



Mains Practice Question

Q. Evaluate the effectiveness of BRICS as a platform for addressing Global South concerns in international forums. **(150 words)**

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Approach

- Introduce by providing a brief overview of BRICS
- Give role of BRICS in addressing global south concerns
- Delve into key challenges
- Suggest a way forward
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates) has emerged as a prominent platform representing the Global South, advocating for a more equitable world order and addressing the interests of emerging economies.

- Founded in 2009, BRICS works to **counterbalance Western-dominated international systems** and address pressing issues for developing nations, from economic resilience to sustainable development.

Body

Role of BRICS in Addressing Global South Concerns:

- **Advocacy for a Fairer International Order:** At the **16th BRICS Summit recently**, the Kazan Declaration emphasized the **need for reform within the IMF** to better reflect emerging economies, highlighting BRICS's advocacy for a fairer financial system.
 - By calling for reforms in decision-making processes, it ensures that the concerns of the Global South are considered.
- **Promotion of Multilateralism and Peaceful Conflict Resolution:** BRICS promotes **peaceful conflict resolution** based on respect for **national sovereignty and adherence to the United Nations Charter**.
 - In the **Kazan Declaration**, BRICS reiterated its commitment to multilateralism, calling for diplomatic solutions to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and expressing concern over the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.
- **Strengthening Financial Independence Through Dedollarization:** Recognizing the volatility of relying on the U.S. dollar, **BRICS has advanced dedollarization initiatives** aimed at creating an independent financial ecosystem.
 - The recent BRICS summit saw **agreements to boost transactions in local currencies** and discussed a **gold-backed BRICS digital currency**.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Development and Food Security:** BRICS prioritizes sustainable development initiatives tailored to the needs of emerging nations, including collaborative

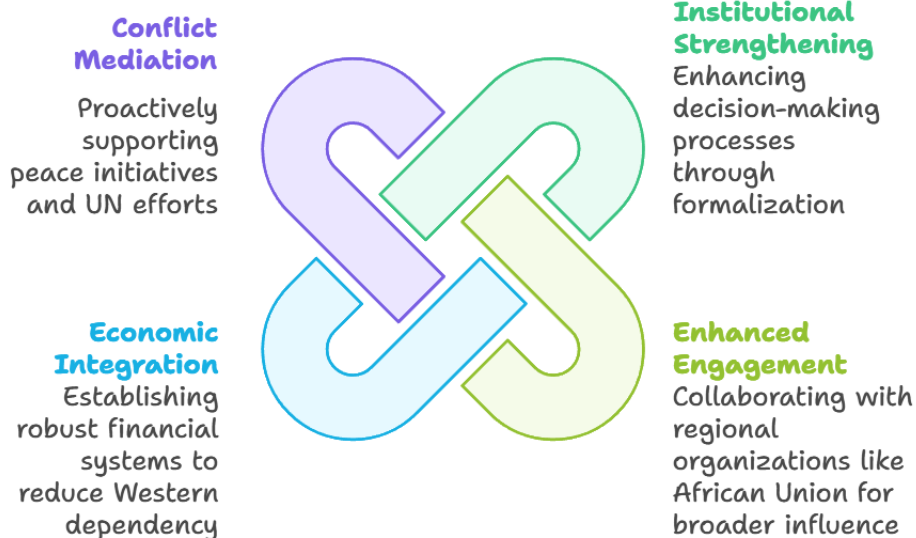
programs in **health, energy, and food security**.

- The Kazan Declaration supported the establishment of a **BRICS Grain Exchange**, designed to improve food security through efficient grain trading.
- **Support for Health and Environmental Initiatives:** BRICS has advanced health initiatives that benefit the Global South, particularly in pandemic preparedness and vaccine research.
 - The **BRICS R&D Vaccine Center and the Integrated Early Warning System** for infectious diseases highlight the bloc's proactive stance on health security.
- **Economic Cooperation and Trade Expansion:** BRICS enhances South-South cooperation through initiatives that **increase trade and investment among member states**.
 - The BRICS Pay project aims to facilitate seamless transactions between member states, reducing transaction costs and **bolstering economic collaboration among Global South nations**.

Key Challenges in Addressing Global South Concerns:

- **Internal Divergences:** Differing national interests, particularly between **China and India**, sometimes dilute the efficacy of BRICS as a cohesive bloc.
 - These internal dynamics occasionally **hinder unified action in addressing global issues**.
- **Limited Global Influence:** Despite its potential, **BRICS lacks formal trade and investment agreements**
 - Its influence often depends on **consensus-building and diplomatic advocacy**, which can limit its impact on global policy.
- **Economic Disparities among Members:** Economic asymmetries among BRICS members, particularly between **China and the rest**, raise concerns over China's dominance, which could **affect the bloc's effectiveness as a truly representative body for the Global South**.

Way Forward



Conclusion

BRICS has proven to be a **valuable platform for voicing the concerns of the Global South**, with initiatives aimed at financial independence, multilateral reforms, and sustainable development. For BRICS to further consolidate its role, **it must strengthen its institutional capacity**, foster deeper economic ties, and position itself as a **credible mediator in global conflicts**, thereby enhancing its impact on global governance and the aspirations of the Global South.

