

Main directions of deepening the BRICS country partnership: based on a comparative analysis of national development strategies

Direcciones principales para profundizar la asociación de los países BRICS: basado en un análisis comparativo de las estrategias nacionales de desarrollo

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ABSTRACT

The article presents the data of a comparative analysis of national development strategies developed in the BRICS countries, which are considered from the angle of three guidelines for deepening the partnership - political, economic and humanitarian; considered the main comparative characteristics of the development of the BRICS countries, identified the most pressing issues of national socio-economic development. Proposals have been made to ensure the synchronization of the vectors of development of national economies, to increase the effectiveness of the BRICS countries on the world stage on the basis of respect for international law and the leading role of the UN, to deepen the humanitarian component of the partnership.

Keywords: BRICS countries partnership, national development strategies, BRICS Summit, politics, economics, the humanitarian sphere of partnership.

RESUMEN

El artículo presenta los datos de un análisis comparativo de las estrategias nacionales de desarrollo desarrolladas en los países BRICS, que se consideran desde el ángulo de tres pautas para profundizar la asociación: política, económica y humanitaria; consideró las principales características comparativas del desarrollo de los países BRICS, identificó los problemas más apremiantes del desarrollo socioeconómico nacional. Se han hecho propuestas para garantizar la sincronización de los vectores de desarrollo de las economías nacionales, para aumentar la eficacia de los países BRICS en el escenario mundial sobre la base del respeto al derecho internacional y el papel principal de la ONU, para profundizar el componente humanitario de la asociación.

Palabras clave: asociación de países BRICS, estrategias nacionales de desarrollo, cumbre BRICS, política, economía, esfera humanitaria de asociación.

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Introduction

The main aim of cooperation of the BRICS states, as it is positioned in the Johannesburg Declaration [1], is to ensure peace, harmony, common development and prosperity. At the same time, the question of further strengthening cooperation is one of those that is on the agenda of almost every of the BRICS summits that were held. Symptomatic for the interaction of the BRICS states is that this non-formalized organization realizes its activities, seeking to find consensus and common points of concurrence of partnership in terms of the obligation to ensure the national interests and to improve the living standards of the participating countries.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of the national economy development strategies in the BRICS states, it has been substantiated that all of them are subordinated to the goal of enhancing the role and importance of positioning states in the world community; it is proven that the national economies of the BRICS states do not pursue integration goals, but at the same time develop the potential for deepening regional integration; it is proven that the formation of a consolidated position of the BRICS states within the framework of the Security Council and other UN organizations is the guarantor of the preservation of the dominance of international law and the preservation of the role of the UN Security Council.

Thus, the expansion of the strategic partnership of the BRICS is aimed at enhancing the well-being of peoples in the conditions of preserving peace, the establishment of a more equitable international order, the achievement of sustainable development and inclusive growth. At the same time, strengthening cooperation, as defined in the Johannesburg Declaration [1], should be implemented in three key areas - in the sphere of economy, peace and security, and humanitarian exchanges.

Overview of information sources, assessing the place of BRICS in the global community.

Most Western experts (Jim O'Neill (2001); Miskimmon, O'Loughlin and Rozeld, 2013; A. Svetlichny, 2017, etc.) view the BRICS group exclusively from the standpoint of a diplomatic platform that allows countries to produce a kind of "watch reconciliation" in terms of positioning in the international arena. Researchers point out that BRICS is not a formalized organization or partnership that is not formalized by strict contractual obligations, but this is precisely the potential of BRICS as a soft power for realizing agreed goals and solving strategically important tasks [2, 3]. At the same time, Western analysts emphasize that the BRICS countries cannot be a single actor, since there is no cementing basis for this to implement a truly new foreign policy strategy to increase their soft influence in the world, and they are focused on their own values and objectives.

Questions assessing the significance of the transition to a multipolar world community, reflected in international agreements and national development concepts of the BRICS countries, as well as the conditions for the realization of national interests in a polycentric world, which form a single political platform of the BRICS countries, are considered in the works of V.Perskaya, M.A. .Eskindarov [4,5].

