

Resolutions of the 11th Meeting of the 2025 BRICS Astronomy Working Group

The 2025 BRICS Astronomy Working Group (BAWG) Meeting was hosted by Brazil and held both in person at the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and online, with the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI). Distinguished representatives from the governments and scientific institutions of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE and Indonesia as well as several astronomers from these countries, attended the BRICS Astronomy Workshop on 13 - 15 October 2025. There were also several outreach, training and public engagement initiatives that took place in parallel. A site visit to the National Laboratory of Astrophysics (LNA) located in Itajuba, was undertaken on 16 October, as well as the Helio Physics and Space Weather workshop which took place on Friday, 17 October 2025.

The BAWG business meeting took place on 15 October where the delegates deliberated on strategic and operational matters. The meeting received a progress update by the Secretariat on the implementation of the previous resolutions.

The following resolutions were approved:

1. The BAWG decided that, for future annual meetings, the Science Workshop should be scheduled over three to three and a half consecutive days, with the high-level country reports incorporated into its agenda. This will ensure that the business meeting is shortened to have more focus on management matters, and this will also allow all activities to be undertaken before the business meeting to enable well-informed decision-making. The scientific sessions should focus primarily on areas that have wider potential for collaborations within the BRICS Astronomy family. This will also provide an opportunity for more younger researchers to participate and get an opportunity to give oral presentations.
2. The BAWG encourages the ongoing sharing of information and collaborative opportunities from each member country, including details of projects open for collaboration. These opportunities should be submitted to the Secretariat, who will in turn share with the wider community and will also be reflected on the BRICS Astronomy website, allowing interested members to connect directly and encourage greater participation from other countries.

3. The BAWG noted the progress report presented under the BRICS STI Framework Programme for the STI, Flagship, and Innovation Funding Calls. The BAWG will continue pursuing opportunities to respond to the various calls. With respect to the Flagship Call, the BAWG noted the importance that project funding should be accompanied by PhD and postdoc scholarships as these constitute essential person-power for the successful development of a project of this scale.
4. The BAWG has appointed a Task Team led by Pontsho Maruping (South Africa), with the support of Bruno Castilho (Brazil) and Sunil Chandra (India), to investigate the Innovation Call and work with the Secretariat to advise the BAWG further on how best to respond to the Call. Based on the advice from the Task Team, the BAWG may consider requesting the STI Funding Working Group to consider the postponement of the call deadline.
5. The BAWG is encouraging the STI Funding Working Group Secretariat to also explore funding opportunities and instruments that will support young professionals to attend symposia, fund scholarships and student exchanges within the BRICS countries.
6. The BAWG is also encouraging the BRICS STI Funding Working Group to explore sustainable funding for the long-term support for the BAWG Flagship and BRICS Astronomy Infrastructure with institutions such as the BRICS Bank and other sources of funding. In particular, the BRICS STI Funding Working Group is encouraged to explore the proposal for the establishment of a BRICS Science Foundation.
7. The BAWG supports ongoing efforts by the countries to explore cost-effective and affordable solutions for open-access and free-to-publish journals and recommends that this matter be escalated to the Senior Officials for their consideration and guidance.
8. The BAWG noted the progress of the GOTTA-BRICS Pathfinder project that has been endorsed through the development of an MoU that is being finalized between NAOC/China, LNA/Brazil, SAAO/South Africa, INASAN/Russia and other potential future partners, for the establishment of facilities in the respective countries and the advancement towards the BITDN flagship project.
9. Countries are encouraged to continue participating in the editorial team for the BRICS Astronomy Magazine and to assist in translating content into their respective local languages. The magazine's pre-published content should be made available in an

appropriate format to facilitate translation and sharing with other countries. The Secretariat and editorial team will collaborate with member countries to coordinate this process.

10. The BAWG has resolved to continue the exploration of linkages between the BAWG with the other relevant working groups, such as with the BRICS ICT-HPC, BRICS Research Infrastructure and BRICS Space Science Working Groups.
11. The BAWG is encouraging member countries to register companies, agencies, and institutions that are developing innovations, services and technologies in astronomy with the Secretariat who is compiling a directory to foster collaborations with the private sector.
12. The BAWG tasked the BRICS Astronomy Coordinator with the responsibility of drafting a long-term strategy for the Societal Benefit/Impact Programmes related to astronomy across the BRICS nations. Member countries are requested to support the Coordinator by providing relevant information and contacts as needed for the completion of this Strategy. The draft Strategy will be circulated to all member countries for inputs and subsequently reported at the next BAWG meeting. The BAWG further recommends support on the implementation of ongoing societal benefit programmes, such as the BRICS Hackathons and Data Analytics Training.
13. The BAWG encourages exploration of ongoing opportunities to strengthen partnerships with the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and its other international offices such as the Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) in Tokyo, Office for Astronomy Development (OAD) in Cape Town and the Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) with various centers and nodes across the world, in order to collaborate on the implementation of relevant societal benefit programmes.
14. The BAWG recommends the implementation of joint outreach activities in a cascade model. The aim is to integrate and coordinate education, outreach, and scientific engagements among the member countries, bringing together the initiatives proposed across the four axes: Education and Scientific Outreach; Extension and Scientific Engagement Projects; International Network Projects; Inclusion, Diversity and Representation Programs. The team will operate collaboratively to promote the replication and scalability of activities in each country, adapting methodologies and resources to local socioeconomic, cultural, and technical realities, ensuring that astronomy becomes an effective instrument for international cooperation, scientific training, and social transformation within the BRICS framework.

In conclusion, the BAWG thanked Brazil for successfully hosting the 2025 meeting. The BAWG has noted that India as the next Presidency of BRICS, will host the BAWG meeting in 2026 in line with the rotation of the BRICS Presidency. The Secretariat will consult with India and communicate the final venue and dates in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Takalani' followed by a stylized flourish.

Takalani Nemaungani

BAWG Secretariat

South Africa