

Support for South Africa's complaint against Israel

The BRICS foreign ministers noted the provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice in proceedings initiated by South Africa against Israel and expressed serious concern over Israel's ongoing blatant disregard for international law, United Nations Charter, resolutions, and ICJ rulings. They also declared their support for full Palestinian membership in the United Nations and the establishment of a Palestinian state within the internationally recognized borders of June 1967.

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Improving global governance

In their final statement from the June 10, 2024, summit, the BRICS foreign ministers reiterated their commitment to multilateralism, respect for international law, and the central role of the United Nations in the international system. They emphasized the importance of cooperation among sovereign nations to maintain international peace and security and promote cooperation based on solidarity, mutual respect, justice, and equality. Senior BRICS

diplomats also affirmed their commitment to enhancing and improving global governance by promoting a more accountable, effective, efficient, and adaptable international and multilateral system that is representative, legitimate, and democratic. They called for greater and more meaningful participation of developing and less-developed countries, particularly African nations, in global structures and decision-making processes.

Support for comprehensive reforms in United Nations

The BRICS foreign ministers reiterated their support for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more democratic, effective, and efficient while increasing its representation from developing countries. From the BRICS perspective, these changes are necessary for the UN Security Council to adequately address current global challenges and support the legitimate aspirations of developing countries, including BRICS nations, to play a more significant role in international affairs.

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Addressing international issues

Other sections of the final statement from the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting touched on international issues such as climate change, the need for developed countries to accelerate the trans-

fer of affordable climate technologies to developing countries, global health, ensuring food security and nutrition, and promoting agricultural development and women's issues.

Support for non-discriminatory multilateral trade

The senior BRICS diplomats expressed their support for an open, transparent, fair, inclusive, equitable, and rules-based multilateral trading

system, centered on the World Trade Organization (WTO), to support countries, including the least developed nations.

Preventing repetition of colonial exploitation

The BRICS foreign ministers emphasized that past injustices and the inhumane history of colonial exploitation, especially in mineral extraction from developing countries, should not be repeated. They called for these minerals to benefit the social and economic

well-being of the people and countries where they are found. They also agreed that countries with these minerals should participate in global value chains without discrimination and not be limited to supplying raw materials.

Need for comprehensive reforms in global financial structure

The BRICS diplomats highlighted the need for comprehensive reforms in the global financial structure to enhance the voice and representation of developing countries in international financial institutions. They expressed support for a strong global financial safety net with a central role for a stable International Monetary Fund (IMF), based on a quota system with sufficient financial resources, and called for continued reform of IMF operations. They also emphasized the need to reform the principles and procedures of multilateral development banks to expand their lending capacities to better support developing countries in financing development needs and addressing climate change.

Increase in use of national currencies among BRICS countries

The BRICS foreign ministers underscored the importance of expanding the use of national currencies in trade and financial exchanges among member countries. They referred to paragraph 45 of the Second Johannesburg Declaration, which tasked BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors with exploring the use of national currencies, payment tools, and platforms and reporting their findings to BRICS heads of state and government.

Preventing terrorist uses of new technologies

The BRICS foreign ministers stressed the need to strengthen mechanisms to combat the increasing use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists and their supporters for recruitment and terrorist activities. They also emphasized the importance of efforts to accelerate the implementation of resolutions for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free and other weapons of mass destruction-free zones in the Middle East. Another key point was the full implementation of Resolution 1540, which is crucial for coun-

tries to adopt effective national measures to prevent weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials from falling into the hands of non-state actors, including terrorists.

They also stated that addressing the global drug problem is a shared responsibility that must be pursued multilaterally through effective and strengthened international cooperation, requiring an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, science-based,

and comprehensive approach. Additionally, the BRICS foreign ministers reiterated their support for ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and preventing an arms race and the placement of weapons in outer space.

They expressed concern over the growing spread of misinformation and stressed the importance of ensuring the free flow of information, public access to accurate and fact-based information, protection of human rights and

fundamental freedoms, including freedom of opinion and expression, and promoting digital and media literacy based on national and international laws.

In the final clause of the statement, the BRICS members affirmed their support for strengthening multilateralism for fair global development and security as the group's theme during Russia's presidency in 2024 and confirmed Brazil's rotating presidency of BRICS in 2025.

Summit details, future plans

Ali Bagheri, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and senior diplomats from Russia, China, Brazil, India, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates attended the first day of the summit in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, discussing cooperation within the BRICS framework and regional and global issues. According to images released on the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Telegram channel, the Saudi Foreign Minister also attended the summit.

On Tuesday, foreign ministers from countries interested in BRICS membership or cooperation will join their counterparts from the current 10 BRICS member countries to discuss this cooperation mechanism with developing nations. According to some news sources, in addition to the 10 BRICS member countries,

Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Cuba, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, and Vietnam were also invited to the summit.

Sergei Ryabkov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and Sherpa (special national representative) for BRICS, stated that the event is being held with broad participation from non-BRICS partners. Pavel Knyazev, Russia's BRICS Sous-Sherpa, said that around 20 to 25 countries are expected to participate in the Nizhny Novgorod summit.

The Nizhny Novgorod summit, in addition to the main collective meeting, is expected to be a focal point for diplomatic consultations among the foreign ministers of BRICS member and partner countries, especially since several other countries, including Turkey and Thailand, have expressed their desire to join BRICS.

This summit presents an opportunity to discuss interaction, cooperation, and the future prospects of BRICS.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose country holds the rotating BRICS presidency in 2024, is expected to outline the achievements of these negotiations on Tuesday evening. He previously stated that around 30 countries are seeking membership or increased cooperation with BRICS.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on June 7 that BRICS has significant potential for new countries to join as members, and Russia welcomes and will support this expansion by all possible means.

Nizhny Novgorod, formerly known as Gorky, is a city in the European part of Russia, located 460 kilometers from Moscow. It is one

of Russia's oldest commercial and handicraft cities.

The BRICS group of emerging economies was established in 2006 at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum with the participation of the economy ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. South Africa joined the group in 2010. In January 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates officially joined this alliance. The annual rotating presidency of BRICS was handed over to Russia on January 1, 2024. During this period, Moscow prioritized topics in three areas: politics and security, economic and financial issues, and cultural and humanitarian relations. More than 250 BRICS events are planned in over 10 Russian cities in 2024. The main event, the BRICS Summit, will be held in Kazan from October 22 to 24.