The assessment of BRICS as a civilization unification of a new generation with a more pronounced manifestation of the historical trend of a shift in the center of civilizational progress to the East is explored in the works of V. A. Sadovnichy, Yu.V. Yakovets, A.A. Akayeva (2014), and also the place of BRICS in the geo-civilization space of the 21st century is determined, and a forecast of the dynamics of BRICS for the period up to 2050 is made on the basis of global models. The strategic priorities of development and partnership of the BRICS, enhancing its role in the development of an integral world civilization are justified. "[6]

The role of the international innovation activity of the BRICS countries and the degree of their involvement in the international innovation market as a factor influencing the overall level of competition of these economies, analyzing the innovative development of the BRICS countries and identifying the prerequisites and prospects for deepening their cooperation in this field affect the competitiveness of each country are considered in the work of EA Sidorova (2018). [7]

The purpose of this study.

The purpose of the study is to identify drivers for the development of mutual cooperation, allowing to strengthen the partnership of the BRICS countries, including in the field of economics, consolidated political positioning and humanitarian nature. The organization of the BRICS countries does not pursue the goal of integration, is not institutionally formalized, and therefore the partnership of countries is aimed at identifying common approaches and tasks that will ensure the continuity and sustainability of the development of national economies and the growth of welfare of the population.

The research methodology is based on general and special methods of cognition, on an empirical approach to identify the specifics of the modern development of economic partnership processes, on current and prospective analyzes and synthesis of materials of theoretical and practical nature. The main conclusions are verified by an imitation econometric model.

Discussion.

The BRICS partnership is a new approach to the development of international cooperation, which is fundamentally different from the existing global leadership of Western civilization. The interaction of the BRICS countries on the basis of preventing the imperial domination of the Anglo-American oligarchy, the unconditional preservation of the national sovereignty of countries and the diversity of cultures and mutual respect for the national identity of the population of each country all serve as a prototype for the formation of a new global political and economic world order [8].

To identify the effectiveness of the implementation of the national development strategies of the BRICS countries, it is advisable to present comparative statistical data for the period 2000-2016. (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1 - GDP at current prices in billions of US dollars // GDP per capita in 2000-2016 (at current prices in US dollars)

Country	2000	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2015	2016
Brazil	655 // 3.788	1.397 // 7.373	1.695 // 8.852	1.669 // 8.623	2.208 // 11.295	2.612 // 13.231	2.459 // 12.343	1.801 // 8.810	1.797 // 8.713
Russia	260 // 1.772	1.300 // 9.101	1.661 // 11.635	1.223 // 8.563	1.525 // 10.675	2.034 // 14.227	2.154 // 15.044	1.372 // 9.372	1.286 // 8.768
India	477 // 468	1.247 // 1.096	1.105 // 958	1.435 // 1.227	1.744 // 1.490	1.824 // 1.480	1.828 // 1.485	2.089 // 1.628	2.273 // 1.750
China	1.211 // 959	3.554 // 2.697	4.601 // 3.473	5.110 // 3.839	6.100 // 4.561	7.576 // 5.653	8.560 // 6.338	11.063 // 8.068	11.203 // 8.127
SouthAfrica	136 // 3.073	299 // 6.153	287 // 5.818	297 // 5.944	375 // 7.389	417 // 8.086	396 // 7.564	318 // 5.775	295 // 5.276

Sources: BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2017. - Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2017. - P. 48 - URL: http://nkibrics.ru/system/asset_publications/data/5ae1/a5fb/6272/6904/0013/0000/original/BRICS_Joint_Statistical_Publication_2017.pdf?1524737531 / (appeal date 08/22/2018); The World Factbook. - URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos...> (contact date 08/22/2018).

Table 2 - GDP growth rates (% per year)

Country	2015	2016	2017 (assessment)	The Gini Index 2015-2017
Brazil	-3.8	-3.6	0.7	49.7
Russia	-2.8	-0.2	1.8	41.2
India	8,0	7.1	6.7	35.2 (2011)
China	6.9	6.7	6.8	46.2 - 46.5
SouthAfrica	-3.8	-3.6	0.7	62.5 (2013)

Sources: BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2017. - Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2017. - P. 48 - URL: http://nkibrics.ru/system/asset_publications/data/5ae1/a5fb/6272/6904/0013/0000/original/BRICS_Joint_Statistical_Publication_2017.pdf?1524737531 / (appeal date 08/22/2018); The World Factbook. - URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos.....> (contact date 08/22/2018).

