

Press Accreditations Open to the BRICS Business Forum

Summit in Rio de Janeiro Takes Place Ahead of the BRICS Heads of State Official Forum and Discuss Strategies for Sustainable Development and the Role of the Productive Sector. President Lula da Silva, heads of state, and representatives from member countries have confirmed their attendance

Rio de Janeiro will host a gathering of business leaders, experts, and government authorities from BRICS countries, as well as invited nations, during the **BRICS Business Forum** on July 5 at Pier Mauá. The event precedes the BRICS Summit, held in Brazil for the third time.

This year, the Forum will address key topics for sustainable economic development, with a focus on trade strategies and food security, energy transition, decarbonization, skills development and the digital economy, as well as financing and financial inclusion.

The meeting is organized by the **Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI)**, which coordinates the **BRICS Business Council (BBC)** and the **Women's Business Alliance (WBA)**, the BRICS private sector engagement groups, during Brazil's presidency of the bloc.

Opening remarks will feature **Ricardo Alban**, President of CNI; **Francisco Neto**, Chair of the BRICS Business Council and CEO of Embraer; and **Mônica Monteiro**, Chair of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance and Vice President of New Business at Times Brasil, CNBC Exclusive Licensee, as well as **Aloizio Mercadante**, President of BNDES; and **Eduardo Paes**, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro.

Four thematic panels featuring industrial sector giants from the BRICS countries will address issues such as strengthening trade and food security within BRICS, energy transition and decarbonization, green and digital transitions, and financing strategies for the BRICS development agenda. Notable participants include: **Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago**, President of COP30; **Aguinaldo Barbieri**, Regional Director for Brazil at the New Development Bank (NDB); **John W.H. Denton**, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce; **HE Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**, United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Trade; **HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem**, Group CEO & Chairman of DP World; **Lebogang Zulu**, Chairperson of the Africa Women's Bank; **Zhao Haiying**, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at China Investment Corporation (CIC); and **Busi Mabuza**, Chairperson of the Industrial Development Corporation. All BRICS heads of state have been invited to join the **Presidential Panel**, which will wrap up the forum and will be led by **President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**.

Awards: BRICS Solutions Awards and BRICS Women's Startup Contest

The Forum will also serve as the stage for the announcement of the winners of the **BRICS Solutions Awards** and the **BRICS Women's Startup Contest**.

With a total of 500 entries from countries including Russia, Brazil, China, India, and South Africa, the **BRICS Solutions Awards** will honor 18 creative and sustainable solutions in six categories, including bioeconomy, innovative financing, food security, and digital transformation.

The **BRICS Women's Startup Contest**, a joint initiative of SEBRAE and the WBA, received 1,032 applications, with Brazil, South Africa, and India standing out. The 18 finalists will be present at the event, sharing their innovative ideas in six categories related to health and well-being, energy, and infrastructure.

Context

According to data from the Brazilian government, BRICS countries account for 48.5% of the world's population, 36% of the planet's territory, 40% of global GDP, and 21.6% of global trade (TradeMap; World Bank). In 2024, Brazil's trade flow with BRICS countries totaled USD 210 billion, representing 35% of the country's total trade. BRICS nations were the destination for USD 121 billion in Brazilian exports (36% of the total exported) and the source of USD 88 billion in imports (34% of the total imported), according to ComexStat. In the previous year, investments from BRICS countries in Brazil totaled approximately USD 51 billion (Central Bank of Brazil).

A major challenge remains the full participation of women in the economy. According to the World Trade Organization, only 15% of companies engaged in international trade are led by women. The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (WE-FI) reports that just one-third of small and medium-sized enterprises globally are women-led—and 70% of them face significant barriers in accessing credit, support networks, and training. The low presence of women entrepreneurs in BRICS countries reflects a landscape marked by informality, restrictive cultural norms, and limited access to financing. In India, for example, less than 1% of women are formally registered entrepreneurs, and in South Africa, only 22% of businesses are women-led (BRICS Women's Development Report 2024).

This reality is consistent with the national context outlined in the study *"Women in Foreign Trade – An Analysis for Brazil"*, released in March 2025 by the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC). Despite progress—such as the increase in women's participation in Brazilian exporting companies

from 29.2% to 31.8%, and in importing companies from 32.5% to 34.7%—only 14.5% of exporting firms have a female-majority ownership structure. Moreover, just 2% of Brazil's total exports come from women-led companies.

Press Accreditation

Journalists interested in covering the event must register via the [Press Accreditation](#) platform.

About the Forum

The **BRICS Business Forum** is a platform for advancing cooperation in the face of global challenges, bringing together member countries to promote an agenda based on innovation, sustainability, and economic inclusion. For more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GINXUDv-H0o>



The event is sponsored by XCMG, DP World, Keeta, WEG, Embraer, Vale, Febraban, Mebo International, Marfrig/BRF, the Brazilian National Service for Industrial Training (SENAI), the Social Service of Industry (SESI), and the Euvaldo Lodi Institute (IEL). It also received institutional support from the National Council of SESI, the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB), Natura, SEBRAE, ApexBrasil, and the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Firjan).



BRICS BUSINESS COUNCIL
*Business Cooperation for an Inclusive
and Sustainable Future*

CNI *Brazilian National
Confederation
of Industry*

BRICS Business Forum

July 5th, 2025

Venue: Pier Mauá, Warehouse 05

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