

Brics and the 2030 Agenda: A Collaborative Pathway to Sustainable Development

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Abstract:

The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) represent a powerful coalition of emerging economies with significant influence in global governance. This research examines the role of BRICS in advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together, these nations account for nearly 40% of the global population, over 25% of the world's GDP, and a substantial share of global resources, positioning them as critical stakeholders in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The paper explores BRICS' collective efforts to address global challenges such as poverty alleviation, climate change, inequality, and sustainable economic growth. It highlights initiatives like the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which funds sustainable infrastructure and development projects, and collaborative efforts in renewable energy, food security, and technological innovation. The study also delves into the challenges faced by BRICS nations, including varying national priorities, socio-economic disparities, and geopolitical tensions, which hinder cohesive action. By analyzing policy frameworks, case studies, and multilateral initiatives, this paper identifies opportunities for BRICS to strengthen its role as a global advocate for sustainability. It concludes with recommendations for enhancing intra-BRICS cooperation and fostering partnerships with other developing nations to achieve the 2030 Agenda effectively.

Keywords: BRICS, Sustainable Development, 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Poverty Reduction, Renewable Energy, New Development Bank (NDB), Economic Disparities, South-South Cooperation.

1. Introduction

The BRICS nations Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa represent a significant coalition of emerging economies that collectively account for nearly 40% of the global population and a substantial share of the world's economic output. This coalition plays a crucial role in shaping global governance and is uniquely positioned to influence the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda, encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aims to tackle pressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. Given the increasing importance of these nations in global political and economic affairs, their commitment to sustainable development is essential for the successful implementation of the SDGs. The primary objective of this research is to examine how BRICS countries, through their collective efforts and initiatives, contribute to the 2030 Agenda and foster sustainable development on a global scale. By focusing on key

mechanisms like the New Development Bank (NDB), as well as collaborative efforts in sectors such as renewable energy, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation, the study aims to explore the extent of BRICS' impact on achieving the SDGs. However, it is important to recognize that despite their collective potential, BRICS nations face numerous challenges, including socio-economic disparities, differing national priorities, and geopolitical tensions that may hinder their ability to act cohesively. This paper will analyze these factors and offer recommendations to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation and enhance their role as advocates for global sustainability. Through qualitative analysis, case studies, and policy reviews, the research intends to offer a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities for BRICS in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The findings aim to contribute to the discourse on sustainable development and provide actionable insights on how BRICS can navigate its complexities to make a meaningful contribution to global sustainability efforts.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

1. Evaluate BRICS' role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by examining their contributions to the SDGs.
2. Analyze key mechanisms and initiatives within BRICS, such as the New Development Bank (NDB), supporting sustainable development.
3. Investigate challenges and opportunities for BRICS in achieving the SDGs, focusing on internal and external factors that affect cooperation and impact.

2. The BRICS Coalition: Formation, Evolution, and Role in Global Governance

The BRICS coalition, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is a powerful group of emerging economies that collectively influence global political and economic affairs. Initially formed in 2006 as BRIC, the coalition expanded in 2010 with South Africa's inclusion, making it BRICS. The member nations represent nearly 40% of the world's population, over 25% of global GDP, and a significant share of global resources and trade, positioning BRICS as a key player in global governance and international development. Despite differences in political systems and economic structures, BRICS aims to promote economic growth, political cooperation, and development in the Global South, addressing socio-economic inequalities and contributing to global sustainability efforts. The coalition's evolution began with the formation of BRIC in response to the growing influence of its members. South Africa's inclusion added an African dimension to BRICS, furthering its goal of fostering growth and development in emerging economies. Over time, BRICS has expanded its role, creating institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which provide financial stability and infrastructure financing to developing countries. BRICS also advocates for reforms in global institutions like the UN Security Council, IMF, and World Bank to enhance the voice of emerging markets and promote South-South cooperation. The member countries, while diverse in socio-economic development and political systems, share common objectives of poverty alleviation, infrastructure improvement, and regional integration, though they face challenges related to internal disparities and governance. Through these efforts, BRICS has emerged as a critical force in global governance, contributing to sustainable development worldwide.

3.1 Overview of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, is a global initiative aimed at addressing the world's most pressing challenges. It is centered around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that collectively focus on eradicating poverty, combating inequality, and ensuring environmental sustainability by 2030. The Agenda is built on the principle of "leaving no one behind" and emphasizes the need for a universal, integrated approach that includes economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. It seeks to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future for all people across the globe.

