

BRICS Beyond Multipolar Power Dynamics Could it be Africa's Alternative Development Partner?

The possibility that BRICS could become an alternative development partner for Africa raises some intriguing and thought-provoking questions. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are part of the BRICS alliance of emerging economies. In addition to the recent BRICS summit in South Africa, six new members were inducted into the extant bloc: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

As the 2023 summit host, South Africa reports that nearly forty nations have expressed interest in joining this alternative multipolar structure. The current eleven members' intriguing facts will characterise the emerging BRICS bloc: Dimensions: 34.5 percent of the Earth's landmass, More than 45 percent of the world's population (3.6 billion); 30 percent of global GDP, or more than \$30 trillion. There is a clear correlation between the population and economic strength of these countries and their military might.

It refers to a group of countries with relatively robust economies undergoing rapid economic expansion. However, it is not always the case that all member states are in the same accelerated growth and development phase and some are stagnating. In recent years, member countries of BRICS have become increasingly active in Africa, with trade and investment flows significantly growing. This article attempted to knock the bottom out of the expansion of BRICS, why these nations and other factors are worth to be analysed.

The discussion surrounding the function and significance of the BRICS in international politics is growing more heated by the day. The debate includes D-Dollarization, which challenges the Bretton Woods monetary management system and serves as a de facto counter to the G7 for the Global South.

However, what needs to be added to this discussion is the fact that the emphasis is constantly placed on economic relevance rather than as a political instrument. In addition, the unidentified institutional capacity of BRICS must be examined in order to comprehend its impact on the African continent. The institutional capacity “**BRICS** +” expected to be independent of the capabilities of member nations.

Whatever the case, there may be a number of reasons why BRICS could be a good development partner for Africa. First, BRICS countries have much to offer Africa regarding capital, technology, and expertise. They can help Africa develop its infrastructure, manufacturing sector, agricultural sector and other development needs.

Second, BRICS countries are more likely to be considerate to Africa's development needs than traditional development partners, such as the United States and Europe. They are less likely to impose conditionalities on their development assistance and more likely to respect Africa's sovereignty.

Meaning that not to be interventionist in the internal political and economic affairs of African countries.

However, some challenges might occur in the course of the BRICS-Africa partnership. As international relations history has taught us, there is a charitable relationship; each bloc has its own interests, which are founded on the national interests of each member nation. One challenge is that the BRICS countries have different interests in Africa than the traditional Western or European relationships in the past and ongoing economic and political affairs.

BRICS is not a charity; each member nation has its own national interests, and there is no free supper, as one might anticipate. China, for example, is primarily interested in natural resources and the market. At the same time, India is more interested in trade and investment, and Russia may think about strengthening its military presence and armament seals.

The question is how far the BRICS approach can differ from the West. Can BRICS member countries assist Africa's mineral commodities to add value before it is marketed? Are they willing to invest in agriculture for food security and sustainability? And trade facilitation among African countries and beyond these are critical questions to be examined.

Over and above, there will be competition between BRICS countries to access market and political influence, which can harm Africa. Unless otherwise, Africa's representation at BRICS critically analyses African countries' interests vs. non-Africa member states. Another challenge is that BRICS countries are not always transparent about their activities in Africa. This can make it difficult for African countries to hold them accountable for their actions.

In general, BRICS has the potential to be a helpful development partner for Africa, provided a robust organisational monitoring and evolution structure is in place. In addition, in order to guarantee that the collaboration will be successful, it is necessary to handle the difficulties that will inevitably appear from time to time. BRICS might be of assistance to Africa in accomplishing its development objectives if these hurdles can be solved.

This question calls for an illustration with a bright backdrop since it is meant to convey the unwavering confidence in the BRICS-Africa partnership's ability to succeed in the years to come. The relationship is just in its first phases at this point, and it is not yet possible to predict how it will progress. Nevertheless, the backdrop also indicates the possibility for collaboration at the highest level between BRICS nations, which might lead to the flourishing of the alliance.

The topic at hand, titled "BRICS Beyond Multipolar Power Dynamics," The question "Could it Be Africa's Alternative Development Partner?" is one that provokes thinking and should be discussed further because it deserves to be addressed more. Before deciding whether or not BRICS-

Africa cooperation is a good concept, it is essential to take into account the many opportunities for advancement as well as the obstacles that may stand in the way.

Possible Advantages Associated with the Expansion of BRICS

The benefit of BRICS expansion can be analysed from a variety of perspectives, as the inclusion of new members from various regions could offer a broader range of perspectives and expertise, potentially enhancing discussions and strategies. Adding new members with significant growth potential could increase the group's collective economic strength and influence in international economic affairs.

New members represent the world's regions more broadly and contribute to a more balanced decision-making process. The pooling of resources from additional members could contribute to cooperative development projects, investments, and initiatives in a variety of industries.

Imaginable Impediments Associated with the Expansion of BRICS

As new members may have divergent national interests, aligning on shared objectives and strategies can be difficult due to competing agendas. Coordination complexity makes it more challenging to coordinate and reach consensus, which may drag down the decision-making process. Cultural and political differences variations in cultural, political, and economic systems among member countries can contribute to misunderstandings and disagreements.

