

BRICS Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Global Cooperation

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Abstract: *BRICS diplomacy has become an integral part of global cooperation efforts among the group of countries consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Since its formation in 2009, BRICS has evolved into a strong platform for dialogue and cooperation. BRICS diplomacy aims to strengthen relations among member states and generate shared benefits. In the process, BRICS has enhanced economic and trade cooperation, shared technology and knowledge, and promoted investment and financing for joint development projects. Furthermore, BRICS diplomacy has involved member countries in constructive political dialogue. They have collaborated in international forums such as the United Nations, G20, and BRICS Outreach Summit to advocate for their common interests. Additionally, BRICS has advocated for a fair and multipolar world order, promoting diversity and inclusivity in global decision-making. In addressing global challenges like climate change, energy security, and development disparities, BRICS has demonstrated its commitment to solving these issues through cooperative diplomacy. Through initiatives such as the New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS has made significant contributions in supporting infrastructure projects and sustainable development in member countries. Although BRICS still faces some challenges, such as policy differences and national interests among member states, BRICS diplomacy continues to build bridges for broader global cooperation. In an era of global uncertainty, BRICS diplomacy serves as an important instrument in promoting stability, economic growth, and friendship among its member countries.*

Keywords: *BRICS, diplomacy, international cooperation, economy, politics*

1. Introduction

BRICS is an acronym that refers to five countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The term BRIC was originally coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001 when he was the Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs, a multinational investment bank. At that time, these four countries were showing high economic growth rates, and the BRIC term was used to reflect economic optimism about the future of these nations. However, some people opposed the use of this label, arguing that the BRICS countries were too diverse to be grouped together and that the BRIC term was merely a marketing strategy by Goldman Sachs. Despite being geographically, economically, culturally, and politically diverse, BRICS has formed a strong alliance based on their shared interests in tackling global challenges and strengthening their positions in an evolving world order. The BRICS Forum was first established in 2006 and has since become an important platform for its member countries to hold high-level meetings, discuss global issues, and promote cooperation in various fields such as trade, investment, finance, science, technology, and culture. One of the main attractions of BRICS is the significant economic potential of its members. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are large markets with rapid economic growth. They also possess strengths in key sectors such as energy, industry, natural resources, and technology.

In addition to economic cooperation, BRICS also aims to strengthen political coordination and articulate joint positions in international forums such as the UN, G20, and WTO. BRICS member countries often share similar views on achieving a fair and equitable global order, as well as enhancing the representation and role of developing countries in international institutions. Despite challenges such as cultural differences, diverse political systems, and differing national priorities, the group continues to work towards mutually beneficial agreements and cooperation. BRICS has produced various initiatives such as the BRICS Development Bank, the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement, as well as cooperation in infrastructure development, scientific research, and academic exchanges. In conclusion, BRICS plays a crucial role in combining the economic and political strength of five major countries. With the aim of strengthening cooperation and influencing global policies, BRICS continues to strive to uphold common interests and promote sustainable economic growth and political stability worldwide.

This journal aims to investigate the role of BRICS diplomacy in facilitating global cooperation. Through this research, we will explore the main objectives of BRICS diplomacy, including strengthening sustainable economic growth, enhancing political cooperation, and advocating for a fairer international system. We will also delve into the background of BRICS formation, encompassing the economic growth of member countries and their desire to counter the economic and political dominance of Western nations. Furthermore, we will examine various BRICS diplomacy initiatives undertaken by member states, such as summit meetings and cooperation in international forums. We will analyze the challenges faced by BRICS, including differences in political systems and economic policies among member countries, as well as the existing opportunities to strengthen cooperation among them.

Finally, this journal will evaluate the impact of BRICS diplomacy in shaping policies, promoting political and economic stability, expanding access to global markets, fostering social welfare,

and enhancing the role of member countries in the international order. By gaining a deeper understanding of the objectives, background, initiatives, challenges, and impact of BRICS diplomacy, this journal aims to provide valuable insights into the significant role of BRICS in building inclusive and sustainable global cooperation.

