

Draft agenda as of 25.01.2026

BRICS Working Group for the Research of Competition Issues in Food Markets

Leveling the Playing Field in the Global Grain Trade

Venue: Cairo Marriott Hotel, Salon Vert

February 4 - 5, 2026

The upcoming meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Competition in Food Markets will focus on exploring practical cooperation avenues among the BRICS competition authorities in relation to developments in global grain value chains, including issues related to market structure and concentration.

This meeting will mark a transition from researching the state of competition in the global grain trade towards discussions on possible areas of action among BRICS competition authorities. The meeting agenda will focus on the scope, objectives, and potential modalities of a joint sector inquiry that BRICS competition authorities may wish to examine, with the aim of supporting transparency, resilience, and competitive conditions in global food supply chains.

The second stream of the agenda will address the role of competition authorities in relation to discussions related to grain trading platforms within the BRICS countries, as reaffirmed by BRICS leaders in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration of 2025. Sessions on the second day of the meeting will bring together representatives of the BRICS competition authorities and commodity exchange experts to discuss key elements of the institutional, technological and legal framework relevant to such platforms. The agenda will also include discussions on potential areas of inter-BRICS cooperation related to industrial data exchange and data marketplaces, including their possible contribution to data governance objectives in the Global South.

Day 1, February 4, 2026	
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome Coffee
10.30 – 10.40	Introduction Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority
10.40 – 11.00	Brief Review of the State of Competition in the Global Grain Trade Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre

11.00 – 13.00	Defining the Contours of the BRICS Joint Sector Inquiry into the Global Grain Trade Moderator: Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority Speakers: • Gustavo Augusto Freitas de Lima, President, Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE) • Fanshurullah Asa, Chairman, Indonesia Competition Commission • Maksim Yermalovich, Minister in charge of Competition and Antitrust Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission • Andrey Tsyganov, Deputy Head of the FAS Russia • Kagiso Zwane, Senior Economist, Competition Commission of South Africa • Chen Qianting, Deputy Director, Abuse of Dominance Enforcement Division II, Antimonopoly Enforcement Department I, State Administration for Market Regulation of China • Mohammed Sultan Janahi, Director of Competition, UAE Ministry of Economy (online) • Representative of the CCI • Representative of the Ethiopian Competition Authority
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 16.00	Defining the Contours of the BRICS Joint Sector Inquiry into the Global Grain Trade (Continued) Moderator: Tembinkosi Bonakele, Ex-Commissioner, Competition Commission of South Africa Speakers: • Igor Artemiev, President, Saint-Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) • Budi Joyo Santoso, Commissioner, Indonesia Competition Commission • Ji Pengyuan, Leading Researcher, Antimonopoly Enforcement Department I, SAMR • FAO representative (TBC) • Richard Phillips, Expert, Optomatica (UK) • Daria Kotova, Expert, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre
19.00 – 21.00	Reception on behalf of the BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre
Day 2, February 5, 2026	
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome coffee

10.30 – 13.00	Building the BRICS Grain Exchange: Competition, Transparency and Data Access Moderator: Maksim Yermalovich, Minister in charge of Competition and Antitrust Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission Speakers: • Egyptian Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade • Igor Artemiev, President, Saint-Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) • Gustavo Augusto Freitas de Lima, President, Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE) • Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority • Mulyawan Ranamanggala, Director of Economy, Indonesia Competition Commission • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre • Anastasia Nesvetailova, Director, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch, GDS, UNCTAD (online) • Andre Vellozo, CEO, DrumWave (TBC) • Ettore Maria Lombardi, Professor, University of Florence Law School • Mohammed El-Beltagy, Optomatica • The BRICS competition authorities
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch