

THE POSITION OF THE BRICS TOWARD CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

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Abstract:

Facts confirm that there is a group of rising international powers in the international system that have a set of factors that help them advance in the hierarchy of international powers. The factors include the material potentials represented by the rise of oil prices and economic growth, making them a global model in the field of innovation. The most important of these powers are the BRICS and other powers such as Japan and the European Union, although their strategic action is consistent with Western ideology. Accordingly, the availability of such factors strengthens the BRICS and enables them to play an important role in the new international order (Al-Ta'i, 2020). According to Kıprızlı and Östem (2022), the countries of the BRICS have preferred to follow an approach aimed at enhancing the prosperity of their partners in the developing world by refining their collective identity linked to the status of emerging powers and their close relations with the world. This intellectual aspect has encouraged the BRICS to pay attention to sustainable production methods without abandoning their development ambitions. At the same time, the collective identity of the BRICS countries allowed them to respond to the challenges of climate change that threaten the social and economic development of both their own countries and other developing countries.

To clarify the BRICS position toward contemporary issues, two important aspects will be presented. They represent the focus of global attention at present: climate change and international trade, as follows:

1- Climate Change

The term “climate change”, as defined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, refers to the changes that are directly or indirectly attributable to human activities that lead to changes in the composition of the global atmosphere. It also refers to natural climate change over periods (Sayid, 2019).

When the issue of global climate change is raised, as mentioned by (Al Matari, 2018), many people think it is limited to environmental aspects only, such as rising temperatures, the melting of polar icebergs, and rising sea and ocean levels. This is because these environmental manifestations of global climate change are already affecting people's daily lives. But it is also certain that the planet Earth is gradually warming, and the main reason for this is the emissions of greenhouse gases released by human activities. If the current patterns of fossil fuel use continue, and the population increases, there will be continuous climate change that will have serious impacts on the environment. This impact will extend in the future to include all aspects of human life on Earth (Hasan, 2021).

Al Shammari (2008) believes that rising global temperatures, melting ice caps, extreme weather events, and disrupted ecosystems are urgent global issues that require immediate attention

and collective action from various parties. They pose risks to human health, food security, water resources, and the general stability of the planet. Since the BRICS countries together are considered a large part of the world's population and occupy a significant amount of land, their role in mitigating climate change and transitioning to sustainable development practices is crucial. The BRICS bloc, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, plays a large and important role in confronting this challenge due to its great economic and political influence on the whole world. Climate change, caused primarily by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, has far-reaching consequences for the planet (Mubarakia, 2014).

As a result, the rising powers today acquire a significant share of power, especially from the economic and military perspective. So, they continue their development path towards advancement in the ranks of revolution at the regional and global levels. But the path of these powers to regional and global ranks, as Winters (2012) believes, has a set of obstacles that challenge their development models and strategies. When talking about the challenges facing rising powers, including the BRICS bloc, the environmental challenge is often at the top of those challenges, especially for China and India. As claimed by Mubarakiya (2014), the local environment in those countries, as well as the global environment, can no longer bear further deterioration, imbalance, pollution, and depletion. Their future has become dependent to a large extent on the nature of the development choices of the rising powers. This has put them into a major development-environmental-ethical dilemma.

It is to be noted that the climate change policies of the BRICS are divided into two parts. The first is related to the policies that the BRICS followed individually before the formation of the bloc, and the second is those policies that came as a result of the BRICS summit conferences concerned with climate change. The theory of climate change policies in the BRICS requires ignoring the first and relying on the second because confronting climate change requires a joint cooperative effort from all parties. Much of the talk about climate change by the BRICS was based on theoretical foundations, ignoring official data and various statements by the authorities concerned with monitoring climate change. The important point is to include climate change issues in the policies of the BRICS countries and to act collectively not individually. In this case, they form ambitious policies that can confront climate change and limit its impacts (Rahman, 2018).

