

The Role of BRICS in Creating Global Multilateralism

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Brief history of BRICS

The term **BRIC** was coined in **2001** by **Jim O’Neill**, Goldman Sachs economist as *a **geoeconomic configuration*** to describe the large, fast-growing economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China in *the context of **foreign investment strategies***.

It was introduced in the publication «Building Better Global Economic BRICs» in Global Economics Paper No: 66. 30th November 2001 - <https://www.goldmansachs.com/pdfs/insights/archive/archive-pdfs/build-better-brics.pdf>

The **idea of a multipolar world** can be traced back to Yevgeny Primakov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia - he put forward an idea in New Delhi in 1998 of creating *the axis - **Russia – China – India***.

The forums: RIC, IBSA

RIC (Russia, India, China) – Ministerial meetings since 2002,

IBSA (India- Brazil- South Africa Forum) - the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia in June 2003 and issued the Brasilia Declaration – official website <https://www.ibsa-trilateral.org/>

These forums and meetings predated and played an important role in the creation of BRICS.

BRICS in global governance structure

BRICS has emerged as a powerful **symbol of declining American prestige in the Global South**, where many nations, disillusioned with U.S. policy - *failures such as the Iraq War and the 2008 global financial crisis.*

For many countries in the **Global South**, the BRICS grouping is a useful place to discuss issues of mutual concern - **from supply chain disruptions to financial stability and infrastructure projects.**

All these facts have led to **redefine global governance structures.**

The 1-st Summit - Brazil – Russia – India – China was held in 2009 in Russia



Brief history of BRICS



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In 2010 South Africa joined the group, and the letter "S" was added to the name.

Since 2024 **Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia** have officially become new members.

Summits BRICS

The annual summits are the key form of BRICS work:

Summits are attended by the **leaders of member states and heads of various ministries**, that made up fundamental decisions regarding the vector of development of the Group.

The chairmanship of BRICS is granted for one year and changes between countries on a rotational basis.

BRICS members

The BRICS currently have 10 members:

