



Advancing Green BRICS Cooperation: China's Strategic Role in Sustainable Development

The BRICS grouping has increasingly emerged as an influential force in advancing global sustainable development, with green cooperation becoming a central pillar of its collective agenda. As the world confronts the intertwined challenges of climate change, energy transition, and development inequality, BRICS countries—representing a substantial share of global population, emissions, and growth potential—are uniquely positioned to shape a more inclusive and low-carbon development pathway. Within this process, China plays a pivotal and agenda-setting role.

At the 2024 BRICS Summit held in Kazan, President Xi Jinping formally proposed the concept of "Green BRICS," signaling a strategic elevation of green, low-carbon development within the bloc's long-term vision. This initiative reflects both the shared development needs of BRICS members and China's growing capacity to provide green public goods at scale. From a technological and industrial perspective, China has become a global leader in renewable energy manufacturing. It currently accounts for roughly 60 percent of global solar photovoltaic panel exports and approximately 30 percent of global wind turbine exports. Notably, BRICS countries collectively absorb nearly 25% of these exports, underscoring the depth of existing green industrial linkages and the strong foundation for expanded cooperation.

China's contribution to advancing Green BRICS cooperation can be understood across three key dimensions. First, in renewable energy collaboration, China supports BRICS partners through equipment exports, joint ventures, and technology transfer, helping accelerate energy transitions in emerging and developing economies. Second, in green infrastructure development, Chinese enterprises and financial institutions play an increasingly important role in building renewable power plants, smart grids, and low-carbon transport systems, often aligned with

broader development strategies. Third, in the area of sustainable finance, China has actively promoted green bonds, green credit standards, and cooperation through multilateral platforms such as the New Development Bank, contributing to the mobilization of capital for climate-friendly projects.

Despite this progress, several challenges continue to constrain the effectiveness of Green BRICS cooperation. Policy coordination among member states remains uneven, with differences in regulatory frameworks, energy strategies, and environmental standards. Technological asymmetries persist, as some BRICS members lack the capacity to absorb advanced green technologies without targeted support. In addition, financing constraints—particularly for long-term, capital-intensive green projects—limit the scale and speed of implementation.

To enhance China's leadership in fostering inclusive, low-carbon development within an expanded BRICS framework, several actionable policy measures are recommended. China could promote greater policy alignment by initiating a BRICS green cooperation coordination mechanism to harmonize standards, planning, and information sharing. It could deepen technology cooperation through joint research centers, capacity-building programs, and localized manufacturing partnerships tailored to host-country needs.

China may also strengthen sustainable finance by expanding green financing instruments through the New Development Bank, encouraging co-financing with local institutions, and de-risking private investment. Together, these measures would help translate the vision of Green BRICS into tangible outcomes, reinforcing BRICS as a constructive force in global climate governance and sustainable development.