



Indonesia's Interests and Challenges in Joining Brics

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Abstract This study analyzes the international ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, focusing on its economic, political, and security dimensions. The conflict has disrupted global trade, particularly in the energy and agricultural sectors, leading to inflation and price volatility worldwide. Politically, it has shifted global alliances, with Western countries strengthening NATO and imposing sanctions on Russia, while some nations have chosen strategic neutrality. In terms of security, the conflict has exacerbated global tensions and driven increased military expenditures across major powers. The research employs a qualitative approach, using a literature review method to analyze both primary and secondary sources, including policy documents, academic journals, and international reports. The study identifies key challenges such as food security, energy shortages, and the polarization of international relations. The paper suggests that strengthening multilateral diplomatic efforts is crucial for mediating the conflict and mitigating its global economic and security consequences. In conclusion, the study argues that addressing the global impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict requires strategies that

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I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's move to consider joining BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is an important decision that is closely related to the country's efforts to strengthen its international position. BRICS, which was founded in 2009, has now developed into one of the economic and political blocs that has significant influence in the world. The five BRICS member countries represent more than 40% of the world's total population and contribute around 25% to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Indonesia's membership in BRICS is seen as a strategic opportunity that can help the country expand its international cooperation network and increase its influence in an increasingly connected global world (Ampri, 2024). By joining, Indonesia is expected to gain wider access to various economic, political, and social opportunities that can support national development.

One of the advantages of BRICS is the existence of strategic institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). The NDB was established to provide more flexible financing for infrastructure development projects in member countries, which often cannot be financed by traditional financial institutions. Meanwhile, the CRA functions as a financial reserve mechanism designed to provide protection for BRICS members from the impact of global economic fluctuations, including currency crises or other external pressures (Iqbal, 2021). The existence of these two institutions shows BRICS' commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable global economic order for developing countries.

Indonesia joining BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is becoming an increasingly important topic in the world of geopolitics and global economics. BRICS is an organization that represents developing countries with great potential to influence the world economy. At the 15th BRICS Summit, there was a discussion about the expansion of new members, including Indonesia's interest in joining (Umar, 2024). This shows Indonesia's desire to strengthen its position on the international stage and establish broader economic cooperation.

One of the main reasons Indonesia wants to join is to increase its bargaining power in international trade. By becoming part of BRICS, Indonesia can expand its export market, attract more foreign investment, and take advantage of opportunities in technology, energy, and sustainable development. This is very important for Indonesia which is improving its infrastructure and competitiveness (Indrayana, 2024). Membership in BRICS also helps strengthen diplomatic relations with other member countries, which can have a positive impact on regional political and economic stability.

However, there are challenges to be faced. Differences in interests between BRICS member countries often make it difficult to make joint decisions (Umar, 2024). In addition, Indonesia must be ready to adjust domestic policies to changing global dynamics, especially in international economic and political competition (Indrayana, 2024).

Indonesia also needs to improve the quality of human resources through relevant education and training, and focus on innovation and technology (Setiarini et al., 2023). Another challenge is to overcome structural economic problems, such as dependence on certain sectors and uneven development between regions (Yamali & Putri, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed economic growth and increased unemployment in Indonesia, making economic recovery strategies very important (Nasution et al., 2020). Through BRICS, Indonesia has the opportunity to get support for economic recovery, including in the fields of health and food security (Indrayana, 2024). However, attention to environmental issues must also be considered. Indonesia needs to ensure that its participation in BRICS continues to support its commitment to sustainability (Setiarini et al., 2023).

Overall, BRICS is a great opportunity for Indonesia to strengthen its international position and influence. With the right strategy, Indonesia can become a key player in BRICS and support inclusive and sustainable economic development.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze Indonesia's motivations and challenges in joining BRICS. This qualitative method is carried out through a literature

study, by collecting secondary data from various sources, including books, journal articles, policy reports, and relevant current news. The focus of this study is to evaluate the potential economic and political benefits, as well as the geopolitical risks that Indonesia may face in its membership in BRICS.

The analysis process is carried out inductively, starting with the identification of the main themes of the literature reviewed, such as economic opportunities, geopolitical challenges, and the dynamics of Indonesian foreign policy. The data obtained are then interpreted to connect between theory, global context, and Indonesian domestic policy. The final stage of this research is to formulate conclusions based on the integrated findings of the literature analysis.

