

19 nations ready to join BRICS

Among them five Arab states plus Iran

by The Cradle (News Desk)

As Global South nations continue to ditch the US dollar for trade, BRICS officials have said the bloc is working on developing a new currency.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, and Iran have formally asked to join the BRICS group of nations as it prepares to hold its annual summit in South Africa.

In total, 19 nations have expressed interest in joining the emerging-markets bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, according to *Anil Sooklal*, South Africa's ambassador to the group.

"What will be discussed is the expansion of BRICS and the modalities of how this will happen. [...] Thirteen countries have formally asked to join, and another six have asked informally. We are getting applications to join every day", the South African official told *Bloomberg* earlier this week.¹

BRICS will hold its annual summit in Cape Town during the first week of June. The foreign ministers from all five member states have confirmed their attendance.

Earlier this month, *Bloomberg* revealed that BRICS is expected to soon *surpass* the US-led G7 states in economic growth expectations.²

Per their analysis, while G7 and BRICS nations each contributed equally to global economic growth in 2020, the western-led bloc's performance has recently declined. By 2028, the G7 is expected to make up just 27.8 percent of the global economy, while BRICS will make up 35 percent.

The estimations came just a few weeks after the Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Duma, *Alexander Babakov*, revealed that BRICS is working on developing a "new currency" that will be presented at the organization's upcoming summit.



The five BRICS founding states, from left: Russia, India, Brazil, China, South Africa. (Picture Roberto Stuckert Filho/PR)

BRICS member states account for over 40 percent of the global population and around a quarter of the global GDP.

The interest from Global South nations to join the bloc comes at a time when more and more governments move away from the US dollar. The greenback has become more *unreliable* for dollarized economies due to rising interest rates regulated by the *US Federal Reserve* (FED) and the bank's weaponization of the dollar through financial sanctions.³

In addition, the west – especially Europe – is facing a growing energy crisis resulting from sanctions targeting Russian energy markets due to its invasion of Ukraine and the US sabotage of the *Nord Stream* pipeline.⁴

Source: <https://thecradle.co/article-view/24119/five-arab-states-plus-iran-among-19-nations-ready-to-join-brics>, 27 April 2023

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-24/brics-draws-membership-requests-from-19-nations-before-summit#xj4y7vzkg?leadSource=verify%20wall>

² <https://thecradle.co/article-view/23848/brics-set-to-surpass-g7-in-economic-growth>

³ <https://unctad.org/news/high-food-prices-and-strong-us-dollar-are-double-burden-developing-countries-unctad-says>

⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/8/us-has-questions-to-answer-over-nord-stream-blasts-russia-says>