



BRICS SUMMIT

August 22–24

| Event Assessment |

Scope Note

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Assessment | BRICS SUMMIT

Executive Summary

World leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) plan to attend a summit from August 22–24, 2023, in Johannesburg, South Africa. BRICS is a global economic organization comprising the largest emerging economies, and the summit will cover a wide range of topics, including the Russia-Ukraine war, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, energy, and food supplies. Critics allege that BRICS is aimed at providing a non-Western-led alternative to the Group of Seven (G7), which is represented by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union (EU). BRICS supporters claim that existing international organizations rely too heavily on imposing Western standards and values and that BRICS will provide a global forum for developing countries to participate in policies that are less constrained.¹

During the summit, world leaders plan to discuss the possibility of expanding member participation in the organization and deepening economic ties with developing countries. Several countries, including Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Argentina, want to join the organization. Further, multiple reports suggest that the summit may result in the development of a common trading currency or another form of de-dollarization to decrease reliance on the U.S. dollar as the primary form of global

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[hXXps://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-05-17/g-7-summit-contest-with-china-and-russia-in-key-partners-a-focus](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-05-17/g-7-summit-contest-with-china-and-russia-in-key-partners-a-focus)

currency. Heads of state from the entire African continent will also be invited to attend, and much of the summit will be focused on enhancing political and economic cooperation between BRICS and African countries.²

There have been concerns about cyberattacks and physical security risks around the BRICS summit planned in Johannesburg. The city experiences high crime rates, including carjacking, assault, and robbery—particularly near townships and areas on the outskirts of the city.³ Illegal firearms are also prevalent in South Africa, and criminals often use bladed weapons and firearms to threaten or harm victims.⁴ For instance, individuals have reported being followed and robbed at gunpoint from Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg in the past (JNB). Similar to previous summits, a heightened security presence is likely in Johannesburg during the BRICS summit due to attendance by high-level officials.⁵ Widespread power cuts, demonstrations, cyberattacks, and terrorism also pose a major concern during the event.

| Analysis

Physical Security Concerns

Power cuts throughout South Africa have resulted in hours-long electricity outages and water shortages in Johannesburg and have worsened as the summit approaches. The cuts are a result of government-imposed load-shedding (planned power outages), as the current energy infrastructure—which is primarily coal power plants—cannot supply enough to accommodate high electricity demands. Generating too much electricity would overload South Africa's energy infrastructure, which could result in widespread blackouts throughout the country and damage the infrastructure. Officials imposed a state of disaster from February to April 2023 that consisted of rolling blackouts

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[hXXps://www.project-syndicate\[.\]org/commentary/brics-resurgence-based-on-grievance-against-west-by-ana-palacio-2023-05](https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/brics-resurgence-based-on-grievance-against-west-by-ana-palacio-2023-05)

³ [hXXps://www.osac\[.\]gov/Content/Report/66ce23b4-8681-4cb7-825f-1c598469bc7a](https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/66ce23b4-8681-4cb7-825f-1c598469bc7a)

⁴ [hXXps://www.dw\[.\]com/en/south-africa-spike-in-gun-crime-angers-citizens/a-64903654](https://www.dw.com/en/south-africa-spike-in-gun-crime-angers-citizens/a-64903654)

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[hXXps://www.reuters\[.\]com/business/energy/south-africa-revokes-state-disaster-declared-over-power-crisis-2023-04-05/](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/south-africa-revokes-state-disaster-declared-over-power-crisis-2023-04-05/)

nationwide amid the energy crisis.⁶ In some areas, residents reported being left without electricity for up to 16 hours daily. Electricity outages last throughout the year and affect business operations, traffic lights, banking services, security systems, and water and sanitation services.⁷ It is currently winter in the country; this reduces the risk of extensive government-imposed power cuts, as the summer months require more fuel due to high temperatures. Protests have materialized in recent months in response to the lack of electricity for residents in Johannesburg, which may collaterally affect the summit and its attendees.⁸

Protesters have targeted BRICS summits over various political and economic issues since they were first held in 2009, with the disruptions sometimes turning violent.⁹ Similar gatherings are likely in Johannesburg and other South African cities during this summit. For instance, on June 1, 2023, dozens of protesters gathered in Cape Town to protest the Russia-Ukraine war while the Russian foreign minister was attending a BRICS event in the city.¹⁰ Additionally, Johannesburg has seen protests in recent months centered on high crime rates and a lack of access to essential services amid the ongoing energy crisis, particularly in the outskirts.