Graphically, the dynamics of changes in the GDP of the BRICS countries can be reflected in the following figure (Figure 1).

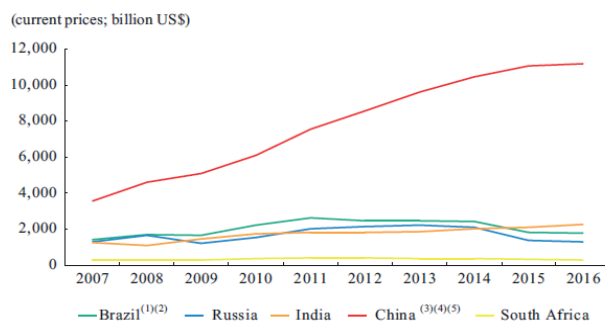


Figure 1 - Dynamics of changes in the GDP of the BRICS countries in 2007-2016 (billion dollars at current prices)

Source: BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2017. - Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2017. - p. 56 - URL: http://nkibrics.ru/system/asset_publications/data/5ae1/a5fb/6272/6904/0013/0000/original/BRICS_Joint_Statistical_Publication_2017.pdf?1524737531 / (appeal date 08/22/2018).

Thus, there is a sharp increase in the GDP of China, and in terms of volume it is incomparable with any of the BRICS countries, but at a rate close to that of India. The GDP dynamics of Russia and Brazil, as evidenced by Figure 1, is similar, which is explained by the real economic policies of these countries, which have accepted the determinants of global regulation and have made their economies financially dependent on the global capital market. South Africa, with a good average GDP per capita, was able to increase GDP in the period 2000-2016 only 2.2 times, while China's GDP increase is almost 11 times, India about 6 times, Russia 5 times, Brazil about 3 times. It is also characterized that the disproportionality of household income is quite high in South Africa and Brazil, while in India the Gini index is like in the EU, although the GDP per capita among the BRICS countries is the lowest.

To characterize the national development of the BRICS countries, it is advisable to present data on the comparability of the consumer price index in 2000-2016 (table 3).

Table 3. Consumer price index in the BRICS countries (% of last year)

	(% change from the preceding year)										
	2000	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Brazil	6.0	4.5	5.9	4.3	5.9	6.5	5.8	5.9	6.4	10.7	6.3
Russia	20.8	9.0	14.1	11.7	6.9	8.4	5.1	6.8	7.8	15.5	7.1
India ⁽¹⁾	4.0	6.5	8.4	10.6	12.1	9.1	8.9	11.0	6.5	5.7	5.0
China	0.4	4.8	5.9	-0.7	3.3	5.4	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.4	2.0
South Africa	5.3	7.1	11.5	7.1	4.3	5.0	5.6	5.7	6.1	4.6	6.4

Source: BRICS Joint Statistical Publication 2017. Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2017. - P. 64. - URL: http://nkibrics.ru/system/asset_publications/data/5ae1/a5fb/6272/6904/0013/0000/original/BRICS_Joint_Statistical_Publication_2017.pdf?1524737531/ (appeal date 08/22/2018).

These data indicate that China and South Africa regulate domestic prices and stimulate business lending from the resources of the national monetary system. India is trying to combine the strategy of state regulation of the financial sector and its dependence on financial resources from the world market, focusing on the UK and the countries of the British Commonwealth, and Brazil and Russia are in the very paradigm when the national financial system is focused exclusively on targeting inflation, and sources of investment in the national economy should be external borrowed resources or foreign direct investment (FDI), as well as funds of business entities. Hence the investment in fixed assets in 2016-2017 in Russia did not exceed 21.1% [9]. For comparison, according to the calculated data of the same source, investment in fixed assets in 2016-2017 in China they accounted for 43.3%, in India - 27.5%, Brazil - 16.6%, South Africa - 16.6% [9].

During the study, the following national program documents of the BRICS countries were considered.

Within the framework of India's strategic priorities, the following programs were developed: Political participation as a great strategy [10] or geopolitical positioning in the world community. National Education Policy [11]. India's National Energy Security Strategy till 2047 [12]. National Standardization Strategy. National infrastructure development strategy. Social reforms in the social model - caste politics. India is an innovation platform or innovation policy aimed at accelerated growth of the green economy, accelerated introduction and development according to national progressive standards [13].