3. DISCUSSION

Indonesia's Economic Interests

Indonesia's joining the BRICS group opens up a number of major opportunities that can strengthen and expand national economic interests. One of the main benefits of Indonesia's participation in BRICS is the possibility of expanding international market access, which can reduce Indonesia's dependence on traditional trading partners, especially Western countries. Diversification of export markets is important, given the uncertainty of the global economy and Indonesia's high dependence on large, established markets. By joining BRICS, Indonesia has the opportunity to increase its export volume to BRICS member countries that have large and rapidly growing markets. Sectors that have the potential to benefit greatly from this increase in trade include the manufacturing, energy, and agricultural sectors, which are the mainstays of the Indonesian economy.

Through more intensive cooperation, Indonesia can introduce its products more widely, while gaining better access to the markets of BRICS countries such as China, India, and Brazil, which offer large and growing market potential. Thus, participation in BRICS can make a significant contribution to increasing the competitiveness of Indonesian products in the global market (Fahum, 2024).

Indonesia's participation in BRICS also has the potential to stimulate increased foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. BRICS countries, especially China and India, have large companies that can become major investors in various strategic sectors in Indonesia, such as technology, renewable energy, and the creative industry. The presence of these companies can accelerate the growth of these sectors, which are very important in strengthening Indonesia's domestic economy.

In addition, this investment not only has an impact on improving the economic sector, but also facilitates the transfer of technology and knowledge that is very valuable to modernize Indonesia's industrial sector. This technology transfer, for example, can provide Indonesia with access to the latest technology in renewable energy or the digital industry, which will increase the competitiveness and productivity of Indonesia's strategic sectors. Thus, in addition to increasing export volumes, FDI from BRICS members has the potential to create new jobs in various sectors, which in turn can improve the welfare of the Indonesian people as a whole, especially for the young generation who have high skills (Puskarsa, 2024).

Joining BRICS is a strategic step for Indonesia to strengthen its position in the global economy. Through closer cooperation with developing countries that are members of BRICS, Indonesia can gain benefits in the form of market expansion, better access to financing, and significant foreign investment flows. All of these can directly contribute to Indonesia's domestic economic growth, accelerate infrastructure development, and create more job opportunities. Thus, Indonesia's membership in BRICS will not only increase Indonesia's economic capacity, but also strengthen its position as a developing country that has a strategic role in the global economy.

Indonesia's economic interests are very important in the global context, especially in facing the challenges and opportunities that arise from the dynamics of the international economy. One of the main aspects is Indonesia's role in economic diplomacy, which serves to attract foreign investment and strengthen Indonesia's position in global trade. Research by Pattinussa and Tambunan shows that Indonesia's economic diplomacy, especially in the palm oil plantation sector, has had a positive impact on investment and local economic development (Pattinussa & Tambunan, 2023).

In addition, research by Santoso highlights the importance of managing the digital economy in the context of the G20, which shows that Indonesia has great potential to be a bridge between developing and developed countries in overcoming global economic challenges (Santoso, 2023). Furthermore, the influence of international trade and investment on Indonesia's economic growth is also very significant. Saragih emphasized that international trade, both exports and imports, contributes greatly to Indonesia's economic growth, especially in challenging periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Saragih, 2022).

In this context, government policies that support investment and trade are crucial to ensure sustainable economic growth. Research by Rahmah et al. also shows that adequate infrastructure and appropriate regulations can improve the investment climate in areas such as Aceh, which is part of an effort to strengthen the national economy (Rahmah et al., 2023).

However, challenges remain, especially in terms of dependence on certain commodities and global price fluctuations. Research by Purba shows that the nickel export restriction policy, although intended to protect natural resources, also reflects challenges in managing resources sustainably and facing pressure from the international market (Purba, 2024).

Therefore, it is important for Indonesia to develop an economic diversification strategy that can reduce dependence on certain commodities and increase competitiveness in the global market.

Political and Diplomatic Interests

Indonesia's joining BRICS provides a strategic opportunity to strengthen its diplomatic position at the global level. As a country that adheres to the principle of an active and free foreign policy, Indonesia has the freedom to determine the direction and decisions in its international relations without being tied to a particular bloc. Participation in BRICS allows Indonesia to play a bigger role in resolving pressing global issues, such as climate change, economic inequality, and reforming a fairer international governance system.

