



DECLARATION OF RIO DE JANEIRO

Forum of BRICS University Rectors

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

We, the Rectors and official representatives of universities gathered in Rio de Janeiro on June 6 and 7, 2025, to participate in the Forum of BRICS University Rectors, under the common vision of advancing education, research, and innovation as pillars for inclusive development, sustainability, and global cooperation.

Considering the social, technological, environmental, and economic transformations shaping our world, we affirm the essential role of universities in generating knowledge, building equitable societies, and cultivating future leaders. Through this Final Declaration, we express our collective priorities and strategic commitments across eight thematic areas: political, technological, environmental, and economic transformations shaping our world, we affirm the essential role of universities in generating knowledge, building equitable societies, cultivating future ethical leaders and protecting human rights and freedoms of all people.

BRICS Academic Funding

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Coordinate with national ministries to identify funding opportunities for joint research and mobility.
- Create a BRICS University Grant Catalogue with accessible funding streams for faculty and students.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Establish a BRICS Academic Cooperation Fund for long-term university partnerships and innovation.
- Advocate for harmonized funding mechanisms that support multi-country research projects.
- Secure public-private partnerships to increase investment in higher education and R&D.

Language Policies in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):





- Establish working groups to assess the status of language policies in BRICS higher education.
- Launch pilot multilingual digital platforms for academic exchange, with translation tools and local language support.
- Initiate joint language immersion and exchange programs among BRICS universities.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Develop a BRICS Multilingual Academic Resource Repository to support curriculum localization and linguistic inclusivity.
- Create a shared policy framework promoting language diversity, indigenous language preservation, and multilingual research dissemination.
- Foster co-publication initiatives in native languages and English to increase accessibility and global visibility.

Health and Better Life in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Form inter-university task forces on public health research and community health programs.
- Launch collaborative health education campaigns focusing on mental health, nutrition, and preventive care across campuses.
- Promote virtual symposia and academic exchanges in medical sciences and public health policy.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Establish a BRICS University Public Health Network (BRICS-UPHN) to coordinate research, data sharing, and joint response strategies.
- Develop joint degree programs in global health and epidemiology tailored to regional needs.
- Invest in cross-border clinical training and mobile health units for underserved areas through university partnerships.

Energy Transition and Sustainability in the BRICS Countries





Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Launch a BRICS Green Campus Initiative promoting energy efficiency and carbon tracking in universities.
- Coordinate short-term research fellowships focused on renewable energy technologies and climate adaptation.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Create a Joint Center for Sustainable Energy Research and Innovation.
- Embed sustainability education across all academic disciplines with shared curricula.
- Formulate policy recommendations on just energy transitions for BRICS policy forums.

Artificial Intelligence and Education in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Establish a BRICS-wide AI in Education Forum to share best practices and tools.
- Initiate a joint open-access digital library of AI-enhanced learning modules.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Develop AI-driven personalized learning systems inclusive and linguistically diverse.
- Create an inter-university AI Research and Ethics Consortium (AIREC).
- Offer cross-border degree programs in AI with ethical and societal frameworks.

Fighting Poverty in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Expand community engagement and service-learning programs on food security and education access.
- Conduct localized research on poverty dynamics and barriers to mobility.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Launch a BRICS Poverty and Inclusion Research Observatory.
- Design vocational training and entrepreneurship programs for marginalized groups.
- Develop policy labs to support grassroots poverty solutions.





University Cooperation in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Sign multilateral agreements for joint degrees and faculty exchanges.
- Hold annual BRICS Rectors Dialogues and Student Forums.
- *Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):*
- Launch a BRICS Virtual University Consortium.
- Standardize quality assurance and degree equivalency frameworks.

Innovation in the BRICS Countries

Short-term Commitments (2025–2027):

- Create startup incubators and innovation labs within universities.
- Facilitate BRICS Innovation Challenges and hackathons.

Medium-term Commitments (2027–2030):

- Develop innovation clusters linking universities, industry, and government.
- Train innovation leaders through fellowships and international competitions.
- We, the participating rectors and delegates, affirm our collective responsibility to develop an extensive mobility program for students, staff and researchers and to shape a future rooted in cooperation, inclusion, sustainability, and academic excellence. BRICS universities, with their unique diversity and shared ambitions, are poised to be catalysts for transformation both within our countries and globally.
- We call upon national governments, funding bodies, and civil society to support the implementation of these commitments, and we resolve to meet again to assess our progress and strengthen our shared vision.

Adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

June 7, 2025

