



UNDERSTANDING THE BRICS: KEY DATA AND TRENDS

By STRATEGIES! August 2023

INTRODUCTION

- The 15th BRICS summit will be held from August 22 to 24, 2023 in South Africa.
- It will take place in a context more than ever marked by conflicts and renewed tensions between Western powers and emerging countries.
- The stakes are obviously the present and the future of international relations, the nature and methods of global governance as well as the decisions that will be taken to meet or notice the challenges common to humanity.
- To help understand these issues quickly and concisely, the firm STRATEGIES! Provides you with these macro-trends on the BRICS.
- These are data, trends and a synthesis of the opinions of experts and institutions that carry out research or inform different audiences.
- Hoping that this synthesis will be useful to you, the MACRO – TRENDS team of STRATEGIES! wish you an excellent reading.

In this edition of macro-trends...

1. General presentation of the BRICS
2. Weight of the BRICS
3. Overview of some BRICS instruments and achievements
4. Overview of some internal BRICS dynamics
5. BRICS influence and impact on the world stage
6. Comparative analysis between the BRICS and the G7
7. Prospects of cooperation between BRICS and Africa



GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE BRICS

BRICS HISTORY

- The BRICS is a group of five countries that have been meeting since 2011 in annual summits: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The original acronym "BRIC" was coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill to describe the rapidly growing economies that would collectively dominate the global economy by 2050.
- The leaders of the BRIC countries began to meet regularly from 2006, on the sidelines of the G8 or G20 meetings.
- They held their first official summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia in June 2009.
- They then affirmed their desire to strengthen their cooperation in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, as well as to promote a fairer and more multipolar world order.
- In 2010, South Africa was added to the previous BRIC group, thus forming the BRICS.
- Since then, annual BRICS summits have been held in each of the member countries, alternately.
- In 2023, the BRICS celebrate their fifteenth anniversary of cooperation

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BRICS> .

<https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/how-brics-got-here> .

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/twenty-years-brics> .

BRICS GOALS

1. Economic Cooperation: Encourage trade, cooperation and growth among members, as well as improve market access for BRICS economies.

2. Development financing: Establish institutions such as CRA and NDB to finance infrastructure and development projects in member countries.

3. Policy coordination: Strengthen policy discourse and coordination on international issues, including by changing institutions of global governance to reflect the changing global economic landscape and to give emerging economies a stronger voice and representation .

4. Social and cultural exchanges: To promote interpersonal relations and mutual respect of cultures while stimulating social and cultural exchanges between member nations.

5. Technology and Innovation: Strengthen international collaboration in science, technology and innovation to promote knowledge exchange, capacity building and technological advancements among member nations.

6. Sustainable development: Promote sustainable development methods that respect the environment while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Peace and Security: Promoting peace, stability and security locally and internationally, while addressing common security challenges and risks, such as terrorism.

8. South-South Cooperation: Strengthen cooperation and collaboration among developing countries, share best practices and support initiatives that contribute to the overall development of the South.



BRAZIL

- Brazil is the largest country in South America, with an area of **8.5 million km²** and a population of **209 million**.
- **It is the world's eleventh largest economy by GDP, with \$1.92 trillion in 2022.**
- Brazil is a country rich in natural resources, particularly agricultural and mining, but also in renewable energy, thanks to its hydroelectric and wind potential.
- Brazil is also an influential regional player, which seeks to strengthen its integration with its South American neighbours, particularly within Mercosur.
- Brazil has been a member of the UN since its creation in 1945, but does not have the status of a permanent member of the Security Council.
- **She has long been demanding a reform of this body to gain access to it, with the support of the other BRICS countries.**



RUSSIA

- Russia is the largest country in the world by area, at **17 million km²** , but its population is relatively small, at **144 million**.
- **It is the eighth largest economy in the world in terms of GDP with 2,240 billion dollars in 2022.**
- Russia has significant energy resources, including oil and gas, which account for a large share of its exports and income.
- Russia is also a military and nuclear power, heir to the former USSR, which has a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.
- **Russia seeks to assert its sovereignty and its influence in its close neighbourhood, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, but also on the international scene, where it often opposes Western positions.**



INDIA

- **India has become the most populous country in the world** , with **1.4286 billion inhabitants** , and the seventh by area, with **3.3 million km²**.
- It is the **world's fifth largest economy** in terms of GDP estimated at **\$3,385 billion in 2022**
- India is a rapidly developing country, which is experiencing strong economic growth, driven by its services sector, particularly IT, but also by its manufacturing industry and agriculture.
- India is also a culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse country that faces significant social and environmental challenges.
- India is a regional power that maintains complex relations with its neighbours, notably Pakistan and China, with which it shares disputed borders.
- **India is also a nuclear and space power, which aspires to play a greater role in global governance.**
- It has been a member of the UN since 1945, but does not have the status of a permanent member of the Security Council.