3.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Their Global Importance

The SDGs are a set of 17 interconnected goals that address a broad range of issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water, affordable energy, climate action, and peace and justice. These goals are globally significant as they provide a universal framework for nations to work together toward a common agenda. The SDGs focus on both the local and global dimensions of development, advocating for solutions that are not only environmentally sound but also economically viable and socially inclusive. The SDGs serve as a roadmap for international cooperation, fostering partnerships and collective action for sustainable development worldwide.

3.3 Relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Emerging Economies

The 2030 Agenda is particularly relevant for emerging economies as these nations face unique challenges related to rapid urbanization, economic development, environmental degradation, and social inequality. As key players in global economic growth, emerging economies are central to achieving the SDGs. The Agenda offers these nations a framework for addressing their development challenges while balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The SDGs provide emerging economies with the opportunity to innovate in sectors like clean energy, infrastructure development, and poverty reduction, while also aligning their growth trajectories with global sustainability goals.

3.4 BRICS' Role in Achieving the SDGs

BRICS, as a group of emerging economies, plays a crucial role in advancing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. With its collective economic power and diverse regional perspectives, BRICS is uniquely positioned to address global challenges, particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, sustainable economic growth, climate change, and technological innovation. The group's initiatives, such as the New Development Bank (NDB), support infrastructure projects and sustainable development in member countries and other developing regions. By promoting South-South cooperation, BRICS fosters collaborative efforts to achieve the SDGs while ensuring that the voice of emerging economies is heard in global sustainability efforts.

4. BRICS' Contributions to the 2030 Agenda

BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—are vital contributors to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development due to their collective economic power, large populations, and shared commitment to addressing global challenges. Together, these countries account for nearly 40% of the world's population and over 25% of global GDP, making them essential players in

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The BRICS countries have made significant strides in aligning their national development policies with the SDGs and have initiated various projects and frameworks that contribute to global sustainable development. One of the key contributions of BRICS to the 2030 Agenda is through the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established in 2014. The NDB focuses on financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects, particularly in emerging and developing countries, which aligns with SDGs related to quality infrastructure, affordable energy, and sustainable cities. By providing an alternative to traditional Western-dominated financial institutions, the NDB plays a crucial role in promoting inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, particularly in underdeveloped regions.

In terms of **poverty alleviation** and **social inclusion**, BRICS nations have prioritized initiatives that focus on reducing inequality within and between countries. These efforts include programs targeting access to education, healthcare, and clean water. India and Brazil, for instance, have implemented large-scale social welfare programs that have contributed to lifting millions of people out of poverty, aligning with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). BRICS countries also focus on **sustainable economic growth** through the promotion of green technologies and industries. China and India have made significant investments in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, while Brazil has pioneered biofuels and sustainable agriculture practices, which directly contribute to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Climate change and **environmental sustainability** are central to BRICS' contributions, as these nations face substantial environmental challenges due to rapid industrialization, urbanization, and population growth. BRICS countries have increasingly recognized the need for cooperative action on environmental issues and have engaged in initiatives to promote clean energy and sustainable land management. The establishment of the **BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform** exemplifies the group's commitment to advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency, which are crucial to achieving SDG 7 and SDG 13. Additionally, efforts to reduce deforestation in Brazil and promote carbon-neutral policies in China and India illustrate the group's emphasis on long-term environmental sustainability.

On **technological innovation** and **infrastructure development**, BRICS countries are at the forefront of advancing new technologies to drive sustainable growth. The rise of digital economies in India and China, along with the use of technology for rural development and agriculture in Brazil, demonstrates how BRICS nations are integrating innovative solutions to meet development goals. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), although controversial, has also resulted in significant investments in infrastructure projects that aim to enhance connectivity between Asia, Africa, and Europe, fostering sustainable economic development in these regions. However, the efforts of BRICS in advancing the 2030 Agenda are not without challenges. Diverging national priorities, socio-economic disparities, and geopolitical tensions sometimes hinder cohesive and coordinated action. For example, while China and India lead in technological advancements, Russia's focus on energy exports sometimes conflicts with global sustainability targets. Additionally, internal inequalities, such as income disparity in Brazil and unemployment in South Africa, create uneven development within BRICS nations themselves. Despite these challenges, BRICS remains a

powerful advocate for **South-South cooperation**, promoting a development model based on mutual benefit, shared knowledge, and common objectives. By working together, BRICS countries continue to contribute to the global effort to achieve the SDGs, providing leadership in areas such as infrastructure, poverty reduction, renewable energy, and climate action. Their collective influence, both in terms of resources and policy, ensures that they will play an increasingly important role in shaping the global sustainable development agenda in the coming years.