Kirton (2020) claims that BRICS summits and environment ministers' meetings focused on supporting the United Nations' work on climate change, but the Ufa Summit on 6/9/2015 added an innovative way to the BRICS bloc's cooperation among its members in the field of food security, nutrition and agriculture to control climate change. Based on all of this, the leaders of the BRICS promised to reduce the negative impact of climate change on food security and adapt agriculture to climate change. This could be done by enhancing cooperation and continuing to exchange information and experiences on relevant national policies, programs, plans, and strategies for adapting to and mitigating climate change.

The BRICS bloc has prioritized climate work as one of its core areas of focus, and its countries have strived to support the United Nations and the G20 in mitigating the effects of

climate change and protecting biodiversity. For example, the BRICS stressed the need to cooperate in adopting the post-2020 global biodiversity framework formulated by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Pimpalkhute, 2020). The BRICS countries have exploited their position within the G20 to push the bloc to make deep-rooted reforms on climate change, energy efficiency, environmental assessment standards, and energy security. In addition, the BRICS summits have made several future commitments on climate action since the group's creation (Kirton, 2020).

At the 7th session of the BRICS Environment Ministers' meeting in August 2021, which was before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in October and the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November, the BRICS reaffirmed their cooperation in the fight against climate change. It is based on equity, national priorities and circumstances, and the principles of common and differentiated responsibilities and their respective capacities (The Indian Express, 2021).

GEF Independent Evaluation Office (2021) declares that in recent years, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, most countries have continued to express their support for partnership, cooperation, and the objectives of environmental agreements in achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals. For example, at the Xiamen (2017), Johannesburg (2018), and Moscow (2020) summits, BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to take decisive action in dealing with climate change, pollution, and protecting biodiversity. This is done by pledging to achieve the goals contained in the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreements while emphasizing the need to improve the environment and strengthen the circular economy approach in recovering from Covid-19.

Thus, the leaders of the BRICS expressed their concern during their recent summit about the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. While the virus has affected everyone, it affected the poorest and most vulnerable people more. That is why the leaders of the BRICS called on the international community to strengthen global development partnerships to address the impact of the pandemic and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by improving the means of implementation paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. The BRICS also urged donor countries to fulfill their official development assistance (ODA) commitments and facilitate capacity building and technology transfer along with development resources to developing countries, in line with the national policy objectives of the recipients (Malam, 2022).

Kıprızlı and Östem (2022) believe that the processes of increasing interaction and institutionalization have led to increasing cohesion within the BRICS bloc, and strengthened the formation of collective identity. These processes also reveal the extent of the bloc's interest in enhancing the well-being of the citizens of the BRICS countries and their economic, social, and environmental prosperity. This provides evidence of the importance of collective identity. For example, investing in and disseminating renewable, clean energy and energy-saving technologies is a way to improve the living standards of the citizens of BRICS countries.

To shed light on the extent of the BRICS bloc's contribution to climate issues, the bloc's performance will be clarified and compared to the performance of the G20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This is based on some indicators, including average annual temperature change (2016-2019), per capita greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, per capita carbon dioxide emissions resulting from fuel consumption in 2019, and carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels (D'Souza, 2022). They are explained as follows:

1- Average annual temperature change (2016-2019): The performance of the BRICS is lower than the performance of the G20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at the global level, as the performance of the BRICS is lower by (1.07%). It should be noted that India and Brazil contributed positively to the performance of the BRICS climate action, and the average annual change in surface temperature in Brazil during the period (2016-2019) reached approximately (1.38) and in India reached (0.91) degrees Celsius. The performance of the two countries regarding this indicator was better than the performance of the rest of the world and the G20.

2- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions in 2018: The most recent level of emissions recorded is for the year 2018, and the performance of the BRICS exceeded the performance of the G20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development concerning greenhouse gas emissions. But, it is lower than the global level. The BRICS recorded a percentage of (8.09), compared to the G20, which recorded (9.10), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which recorded (9.15). India outperforms the rest of the countries of the bloc and the world in this indicator, as its per capita greenhouse gas emissions reached (2.47) tons, followed by Brazil at (6.78) tons.