- **China is the second most populous country in the world** , with **1.4257 billion inhabitants**, and the fourth in area, with 9.6 million km².
- It is the second largest economy in the world with a GDP of 17,963 billion dollars in 2022 according to the World Bank.
- China is a country in transition, which has experienced spectacular economic growth since the 1980s, thanks to its openness to the market and its integration into world trade.
- China has become a major player in industrial production, technological innovation and overseas investment.
- China is also a country that must face demographic, social and environmental challenges, linked to its rapid and uneven development.
- China is a regional power that claims sovereignty over disputed territories including Taiwan, Tibet and the South China Sea.
- China is also a global power seeking to strengthen its political and economic influence, notably through its New Silk Roads initiative.
- China has been a permanent member of the UN Security Council since 1971.

<https://finance-heros.fr/brics/>

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/china>



SOUTH AFRICA

- **South Africa is the smallest country of the BRICS by area , with 1.2 million km2 , and by population, with 58 million.**
- **It is the 38th^{world} economy with a GDP of 406 billion dollars.**
- South Africa is an emerging country, which has significant natural wealth, particularly mining and agriculture, but which suffers from strong social inequality and a high unemployment rate.
- South Africa is also a country marked by its recent history, that of apartheid and the struggle for democracy, which culminated in the election of Nelson Mandela in 1994.
- South Africa is a regional power which plays a role of mediation and cooperation in Africa, particularly within the African Union.
- South Africa is also a country committed to the promotion of human rights, sustainable development and multilateralism.
- It has been a member of the UN since 1994, but does not have the status of a permanent member of the Security Council.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF BRICS MEMBERS

Initially, the Goldman SACHS bank, which originated the term BRIC, identified three characteristics to describe these emerging countries:

1. **Demographically:** large populations, with the emergence of an increasingly large middle class.
2. **Geographically:** large areas endowed with significant natural resources (minerals, energy, agricultural land, etc.)
3. **Economically:** Rapid growth, taking advantage of increasingly important insertion in global value chains. These countries have taken advantage of the specialization in the tertiary sector of advanced countries to create industrial expertise, which, in a context of booming exports, has enabled them to boost their growth.

CURRENT COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BRICS COUNTRIES

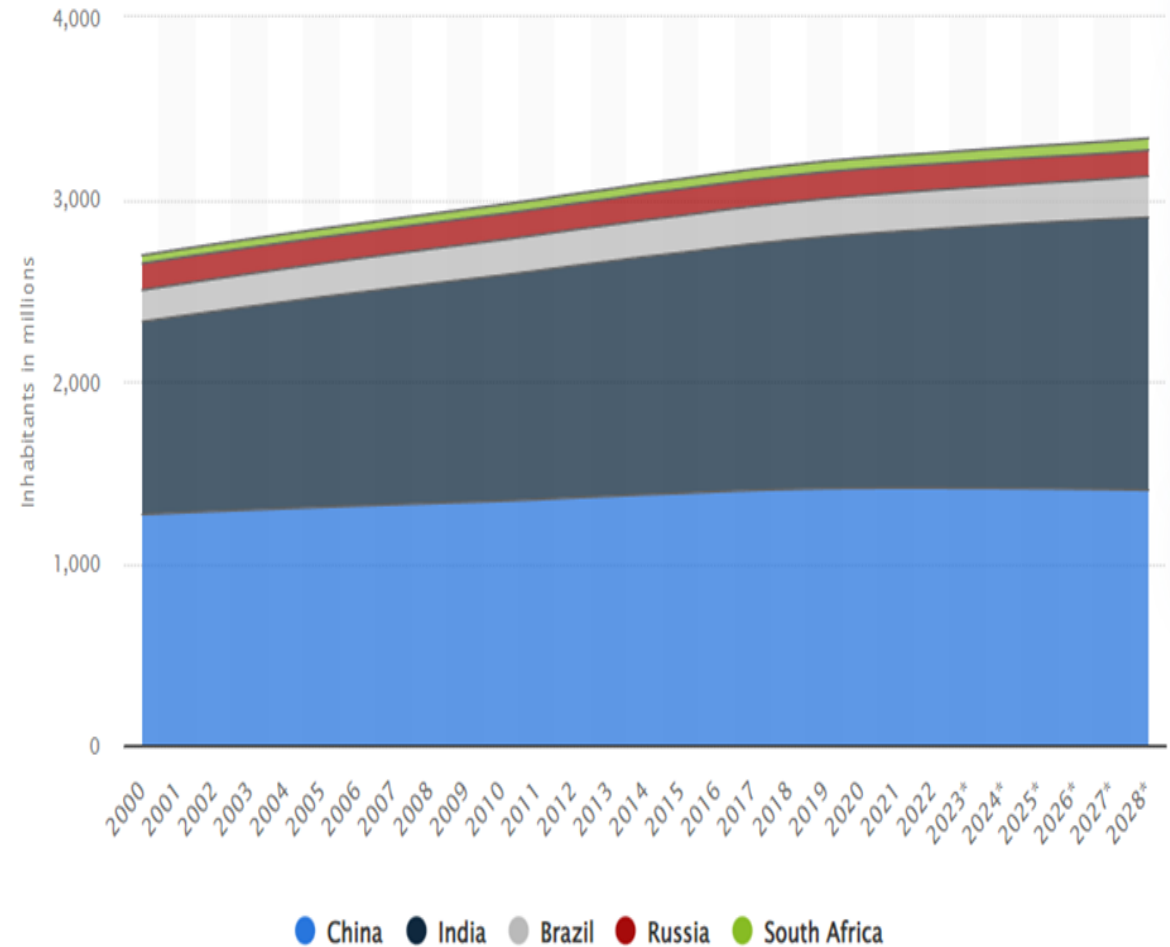
1. An emerging or developing economy, with strong potential for growth and innovation.
2. Political and diplomatic influence on the international scene, particularly within multilateral organizations such as the UN or the IMF.
3. A desire to cooperate with the other members of the BRICS on subjects of common interest, such as the reform of the international monetary system, the fight against protectionism or climate change.
4. A certain independence vis-à-vis developed countries, in particular the United States and the European Union.
5. A desire to promote a multipolar world order.