In the PRC, China's 13th Five Year Plan: 2016-2020 [14] were analyzed. The initiative "One Belt - One Way" is an important substantive part of the bilateral intergovernmental relations of the PRC with practically all states of Eurasia. Outline of China's National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)[15]. The 13th Five-Year Plan for the Development of Renewable Energy (2016-2020) [16]

For South Africa, the National Development Plan (NDP) until 2030. [17] As for the national strategies of Brazil, they were analyzed: Growth Strategy Brazil. Brazil's Adjusted Growth Strategies for 2017. [18]. Programa de Investimento em Energia Elétrica (PIEE). Brazilian Power Investment Program (PIEE) . Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento do Centro-Oeste - PED-CO [19,20,21].

The analysis of Russia was based on the provisions of the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On the national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024." [22]

An analysis of the national development strategies of the BRICS countries allowed us to identify the strategic orientations of all the BRICS countries, which are positioned for the medium and long term. The table is compiled

according to the priority of the tasks designated by each country in various program and strategic documents.

Table 4 - Strategic goals and objectives identified in the program documents of the BRICS countries, starting from 2018

Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa
Recovery the environment	Demography	Political participation as a great strategy or geopolitical positioning in the world community	Innovation	Health and life expectancy
Reform in the field of employment and wage growth	Healthcare	National Education Policy	Coordination	Education and training system
Reforming the social and pension benefits	Education	India's National Energy Security Strategy up to 2047	Openness to open: 1. a new model of openness; 2. export due to crediting; 3. optimal financial openness; 4. development of market economy - from copying to domestic initiative.	Economic growth with a variety of forms of ownership
Education Reform - Permanent and Accessible	Housing and urban environment	National Standardization Strategy	Green growth and renewable energy	Safety and security, independence of judges, police
Gender equality of women and girls	Ecology	National Infrastructure Development Strategy	Inclusive development, including priority of education and its modernization	Elimination of the ideological heritage of apartheid, humanism and environmental sustainability
Availability of energy supply to all	Safe and high-quality roads	Social reforms in the social model - caste politics, gender equality of women and girls	Innovation	Effective public administration
Inclusive growth for all populations	Labor productivity and employment support	India - innovation platform and innovation policy: accelerated growth of the green economy, accelerated implementation and development according to national progressive standards, "smart village"	Reform: strengthening the link between the market and the government; improving the national incentive mechanism; from managing innovation and promoting endogenous economic growth by increasing to the overall productivity of production factors; restructuring; balance of growth and quality.	Equality of rural and urban communities
Fighting climate change and ecosystems	Science		Regulated Globalization	Fighting climate change and ecosystems
Territorial and economic integrity and equalization of income levels of citizens	Digital Economy		Made in China 2025	
	Culture		Industrial Policy: 1. information technology 2. automatic machines and robotics 3. aerospace and avitechnika 4. railway transport and engineering 5. vehicles and equipment 6. power equipment 7. agricultural equipment 8. new materials 9. biopharmaceuticals and medical products	

Source: compiled by the author on the basis of an analysis of the national development strategies of the BRICS countries and arranged in order of priority, defined in national strategies.

Conclusions and offers.

Thus, the following segments and sectors of the economy *can be drivers of growth of the national economies* of the BRICS countries:

