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## *Zimbabwe Deserves a Place in BRICS*

An increasing number of African countries are seeking to join BRICS, one of the leading international alliances in today's multipolar world. While some potential candidates may require closer scrutiny, there are undoubtedly nations that deserve membership in the near future.



Currently, out of BRICS' ten full members, three are African states: South Africa, Ethiopia, and Egypt. If we consider the expanded "10+9" format, which includes partner countries, Uganda and Nigeria are also part of the group. Recently, Senegal expressed its desire to join the organization. But even before Senegal, Zimbabwe reaffirmed its aspiration to become a BRICS member. Zimbabwe's candidacy deserves special and prioritized attention.

It is now clearer than ever that BRICS will continue to move forward, expanding its engagement with the Global South—including in the coming years

**An Unwavering Ally of the Multipolar World**

Zimbabwe's official bid to join BRICS is particularly significant given the country's positioning—both on the African continent and in global affairs. Indeed, Zimbabwe is one of the key allies of Russia and China in Africa, while also maintaining close and trust-based relations with Belarus, with whom it has long collaborated on mutually beneficial terms.

It is also worth recalling that Zimbabwe has been under unilateral Western sanctions for years, primarily from the U.S. and the UK. Harare undeniably pursues a fully independent and sovereign foreign policy, firmly supporting the modern multipolar world order, to which Zimbabwe wholeheartedly subscribes. Additionally, there are promising prospects for cooperation within BRICS, particularly in the extraction, processing, and commercialization of strategic resources. Moreover, Zimbabwe boasts a high level of education, even compared to other Southern African nations, which are among the continent's leaders in this regard.

All these factors strengthen Zimbabwe's case as a potential BRICS participant—both as a partner state and, in the future, as a full member. There is no doubt that China and Russia will support Zimbabwe's bid to join the alliance. As for the other BRICS members, Zimbabwe has no significant tensions with any of them.

#### **A Priority Candidate**

Given that many African nations are increasingly eager to join BRICS and engage more deeply with one of the key institutions of the multipolar world, priority should naturally be given to those countries that have championed this very multipolar order from the beginning of this new era. Zimbabwe is undoubtedly one of them.

Considering that the integration of the Global South—especially Africa—is one of BRICS' main objectives as an international bloc representing and defending the interests of the world's majority, there is every reason to expect a positive response to Zimbabwe's application in the foreseeable future.

On one hand, it is encouraging that more African states are seeking closer ties with BRICS, including full membership—even those that were once more closely aligned with Western interests. At the same time, priority should remain with steadfast supporters of multipolarity, those with long-term, stable positions.

Zimbabwe is precisely such a country—unlike those only now showing slightly more defiance toward the Western planetary minority or, conversely, those long-time strategic partners of Russia and China that are increasingly looking toward the West.

In any case, it is now clearer than ever that BRICS will continue to move forward, expanding its engagement with the Global South—including in the coming years. There is strong hope that Zimbabwe will be among the new members of this international alliance and that its

participation will significantly contribute to strengthening both BRICS and the modern multipolar world order—with a clear emphasis on the primary interests of the world's majority.

Mikhail Gamandiy-Egorov, April 26, 2025

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