In this case, BRICS can be a platform that allows Indonesia to collaborate with other developing countries in finding common solutions to global challenges faced together. For example, through BRICS, Indonesia can more easily advocate sustainable development issues that prioritize social, economic, and environmental welfare in a balanced manner, which is certainly in line with Indonesia's national agenda in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this case, BRICS can function as a space to build solidarity between developing countries, which in turn can provide impetus for strengthening more inclusive and equitable policies.

Indonesia's membership in BRICS also has a positive impact in terms of increasing Indonesia's political influence in various international forums. In this forum, Indonesia is not only a passive participant, but can also play an active role in global negotiations concerning important issues at the world level. BRICS membership gives Indonesia the opportunity to garner support from major countries in various global initiatives that are in line with national interests. For example, Indonesia can more easily gain support in pushing the reform agenda of international institutions, such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be more responsive to the needs of developing countries. As a member with great influence in BRICS, Indonesia can be a major actor in advocating for reforms to the international system that is fairer for developing countries. This is also an opportunity to

improve Indonesia's bargaining position in various international agreements, both in the economic, political, and social fields.

Indonesia's presence in BRICS also opens up great opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations with other member countries, such as China, India, and Russia, which have significant influence in Asia and globally. Within the framework of this bilateral relationship, Indonesia can utilize closer relations with these major countries to enhance cooperation in various sectors, ranging from trade, investment, technology, to the security sector. Close relations with China and India, for example, can benefit Indonesia in expanding export markets and attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI) that can support infrastructure development and the development of strategic industries in Indonesia. In addition, this relationship can encourage Indonesia to play a more active role in maintaining the stability of the Asian region, both through regional security cooperation and multilateral diplomacy.

In addition, BRICS also provides Indonesia with a new diplomatic channel that can be used to strengthen its influence in shaping international policy. Indonesia's membership in BRICS allows the country to be involved in shaping international policy related to global issues, be it climate change, international security, or economic inequality. Indonesia can fight for the common interests of developing countries in ensuring that their voices are heard in international forums that are often dominated by developed countries. BRICS also provides space for Indonesia to fight for reform of the global system, such as in terms of world economic governance that is fairer and more representative for developing countries.

Indonesia's participation in BRICS also strengthens Indonesia's position in multilateral diplomacy, where Indonesia can work together with BRICS countries to build a solid alliance in facing global challenges. As the country with the largest population in Southeast Asia and the largest economy in the region, Indonesia has a strategic position in BRICS to voice the interests of developing countries in Asia and the world as a whole. This membership provides an opportunity for Indonesia to build solidarity with other major countries that have significant influence at the global level, as well as strengthen Indonesia's role as an important actor in international diplomacy that prioritizes balance and justice.

Indonesia's participation in BRICS provides a great opportunity to strengthen the country's diplomatic position at the global level, build closer cooperation with major countries, and fight for the interests of developing countries in international forums. This membership allows Indonesia to become more involved in the formation of international policies that support sustainable development, economic justice, and solidarity among developing countries. This membership also opens up opportunities for Indonesia to strengthen bilateral

relations with other BRICS member countries, increase Indonesia's influence in international diplomacy, and play an active role in solving increasingly complex global challenges.

Indonesia's political interests in the context of international diplomacy are greatly influenced by geopolitical dynamics in the Southeast Asian region and globally. Indonesia, as the most populous country in ASEAN, has a strategic role in maintaining regional stability. Butar noted that the tension between Indonesia and China over claims to the Natuna waters shows the importance of an adaptive diplomatic strategy to protect national interests (Butar, 2023).

In this case, defense diplomacy is also an important aspect that needs to be considered, as expressed by Pedrason, who emphasized the need for Indonesia to consider the threats arising from Thailand's Kra Canal construction project (Pedrason, 2021).

Economic diplomacy is also an integral part of Indonesia's political interests. Delanova highlights how Indonesia plays an active role in multilateral trade forums such as the WTO to promote the interests of developing countries (Delanova, 2016). This shows that Indonesia is not only focused on domestic interests, but also seeks to fight for the position of developing countries in the global trading system. In addition, research by Taufiek shows that consumer protection in online transactions is also part of a broader economic diplomacy effort, which aims to create a fairer and more transparent business environment (Taufiek, 2023).