WEIGHT OF THE BRICS

DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT OF THE BRICS

The BRICS have an estimated total population of about **3.21 billion**, or about **41.5%** of the world's population.



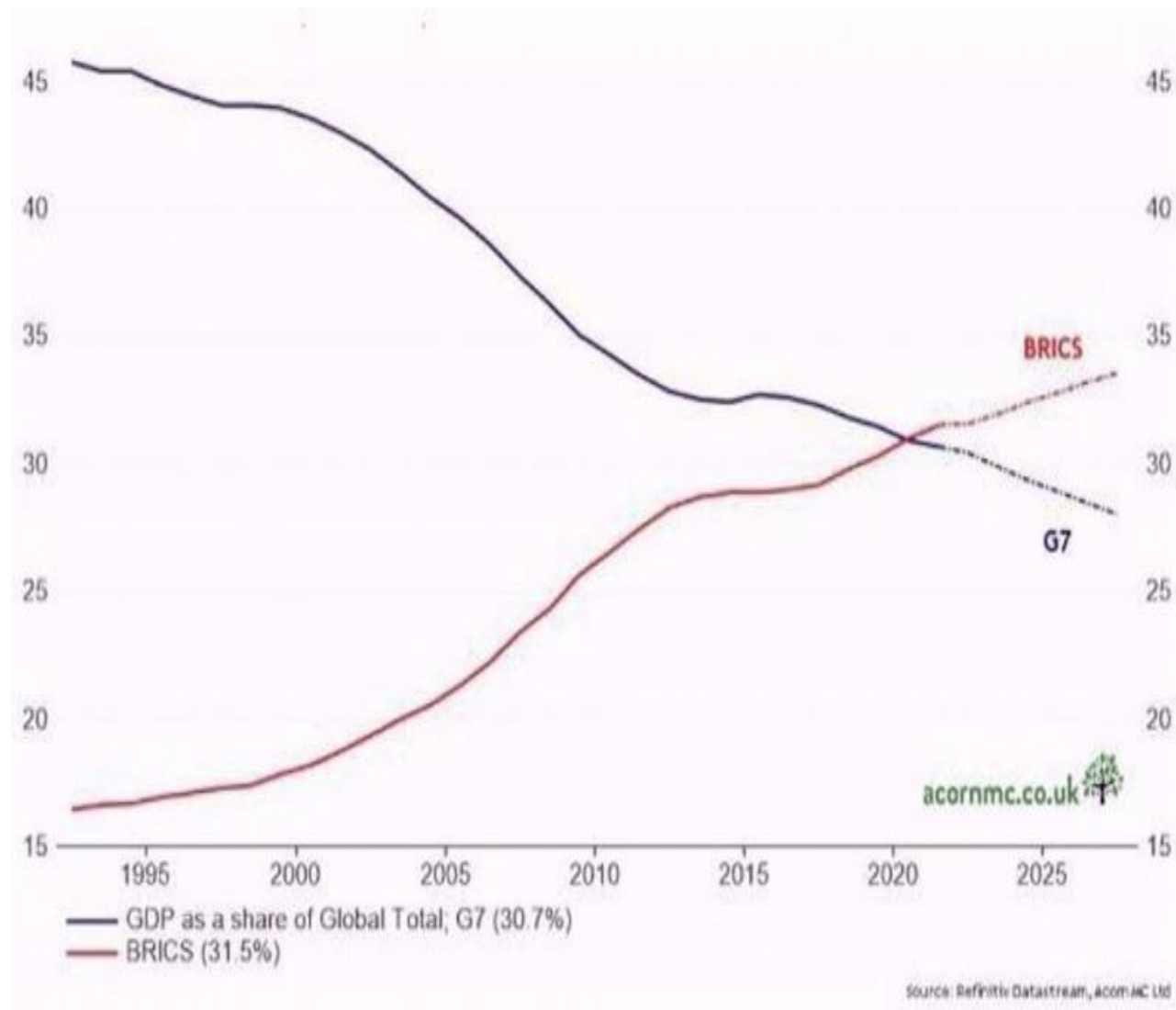
TERRITORIAL COVERAGE OF THE BRICS

The BRICS have a combined area of **39,746,220 km²** or approximately **26.7%** of the world's land surface.



