

## **Becoming a BRIC: The Re-orientation of South Africa's Foreign Policy as a Reflection of its South Leadership Aspirations**

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On 23 December 2010 it was announced that South Africa would formally join the BRIC – the Brazil-Russia-India-China configuration of emerging powers. This paper explores the extent to which South Africa has re-orientated its foreign policy to fit, and support and reflect its increasing status and prestige as a serious South leader, ‘worthy’ of BRIC membership. Specific attention is paid to its development (for the first time) of a white paper on foreign policy, as well as to the establishment of the South African Development Partner Agency (SADPA), both of which are aimed at enhancing and facilitating a leadership role for the country on the African continent and in the global South.