



BRICS
Business Council



SABBC

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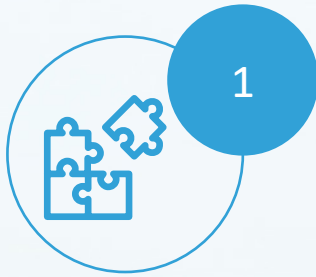
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Agenda



Opportunities
and Challenges



Core focused Streams and
Partnerships

- 2.1 Connectivity
- 2.2 SMME's
- 2.3 Digital skills
- 2.4 Platforms and eCommerce



Questions and
comments



Opportunity and Challenges

- BRICS countries have significant potential to develop the Digital Economy due to:
 - **Large domestic markets.**
 - **The growing middle class.**
 - **Relatively well-developed digital infrastructure.**
 - **An expanding youth population with stronger digital skills** make BRICS countries **attractive destinations for investment in digital sectors.**
- **Contribution of the Digital Economy to BRICS GDP** in recent years ranges from **2% in South Africa**, 4% in the Russian Federation, 6.9% in India, 7.8% in China and 22% in Brazil.
- Collectively, BRICS countries account for about 30% of the global export of information and communication technology (ICT) goods **BUT only 11% of global export of digitally deliverable services** – **the latter services opportunity is primed for SA and Africa.**

Opportunity and Challenges Continue

However,

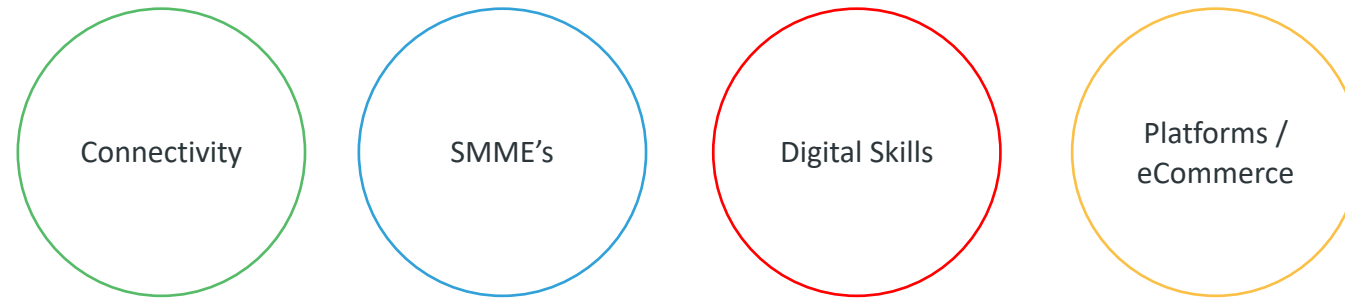
- **Digital divide** needs to be addressed for **inclusive and sustainable growth**.
- **Rural and urban low-income populations**, the **unconnected and the unskilled** are at **high risk of being excluded** from the rapid digital transformation.

Therefore,

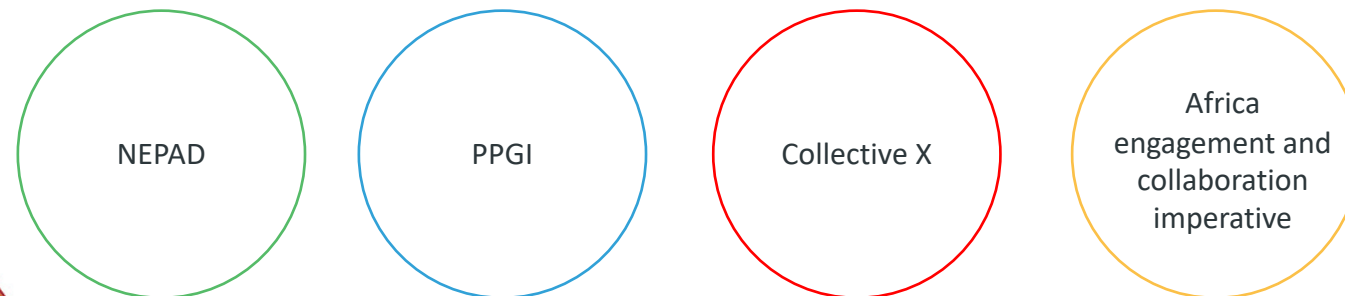
- These groups also represent **growth potential if they can be effectively brought into the Digital Economy** by technological advancements and move from low to higher productivity activities.
- Bridging the digital divide.
- **Enhancing education and skill development.**
- **Supporting innovation and digital entrepreneurship.**
- Improving the **policy, regulatory and governance** environment to be **attractive for trading, investment and growth.**
- Strengthen **international engagement, co-operation and trade – Africa imperative.**
- Improve measurement of digital economy.
- Catalyse **co-operation among public and private-sector** players.
- Facilitate **development and uptake of new digital technologies.**