3- Per capita carbon dioxide emissions resulting from fuel consumption, 2019: In this indicator, the performance of the BRICS was better than the performance of the G20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, but it was lower than the global performance of (3.65%). India and Brazil exceeded global performance by (2.3) tons and (1.92) tons, respectively.

4- Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion, 2019: The performance of Brazil, India, and Russia in this indicator was better than the rest of the BRICS and the countries of the world, with values reaching (0.000609), (0.014), and (0.000785), respectively. India recorded the best performance among the BRICS. It is worth noting that Russia recorded a decline of about (0.72%) despite its growth of (2.03%) in terms of GDP for the year 2019. This means that, as mentioned by Our World in Data website, Russia has achieved a separation between economic growth and carbon emissions, which explains its superior performance in this indicator compared to the rest of the BRICS countries and the world.

From the above, it is noted that the overall performance of the BRICS is better than the performance of the G20 and OECD in all indicators except for one indicator, which is (the average annual change in surface temperature for the period 2016-2019). As such, the BRICS outperforms the G20 and OECD in climate action performance in terms of aggregate value, given the bloc's better performance across the remaining indicators analyzed. As far as the proxy indicator of

effective spending incurred on carbon savings is concerned, the BRICS performs better than the world. Even when the world performs better than the three blocs, the deviation of the BRICS from the global performance is the smallest compared to the G20 and the OECD.

As believed by D'Souza (2022), India is the leading country in climate action in the BRICS group, as it outperformed the rest of the BRICS countries and the world in all indicators and is the distinguished performer among the bloc's countries. Hirn (2011) adds that China is among the most prominent rising powers facing a real dilemma, making environmental problems a fundamental issue that determines the path and fate of the Chinese development model, and its future as a potential global power. Although the discussion is about China's environmental challenges, as well as the efforts directed at dealing with them often center around the relationship between energy supply and economic growth, this is not the only pressing issue for China. China faces many sources of environmental concerns related to its development strategy and future ambitions. One of the most prominent environmental problems that China suffers from, according to Phillips (2008), is air pollution, as China includes 16 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world. Other challenges, As Hirn (2011) believes, include water problems. Although China is a country rich in water resources (ranked sixth in the world) and famous for its rivers, valleys, and canals, it suffers from complex and dangerous water problems. Its resources are limited, polluted, and distributed unevenly and unfairly across Chinese provinces and regions. Moreover, it suffers from excessive and irrational exploitation.

While these countries have diverse economic structures, development priorities, and environmental challenges, they share a common responsibility to combat climate change and work towards a low-carbon future. China, for example, as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, has taken important steps to address climate change. It has become a global leader in spreading renewable energy and is investing heavily in solar and wind energy. China also pledged to reduce carbon emissions to their peak by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The impact of China's presence within the BRICS could lead to the adoption of cleaner technologies and encourage other countries to strengthen their climate action (Arafat, 2006).

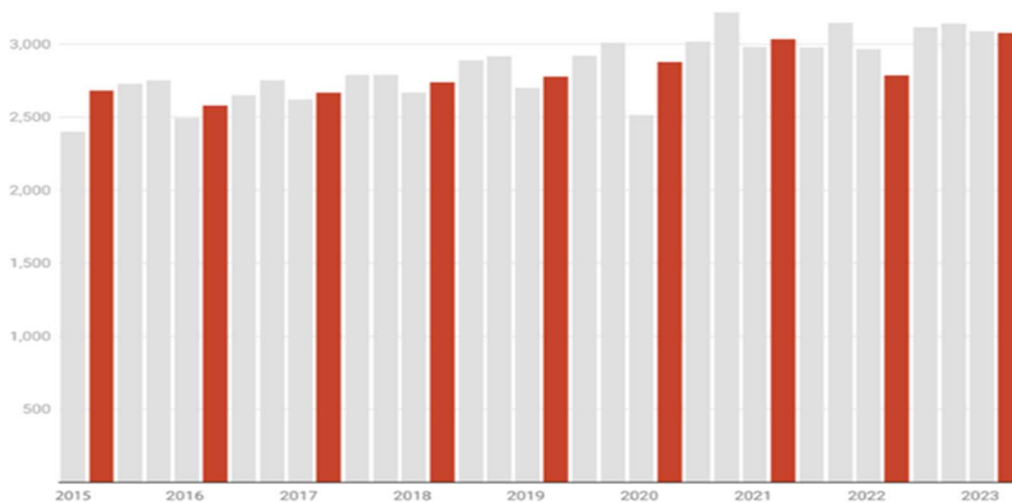
In addition, there is the problem of vegetation and forests, which became more severe in the 1950s. The BRICS countries including China worked to raise their development plans. Thus, tree-cutting has been widely used to generate energy for industrial equipment (Rozelle et al., 1997). The problem of desertification is constantly increasing and is on its way to covering three-quarters of the country, while all commercial, industrial, and economic activities cover only a quarter of the area of China (Hirn, 2011).

