

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

	<p>Moderator: Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gustavo Augusto Freitas de Lima, President, Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE) • Fanshurullah Asa, Chairman, Indonesia Competition Commission • Andrey Tsyganov, Deputy Head, 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
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch Break
14.30 – 16.00	<p>Defining the Contours of the BRICS Joint Sector Inquiry into the Global Grain Trade (Continued)</p> <p>Moderator: Tembinkosi Bonakele, Ex-Commissioner, Competition Commission of South Africa</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maksim Yermalovich, Minister of Competition and Antitrust Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission • Igor Artemiev, President, Saint-Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) • Budi Joyo Santoso, Commissioner, Indonesia Competition Commission • Richard Phillips, Expert, Optomatica (UK) • Ettore Maria Lombardi, Professor, University of Florence Law School • Daria Kotova, Expert, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre • Esther Sri Astuti Agustin, Executive Director, Institute for Development of Economics and Finance (online)
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	<p>Building the BRICS Grain Exchange: Competition, Transparency and Data Access</p> <p>Moderator: Maksim Yermalovich, Minister of Competition and Antitrust Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Igor Artemiev, President, Saint-Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) • Anastasia Nesvetailova, Director, Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch, GDS, UNCTAD (online) • Gustavo Augusto Freitas de Lima, President, Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE) • Mahmoud Momtaz, Chairman, Egyptian Competition Authority • Alexey Ivanov, Director, BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre • Mulyawan Ranamanggala, Director of Economy, Indonesia Competition Commission • Mohammed El-Beltagy, Optomatica
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch