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COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF CHINA



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BRICS as Voice for Global South



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Published on 15th July 2025

Today, we are again witnessing a moment where the BRICS grouping, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has emerged as a formidable representative of the Global South. BRICS stands both as a centrifugal force challenging the dominance of the West and a centripetal force uniting diverse nations around shared developmental goals, positioned at the intersection of geopolitical flux and economic realignment.



Since its inception, BRICS has championed multilateralism, fairness, and inclusivity in global affairs. Its values starkly contrast with the exclusivity and rigidity of existing Western-led institutions, which often reflect a post-World War II order that fails to account for the economic dynamism of the Global South. BRICS provides a crucial counterbalance by advocating reforms that better reflect today's multipolar world. The 2025 BRICS summit in Brazil on 6-7 July 2025 is poised to offer alternative models of cooperation, development, and diplomacy that transcend Cold War binaries. By doing this, BRICS is gradually reshaping the global rules to cater to the needs of many, rather than the dominance of a few. Global South nations have long voiced their dissatisfaction with a system that marginalizes their contributions while constraining their developmental pathways. Today, they are no longer content with mere participation, they demand a seat

at the decision-making table to be active shapers of global governance, which underscores a growing confidence and capability among emerging economies.

BRICS has become a platform through which this collective ambition is articulated. Its members coordinate within international bodies to push for greater representation and equity in global decision-making. The push for an expanded “BRICS+” demonstrates the bloc’s resonance



across continents, with over 40 countries expressing interest in joining. From Africa and Latin America to Southeast Asia and the Middle East, BRICS is increasingly seen as the torchbearer of a more inclusive, equitable world order.

BRICS is composed of a heterogeneous grouping with diverse political systems, economic models, and interests, as this diversity enriches the group through consensus-building. The current Brazilian presidency of BRICS is particularly focused on advancing two major objectives, such as promoting economic stability in the face of declining U.S. hegemony and accelerating sustainable development across member states.

Pathways for Sustainable Growth

Despite varying development stages, BRICS countries are investing in collective initiatives to ensure shared prosperity. Programs like the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial



Revolution aim to help members adapt to Industry 4.0 through capacity-building, technology-sharing, and infrastructure investment. The New Development Bank (NDB) has emerged as a vital instrument in this strategy, providing accessible and development-oriented financing tailored to the specific needs of member states and their partners. It is ultimately the responsibility of national governments to capitalize on these opportunities through effective governance, strong institutions, and sound socio-economic policies. The “New Development Triangle” state capacity, institutional systems, and targeted policies must guide the internal strategies of developing countries to ensure they can leverage BRICS support effectively.

As the global order undergoes profound transformation, BRICS plays a stabilizing role in building what can be called “relational power” through common agendas, joint initiatives, and strategic partnerships that amplify its influence on the global stage. It is not only challenging Western-dominated institutions but also creating new platforms for cooperation, such as the NDB and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement. The “BRICS+” framework has a dual role, and it operates as a centrifugal force by encouraging the creation of alternative governance mechanisms that disrupt Western hegemony, while also acting as a centripetal force by deepening economic interdependence and promoting multilateral solutions to shared problems like climate change, pandemics, and economic inequality.

Empowering the Global South

Today, the Global South enjoys more self-awareness, autonomy, and institutional capability than ever before. After decades of post-colonial state-building, many countries in the South are no longer passive observers but active agents of change. The decline of the Washington Consensus and the failures of imposed models of



democratization and liberalization have taught vital lessons: homegrown strategies, not imported ideologies, are the key to sustainable development.

Moreover, technological advancements are leveling the playing field. Emerging tools such as mobile connectivity, AI, drones, and satellite imaging are revolutionizing sectors from agriculture to manufacturing. While not all Global South countries can innovate at the frontier, they can rapidly adopt and adapt these technologies at relatively low cost, leapfrogging traditional development stages and creating a unique opportunity for inclusive growth and industrial transformation across the Global South. China's centrality in the BRICS as the first major economy from the Global South to rival the West in both scale and innovation: China is deeply integrated with fellow Global South countries. Since 2022, its trade volume with the South has overtaken its trade with the North, reflecting a major pivot in global economic flows. For many nations, China now represents an alternative source of capital, technology, and development expertise, providing a practical



counterpoint to Western development finance, often without the political conditionalities attached to aid from institutions like the IMF or World Bank.

One of the most tangible impacts of BRICS has been the growth of South-South trade. According to UNCTAD, trade among developing countries more than doubled from \$2.3 trillion in 2007 to \$5.6 trillion in 2023, unlocking new opportunities for cooperation and value addition across the South. Southeast Asia's integration into BRICS, particularly with Indonesia's potential accession, further enhances this momentum. The investment flows into BRICS countries are growing, making BRICS a major driver of capital in emerging markets.

BRICS growing institutional strength, expanding membership, and shared vision for an inclusive and sustainable future position it as the most credible collective voice for the Global South. BRICS is a vision of an alternative global order, one that is fairer, more representative, and anchored in cooperation rather than coercion. As the world enters an era of continuous uncertainties, BRICS is offering both a compass and a platform for the Global South to realize its full potential and contribute meaningfully to global peace, prosperity, and progress.