For example, violent protests opposing high crime rates and the presence of undocumented immigrants broke out during the week of June 18–24 in the Diepsloot township north of central Johannesburg.¹¹ Demonstrators set fires in the streets and disrupted local business operations, resulting in significant traffic disruptions along the N14 highway. In a similar incident on June 14, protesters blocked the N1 and N12 highways at the Diepkloof interchange near Johannesburg to demand access to basic services like electricity and water.

⁶ [hXXps://www\[.\]gov\[.\]uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa/safety-and-security](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa/safety-and-security)

⁷ *Ibid.*

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[hXXps://www.news24\[.\]com/news24/southafrica/news/diepsloot-crime-protests-turn-violent-as-demonstrators-burn-hawkers-stalls-20230620](https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/diepsloot-crime-protests-turn-violent-as-demonstrators-burn-hawkers-stalls-20230620)

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[hXXps://www.hindustantimes\[.\]com/india-news/tibetans-protest-in-go-a-for-freedom-from-china-as-xi-arrives-for-brics-meet/story-hzPljNxxQZG7xunwNZhzqHM.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tibetans-protest-in-go-a-for-freedom-from-china-as-xi-arrives-for-brics-meet/story-hzPljNxxQZG7xunwNZhzqHM.html)

¹⁰ [hXXps://www.youtube\[.\]com/watch?v=cjBeaNpkalY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjBeaNpkalY)

¹¹ [hXXps://www.enca\[.\]com/news/diepsloot-residents-reject-response-presidency](https://www.enca.com/news/diepsloot-residents-reject-response-presidency)

New Delhi, India	Goa, India	Sandton, South Africa
On March 28, 2023, more than 1,200 protesters attempted to storm the Hotel Oberoi in New Delhi during the 4th BRICS summit after a man fighting for Tibetan sovereignty set himself ablaze a few days prior. Authorities arrested 150 participants and deployed security personnel to the hotel and numerous Tibetan camps in the city. ¹²	On October 15, 2016, hundreds of pro-Tibet independence protesters gathered in Goa ahead of the 2016 BRICS summit to protest Chinese President Xi Jinping's arrival. Authorities arrested 43 protesters. The protesters disrupted traffic near the hotel where BRICS representatives were staying. ¹³	On July 26, 2023, demonstrators gathered at the Sandton Convention Center in Sandton during a BRICS summit to protest the event. Organizers alleged that the organization would result in negative labor policies, a decline in democracy, and environmental destruction. There were no reports of major disruptions. ¹⁴

Demonstrations at BRICS Summits

Source: ZeroFox Intelligence

Terrorism is a major concern in South Africa. The high-profile nature of the BRICS summit, as well as the controversiality of some discussion topics, increases the risk of a terrorist attack in Johannesburg from August 22–24. In October 2022, the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria issued a Security Alert concerning an increased threat of a terrorist attack in the Sandton area of Johannesburg.¹² Security personnel were deployed to patrol Johannesburg due to the increased risk of an attack, and security measures to monitor and deter potential attacks will likely be heightened during the summit. Additionally, in July 2022, 15 people were killed at a club in the Soweto township, located on the outskirts of Johannesburg, when assailants began indiscriminately shooting at patrons.¹³

Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict will likely be among the covered topics, cyberattacks by anti-Russian hacktivists are possible. Moreover, targeting various state and private organizations for their national government positions or actions in connection to the war in Ukraine or other controversial subjects has become a common occurrence and tactic among threat actors. South Africa is also one of the most targeted countries in Africa by

¹² [hXXps://za.usembassy\[.\]gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-possible-attack/](https://za.usembassy.gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-possible-attack/)

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[hXXps://apnews\[.\]com/article/africa-shootings-johannesburg-south-4feca8d299899419cc2bf52bf1589246](https://apnews[.]com/article/africa-shootings-johannesburg-south-4feca8d299899419cc2bf52bf1589246)

cyberattacks. According to SEACOM, the company which created Africa's first submarine cable broadband system, more than 50 percent of companies in South Africa were affected by ransomware in 2022.¹⁴ Spyware attacks, where hackers install malicious content on the victim's computer, are also increasingly prevalent. In the first quarter of 2023, spyware attacks increased by nearly 13 percent in the country.¹⁵