ECONOMIC WEIGHT OF THE BRICS

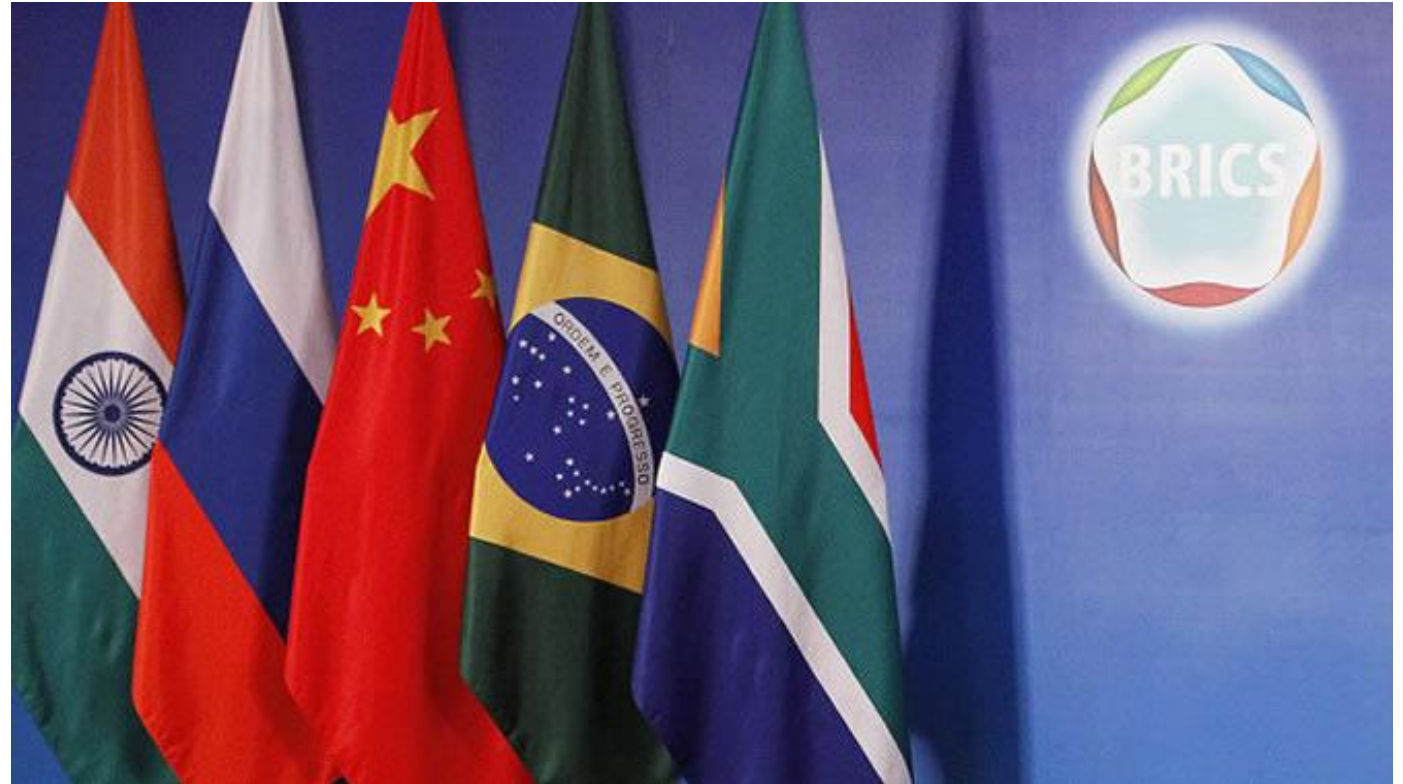
The BRICS bloc contributed **31.5%** of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022



GEOPOLITICAL WEIGHT OF THE BRICS

The BRICS have **02 permanent members** within the United Nations Security Council: Russia and China.

The **05 members** of the BRICS are also **members of the G20**





BRICS INSTRUMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

MAIN INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRICS



The New Development Bank (NBD)



The contingent reserve mechanism (RCM)



The BRICS University Network (NUB)



BRICS Young Scientists Forum (FJSB),

MAIN INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRICS

The New Development Bank (NBD), created in 2014 to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging and developing countries.

The NBD has an initial capital of \$50 billion and an authorized capital of \$100 billion.

Its headquarters are in Shanghai and its first president is an Indian.



The Contingent Reserve Mechanism (RCM), launched in 2015 to provide financial assistance to member countries in the event of balance of payments difficulties.