Diplomacy is one of the essential instruments in pursuing the national interests of a country. It serves as the primary tool for achieving national interests concerning other countries or international organizations. Through diplomacy, a country can build its image. In international relations, diplomacy is generally initiated when a country intends to establish bilateral relations with another country and further develop their relationship. Diplomacy involves the practice of negotiating between countries through official representatives. These representatives are selected by the respective country without the interference of any other party or country. Diplomacy between countries can encompass the entire process of foreign relations, including the formulation of foreign policies and their implementation. Diplomacy is also said to involve operational techniques to pursue national interests beyond the jurisdictional boundaries. The increasing interdependence among countries has led to a growing number of international meetings and conferences conducted to date. Diplomacy is also understood as a relation or connection, communication, and interdependence.

Additionally, diplomacy is seen as an interactive two-way process between two countries aimed at achieving their respective foreign policies. Diplomacy and foreign policy are often likened to two sides of the same coin that cannot be separated. This is because foreign policy represents the substance within the mechanism of implementing a country's foreign policy, while diplomacy is the process of implementing foreign policy. Therefore, diplomacy and foreign policy are interrelated and mutually supportive. Diplomacy continues to evolve alongside the interdependence between countries. In diplomatic activities, one common process is negotiation, alongside other forms of diplomatic engagement such as meetings, visits, and agreements. Negotiation is one of the techniques in diplomacy to peacefully resolve differences and advance the national interests of a country.

The BRICS also has basic diplomacy principles, the principle of consensus and equality in BRICS diplomacy emphasizes the importance of decision-making through mutual agreement and equal participation among member nations. This principle recognizes the sovereignty and individual interests of each country, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected in the decision-making process. By promoting consensus and equality, BRICS aims to foster a cooperative and inclusive approach to diplomacy, strengthening unity and cooperation among member nations. Next, BRICS diplomacy upholds the principles of non-interference and non-confrontation, which means that member nations respect the internal affairs and domestic policies of each other. This principle highlights the importance of non-intervention in the internal matters of other BRICS countries, allowing them to pursue their own paths of development without external interference. By promoting non-confrontation, BRICS aims to maintain peaceful and cooperative relations among member nations, fostering an atmosphere of trust and understanding. BRICS places a strong emphasis on building partnerships and fostering collaboration among its member nations. This principle recognizes that by working together, sharing expertise, and

pooling resources, BRICS countries can achieve common goals and address shared challenges more effectively. Collaboration spans various sectors such as economics, trade, investment, technology, and infrastructure development. By promoting partnerships and collaboration, BRICS aims to strengthen mutual trust, enhance economic ties, and promote sustainable development among member nations. Then, BRICS is committed to upholding the principles of multilateralism, which involves active engagement in international organizations and forums. This principle recognizes the importance of collective decision-making and cooperation on global issues. BRICS member nations work collectively within these platforms, such as the United Nations, G20, and WTO, to advocate for their shared interests, promote global cooperation, and find collective solutions to global challenges. By promoting multilateralism, BRICS aims to enhance its influence on the global stage and contribute to the shaping of international norms and policies.

BRICS diplomacy promotes justice and equality in the international arena. This principle emphasizes the need to address imbalances in global power structures and ensure that the interests and perspectives of developing countries are given due consideration. BRICS member nations strive to create a fair and inclusive global order that reflects the diversity of the world. This includes advocating for reforms in global governance institutions, addressing trade imbalances, and promoting social and economic equity. By championing justice and equality, BRICS aims to create a more balanced and just international system. BRICS recognizes the importance of sustainability and sustainable development in its diplomatic efforts. This principle highlights the need to address environmental challenges, promote renewable energy, tackle climate change, ensure food security, and reduce social and economic disparities. BRICS member nations seek innovative and sustainable solutions to these pressing global issues, taking into account the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development. By promoting sustainability and sustainable development, BRICS aims to contribute to a greener, more inclusive, and resilient future. By embracing these principles, BRICS seeks to strengthen its collective identity, foster cooperation among member nations, and contribute to global stability, development, and cooperation. These principles serve as a guiding framework for BRICS diplomacy, shaping its actions, policies, and engagements on the international stage.

