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## Officially .. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and UAE join BRICS



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are invited to become members of the BRICS group.

[Link](#)

In the context of Egypt's accession to the BRICS group of countries, many have written about Egypt's great economic benefit from joining this group of countries. This issue of "Views on News" seeks to give a different insight into the nature of Egypt's potential benefit from joining BRICS. It also addresses Egypt's commercial and financial benefit as discussed in most writings in the following points:

- Whether Egypt benefits economically or not from joining any international coalition depends on addressing its domestic economic problems. There is no point in talking about new export opportunities if problems in the production system and obstructive policies continue, and the necessary institutional reforms remain unimplemented.
- Egypt is already a member of various trade agreements across multiple regions of the world, granting it preferential trade privileges, and placing it in a better position than its competitors, in addition to its location and well-known advantages, but drawing on all these privileges is limited due to domestic obstacles.
- Egypt's chances of getting out of the current economic crisis lie in the required internal institutional and structural reforms. Therefore, it is preferable not to exaggerate the expected commercial or financial opportunities for Egypt from joining BRICS. However, there is an urgent need to accelerate the pace of internal reform in order to be able to benefit from the opportunities that are already available to Egypt, and from its entry into a new alliance.
- The BRICS group of countries is very diverse and differs from the usual alliances of countries that are united by geographical location, such as the European Union (EU). What brings together most of the BRICS countries,

whether during the founding stage (China, Russia, Brazil, India, and later South Africa), or the countries that joined later, is that they are all countries whose voice is not sufficiently heard in the international community due to the dominance of the United States, and the North in general, over the global economic system.

- The BRICS bloc was created from the womb of a weak current global system, and its failure to properly and justly represent the balances of population distribution in the world, as well as the balances of current economic forces. The current world economic system, with its three cornerstones (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and GATT 'later the World Trade Organization') came into being as a result of the Bretton Woods Agreement after World War II. This system reflected the balance of power of that time; specifically, the leadership of the West, especially the United States of America, with no voice for low or middle-income countries. Even economically robust countries like China and India do not have enough room to move in the current world order.
- Therefore, over time and with changing economic conditions and population distribution, and in light of conflicting interests of the North with the South, or in general the interests of the West with the rest of the world, the global system has become unable to ensure fair treatment of countries outside the G7 or G20. Its attempts to listen to the voice of the countries of the South do not amount to decisions that help the South to develop, since such development comes in direct conflict with the interests of the North, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic and negative effects of the rapidly deteriorating global climate; and finally, the outbreak of the war between Russia and Ukraine, and its economic ramifications, especially in the field of energy.

- Although BRICS is an informal bloc and has many internal differences, its most important advantage is that it is a serious attempt to change the global system for the better and reinforce the voice of the South. Hence, Egypt's gain from joining it lies in being one of the actors in the required global change, and, therefore, it is essentially a political gain, even though difficulties in consensus building are expected within BRICS due to differences and conflicting interests between its member countries, as in the case of Egypt and Ethiopia, for example.
- Finally, trading between the BRICS group in local currencies instead of the US dollar still requires many changes in order to come to fruition, and therefore it is preferable not to raise expectations of Egypt's rapid economic gains from joining the BRICS.

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