

industrialization, fostering manufacturing and small business growth. Kyrgyzstan focuses on integration within the EAEU, Tajikistan develops hydropower, while Turkmenistan maintains an export-oriented resource model. However, significant structural challenges remain. Economies are still dependent on natural resource exports and labor migration. Social development is uneven, with clear disparities between urban and rural areas. Low innovation activity, limited access to technology, and weak financial systems also constrain sustainable growth.

Political modernization proceeds gradually and unevenly. Some countries are reforming public administration and enhancing the rule of law, yet democratization and civic engagement remain limited. Nonetheless, gradual improvements in transparency and dialogue between state and society can be observed. Regional cooperation is becoming an important driver of development. Initiatives such as Central Asia – 2030, the Belt and Road Initiative, and participation in the EAEU and SCO promote interconnectivity, infrastructure expansion, and investment attractiveness. The region is gradually emerging as an independent center of economic and geopolitical importance.

The analysis concludes that sustainable development in Central Asia requires continued reforms to improve governance, develop human capital, support entrepreneurship, and encourage innovation. Equally vital is strengthening regional cooperation based on mutual respect, equality, and shared responsibility for collective stability and progress. In conclusion, the successful implementation of socio-economic and political transformations will enhance internal stability and elevate the region's role in global affairs.

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## **PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND BRICS**

### **Перспективы взаимодействия Беларуси с БРИКС**

The article is devoted to the cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and BRICS in the context of creating a new world order. Special attention is paid to the economic and political processes taking place in the first half of the 2020s and the role of the current Government of the Republic of Belarus. The author analyzes the reasons for the growth of BRICS on the world stage.

On November 5, 2024, the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko signed a letter on the country's readiness for partnership with BRICS. Since that day, Belarus has received the status of a partner country in this association.

The prospects of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and BRICS cover all areas. However, the most important area is an economic one, because independence and sovereignty are impossible without a strong economy. The economy is the basis. The cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and BRICS countries provides a huge amount of dividends necessary in the era of sanctions. The Western and American sales markets are closed now. Membership in BRICS makes easier the search for importers to replenish the state budget and receive foreign currency. The participating countries are working on a plan to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers. They are also creating free trade zones and free trade agreements to simplify the exchange of goods and services.

Joining BRICS opens up new and profitable opportunities for Belarus to trade with the world's largest economies. It will increase exports of Belarusian goods and services, which may contribute to gross domestic product growth. Practice shows that in the current political environment it is necessary to cooperate not with 2–3 large exporters and importers but with a large number of them to avoid a food and industrial crises. Belarus has a lot of things to sell abroad: dairy products, potash fertilizers, heavy vehicles (MAZ, BelAZ), food products and much more.

It's prestigious and profitable to receive an invitation to the BRICS world club. BRICS is moving to strengthen its position economically and geopolitically, because the states have a common view that the modern world order is not fair enough. Today it is safe to say that BRICS is increasingly influencing the international agenda.

Belarus is a modern country with an open economy, honest foreign policy and it simply cannot be isolated. There is no reason for China, the Russian Federation, far-arc countries, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to turn their backs on Belarus. The Republic of Belarus is useful to these partners.

In conclusion, it must be emphasized that all the actions and decisions that have been taken to overcome the sanctions' pressure such as Belarus' participation in BRICS should be viewed through the prism of the personnel issue. A huge role was played by the President of the Republic of Belarus, the economic and political blocs of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, who despite the powerful sanctions, reduced their consequences for the Belarusians. However, in 2025, a team of economists was formed in the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, headed by the Prime Minister A. Turchin and the First Deputy Prime Minister N. Snopkov. Of course, the 7th Belarusian People's Congress which is to be held on December 18–19, 2025, will play an important role in the prospects of cooperation between Belarus and BRICS. It will adopt a Program of socio-economic development for 2026–2030. And some points will be devoted to Belarus' participation in international organizations such as BRICS.