Xinhua (Beijing) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-07/17/c_1310067039.htm

¹²⁰⁶ Beijing releases plan on hydrogen energy industry development, Xinhua (Beijing) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/17/c_1310132769.htm

¹²⁰⁷ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

¹²⁰⁸ UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3M, British High Commission Pretoria (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-south-africa-announces-project-portfolio-of-over-3m>

¹²⁰⁹ South Africa's updated draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) launched, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 May 2021. https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy_indc2021draftlaunch_climatechangecop26#:~:text=Under%20the%20Paris%20Agreement%20all,eq%20for%202025%20and%202050.

projects. In fulfilling the task, DTIC would cooperate with J.P. Morgan company, a financial services provider. The proposed program would benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.¹²¹⁰

South Africa has taken actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹²¹⁰ Trade, Industry and Competition announces new fund to assist SA-based small and medium-sized businesses, 17 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021.
<https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-announces-new-fund-assist-sa-based-small-and-medium-sized>

16. Energy: Energy Investment

“[We will enhance strategic partnership in energy by]...facilitating mutual investments”

XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia		0	
India			+1
China	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Average		0 (50%)	

Background

Energy issues were included into the BRICS agenda at the first summit in Yekaterinburg in 2009 under Russia’s presidency with a focus on energy security. The BRIC leaders stated their intent to improve coordination between the governments, national producers, and consumers, including those in transit countries, to reduce uncertainties and energy markets volatility. They also set forth the tasks of energy balance diversification in the member countries by expanding the range of trading partners and implementing renewable energy technologies. Infrastructure development, energy investments facilitation and increase in energy efficiency were identified as the appropriate tools for achieving the goals.¹²¹¹

The Memorandum of Mutual Understanding in Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency, adopted at the first meeting of the BRICS energy ministers in 2015, in Moscow contained several decisions, including: the identification of a “list of energy efficient and clean technologies in which BRICS countries are interested”; the creation of “a record (Database) of relevant data on energy efficient technologies in BRICS countries”; the activation of “cooperation between public sector, private companies and international financial institutions to encourage investments in energy efficient projects and technologies.”¹²¹²

The 2015 Strategy for Economic Partnership called on the BRICS countries to “encourage cooperation for the investments in energy projects in BRICS countries, including projects aimed at oil and gas exploration, energy infrastructure development” and “strengthen cooperation between public and private sector to stimulate investment in energy efficient technologies.”¹²¹³

The Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, adopted in 2020, stipulated the members’ intention to “enhance interaction in the field of technological and innovative cooperation, in particular by creating conditions for attracting relevant sustainable investment in the energy sector.”¹²¹⁴

¹²¹¹ First Summit: Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries Leaders, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 June 2009. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency1/First%20Summit.pdf>

¹²¹² Second Summit: Joint Statement, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 April 2010. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency1/Second%20Summit%202010.pdf>.

¹²¹³ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 12 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/partnershipstrategy_eng.pdf.

¹²¹⁴ Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, RANEPА (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 12 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/STRATEGY%20FOR%20BRICS%20ECONOMIC%20PARTNERSHIP%202025.pdf>

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the BRICS countries to promote transboundary investment in the field of energy. Given the focus of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, full compliance with the commitment requires specific action to promote investment in enhancing energy sectors' capacity for sustainable development.

For the purposes of this analysis, investing in sustainable energy sector development includes:

- financing projects in renewable energy development,
- developing clean energy technologies and promoting application thereof,
- improving energy efficiency,
- decreasing pollutant emissions,
- promoting energy conservation.

The mutuality component of the commitment implies that the BRICS countries should promote intra-BRICS investment, i.e. engage in bi- or multilateral projects with other BRICS countries.

Thus, to fully comply with the commitment the BRICS country needs to take action to promote intra-BRICS investment in sustainable energy sector development, while promoting intra-BRICS investment without focusing on sustainability constitutes partial compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member takes no action to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector.
0	The BRICS member takes action to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector development.
+1	The BRICS member takes action to promote intra-BRICS investment in sustainable energy sector development.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to enhance strategic partnership in energy.