Alternative to the G7

BRICS held its first summit in 2009, establishing itself as a global economic organization with the goal of deepening economic and political cooperation. The organization is currently known as BRICS following the addition of South Africa in 2010. At the upcoming August 2023 summit, members will likely discuss the potential for reducing their dependence on Western-led institutions and expanding the organization. BRICS differs from traditional global coalitions, such as the EU or the G7, in that Western countries do not lead it; it is therefore not constrained by the same norms, values, and policies held by those organizations.¹⁶ While some consider BRICS to be an alternative to Western-led coalitions, it is also a nod to the theory that the emerging economies, namely China, will surpass or equal the United States' economic and political power.¹⁷ However, critics view BRICS as a weak institution that has produced little results due to the varying interests of its members.

It has become a more commonly-held viewpoint that traditional global institutions give a few Western countries economic and political power over many developing nations, increasing the new organization's attractiveness to potential members—as well as its influence. Many developing countries have also demonstrated discontent with the United States' global dominance; they view established U.S.-led global policies such as conservation efforts, tech sharing bans, and privatization measures as self-interested

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[hXXps://seacom\[.\]co\[.\]za/business-insights/sa-has-highest-number-of-ransomware-and-email-attacks-in-africa/](https://seacom.co.za/business-insights/sa-has-highest-number-of-ransomware-and-email-attacks-in-africa/)

¹⁵ [hXXps://mg\[.\]co\[.\]za/article/2023-05-19-spyware-attacks-in-south-africa-increase-by-18-8/](https://mg[.]co[.]za/article/2023-05-19-spyware-attacks-in-south-africa-increase-by-18-8/)

¹⁶ [hXXps://www.dw\[.\]com/en/a-new-world-order-brics-nations-offer-alternative-to-west/a-65124269](https://www.dw.com/en/a-new-world-order-brics-nations-offer-alternative-to-west/a-65124269)

¹⁷

[hXXps://foreignpolicy\[.\]com/2023/06/22/brics-summit-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa-putin-n-onalignment-global-south/](https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/22/brics-summit-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa-putin-n-onalignment-global-south/)

and unilateral actions that have hurt developing economies.¹⁸ BRICS is also intended to give its members a platform through which to negotiate the policies of traditional organizations.

India used the support of BRICS members to oppose the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) implemented by the EU. The CBAM imposes tariffs on imports to European countries that are carbon-intensive, including concrete, steel, and aluminum. However, the tax is estimated to cost India up to USD 8 billion annually. India, with support from BRICS countries, is in negotiations with EU members to make small and medium enterprises exempt from the tariff.¹⁹ Many countries vehemently oppose the tariff and similar conservation measures, as numerous emerging economies require carbon resources to develop their economies and transitions to greener alternatives are costly. The further development of BRICS may allow for what some developing countries perceive as a more equal and inclusive international environment that is representative of increasingly popular views. For instance, BRICS members are likely to be more friendly toward economic policies that support trade protectionism or anti-globalization measures.²⁰ However, the May 2023 G7 summit demonstrated the strong alliance between its members and the organization's effectiveness as compared to BRICS.

The last G7 in May 2023 was the most consequential in years and resulted in a strong effort by its members to isolate Russia and China in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The G7 implemented ambitious sanctions against Russia, including targeting Russian energy production and gold reserves, and provided intensive military aid to Ukraine. China led a diplomatic effort to get allies to promote the BRICS expansion and de-dollarization but was largely unsuccessful.²¹ While not named specifically in the summit, G7 members strongly condemned coercive economic behavior by China; the group announced plans to coordinate a response and fast-tracked the introduction of new supply chains utilizing the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment as an

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[hXXps://www.project-syndicate\[.\]org/commentary/brics-resurgence-based-on-grievance-against-west-by-ana-palacio-2023-05](https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/brics-resurgence-based-on-grievance-against-west-by-ana-palacio-2023-05)

¹⁹ [hXXps://thediplomat\[.\]com/2023/07/as-the-quad-blossoms-why-does-brics-matter-for-india/](https://thediplomat.com/2023/07/as-the-quad-blossoms-why-does-brics-matter-for-india/)

²⁰ *Ibid.*

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[hXXps://www.atlanticcouncil\[.\]org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react/experts-react-a-game-changer-g7-summit-in-japan/](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react/experts-react-a-game-changer-g7-summit-in-japan/)

alternative to China's Belt and Road initiative. The unified results of the G7 summit would not have been achievable a few years prior, but its members' resolve to prioritize a unified response to China and Russia's behavior illustrates the competitiveness of the organization compared to BRICS, China and Russia's difficulties in providing an alternative to traditional institutions, and other countries' attitudes toward supporting BRICS members.²²