The global reaction to the mentioned environmental facts was embodied in global summits, forums, agreements, and treaties related to various aspects of environmental protection. The most prominent things that emerged from them were the concepts and policies of sustainable development. They include defining an agenda and goals for global development (the Millennium Development Goals), defining individual, local, and global environmental thresholds, putting indicators to track environmental reality and anticipate its trends in various countries, as well as institutionalizing and governing global environmental policies. On the other hand, according to

the “Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds” report, demographic pressures and increasing environmental restrictions will force emerging powers to increase their imports. This will have a significant impact on their income and on the global market at the same time (National Intelligence Council, 2012).

The BRICS has had a clear position on the issue of climate change, and in this regard, China has made clear its commitment to cooperation with the United States and some other countries to address the phenomenon of climate change. It can be pointed out here that there is a clear change in China’s policy approach regarding global carbon emissions, as the volume of China’s carbon emissions in 2015 is estimated at approximately (2.4) million tons. However, this percentage changed significantly in 2023 to reach (3000) million tons, as in Figure (1).

Figure No. (1): China’s carbon emissions estimated in tons



Resource: Prepared by the researcher based on the data published on the website <https://www.bbc.com/arabic>

As mentioned on the CGTN website (2019), accelerating the process of transitioning from using coal to using clean energy is a fundamental problem, as China, as the largest consumer and producer of renewable energy in the world, continues to make efforts to achieve its goals in this field. Also, it plays a leadership role in moving towards a sustainable energy transformation.

It can be said that the BRICS, which represents a large part of the global economy and population, has the potential to drive transformative change in tackling climate change, through the exchange of best practices, technology transfer, and financial cooperation. Member states can also accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices and contribute to global climate goals. BRICS countries can, externally, exert their influence in international climate negotiations, calling for ambitious targets, increasing climate financing, and strengthening global cooperation to effectively combat climate change. Cooperation within the BRICS bloc could also enhance innovation and investment in renewable energy sectors. However, climate change requires a global response, and the role of the BRICS is pivotal in confronting this challenge by leveraging its economic and

political influence. BRICS can also cooperate in strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, promote sustainable development, and contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for all.

Besides, climate change casts a shadow over all countries of the world, both developed and developing. Therefore, the process of confronting these changes and working to contain their effects requires some collective solutions, as well as the cooperation of the entire international community. Because everyone will suffer if sufficient efforts are not made to confront the repercussions of climate change, especially the phenomenon of global warming.

2- International Trade

The BRICS countries represent the largest economies outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Although they are a group that does not enjoy legal, historical, and geopolitical cohesion like the European Union, they have economic indicators that give them a role and place in the global economy (Hachim, 2016). The BRICS countries have followed an economic and strategic development policy by focusing on specific and different economic sectors and activities according to their different economic capabilities and resources, and the relative advantages that each country enjoys in its economic sectors and production activities. It also focused on the economic philosophy and stage of economic development of each of these countries, the general policy of the bloc countries, the nature of economic cooperation among them, and the degree of each country's dependence on the bloc's support for it in achieving the general economic goals of each member state. These countries also concentrated their development efforts on regions that enjoy comparative advantages in terms of their geographical location and natural resources, and which can attract other regions behind them to develop and grow. So, the process of economic growth spreads to all other regions of each country over time. (Al-Gharawi, 2020).