On 25 January 2021, Brazil and India adopted Action Plan to strengthen the Strategic Partnership. Energy was listed as one of the priority thematic areas of cooperation. The Action plan mentions Joint Bioenergy Working Group, Joint Working Group on Oil and Natural Gas and Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources as mechanisms for cooperation. It also set the goals to implement the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector and implement the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Bioenergy.¹²¹⁵

On 26 April 2021, “the Government of São Paulo, through the Secretariat of Infrastructure and Environment, included 13 cities in the Ribeira Valley on the route of the Huawei Solar Road Show – an itinerant project by the Brazilian Association of Distributed Generation to stimulate” the

¹²¹⁵ Action Plan to Strengthen the Strategic Partnership between Brazil and India – 25 January 2020, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2020/plano-de-acao-para-fortalecer-a-parceria-estrategica-entre-o-brasil-e-a-india-25-de-janeiro-de-2020

renewable energy market development in Brazil. The project is sponsored by technology company Huawei, Risen Solar Technology and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.¹²¹⁶

Brazil has taken actions to promote intra-BRICS investment in sustainable energy sector development.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to enhance strategic partnership in energy.

On 2 March 2021, Russia and India agreed on establishment of a working group dedicated to promotion of cooperation in gas sphere. The parties also laid down an energy cooperation center located in Moscow that would promote deepening of business contacts between Russian and Indian energy companies.¹²¹⁷

Russia has taken some actions to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector. Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on enhancement strategic partnership in energy by facilitating mutual investments.

On 25 January 2021, Brazil and India adopted Action Plan to strengthen the Strategic Partnership. Energy was listed as one of the priority thematic areas of cooperation. The Action plan mentions Joint Bioenergy Working Group, Joint Working Group on Oil and Natural Gas and Joint Working Group on Geology and Mineral Resources as mechanisms for cooperation. It also sets the goals to implement the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector and implement the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Bioenergy.¹²¹⁸

On 2 March 2021, Russia and India agreed on establishment of a working group dedicated to promotion of cooperation in gas sphere. The parties also laid down an energy cooperation center located in Moscow that would promote deepening of business contacts between Russian and Indian energy companies.¹²¹⁹

India has taken actions to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector giving special emphasis to clean energy technologies.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

¹²¹⁶ Government Of SP, ABGD and Huawei Take an International Renewable Energy Project To The Ribeira Valley, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment of São Paulo (São Paulo) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.infraestruturameioambiente.sp.gov.br/2021/04/governo-de-sp-abgd-e-huawei-levam-projeto-internacional-de-energia-renovavel-para-o-vale-do-ribeira/>

¹²¹⁷ Russia And India Will Create A Target Working Group For Gas, Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 26 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20230>

¹²¹⁸ Action Plan to Strengthen the Strategic Partnership between Brazil and India – 25 January 2020, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2020/plano-de-acao-para-fortalecer-a-parceria-estrategica-entre-o-brasil-e-a-india-25-de-janeiro-de-2020

¹²¹⁹ Russia And India Will Create A Target Working Group For Gas, Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 26 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20230>

China: -1

China has not complied with the commitment on enhancement strategic partnership in energy by facilitating mutual investments.

China took no action to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector.

Thus, China receives the score of -1.¹²²⁰

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with the commitment on enhancement strategic partnership in energy by facilitating mutual investments.

South Africa took no action to promote intra-BRICS investment in energy sector.

Thus, South Africa receives the score of -1.¹²²¹

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹²²⁰ This score of non-compliance was determined after a deep search on the following websites: Xinhua News <http://www.news.cn/>; The State Council of the People's Republic of China <http://english.www.gov.cn/>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/; National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China <https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/>

¹²²¹ This score of non-compliance was determined after a deep search on the following websites: South African Government <https://www.gov.za/>; South Africa Department of Mineral Resources & Energy <http://www.energy.gov.za/>; South Africa Department of International Relations and Cooperation <http://www.dirco.gov.za/>; The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>

17. International Taxation: Tax Avoidance

“We remain committed to enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.”

XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Brazil			+1
Russia		0	
India			+1
China		0	
South Africa	-1		
Average		+0.20 (60%)	

Background

The first time the BRICS countries committed to “enhance cooperation in the international forums targeting tax base erosion and information exchange for tax purposes” was in their 2014 Fortaleza Declaration.¹²²² At the 2015 Ufa Summit, the leaders reaffirmed their intention to address tax issues and made commitments on tackling base erosion, assisting developing countries to strengthen tax administration capacity, and ensuring tax transparency and exchange of information for taxation purposes.¹²²³ Commitments on similar priorities in the international tax agenda were made at the Goa, Hangzhou and Johannesburg summits.¹²²⁴ In 2019 in Brasilia BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment on prevention of base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), exchange of tax information and needs-based capacity building for developing countries. They also pledged to address the tax challenges of the digitalization of the economy.¹²²⁵ In 2020, the leaders again committed to enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules. They also committed to promoting efforts on improving compliance with internationally agreed standards on tax transparency and exchange of information.¹²²⁶