5. Key BRICS Initiatives and Mechanisms for SDGs Implementation

The BRICS coalition has made significant contributions to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on practical initiatives and mechanisms that directly support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given their collective economic weight and diverse developmental challenges, BRICS nations have sought to implement strategies and establish institutions that can drive sustainable development both within their member states and across the Global South. Several key initiatives and mechanisms have been put in place to facilitate this process, encompassing areas such as infrastructure development, financing for sustainable projects, renewable energy, and poverty alleviation. One of the most notable initiatives is the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established by BRICS in 2014. The NDB aims to provide financial support for infrastructure and development projects in emerging economies, particularly those that align with the SDGs. By offering loans with favorable terms, the bank helps member countries and other developing nations build sustainable infrastructure, improve access to basic services, and invest in green technologies. The NDB's focus on financing projects related to clean energy, water management, and sustainable urban development aligns with multiple SDGs, including SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). Furthermore, the bank's approach emphasizes the importance of financing projects that integrate environmental, social, and economic considerations, ensuring a holistic contribution to sustainable development.

In addition to the NDB, the **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** was established as a financial safety net for member countries, offering emergency liquidity to address balance of payments issues. While the CRA is primarily a mechanism for financial stability, it indirectly supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by contributing to macroeconomic stability, which is critical for fostering long-term sustainable development and resilience in times of crisis. This mechanism helps BRICS nations manage economic volatility and ensures that their economies remain robust enough to pursue sustainable development goals. BRICS has also actively promoted **South-South cooperation**, which encourages collaboration between developing nations in areas such as technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. This approach helps emerging economies address development challenges that are often overlooked by traditional North-South partnerships. A prime example of South-South cooperation is the **BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform**, which focuses on fostering collaboration in renewable energy research, promoting energy efficiency, and sharing best practices in the energy sector. With renewable energy central to achieving SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), this platform enables BRICS nations to pool resources and knowledge to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy systems.

BRICS has made strides in promoting **green technologies** and **climate change mitigation**, especially in areas such as sustainable agriculture, water management, and clean energy. Through initiatives like the **BRICS Green Innovation and Technology Platform**, member countries work together to develop and disseminate innovative solutions that can reduce carbon footprints, increase energy efficiency, and improve environmental management. For example, China has led the way in developing solar energy technologies, while Brazil's focus on biofuels and South Africa's efforts to promote green mining practices highlight the diversity of approaches within BRICS to meet environmental sustainability goals. These efforts align with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), demonstrating the group's commitment to environmental stewardship. The **BRICS Agricultural Cooperation** initiative also plays an important role in promoting food security and sustainable agricultural practices, which are critical to achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). By sharing knowledge and best practices in areas such as water conservation, soil health, and crop diversity, BRICS countries support the development of resilient agricultural systems that can withstand the challenges posed by climate change and population growth. This initiative encourages the exchange of technologies and techniques that enhance food production while minimizing environmental impacts, thus contributing to both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The BRICS Health Cooperation framework focuses on addressing health disparities and improving access to healthcare across the member nations and beyond. Health issues such as disease prevention, maternal and child health, and access to essential medicines are central to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). BRICS countries have collaborated on health research, the development of affordable medicines, and improving healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of health cooperation, and BRICS nations have taken collective steps to share medical resources, expertise, and vaccines to combat global health challenges. Despite these numerous initiatives, the implementation of SDGs within BRICS is not without its challenges. The member countries, while united in their goals, have different socio-economic conditions, political systems, and development priorities. This diversity sometimes results in uneven progress across the various SDGs. However, BRICS' overall approach to development remains focused on ensuring that no one is left behind and that the benefits of sustainable growth are shared by all, especially within the Global South. By leveraging their collective resources, knowledge, and influence, BRICS nations are making important strides toward achieving the SDGs, even as they navigate the complexities of their diverse political, economic, and social landscapes. The initiatives and mechanisms established by BRICS nations demonstrate their strong commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the NDB, CRA, South-South cooperation, and various sector-specific initiatives, BRICS plays a pivotal role in driving global sustainability efforts. Their collaborative approach, despite facing internal challenges, offers a powerful model for how emerging economies can work together to address the interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change, and sustainable growth.