The RCM has a common fund of 100 billion dollars, of which China contributes 41 billion, Brazil, Russia and India up to 18 billion each, and South Africa up to 5 billion.

MAIN INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRICS

The BRICS University Network (NUB), created in 2015 to promote academic cooperation and the mobility of students and researchers between member countries.

The NUB comprises seven thematic areas: economics, climate change and green energy, food security and agriculture, public health and traditional medicine, social sciences and humanities, information technology and communication, and international security.



The BRICS Young Scientists Forum (FJSB), established in 2016 to encourage scientific and technological collaboration among young researchers from member countries.

The FJSB organizes an annual conference on a specific theme related to the common challenges of the BRICS.



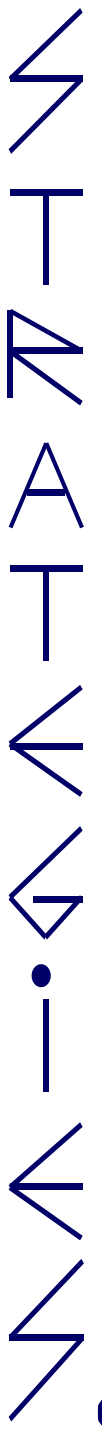
BRICS INTERNAL DYNAMICS

EVOLUTION OF BRICS IMPORTS 2000 - 2022

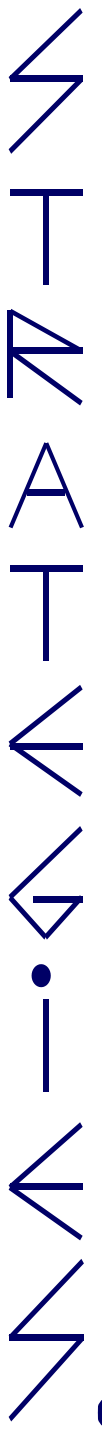
- Since 2000, China has always been the largest importer of goods from BRICS countries, with a value of more than two trillion US dollars in 2020.
- The value of goods imported by China has increased significantly over these two decades; values in 2018 were more than nine times higher than values in 2000.
- India's imports in 2018 were also 10 times higher than in 2000.
- For Russia and Brazil, however, the best years are in the early 2010s, just before both countries entered recession.
- The value of goods imported by South Africa has also increased and exceeded US\$100 billion in most of the 2010s.
- In 2000, the value of goods imported into China was comparable to that of the other four BRICS countries combined; in 2022, it was more than twice that of the other countries combined.

EVOLUTION OF BRICS EXPORTS 2000 - 2022

- Since 2000, China has consistently been the largest exporter of goods among the BRICS countries, and its share of the bloc's exports has increased significantly.
- In 2000, China's share of BRICS exports was slightly over 50%; in 2020, this share will reach 74%.
- Among other BRICS countries, Russia has historically had the second largest share of exports, and South Africa the smallest, while India overtook Brazil in 2009.



STRENGTHS OF THE BRICS	WEAKNESSES OF THE BRICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="165 178 1286 421">1. Economic Growth: The BRICS have experienced rapid economic growth over the past decades, giving them a solid economic position.<li data-bbox="165 492 1286 678">2. Emerging markets: The BRICS offer opportunities for investment and growth in dynamic emerging markets.<li data-bbox="165 749 1286 1049">3. Natural resources: The BRICS have large reserves of natural resources, such as oil, gas, minerals and agriculture, which gives them an economic and geopolitical advantage.<li data-bbox="165 1120 1286 1363">4. Geopolitical influence: The BRICS represent significant geographical and cultural diversity, which allows them to play a key role in world affairs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1345 178 2458 421">1. Internal inequalities: The BRICS are faced with significant internal inequalities in terms of income, human development and access to basic services.<li data-bbox="1345 492 2458 735">2. Financial instability: The BRICS face financial stability challenges, particularly due to volatility in emerging markets and dependence on foreign capital flows.<li data-bbox="1345 806 2458 1049">3. Political Cooperation: The BRICS need to overcome their political differences and divergent interests to maintain strong cooperation.<li data-bbox="1345 1120 2458 1363">4. Geopolitical challenges: The BRICS face geopolitical challenges, such as territorial tensions and regional rivalries, which can hinder their collective unity and influence.



PERCEIVED ADDED VALUE OF BRICS	PERCEIVED LIMITATIONS OF THE BRICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="165 244 1268 347">1. They contribute to global economic growth through their dynamism and demand.<li data-bbox="165 415 1268 629">2. They provide market and investment opportunities for businesses and developed countries, as well as developing countries that can benefit from their South-South cooperation.<li data-bbox="165 701 1268 915">3. They are also sources of innovation and competitiveness in strategic areas such as information technologies, energy, space or defence.<li data-bbox="165 986 1268 1368">4. They are key players in global governance and multilateralism , by participating in major international institutions such as the G20, the UN or the WTO, and by creating their own mechanisms for dialogue and coordination, such as the BRICS summit or the BRICS Development Bank.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1319 244 2474 458">1. They pose major environmental and social challenges , being responsible for a large part of greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, deforestation or loss of biodiversity.<li data-bbox="1319 529 2474 686">2. They have to deal with internal problems such as poverty, inequality, corruption, demographic aging or terrorism.<li data-bbox="1319 758 2474 972">3. They also face geopolitical and regional tensions , whether with their neighbors or with Western powers, on issues such as human rights, democracy, nuclear power, trade or security.<li data-bbox="1319 1043 2474 1315">4. They are sometimes accused of having a hegemonic or mercantilist vision of the world , seeking to defend their national interests to the detriment of the common good or respect for international rules.