Commitment Features

This commitment requires BRICS members to support international tax cooperation to address base erosion and profit shifting. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), its members, along with other countries, including BRICS countries, are

¹²²² Fortaleza Declaration, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 10 January 2021. http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/brazpresidency2/6th_BRICS_Summit_Fortaleza_Declaration_and_Action_Plan.pdf

¹²²³ 2 VII BRICS Summit Ufa Declaration, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow) 9 July 2014. Access Date: 10 January 2021. http://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/ruspresidency2/Declaration_eng.pdf

¹²²⁴ Goa Declaration, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow) 16 October 2016. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/brics/indianpresidency2/Goa%20Declaration.pdf>

¹²²⁵ 11th BRICS Summit – Brasilia Declaration, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/BRICS_new_downloadings/2019/11th_BRICS_Summit_eng.pdf

¹²²⁶ XII BRICS Summit Moscow Declaration, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/briks/dokumenty-briks/briks-rossijskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/XII%20BRICS%20Summit%20Moscow%20Declaration.pdf>

establishing a modern international tax framework under which profits are taxed where economic activity and value creation occur. Work will be carried out to support all countries interested in implementing and applying the rules in a consistent and coherent manner, particularly those for which capacity building is an important issue.¹²²⁷ Thus, to comply with this commitment BRICS countries are expected to participate in the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), either by implementing OECD recommendations on BEPS embodied in 15 BEPS actions, or taking measures to support developing countries interested in applying anti-BEPS rules. BEPS actions focus on the following issues:

- Action 1 addresses the tax challenges of the digital economy and identifies the main difficulties that the digital economy poses for the application of existing international tax rules.
- Action 2 develops model treaty provisions and recommendations regarding the design of domestic rules to neutralize the effects of hybrid instruments and entities (e.g. double non-taxation, double deduction, long-term deferral).
- Action 3 sets out recommendations to strengthen the rules for the taxation of controlled foreign corporations (CFC).
- Action 4 outlines a common approach based on best practices for preventing base erosion through the use of interest expense, for example through the use of related-party and third-party debt to achieve excessive interest deductions or to finance the production of exempt or deferred income.
- Action 5 revamps the work on harmful tax practices with a focus on improving transparency, including compulsory spontaneous exchange on rulings related to preferential regimes, and on requiring substantial activity for preferential regimes, such as IP regimes.
- Action 6 develops model treaty provisions and recommendations regarding the design of domestic rules to prevent treaty abuse.
- Action 7 contains changes to the definition of permanent establishment to prevent its artificial circumvention, e.g. via the use of commissionaire structures and the likes.
- Actions 8 – 10 contain transfer pricing guidance to assure that transfer pricing outcomes are in line with value creation in relation to intangibles, including hard-to-value ones, to risks and capital, and to other high-risk transactions.
- Action 11 establishes methodologies to collect and analyse data on BEPS and the actions to address it, develops recommendations regarding indicators of the scale and economic impact of BEPS and ensure that tools are available to monitor and evaluates the effectiveness and economic impact of the actions taken to address BEPS on an ongoing basis.
- Action 12 contains recommendations regarding the design of mandatory disclosure rules for aggressive tax planning schemes, taking into consideration the administrative costs for tax administrations and business and drawing on experiences of the increasing number of countries that have such rules.
- Action 13 contains revised guidance on transfer pricing documentation, including the template for country-by-country reporting, to enhance transparency while taking into consideration compliance costs.

¹²²⁷ The BEPS Package, OECD. Access date: 10 January 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-about.htm#BEPSPackage>

- Action 14 develops solutions to address obstacles that prevent countries from solving treaty-related disputes under MAP, via a minimum standard in this area as well as a number of best practices. It also includes arbitration as an option for willing countries.
- Action 15 provides an analysis of the legal issues related to the development of a multilateral instrument to enable countries to streamline the implementation of the BEPS treaty measures, as well as the mandate to carry out that work in 2016. Thus, no actions at national level are expected from G20 members in this particular area.¹²²⁸