Disputes between members and diverging political, economic, and social interests post further challenges in determining the future of BRICS as a major alternative to the G7. BRICS' consensus-based decisions make it difficult for countries to implement impactful policies if another member disagrees. While BRICS members agree on their discontent with existing institutions, extensive common ground on economic and political issues is required to carry out impactful changes on the global stage. While BRICS allows for members to improve relations and deepen cooperation, the extent of change that the organization has accomplished thus far is limited. The potential summit topics of establishing a common currency or adding new members to the organization do not have full support from BRICS countries, making it difficult for BRICS to make progress on them.

For instance, China and India have an ongoing border dispute, and India is also a member of the strategic security consulting group named the Quad. The loose security organization (comprised of the United States, Australia, India, and Japan) has become concerned with China's aggressive behaviors in the South China Sea and North Korean missile tests. Quad members have begun conducting annual joint naval operations in the Indo-Pacific since 2020 under the Malabar exercise, which initially began with India and the United States in 1992.²³ However, India has refused to participate in military operations in the South China Sea, as doing so would anger China. This balancing act directly benefits India's national security interests, but India and China cooperate on various issues unrelated to the border disagreement.²⁴ Moreover, these different national

²² *Ibid.*

²³ <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/quad-indo-pacific-what-know>

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<https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2023/05/01/engagement-not-entanglement-indias-relationship-with-the-quad/>

security disagreements may make it more difficult for BRICS members to implement consensus-based policies.

De-dollarization

Multiple sources have theorized in recent months that BRICS members will discuss the possibility of introducing a common currency at the August summit. The idea of a common currency was initially mentioned by Brazilian and Russian officials the previous year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but South African officials recently announced that the introduction of a common BRICS currency was not on the agenda of the summit. A common currency would reduce the country's reliance on the U.S. dollar, but members have signaled plans to move away from the U.S. dollar by conducting trade with local currencies. Recent economic and political conditions have bolstered the preference for countries to conduct more trade in local currencies.²⁵

The process of de-dollarization—reducing the U.S. dollar in economics globally—has so far made slow progress among BRICS members. The countries have discussed de-dollarization for over a decade and more extensively in recent years but have moved toward using other currencies amid current economic and political conditions. Sanctions imposed on Russia by several European countries and the United States forced Russia to increasingly conduct trade in rubles and other currencies. Meanwhile, high inflation rates, a high debt ceiling, and difficult economic conditions in the United States have made trade in the U.S. dollar less attractive.²⁶

The New Development Bank, established by BRICS in 2015 as an alternative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), announced that loan recipients would receive 30 percent of the loan in local currency instead of the U.S. dollar.²⁷ The bank's total value stands around USD 30 million, and it lends money to developing countries for

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[hXXps://www.reuters\[.\]com/world/brics-currency-not-august-summit-agenda-south-african-official-2023-07-20/](https://www.reuters.com/world/brics-currency-not-august-summit-agenda-south-african-official-2023-07-20/)

²⁶

[hXXps://www.cnbc\[.\]com/2023/04/24/economic-and-political-factors-behind-acceleration-of-de-dollarization.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/24/economic-and-political-factors-behind-acceleration-of-de-dollarization.html)

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[hXXps://foreignpolicy\[.\]com/2023/06/22/brics-summit-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa-putin-northern-alignment-global-south](https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/22/brics-summit-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa-putin-northern-alignment-global-south)

numerous projects, such as trade and infrastructure; comparatively, the World Bank had a value of USD 100 million in 2022.²⁸ The funds are also used to aid BRICS members and developing countries manage debt under the Contingent Reserve Arrangement.

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also recently signed an agreement to conduct bilateral trade in rupees instead of dollars. From April 2022 to March 2023, trade between the UAE and India was valued at nearly USD 85 billion.²⁹ Officials claim the agreement will lower the cost of trade by not having to use the U.S. dollar, which is popularly used in the trade of several commodities—especially oil. While these policy changes are a small move toward reducing the U.S. dollar's dominance, they identify a potential avenue for limiting the prevalence of the dollar that does not involve implementation of a common BRICS currency and reflects shifting behaviors.