BRICS INFLUENCE AND IMPACT ON THE WORLD STAGE

INFLUENCE AND IMPACT OF THE BRICS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

1. Economy:

The BRICS are a significant part of the global economy.

They have contributed to global economic growth and played a major role in international trade.

Their economic weight also allows them to negotiate favorable trade agreements and challenge the economic hegemony of developed countries.



2. Policy:

The BRICS have formed a political alliance that allows them to defend their common interests on the international scene.

They seek to promote a more balanced world order and reform international institutions such as the IMF and World Bank to better reflect global economic reality.



3. Diplomacy:

The BRICS have developed joint diplomacy by opposing certain policies of Western countries, particularly with regard to unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions.

They seek to promote cooperation and dialogue between the countries of the South.

INFLUENCE AND IMPACT OF THE BRICS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

4. Sustainable development:

The BRICS have set up cooperation initiatives for sustainable development, particularly in the areas of energy, agriculture and environmental protection.

They play an increasingly important role in the fight against climate change and the promotion of renewable energies.

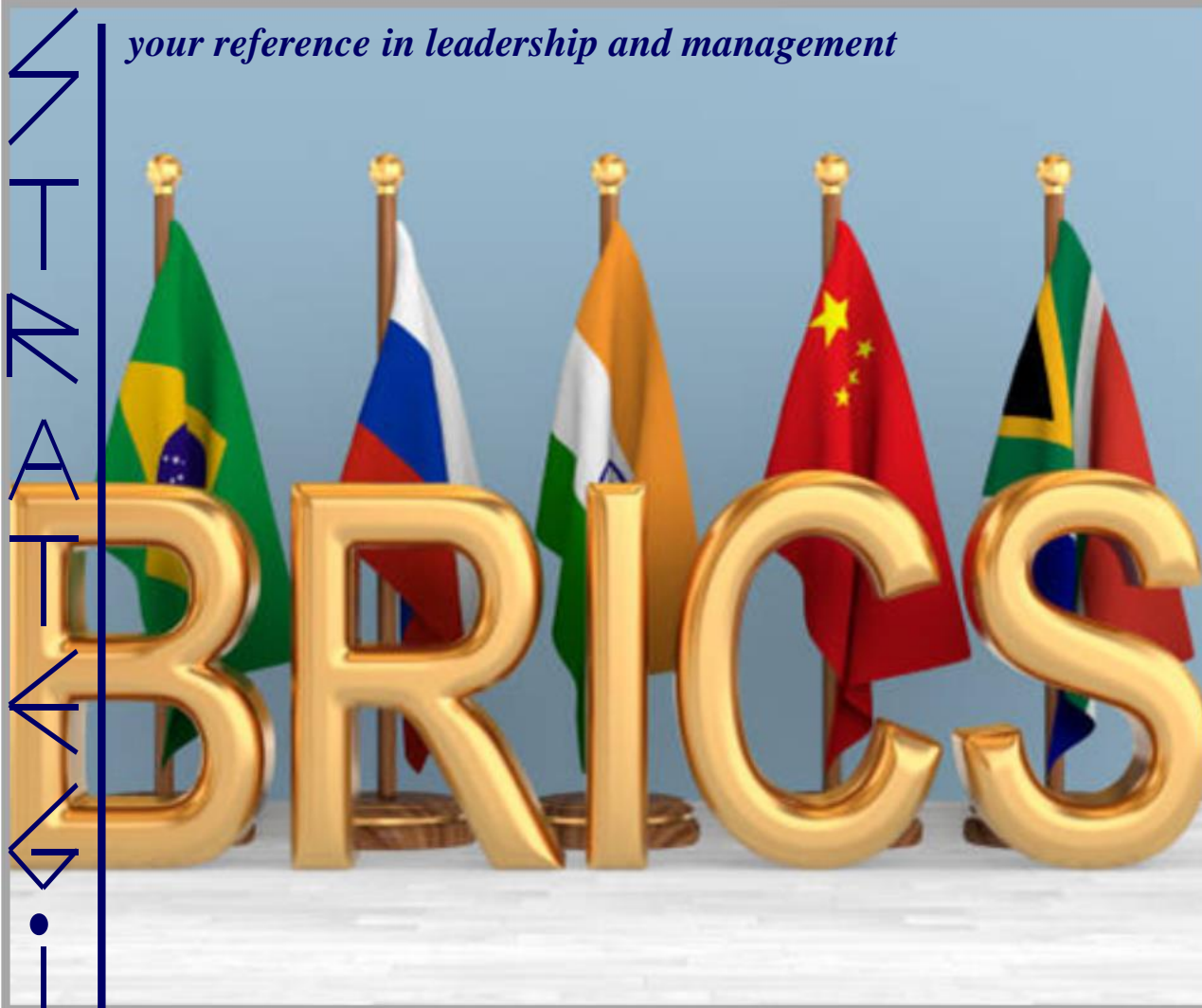


5. Soft power:

The BRICS use their soft power to influence the international scene.