Particular elements of each of the BEPS actions are described in relevant reports and summarized in the special Explanatory Statement. If the BRICS member has not taken any actions consistent with the BEPS package, it receives a score of -1. Partial compliance requires member’s actions in line with any of these requirements to be taken during the compliance period. Full compliance is scored if a member takes action in line with BEPS Action 1 “Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation.” It is the top priority for the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework. BRICS members participate as G20 Inclusive Framework members. In May 2019, the Inclusive Framework issued the Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.¹²²⁹ It explores technical design implementation issues that must be refined to develop a comprehensive and consensus-based solution. It includes concrete proposals for the two challenges facing the international income tax in the digital economy: changing the allocation of taxing rights through a coherent and concurrent review of the profit allocation and nexus rules (Pillar 1) and remaining BEPS issues and minimum taxation (Pillar 2).¹²³⁰ Practical results in relation to Action 1 are expected to be reached in 2021.¹²³¹

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The BRICS member takes no action to enhance international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.
0	The BRICS member takes some action to implement domestic reforms consistent with the BEPS package, but no measures related to Action 1.
+1	The BRICS member takes action to implement domestic reforms consistent with the BEPS package, including measures related to Action 1.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

On 25 February 2021, according to the information provided by Ernst & Young Brazil, “the Brazilian Senate approved three new treaties for the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance (the Treaties) between Brazil and Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The Treaties are now pending enactment by the President’s sanction.

¹²²⁸ BEPS Actions, OECD. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions.htm>

¹²²⁹ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/programme-of-work-to-develop-a-consensus-solution-to-the-tax-challenges-arising-from-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>

¹²³⁰ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/programme-of-work-to-develop-a-consensus-solution-to-the-tax-challenges-arising-from-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>

¹²³¹ Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/action1/>

The Treaties' provisions are partially aligned with the standards of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and its Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) action plans.¹²³²

On 1 March 2021, Brazil introduced legal act CIDE-Internet (640/2021). It will impose tax at a rate of 3 per cent on gross revenue from: “advertising, sponsorship or merchandising, content targeting, collection, distribution or treatment of users’ data, incentive or influence for the use of services, payment platform, exploitation or dissemination of images, text, video or sound related to a natural or legal person, entities subject to this tax would be legal entities which, as a consequence of exportation of the listed activities in Brazil, accrued revenue in Brazil or abroad.”¹²³³

Brazil took actions to implement domestic reforms consistent with the BEPS Package, including measures related to Action 1.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on tackling tax issues related to digital growth.

On 12 December 2020, the Government of Russia approved amendments to double taxation avoidance agreement with Luxemburg that would come into force in 2022. The new revision implies 15 per cent tax rate for dividend yield.¹²³⁴ On 22 December 2020, the amended agreement was approved by the State Duma.¹²³⁵

On 10 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced its intention to introduce a new tax on yields received by foreign IT-companies from digital services delivered in Russia.¹²³⁶ Currently the Government is studying best practices and steps taken by foreign counterparts in this regard. The “digital tax” is said to be introduced no sooner than 2022 – 2023.¹²³⁷

On 20 February 2021, the Federal Tax Service and the Federal Anti-Monopoly Service signed an agreement on information cooperation. Two federal agencies would share relevant information necessary to prevent tax avoidance and violations of anti-monopoly regulations.¹²³⁸

On 19 March 2021, the State Duma approved amendments to Russia’s Tax Code and thus ratchet up punishment for big businesses alleged in tax avoidance. Small enterprises, on the other hand, would

¹²³² Brazilian Senate approves three new treaties for the avoidance of double taxation, EY (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazilian-senate-approves-three-new-treaties-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation

¹²³³ Brazil: Review of digital services tax proposals, KPMG (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-brazil-review-of-digital-services-tax-proposals.html>

¹²³⁴ Decisions adopted at the meeting of the Government on December 10, 2020, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41105/>

¹²³⁵ Duma ratified tax treaties with Cyprus and Luxembourg, Pravo.ru (Moscow) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://pravo.ru/news/228509/>

¹²³⁶ The Ministry of Finance is considering the issue of introducing a "digital tax" in Russia, Vedomosti (Moscow) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.vedomosti.ru/economics/news/2021/02/10/857442-minfin-prorabativaet-vopros-vvedeniya-v-rossii-tsifrovogo-naloga>

¹²³⁷ The Ministry of Finance told when the digital tax will start working, PRIME (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://1prime.ru/nalogy/20210413/833456874.html>