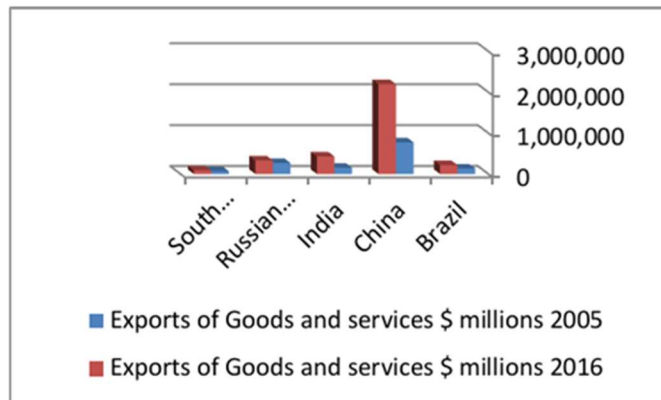
The commercial activity of the BRICS in global markets proves the importance of the roles it plays in its regional and international environment by supplying various countries of the world with raw materials, electronics, agriculture, and other products. All of these facts increased the bloc's position in the World Trade Organization, which allowed it to play major roles in making and implementing the decisions of this organization. The BRICS countries also contribute to multinational companies, as they have played a role in the internationalization of trade, services, investment, production, and labor movement. Now, they occupy a large percentage of the trade volume and sales movement. They influence the system and the structure of global trade through the high technology, capabilities, and huge resources they possess. The steady development and the influence of these companies have led to their emergence as one of the most important actors in the international economic system, on a par with states, governments, civil society organizations, and security services. The role of multinational companies in the global economy has increased significantly. Perhaps the size of the huge resources possessed by multinational companies, and their flexibility in the process of transferring goods, money, people, and technology, increase their ability to bargain with governments. Moreover, the financial situation of some of these companies far exceeds the financial situation of many countries. The budget of

one of these companies is many times greater than the budget of an entire country or several countries combined (Al-Faraj, 2014).

The international trade sector grows in various services, and its distribution varies across different regions and multiple economic groups in the global economy, including the BRICS countries. This depends on the nature of the services provided and the exchanges that take place between these groups and the world on the other hand. Thus, the percentage of their contribution to exchanges in global trade varies (Saud, et al., 2019).

It is noteworthy, as Masoud (2018) claims, that the value of the BRICS exports has increased significantly since the year 2005. It reached (3.3) trillion dollars in 2016, i.e. (16%) of the total global exports, compared to (1.4) trillion dollars in 2005, and (11%) of total global exports that year. Figure (3) shows that China is the largest contributor to the increase in the BRICS bloc's share of the volume of global exports, as China's exports increased from (773) billion dollars in 2005 to (2198) billion dollars in 2016.

Figure (3): The BRICS contribution to global exports in 2016



Source: World Development Indicators Database, the World

As for the BRICS imports, they were about (3) trillion dollars in 2016, or (15%) of total global imports, compared to (1.2) trillion dollars in 2005, and (9%) of total global exports in that year. It is clear from Figure (4) that China is the largest contributor to the increase in the BRICS bloc's share of the volume of global imports, as China's imports increased from (649) billion dollars in 2005 to (1,948) billion dollars in 2016.

As for the bloc's direct investments in other countries, BRICS has become a major source of foreign direct investment on the international scene. The size of the bloc's direct investments in developed countries is estimated at (43%) of the total of those investments, while the European Union countries receive (32%) of them (Ibid).

The value of imports in global trade shows the value of services that were attracted into the country from various other regions of the world, due to their unavailability in that country, or their insufficiency to meet the demands for them. The data presented in Table (2) show that the volume of total global imports has witnessed a continuous increase during the last ten years. A significant increase in imports is observed for both the European Union countries combined and the BRICS countries. It reached (72.30%) for the European Union, meaning it moved from one trillion and 60

billion euros in 2009 to one trillion and 800 billion euros in 2018. While, it increased by approximately (250) billion euros in 2009 to reach more than (745) billion euros in 2018, equivalent to a percentage of approximately (195.23%) for the BRICS (Saud, et al., 2019).

