


Global South and BRICS: Why Indonesia does not join BRICS?

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article Main Object: International Relations Scope: BRICS</p> <p>Received: 22 January 2024 Revised: 17 February 2024 Accepted: 17 February 2024 Published online: 30 March 2024</p> <p>Keywords: BRICS, China, global south, Indonesia, international system.</p>	<p>The idea of Indonesia joining BRICS came up more than a decade ago. Since 2011, analysts have proposed Indonesia as one of the candidates to join BRICS. Since 2011, Indonesia has participated in some BRICS meetings, and in the past two years, the issue of Indonesia's formal accession to BRICS has been revived and raised with the support of actors such as China. With the possibility of Indonesia joining BRICS increasing again in July 2023, Indonesia accepted the invitation to participate in the 2023 BRICS Summit. The President of this country, Joko Widodo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Indonesian officials went to Johannesburg to participate in this summit. But, Indonesia did not show a serious desire to join BRICS. The question of this article is: Why Indonesia has no desire to join BRICS, despite its extensive economic, political and institutional capacities? The hypothesis is that Indonesia intends to become the fifth best economy in the world based on the 2045 plan. In order to achieve this goal, it should be in the framework of multilateralism and accept the principles and norms of the international system. To investigate this issue, which is done with the qualitative research method, first, the relationship between BRICS, Global South and Indonesia and the capacities that exist in BRICS for Indonesia will be discussed, and then the reasons for Indonesia not joining BRICS will be investigated.</p>
<p>Cite this article: Sazmand B. (2024). "Global South and BRICS: Why Indonesia does not join BRICS?". <i>Countries Studies</i>, 2(2): 79-84. doi: https://doi.org/10.22059/jcountst.2024.371523.1103.</p> <p> Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License Website: https://jcountst.ut.ac.ir/ Email: jcountst@ut.ac.ir EISSN: 2980-9193 Publisher: University of Tehran</p>	

Extended Abstract**Introduction**

Over the past two decades, Indonesia has experienced high average annual economic growth and has become one of the top 20 economies in the world. Indonesia's GDP is 1.385.00 trillion dollars and it is the largest economy in Southeast Asia. According to the 20-year development plan (2005 to 2025), Indonesia's economy has been constantly strengthened and it is supposed to become the fifth largest economy in the world based on the vision of the 100th anniversary of Indonesia's independence. Given that BRICS has an increasing role in the future of the world's economy and geopolitics, Jakarta can pay more attention to multilateralism in order to strengthen its presence in the changing global geopolitics. On the other hand, Indonesia's foreign policy is development oriented with capital transfer, development of infrastructure and connection projects and interaction with big powers, and it seems that these goals are in line with the development goals of BRICS. Therefore, Indonesia's membership in BRICS can create opportunities to help and accelerate national development for the main foreign policy goals, strengthen international and regional friendly relations, and promote cooperation in accordance with its national interests. At the same time, Indonesia's other goals, such as expanding its international role, creating a new global economic order, and expanding economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, can also be achieved to some extent with BRICS membership.

Aims

Finding an answer for this question: Despite opportunities, why does Indonesia not want to join BRICS? The hypothesis is that Indonesia intends to become the fifth best economy in the world based on the 2045 plan.

Methods

Qualitative research method is used in this research. First, qualitative research allows the researcher to gain a deep understanding of the details of the subject. Second, due to the limitations of data collection, qualitative research helps researchers to obtain data from available documentary sources and unstructured interviews. Third, the research method of the article is a qualitative method with an explanatory approach and is dedicated to why Indonesia did not join BRICS?

Conclusion

One of the reasons is that the joining of Indonesia to BRICS is seen as a sign of change towards China's camp. This is seen as a major change in Indonesia's policy of balancing between the United States in security matters and China in economic matters.

Second, Indonesia is worried that BRICS will become a completely "anti-Western" group led by China and Russia in the future, or that China will use BRICS as leverage to counter the West.

Third, Indonesia wants to join Organization for Economic Co-operation and Developments as the third Asian country after Japan and South Korea, in order to become the fifth world economy by 2045, then BRICS is considered as an obstacle and could jeopardize Indonesia's membership.

The fourth obstacle is that BRICS is a very diverse association and membership in such an organization will be associated with high transaction costs for Indonesia. Indonesia should devote enormous diplomatic resources to BRICS to ensure that its members align with Indonesia's national interests.

Fifth, joining BRICS jeopardizes Indonesia's important goal of being a "good global citizen". Indonesia's identity in international relations is significantly different from other BRICS members. Although Indonesia shares the BRICS members' deep dissatisfaction with the existing international order, it expresses its demands for reform in a more conciliatory and accommodating language. Indonesia's moderate stance allowed it to maintain open channels of dialogue with the Global North while defending the interests of the Global South. slow

In general, it can be said that the Indonesian government is not convinced about the economic benefits of joining BRICS. Because even without being a member of BRICS, Indonesia is economically dependent on China, its biggest trading partner and biggest investor. Therefore, maintaining close economic relations with Beijing does not require membership in BRICS and this can be promoted bilaterally.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The authors have completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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