They promote their culture, language and values through cultural exchanges, festivals and sporting events.

They seek to reinforce their image as emerging powers and to gain international respect and recognition.



BRICS AND G7 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Despite their weight, the BRICS do not yet have an influence equal to that of the G7

- Despite their demographic weight (41% of the world's population), the Brics currently only have 15% of the voting rights at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- An imbalance that they intend to correct in view of their growing importance on the international scene.

THE BRICS, THE WORLD'S LEADING ECONOMIC POWER

As a % of world GDP, in purchasing power parity



THE BRICS, A POLITICAL WEIGHT FAR FROM THE DEMOGRAPHIC REALITY

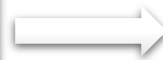


THE STRENGTHS OF THE BRICS COMPARED TO THE G7

1. Economic growth:

The BRICS have experienced rapid economic growth over the past decades, giving them a strong economic position.

They currently represent more than 40% of the world's population and around 31.5% of world GDP, more than the G7 which contributes 30.7%.



2. Emerging Markets:

The BRICS offer opportunities for investment and growth in dynamic emerging markets.

They have high growth potential due to their large population, growing middle class and abundant natural resources.

THE STRENGTHS OF THE BRICS COMPARED TO THE G7

3. Natural resources:

The BRICS have large reserves of natural resources, such as oil, gas, minerals and agriculture, which gives them an economic and geopolitical advantage.



4. Geopolitical influence:

The BRICS represent significant geographic and cultural diversity, which allows them to play a key role in global affairs.

They can influence global political and economic decisions because of their demographic weight and their strategic geographical position.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE BRICS COMPARED TO THE G7

1. Economic Power:

The BRICS seek to cement their position as emerging economic powerhouses, but they still face challenges such as economic diversification, reducing inequality and improving productivity to compete with the developed G7 economies.



2. Global governance:

The BRICS seek to reform international institutions to better reflect global economic reality, but they face resistance from the G7 and other developed countries who are reluctant to share their power and influence.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE BRICS COMPARED TO THE G7

3. Financial stability:

The BRICS are facing financial stability challenges, in particular due to volatility in emerging markets and dependence on foreign capital flows.

They need to build their financial resilience to deal with global economic shocks.



4. Political cooperation:

The BRICS must overcome their political differences and divergent interests to maintain strong cooperation.

They also face geopolitical challenges, such as territorial tensions and regional rivalries, which can hinder their collective unity and influence.

COMMON INTERESTS AND POINTS OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE BRICS AND THE G7

They reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism and respect for international law.

They support the role of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organizations in resolving conflicts, promoting sustainable development and regulating global trade.



They are all concerned with global challenges such as climate change, energy security, the fight against terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, public health and scientific cooperation.

They signed the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, pledged to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and helped distribute Covid-19 vaccines around the world.



They are all important players in global trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

They represent around 60% of world GDP, 40% of world trade and 50% of world FDI.

They have close trade relations with each other and with other countries and regions.

They seek to strengthen their competitiveness, innovation and economic diversification.

CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE BRICS AND THE G7

They have different visions of the international system and its evolution.

The G7 countries are the main architects of today's world order based on Western values of democracy, human rights and the free market.

They seek to preserve their leadership and their influence in the face of the emergence of new players.

BRICS countries are emerging or re-emerging powers claiming a greater role in global governance.

They seek to reform international institutions so that they better reflect the reality of the 21st century.

They have divergent interests on some regional and global issues.

The G7 countries are often at odds with the BRICS countries on issues such as the situation in Ukraine, Syria, Iran or North Korea.

They also have different positions on international trade, intellectual property rights, financial regulation or international taxation.

They have different levels of internal cohesion.

The G7 countries share a long history of political and economic cooperation based on common values.

They have established institutional mechanisms to coordinate their policies and actions.

The BRICS countries are a more heterogeneous group that was created recently to strengthen their weight in international negotiations.

They have fewer cultural or ideological affinities with each other.

They also have rivalries or potential conflicts on certain subjects such as territorial borders or access to natural resources.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BRICS AND THE G7: WHAT POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS?

A confrontation scenario:

The BRICS and the G7 clash over strategic, economic or ideological issues.

They engage in fierce competition for world leadership.

They strengthen their regional or bilateral alliances to the detriment of multilateralism.

They isolate themselves from each other and create antagonistic blocs.



