

THE PROSPECTS OF BRICS EVOLUTION- GOALS & PATWAYS

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(Abstract)

- 1 Russia's official position - BRICS shall evolve as a full-scale mechanism of cooperation: «A long-term objective of the Russian Federation in BRICS and, accordingly, a consistent goal of its presidency of the association is the gradual transformation of BRICS from a dialogue forum and a tool for coordinating positions on a limited range of issues into a full-scale mechanism for strategic and day-to-day cooperation on key issues of world politics and the global economy.»²
- 2 For that both *substantial* and *institutional* changes are needed.
- 3 *Substantial* changes include developing new intra-BRICS areas of cooperation and making cooperation more diverse, broad and deep in existing areas. There has been a burst-like growth of new formats in recent years, but so far they

¹ With support of Dr. Victoria Panova, MGIMO&NCR BRICS

² http://en.brics2015.ru/russia_and_brics/20150301/19483.html

tackle the areas of future cooperation and feasible projects; not so much is happening “on the ground”.

- 4 Main areas of BRICS cooperation include changing world financial architecture, global governance system, trade and investment cooperation within BRICS (including innovation area), joining efforts in solving social issues, providing added value in preserving peace and security and defending international law, dialogue of cultures and civilizations.
- 5 The creation of mechanisms to set and systematically monitor the implementation of the targets within these areas is needed. Otherwise setting common targets, developing joint goals and roadmaps to reach them as well as accountability of the member states for their implementation will be questionable
- 6 Existing mechanisms include summit meetings, intra-ministerial consultations and other tracks of cooperation (more than 25) as well as academic, business, civic, youth tracks.³
- 7 However these mechanisms are not permanent and cannot carry on day-to-day activities. The virtual secretariat to be created as a result of Ufa summit is mostly for exchange of information.

There are several models of international and regional organizations- from rigid military-political union with intra-block discipline (NATO) to loose groupings and dialogue formats (if we speak about developing countries- such as Non-Aligned Movement, G77, IBSA, African Union) sometimes nevertheless having some kind of administrative headquarters (ASEAN).

- 8 BRICS current status is somewhere in between. What is the place of BRICS and how it should position itself? There is a wide-spread opinion even in BRICS countries that further institutionalization of BRICS is a premature idea

³ <http://civilbrics.ru/en/gr-brics/>
<http://www.nkibrics.ru/>

and that it should not be a centralized process (OECD-type), but rather a spontaneous area-specific process⁴

9 I believe that BRICS should move in the direction of first becoming a para-organization (to which is close now) and then a more structured organization with a coordinating center. **These institutions can work out a *BRICS long-term action plan (till 2030)* which may include the following goals and develop roadmaps for reaching them:**

10 **In political and institutional interaction**

- To have fully functional Virtual Secretariat by 2016;
- To develop a regular foreign policy consultative mechanism between the foreign ministries;
- To elaborate and sign BRICS declaration on global peace and cooperation;
- To work towards conclusion of a non-aggression pact/penta-lateral cooperation, friendship and peaceful coexistence Treaty;
- To reform the UN to ensure its central role in solving international conflicts and enforcing its decisions, including reform of UNSC to provide balanced representations of BRICS countries and coordinate activities within its framework based on the modalities of the above-mentioned Treaty;
- To create a multilateral Inter-governmental commission on economic and technical cooperation headed by the Vice-prime Minister-level officials;
- To create Sub-Commissions and Permanent Working Groups on different issues;
- To create special BRICS departments in the governments, affiliated to the Foreign Ministries, but reporting directly to the Heads of States

⁴ See, p.e. In search of Stability, Security and Growth- Ed by HHS Vishvanthan, Nandan Unnikrishnan- New Delhi, 2012, pp59-60.

- Based on that to establish a permanent international BRICS Secretariat within next 5 years

11 In the sphere of financial architecture and global governance:

- To ensure finalization of the current reform of IMF and work on further revision of quotas for the benefit of the developing countries (reaching cumulative de-facto veto power of the BRICS – to have over 15% for the five countries and ensuring not a single country in the world could possess such veto power on its own)
- To ensure election of developing countries representatives (BRICS leading the way) to the leadership of International Financial Institutions
- To expand cooperation within the WTO and conduct study of the possible harmful effects of conflicting/competing projects of trans-regional integration
- To raise the profile of the BRICS-created financial institutions, their integration into the global governance system
- To reorganize global internet governance (p.e. creating an international body in place of ICAN),

12 In economy and trade:

- To strive for economic growth which is advanced in respect to global average in order to raise BRICS share in global GDP up to one third in 2020
- To increase GDP per capita at least by 50% in 2020 and all BRICS countries joining the high-income group countries
- To increase share of ‘green energy’ (alternative sources and renewables: wind, solar (photovoltaic), biogas and biomass, tidal and hydroenergy, geothermal) to 20% (in all BRICS)
- To promote BRICS cooperation in the new technologies (Internet use to achieve at least 60% by 2025 of population; internet security -completion and

follow up on fiber-optic cable connection; Peaceful space use, International Space Station, navigational system (GLONASS etc)

- To increase mutual trade and investments cooperation (mutual investments at least to 10% of overall volume from the current 2.5%; mutual trade by another 1000% -at least 500 billion USD in 2020)
- To increase BRICS share in e-commerce globally to at least 40% in 2025 and 50% in 2034 (from current 30%) as well as regard easing of mutual interactions
- To use newly created NDB for infrastructure projects in BRICS countries
- To set and jointly pursue specific targets on the amount of roads, railroads, ports and supporting facilities to be built; elaborate specific projects (in the framework of China-initiated Silk Road Belt for example); support growth of regional centers in BRICS countries around transport hubs; modernize and expand network of pipelines etc.

13 In Social and humanitarian Sphere

- To eradicate poverty (measured by national standards) by 2034
- To soften income disparities with gradual decrease of GINI index (currently in Brazil – 54.7, China – 42.1, India – 33.9, Russia – 40.1, South Africa – 63.1)
- To promote BRICS as leaders of educational space (full enrollment in high-schools in all BRICS countries ; higher education rate over 40% in each country; functional BRICS Network University on specializations of mutual interest; at least one University from each of BRICS countries being in the top 10 Universities of the world)
- To promote national languages of BRICS countries – modify programs and learning outcomes accordingly

- To increase humanitarian and cultural exchanges (holding Cultural Festival of BRICS annually ; translating and publishing at least one best-selling opus from each of BRICS countries per year; promoting feature and documentary films exchange and joint film-production etc)
- To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all most relevant for BRICS (end epidemics of communicable diseases, prevention and relevant treatment for NCD, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, decreasing number of deaths and accidents from road traffic accidents, achieve universal coverage and high quality of healthcare systems etc.)