Concept Note
BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which "are our pathway toward a fairer, more peaceful and prosperous world on a healthy planet" as mentioned by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. In order to accelerate sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges and deliver the Goals by 2030, the "Decade of Action" was launched by the UN in 2020.

There is no doubt that, science, technology and innovation (STI) are vital driving forces to tackle global challenges and achieve the SDGs. The development of big data research provides increasing opportunities to stimulate the advancement of STI in the information age. It plays a key role in response to climate change, disaster risk, pandemic, and in support of digital economy, food security, and green development.

The BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development

BRICS countries have been sharing a common desire and commitment towards closer cooperation for sustainable development over the years. The BRICS framework provides an effective platform to enhance mutual trust, develop communication and collaboration. Many productive joint programs in STI, as one of the priorities, have been carried out under this framework.

In this context, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) proposed to hold a BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development in support of the 14th BRICS Summit. The forum will provide an opportunity for scientists, engineers, policy-makers and other stakeholders in BRICS countries as well as representatives of relevant international organizations to explore how to address common challenges to sustainable development through STI cooperation, especially based on big data.

Hosts and Organizers

The BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development will be co-hosted by CAS and four other BRICS Academies of Sciences, and organized by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) and the Aerospace Information Research Institute, CAS.

CAS is China's lead national scientific institution in natural sciences and high-tech development and the supreme scientific advisory body.

CBAS was inaugurated on 6 September 2021, to facilitate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. It is

committed to developing big data research, providing data services for sustainable development and scientific advices for policy makers, as well as promoting talent cultivation and capacity building.

Time and Venue

The two-day forum is scheduled to take place on April 26-27, 2022, both onsite and online, with Beijing, China, as the main physical venue.

Subject and Themes

The subject of the forum will be *Big Data for Sustainable Development*.

The themes of the forum will include: *Big Data in Support of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation*, to explore opportunities in utilizing data sciences to understand this multi-faceted, cross-border challenge; *Digital Economy*, to explore the potential of rapid social progress through digital financial solutions; *Sustainable Urban Development*, to discuss the potential of big data solutions for managing growing urban centers and resulting challenges in BRICS countries; *Climate Actions and Disaster Reduction*, to facilitate prevention efforts, avoid loss of life, and minimize economic losses utilizing big data and data driven methods; and *Biodiversity Conservation*, to facilitate global efforts towards preserving biodiversity and protecting vulnerable species through the use of big data technologies.

The participants will include government officials, renowned academics, researchers, engineers, policymakers, stakeholders of the BRICS and other countries, and representatives from international organizations.

Contact

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