



Call for papers for Special Issue on Post-COVID-19 BRICS agenda

Introduction

Twenty-two years ago, the idea of creating an economic block was floated. Accordingly, four emerging economies of the world, namely Brazil, Russia, India and China, were named BRICS economic block. Later, South Africa joined the BRICs, and the block came up as BRICS countries. Today, BRICS nations have been contributing enormously to the growth and development of the global economy. The stakes are higher now than ever because emerging economies are more central to the global economy. The purpose of creating the block was to help accelerate the world's economic growth on the one hand and, on the other hand, to fill up the gap created by the west. In 1999, the block accounted for nearly 23 per cent of the global GDP and 38 per cent of purchasing power parity (PPP) basis. Today the figures have increased to 35 per cent and 50 per cent respectively. BRICS nations accounted for 40 per cent of the world population, and in terms of the nominal Gross Domestic Product, BRICS stood at US \$ 16 trillion.

The creation of the BRICS Bank is the most significant contribution of the economic block, and it is believed that the same is an alternative to the IBRD or World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the long run. Similarly, establishing AIIB is another milestone in the history of the alternative monetary system. The latest silver lining of the BRICS block is setting up a "foreign exchange reserves pool" of US\$ 100 billion, which will help member countries with dollar liquidity in times of crisis. The initiatives mentioned above by the BRICS nations are considered the most significant contribution to accelerating economic growth and development of the global economy in general and developing economies in particular. They may go a long way in compelling the multilateral institutions to bring a balanced approach and make necessary reforms for which the BRICS economies are insisting.

BRICS plus format has a chance to become a new model of global relations, which are above the dividing "east-west" or "north-south" lines, as the members respect national specifics, do not interfere with each other's home affairs, and want to leave peacefully. There is a concrete saying that "coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success". BRICS will likely remain an effective and efficient multilateral forum in the multi-polar global order.

Why Special Issue?

Whether or not seen as an economic, political, social and demographic block, the BRICS could attain its objectives and philosophy, depending upon the sincerity, adherence to its philosophy, and commitment of the members' nations towards the working of the block in promoting and attaining the objectives for which the block was established. The block should have more responsiveness towards the development goals, especially Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] of the member countries and the globe, especially after the emergence of COVID-19.

Topics to be covered in the SI:

- a] Evolution, philosophy and global contribution of the BRICS;
 - b] Working and performance of the block pre- and post-COVID-19;
 - d] "BRICS plus" and the emerging new global economic and political order;
 - e] Challenges to the BRICS by the war in Ukraine;
 - f] BRICS 2023, main topics, focus and challenges during SAR presidency;
 - g] Green economy, sustainable development, and digitalisation on BRICS' agenda;
 - h] Deglobalisation and sustainable international monetary system and BRICS.
- Other topics are also welcome if you contribute to our special edition.

The time frame for the Issue:

- Launch for the Call for Papers: **February 28, 2023**
- Last Date of submission of papers: **August 31st, 2023**

The papers should be edited according to the following:

<https://www.ias.rs/submission-guidelines>

The authors may send their respective research papers to the **Guest Editor; Prof. Dr. Badar Alam Iqbal**; Non-resident Distinguished Fellow; Institute of Asian Studies; Belgrade [**dr.iqbal@iubat.edu**], and to **ias@rs** or **dragana.mitrovic@ias.rs**; Republic of Serbia [RS]