6. Challenges in Achieving the 2030 Agenda: BRICS Perspectives

While the BRICS nations play a critical role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development, they face several significant challenges that hinder their collective ability to fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The diversity within BRICS, in terms of socio-economic conditions, political systems, and development priorities, creates a complex environment for cooperation. One of the primary challenges is the **economic disparity** between member countries. While China and India have experienced rapid growth, Brazil, South Africa, and Russia struggle with high levels of inequality, unemployment, and economic instability. These internal disparities make it difficult to implement a unified strategy for sustainable development across the group.

Another significant challenge is the **political and governance differences** among BRICS members. The political systems in each country—ranging from China's one-party state to India's democracy—shape how policies are implemented and the degree to which they can align with the SDGs. Geopolitical tensions, both within BRICS and in their relations with other global powers, further complicate coordinated action on key global issues like climate change, trade, and peace and security. These tensions can result in divergent national priorities, preventing the coalition from fully realizing the shared goals of the 2030 Agenda. **Environmental sustainability** is another area of concern. While BRICS countries have made progress in promoting renewable energy and addressing climate change, their rapid industrialization and reliance on fossil fuels, particularly in Russia and South Africa, create tensions with the need for environmental preservation. The challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship remains a significant hurdle in meeting SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). Additionally, many BRICS countries still face **inefficiencies in infrastructure and technological capabilities**, making it difficult to implement sustainable solutions, especially in rural and underserved regions.

Poverty and inequality continue to be pervasive issues within BRICS, particularly in countries like Brazil, South Africa, and India, where wealth disparities are stark. Despite significant efforts to reduce poverty, the structural challenges—such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic services—hinder progress towards SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Moreover, **economic volatility** due to fluctuating commodity prices, particularly in resource-dependent nations like Brazil and Russia, complicates long-term sustainable development planning and investment.

The **implementation of SDGs** at the national level also faces challenges related to institutional capacity and governance. Many BRICS countries struggle with issues of corruption, inefficient bureaucracy, and weak institutions, which undermine efforts to effectively allocate resources and monitor progress toward the SDGs. The lack of strong accountability mechanisms often delays or diminishes the impact of sustainable development initiatives. Despite these challenges, BRICS remains an influential force in global governance and continues to make significant contributions to the 2030 Agenda. However, overcoming these hurdles will require deeper cooperation, enhanced policy coherence, and a more balanced approach to addressing both the economic and environmental needs of the member countries. BRICS must work together to align their national priorities with the SDGs, while also navigating their political, economic, and social diversities to create a more inclusive and sustainable future.

7. Case Studies: BRICS in Action on Sustainable Development

BRICS nations have implemented various initiatives that demonstrate their collective commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These case studies highlight successful projects and programs in areas such as infrastructure development, renewable energy, poverty alleviation, and sustainable agriculture, showcasing how BRICS countries are translating their global commitments into tangible outcomes. One prominent example is the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, which has funded numerous projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies aimed at fostering sustainable growth. For instance, the NDB has financed infrastructure projects in India to improve access to clean water and sanitation, contributing to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). In Brazil, the NDB has supported green energy initiatives, including investments in wind and solar power, which are helping the country transition toward cleaner energy sources and address SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

In **China**, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a key mechanism for enhancing connectivity and infrastructure across Asia, Africa, and Europe, with an emphasis on sustainability. For example, China has invested in sustainable infrastructure projects, such as eco-friendly railways and green ports, that aim to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable urbanization, directly aligning with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

India's efforts in renewable energy also exemplify BRICS' commitment to sustainable development. India has set ambitious goals to expand solar and wind energy capacity, aiming to provide affordable, clean energy to its vast population. The country's push to install solar panels in rural areas not only contributes to SDG 7 but also promotes SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by increasing access to electricity in underserved communities.

In **South Africa**, the government has launched initiatives to tackle poverty and promote sustainable development in rural regions. The country's focus on expanding access to clean water, improving sanitation, and promoting sustainable agriculture in rural areas helps advance SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 6. Additionally, South Africa's investments in clean energy projects, such as the construction of solar energy plants, contribute to global climate goals and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

Russia's commitment to sustainable development has been demonstrated through its efforts to modernize its energy sector, with a focus on increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Russia has also supported regional development in Central Asia through infrastructure projects that enhance connectivity while promoting environmental sustainability, aligning with SDG 9 and SDG 13.