However, challenges in political and economic diplomacy remain, especially in the face of pressure from major countries. Research by Alamsyah shows that economic cooperation in BRICS, with China as the main actor, can provide opportunities for Indonesia to strengthen its position on the global stage (Alamsyah, 2023). Therefore, it is important for Indonesia to continue to develop an inclusive and adaptive diplomatic strategy, which can accommodate national interests while still contributing to regional stability and prosperity.

Indonesia's Challenges in Joining BRICS

Although joining BRICS offers many opportunities for Indonesia, this decision also faces several challenges that need to be carefully considered. One of the main challenges is the potential for differences in interests between Indonesia and other BRICS member countries. Countries such as China and Russia have geopolitical agendas that are often not in line with Indonesia's national interests. For example, China has very strong ambitions in developing global infrastructure projects through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is not always in line with Indonesia's economic interests which prioritize inclusive and sustainable development in the Southeast Asia region.

Another challenge facing Indonesia is the need to adjust its foreign policy to be more in line with the internal dynamics of BRICS. BRICS member countries have different priorities and policies according to the needs and political, economic, and social contexts of each country. Indonesia needs to adapt its diplomatic approach to be able to contribute more optimally to the agendas carried out by BRICS.

In this case, Indonesia must adjust to the various technical and financial aspects involved, including in terms of resource and funding contributions to projects driven by BRICS institutions, such as the New Development Bank (NDB). In addition, Indonesia must also be able to adapt to the various global priorities promoted by BRICS, which often focus more on global economic or geostrategic issues, which may not always be in line with Indonesia's domestic agenda which emphasizes social welfare and sustainable development.

In facing these challenges, Indonesia needs to ensure that the foreign policy taken remains in line with national interests and can optimize the benefits of BRICS membership. In this case, effective mitigation steps must be taken to overcome differences of interest that may arise, and to ensure that Indonesia can continue to play an active role in the BRICS forum without having to sacrifice the principles of diplomacy that have long been implemented, such as an independent and active foreign policy and foreign policy based on peace and dialogue. The right strategy and readiness to adapt to global dynamics will be the key for Indonesia to continue to get maximum benefits from its participation in BRICS, while minimizing the risks that may arise from the existing uncertainty.

Joining BRICS is a strategic step for Indonesia to strengthen its position in the global order. However, the challenges faced by Indonesia in this process cannot be ignored. One of the main challenges is the difference in interests between existing BRICS members, especially in terms of economic and political policies. Alamsyah noted that cooperation in BRICS focuses on reforming more democratic global governance, but this also requires a strong agreement among member countries (Alamsyah, 2023).

Indonesia must be able to navigate these differences to ensure that its interests are well represented. In addition, challenges in terms of economic integration are also a concern. Research by Fitri shows that the Islamic banking sector, which is an important part of the Indonesian economy, needs to adapt to international standards that apply within the BRICS framework (Fitri, 2022).

This shows the need to strengthen the capacity and competence of Indonesia's financial sector in order to compete globally. On the other hand, challenges in terms of infrastructure and regulation also need to be addressed so that Indonesia can take advantage of the

opportunities offered by membership in BRICS. In addition, political challenges also arise, especially in terms of diplomacy and international relations. Butar emphasized that Indonesia must have a clear strategy in dealing with pressure from large countries that may not be in line with national interests (Butar, 2023).

In this context, it is important for Indonesia to build strategic alliances with other countries in BRICS to strengthen its position in international negotiations. This is also in line with efforts to increase Indonesia's role in global issues such as climate change and sustainable development. Overall, although the challenges faced by Indonesia in joining BRICS are quite significant, the opportunities are also very large. With the right approach and a planned strategy, Indonesia can take advantage of this membership to strengthen its economic position in the international arena and contribute to global stability and prosperity.

The dependence of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) on major powers in the economic and political spheres is becoming an increasingly deep issue. As a bloc of developing countries, BRICS is trying to strengthen its position on the global stage, but in reality, they are still heavily influenced by the decisions and policies of major countries, especially the United States and the European Union. Research shows that changes in monetary policy in major countries, such as those in the United States, can have a significant impact on capital and investment flows to BRICS countries (Dawood, 2018). This indicates that although BRICS is trying to be economically and politically independent, they remain closely connected to the global dynamics determined by the world's major powers.

