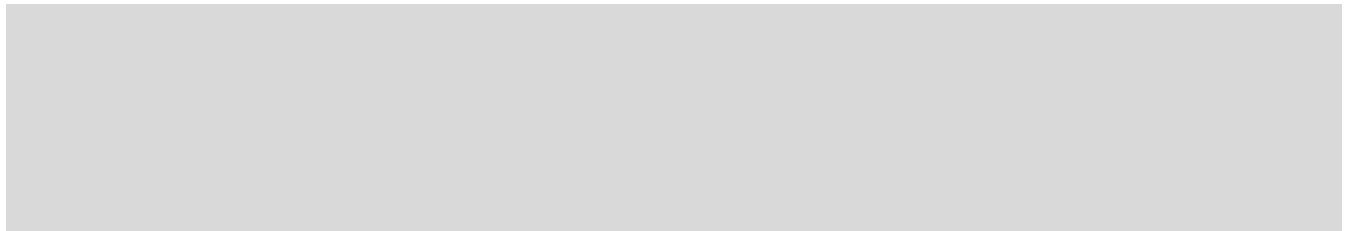


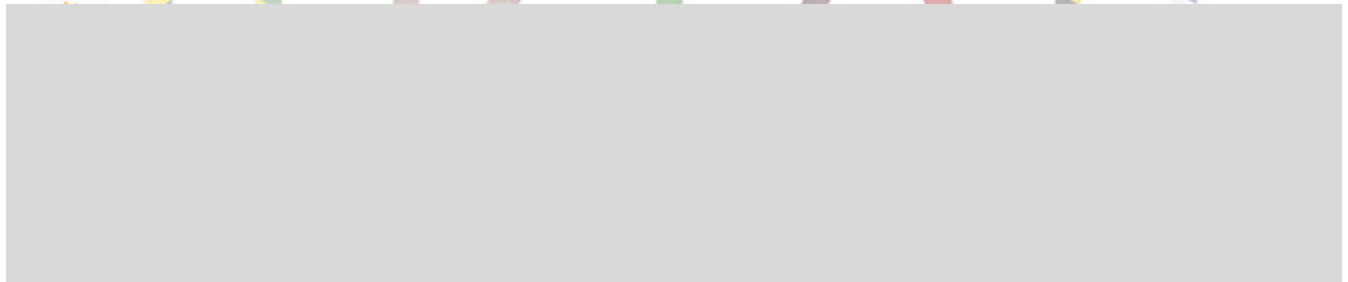
BRICS AGENDA : AN OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 2016

BRICS UPDATE



BRICS



SUMMARY OF BRICS SUMMIT DECLARATIONS

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After the investment firm Goldman Sachs posited in 2001 that the 4 countries of Russia, China, India and Brazil would dominate the world economy by the year 2050, several high-level talks were arranged between the heads of the four nations beginning in 2006, leading to the first BRIC summit in 2009 which resulted in several joint statements being made. At this point these four emerging economies had 15% share of the world economy and 45% of the global currency reserve.

The five countries in BRICS together account for 43 percent of the world's population, 46 percent of the global labour force, 30 percent of the earth's landmass and 25 percent of the world's share of global gross domestic product (GDP). Despite the economic slowdown witnessed in some member-states, the formation assumes a lot of significance to its members. This note summaries the agendas of the BRICS summits so far.

1st Summit

16th June, 2009, Russia

1. Following the financial crisis of 2007, it has become more important that the BRIC group strengthens itself with the help of each other.
2. Increased economic reforms are required due to the domination of the US \$ as the world's standard reserve currency. BRIC needs greater voice and representation in International Financial Institutions and their heads and senior leaders need to be appointed through open and transparent means. There is need for a stable, diverse international monetary system.
3. The international community is urged to push for comprehensive results of the Doha round.
4. UN reform is required taking into consideration the the greater role played by both India and Brazil. BRIC supports their aspirations to play a greater role in the UN.
5. 2007-08 world food price crisis requires us to actively work towards global food security.
6. IMF should revise its basket of currencies used to value its financial products to include Russian rouble and Chinese yuan.

1. South Africa was included in this group, which formed BRICS. It supports a multipolar, equitable and democratic world order, based on international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action of all States and the need for corresponding transformations in global governance in all relevant areas.
2. G-20 is supported by BRICS in its central role to combat the crisis since it is more inclusive than previous arrangements like G-7.
3. BRICS supports the strengthening of macroeconomic cooperation to jointly secure world economic recovery, maintaining domestic economic recovery and promoting development worldwide.
4. To maintain the relative stability of major currency reserves and sustainability of fiscal policies for long-term balanced economic growth.
5. Emerging market economies and developing countries have the potential to be the engines of economic growth and work towards reducing imbalances in economic development and fostering social inclusion.
6. Voting power reforms in the world bank and quota reform in IMF including the need for staff of these organisations to reflect the diversity as through participation of emerging economies.
7. Multilateral trading system needs to be embodied in the WTO which is non-discriminatory. Russia's bid for accession to the WTO is supported.
8. The commitments regarding the aid to developing countries for fulfilling their MDG should be fulfilled.
9. To support development of strategy for ensuring access to food for the vulnerable populations, enhance agricultural technology and fight climate change.
10. Supporting technical and financial cooperation to achieve sustainable social development, social protection and full employment, giving attention to vulnerable groups.
11. Aim to develop cleaner energy, affordable, sustainable energy systems to promote access to energy, especially renewable energy.