Members have significantly different economic levels, it could create imbalances within the group, thereby reducing the efficacy of cooperation. Geopolitical concerns may alter the geopolitical dynamics within and beyond the group, leading to rivalries or tensions. Structural adaptation may necessitate modifications to the extant organisational structure and decision-making processes.

It is essential to emphasise that any growth of the BRICS would call for significant deliberation and negotiation among the organisation's current members and any potential new members. In addition, the global environment and political landscape may have changed, and new variables may pull and push in different directions. Regarding the most recent information regarding BRICS and its expansion, I see it more as a political than an economic issue. Conversely, the argument doesn't discount the possibility that the petrodollar financial system will be put to the test once and for all.

The BRICS expansion presents distinct challenges and opportunities, both visible at a glance. A more in-depth examination may be expected after a relatively short period of existence. The expansion of BRICS beyond geopolitics has the potential to play a crucial role as a political and economic counterpoint to what is commonly referred to as Western hegemony sectors. Dollarization, which would bring economic balance and fairness to countries in the global south, is

one of the potentials that is hoped to be realised. On the political front, BRICS + can function as a de facto alternative to the G7 in order to combat unfair economic embargoes and Western isolationist policy.

Africa Representation in BRICS and its Meaning

From a geographical point of view, the continent of Africa is currently represented in BRICS by South Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia. Still, there is a significant absence in Western Africa. Why Nigeria, which has the largest economy in Africa, is not being considered in this round from either a political or an economic point of view is beyond my comprehension. If nothing else, the rise of Nigeria could have expanded the BRICS' impact in every way.

It should come as no surprise that Egypt is tied for second place as the economic powerhouse of Africa. Its economy comprises a wide range of businesses, ranging from agriculture and textiles to petroleum and tourism. The significance of Egypt on the African continent is heightened because of its advantageous placement at a crossroads between Africa and the Middle East. In addition, the country's membership was not unexpected, given the robust economic links it shares with both Russia and India.

The accession of Ethiopia to the BRICS bloc is not a demonstration of the country's economic dominance, political clout, or diplomatic prowess; instead, it is a symbolic act in a multitude of different ways. The People's Republic of China is the primary impetus behind this country's induction; other members have little to do with it.

Ethiopia's membership reflects the glorious anti-colonial fight in the 1800s, and its role as a founding member of the United Nations and other forums contributed its inclusion in BRICS +. The potential role it could play in the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa is also connected to the population dividend also played a critical role.

As Brazil's President Lula Lula da Silva underlines, the matrix of BRICS expansion matters not only the person who governs but also the country's importance. This is an important message, considering some new entrant countries' leadership is less important than the population and symbolic representation of the Global South. Now, an expanding BRICS alliance, representing key emerging economies with diverse assets, presents the Global North with a formidable and emergent challenge.

The BRICS bloc China, as a heavyweight, has long called for expanding the BRICS as it seeks to challenge Western dominance, the same strategy shared by Russia. India seems a silent party to balance its long-standing relationship with the West from getting out of hand.

The North and South of the world need to work together via mutual respect, understanding, and fair partnerships to keep globalisation sustainable as BRICS's power develops. Sustainable

investment, cooperative research, decision-making in international forums representative of all stakeholders, and free and open commerce are all areas where cooperation might yield positive results.

The interests of everyone will be taken into account in international forums if regional cooperation, capacity development, and inclusive policymaking are encouraged. By working together, the two areas may achieve long-term prosperity and stability, contributing to greater international understanding and cooperation.

Does BRICS + has visible Institutional Structure that Can Address the Political and Economic issues of Member Countries and Beyond?

In international relations, ideas and political vision, political competence, and institutional capacity are the three traditional pillars of statecraft that govern the extent to which a country can exert influence in foreign affairs. The BRICS have the economic ability of individual nations, but they need more institutional competence to translate that capacity into a formal framework in the international arena. They disagree on numerous matters, with the economy being the sole possible area of agreement.

No one clearly understands what constitutes the BRICS + organisational structure and its capacity, so the query remains unanswered. BRICS does not exist as an organisation; instead, it is an annual summit between the heads of state of five countries.

The forum's chairmanship rotates annually among its members in accordance with the acronym BRICS. On the economic front, we have learned that BRICS has the New Development Bank, which can be instrumental in challenging existing Western financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Conclusion

In different lights, a number of international entities are poised to pose a systemic threat to the continued existence of BRICS. For far over fifty years, these organisations have influenced the global economy. In light of this, ignoring the existence of visible and unseen soft-power abilities would be naive. It would be premature to write off the BRICS as just another talk shop or see them as a major global player. There is still time for the BRICS nations to re-evaluate their expansion plans so as to avoid this weakness.

International relations are influenced not only by the strength of states but also by their conceptions of how that strength should be utilised. This is more relevant now than at any other moment in the course of the history of international politics. The rest of the world is only making progress in terms of economic growth due to the fact that the Western world is experiencing a decline

in terms of innovation and imagination in confronting persistent difficulties. Unless the BRICS meet this formidable challenge, it is highly probable that they will leave their mark on political issues.

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