Table (2): Evolution of import values for European Union and BRICS countries (selected years)

Year	BRICS	European Union
2009	Million Dollars 252612167	Billion dollars 1059550486
2010	Million Dollars 349447545	Billion dollars 1137825888
2011	Million Dollars 401801172	Billion dollars 1190390719
2012	Million Dollars 480562580	Billion dollars 1265383928
2013	Million Dollars 518212103	Billion dollars 1323207921
2014	Million Dollars 592351439	Billion dollars 1444100336
2015	Million Dollars 661381234	Billion dollars 1657447307
2016	Million Dollars 667625927	Billion dollars 1701519829
2017	Million Dollars 704172762	Billion dollars 1751830660
2018	Million Dollars 745780646	Billion dollars 1825665381
2023	7.9 Trillion dollars	Billion euros 200303.10

Source: Trade statistics for international business development”, on the official website of International Trade Center on: <http://www.intracen.org/itc/sectors/services/tradestatistics/>, seen: August 25th, 2019.

The big difference between the values of imports of European Union countries and BRICS countries is due to the size of each of the economic groups, as the European Union includes (28) countries, while the BRICS bloc includes five countries only. So, it is logically reflected in the difference in the value of trade exchanges of the two groups. Also, the growth rate recorded in the value of imports of services attracted from European Union countries and BRICS countries from around the world demonstrates the BRICS countries’ continuation of achieving significant economic growth rates that exceed the global growth rate. This is in line with the results achieved by the countries of the bloc in the previous period of high economic growth. The achievements are adapted to global changes that require benefiting from the new services that the world offers in its multiple sectors. Depending on the value recorded in imports, the percentage of BRICS countries’ contribution to them increased from (10.10%) to (16%).

As for the value of exports, the total value of international exports has increased significantly in the recent period. The services produced by countries have diversified and witnessed significant growth in line with the great demand and have kept pace with the technological and economic development and pattern of the global economies. It is noted that the BRICS countries, despite the significant growth witnessed by the value of their exports, reached the limits of (497) billion euros

in 2018 after approaching (217) billion in 2009, that is, a rate exceeding (129%). Although the percentage of its contribution to global exports ranges between (8-10%), it is considered a significant percentage compared to the modern growth witnessed by the BRICS, as they are still known as (emerging economies). While some countries, such as China and India, have a significant value of global exports and occupy advanced positions globally, other countries, such as South Africa or Brazil, are recording some decline in this, which affects the value of exports to the BRICS (Saad, et al, 2019).

The above percentages have changed significantly from 2016 to 2023, and the following table (3) shows the volume of exports and imports of the BRICS for the year 2023 and the amount of annual growth for each country within the bloc.

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Table (3): The volume of exports and imports of the BRICS and the amount of annual growth for each country within the bloc for the year 2023

Country	Quarterly growth		Annual growth	
	Import ration	Export ratio	Import ration	Export ratio
China	2%	11%	3%	4%
India	4%	7%	17%	4%
Russia	6%	19%	10%	3%
Brazil	6%	2%	17%	%13
South Africa	0%	1%	14%	5%

Source: Global Trade, United Nations, June 2023, P.4. Available on: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditcinf2023d2_en.pdf

According to statistics from the International Monetary Fund, the percentage of the BRICS bloc’s contribution to global trade and the growth of the global economy has exceeded 50%. The total economies of the bloc countries now represent (23%) of the total global economy, compared to (12%) ten years ago. In addition, the share of BRICS countries in international trade increased from (11%) to (16%). The economic indicators of the BRICS bloc indicate that the gross domestic product of the bloc, according to World Bank estimates for the year 2016, amounted to approximately (17) trillion dollars. They are distributed as in Table (4) below:

Table (4): The gross domestic product (GDP) of the BRICS according to World Bank estimates for the years (2016, 2021, 2023)

Country	GDP 2016	GDP 2021	GDP 2023
China	11.392 billion dollars	17.734 billion dollars	19.37 trillion dollars
India	2,251 billion dollars	3,173 billion dollars	3.74 trillion dollars
Brazil	1.770 billion dollars	1.608 billion dollars	2.08 trillion dollars
Russia	1,268 billion dollars	1,775 billion dollars	2.06 trillion dollars

South Africa	280.37 million dollars	419 million dollars	399 billion dollars
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Source: Prepared by the researcher based on

A report by the State Information Service (BRICS: 5 countries own 23% of the world's economy), State Information Service, 30/8/2017, <https://www.sis.gov.eg/> accessed on: 5/3/2023.

