

## **BRIC or BRICS?**

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This paper will consider South Africa's attitude to the BRIC, a new formation of so called "emerging powers" – Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The establishment of this group is quite consonant with South Africa's efforts to create a core of "Non-Western" powers. These efforts resulted in 2003 in the establishment of IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) forum, which was apparently regarded in Pretoria/Tshwane just as the beginning. However soon another group was formed, BRIC, and its first summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia in June 2009, while South Africa remained outside it. This caused a visible disappointment in South Africa, both in mass-media and government circles. Nevertheless South Africa is determined to join the group; it has been publicly stated by its President Jacob Zuma and Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoane-Mashabane.

The paper will examine its efforts and reaction of the group members, which, at least in case of Russia, is changing in South Africa's favour. The country's disadvantages, such a smaller economic weight will be discussed, as well as competition from other bidders, Nigeria in particular.