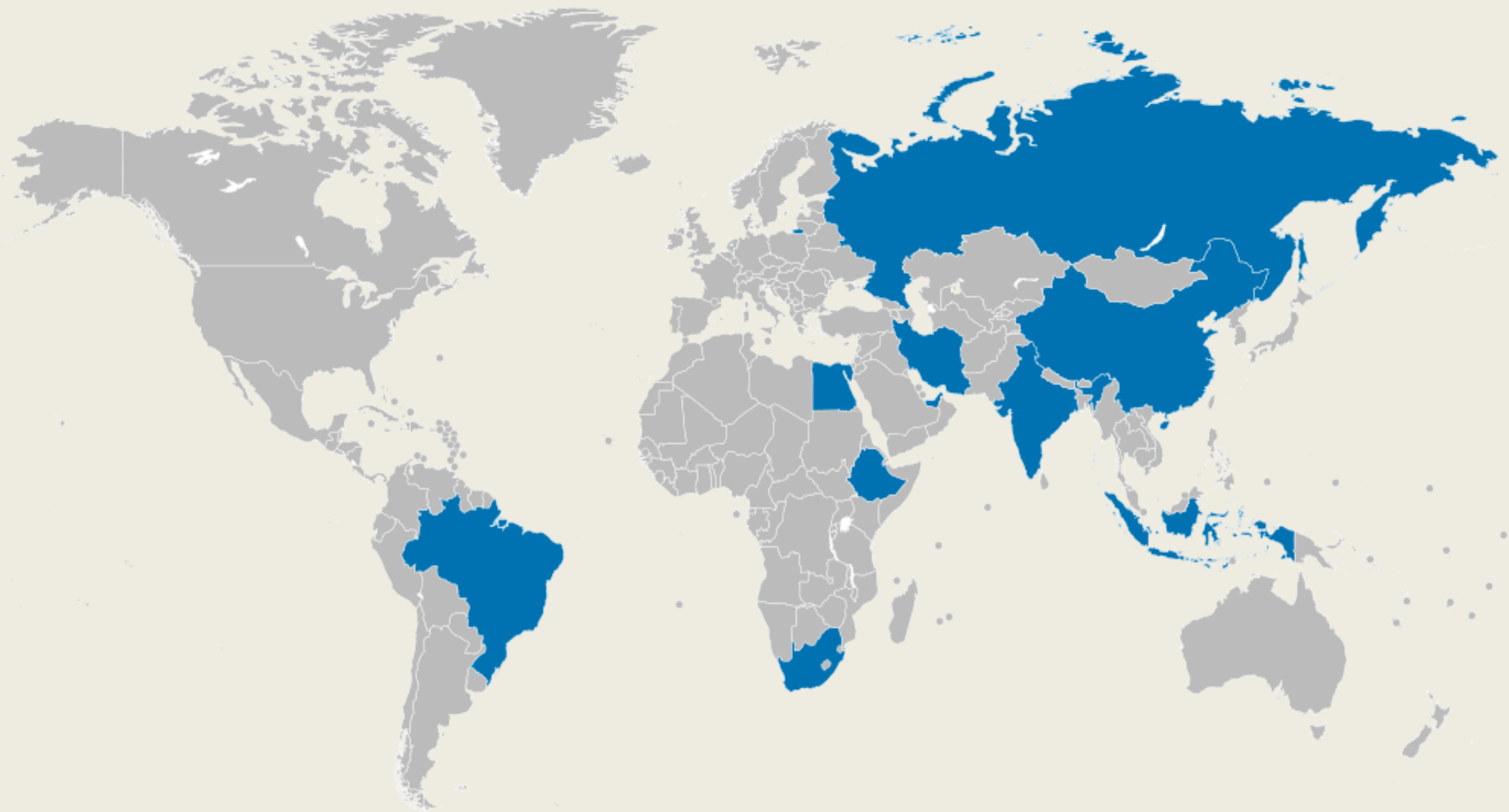
Original members (5) – Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa.

New members (5) - admitted in 2024-25 - Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates + (Saudi Arabia - ?).

BRICS Partners (12) : Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

Invited countries: Saudi Arabia (in October 2024 has not confirmed its membership), Argentina (after an official invitation in 2023, it declined to join).

The new expansion is derived from the Johannesburg Declaration, August 2023.



Today, BRICS accounts for about **a third of the world's GDP** and **45% of the world's population**.

Its member states are participants in such international structures as the G20, the UN, the WTO, the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as a number of regional associations.

The work of the organization is coordinated in turn by the country hosting the summit. It changes every year.

Russia took over the presidency of BRICS on January 1, 2024.

16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia, from October 22 to 24, 2024. Presidents, prime ministers, and heads of the Foreign Ministries of 32 countries, the heads of a number of international organizations, including the UN Secretary General came to Russia.



The Goal of the Group

- to create a **platform for dialogue and cooperation in various areas**: trade, investment, infrastructure projects, energy efficiency and new technologies, culture.

Relations between the organization's partners are built **on the basis of the UN Charter**, generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

Goals and objectives of the BRICS:

1. Economic cooperation - to create a sustainable economic environment for all participants, **the use of national currencies** in trade to accelerate economic growth.

2. Political dialogue – to coordinate positions on international issues and support the **principle of multipolarity** in the world.

In July 2024 Russian President Putin announced that BRICS would form its own parliament (the creation of a **BRICS parliamentary structure**).

Goals and objectives of the BRICS:

2.Social development - to improve the state of healthcare, education, and social protection in their countries.

4.Scientific and technological cooperation – to exchange experiences and jointly develop new technologies.

In 2023 the **International Center for Artificial Intelligence Research** was opened in Russia, collaborating with leading universities and companies from all BRICS countries. The center has already launched several large projects.

BRICS Structure

BRICS activities are not limited to annual summits.

