



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

15TH BRICS SUMMIT KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

The 15th Summit of BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will take place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg from 22 to 24 August 2023 under the theme: ***“BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”***. President Cyril Ramaphosa as Chair of BRICS for the year 2023 will chair the Summit.

It will be the first BRICS Summit to be hosted in person since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global restrictions. The leaders of Brazil, India, China and South Africa will attend the Summit.

By mutual agreement, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation will not attend the Summit but the Russian Federation will be represented by Foreign Minister, Mr Sergey Lavrov.

BRICS is a group of leading emerging markets and developing countries. The first BRICS Summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. South Africa was invited to join in 2010 and attended its first Summit in Sanya, China, in 2011.

BRICS cooperation has grown over the last fifteen years to include an annual programme of over 160 meetings across the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial, and people-to-people cooperation, contributing to the sustainable development agenda, the development of humanity, and more fair global governance.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>BRICS represents a powerful coalition of countries with multilateralism at the centre of a shared vision.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BRICS seeks to advance the restructuring of the global political, economic and financial architecture into one that is more equitable and balanced, and rests on the important pillar of multilateralism. ● The grouping calls for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform as well as promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems. ● BRICS has a fully-fledged global format, which makes it better equipped to represent the developing world and constitutes a stronger force to counter international fora largely dominated by the developed world. ● South Africa's membership of BRICS acknowledges our contribution to shaping the socio-economic regeneration of Africa, as well as the country's active involvement in peace, security and reconstruction efforts on the continent.
<p><i>The opportunities presented in hosting the 15th BRICS Summit are considerable.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As Chair of BRICS in 2023, South Africa's strategic vision is to harness our existing cooperation to address issues of national interest and national concern for South Africa in a holistic and multi-disciplinary way. ● South Africa leverages its BRICS membership to address the triple challenge of inequality, poverty and unemployment through increased intra-BRICS trade, investment, tourism, capacity building, skills, and technology transfers. ● BRICS cooperation provides tangible benefits for South Africa through research and innovation, energy, health, and education cooperation. ● This includes BRICS financing for infrastructure development, capacity building, research, education and skilling, trade, investment, and tourism opportunities. ● The New Development Bank, which was established in 2015, approved eleven projects in South Africa, valued at around \$5.4 billion, to improve service delivery in critical areas. ● Over 17 percent of South Africa's exports are to BRICS while 9 percent of total imports are from BRICS. ● Total South African trade with BRICS reached R702 billion in 2021 from R487 billion in 2017. ● Trade with China is 73 percent of South Africa's exports to BRICS.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>BRICS offers many opportunities to ensure prosperity and progress.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Africa strives for enhanced and inclusive economic growth that will lead to the creation of decent and sustainable jobs. ● The country is also committed to advance the fight against poverty and accelerate the country's economic transformation including the economic empowerment of women and youth. ● Regionally, South Africa provides direct access to the rest of the continent and is situated between the East, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East. ● South Africa has many geostrategic and related structural advantages, making it an excellent investment destination and ideal "gateway" partner in the African growth story. ● The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Infrastructure Master Plan (RIMP), which could involve cross-border projects with a combined investment value of up to US\$500 billion, was approved at the SADC Summit, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 2012. ● South African companies can take advantage of our unique position, through partnering with BRICS companies to explore commercial opportunities in Africa. ● The fast-growing emerging economies of BRICS have a vital role to play in driving a global economic recovery that also delivers benefits to the global South.
<p><i>South Africa's participation in BRICS and being Chair in 2023 will unlock opportunities through AfCFTA.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As Chair of BRICS in 2023, South Africa will pursue the potential for growing trade and investment. ● South Africa will also pursue intra-African trade and investment, while advancing the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). ● The AfCFTA creates a predictable environment for investments by South Africa's BRICS partners, particularly in infrastructure development. ● Significant investment in infrastructure is required to operationalise the AfCFTA and to unlock the benefits of the Continental market. ● South Africa will be looking at building a partnership between BRICS and Africa to unlock mutually beneficial opportunities for increased trade, investment and infrastructure development. ● Individually, the BRICS countries all have active partnerships on cooperation, trade and development on the African continent.

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<p><i>The BRICS members will develop a partnership towards an Equitable Just Transition.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tackling climate change requires urgent, significant and transformational changes across all sectors of our economies. ● South Africa aims to explore opportunities to manage the risks associated with climate change while improving the lives and futures of all our people. ● The BRICS members support the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement. ● In particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances must be honoured. ● South Africa and its BRICS partners will promote the importance of a clear roadmap to deliver on the Glasgow decision to double adaptation financing by 2025.
<p><i>BRICS cooperation is fuelling Science, Technology, and Innovation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre was launched in 2022 and will strengthen cooperation in the fields of health, science, and innovation. ● BRICS education cooperation has enabled the sharing of information and a better understanding among member states of their education systems. ● The BRICS Academic Forum and BRICS Think Tank Council have developed academic and institutional ties that provide BRICS Leaders with a knowledge base. ● People-to-people cooperation manifests through art, film and cultural exchanges, increased access to capital for infrastructure and sustainable development.
<p><i>BRICS nations are working towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BRICS believes that the international community should work together to strengthen cooperation for common development. ● Great emphasis must be placed on the health, well-being and food and water security of the most vulnerable in the developing economies. ● The BRICS member countries will work together to strengthen post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development ● The BRICS countries are committed to implementing the UN Education 2030 Agenda, promoting education accessibility and equity, accelerating the development of quality education and training. ● We will also encourage exchanges among the youth, strengthening the cultivation of knowledge on sustainable development, and

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	<p>providing BRICS contributions for global governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education and continuous skills development are long-term solutions towards development and escaping poverty. ● BRICS will strengthen the existing cooperation and initiatives towards knowledge creation and knowledge exchange to unlock opportunities for the future.
<p><i>BRICS countries are uniquely positioned to support South Africa's energy recovery.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainability is fundamental to the founding principles of the New Development Bank (NDB). ● In this regard the Bank aims to deliver transformative impact to BRICS member countries with a target of 40 percent of all the Bank's loans funding projects aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change by 2026. ● South Africa and China have so far been the leading beneficiaries of sustainable financing from the NDB with respect to clean and renewable energy. ● South Africa is the beneficiary of 12 projects financed by the Bank to the value of 5.4 billion dollars. ● Five of these projects support the energy sector, with three of those funding renewable energy projects to the value of thirteen billion Rand. ● BRICS countries contain almost half the world's population and account for approximately 40 percent of the world's energy consumption. BRICS are responsible for 48 percent of the world's coal consumption, 22 percent of the world's oil consumption and 13.5 percent of the world's natural gas consumption. ● While renewable energy consumption is only 16 percent now, BRICS renewable energy consumption has been growing year by year driven by most BRICS members commitment to mitigating climate change.