



# 4<sup>TH</sup> BRICS Young Scientist Forum Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Announcement for inviting applications for participation in  
the 4th BRICS Young Scientist Conclave

Date: 6-8 November, 2019

Themes: Cybersecurity and Bioeconomy

Venue: Campinas, Brazil

## 1. Background

The decision to establish the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Young Scientist Forum (YSF) was taken in March 2015 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting in Brazil.

The 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS YSF was held in Bangalore, India in September 2016. At the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Jaipur, India in October 2016, the BRICS countries agreed to hold the BRICS YSF on a rotational basis.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS YSF was held in July 2017 in Hangzhou, China. The event preceded the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting.

South Africa assumed the BRICS rotational Presidency on 1 January 2018 and hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in July 2018. In line with the established tradition of previous BRICS Summits, South Africa also hosted a wide range of BRICS activities leading up to and following the Summit, including the 6<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI SOM.

As part of its BRICS STI activities, South Africa hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> BRICS YSF in June 2018 in line with the decision taken at the BRICS STI Jaipur Ministerial in October 2016. Brazil is set to host the 4<sup>th</sup> YSF in November 2019.

The main goals of the BRICS YSF are:

- To provide a platform for connecting & networking amongst the BRICS youth in order to harness their knowledge for resolving common societal challenges through research and innovation. In addition, strengthen advancement of skills & research competencies of the youth primarily below the age of 40 years drawn from science, engineering and other allied disciplines.
- To build BRICS leadership in S&T through creative youth with capacity and capability to accelerate change individually and collectively (BRICS Youth Alumni).
- To reinforce BRICS nation's and regional STI policies and youth policies, skills development and entrepreneurship policies.

## **2. Conference Themes**

The 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS YSF under the themes “*Cybersecurity and Bioeconomy*” will highlight the strategic importance of science, technology and innovation as key drivers of youth entrepreneurship and leadership.

### ***i. Cybersecurity***

Modern developments in computation, storage, and connectivity to the Internet have brought into even sharper focus the need for a better understanding of the overall security of the systems we depend on. Cyberspace is notoriously vulnerable to varied and changing attacks by hackers, criminals, terrorists, and state actors. The nation's critical infrastructure, including the electric power grid, air traffic control system, financial system, and communication networks, depends on information technology for its operation and thus is susceptible to cyberattack. Given the push for the open sharing of information, there are paradoxes with the need to balance data and privacy protection. In the same breadth, whilst there is need for government legislation and policy regulation, too much enforcement decries the risk of outcries and having unintended consequences for democratised spaces. Abstracts that tease out these and growing issues as well as some best practice recommendations and considerations for policy are welcomed.

### ***ii. Bioeconomy***

South Africa's Bio-economy Strategy 2013's vision aims for South Africa's bio-economy to be a significant contributor to the country's economy by 2030 in terms of the gross domestic product (GDP). This is to be achieved through the creation and growth of novel industries that generate and develop bio-based services, products and innovations. The emerging bioeconomy is primed at playing a valuable role in the sustainability transition all over the world as it offers a healthier and more prosperous future through resource efficiency, climate resilience and sustainable production systems for food, feed, fuels and value-added products and services. Abstracts are intended to tease out sticking points that are preventing South Africa from gaining the full benefits of its expansion of and promotion of its bioeconomies albeit in a sustainable manner.

The 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS YSF programme will also include the following activities:

- BRICS Young Women in Science Dialogue
- Science Diplomacy Dialogue

## **3. 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, up to the age of 40 years who are based in South Africa. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- South Africa citizen
- Be under the age of 40
- Must be a Doctoral student or Post-Doctoral Fellow or a young faculty member who has completed a masters or a PhD degree in the above-mentioned areas/ topics
- Have research interests in the conference themes
- Commit to be present and active for the duration of the conference
- Submit an abstract that will be the basis for a presentation at the conference

Note: In addition to the abstract, applicants should submit a short motivation (1 page at most). 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.

#### **4. Forum Participation and Application**

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) 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: <https://forms.gle/EAq46BCn1wxdmwRM8>

#### **Funding support**

International air travel related expenses (airfare, medical insurance, visa fee etc.) shall be met by the DSI whereas local hospitality i.e. food, accommodation and local transport in Brazil will be supported by the MOSTIC of Brazil for the entire duration of stay in Brazil. We request those applying to be in possession of a Passport (or apply for one soonest) for ease of logistics (This however does not mean immediate selection).

#### **5. Call for Abstracts**

##### **Abstract Format and Submission**

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
- The title must be in boldface, capital letters (lowercase) and centred
- The font must be Century Gothic 11 with A4 set up margins

Must include the following information:

- Title, Author(s), Institution(s)
- Name of first author should be underlined (Please do not underline co-authors)
- Institutional affiliations for all authors
- The superscript numbering must be in front of each initial and surname of each author

Where appropriate, the text may be structured using the following headings:

- Introduction or Objectives
- Discussion
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

**General Conference Information**

For any further information on the forum please contact:

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**Application Deadline: 11 October 2019**

