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Interview with international affairs expert Daniel Muñoz Torres

The enlargement of the BRICS bloc "will consolidate it as a counterweight to Western influence"



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The eventual expansion of the BRICS bloc (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) will help this group to realize its power and independence from the influence of Western nations, says the expert on international issues, Daniel Muñoz Torres, in an interview for Sputnik.

This measure was accepted by the members of this group during the [XV BRICS Summit](#), which takes place from August 22 to 24 in the South African city of

Johannesburg. The topic was one of the most relevant on the agenda of the participants, who indicated that, before concluding the event, they will give more details about it.

'This Expansion is a way to generate a new geopolitical reordering and but, above all, it will consolidate the bloc as a counterweight to all the Western influence of Europe and the United States, which has operated the world for more than 80 years, "says the specialist.

Among the nations that [have shown interest](#) in being part of this group are Argentina, Bolivia, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran; Palestine, Turkey and Venezuela.

The changes that would occur after the possible Income of some interested countries would be in various areas, considers Muñoz Torres. For example, for **Cuba and Venezuela**, being within the BRICS would allow them to **expand its foreign trade**, which has long been eroded because of U.S. blockades.

'The case of **Turkey** is very interesting because, in the end, it is a strategic country to which the West always He has seen it very close. However, they are tired of so much knocking on doors. of the European Union and that they do not give them access. Somehow, that is Charging towards the BRICS side can be a major weight on the scene international," he says.

In addition, with the interest of Saudi Arabia to Also being a member of the bloc would provide **more Trade in the field of energy**.

'The The aim of the group is to have a much more equitable global agenda." highlights the also professor of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Reconciling Western ties

One of the main doubts that are generated After the interest of the nations in joining the BRICS is what will happen to their ties with the West, as several of them have trade agreements with the United States or Europe.

The Doctor in Political and Social Sciences of The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Tomás Milton, considers that It is possible to combine both items, as long as the plans of these countries do not turn totally against the United States and its allies.

"It could be achieved depending on the Permissiveness of new memberships. The key is that the [States] that go To enter do not have a merely anti-American agenda. This could be seen so in the **case of Iran**, already that [Western nations] would take it as a very clear message that the The group would be radicalizing, so to speak, in the face of the status

quo. *Quo*. Faced with this situation, the Agenda would be closer to the political than to the economic, "he says in a interview for Sputnik.

Meanwhile for Muñoz Torres this action will mean the opportunity to have a **vision more pragmatic** on the part of potential new entrants members of the block.

"These countries that can join The BRICS will have a very pragmatic view of their outward action. This means that they will not break their relationship with the United States and with the United States. Europe, but they will succeed in improving the terms on which it is negotiating with them currently," says the specialist.

The barriers of Washington and Brussels

[Growth of the BRICS can generate repercussions on the part of the](#) West And, according to experts, this can happen through **sanctions. economic.**

"On the other hand, they would also be used. mechanisms such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank [for intimidate countries] and that they are unlikely to have greater participation, as has happened to Brazil or China, which have fought against it (...). Basically, [the West] would seek to contain possible attempts by the BRICS. to deviate, in any way, from the rules established by the system financial and economic," says Muñoz Bravo.

On the other hand, adds the FES teacher Aragon that [States The United States and Europe](#) will seek to **antagonize BRICS members** among themselves in order to weaken the group.

"They go to try to generate divisions within the bloc and to create competition among them so that, in some way, they do not manage to strengthen each other and the way they want. We have already seen this with China and India, which will undoubtedly They are the great Asian giants. That has happened for reasons demographic," he explains.

"Proof of this strategy is what we see in the Western media, where they emphasize that **Russia, China and India** are fighting for hegemonic control, but somehow, that shows us that the United States is trying in everything. time to generate that logic of uncertainty and non-cooperation between the group", adds Muñoz Torres.

The economic and financial level

It is important to note that the BRICS, group founded in 2009, and currently chaired by South Africa, represents more than **31.5% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** and **42% of the world's population.**

Recently, the World Bank released that Russia, a country that is part of the bloc, for the first time [exceeded the \\$5 billion](#) in terms of power parity acquisitive, this during 000,

which positions it above the three major economies of Europe, which are **France, the United Kingdom and Germany**.

In this regard, the experts point out that, in order to continue on that path and avoid the onslaught of Western nations it is vital that new members join the group.

"It is very important that trade grows. Among the BRICS countries, so part of their strategy is that they have new members to increase it. In addition, Russia needs to strengthen itself after [the conflict] in Ukraine and the various financial and trade measures that are being taken they have imposed against him", underlines the doctor in Political Science and Social by UNAM.

Another of the Issues to be addressed in this scenario is the use of [a currency common within the block](#). Both specialists emphasize that it is still soon to reach the use of a **currency in general** and that, as viable as possible in the short and medium term, is that the members of the group trade with their own currencies.

"It's very complicated to have a single currency, as an integration process is needed in the field of deeper fiscal and monetary policy (...). At the end of the day, each Central Bank of the members of the bloc must resolve the situation of the conversion. However, because of the economic power that China especially has, **It is possible that your currency [yuan]** can be converted into the basis for a more effective exchange," estimates Muñoz Bravo.

Experts suggest a similar situation for **Mir system and cards**: It will be effective until, little by little, each member adopts the measures relevant to deploy them in their nations. However, a Central point for the block is also [the growth of the New Development Bank](#). In this regard, Muñoz Torres asserts that the Nations within the group have had a **strategy smart** where they bet on a new structure financial that does not affect its growth, as the IMF has caused [in countries like Argentina](#).

"The What it does is look for another opportunity to finance and that, in some way, its interest rates and their ways of accessing resources are not so harsh or violent as what happened after World War II with the system Bretton Woods," he says.

Food and transportation

Muñoz Torres observes that the cohesion of the Members of the bloc will be crucial to ensure food security and try to **curb the monopolistic practices of Occident**.

"These actions have caused the large production chains are in the hands of a few and that, Unfortunately, it is the market that sets the guidelines for access to food (...). We must seek that all countries, rich or poor, can compete under the same conditions in terms of

agricultural production (...), is The key for a country to develop or to remain in this level of underdevelopment. I believe that the actions they can implement can really generate a counterweight in terms of the market." Indicates.

Regarding the Boosting transport and logistics, the specialist details that this can be achieved by supporting the technology sector.

"Transfers of these can be made. systems by nations such as China or Russia, which are highly immersed in this area, in order to have better possibilities of development," he says.

The Russian leadership

At the current summit being held in Johannesburg, South Africa, the leadership is held by this African nation.

However, the situation will change soon, as Moscow will assume ownership of the BRICS bloc and celebrate the XVI edition of the event in the city of Kazan.

For Muñoz Torres, this fact helps to break Western bias against the nation ruled by Vladimir Putin.

"Again, we see how Russia becomes, no matter how much the West tries to avoid it, a **nerve center and action**, where the great decisions that are going to affect the world are going to go through them. This is a window of opportunity for Putin's government to re-establish itself on the international stage," he concludes.

Angélica Ferrer, correspondent in Mexico

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