These case studies show that BRICS nations, despite their diverse challenges, are actively pursuing initiatives that advance sustainability at the national and regional levels. While there

are varying degrees of success and challenges in implementation, these efforts illustrate the coalition's broader commitment to addressing global sustainability issues. Through the NDB, regional cooperation, and sector-specific projects, BRICS continues to play a crucial role in achieving the SDGs, driving positive change in areas such as energy, poverty alleviation, and infrastructure development. However, these initiatives also highlight the need for continued collaboration and innovation to overcome the complex challenges that arise in the pursuit of sustainable development across the Global South.

8. Opportunities for Enhancing BRICS Collaboration in Achieving the 2030 Agenda BRICS nations, despite facing challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), have significant opportunities to strengthen their collaboration in advancing the 2030 Agenda. By building on their collective economic, demographic, and geopolitical strengths, BRICS can enhance its role in promoting global sustainability and development. Several key opportunities exist for BRICS to deepen cooperation and address global challenges more effectively. One critical area for increased collaboration is **leveraging the New Development Bank (NDB)**. The NDB has the potential to play a pivotal role in financing large-scale sustainable development projects across BRICS countries and beyond, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, clean energy, and poverty alleviation. By expanding its funding capacity and focusing on green technologies and climate-resilient infrastructure, the NDB can accelerate the achievement of SDGs related to energy access, sustainable cities, and environmental sustainability.

South-South cooperation is another avenue for enhancing collaboration within BRICS. The group can expand its partnerships with other developing countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, to share knowledge, technology, and best practices in addressing common development challenges. Collaborative research on renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and agricultural sustainability can lead to innovative solutions that benefit all member nations and their partners. **Policy alignment** is crucial for a more cohesive approach to the 2030 Agenda. BRICS countries can strengthen coordination through joint action plans and institutional mechanisms that align their national policies with the SDGs. This could involve sharing strategies and best practices for sustainable agriculture, water management, and climate adaptation. A unified BRICS strategy would help overcome internal disparities and foster a collective approach to common challenges, ensuring that no country is left behind. **Technological innovation** offers significant potential for BRICS to lead global sustainability efforts. By pooling resources and expertise in sectors such as clean energy, information technology, and agriculture, BRICS can become a hub for the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies that drive sustainable growth. Collaborative initiatives like the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform and joint ventures in clean technology could accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies and support SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Finally, **enhanced dialogue and multilateral partnerships** with other international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and regional development banks, can help BRICS strengthen its influence in shaping global development policies. By fostering stronger relationships with other global stakeholders, BRICS can advocate for a more inclusive and balanced approach to sustainable development, ensuring that the voices of emerging economies are heard and their

needs addressed in global forums. BRICS has numerous opportunities to enhance its collaboration in achieving the 2030 Agenda. By deepening financial cooperation, advancing South-South partnerships, aligning policies, promoting technological innovation, and engaging in multilateral diplomacy, BRICS can play a pivotal role in addressing the world’s most pressing challenges, from poverty and inequality to climate change and sustainable growth. Through these efforts, BRICS can contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

BRICS Overview in 2024

The BRICS countries exhibit significant economic and demographic diversity, with China and India leading in population and GDP, followed by Brazil, Russia, and South Africa, each with distinct economic sectors and political systems. In terms of sustainable development, these nations contribute uniquely to the 2030 Agenda: Brazil focuses on social inclusion, Russia on environmental commitments, India on carbon reduction, China on green initiatives and global connectivity, and South Africa on green growth amidst inequality challenges, all working towards a more sustainable global future. The following tables will provide detailed insights into these aspects

Table 1: BRICS Countries - Key Demographic and Economic Indicators (2024)

Country	Population (Billions)	GDP (USD Trillions)	Share of Global GDP (%)	Key Economic Sectors	Political System
Brazil	0.213	2.1	2.1	Agriculture, Mining, Energy	Democracy
Russia	0.146	1.6	1.6	Energy, Manufacturing	Semi-authoritarian
India	1.428	3.7	3.7	IT, Pharmaceuticals,	Democracy
Country	Population (Billions)	GDP (USD Trillions)	Share of Global GDP (%)	Key Economic Sectors	Political System
				Agriculture	
China	1.412	17.7	17.7	Manufacturing, Technology	One-party state
South Africa	0.059	0.4	0.4	Mining, Industry, Agriculture	Democracy