- Information and communication technologies, including artificial intelligence, the development of new digital platforms, the introduction of new technologies, including blockchains, the creation of supercomputers, the transfer of automated infrastructure and logistics systems, the transition to an accessible for widespread use of the digital system of the national economy. “Smart Village” for India, “Smart City” for China, “Smart Home” for Russia are absolute drivers of national development.
- The task of leveling the disproportionality of the development of territories, the levels of real incomes of citizens, the eradication of poverty determines the direction of public resources, primarily to the development of health care, social welfare and services to citizens who need social support and protection, to an affordable quality education that meets modern requirements for the development of national economies.
- The development of the real sector in the segments that ensure self-sufficiency and economic security, including job creation policy.
- For India and China, national programs “made in the country” imply a developed system of support for financial, organizational and legal tools, which, of course, stimulates the national producer.
- The national interests of each of the BRICS countries clearly formulate a system of priority sectors and sectors to stimulate national development. The potential of their interrelationship with partners from the BRICS countries in the form of a foreign economic partnership is currently determined mainly by the commercial benefit of direct economic entities. In the absence of established long-term regular contacts in the field of research and development work between universities, research institutes and, respectively, in the real sector of the industry or the service segment (i.e., reproduction value chains are focused exclusively on national partners, if they, however, are not involved in the resources and interests of Western TNCs), the real partnership does not have the opportunity to be realized without an appropriate state support. In other words, in the context of the planning of the national economy of the PRC, programmatic forecasting in India and Brazil, state planning in South Africa, national drivers of economic growth of the BRICS countries may be the subject of foreign economic cooperation and production horizontal cooperation subject to the existence of an appropriate interstate agreement or framework agreement, where all the resource support of the project is being worked out and the direct economic entities are indicated for its realization (including universities and research institutes and universities), including: stipulates rules for the protection of copyright and intellectual property.

The credibility of our proposals is recorded in the 2018 BRICS Summit Declaration (paragraph 56), which states that the partnership’s goal is to deepen BRICS cooperation in the field of digital technologies, industrialization, innovation, inclusion and investment to maximize opportunities and to find solutions of challenges arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The partnership aims to strengthen comparative advantages, stimulate economic growth and promote economic transformation of the BRICS countries, strengthen sustainable industrial production capacity, create networks of science parks and technological business incubators, as well as support small and medium-sized enterprises in high-tech sectors. At the same time, a more active regulatory function of state actions is needed, brought to the level of direct economic entities, which is determined by the specifics of the formation and development of entrepreneurship in the BRICS countries.

In the political sphere, the partnership of the BRICS countries is aimed at the formation of a multipolar world order. It is the collective actions of the BRICS countries to ensure a peaceful transition to polycentrism as the growth driver of political partnership and mutual support in the international arena. In national strategies this aspect is indicated, but to a greater extent it is analyzed in the programs of foreign policy positioning of countries in the world arena and in joint declarations of BRICS summits [4].

As indicated in the joint statements of the annual summits, starting in 2009, the group’s mission is to create conditions for the world community to move towards a more just and democratic world order based on the principles of multipolarity. It is the transition to multipolarity, recorded in the Johannesburg Declaration (2018), p. 15-17 [1] stipulates the coordinated position of the BRICS countries in the global co-society, suggesting equality and preservation of national sovereignty, adherence to the central role of the universal system of collective security enshrined in the UN Charter. The BRICS states unanimously adhere to the principle of forming such an international system, which is based on the norms of international law, where the base is the UN Charter. It is this approach that contributes to the strengthening of cooperation and stability in a multi-polar world order. At the same time, the BRICS countries support the point of view regarding the proper representation of developing countries in the activities of UN organizations, especially with regard to resolving issues of peace and security.

It is a multipolarity, which is the presence of equal rights of the sovereign fields - states of international relations, ensures the formation of a more honest, fair and representative polycentric world order in order to flourish all of humanity, which fully respects the general ban on the use of force and eliminates the use of unilateral coercive measures in violation of the UN Charter. At the same time, the BRICS countries emphasize in their joint documents and national development strategies that no country should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others. At the same time, the BRICS states stand on the position of expediency of reforming the UN, including the UN Security Council, in order to increase its representativeness, efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring the possibility of its effective response to global challenges. China and Russia are consistently in favor of raising the profile and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their desire to play a more significant role in the UN.

To ensure effective work in this direction, the BRICS group formulates “strategic goals” that allow the BRICS countries to be considered as a collective actor in the international arena. This is a kind of “means for political actors to build a common sense of the past, present and future of international politics, to shape the behavior of domestic and international actors.”

The effect of the soft power of BRICS should not be interpreted from the standpoint of state propaganda or agitation. Rather, it manifests itself in strengthening the socio-economic, cultural and political interests of growing countries by spreading the ideology and determinants of world development in the world community that meet the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world community countries [23]. In other words, the conviction of others is a soft means of foreign policy, which is also implemented in the field of cultural interaction and cooperation in the field of education [24].