- The GDP of the BRICS countries and the full members of the group, Al-Akhbari Al-Arabi website, accessed on 20/8/2023, <https://www.sis.gov.eg/>.

- The GDP of the BRICS countries and the members accepted into the group, Al Arabiya News website, accessed on 20/8/2023, <https://www.alarabiya.net/>.

According to economic indicators, if this group continues to increase growth rates and extend its commercial expansion, it will become the largest economic power in the world if it maintains this pace in the processes for economic growth. Moreover, some international institutions, such as Goldman Sachs, have argued that in the next fifty years, the world will be led by new countries that will be the main engine for the recovery of the international economy according to the gross domestic product of these countries. Table (5) below shows Goldman Sachs' expectations for the gross domestic product of the BRICS countries from 2030-2050 in billion dollars.

Table (5): Goldman Sachs' expectations for the gross domestic product of the BRICS countries from 2030-2050 in billion dollars

Country	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
China	25,610	34,348	45,022	57,310	70,710
Russia	4,265	5,265	6,320	7,420	8,580
India	6,683	10,514	16,510	25,278	37,668
Brazil	3,720	4,963	6,631	8,740	11,366
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Mustafa Abdullah Al-Kafri, Economic Blocs and Organizations, 1st edition, Damascus University Publications, Syria, 2014, p. 174.

Based on what has been presented above and an analytical reading of the conditions of the five countries within the BRICS bloc in terms of economic and strategic aspects and their contribution to global trade, we note that China has become the second economic power and the first trade power. In addition, it has been developed as a scientific and technological base, especially in everything related to the field of electronics and textiles. It became a striking financial force extending to the Pacific Ocean, in addition to its military capabilities and its development

process in space science. Analysts also predict that China will occupy the position of the largest economy in the world in 2050 if it maintains its current economic growth.

3- Conclusion

The BRICS bloc, who consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has emerged as an important player on the global stage, especially in the areas of climate change and international trade. Over the years, the BRICS bloc has shown increasing influence in shaping the discourse and policies surrounding these crucial contemporary issues.

Regarding international trade, the BRICS countries have demonstrated their commitment to enhancing economic cooperation among themselves and with other developing countries. Initiatives such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingency Reserve Agreement (CRA) have sought to provide financial stability and alternatives to existing Western-dominated financial institutions. Besides, BRICS members have engaged in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, strengthening their position as major players in the global economy. While challenges such as trade imbalances and protectionist tendencies remain, the BRICS bloc has made great steps in advocating for a more equitable and inclusive global trading system.

As for the field of climate change, the BRICS countries have made remarkable progress in addressing environmental concerns, and each member of the bloc has taken clear steps intending to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the adoption of renewable energy. China and India, as two of the world's largest emitters, have made substantial commitments to carbon reduction and clean energy development.

Furthermore, the BRICS countries worked to present a united front in international climate negotiations, defending the interests of developing countries and emphasizing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. However, it is necessary to point out that there are a series of challenges that still exist within the BRICS bloc. Differences in economic development, political systems, and regional priorities can somewhat hinder consensus on trade and climate issues. Also, the evolving global geopolitical landscape and changing domestic priorities may affect the group's cohesion in the future.

In conclusion, it can be said that the BRICS bloc has played an important role in shaping contemporary debates on international trade and climate change. While facing challenges and differences among its members, the group has contributed to strengthening a multipolar world order and defending the interests of developing countries. As global challenges continue to evolve, BRICS is likely to remain an influential player in addressing these critical issues on the international stage.

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