There are many working groups, several councils and forums within the Group:

the Council of Expert Centers,

the Business Council,

the Scientific Council,

the International Municipal Forum of BRICS+ Countries,

the Parliamentary Forum,

the International Innovation Forum.

BRICS Structure

Two financial institutions are in the BRICS structure:

The Contingent Reserve Arrangement was created in 2015 to ensure financial stability in the BRICS countries, as a reserve fund from which money can be taken to tackle serious financial problems. The pool's capital is \$100 billion.

The New Development Bank (NDB) is designed in 2014 to deepen financial cooperation and finance infrastructure projects in the participating countries. It is headed by former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

BRICS Network University

BRICS NU was established in 2015 as a joint educational project to encourage academic and research collaboration across the BRICS countries.

Currently, the BRICS NU includes **9 universities from Brazil, 12 from Russia, 12 from India, 11 from China and 12 from South Africa.**

In total there are 56 universities. It is planned to increase the number of universities to 20 from each country.

The priority areas of knowledge and training: 1) computer science and information security, 2) BRICS research, 3) energy, 4) ecology and climate change, 5) water resources and pollution neutralization, 6) economics, in May 16 2024, at the meeting of the BRICS NU International Governing Council the new areas were expanded + 7) sustainable agriculture and food security, 8) mathematics, 9) natural sciences.

The BRICS Shared Values

BRICS has emerged as a significant international group of leading nations from the **Global non-West and Southern countries that perceive BRICS as a symbolic alternative to the current West-oriented world order.**

BRICS always emphasizes that its activities are **not directed against third countries.**

BRICS places great emphasis on formulating its own **shared values.**

The evolution of the articulation of BRICS value priorities has been **changing from summit to summit.**

Barabanov O. Evolution of the BRICS Platform of Shared Values. Valdai Discussion Club . 08.04.2025. - https://valdaiclub.com/a/reports/evolution-of-the-brics-platform-of-shared-values/?sphrase_id=1720146

BRICS declarations differ in due to priorities

The most **critical references to the Western countries** are found in a separate statement **on food security** adopted during the Russian Chairship in 2009, South Africa's Chairship in 2013, Russia's in 2015, India's in 2021, Russia's in 2024.

A set of documents adopted during the Brazilian Chairship in 2014 is reflected the **independent alternative models of BRICS development.**

Value platform of

BRICS

- mutual respect, mutual understanding,
- sovereign equality,
- solidarity, openness,
- inclusiveness,
- consensus,
- strengthening collaboration,
- Democracy.

G-7

- freedom – democracy – human rights,
- the rule of law,
- competitive economy.

BRICS values

In 2023–2024 these values included:

- strengthening peace, establishing a more inclusive and fair international order,
- reforming the multilateral system,
- the supremacy of international law in its interrelationship,
- promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The purpose of creating an international finance system

1. The threat against the BRICS :

“We require a commitment from these countries (BRICS) that ***they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar*** or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy”.

- D. Trump, Truth Social, November 2024.

2. **Trump’s tariffs war:** countries that wish to avoid US tariffs should enter into a trade agreement with US and have to buy US gas, beef and other goods, and reduce tariffs on American goods.

3. **US anti-China strategy:** to ban shipping goods to the US through other countries, not allow Chinese firms to base themselves in other countries, and not “absorb cheap manufactured goods from China”.

- **countries have to choose between the US and China.** For states that have already integrated into the BRICS+ infrastructure the issue is not about tariffs, but about sovereignty.

Multilateralism

Multilateralism - is a complex web of diplomatic, economic and social interactions between three or more states.

- based on the belief that **cooperation and coordination at the international level are the most effective** way to solve global problems and achieve common goals,

- seeks to create an **inclusive and equal platform where every participant has a voice** and the ability to influence decision-making,

- the general idea is that **the global problems** – climate change, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, pandemics, or economic crises – **are transnational in nature and require coordinated efforts** to effectively address them.