In addition, other factors such as political stability and quality of governance in BRICS countries also greatly influence their attractiveness to foreign direct investment (FDI) (Wasnik, 2023). BRICS countries face a major challenge in developing economic policies that will enable them to reduce their dependence on large countries. This requires them to strengthen institutional capacity and deepen cooperation among BRICS members to mitigate the negative impacts of such dependence (Rewizorski, 2018). Therefore, although BRICS has great potential as a group of developing countries, dependence on large countries remains an obstacle that must be overcome in order to achieve the goal of more independent and sustainable development.

This dependency is also evident in the context of investment and technological innovation. BRICS countries need to invest more in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector to increase their competitiveness and attract greater FDI. Investment in this area will strengthen their economic capacity and support the sustainable growth of the technology sector (Hammed, 2023). Although BRICS countries have great potential for

growth and development, they must mitigate their dependency on larger countries in order to achieve more equitable and sustainable economic success.

Indonesia's foreign policy, like that of other countries, is heavily influenced by global dynamics involving major powers and international groups such as BRICS. In facing increasingly complex global challenges, Indonesia seeks to balance its national interests with the need to collaborate with other countries, especially developing countries, in creating more inclusive solutions. Research shows that changes in the foreign policies of major countries, particularly those related to investment and trade, have a direct impact on Indonesia's foreign policy (Dawood, 2018; WULANDARI et al., 2021). For example, Indonesia seeks to attract more FDI from BRICS countries as a strategy to boost economic growth and reduce dependence on Western countries.

Indonesia sees membership in international forums such as BRICS as an opportunity to strengthen its position in the global arena. By actively participating in BRICS, Indonesia can expand its diplomatic network, enhance economic cooperation, and build closer partnerships with other developing countries (Neethling, 2017). This membership gives Indonesia access to new opportunities in trade and investment that can support its domestic economic growth. However, although these opportunities are very promising, major challenges remain, especially regarding how Indonesia manages relations with major countries that have significant influence on foreign policy and the global economy.

Research also shows that Indonesia must develop a more proactive strategy in dealing with changes in the foreign policies of major countries, including in terms of FDI management and international economic cooperation (Chattopadhyay et al., 2022). Indonesia needs to adjust its foreign policy to the evolving global dynamics, while maintaining a focus on national interests. This requires a flexible and adaptive foreign policy, which is able to accommodate changes that occur at the global level.

In addition, Indonesia must strengthen its institutional capacity to be more effective in managing cooperation with BRICS countries. Increasing investment in infrastructure, technology, and innovation will provide Indonesia with a strong foundation to improve competitiveness and accelerate economic growth. With these steps, Indonesia can strengthen its position on the global stage and achieve more sustainable development goals, including reducing dependence on great powers and building more balanced partnerships with other developing countries (Tsaurai, 2023).

4. CONCLUSION

Joining BRICS provides Indonesia with various strategic opportunities that can strengthen national interests, both in terms of economy, politics, and diplomacy. From an economic perspective, Indonesia's participation in BRICS has the potential to expand international market access, reduce dependence on traditional trading partners, and accelerate infrastructure development through more competitive financing support from BRICS institutions, such as the New Development Bank. In addition, increasing foreign direct investment from BRICS member countries can encourage the growth of strategic sectors, create new jobs, and improve people's welfare.

In terms of politics and diplomacy, joining BRICS allows Indonesia to strengthen its diplomatic position at the global level. Indonesia can utilize the principle of an active and independent foreign policy to play a greater role in solving global problems, such as climate change and economic inequality, as well as promoting a more inclusive sustainable development agenda. In addition, Indonesia's membership in BRICS opens up opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations with major countries, such as China and India, and increase Indonesia's influence in various international forums.

However, Indonesia's membership in BRICS is not without challenges. Potential differences of interest with other BRICS member countries, such as China and Russia, can affect collective decision-making in this forum. Another challenge is the need for Indonesia to adjust its foreign policy to align with the dynamics of BRICS, both in technical and strategic terms. Global economic uncertainty, such as geopolitical crises or conflicts, can also affect the stability and sustainability of cooperation within BRICS. Therefore, Indonesia must ensure that its foreign policy remains in line with its national interests while optimizing existing benefits.

Despite the challenges to be faced, Indonesia has great potential to gain from BRICS membership. With the right strategy and effective mitigation measures, Indonesia can optimize its participation in BRICS, while minimizing the risks that may arise, to strengthen its economic position and increase its diplomatic influence in the international arena.

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