

Science Fund and the BRICS Science and Technology Development Roadmap. Beyond the governmental level, the enlarged BRICS should also encourage non-governmental entities such as academia and the business community to participate in BRICS science and technology exchange and cooperation. Through academic seminars, university exchanges, enterprise summits, and other industry-university-research integration models, it is possible to enhance understanding of cooperation among all sides. For different needs, it is also possible to explore models of cooperation with third-party countries or institutions, establishing multi-level, multi-channel scientific and technological innovation cooperation platforms to conduct flexible cooperation with multiple participating entities, diverse cooperation content, and multiple operational modes, all of which would enhance mutual understanding and trust.

The fourth is to improve the science and technology cooperation evaluation mechanism. A robust tracking and evaluation mechanism for BRICS science and technology cooperation should be established to conduct full-process assessments of cooperation projects. Based on the evaluation results, the direction and methods of cooperation can be adjusted in a timely manner to guide the overall trajectory of technological collaboration. It is recommended to use modern information technology, platforms such as cloud computing and blockchain, data analysis, and other digital tools to strengthen the dynamic monitoring and evaluation of the performance of scientific and technological cooperation projects, and build a digital collaboration platform to enhance information sharing and business collaboration among member states, thereby improving overall operational efficiency.

The fifth is to strengthen the collaborative demonstration of scientific and technological cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), actively facilitate the sharing and exchange of China's science and technology innovation experiences, and provide a broader platform for BRICS scientific and technological cooperation. Currently, a number of countries participating in the BRI have established science and technology cooperation parks, incubation bases, and joint laboratories with China. It is recommended that a BRI-based science and

technology innovation platform be established to form a set of institutionalized rules and implementation plans, integrate the positive experiences of technological cooperation along the BRI, and extend them to the BRICS mechanism. Specifically, the roles of various entities, including governments, enterprises, and research institutions, should be leveraged to create a linkage mode of official guidance with private exploration. Attention should also be given to the talent-achievement-industry system model of scientific and technological innovation, which provides sufficient talent and intellectual support for scientific and technological development and promotes the industrialization and commercialization of scientific achievements, thereby offering actual benefits to member states. It is also important to actively shape circulation-oriented technological cooperation under the BRICS mechanism, moving beyond simple technical assistance to instead use this as a connection point to form a tiered industrial chain relationship and improve the stability of cooperation.

The sixth is to learn from the cooperation models of international organizations such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to provide successful examples and experiences for BRICS scientific and technological cooperation. Both the NDB and the SCO have undergone multiple rounds of expansion with positive outcomes. The commonality between them is their focus on representativeness of expansion, and they have a clear functional positioning in the process of expansion. Therefore, to promote BRICS science and technology cooperation, the criteria for expansion could consider basing acceptance on economic and scientific and technological potential. It would be advisable for countries to first engage as dialogue partners to foster mutual understanding before initiating the formal process of accession. Procedurally, consensus should be adopted as a fundamental principle on expansion issues, such as by formulating explicit expansion standards and formalizing them in the form of guidelines.

Finally, it is necessary to insist on BRICS's role as a benevolent reformer rather than a so-called anti-West bloc, highlight the global public good nature of BRICS scientific and technological innovation cooperation, build a model

centered on cooperative and shared development, and strengthen the supervision and regulatory mechanisms in scientific and technological collaboration to alleviate international doubts. For the BRICS cooperation, it is essential to firmly adhere to the original aspiration of the BRICS, promote reform of global governance, and unite the Global South. This would mean solidifying the BRICS' role as a benevolent reformer of the international order. A key focus should be on strengthening cooperation in digital governance and broader technology security governance to highlight the public good nature of BRICS scientific and technological cooperation. Under the framework of *the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation*, with public welfare as the top priority and basic science as the focus of development, consideration could be given to adding new working groups on scientific research infrastructure, clean energy, AI and industrial capacity cooperation, etc. At the same time, cooperation should be carried out on scientific and technological governance and risk prevention in addition to technical collaboration. For China, it is advisable to continue leveraging the BRICS mechanism to help amplify the voice of the Global South, provide more high-quality science and technology public goods, and strengthen the Global South's right to join rule-making in areas such as supply chains and the digital economy. It could also sponsor scientists from the BRICS and members of scientific and technological NGOs to visit and study in China, providing them with a convenient and open research environment to help enhance their capacity building and the cultivation of technological talent, and building the platforms for scientific and technological exchange, experience sharing, and joint research that is oriented toward the knowledge community.

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