



10TH BRICS Young Scientist Forum Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Date: 15 – 17 September 2025

Venue: Brasilia, Brazil

FOR SOUTH AFRICAN YOUNG SCIENTISTS ONLY

1. Background Information

The 2nd BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting held March in 2015 in Brasília reached consensus to establish the BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS YSF). At the VII BRICS Summit it was decided that the BRICS YSF would be held annually and hosted by the country presiding over BRICS. In 2025, Brazil will host the 10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum.

The BRICS YSF is one of the most effective platforms for expanding young scientists' cooperation amongst BRICS countries. The Forum seeks to promote initiatives and establish an integral system of international cooperation among the future practitioners of the science, technology and innovation (STI) systems of BRICS countries. These activities ensure the sustainable development of BRICS cooperation and boost the achievement of BRICS leadership in science, technology and innovation.

2. Objectives

The BRICS Young Scientist Forum aims to offer opportunities for young scientists to share their experiences, incentives, constraints and opportunities in pursuing education, research and entrepreneurship in science, engineering and related subjects in line with STI emerging developments. The BRICS YSF is pivotal in cultivating a cohort of well-prepared, innovative thinkers who are poised to drive progress in their respective fields and contribute to the advancement of knowledge, science and society at large. The main objectives of the Forum encompass:

- Enhancing interaction among young people of BRICS countries to consolidate knowledge in addressing common social problems through research and innovation;
- Promoting skills and research development of young scientists in the BRICS countries;
- Strengthening the BRICS role in the international arena in STI by supporting young people who have the potential and capacity to accelerate innovation;
- Encouraging the development of trans-national research networks and partnerships that can drive innovation and advance scientific knowledge; and
- Strengthening BRICS STI and youth policies, enhancing the skills of talented young people and developing entrepreneurial principles.

3. Description of Thematic Areas of the BRICS YSF

The 10th BRICS Young Scientist Forum will comprise three parallel sessions on the following thematic areas:

- 3.1 Research on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A contribution from BRICS to the 30th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change/UNFCCC (COP30);**
- 3.2 Science diplomacy in a changing world. The views of BRICS and the Global South; and**
- 3.3 Artificial Intelligence for Societal Solutions. How can emerging technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?**

The detailed description of the thematic areas are as follows:

3.1 Research on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A contribution from BRICS to the 30th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change/UNFCCC (COP30).

In the context of preparations for the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in the city of Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, we highlight the role of science and technology as allies in providing means to combat climate change and its effects.

The objective of this theme is to recognise scientific research, and the development of technologies carried out within BRICS member countries which effectively contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change and its effects. Under this theme, abstracts are invited for presentations on research projects and technologies related to greenhouse gases, oceans, biodiversity, health, energy, food security, bioeconomy and others.

3.2 Science diplomacy in a changing world. The views of BRICS and the Global South.

In the context of the current global geopolitics, the role of science diplomacy is becoming increasingly relevant in supporting the prominence of BRICS countries in discussions of emerging issues on the international agenda. Given this changing geopolitical scenario, the objective of this theme is to recognise scientific research and case studies on science diplomacy addressed from the perspective of the BRICS countries and the Global South, emphasising the contributions and challenges of science policy and scientific advice, as well as of anticipation of future technologies.

Under this theme, abstracts are invited for presentations on research projects and case studies highlighting the role of science diplomacy and its impacts related to issues of global interest, such as food security, water, health, climate, energy, biodiversity, and emerging technologies, among others, in the view of the BRICS countries.

3.3 Artificial Intelligence for Societal Solutions. How can emerging technologies improve the lives of citizens in BRICS countries?

Considering societal challenges, the use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence enables the modernisation of processes through the automation of repetitive tasks, improvement of efficiency and quality of services, cost reduction, increased transparency and more informed decision-making. These benefits bring some issues related to data privacy and security, algorithm bias and ethical and legal aspects, among others.

Under this theme, abstracts are invited for presentations of scientific research related to the development or implementation of software, hardware, database management, and high-performance computing infrastructure applied to societal challenges aiming to improve their performance, security, transparency and efficiency, strengthening BRICS country's positions in the global scientific and technological scenario.

4 Forum Participation and Application

The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) invite online submissions of abstracts for oral presentations on the themes indicated above. Further information about the forum will be circulated to successful applicants.

Access the online application at: [APPLY HERE](#)

5 Eligibility

This call is open to early career researchers/ scientists/ engineers/ technologists/ innovators/ science journalists-educators-science, science literacy and popularizing professionals/ specialists in translational aspects of research and technology integration in society to market, who are based in South Africa. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- South African citizen by nationality (born or naturalized) or residency (permanent residency visa).
- Be under the age of 40 years by 31 December 2025.
- Must be a Doctoral student or Post-Doctoral Fellow or a young faculty member who has completed a PhD degree in the above-mentioned themes.
- Have research interests in the conference themes.
- Submit an abstract that will be the basis for a presentation at the conference.
- Commit to attend and participate for the duration of the conference.

Note: The chosen presenters are asked to not simply focus on their research but should engage with the theme(s) and answer its requirements. Presentations that address challenges pertaining to BRICS countries and provide possible recommendations are preferable. The conference format is a Forum, which is a discussion group, where ideas related to a subject under discussion can be raised and evaluated on a (more-or-less) equal and informal basis.

Applicants who have already participated in previous editions of the BRICS Young Scientist Conclaves are NOT eligible to apply.

6 Funding support

International air travel related expenses from South Africa (airfare, medical insurance, per diem as per ASSAf's rates) shall be provided by the DSTI whereas local hospitality i.e. food, accommodation and local transport in Brazil will be supported by the Brazilian government for the entire duration of stay in Brasilia. Applicants must be in possession of a valid South African Passport (or apply for one soonest). The document will be obtained at own cost. This however does not mean automatic selection.

7. Call for Abstracts

Abstract Format and Submission must be done in the link provided

Abstracts should follow the following format:

- Must not be more than 300 words (excluding Title, Author and Institution) in the online application form
- Must be written in English

Must include the following information:

- Titles of Authors, Author(s), and Institution(s)' names
- The superscript numbering must be in front of each initial and surname of each author

Where appropriate, the abstract may contain the following headings:

- Research Objectives
- Discussion
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

8. General Conference Information

For any further information on the forum please contact:

Mr Kholani Mbhiza Email: kholani@assaf.org.za

Application Deadline: 31 July 2025