Core focused Streams and Partnerships

In the Digital Economy Work Group, we have **4 core Streams**:



Partnerships and Collaboration



Connectivity

Connectivity is the **heartbeat of the fourth industrial revolution**. Without connectivity, many people are marginalized and excluded from the mainstream economy.

This is important for inclusivity rather than broadening the economic and digital divide.

Objectives for 2023:

- Adoption of the Draft standard bylaw for the deployment of communications infrastructure.
- Supporting municipalities that would like to adopt the bylaw (it standardises processes and procedures for all telco equipment).
- **Developing a framework / whitepaper to accelerate the adoption of alternative deployment methodologies to lower costs of deployment. This is critical for broader adoption and inclusivity for the reasons stated above.**
- **Establish and broaden the conversation around access to devices and infrastructure.** Without such access connectivity cannot be leveraged to be impactful and meaningful. **Scaling in this area is critical.**
- **Leveraging existing assets (mobile / fixed line operators), SA Connect initiative and other.**
- Investment - innovative and viable commercial constructs to cater for connectivity deployments.



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SMME's

- SMME's are critical for the **growth of economies and in solving the unemployment issue.**
- Equally, the **recognition of SMMEs and the adoption of their solution sets and or skills will encourage entrepreneurship, which in turn will expand the fiscus.**

Objectives for 2023:

- **Establish and support high growth startups by creating opportunity to access markets and supply chains** through their valued offerings – leveraging South African corporates and in turn BRIC partners.
- Establish **incubation models with existing incubators to capacitate, skill-up and business model for acceleration and scale** – this will include leveraging the BEE funds around Enterprise and Supplier Development plus Skills Development.
- **Supporting township and rural economies based on solution sets that solve their challenges** – and in turn encourage usage of township and rural entrepreneurs to fulfill needs.
- Establishment of a **localized network that supports industry focused supply chains** – for example: technology, mining, manufacturing, retail etc.
- **Promoting rural and women tech-entrepreneurship**
- **Enhancing the Entrepreneurial eco-system** to stimulate High Growth Technology Enterprises
- **Research** and enhancing competitiveness through **centers of excellence** that promote localization, joint research efforts, measurement of the digital economy and co-operation between academia and business
- Policy and incentives development for Tech-entrepreneurship



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SMME's Activities

Proposed Activities

Activities are tailored to each Key Strategic Area:

Bridging the Digital Divide	Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Eco-system to stimulate High Growth Enterprises	Research and enhancing competitiveness	Policy Development for Tech-entrepreneurship
1. Inter-BRICS dialogue on bridging the digital divide. This will also include inter-Africa dialogues as South Africa's input into the inter-BRICS dialogue. 2. Webinar to engage MNOs within BRICS nations in providing connectivity to entrepreneurial hubs in rural areas and hubs that target women-owned businesses. 3. Host experiential digital skills training sessions in rural areas and in hubs targeting women-owned businesses. 4. Inter-BRICS dialogue on funding tech-incubation hubs in rural areas and for women-owned MSMEs.	1. Expert group to develop a framework for effective and accessible entrepreneurial finance specific to tech entrepreneurs that can be used by all government lending agencies across BRICS nations. 2. Expert group to develop a framework for effective government policy relating to support and relevance, and ease of entry burdens and regulations as well as easing taxes and bureaucracy specific to tech-entrepreneurs that can be included in all Department of Small Businesses/ICT in BRICS nations. 3. Expert group to develop a framework for school entrepreneurial education across BRICS working with Education Departments. 4. Technology showcase days across BRICS with start-ups and research institutions.	1. Inter-BRICS dialogue on identifying key areas for joint science/technology research initiatives and identifying key research institutions and university collaborations. 2. Technology showcase days across BRICS with start-ups, corporates, and research institutions (Same intervention as Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Eco-system to stimulate High Growth Enterprises except in this one, corporates are also included).	1. Expert group to develop a framework for effective government policy relating to support and relevance, and ease of entry burdens and regulations as well as easing taxes and bureaucracy specific to tech-entrepreneurs that can be included in all Department of Small Businesses/ICT in BRICS nations. (One intervention as Enhancing the Entrepreneurial Eco-system to stimulate high growth enterprises. However, this must also include rural tech-entrepreneurs and women-owned digital businesses.)