The use of the U.S. dollar has declined over time, albeit slowly, but the dollar's dominance is unlikely to be challenged in the short term. The dollar remains pervasive, amounting to 58 percent of global foreign exchange and 80 percent of global transactions.³⁰ Economic growth also slowed for BRICS countries amid many difficult conditions, such as unemployment, poverty, debt, slowed growth, and high inflation rates.³¹ Currently, no BRICS or non-BRICS alternatives can compete with the reliability and reserves of the dollar. Additionally, while BRICS countries are attempting to shore up their own gold-backed reserves, there are no official estimates for how much gold each BRICS member has.

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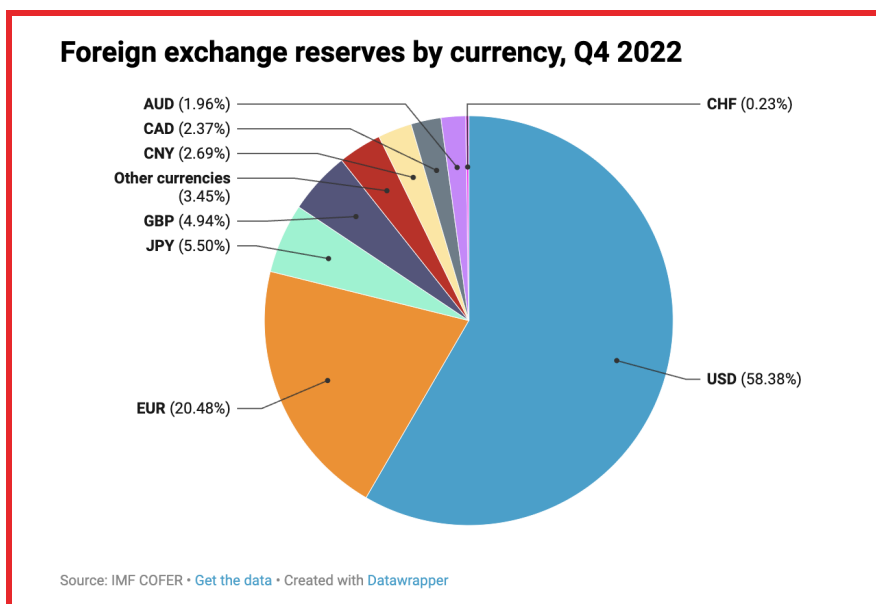
[hXXps://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/2023/05/28/how-brics-became-a-real-club-and-why-others-want-in/5caecc7e-fdb7-11ed-9eb0-6c94dcb16fcf_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/2023/05/28/how-brics-became-a-real-club-and-why-others-want-in/5caecc7e-fdb7-11ed-9eb0-6c94dcb16fcf_story.html)

²⁹ [hXXps://www.reuters.com/world/india-ties-up-with-uae-settle-trade-rupees-2023-07-15/](https://www.reuters.com/world/india-ties-up-with-uae-settle-trade-rupees-2023-07-15/)

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[hXXps://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/24/economic-and-political-factors-behind-acceleration-of-de-dollarization.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/24/economic-and-political-factors-behind-acceleration-of-de-dollarization.html)

³¹ [hXXps://www.ft.com/content/02d6ab99-ea36-41c4-9ad3-9658bb1894a7](https://www.ft.com/content/02d6ab99-ea36-41c4-9ad3-9658bb1894a7)



Projected Economic Growth of BRICS Members

Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/24/economic-and-political-factors-behind-acceleration-of-de-dollarization.html>

Much of BRICS' success has been economic. Members have recently agreed to an emergency fund valued at USD 100 billion. South Africa utilized the funds in 2020 as a relief measure during the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank and IMF often require that developing countries implement a series of economic reforms, which are often controversial.³² If developed further, BRICS could provide an alternative avenue for developing countries to obtain loans without needing to satisfy the World Bank or IMF's conditions.