12. BRIC support the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities as part of our struggle to fight climate change.

13. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is urged to adopted by all countries in the General Assembly.



3rd Summit

14th April 2011, China

”Broad Vision, Shared Vision”

1. South Africa is welcomed into the BRIC.
2. Open to increasing engagement with non-BRIC countries, in particular with developing countries and emerging economies.
3. Use of force especially with regard to turmoil in North Africa, West Africa and the Middle East should be avoided. Sovereignty of each nation should be respected.
4. Call for a quick achievement of targets for the reform of the IMF agreed to at previous G20 meetings. IFIs should reflect changes in the world economy.
5. Regulation of the financial market and the derivatives market is important to keep price fluctuation at bay. Energy and food price fluctuations adversely impact the developing countries. BRICS will carry out closer cooperation to strengthen food security.
6. Increased cooperation in the field of information exchange regarding renewable energy resources was agreed upon.
7. Nuclear energy was agreed upon as an important element in future energy mix of BRICS countries. Relevant safety standards to ensure peaceful usage and creation of such energy was considered crucial.
8. BRICS support the infrastructure development in Africa under the framework of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).
9. BRICS encourages countries to have neither trade barriers nor employ protectionist measures.



”BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity”

1. The build up of sovereign debt and concerns over medium to long term fiscal adjustment in advanced countries, especially the Euro Zone, are creating an uncertain environment for global growth.
2. BRICS draw attention to the risks of large and volatile cross-border capital flows being faced by emerging economies.
3. BRICS are concerned about the slow development of the quota reforms at IMF. The ongoing efforts to increase lending capacity will work only if the 2010 reforms are implemented.
4. BRICS call upon the World Bank to give greater priority to emerging economies and developing countries when distributing development loans.
5. BRICS urge the new leader of World Bank to make the bank more equitable in its representation and have equal partnerships instead of mediating North-South cooperation.
6. BRICS have considered setting up a new development bank for mobilising resources to meet the needs of emerging economies and developing countries.
7. BRICS call for an immediate end to all violence and human right violations in Syria and urge countries to respect Syrian independence.
8. BRICS recognise Iran's right to have nuclear energy to utilise it for peaceful reasons.



”BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation”

1. Within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), BRICS support African countries through FDI, knowledge exchange, capacity-building and diversification of imports from Africa.
2. Increased global liquidity to the actions of the Central Banks in developed countries is causing problem to the developing countries through increased volatility of capital flows, currencies and commodity prices.
3. BRICS has agreed to establish the New Development Bank. Establishment of a Contingent reserve arrangement(CRA) with an initial size of US\$100 billion has also been finalised. This will help the BRICS countries to have a safety net in times of short term liquidity pressures.
4. BRICS Think Tank Council and BRICS Business Council were established. The think tank will work on creating policies for the future long-term strategy for BRICS. The business council will bring together associations from each of the countries to manage engagement between these communities.
5. Two agreements were signed, one called the BRICS multilateral infrastructure cofinancing agreement which paved the way for financing infrastructure projects in Africa. The other one called the Multilateral Cooperation and cofinancing agreement for sustainable development which sets out to explore the establishment of bilateral agreements specifically for sustainable development and green economy needs.



15th July, 2014, Brazil

“Inclusive Growth : Sustainable Solutions”

1. BRICS countries signed the document to create the New Development Bank and reserve currency pool of US\$100 billion.
2. Documents on BRICS cooperation between BRICS export credit agencies and an agreement of cooperation on innovation were signed.
3. BRICS Information Sharing and Exchange Platform will be set up to facilitate trade and investment.
4. It was decided that a cooperative approach on issues pertaining to tax base erosion and information exchange for tax purposes will be improved.
5. The BRICS countries pledged to contribute to the G20 goal of lifting the collective GDP to over 2% over the next 5 years



”BRICS Partnership- A Powerful Factor of Global Development”

1. The countries expressed disappointment over the US failing to ratify the IMF 2010 reform package.
2. CRA and NDB were ratified.
3. BRICS Inter-Central Bank Agreement was signed.
4. A BRICS Working Group on Anti-Corruption Cooperation was set up.
5. Recognising the need to exchange knowledge on Information, Communication and Technology (ICTs), a BRICS Working Group on ICT cooperation was set up.



Conclusion:

The common thread amongst all the declarations made is the push for more representation of the emerging economies and developing countries in the leading IFIs and development banks. An attempt is being made to tilt the axis of power towards these emerging economies as opposed to the previous hegemony observed of the West, in particular the United States.

The rhetoric of sustainable development and climate change is being adopted to present a fresh approach to the handling of international finance which allows enough financial aid and investment flow to these emerging economies and not just the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), set up in 1992, is a premier advocacy resource centre in South Asia. It is a proactive learning organisation that works towards participatory rights based and people-centered policy environment, a transparent and accountable governance and advancement of human rights. The core mandate of NCAS is to strengthen the capacity of marginalized people and social action groups to advocate on issues concerning their basic rights and social justice.

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