Reducing global reliance on the U.S. dollar

Reducing the dollar's dominance could give members **protections from Western sanctions.**

These sanctions only work because the dollar dominates the world - to protect from the dollar's hegemony.

Discussions about **building an alternative global money-transfer system** – interbank transfer system within BRICS – **BRICS Bridge, BRICS Clear, BRICS Reinsurance.**

Russian banks were cut out of the main global payment system SWIFT.

Russia's approach to multipolar world

6 principles of a new world order

- The first is **openness in international relations**.
- The second is that the **diversity of the world** ensures its sustainability, and the development **model of one country should not be imposed on others**.
- The third is **maximum representativeness** in the development of the world order. The so-called great powers often seek to dictate their rules.
- The fourth is ensuring **security for all - military-political blocs hinder development**, and a prototype of a non-aligned community can be seen in BRICS.
- The fifth is **justice for all**: the key problem of our time is inequality between the "golden billion" and the rest of the world.
- The sixth is equality - **arrogance and the desire to teach other countries are destructive**.

Assessments the BRICS's role in global governance

1. BRICS as **ant-West group**.

2. BRICS something like a **two sided coalition**:

one side - the **“Global East”** — China, Russia Iran — **rivals or antagonists of the USA and NATO**.

the other side - **“Global South”** tends to be more **neutral to USA allies**.

3. **It is not easy classify** or categorize BRICS: includes some countries that are allies, but some are antagonists and rivals.

4. BRICS as a **geopolitical insurance against a changing world and shifting of balance of power**, a hedge against the unpredictability of the USA who have become aggressive, powerful, and increasingly out for itself.

5. BRICs – a **multilateral group of nations**.

BRICS – a multilateral group of nations

- to ensure that the diversity of all its members becomes its strength and not its weakness;
- to ensure that it is not a competing group like the G-7 and G-20, but rather an effort to ~~develop cooperation in the Global South~~ develop cooperation in the Global South;
- the BRICS is ~~not to challenge the world system~~ But I don't like these comparisons, but I will say this here as opposed but a **part of the system, does not intend to challenge or break the world system**;
- to ensure that **the global system evolves into a fairer model** that includes the interests of not only the BRICS countries, but all other countries,
- BRICS is **not the intention to have another mini-format** that is trying to take over other organizations or alliances.

BRICS – a multilateral group of nations

- **BRICS is still diverse** as it was in the group of five,
- **BRICS has the ability to really think critically** and look critically at the world around you,
- In BRICS countries **have to discuss difficult issues**, different approaches to some issues.

With BRICS - **discussion about expansion** (11 members, 9 partner countries) - **Is it time to pause or is it time to enlarge ?**

More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining the group.

Functions of BRICS

- the most important element of the emerging world order;
- a new world architecture - **a tool and a symbol for restructuring current system of international relations;**
- a true spokesman for **the voice of the majority of the humanity;**
- **a model of the future** that is based on consent and mutual respect to **build mutually beneficial relations between very different countries.**

The BRICS countries share similar vision of a new democratic world order that

- reflects all cultural and civilizational diversity;
- is based on universal principles of:
 - respect for the legitimate interests and sovereign choice of countries and peoples,
 - compliance with international law,
 - mutually beneficial and honest cooperation.

Russia-Brazil relations



The president of Brazil Lulla da Silva will come to Russia in May 2025, to take part in the celebration of the 80-th anniversary of the Victory in Moscow, where he will have a bilateral meeting with Vladimir Putin.



Brazil chairs BRICS from January 1 to December 31, 2025

<https://brics.br/en> - «Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance».

The BRICS XVII Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro from July 6 to 7 2025

The country's focus during this period will be on two key areas:

- 1) reforming the global governance system;
- 2) developing cooperation between states.

The 11-th BRICS Parliamentary Forum will be held in Brazil ahead of the BRICS summit from June 3 to 5, 2025.

Thank you