2. Methodology

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative approach with a case study research type and was descriptive in nature. According to Denzin and Lincoln, qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting, with the intention of interpreting phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various existing methods. A qualitative approach is an important approach to understanding a social phenomenon and the individual perspective studied. A qualitative approach is also one in which the research procedure produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the behavior of the people being observed. In this study using the type of research case study research (case study). According to Suharsimi Arikunto, a case study is an intensive, detailed and in-depth approach to certain symptoms. The definition of a case study according to Basuki is a form of research or study of a problem that has specific characteristics, can be carried out either with a qualitative or quantitative approach, with individual or group targets, even the wider community. While Stake added that the emphasis on

case studies is to maximize understanding of the cases being studied and not to get generalizations, the cases can be complex or simple and the time to study can be short or long, depending on the time to concentrate.

3. Discussion

3.1. The role of diplomacy in strengthening relations between the BRICS countries

In the context of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), diplomacy plays a significant role in strengthening the relations among member countries. Diplomacy serves as a primary means to advance national interests in their relations with other countries or international organizations. Through diplomacy, BRICS countries can build positive images and mutually reinforce their relationships. One of the primary roles of diplomacy in strengthening BRICS relations is facilitating dialogue and communication among member countries. Diplomatic meetings, political dialogues, and international forums involving BRICS countries help enhance mutual understanding, strengthen communication, and address any differences that may arise among them. Through such dialogue, BRICS countries can build trust, expand cooperation, and develop closer strategic partnerships. Furthermore, BRICS diplomacy plays a crucial role in promoting economic and trade cooperation. Member countries collaborate to expand business relations, increase mutual investments, and remove trade barriers. Through diplomatic dialogues, they seek to create a conducive environment for mutually beneficial economic growth. Economic cooperation within BRICS encompasses various sectors, including technology, industry, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and investment. Through diplomacy, BRICS countries aim to leverage their comparative advantages and enhance economic prosperity. BRICS diplomacy also facilitates the exchange of technology and knowledge among member countries. They share experiences, knowledge, and expertise in various fields such as information technology, science, technology, industry, and agriculture. This enables BRICS countries to learn from each other and harness existing technological potential to drive innovation and sustainable economic development. Additionally, BRICS diplomacy plays a role in promoting investment and joint project financing. Through diplomatic cooperation, BRICS countries create a conducive environment for investment and facilitate increased capital flows among them. They collaborate to support infrastructure, energy, transportation, and other sector projects that benefit all member countries. The establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) serves as an example of a BRICS diplomatic initiative. Through diplomacy, BRICS countries jointly established this bank to support investment in sustainable development projects. In summary, BRICS diplomacy plays a vital role in strengthening relations among member countries through dialogue, economic cooperation, technology exchange, investment, and the establishment of institutions such as the NDB. This helps create a closer and more mutually beneficial climate of cooperation.

3.2. The pillars of BRICS diplomacy

2.1. Political Cooperation

BRICS countries engage in political cooperation to enhance their collective influence and address global challenges. They work together to coordinate their positions on regional and international issues of mutual interest through diplomatic channels, joint statements, and consultations. By aligning their stances, BRICS countries can have a greater impact on global decision-making processes. For example, they have collaborated on matters such as peacekeeping efforts, counter-terrorism initiatives, and United Nations reforms. Through political cooperation, BRICS countries aim to advance their shared goals and promote a multipolar world order.