Digital Skills – aligned with and in collaboration with the Skills Work Group

Growth and emerging opportunity – correct and in demand digital skills are critical – approach must be solution based and demand led.

Objectives for 2023:

- **Future Skills challenge**
- **Host an in-person Skills Challenge** (along the lines of a hackathon) for 10 - 15 skills with approximately 5 teams per country per skill. Pending funding support, the aim is to have a challenge per WG plus general future skills that cross industries. <https://bricsfutureskills.co.za/> for 2022 challenge
- **BRICS Curricula development** - develop curricula for 7 future skills:
 - Machine Learning and Big Data
 - Industrial Design Technology
 - Robotic system integration
 - Blockchain based solutions
 - Building information Modelling
 - Additive Manufacturing



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Digital Skills – aligned with and in collaboration with the Skills Work Group. continue

- **BRICS training academy**
- **Partner with training institutions to establish BRICS Training Centres** in all Partner countries. Centres should provide a range of equipment and software from partner countries to ensure the success of the Programme.
- **Knowledge sharing and skills upliftment programs across varying levels of competence**
- In collaboration with other working groups, schedule and **host 4 webinars about best practice or technical implementation of future skills** (not final yet but considering):
 - Skilling for People with Disability
 - Education technologies
 - Specialist 4IR technologies such as Artificial Intelligence
 - People skills in increasingly digital world
- **Run hybrid training programmes in SA to facilitate practical learning** thereby enabling people to begin earning e.g. **Web Development**: participants develop a 5 page web site for an NPC or SME using Wordpress. The business can choose to use 1 of the sites developed enabling future work for the young person and the young person can source other Gig economy work. Skills under consideration: Web Design - Digital marketing - Drone (design build operate)
- Skills Camps (SA focus)



Summary of Initiatives

Project	Initiative	Description	Outcome For 2023 BRICS Summit	SABBC Value Proposition Pillar
Future skills	Curriculum development	Trilateral project to develop curricula for 7 future skills	Curricula for 2 of 7 skills complete and ready for implementation Curricula for 1 skill accepted by business organization with aim of accrediting curricula	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy
	Launch Food Bev Seta Atlas of Emerging Jobs	Bilateral project to develop Atlas of Emerging jobs for the Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sector	Agreement on partners developing Atlas Agreement on Atlas for other sectors in SA	Government and business alignment
	Development of Brics Standards	Develop a set of Brics standards for assessment of skills NB this is not agreed by all members yet but is a carry over from China 2022	Agreement signed if accepted	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy
	Brics Future Skills Challenge	Host Brics Future skills challenge in Oct 2023	Launch 2023 Future Skills Challenge	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy Government and business alignment
	Launch Brics Academy in South Africa	Partner 2 Public and 1 Private institution with China Brics Training Base to implement future skills training in South Africa	Publish agreements	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy Government and business alignment

Summary of Initiatives

Project	Initiative	Description	Outcome For 2023 BRICS Summit	SABBC Value Proposition Pillar
Knowledge sharing	Workshops	Host 3 online workshops to share knowledge and best practice in skills March – People with Disability	3*White papers	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy
	Workshops	Host facilitated session with SABBC Working groups to ensure that SDWG is delivering future skills as needed by WG	Host workshop alongside summit	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy
	Workshops	Host workshops during Future Skills Challenge - implementing future curricula in schools - Best practices in TVETS	Will be post Brics Summit	Learning, knowledge sharing and advocacy

Platforms / eCommerce

Companies do not operate in isolation. **Platforms have become the key conduit to scaling an enterprise.**

Through the use of Platforms, companies are able to leverage and **take advantage of modernization and economies of scale.**

Objectives for 2023:

- **Understand and collaborate with BRIC countries on potential platforms to use to enhance emerging businesses.**
- **Leverage current platforms** (with tech innate value – security, reach etc.) available to give SMMEs and other companies the opportunity to immediately launch and scale their products and solutions.
- **Encourage SMMEs to develop innovative technology solutions and to place such solutions on Platforms to enable scale and marketability.**
- **Introduce and support the Businesses with the data and AI benefits as well as other tech integration.**



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Questions and comments



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THANK YOU