A cooperation scenario :

The BRICS and the G7 recognize their interdependencies and common interests.

They dialogue and negotiate on global issues.

They strengthen multilateralism and global governance.

They open up to each other and create mutually beneficial partnerships.



A scenario of coexistence:

The BRICS and the G7 maintain their differences, but avoid open conflicts.

They cooperate on some topics, but compete on others.

They respect multilateralism, but defend their national interests.

They keep pragmatic and selective relationships.



PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN BRICS AND AFRICA

THEME OF THE 15TH BRICS SUMMIT IN 2023

- The 2023 BRICS summit will take place in South Africa from August 22-24, 2023 at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg.
- This year's theme is:

“BRICS and Africa: partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism”.



THE FIVE PRIORITIES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BRICS PRESIDENCY IN 2023

1. Develop a partnership for an equitable just transition,
2. Transforming education and skills development for the future,
3. Unlocking opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area,
4. post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as
5. Strengthen multilateralism, including by working towards genuine reform of global governance institutions and strengthening the meaningful participation of women in peace processes

KEY ISSUES OF THE 2023 BRICS SUMMIT

1. **The overhaul of the global governance system.** The BRICS want to offer a financial alternative to the Bretton Woods institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF, and have created the new BRICS development bank.
2. **The creation of a fund of 100 billion dollars** to offer development aid to countries that want it.
3. **The creation of a new currency** , which would be pegged to gold or to a basket of currencies from the five countries.
4. **The dedollarization of the world economy.** The BRICS also want to tackle the issue of dedollarization, by trying to convince several countries to leave the dollar as the currency of international transaction.
5. **The enlargement of the BRICS:** Many countries have applied or expressed their interest in joining the BRICS. Current member countries will have to clarify the conditions and define the protocols to integrate new members or develop strategic partnerships.

The ultimate objective is to tell the G7 group that there is an alternative and that we must sit around the table to re-examine the system of global governance.

OVERVIEW OF COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN BRICS

- “We have received formal expressions of interest from the leaders of 23 countries to join BRICS, and many other informal approaches on the possibilities of joining BRICS,” added the Minister.
- These are **Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait , Morocco, Nigeria, State of Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Viet Nam.** »

Dr Naledi Pandora,
South African Foreign Minister



SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICA-BRICS COOPERATION

The establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014, which is a multilateral development bank aimed at supporting infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS and other emerging economies. The NDB has approved 18 projects in Africa worth \$6.5 billion, covering sectors such as renewable energy, transport, water and sanitation, urban development and social infrastructure.

The launch of the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) in 2018, which is a cooperation platform on innovation, digital economy, industrialization and skills development. PartNIR has initiated several projects in Africa, such as the BRICS Network University, the BRICS Young Scientists Forum, the BRICS Innovation Network, and the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework Program.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICA-BRICS COOPERATION

Hosting the BRICS-Africa Proximity Dialogue in 2013, 2015 and 2018, which is a consultation and coordination mechanism between BRICS leaders and African leaders on issues of common interest.

This dialogue has resulted in several joint declarations and action plans that define the areas and modalities of cooperation between the BRICS and Africa.



The expansion of trade and investment flows between the BRICS and Africa, which have increased significantly over the past decade.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the total trade volume between the BRICS and Africa will reach \$340 billion in 2019, up from \$150 billion in 2010.

Similarly, the total stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) from the BRICS to Africa reached \$194 billion in 2019, compared to \$66 billion in 2010.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOOST THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE BRICS

Develop a specific BRICS - AFRICA strategy.

Although there is no specific BRICS-Africa strategy to date, the fact that all BRICS members are very involved in Africa can create opportunities for synergy.

South Africa should insist on the development of a specific BRICS-Africa strategy, as well as the integration of the concerns of developing African countries into the various BRICS strategies.



African countries should develop strategies to better seize the opportunities offered by the BRICS countries.

African policymakers, researchers and the business community should work in synergy to identify sectors, particularly in agriculture and agribusiness, industry and services, where there might be opportunities for growth. greater investment from the BRICS.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOOST THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE BRICS

BRICS countries could consider formalizing their relationship with the AU and ensure that their collaborative programs are aligned with Africa's vision to support Africa's economic development, including through capacity building programs. capacity building, knowledge sharing and financing for development.



The African Union Commission should set up a dedicated BRICS Unit to support the rotating AU Presidencies on BRICS issues.

This unit could also cover issues related to the G20, where the principle of rotation of presidencies makes continuity of engagement difficult for countries that are not permanent members of the G20. Although South Africa is the only African BRICS member, the AU Presidency has been invited to participate in BRICS summits over the past two years.



South Africa should accelerate its contacts with other African governments and civil society on the BRICS-Africa agenda.

South Africa could encourage greater African research engagement on BRICS-related issues by launching calls for proposals through its existing research funds, which bring together researchers from South Africa and other African countries. on research related to the BRICS and Africa.

About the authors

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