2.2. Economic Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy plays a central role in BRICS cooperation. Member countries prioritize economic collaboration, trade facilitation, and investment promotion. They seek to create an enabling environment for trade and investment by reducing barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and enhancing economic integration. Through diplomatic efforts, BRICS countries aim to strengthen economic ties, expand market access, and promote sustainable development. Initiatives such as the BRICS Business Council and the BRICS Trade Fair provide platforms for business communities from member countries to connect, explore opportunities, and foster trade relationships. Economic diplomacy within BRICS aims to drive inclusive and balanced growth among member countries and contribute to global economic stability.

2.3. Cultural Diplomacy

Cultural diplomacy plays a significant role in fostering understanding, mutual respect, and people-to-people connections among BRICS countries. Member countries recognize the importance of cultural exchanges in building trust and enhancing cooperation. They organize cultural festivals, exhibitions, artistic exchanges, and academic programs to showcase their cultural heritage, traditions, and contemporary achievements. These initiatives promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and mutual appreciation among member countries. Cultural diplomacy also contributes to strengthening tourism, educational exchanges, and cooperation in the creative industries. By celebrating their rich cultural diversity, BRICS countries aim to deepen their ties and build lasting friendships.

2.4. Environmental Diplomacy

BRICS countries recognize the urgency of addressing global environmental challenges and collaborate on environmental diplomacy. They work together to promote sustainable development, combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and ensure environmental sustainability. Through diplomatic channels, member countries share best practices, engage in joint research, and exchange knowledge on environmental conservation, renewable energy, and sustainable practices. BRICS countries also collaborate in international forums to advocate for global environmental agreements

and initiatives. By promoting environmental diplomacy, BRICS countries aim to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future, both domestically and globally.

In summary, the pillars of BRICS diplomacy encompass political cooperation, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and environmental diplomacy. These pillars reflect the multifaceted nature of BRICS cooperation and emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing global challenges, fostering economic growth, promoting cultural understanding, and advancing sustainable development. Through diplomacy, BRICS countries aim to strengthen their ties, enhance mutual trust, and work towards a more prosperous and equitable world.

3.3. BRICS Diplomacy Successes

One of the remarkable achievements of BRICS diplomacy lies in the enhanced economic collaboration among member countries. Through various initiatives and mechanisms, such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS nations have deepened their financial cooperation and provided a platform for funding critical infrastructure projects. The establishment of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism has further facilitated trade and investment by establishing a comprehensive framework for financial cooperation. Additionally, the intra-BRICS trade has witnessed significant growth, and efforts have been made to promote economic integration and reduce trade barriers. This has led to increased economic interdependence, mutual benefits, and sustainable growth within the BRICS bloc. An outstanding accomplishment of BRICS diplomacy is the successful financing and implementation of infrastructure projects within member countries. The NDB, established by BRICS nations, has played a vital role in providing financial support for numerous infrastructure ventures. These projects span a wide range of sectors, including transportation, energy, telecommunications, and sustainable development. The investments made in these areas have not only contributed to economic growth and job creation but also improved connectivity within and beyond the BRICS nations. Such infrastructure development has created a solid foundation for future economic development and cooperation.

BRICS countries have demonstrated their ability to coordinate their political positions effectively and amplify their collective influence on the global stage. They have strengthened their cooperation in various international fora and aligned their stances on key issues such as United Nations reforms, climate change negotiations, and global governance. Through joint statements, consultations, and active participation in international forums, BRICS nations have presented a united front and advocated for a fairer and more multipolar world order. This increased coordination and influence have contributed to shaping global economic and political discourse and have provided a platform for BRICS nations to have a stronger voice in global affairs. BRICS nations have

actively engaged in multilateral forums, demonstrating their commitment to global cooperation and collective action. Their participation in organizations such as the United Nations, G20, and World Trade Organization has allowed them to collaborate on common agendas, promote shared interests, and voice their concerns on matters of global significance. In these forums, BRICS countries have worked together to address issues such as global financial stability, sustainable development, and the reform of international institutions. By offering alternative perspectives and advocating for greater inclusivity, BRICS nations have played a significant role in shaping global economic and political agendas and have contributed to a more balanced and equitable international order.