New Membership

Rumors have circulated that the August 2023 BRICS summit will discuss the potential for adopting new members into the group. However, the expansion of BRICS is supported by China and Russia but less so by other members. The idea of member expansion was broached by China in 2017 and again during the previous year's summit, but other members expressed concern that expansion would reduce their sway in the

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/2023/05/28/how-brics-became-a-real-club-and-why-others-want-in/5caecc7e-fdb7-11ed-9eb0-6c94dcb16fcf_story.html

organization.³³ So far, South African officials stated that at least 22 countries have officially requested to join the organization, and an additional 20 have expressed an interest in becoming a member.³⁴

BRICS is far from obtaining the same level of cooperation as the G7 in practice, but many supporters believe that the world is shifting toward a multipolar trajectory—a path dominated by several powerful countries, such as Russia, China, and the United States. U.S. officials are concerned that expanding BRICS may result in less cooperation with the United States by developing countries. However, BRICS does not yet have an established process for admitting new members to the organization; some of the countries that have expressed a public interest in joining the organization are currently considered potential BRICS members.³⁵ Despite membership status, BRICS countries still provide economic and diplomatic assistance to non-members. The New Development Bank recently added Bangladesh, Egypt, the UAE, and Uruguay as new members in 2021.

Due to the small number of member states participating in the organization, members benefit from a closer and more direct relationship with China. Additionally, the status of the group's members as the world's largest economies allows BRICS to garner more global influence.³⁶ The addition of new members may help BRICS obtain legitimacy, implement more expansive policies, and obtain its goals of gaining further economic influence and reducing the role of Western-led institutions. BRICS also does not impose ideological qualifications for membership, and members remain active participants in the organization despite human rights or political differences. While Russia and China remain authoritarian, Brazil and India enjoy democracies. Despite this, the countries have supported each other during major internal and external disputes to an extent. For example, Russia enjoyed military and diplomatic benefits from the organization following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Due to Russia's membership, it was able to circumvent some sanctions imposed due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict with help from

³³ <https://www.dw.com/en/a-new-world-order-brics-nations-offer-alternative-to-west/a-65124269>

³⁴

<https://www.reuters.com/world/more-than-40-nations-interested-joining-brics-south-africa-2023-07-20/>

³⁵

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/22/brics-summit-brazil-russia-india-china-south-africa-putin-n-onalignment-global-south/>

³⁶ *Ibid.*

India and obtained diplomatic support from Brazil and China. At the same time, the BRICS' New Development Bank immediately froze Russian access shortly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and members have remained neutral during the conflict.³⁷ Regardless, the organization implements decisions based on consensus, and India and South Africa do not support BRICS' expansion.

| Conclusions

Although the BRICS summit is highly controversial, whether the organization will become a vital group with major influence cannot yet be determined and will likely only occur in the long term. In the short term, BRICS members' cooperation will likely continue to remain limited by their direct interests. However, the developments at the August summit are worth monitoring to understand long-term trends. Establishing an organization as a legitimate and powerful group requires reliability, implemented policies, and an established reputation. Changes to traditional institutions and global norms requires a process that must be implemented slowly over time, as many countries benefit from existing institutions on a scale that is difficult to compete with. The U.S. dollar is an established and reliable source of global currency, and the addition of new BRICS members remains contested in an organization that touts consensus. Further, some experts contend that BRICS members will continue to have diverging political, ideological, and economic interests, as many joint declarations by the group do not implement concrete change but remain broad and vague.³⁸

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[hXXps://www.washingtonpost\[.\]com/business/energy/2023/05/28/how-brics-became-a-real-club-a
nd-why-others-want-in/5caecc7e-fdb7-11ed-9eb0-6c94dcb16fcf_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/2023/05/28/how-brics-became-a-real-club-and-why-others-want-in/5caecc7e-fdb7-11ed-9eb0-6c94dcb16fcf_story.html)

³⁸ *Ibid.*

| Appendix A: Traffic Light Protocol for Information Dissemination

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Red

Sources may use

TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.

Amber

Sources may use

TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon but carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may NOT share

TLP:RED with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it is originally disclosed.

Recipients may ONLY share

TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm.

Note that

TLP:AMBER+STRICT restricts sharing to the organization only.

Green

WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

Sources may use

TLP:GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations, as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.

Clear

Sources may use

TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no risk of misuse in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.

HOW MAY IT BE SHARED?

Recipients may share

TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community but not via publicly accessible channels.

Recipients may share

TLP:CLEAR information without restriction, subject to copyright controls.

| Appendix B: ZeroFox Intelligence Probability Scale

All ZeroFox intelligence products leverage probabilistic assessment language in analytic judgments. Qualitative statements used in these judgments refer to associated probability ranges, which state the likelihood of occurrence of an event or development. Ranges are used to avoid a false impression of accuracy. This scale is a standard that aligns with how readers should interpret such terms.

Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly Even Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain
1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%