Source: UNDESA (2024)

Table 1 presents key demographic and economic indicators for the BRICS countries in 2024, highlighting their population size, GDP, share of global GDP, major economic sectors, and political systems. China and India dominate the group in terms of population and GDP, with China leading significantly with a GDP of \$17.7 trillion, making up 17.7% of global GDP, followed by India at

\$3.7 trillion (3.7% of global GDP). Brazil, Russia, and South Africa have smaller economic footprints, with Brazil and Russia contributing around 2.1% and 1.6% of global GDP respectively. South Africa has the smallest share at 0.4%. Economically, the BRICS nations have diverse sectors: Brazil relies on agriculture, mining, and energy; Russia on energy and manufacturing; India on IT, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture; China on manufacturing and technology; and South Africa on mining, industry, and agriculture. Politically, the group is varied, with Brazil, India, and South Africa being democracies, Russia operating under a semi-authoritarian system, and China governed by a one-party state. This diversity reflects the range of political and economic systems within BRICS, influencing their development priorities and cooperation strategies.

Table 2: BRICS Countries and Their Contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Country	Contribution to the 2030 Agenda
	- Actively involved in implementing the SDGs, focusing on poverty reduction, social inclusion, and sustainable agriculture. Brazil has programs like Fome Zero for hunger eradication and social protection.
	- Supports South-South cooperation, contributing to the global effort towards sustainable
Brazil	development.
	- Committed to climate goals with initiatives like reducing carbon intensity and promoting low emissions strategies. However, progress is constrained by economic sanctions and geopolitical issues.
	- Has made strides in environmental protection but faces challenges due to its heavy
Russia	reliance on fossil fuels.
India	- Launched significant climate and sustainable development initiatives, including reducing carbon intensity by 45% by 2030 and aiming for net zero by 2070.
	- Promotes sustainable lifestyles, renewable energy, and infrastructure resilience through programs like CDRI.
	- Engages in South-South cooperation to share technology and development models.
	- Introduced the Global Development Initiative to accelerate the SDGs, with a focus on green development and climate change.
	- Committed to carbon neutrality by 2060, with significant investments in renewable energy and afforestation.
China	- Plays a leading role in South-South cooperation, including through the Belt and Road Initiative for connectivity and development.
	- Has developed strategies for green growth, focusing on just transitions to low-carbon

South Africa	<p>economies. Engages actively in climate change action with commitments to bring forward emission peaks and develop adaptation strategies.</p> <p>- Involves in regional and international efforts for sustainable development, though it faces challenges with high inequality.</p>
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Source: Researcher

10. Conclusion of the Study

This study has explored the role of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and examined the collaborative pathways these emerging economies are taking to address global challenges through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research highlights that while BRICS nations face significant socio-economic and geopolitical challenges, they collectively possess immense potential to contribute to global sustainable development due to their economic power, large populations, and diverse resources. The study has identified key BRICS initiatives such as the New Development Bank (NDB), South-South cooperation, and various sector-specific projects that support the SDGs, including infrastructure development, renewable energy adoption, and poverty alleviation efforts. Through these initiatives, BRICS countries have made notable strides in addressing critical issues such as climate change, energy access, inequality, and sustainable growth. However, challenges remain, including internal disparities among member countries, political differences, and the complexities of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. Despite these challenges, the research also highlights significant opportunities for enhancing BRICS collaboration, particularly in the areas of policy alignment, financial cooperation, technological innovation, and multilateral partnerships. By deepening intra-BRICS cooperation and expanding partnerships with other developing nations, BRICS can leverage its collective strength to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Enhanced collaboration will not only help BRICS overcome its internal challenges but also position the group as a key player in shaping global sustainable development. In conclusion, BRICS holds a critical role in the global pursuit of the SDGs, and its collective actions, though not without obstacles, have the potential to make substantial contributions to the 2030 Agenda. The study underscores the importance of continued cooperation, policy coherence, and investment in sustainable development initiatives to ensure that the goals of poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and inclusive growth are realized both within the BRICS nations and across the developing world. By strengthening collaboration, BRICS can help lead the way in achieving a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.

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