BRICS nations have actively fostered people-to-people exchanges to promote cultural understanding, academic collaborations, and interactions among their citizens. Through initiatives such as the BRICS Film Festival, BRICS Games, and the BRICS Young Scientist Forum, member nations have facilitated cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and scientific cooperation. These initiatives have not only strengthened bonds among the peoples of BRICS countries but have also contributed to building trust, fostering mutual respect, and cultivating enduring friendships. People-to-people exchanges have played a crucial role in enhancing the overall relationship between BRICS nations, laying a solid foundation for sustained cooperation and collaboration. An integral part of BRICS diplomacy is the emphasis on South-South cooperation. BRICS nations have actively shared their development experiences, expertise, and resources with other developing countries. Through various initiatives related to capacity building, technology transfer, and sustainable development, BRICS countries have supported the developmental aspirations of other emerging economies. They have provided assistance in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, contributing to the overall progress and well-being of nations across the Global South. By promoting South-South cooperation, BRICS countries have fostered solidarity, mutual support, and shared prosperity among developing nations. In conclusion, the achievements of BRICS diplomacy are noteworthy and underscore the commitment of member countries to enhance cooperation, advance common interests, and contribute to global development and stability. The strengthened economic collaboration, successful infrastructure development, effective political coordination and influence, active participation in multilateral forums, robust people-to-people exchanges, and promotion of South-South cooperation all exemplify the positive impact of BRICS diplomacy. These accomplishments reflect the growing significance of BRICS as a platform for fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and inclusive development among emerging economies and developing nations worldwide.

3.4. Challenges and obstacles

One of the main challenges faced by BRICS diplomacy is the diversity of national interests among its member countries. Each BRICS country has different needs, priorities, and strategies in conducting their diplomacy. This can hinder the process of collective decision-making and reaching consensus in achieving common goals. Intensive coordination and negotiation are required to achieve compromises that can satisfy all parties and advance the agenda of BRICS diplomacy. BRICS countries also have political differences that can be obstacles in their diplomacy. Differences in political systems, ideologies, and foreign policies can affect the ability of BRICS to cooperate effectively. Internal or external political conflicts among BRICS members can hinder their diplomatic efforts and complicate the process of collective decision-making. Building understanding, trust, and cooperation among member countries is key to overcoming these challenges.

In addition, the complexity of global issues poses challenges and obstacles for BRICS diplomacy. BRICS diplomacy is confronted with complex and multidimensional global issues. Issues such as climate change, international security, global trade, and poverty involve economic, social, political, and environmental aspects that are interconnected. Addressing these issues requires strong coordination and cooperation among BRICS member countries. However, reaching consensus on approaches, priorities, and actions can be complicated given the differences in interests and national perspectives. BRICS diplomacy operates in a dynamically changing global environment. The dynamics of global politics, economy, and international security can influence the framework of BRICS diplomacy. Changes in the global balance of power, technological developments, or shifts in geopolitical dynamics can present new challenges for BRICS. To address these challenges, BRICS needs to adapt its strategies and diplomatic approaches to remain relevant and effective in responding to the dynamic global context. BRICS aims to build global cooperation and influence the existing world order. However, they also face challenges from other powerful forces with global influence. Geopolitical competition, economic protectionism, or rejection of ideas proposed by BRICS can impact their diplomatic efforts. BRICS needs to develop smart and adaptive strategies to overcome global influences that may hinder their efforts in achieving common goals.

To overcome these challenges, BRICS diplomacy requires intensive communication and dialogue among member countries. Building a deep understanding of each party's interests and priorities, as well as seeking common ground and compromises, is crucial in overcoming differences and achieving consensus. Additionally, strengthening consultation and coordination mechanisms among BRICS members can help address these challenges and promote more effective cooperation in achieving common goals.