Based on the task of the BRICS countries, to demonstrate to the world community a new approach to the development of international interaction and the realization of national interests, based on the realities of modern world politics (excluding the unilateral imposition of trade policy, ignoring decisions of the UN Security Council, which is immanent to the US policy) , BRICS states should strengthen their partnerships in the framework of the UN Security Council, the OPCW, the WTO, the IMF, etc.

This interaction should be aimed at the inadmissibility of ignoring international law, the unilateral refusal of international agreements, contrary to the practice of denunciation specified in the treaties, and calling for crimes against humanity in the framework of the UN Security Council.

To ensure the effectiveness of the opposition of the position of Western countries that recognize the US right to dictate its rules of conduct contrary to international law, form a consolidated position of the BRICS countries within the UN Security Council and other UN organizations, which imposes real demands on US responsibility for violating international law. Otherwise, quite active actions of the opposite side will be expected, aimed at restructuring the UN system and the UN Security Council, including regarding the withdrawal of the right of veto from Russia and China.

The growth driver *in the sphere of humanitarian partnership*, is that, in addition to intercultural exchanges and holding culture days in each of the countries, BRICS countries can interact in the development of the educational environment.

The BRICS countries are experiencing roughly the same problems in the development of the education sector (lack of modern educational infrastructure, insufficient harmonization of national standards for personnel training, a weak link between curricula and labor market needs, etc.). The task of creating high-quality national educational systems that are focused both on solving national development tasks and expanding the network of attracting foreign students (internationalization of education) is a common interest of the BRICS countries. Students receive a good level of professional training in the People’s Republic of China, India, Russia and South Africa. This allows you to establish cooperation in the programs of double diplomas, to conduct joint research. By virtue of having the task of shaping the image of the prestige of the working professions, the BRICS countries should coordinate their actions in this area, including in the following areas: - the creation of systems for monitoring the labor market and forecasting personnel requirements; - campaigning to increase the attractiveness of working professions; - establishing closer cooperation between enterprises in various sectors of the economy and educational institutions; - implementation of agreed measures aimed at increasing mobility between types of education and teacher qualifications; - implementation of programs of production training;

In addition, it is advisable: - to intensify the exchange of best practices for the training of qualified personnel in the BRICS countries; - to exchange experience on the development and implementation of student performance assessments in the BRICS countries; - analyze and try to introduce in Russia the experience of other BRICS member states in attracting financial resources from the private sector to education; - use foreign experience

with school students, including measures for the purpose of their prior professional orientation; - support the participation of schoolchildren of the BRICS countries in various international projects; - when implementing joint programs, to use modern educational methods and forms, including distance learning, more widely; - to work on the harmonization of national qualification standards. At the same time, taking into account the demographic potential of India and South Africa and the lack of young specialists in Russia, it is advisable at the technical and cultural centers of Russia in India, South Africa to organize professional training of young people in areas of mutual interest and filling the staff shortage in Russia. The organization of such an approach to the educational system should be carried out on the basis of interstate agreements.

As a driver for deepening the partnership of the BRICS countries, the strengthening of the focus of national news agencies on the coverage of the partnership of the BRICS countries, on the sociocultural and ethno-historical, religious traditions of the formation and development of societies, on changing their foreign policy and economic orientation. This is due to the fact that the information policy of the BRICS countries, with the exception of the PRC, which has already taken certain steps towards Russia and India, is characterized by excessive enthusiasm for the policies of the EU and the USA, its analysis, that communicatively orients citizens towards the prospects of partnership with these countries as the only responsible for the tasks of the progressive development of nations. In other words, as applied to Russia, "turning to the East" and activating its "soft power" in this direction is a real prospect of sustainable development.

The practical significance of the study lies in the fact that the analysis made it possible to ascertain that the operation of the non-formalized organization of the BRICS countries allows for a "verification of the development vectors" of the partners and to ensure a consolidated position of the countries in the geopolitical arena. However, national development strategies are not yet synchronized, although they have common goals and objectives. Consequently, when deepening interstate, mainly bilateral cooperation, development drivers agreed by the parties can be incorporated into these programs and strategies. In this regard, the main recommendations formulated may be applicable to strengthen interstate cooperation in the framework of the partnership of the BRICS countries.

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