¹²³⁸ Federal Tax Service of Russia and FAS Russia signed an Agreement on cooperation and organization of information interaction, Federal Tax Service (Moscow) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. https://www.nalog.gov.ru/rn77/news/activities_fts/10576677/

benefit from new regulations as the package lifts percentage threshold. Instead, the amended law leaves only gross indicators (up to RUB45 million).¹²³⁹

On 9 April 2021, the Government of Russia has denounced the agreement with the Netherlands on double tax avoidance. The parties could not reach a consensus on dividend yield taxation – Russia proposed raising up the rate up to 15 per cent as it had been done with Luxemburg in 2020. The Netherlands refused to amend the agreement.¹²⁴⁰ On 20 April 2021, the Committee of the State Duma approved the decision made by the government¹²⁴¹ On 11 May 2021, the plenary session of the Duma resulted in denunciation of the abovementioned agreement.¹²⁴²

Russia has taken numerous steps consistent with some actions within the BEPS package, but no concrete action related to digital taxation has been taken within monitoring period so far.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

India: +1

India has partially complied with the commitment on enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

On 12 January 2021, the Central Board of Direct Taxes launched an online portal “to receive and process complaints of tax evasion, foreign undisclosed assets as well as complaints regarding benami properties.” This step was made in order to encourage participation of citizens as stakeholders in curbing tax evasion.¹²⁴³

On 3 May 2021, the Indian Tax Administration issued a notification prescribing revenue and user thresholds for the application of a new nexus rule for nonresidents in the form of “significant economic presence” (SEP) which was introduced under the Indian Tax Laws in 2018. The notification prescribes a revenue threshold of INR20 million (USD280,000) for sales to Indian persons or a user threshold of 300,000 Indian users. If a nonresident exceeds either of these thresholds, the SEP rules will apply, resulting in taxation of the nonresident in India.¹²⁴⁴

India has taken actions to implement domestic reforms consistent with the BEPS Package with some of these measures related to Action 1.

¹²³⁹ Dodge raised the price tag, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021.

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4292711>

¹²⁴⁰ Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 09.04.2021 No. 565 "On making a proposal to denounce the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income and property", Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202104120002>

¹²⁴¹ Duma Committee approved the denunciation of the tax agreement with the Netherlands, Interfax (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/762287>

¹²⁴² State Duma denounces tax agreement with the Netherlands, RIA (Moscow) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://ria.ru/20210511/soglashenie-1731775191.html>

¹²⁴³ CBDT launches e-portal for filing complaints regarding tax evasion/Benami Properties/Foreign Undisclosed Assets, India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile, Public Information Bureau (New Delhi) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 2 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688038>

¹²⁴⁴ India issues thresholds for triggering “significant economic presence” in India, EY Tax News (London) Update 11 May 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-0943-india-issues-thresholds-for-triggering-significant-economic-presence-in-india>

Thus, India receives the score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrey Shelepon

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on enhancing international cooperation to put an end to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will improve the management services of international taxation. International taxation was chosen as an important area of work of the Chinese government.¹²⁴⁵

On 29 March 2021, it was announced that “China will adopt a broad range of digitalized measures to regulate tax collections and optimize tax payment services through 2025.” The new technologies will also help with real-time verification and monitoring of the invoice issuance process, which will help to prevent tax fraud.¹²⁴⁶

China has taken actions to implement domestic reforms consistent with the BEPS Package without any of these measures related to Action 1.

Thus, China receives the score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with the commitment on tackling tax issues related to digital growth.

According to the updated list of all agreements for the avoidance of double taxation, on 1 April 2021, South Africa and Kuwait signed an initial protocol on the matter. As of 4 May 2021, the protocol is yet to be ratified by either of the parties.¹²⁴⁷

South Africa engaged in negotiations with a foreign party that could result in signing a new agreement in future, but no action matching the commitment features has been founded within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.¹²⁴⁸

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹²⁴⁵ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021.

<http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

¹²⁴⁶ Digital measures to optimize tax collections, China Daily 29 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/30/content_WS60626187c6d0719374afbc03.html

¹²⁴⁷ Summary of all Agreements for the Avoidance of Double Taxation, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Legal/Agreements/LAPD-IntA-DTA-2013-01-Status-Overview-of-All-DTAs-and-Protocols.pdf>

¹²⁴⁸ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Government of South Africa <https://www.gov.za/>; South African Revenue Service <https://www.sars.gov.za/>; National Treasury <http://www.treasury.gov.za/ministry/>; The Presidency <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>