3.5. BRICS potential and opportunities

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) harbors immense potential and a myriad of opportunities that can shape the future of global diplomacy and cooperation. The BRICS nations are dynamic emerging economies experiencing rapid and robust economic growth. These countries play a pivotal role in the global economy, showcasing significant potential for further expansion. The strength of their economic growth provides BRICS with a unique opportunity to bolster their influence in global politics and diplomacy. The collective economic power of BRICS can be harnessed to foster cooperation, promote economic stability, and drive sustainable development on a global scale. BRICS countries possess sizable and rapidly growing populations. This demographic advantage brings forth abundant human resources and a vast consumer market for BRICS nations to tap into. With their combined demographic strength, BRICS countries have the potential to become key drivers of economic growth and innovation. Moreover, the substantial population of BRICS nations grants them a greater say in global affairs, providing an opportunity to influence policy decisions and advocate for shared interests on various international platforms. BRICS has been actively fostering closer economic cooperation through a range of mechanisms, such as the New Development Bank (NDB), Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), and BRICS Business Forum. These platforms facilitate dialogue, investment, trade, and financial collaboration among member nations. As BRICS continues to deepen economic cooperation, it opens up opportunities for increased trade volumes, investment inflows, and technological transfers. By strengthening regional economic integration, BRICS can amplify its collective voice and become a significant force in shaping the global economic landscape.

BRICS has the potential to play a pivotal role in addressing pressing global challenges. With its diverse membership, BRICS can contribute valuable perspectives and solutions to complex issues such as climate change, economic inequality, international security, and poverty alleviation. Through concerted efforts and collaboration, BRICS can leverage its collective influence to promote sustainable development, advocate for equitable global governance, and advance the well-being of its member nations and the wider international community. BRICS nations possess significant capabilities in innovation and technology. The collective strength of their scientific research, technological advancements, and entrepreneurial spirit provides a solid foundation for fostering innovation-driven growth. By promoting collaboration in research and development, knowledge exchange, and technology transfer, BRICS can harness the potential of emerging technologies to address societal challenges, enhance productivity, and drive economic transformation. Moreover, by nurturing an innovation ecosystem, BRICS can position itself as a hub for technological innovation, attracting investment and talent from around the world. Several BRICS countries possess substantial military

capabilities, representing a significant force in global security dynamics. This military power provides BRICS with an opportunity to contribute to global peace and stability. Through enhanced defense cooperation, joint military exercises, and shared security dialogues, BRICS can play a constructive role in maintaining regional and global security. By leveraging their military strengths, BRICS countries can also contribute to peacekeeping efforts, counterterrorism initiatives, and humanitarian assistance, showcasing their commitment to maintaining international peace and stability. To fully capitalize on these potentials and opportunities, BRICS must continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among member countries. This involves enhancing institutional frameworks, deepening economic integration, and nurturing a culture of trust and mutual understanding. By harnessing their collective strengths, BRICS nations can bolster their influence, address global challenges more effectively, and forge a path toward a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for their citizens and the international community at large.

4. . Conclusion

BRICS diplomacy, with its approach of building bridges for global cooperation, holds significant potential to achieve common goals and play a crucial role in global diplomacy. Despite facing challenges and obstacles such as differing national interests, political differences, and the complexity of global issues, BRICS has great opportunities to strengthen economic cooperation, enhance its role in global issues, influence the existing world order, and build a more equitable and balanced foundation.

To realize these potentials and opportunities, BRICS must continue to strengthen communication, coordination, and consultation among member countries. Building a deep understanding of each party's interests and priorities and finding common ground and compromises are essential steps in overcoming differences and reaching consensus. Additionally, BRICS needs to continuously promote closer economic cooperation, leverage the power of innovation and technology, and actively engage in global issues such as climate change, international security, and poverty alleviation.

Through these collective efforts, BRICS can build stronger and sustainable bridges for global cooperation. Through solid partnerships and effective collaboration, BRICS can enhance its influence in global diplomacy and play a more significant role in shaping a more balanced and equitable world order. By taking necessary steps, BRICS can become a force capable of addressing global challenges, driving sustainable economic growth, and creating a better future for its member countries and the world at large.

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